

St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church



2024

Center Moriches, New York 11934



St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church
25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York 11934-3698
631-878-0009 | rectory@sjecm.org



Pastoral Team

Reverend Patrick M. Riegger

Pastor

Reverend Felix Akpabio

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Monsignor Ellsworth R. Walden

Retired, In Residence

Reverend Jerry DiSpigno

Parish Assistant

Reverend Peter D'Abele

Parish Assistant

John Pettorino

Deacon

Michael Hoonhout

Deacon

Carolyn Lapham

Director of Family Ministries

Michelle Pirraglia

Director of Faith Formation

Katie Spellman

Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

Katie Waller

Director of Operations

OLQA

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Regional Catholic School**

(on the campus of SJE)

2 St. John Place

Center Moriches, NY 631.878.1033

www.olqany.org

Dawn Waller

Principal

dwaller@olqany.org (ext. 201)

Office Hours

Parish Office - Blue House

Monday - Thursday:

9 AM - 8 PM

Tuesdays: 6-8 PM Spanish-speaking support.

Friday - Saturday

9 AM - 2 PM

*We ask that you call before
visiting any parish offices.*

Mass & Confession Schedule

Church Hours

Monday through Friday 6:30 am -2:45 pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Seton Chapel (Convent) - Monday through Friday
3:00 pm—7:00 pm

Next Weekend's Schedule

Saturday, February 17th

5:00 pm - Fr. Walden

7:30 pm - Spanish Fr. Peter

(Saturday Evening 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Masses
will be livestreamed. Videos remain on Facebook after the live
broadcast.)

Sunday, February 18th

8:00 am - Fr. Patrick

10:00 am - Fr. Patrick

12 noon - Fr. Jerry

6:00 pm - Fr. Walden

*Presider subject to change. Please call the Rectory or check
SJE Social Media for latest updates.

**We celebrate the
Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Monday—Friday: After the 7 a.m. + 12 Noon Masses

Saturday: After the 8 a.m. Mass

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. +

7:00—7:15 p.m. (Spanish)

Sunday: 5:30—5:45 p.m.

Confessions will now take place in Our Lady's Chapel
in the Church.



A Lenten message from Fr. Patrick...

A New Lent...A New Beginning

Not too long ago a parishioner came up to me and said, “Father, I want to do something different for Lent so I can feel more connected to God.” For me, this is exactly what Lent is all about, being drawn closer to God! It is all about starting over. Lent is a new beginning for all of us. It is a time to refresh our souls. It is another opportunity to encounter God more fully in our lives. Moreover, it is a season of growth and spiritual conversion, conversion of heart. It is another opportunity for us to get our lives back in order and grow in our awareness and appreciation of the importance of God in our lives.

Lent is a time for us to be renewed in the Spirit. It is time to renew our baptismal promises. Lent is a time for personal evaluation, to trust more in God and to see where we need to grow in our relationship with the Lord. It gives us another opportunity to get things right again, to prioritize our lives accordingly, and to open our hearts once again to the loving presence and mercy of God. Lent is a time for renewal! It is a time to seek the Lord’s forgiveness again and to render our lives over to Him!



The big question for us during this new season of Lent is: What do we have to do differently to turn our lives over to God?

The disciplines of Lent found in today’s gospel help us to do this. They reassure us the pathway to God, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Maybe we need to spend more time in prayer this Lent. Prayer allows us to listen more closely to God. It gives us time to be still and alone in the silence of our hearts. Prayer draws us closer to God if we enter prayer with an openness of heart. The challenge here is making the time and effort each day to be alone with God.

The discipline of fasting is so essential. The big question here is: What do we need to fast from that disconnects us from God? For me, I try to watch less TV/News in the evening and spend more time doing some spiritual reading. Yes, it is important to give something up for Lent because making sacrifices is good. It makes us appreciate the many sacrifices that Jesus made for our eternal redemption. But better we fast from the things that prevent us from spending more time with the Lord, than fasting from our favorite foods per se; that only make us more bitter in the end or dreadful to be with.

Better we do not fast from certain foods if it is only going to make us look gloomier in the end and be less happy. Better we feast instead. Feast on God’s love and mercy in service to one another.

Moreover, Lent affords us to be more charitable with our resources and more mindful and sensitive to those who have less than we do. When it comes to charity, the scriptures remind us to give from our hearts, not from our surpluses. When giving, we need to give sacrificially. As long as we have the poor among us, there will always be more we can do. We always feel good when we give from our hearts. I am always grateful to see how generous we are in support of our church and parish outreach. It is also encouraging to see how generous we are in support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal each year. Perhaps even in these areas, is there more that we can do to help keep the Mission of the Church alive in our community today?

For me, when growing up, Lent was my least favorite season. But as I advance in years and grow in my own spirituality, I desire and look forward to Lent more and more each year for the reasons I stated above. As I grow older, I desire God more and more each day. Lent is another opportunity for us to wind down a bit and redirect our attention back to God, to see the world as God sees it. It is a time for us to reconnect with God and do something different. For me, I am going to try to find more time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, something I need to do more often and to be extra grateful for the many blessings in my life.

I pray that we will all take this season, this new season of Lent more seriously than in years past, and grow in our own spirituality, with appreciation of God’s love and mercy in our lives. This prepares us to celebrate the Easter Mysteries. I hope you can join us for our Annual Lenten Mission, which will take place in the church on Monday, March 18th, Tuesday, March 19th and Wednesday, March 20th at 7:30 PM. What a beautiful way for us to prepare for the Easter celebration! Fr. Gary George will lead us in prayer and reflection during these three evenings and speak at all the masses the weekend before. Hope to see you there!



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

LENTEN BAG CHALLENGE

During Lent, we are called to the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Rest assured, you can do all of those things here!

Please take one reusable shopping bag. You'll find at each exit of the church.

Each bag has a list of needed items for Ernie's Place and Street Ministry. Please return the bag filled with the requested items to Ernie's Place or Fellowship Hall of the Church throughout the weeks of Lent.



LENTEN LITURGICAL NOTES

How we pray changes a bit during Lent so we may better enter more deeply into this season of conversion and transformation.

- The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* reminds us, "In Lent the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only in order to support the singing. Exceptions, however, are Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts." Therefore, you may hear a little less of the organ and piano throughout this season. We will have silence during the time of the Preparation of the Altar and the Presentation of the Gifts, except on the 4th Sunday of Lent.
- The Gloria (Glory to God) is not said or sung during Lent, some feast days. We will sing the Gloria again at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and then again at the Easter Vigil.
- The Alleluia is omitted from all hymns and as the Gospel Acclamation during Masses. We will chant a different verse during the season of Lent until the Easter Vigil.
- We will use the Apostles' Creed instead of the Nicene Creed. The Roman Missal (#19) clearly encourages the use of the Apostles' Creed during the seasons of Lent and Easter. The text can be found on the inside cover of the red *Ritual Song* hymnal.
- We will be using a Missal Chant during the season of Lent.
- During weekday (Daily Mass), we will not sing the Immaculate Mary after Mass has ended. This will return on the Monday of the Octave of Easter.

ABSTINENCE & FASTING

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14th) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all the Fridays of Lent.

All Catholics between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59) are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from the Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fast and abstinence.

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK

This Lent, St. John's is once again offering everyone a little black book. These books are available at the doors of the Church.

You can carry it with you, leave it in your car or keep it in a place at home where you will see it every day. It's a nice, simple way to bring the spirit of the season to each day of your Lenten journey. **The books are free of charge.** If you'd like to make a donation, please place it in the Poor Box to support the work of Parish Social Ministry.

Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus; Queen of All Hearts Council, for financially helping us to provide these books.

SJE Parish Lenten Mission 2024

A PILGRIMS JOURNEY OF *Faith*

To fall in love with God is the
greatest *romance*; to seek him
the greatest *adventure*;
to find him, the greatest
human *achievement*.

- St. Augustine of Hippo -



Monday, March 18th
A Journey of Forgiveness with the Saints

Tuesday, March 19th
A Journey of Protection with Mary

Wednesday, March 20th
A Journey of Love with the Eucharist

7:30 PM in the Church

Presented by:

Father Gary George C.Ss.R.

Queen of All Hearts Council 4126

Palm Sunday

Pancake Breakfast

March 24th

SJE Parish Auditorium

After the 10am Mass

Pancakes, Sausage,
Coffee, Tea & Juice



Family Life Ministry

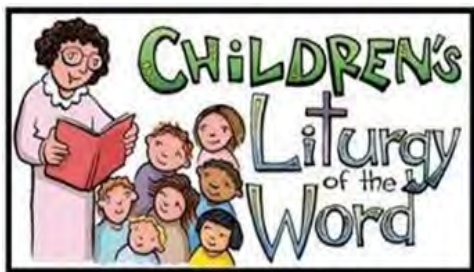
The Office of Family Ministry at St. John's focuses on engaging parish families in fun activities, service projects and prayerful experiences. With the purpose of deepening faith, strengthening good Catholic family practices and building our parish family, our office works in conjunction with Faith Formation and Parish Social Ministry to meet the varied needs of our parish families. If you would like to learn more about our ministries or need additional information about any of the upcoming events, please call us at **631-878-0009 x 124** or email Clapham@sjecm.org. Here are some of our ministries!

Moms on the Journey

Our moms' group is going strong! We meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm in the upper meeting room of the Barn. A casual, fun-filled, Spirit lead group, "Moms on the Journey" provides an opportunity for busy mothers to be pampered...to grow in their faith... and to share the joys and challenges of Christian motherhood with other moms. This ministry has been a true blessing for all those who come. If you're a mom who wants to go deeper *and* enjoy the company of other Christian moms, please consider joining this amazing group of women. Our next monthly gathering will be **Wednesday, March 27th** Bring a friend and come on down.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word program meets during the 10:00 Mass every Sunday. Our young parishioners leave Mass after the Collect (Opening Prayer) and return in time for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. While at CLTW, the children enjoy the readings, responsorial psalm and gospel presented in language that is easy for them to understand. An interactive homily and prayer of the faithful allow the children to participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Word. All children ages 4 and up are welcome. No registration is necessary...just come to the 10:00 Mass and have your children join the group when the priest invites the children to come up. This program is a joy-filled blessing for all!



Family Life Ministry

Our Family Life Ministry provides varied opportunities for families of all ages to come together to pray, to serve others and to share in some good clean family fun. We meet every month on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm in the upper meeting room of the Barn. We pray, brainstorm, share ideas and plan family activities, events and service projects. All are welcome!

Events for Lent 2024

March 1

Lenten Soup Supper 6:00-7:00 pm-
School Cafeteria, *followed by Stations of the Cross*

March 6

Family Life Ministry Meeting 7:00 pm-
Upper Room of the Barn

March 10

Sandwich Sunday 11:00-12 noon-School Cafeteria

March 22

Lenten Soup Supper 6:00-7:00 pm-
School Cafeteria, *followed by Stations of the Cross*

March 24

Palm Sunday **Easter Egg Hunt**
Great Lawn after the 10:00 am Mass

March 28

Holy Thursday Children's Service 4:30 pm- Church

March 29

Good Friday Children's Service 12:00 noon-Church

Please participate in our parish " **Finding Peace in Lent,**" project . This Lenten project, sponsored by our Arts & Environment Ministry, will bring our parish community together in a spirit of mercy, forgiveness and love, as we share our heartfelt reflections on how we can be beacons of God's peace.

**REJOICE
AND RESOLVE
TO SIN NO MORE!**



SINNERS Welcome & Wanted

Come and celebrate the
Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Monday—Friday after 7 a.m. and 12 Noon Masses
Saturdays after 8 a.m. Mass and from 4 p.m. - 4:45
p.m. Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. (Spanish)
Sundays from 5:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Diocesan Day of Reconciliation

Monday, March 25th
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29th
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30th
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Of course, you may call the Parish Office and make
an appointment with one of our priests.
Confessions are heard in Our Lady's Chapel which is
located in the Church to the right side of the altar.

PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle we have now has served as an incredible reminder of the light that shines through the darkness. At the Easter Vigil this year, we will prepare a new Paschal Candle. Because of our increased use of Seton Chapel we also purchase a smaller Paschal Candle for this space.

Both candles will burn throughout the Easter season and for all baptisms and funerals throughout the remainder of the year. It is a sign of the "Light of Christ" that shatters the darkness of our world. Our new candles are handmade from beeswax and will be a beautiful sign of Easter light and hope. Because it is beeswax and handmade, it is expensive.

A nice tradition has developed over the years at SJE. Members of the parish who had lost family members in the past year made an offering in memory of their loved one to assist with the costs related to the candles. If you and/or your family would like to do that, we would be most grateful and appreciative. You can send a donation to the Parish Office. Please note clearly that it is for the new Paschal Candles and list the name of who you wish to remember.



PARISH REGISTRATION

Are you new to our parish? Have you been a part of our parish but are not yet registered? Do you need to update your contact information? Now's the time!

So many people who come to St. John's often wonder why it's important to register. By registering in a parish you make a formal commitment to this community of faith - basically saying, "I want to belong...". This parish makes a formal commitment to you, basically saying, "We want to be here for you!" and you will be better informed about all that is happening here at SJE, basically saying, Get involved... we need you. To register or update your address information, visit <http://www.stjohntheevangelistcm.com/> and click "Join St. John's" on the homepage. Registration is currently done online only. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or email rectory@sjecm.org.



Faith Formation

CHECK OUT FAITH FORMATION ON THE PARISH WEBSITE!
Registration Begins June 2024!

FAST FACTS:

- St. John the Evangelist's Religious Education program serves our parish youth, beginning in FIRST GRADE, and their families as they grow in faith and prepare for the Sacraments.
- Information on our registration process & programs will be available on our website in June!
- If your child was not baptized here at SJE, we will need a copy of the child's baptismal certificate (or a copy of their birth certificate if they were not baptized).



HELP WANTED!

Can You Give Back?

Are you looking for a way to serve our community? We are always looking for parishioners to help teach our young people about the faith. You don't have to be a theologian — simply have a desire to share your faith and be willing to relate it to our youth.

♦ FAMILY OF FAITH (Grades 1-6)

Would you like to help with our Family Catechesis program for Grades 1-6? We would love to add you to our Family of Faith Team of volunteers who help organize, plan and present at our sessions!

♦ CONFIRMATION PREP! Small Group Leaders: Grades 7 & 8

Are you looking for a new challenge and would like to get involved in our Confirmation Prep - we have a spot for you! Our new Confirmation prep program is based on a small-group model and we need your help! We are particularly looking for Level 7 leaders for the incoming Level 7 class in Fall 2024!



Interested? Contact Michelle at 631-878-0009.
ext. 123 or via email at mpirraglia@sjecm.org

Journey to the Foot of the Cross

10 Things to Remember For Lent

Remember the formula. The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

It's a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

It's a time to fast. With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

It's a time to work on discipline. The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."

It's about dying to yourself. The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

Don't do too much. It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

Lent reminds us of our weakness. Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

Be patient with yourself. When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

Reach out in charity. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

Learn to love like Christ. Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.



Parish Social Ministry



The Parish Social Ministries at St. John's work to provide not only food and nourishment, but dignity and honor to those in need. Seeking to respond to the Lord's call in the Gospel of Matthew, our ministries seek out and finds Christ in the hungry and feeds them, in the thirsty, gives them drink, in the stranger, invites them in and in the naked, gives them clothes. (25:35).

Thank you for your continued support at a most important time as we have seen a significant increase in the need for food and other necessities from many struggling families in our local area.

Garden Ministry

Are you more of an outdoor person? Do you love being outside and getting your hands dirty? If so, then the Garden Ministry is perfect for you!

Our Garden Ministry works in Heaven's Harvest, the garden located between the Convent and Rectory, which produces bushels and bushels of produce which we donate to Ernie's Place and our Street Ministry. We plant, water, weed and harvest from the end of March through November and we are always looking for help. What is great about the Garden Ministry is you can choose a time that



works for you and coordinates with the weather and what needs to be done. We have raised beds; it doesn't have to be strenuous, and you can work alone or bring a friend. This can be a great family activity as well. All ages are most welcome. This is

a rewarding ministry and can be personally and deeply spiritual as well. To learn more about the Garden Ministry, please reach out to Katie Spellman at 631.878.0009, ext. 120 or via email at kspellman@sjecm.org.

We hope to see you in the Spring!



CHICKEN MINISTRY

If you love animals and helping the less fortunate, SJE's Chicken Ministry is the place for you! Every day our feathered friends that live in the coop behind the Convent are cared for with loving kindness, and in return they produce eggs (at least we hope and pray they do) for SJE's food pantry, Ernie's Place. Spring is coming, egg production will increase, and we need more Chicken Tenders for jobs both big and small! Our ministry is also a fantastic community service activity and great for families with children of all ages. We are a small ministry who work together as a team caring for these unique creatures - it's truly a blessing. Reach out to Katie Spellman at 631.878.0009, ext. 120 or via email at kspellman@sjecm.org for more information.

We hope to see you at the coop!



If you are in need or know someone that is in crisis or would like to volunteer and support our initiatives, please call our office, or email Katie Spellman at kspellman@sjecm.org

631.878.0009 AND THEN PRESS #4.
Katie Spellman – Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry
Christian DiConsiglio – Case Manager

Parish Social Ministry

STREET MINISTRY

Are you a great cook? Or perhaps a social butterfly who enjoys engaging with others in the community? Maybe you prefer to work behind the scenes? Come use the awesome gifts that God gave you to serve those in need in our local community!



Our Street Ministry is an amazing community of volunteers who provide hot meals and clothing to individuals and families every Thursday night, many of whom are homeless or unable to receive other supportive services. Whether you are interested in cooking hot meals, making PB&J sandwiches, using your muscles to load our van, or participating in our van runs, Street Ministry has a place and a job for everyone! Scan the QR code for details about how you can be part of our Street Ministry. To get started or for more information email StreetMinistry@sjecm.org. We hope to hear from you.



We are tremendously grateful for all our volunteers and the donations we receive; both allow us to continue to do this work every week.



STREET MINISTRY

@ the Barn

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer but don't like being out in front? Like to be the stage-hand instead of the actor on stage? Feel more comfortable behind the scenes? Do you love to organize, to fold...well Street Ministry @ the Barn is the ministry for you! This dedicated group of volunteers work at the Barn on Wednesday mornings and collect, sort, organize, and pack donations that not only go out in the van on Thursday nights for the Street Ministry, but also provide clothing and toiletry items for struggling families in our community year-round and are delivered several times a year to local shelters. If you want to learn how you can be part of this team, reach out to Katie Spellman at 631.878.0009. ext. 120 or via email at kspellman@sjecm.org.



Parish Social Ministry

COMMUNITY MEAL

Welcome to the Community Meal Ministry!

Our ministry invites people from all sectors of life to sit and enjoy a hot meal. Each month we post a different menu with suggestions and ask people to bring what they can, and each month it comes together as an amazing meal made and served with great love. If you are thinking, “I can’t commit each month” then this really is the ministry for you! You don’t have to commit to once a month, or even every other month! You can even do a drop-off and run if that works for you; but if you stick around, you’ll love what we do even more because you’ll feel that sense of care and belonging. If you are not a great cook, no judgement here! We always need people who can help serve the meal and clean up too! There really is a role for everyone. All we ask is that you commit when you are able, and that you cook with love - and food safety - in mind! If you have ever wanted to become more involved, felt passionate that no one should be hungry, or wanted to help your community -then consider this a personal invitation to join our Ministry!

Pope Francis has a beautiful quote that we use in the Community Meal Ministry, really a bit of a mission if you would, “You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That is how prayer works.” So please come share your love, your meal and put your prayers to work!

How do you sign up or get more information? Please contact the Office of Parish Social Ministry at 631.878.0009 ext. 120 or e-mail to communitymeal@sjecm.org.



ERNIE'S PLACE

SJE FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our parishioners who make donations of food, an amazing team of volunteers who work together to stock the shelves of our pantry a few days a week and a group who welcomes our families every week, Ernie's Place provides food assistance to approximately 190 families per month, feeding over 4000 people in 2023. The doors to Ernie's Place are open to everyone. Seeking to respond to the Lord's call in the Gospel of Matthew, this ministry seeks out and finds Christ in the hungry and feeds them and in the thirsty, gives them drink (25:35).

We are most grateful for the support we receive from our parish community as we have seen a significant increase in the need for food and other necessities from many struggling families in our

local area. There are many ways you can help; you can leave your donations in the box outside of Ernie's Place, coordinate a food drive, or volunteer your time. No commitment of time is too small, and all are most welcome to join our Ministry. Ernie's Place is a place of friendship for our volunteers and a place of support and hospitality for the families we serve each Monday night from 6:30 pm to 7:30 p.m. and again on Thursdays from 3pm to 4pm.

Please contact Katie Spellman at 631-878-0009 x120 or via email at

kspellman@sjecm.org to learn how you can become an active volunteer at Ernie's Place, we would love to have you join the team.



Parish Social Ministry

THRIFT SHOP

Wednesdays—9 a.m. to 12 Noon

St. John's Thrift Shop opens every Wednesday from 9am to noon offering many great items at super reasonable prices. You'll find all sorts of treasures, from brand name clothing to beautiful jewelry, housewares, and children's clothes, really there is something for everyone. All proceeds from the Thrift Shop support our Outreach programs.

The Thrift Shop is always looking for your donations of gently used clothing and household items. Donations can be left in the green bins located in the school parking lot (**not** in the bins behind the shop) or can be dropped off on Monday and Tuesday mornings between 9am and 11am. When you are cleaning out your closets in the spring, your child's toy box, garage or kitchen cabinets, please consider making a donation to the Thrift Shop, your donation will make a difference in our community.



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Memorial Cards

This is a beautiful way to honor one who has passed away. These cards allow you to express your sympathy while also benefitting the less fortunate in our local community. The memorial offering made will benefit Parish Outreach, our Homeless Initiative, Food Pantry and Thrift Shop and the many works of Parish Social Ministry at SJE.

To obtain a **Parish Social Ministry** memorial card, visit the Rectory Office during regular hours or contact the Parish Social Ministry Office.

THANK YOU

Our Parish Social Ministry could not do what we do without the incredible donations that we receive from St. John's. Your support with monetary donations, gift cards, food, and clothing all support the very practical needs of our programs. But we truly cannot do what we do without our volunteers, each one serving with great love, compassion, and respect; using their many God-given talents to serve those in need and to see the face of Jesus in every person they encounter.

With gratitude always for the amazing generosity of the people of the parish of St. John's.

-Katie Spellman





St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

Honoring SJE Faith Formation Leaders

Suzan Fitzpatrick, Former DRE
and

Michelle Pirraglia, Current DRE

Saturday, March 16th

Buffet Dinner - Corned Beef & Cabbage
Bangers & Mash  Soft Drinks & Dessert

Bring your own adult beverage

STARTS AT 7 PM

**Tickets- Call: George 631-786-1459 or
Bill 516-458-6448**

313 Frowein Rd. Center Moriches
Queen of All Hearts Knights of Columbus

Prayer & Worship

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTRY OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

When you serve the parish as an Extraordinary Minister for the Homebound you take your place in a long line of disciples who enjoyed the company of Jesus, listened to his word, wondered about his commands, cared for his people, and most importantly, are doing what he asks of us. You represent our parish to the sick and homebound by providing Holy Communion to our fellow parishioners who are unable to participate at Mass but can still be recipients of the Body of Christ.

In 2023, members of this Ministry visited 2126 members of the parish at their homes, or in a facility where they were being cared for. Some people who are sick and homebound probably feel that they don't want to be a bother to anyone. But quite to the contrary, the Extraordinary Ministers are anxious to make the extra effort to bring Holy Communion to those in need. The level of appreciation expressed by the receiving parishioner is unmatched. But it is important to note the equal satisfaction felt by the visiting minister that makes the Ministry such a unique experience.

It is common for extraordinary ministers to visit the same people week after week, and often develop a special bond with them, and in some cases their families. It becomes a shared friendship in faith. Interested? Please contact the Rectory for further information regarding this very special and significant mission right here at Saint Johns.



THE LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady of Hope Praesidium

The Legion of Mary is a ministry which undertakes apostolic work to give Christ to the world through the love of Mary. Members become instruments of the Holy Spirit through a balanced program of prayer and volunteer work, which includes visits to the sick and aged, religious education, prison ministry, community outreach, communion to the homebound and more. Many good intentions are brought to fruition through Legion membership. Come join us in giving glory to God by spreading the love of Jesus with Our Lady's help. Please call Judy Paulsen or Christine Cappelletto at 631.878.0009.



CALLING ALL MEN!

Men's Prayer Group

Come join the Totus Tuus Men's Prayer Group on Saturday mornings at 9am in the Convent. Join as we learn to follow the example of St. Joseph and grow in our faith, reflect on the Gospel and have coffee.

For more information call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or email to rectory@sjecm.org.



Get Involved at SJE !

Art & Environment Ministry

The Art and Environment ministry cares about making the church and Seton chapel a prayerful and peaceful space for all to enjoy here at SJE. Using our passion for nature, we use a variety of flowers, plants, assorted foliage and other natural elements to highlight each liturgical season. We aim to create an environment where parishioners feel welcome throughout the year. We invite you to consider joining our ministry to lend a hand in keeping our parish a warm and inviting place for all to come and worship.



CONSOLATION MINISTRY

We are seeking new members to help us lead and comfort families through the funeral process.

There are several roles available depending on what **you** are comfortable with. Greeters attend the funeral and assist in welcoming families to the church.

Companions are directly involved with the families preparing for the funeral mass. **Bakers** make something for the family at the time of the funeral. If you are more interested in a clerical/ support role, **booklet makers** prepare a worship aid for the funeral and coordinators contact members to provide for each or these roles.

We currently have no bilingual, English- Spanish, members, but our Ministry needs them!

We are a joyful ministry and would love to share with you how positive this ministry.

Email: rectory@sjecm.org

Other ways to share your Gifts....

OFFICE WORKERS

St. Genesius Guild

Are you interested in working in an office environment? Meeting and helping your fellow parishioners? Then the St. Genesius Guild would be a great fit! We are a volunteer ministry where we help out with office work in the rectory on Saturdays.

Some of our duties are to answer the rectory phone, direct callers to the proper ministries, assist the priests with appointments, help with mass cards, print funeral booklets, general office work, etc. Please e-mail Rosanne Giese in care of rectory@sjecm.org for more information. Please reference St. Genesius Guild in the subject line.

CHURCH CLEANERS

St. Zita Society

Our dedicated volunteer cleaning staff members meet every Thursday at 12:30 (after Noon Mass).

At present, there are six of us who do light cleaning, i.e., window washing, vacuuming, dusting and mopping.

When we have a full crew, the job is completed in about an hour depending on weekly weather conditions that produce sand and salt, etc.

We, as a group, are proud of our lovely church and the continuous religious activities that emanate from it. If you wish to join us, just show up. We welcome you!

SAINT JANUARIUS MINISTRY

BLOOD DRIVE

At our parish, the Blood Drive Ministry is entering its 33rd year. Started by the late Marge Peters (at the urging of then pastor, Fr. McDonald), the ministry partners with the New York Blood Center by hosting three drives each calendar year. **In 2023 we collected a total of 268 units of Whole Blood and Double Red Cell donations which can support up to 804 recipients.** There is a never-ending need for blood; there is no substitute for human blood, no pharmaceutical company can provide what the human donor can and these local blood drives provide blood donations that are so vitally crucial to so many people in our community.

The Saint Januarius Ministry volunteers advertise the Blood Drive by hanging posters in our community prior to the drive and they work on the day of the event by welcoming our donors as part of the registration process, keeping the lines moving for our donors and providing hospitality to our donors when they are finished. By joining this ministry, you will help facilitate the overall effort to supply this desperately needed gift of life. It doesn't get much better than that! Our three blood drives in **2024** will be hosted on **February 24th, June 22nd, and September 28th.** Hope to see you there as a volunteer, a donor, or BOTH!

PS - And who is St. Januarius? Well, many know him as San Gennaro, who's feast day is celebrated every September 19th. Saint Januarius was born in the third century and became Bishop of Benevento, Italy. He was sentenced to death by the emperor and ordered to be torn to pieces by wild beasts. On the day of his execution, he was led to the amphitheater, but none of the animals touched them. He was later beheaded. St. Januarius is famous for the liquefaction of his blood which usually happens on September 16th, the first Sunday of May and again on December 16th. A dark solid mass of his blood in a sealed vial becomes liquid when held near one of his relics. Scientists have no natural explanation for this well-attested phenomenon.



ALTAR LINENS

LAUNDRY HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of help with our altar linens. It would need a commitment once every two weeks or so to care for, launder, dry, iron and return the cloth items used at Masses in the Church and Seton Chapel. Great job for those who love to do wash, iron, use starch, and more!

For more information, contact the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or e-mail to rectory@sjecm.org.

Lent is a beautiful time to draw closer to Christ.


Please accept this heartfelt invitation to journey together as a parish family. There are many opportunities for prayer, faith-building and service at St. John's in the weeks ahead.

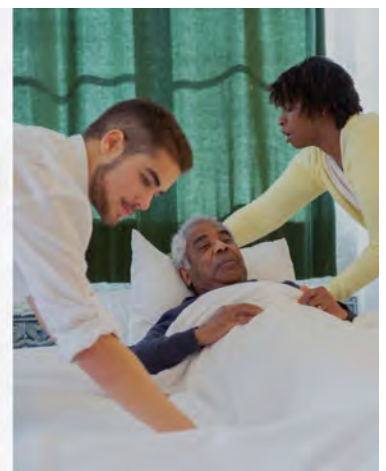
Please check our parish website sjecm.org and click on the Church Bulletin or call the Parish Office at 631-878-0009 (Mon-Thurs 9:00 am-8:00 pm, Fri. 9:00am-2:00 pm) for additional information .

*"For where there is love,
there is no labor,
or if there be labor,
it is a labor of love."*

- St. Augustine

National Caregivers Day
February 16th

 **DIocese of ROCKVILLE CENTRE**
**Office of Human Life,
Family and Bioethics**



SJE Family Life Ministry

Vacation Bible Camp

July 15th - 19th

Finnley

I'm a
Dolphin!

Are you interested in volunteering for our VBC or perhaps sending your child?

Come be a part of the most joy-filled week we have at SJE!

It's guaranteed to make a SPLASH!

Our first planning meeting will be
March 13th @ 7pm in the Barn.



Please email Carolyn Lapham, Coordinator of
Family Life Ministries - clapham@sjecm.org

Comunidad Hispano

La Comunidad Hispana de nuestra Parroquia de Center Moriches, te invita a celebrar la Santa Misa en Español
Martes 7:30pm La Santa Misa (Capilla del Convento)
Sabados 7:00pm El Santo Rosario / Confecciones (en la Iglesia)

7:30pm La Santa Misa (en la Iglesia)

Viernes 7:30pm Grupo de Oracion (Capilla Convento)

MINISTERIOS Y SERVICIOS

Bautismos: Segundo Domingo a las 2p.m. en la Iglesia.

Clases pre-bautismales el tercer Miércoles de cada mes.

Requisitos: **(con 2 meses de anticipacion)**

1. Certificado de nacimiento del niño (a).
2. Certificado de inscripción de su Parroquia (padres y padrinos)
3. Los padres deben traer estos documentos a la oficina de San Juan para fijar las fechas de charla pre-bautismal (OBLIGATORIA para padres y padrinos) y la fecha del Bautismo.

Matrimonios:

Parejas que planean su matrimonio, deben hacer una cita con uno de los sacerdotes antes de su boda. De este modo tendrán suficiente tiempo para recibir las instrucciones prematrimoniales y obtener los documentos necesarios. Para más información llame al oficina.

Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento

Lunes - Viernes

Considere ofrecer una hora por semana ante el Señor en el Santísimo Sacramento.

Si puede estar presente durante una hora específica,

· Los feligreses siempre son bienvenidos a venir y orar ante el Santísimo Sacramento, incluso si no pueden cumplir con el compromiso de horario regular.



En el Santísimo Sacramento Dios nos ama con tanta ternura que se vacía por completo!

Permítanos ayudarlo !

DESPENSA DE COMIDA DE ERNIE

Abierto - Lunes 6:30 p.m. a las 7:30 p.m.

Jueves 3 p.m. a las 4 p.m.

TIENDA DE SEGUNDA MANO

Miércoles - Barn 9 a.m. a 12 p.m.

COMIDA COMUNITARIA

Último lunes del mes 6 p.m.

Auditorio de la escuela

MINISTERIO DE LA CALLE

Jueves - Estación de tren Mastic-Shirley

7:15 p.m. (aproximadamente)

Comidas sencillas y ropa disponible.

También necesitamos voluntarios para ayudar a traducir para aquellos que lo necesiten



SAFE ENVIRONMENT UPDATES

VIRTUS TRAINING ON CAMPUS...

March 1, 2024 at 6:30pm and

March 4, 2024 at 1pm Both will be held in the Barn

All volunteers and employees in our parish are required to participate a training course called "Protecting God's Children" and complete a background check as part of our VIRTUS® programs. The importance of the program is to create safe environments for all, including those who work and minister in our parishes, schools, or other programs. VIRTUS is the brand name that identifies best practices and programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "right doing" within religious organizations. The VIRTUS programs empower organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of all those who interact with the Church.

Our volunteers are required to attend because they are a part of the solution to the problem of child sexual abuse in our homes, parishes, and communities. When caring adults have a "healthy suspicion" about something in their surroundings, they can identify the risks to children early enough to prevent child sexual abuse from occurring.

Although the program is primarily designed to address the issues of creating a safe environment for children and youth, it is also applicable to the vulnerable adult population.

Even if you do not believe that your ministry will have any contact with either vulnerable adults or children you will be covered if you should change or volunteer for additional ministries.

The program includes two videos which are viewed and then discussed. You can sign up for the VIRTUS classes by visiting www.drvc.org or clicking here [VIRTUS® Online \(virtusonline.org\)](http://VIRTUS® Online (virtusonline.org)).

Cathy Mussi, Parish Virtus coordinator at
631-878-0009 ext.126 or by email at
cmussi@SJECm.org.



Knights of Columbus

You are called - Join today!
FREE 12-month membership



Visit kofc.org/joinus
Use promo code: **Blessed McGivney**





ALTAR SERVERS

We are looking for new altar servers!

If you are in 4th grade or higher and you would like to serve the church in this special ministry, we would love to have you! Altar servers assist the priest or deacon with sincere devotion and decorum in the spirit of the Liturgy by carrying the incense, processional cross, lighting candles at Eucharistic celebrations, Sacraments, funeral masses, benediction, and prayer services. This ministry allows the youth of the parish to become involved and contribute to the Liturgy of the Mass by serving others.

An altar server must have received the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation, and First Communion to participate in this ministry.



Our next parish train session will be...

Monday, March 11, 2024 4:00pm-5:30pm in the Church

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 4:00pm-5:30pm in the Church

Saturday, March 16, 2024 11:00am-12:30pm in the Church

(Pizza will be served at the conclusion of the final session)

****We strongly encourage you to attend these sessions, if you cannot under extreme circumstances you MUST contact us immediately!****

We will celebrate a special installation Mass of all our new altar servers on **Sunday, March 17, 2024** at the **10:00am** Mass at which all our new trainees will serve at the Mass for the first time.

Please email your child's name, grade level, email, phone number and age to servers@sjecm.org by **Friday, March 8, 2024** if you are interested in becoming an altar server.



Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School Spring Basket Auction and Food Extravaganza



Saturday, March 9th
6:00 PM
Doors open at 4:45
Tickets \$35 each

(Ticket price includes food to try from various restaurants)

**CALL TO PURCHASE
YOUR TICKETS!**

Tickets available till March 6th
or
we are sold out

**NUMEROUS BASKETS
TO CHOOSE FROM !**

(Basket raffle tickets purchased
separately at the event)

 **(631) 878-1033**
www.olqany.org

REMEMBERING

Loved Ones...

SJE offers a number of ways to remember loved ones, or to honor someone living.

Mass Intentions. Remembering one who has passed away during the celebration of Mass is a most noble practice calling us to pray for one who has died at the most powerful prayer we know—the celebration of the Eucharist.

Altar Bread and Wine. Names will be listed in each bulletin during the course of that month.

Votive Candles/Altar Candles. A number of votive candles enlighten the beautiful statues in our church. You may have a particular devotion to one of these saints. These candles are next to the statues of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Teresa, St. Gerard Majella and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. They bring a certain light to the statues and, hopefully, inspire some deeper times of prayer and reflection.



To make an offering, visit or contact the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or email to rectory@sjecm.org

All Holy Men and Women, Saints of God, Pray for us!

We have a number of prayer cards around the Church and in the Our Lady's Chapel in the church. These are for you to take and use for your own prayer or share with someone you know who can use a prayer! There is no fee or donation expected for the cards. Prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and seeking the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Dymphna, St. Joseph, and St. John the Evangelist are available for your prayer and use.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES **Beginning Soon!**

Are you an adult or know someone interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation? If you are a baptized Catholic, but have not been fully initiated, we offer a process for those who desire to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Meeting will begin shortly and continue through Pentecost.

If you would like to sign up for more information, contact the Rectory at 631.878.0009 or email to rectory@sjecm.org

For teenagers and their families who desire more information, contact the Faith Formation Office at 631-878-0009 ext. 5 or email to faithformation@sjecm.org.



What to Give Up...

Give up complaining... focus of **Gratitude**
Give up pessimism... become an **Optimist**
Give up worry... trust **Divine Providence**
Give up bitterness... turn to **Forgiveness**
Give up hatred... return **Good** for evil
Give up anger... be more **Patient**
Give up pettiness... become **Mature**
Give up gloom... enjoy the **Beauty** all around you
Give up jealousy... Pray for **Trust**
Give up gossiping... control your **Tongue**
Give up sin... turn to **Virtue**
Give up giving up... **Hang in there!**

2023 Easter Vigil...



Come to know Mary, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

The Miraculous Medal Novena is prayed on Mondays after the 7 a.m. and 12 Noon Masses.

Booklets are

provided. We ask that you take the booklet and keep it, bringing it back each Monday.

Come to the quiet!

The church building and Seton Chapel (located in the white convent building) are open from
Monday - Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. + Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

All who visit must sign in, wash their hands in the bathroom or use sanitizer before entering the worship space, and keep a safe social distance from others.

Come and spend some time with the Lord!

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Seton Chapel Mondays —Fridays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. All are invited to quiet times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament when the Church and Seton Chapel are open.

Come pray the Liturgy of the Hours!

The communal celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours takes places on Saturdays and Sundays after the evening English Masses. Please meet by Our Lady's Chapel a few minutes after Mass. Those who wish to pray individually may also download an app (Ibreviary, Divine Office, etc.) for your iphone or android device.

You may also pick up a prayer book from Seton Chapel. *Christian Prayer* book from the lobby of Seton Chapel to keep in these days

Mission Statement



Inspired by our Patron, **St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church** in Center Moriches seeks to bring the light of Christ to a world in need, so that as Christ has done, we may also do. From the celebration of the Eucharist, we are sent forth to serve God and neighbor through ministries of formation, education and outreach.

All are encouraged to stay connected with our local and global church through the Catholic Faith Network .



CFN is available on
Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296,
and Charter Spectrum channel 162/471
and can be accessed via catholicfaithnetwork.org