# MILESTONES OF ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

Sometimes it's hard to stop & smell the roses and notice the beauty around you when life is in full swing. Our Pastor, outstanding maintenance & renovation team, staff and dedicated ministries work tirelessly behind the scenes. This little "history" of our parish may shed light into corners not seen to show you the love, growth and beauty stemming from the merging of St. Raymond Church and St. John of God Church. Their child, "St. John Neumann Parish" is alive and growing up to be a strong, beautiful & lively parish!

Thanks to each of every one of you who have amended traditions, much as in-laws would for a newly married couple, to make our family stronger. "Holidays may be at the "in- laws" – but your presence at these events (regardless of location) allows the our roots to grow deep and blossom into the church God has created us to be. "What God has created, let no man put asunder…."

A little trivia. . . Did you know that many of the beautiful flowers you see at both campuses are the re-planted bulbs from flowers that made their first appearance on the altar and side altars of both churches? They were there when you attend Mass, and they have returned to greet you on your way back in and when praying in our Rosary Garden.

God's Peace!

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| 4/23/2009 | Rev. Ernest R. Soprano, K.H.S. resigned as Pastor of .Francis |
| 5/15/2009 | Rev. Ernest R. Soprano, K.H.S. appointed Parochial Vicar for the pending merger of St. Raymond & St. John of God St. John of God |
| 6/7/2009 | Picnic at Cape May County Zoo, combined for St. Raymond and St. John of God Parishes. |
| 1/25/2010 | Rev. Ernest R. Soprano, K.H.S. appointed as Administrator of St. Raymond & St. John of God. |
| 3/15/2010 | Rev. Ernest R. Soprano, K.H.S. appointed Pastor of St. John Neumann |
| 5/18/2010 | Merger announced by Bishop Galante to Pastor, Father Soprano and Father Soprano to people |
| 6/10/2010 | Parish Mission given by Rev. Msgr. George Tomichek from St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia where St. John Neumann's Shrine is located and his body is still intact. |
| 6/18/2010 | Rev. Robert Fritz appointed as Senior Priest |
| 6/23/2010 | Official 1st Day as the Parish of St. John Neumann |
| 6/25/2010 | 1st Marriage as St. John Neumann – Michael Gurdineer and Allison A. Richards by Rev. Christopher Bakey |
| 6/28/2010 | Msgr. Timothy Ryan joins St. John Neumann as retired priest in residence |
| 7/12/2010 | 1st Parish project – Parish of St. John Neumann cookbook published 7/18/2010<br>1st Baptism- Sophia Loretta Neemeth |
| 8/8/2010 | Offices open in former preschool of St. John of God |

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| 8/21-22/2010 | Spirit Players 1st Theatrical show as a merged parish: "Hat's off to America." They have increased from 4 to 8 performances per year beginning this year. <Click on Link>> All shows have been taken to Nursing Homes after the performances to entertain the sick. |
| 9/19/2010 | St. John Neumann website listed |
| 9/21/2010 | Start of Religion classes in New Parish. |
| 10/3/2010 | October Fest at St. Raymond Campus and drawing of 1st Parish raffle. |
| 10/10/2010 | Parish of St. John Neumann hosts its first Christ Child Baby Shower *as a merged community* |
| 10/16/2010 | Father Soprano is formally installed as Pastor of St. John Neumann after having merged St. Raymond & St. John of God churches. <<Click on Link>> |
| 11/14/2010 | Rededication of St. Raymond Statue refurbished by Don King, a parishioner. |
| 11/14/2010 | Dedication of Portrait of St. John Neumann donated by Flanigan family whose son was the beatifying miracle for St. John Neumann's cause for sainthood. |
| 12/9/2010 | Pastor's mother, Jennie, dies and joins her fellow saints. |
| 12/15/2010 | 1st Parish Penance Service |
| 12/21/2010 | The John Walter Cape Community Band appears for the first time at St. John Neumann and has appeared every July and August since! |
| 01/10/2011 | Beginning of Eucharistic Adoration – 40 hours per week at St. Raymond's campus. |
| 04/15/2011 | "Blowing Bubbles for Autism" at St. John of God Campus coordinated by the Altar and Rosary Society. |
| 05/01/2011 | First Communion Class of the New Parish. |
| 5/10/2011 | First May Crowning of Mary in New Parish at St. Raymond's Campus. |
| 05/15/2011 | Lending Library in front of Parish Offices established. |
| 05/24/2011 | Parish trip to visit St. John Neumann's Shrine in Philadelphia and also St. Katherine Drexel Shrine in Bensalem, PA. |
| 05/26/2011 | First Pastoral Council Meeting of St. John Neumann Parish. |
| 06/2/2011 | First Finance Council Meeting of St. John Neumann Parish. |
| 6/12/2011 | Holy Name Society first annual Communion Breakfast in St. John Neumann Parish. |
| 6/18/2011 | First Confirmation class of the Parish |
| 7/5/2011 | Father Gerald Dolan visiting from Florida, begins Tuesday Session on "Light a Fire" |
| 8/13-14/2011 | Wildwood Catholic H.S. Scholarship drive. |
| 9/9/2011 | Pro-Life Ministry in the New Parish |
| 10/1-2/2011 | First Parish Ministry weekend |
| 10/3/2011 | Mary's Garden Dedication to Jennie Soprano and to all Mothers, and the blessing of the Rosary. |
| 10/29-30/2011 | Harvest Bags for the poor are distributed |

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| 11/5-6/2011 | Harvest weekend; 20,000 pounds of food for the hungry of Catholic Charities, Holy Redeemer, Lower Township elementary school district and the Lower Township rescue Squad. |
| 11/15/2011 | Bereavement Ministry started |
| 11/22/2011 | Father Fritz becomes Catholic Chaplain to Lower Township Police Dept. |
| 11/26-12/1/2011 | Parish Retreat by Dominican Preachers. |
| 12/26/2011 | Eucharistic Adoration moved to St. John of God Campus. |
| 01/14-15/2012 | Spirit Players perform, "Come To The Cabaret". |
| 1/23/2012 | Pro-Life ministry in the Right-to-Life March |
| 4/9/2012 | Launch of our New & Improved website! |
| 4/22/2012 | Legion of Mary hosts their 1st Curia meeting as St. John Neumann 5/20/2012<br>1st Annual Vendor's Fair – beginning a yearly tradition <<Click on Link>> |
| 5/26/2012 | Vineyard Planted by Eagle Scouts as donation to parish so we may produce our own Altar Wine. <<Click on Link>> |
| 5/31/2012 | First Finance Council Scholarships awarded to our Parish youth to attend Wildwood Catholic High School. <<Click on Link>> |
| 6/6-10/2012 | Msgr. Tomichek's Retreat called "Give Me Holiness". |
| 6/20/2012 | Stage enlarged, funded by our Spirit Players, to accommodate the growing needs and larger venues. |
| 8/11/2012 | Dedication of Vineyard - <<Click on Link>> |
| 9/4/2012 | Deacon Charles Tobin assigned to St. John Neumann Parish |
| 9/27/2012 | 1st Parish Council "Calendar Meeting" |
| 10/13/2012 | Parish sends 2 bus loads to Diocesan pilgrimage in Washington DC |
| 12/12/2012 | 1st annual Pot Luck Dinner – Merging the traditions of the Good Samaritan's yearly Client appreciation dinner with the Spirit Player's annual Sing-a-long! <<Click on Link>> |
| 5/25/2013 | Eucharistic Prayer Card |
| 2/10/2014 | First Blood Drive conducted by St. John Neumann's Parish nurses at St. John of God Hall; a success! |
| 4/1/2014 | Fr. Fernando Rafael Carmona officially joined our Parish Team as a full Time Parochial Vicar. |
| 4/22/2014 | Our website can now be translated from English into Spanish by clicking On the appropriate flag above our categories. |