

# *Walking the Way of the Cross*



*Together on the Road to Easter*

# Pause, Pray, Prepare: Lent at SJE

## What is Lent ?

What are your priorities in life right now? Lent is an invitation to take a step back, reflect, and focus on what matters most, leaving behind what matters least. It's a season for families and individuals alike to grow closer to God and each other.

Lent is the Church's season of preparation for Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, it lasts 40+ days until Holy Thursday, excluding Sundays. In Matthew 4, Jesus spends 40 days in the desert, fasting, praying, and preparing for His mission. Lent is our opportunity to follow His example—praying together as a family, reflecting on our choices, and preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter.

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](http://sjecm.org) and click on the Church Bulletin, or call the Parish Office at 631-878-0009 for additional information.

Lent invites us to take our spiritual lives seriously. It is a perfect time to form life-giving habits, abandon self-destructive ones, and discover the abundant life Jesus promises. Families can use this season to practice small acts of kindness, serve others, and grow in faith together.

### Reconciliation

This is also a special time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession helps us turn away from sin, heal our relationship with God, and experience His mercy—preparing our hearts to celebrate Christ's Resurrection with joy.

### An Invitation

At **John the Evangelist Parish**, we warmly invite everyone—families, individuals, long-time members, and those returning home—to celebrate Lent with us. Take these 40 days to explore God's dream for your life and your family. Pray, give, and grow together—it can change everything. Are you ready?

## LENTEN BAG CHALLENGE

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

If you are able, please take one reusable shopping bag, you'll find them at each exit of the Church. There's a small list of items in need inside, please fill the bag throughout the season of Lent. Donations can be left inside the main doors of the Church. Thank you for your generosity!



## THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK

This Lent, St. John's is once again offering *The Little Black Book* for daily prayer and reflection. **Both English and Spanish editions are available** and can be found at the doors of the church.

You can carry it with you, keep it in your car, or place it somewhere at home where you'll see it each day. It's a simple and meaningful way to bring the spirit of Lent into your daily routine.

The books are free of charge. If you wish to make a donation, please place it in the Poor Box to support the work of Parish Social Ministry.



## 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.

# *A Lenten Reflection from our Pastor, Fr. Patrick ...*

*Ash Wednesday 2026*



As we enter a new Lent together, the prophet Joel reminds us of God's complete mercy for us. He reminds us that the Lord is slow to anger and rich in kindness. He invites us once again to start this new season of Lent in the right frame of mind. He tells us, "to return to the Lord with your whole heart." What words of wisdom for all of us as we begin a new season of Lent together. It is clear that the prophet Joel wants us to start this new season of Lent with the Lord's grace and blessings. He wants us to reconnect with God. He does not want us to waste any time in doing so. He wants us to redirect our attention to the Lord of all truth and understanding who brings us peace and joy.

Moreover, Joel wants us to know how important we are to God and how essential it is to start off this new season right. God is just too great to be ignored. His mercy is limitless. God wants us to render our hearts over again so we can experience His grace and wonder alive in our lives again. He wants us to revisit God in all of His wonder and glory. He wants God to fill our broken hearts with His saving love and mercy and to allow Him to remain at the center and focus of our lives. He wants us to start over again and to make more time and room for God in our lives each day.

Lent offers us another opportunity to draw closer to the Lord through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a time to grow in our appreciation and awareness of the goodness of God in our lives. It is a time for renewal and spiritual growth. It is a time for reflection. Lent gives us another opportunity to grow in our faith and understanding of the Lord. It is a time to seek forgiveness. It is a time to renew and purify our hearts. It is a new beginning for all of us to grow in our love for God and one another with eternity in sight! Lent offers us the grace and opportunity to see the world much differently. Lent is a time to be reconciled with God and one another.

The purpose behind the spiritual disciplines of Lent is to help us draw closer to God inwardly. It is all about our interior motives. When we pray, do we pray to get attention or to just fulfill our religious obligations? Or do we pray each day with an openness of heart so that we can truly encounter the Lord more often in our lives each day? Prayer enables us to set time aside in the silence of our hearts to focus on the Lord more, who eagerly awaits our return. Prayer is what keeps us connected to God if we pray with sincere and humble hearts, not inflated hearts. Prayer enriches the soul and increases our awareness of the importance and the presence of God in lives. It enables us to deepen our personal relationship with the Lord and to enter more deeply into the mysteries of God.

When we fast, do we fast like the hypocrites? Do we want others to know that we are fasting? Yes, it is important for us to fast accordingly and respectfully. We have to follow the teachings of the Church because of the graces that we receive from this observance. True fasting requires that we fast from anything that gets in the way of living in full communion with the Lord. Instead of fasting from certain foods or drinks, maybe we need to fast from watching too much television or from certain things that take our focus off the Lord. Maybe we spend too much time on our I-Phone. Fasting is essential because it draws our attention to the Lord who alone is sufficient for the journey and who alone is the fulfillment of all of our hopes and

longings! It is the Lord and the Lord alone who can fill us with His love and His blessings. It is Jesus who lives in each and everyone of us. Through baptism we enter into a permanent relationship with the Lord and it is in Lent that we are reminded of this special relationship and the importance of staying close to Jesus!

The third discipline of Lent reminds us of the importance of giving. Jesus says to give from our hearts not from our surpluses because giving signifies our level of trust in God's Providence. The more we give of ourselves and of our resources, the more we trust in God's unfailing mercy; the more we trust in His Divine Plan. The more we give from the heart, the more we rely on God's providential care, not of our own accord. It is that simple. Giving or lack of giving signifies the kind of level of trust we have in God. Maybe during this new season of Lent, we can reflect on the many blessings we have in life and to see how we can share our blessings with others in new and meaningful ways, especially with those in greatest need. To just give of our surpluses is not enough. It will not change us or free us from within. The truth is, less is more, more of God! The more we live generous lives and lives that are simplified and other-centered, the more we will encounter the Lord's grace in our lives and appreciate His many blessings.

The purpose of Lent is to change us! Lent is a season of conversion. It affords us another opportunity to look beyond. Lent gives us another opportunity to look beyond this world as a sign of hope that promises us new and everlasting life. Lent is not just for the next 40 days. Lent should be a way of life because Lent is about returning to God each day and making God more central in our lives. Lent is a time to invite God back into our lives and to become more dependent and reliant on Him each day. It invites us to turn our lives around and to make the necessary changes we need to make so we can experience the Lord's grace again. Lent helps us to grow in holiness and in our appreciation and awareness of God's presence in our lives. It is a time for reconciliation. It is a time for us to purify our hearts and to confess our sins and to experience the mercy, the joy and the love of God alive in our hearts again.

For me, Lent is everything! It is all about trusting in God again and keeping God first in our lives above all other things. It is a new beginning for all of us in taking our lives seriously again. It is a new opportunity for change and countless blessings, especially when we pray more and give more and fast more. If this new season of Lent is going to be more meaningful and prayerful for us, then what will be our interior motive behind our approach to Lent during these next 40 days? Will we approach Lent with hardened hearts or hearts that are soft and loving? What are we hoping to get out of Lent this year? Will we have the right attitude and proper mindset and disposition that is required for Lent to be successful and spiritual? If we really want to grow in our love and relationship with the Lord, then let us allow this new season of Lent to embrace us in all of its simplicity and wonder. Let us all make more room for the Lord in our lives and hearts knowing how He loved us all till the very end!



# St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church

25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York 11934-3698

631-878-0009 | [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org)



## PASTORAL TEAM

**Reverend Patrick M. Riegger**

Pastor

**Reverend Charlince Vendredy**

Parochial Vicar

**Reverend Monsignor Ellsworth R. Walden**

Retired, In Residence

**Reverend Francis Lasrado**

Retired, In Residence

**Reverend Jerry DiSpigno**

Parish Assistant

**Reverend Peter D'Abele**

Parish Assistant

**John Pettorino**

Deacon

**Michael Hoonhout**

Deacon

**Ed Grieb**

Deacon

**Heather Crayne**

Director of Parish Social Ministry

**Carolyn Lapham**

Director of Family Ministries

**Michelle Pirraglia**

Director of Faith Formation

**Angela Werner**

Director of Music Ministry

## 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](http://www.olqany.org)

**Dawn Waller**, Principal

[dwaller@olqany.org](mailto:dwaller@olqany.org) (ext. 201)

## MASS SCHEDULE

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the Holy Mass.

### Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday at 7:00 AM and 12:00 noon.

### Saturday Masses

8:00 AM, 5:00 PM, and 7:30 PM (Spanish).

### Sunday Masses

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (Family Mass), 12:00 noon, and 6:00 PM.

Whether it's been a while since your last visit or you come every week, all are welcome to experience God's love, the Eucharist, and our parish community.

## 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

## 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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org).

# Lift High the Cross

*Moving with Jesus into  
the mystery of salvation*

SJE Parish Lenten Mission

Led by: Fr. Hugh J. Gillespie, SMM  
(Montfort Missionaries)

March 23rd, 24th, 25th

7:00 PM: Rosary

7:30 PM: Mission Talk

*All are welcome.  
Join us as we  
journey with  
Christ into the  
mystery of  
salvation.*



## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Our parish Baptism Ministry assists parents who wish to have their child (or children) receive the Sacrament of Baptism. The mission of the Baptism Ministry is twofold: to ensure that all families feel warmly welcomed at St. John the Evangelist Parish, and to help them feel fully informed and prepared for this life-changing Sacrament. Baptism is an important step in the faith life of both parents and children, and we are honored to accompany families throughout this sacred journey.

In January 2025, we made several changes to enrich our Baptism preparation program by making it more personal and expanding the content. These updates help families not only feel at home here at St. John's, but also deepen their understanding of God's transforming love present in the Sacraments. A few short weeks ago, we were blessed to hold our first **Baptismal Reunion**, joyfully welcoming families back to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate the lasting grace of Baptism within our parish community.

### Where do you start?

Parents who wish to have their child baptized should visit the parish website and click on the *Baptism* icon to begin the process. After completing the initial online inquiry form, a member of the Baptism Ministry will contact you to explain the preparation program. The program includes attending an in-person Baptism preparation class, completing a short online video course, and submitting the required paperwork—all of which is reviewed during the in-person session. Once all steps are completed, a date for your child's Baptism will be scheduled.

### Godparents: What You Need to Know

Choosing a godparent is an important part of preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism. A godparent is called to support the child—and the parents—through prayer, example, and a lived commitment to the Catholic faith. This is a meaningful role that involves walking alongside another in faith and helping them grow in their relationship with Christ and His Church.

The requirements for godparents are universal throughout the Catholic Church. To serve as a godparent, a person must:

- Be a fully initiated Catholic, having received Baptism, Eucharist (Communion), and Confirmation
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Live an active life of faith and provide a good example of Catholic living
- If married, be married in the Catholic Church
- Not be the parent of the child being baptized

These requirements help ensure that godparents are prepared to fulfill this important spiritual role.

If you are interested in learning more about the Baptism Ministry or would like to volunteer, please email us at [Baptism@sjecm.org](mailto:Baptism@sjecm.org). We are grateful to all who help support and strengthen the faith life of our parish families at St. John's.

## 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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org)



*God of goodness and mercy,*

*Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love. May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever in your abundant grace.*

*Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to make myself 100% available to you every day as I prepare for Easter.*

*Amen.*

Jesus calls us to  
conversion of heart.

Jesus calls each of us to a true conversion of heart. Lent invites us to “rend our hearts,” allowing them to be opened, softened, and healed by God’s grace. Through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, we are given sacred tools to express this inner conversion—shaping how we relate to ourselves, to God, and to one another.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation holds a special place during Lent, offering us a powerful encounter with God’s mercy. In confession, we bring our brokenness before the Lord and allow His forgiveness to restore and renew us. These practices are not meant to be empty gestures, but sincere acts of repentance, trust, and love. When embraced with the right intention, they draw us closer to Christ and transform our hearts. May we never receive God’s grace in vain, but welcome it with humility, gratitude, and hope for salvation.

*"For dust you are,  
and to dust you shall return."*

*- Genesis*

Come and celebrate the

# Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Monday through 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.



Lent is a beautiful time to return to the Lord through the Sacrament of Confession. In this season of reflection and renewal, God invites us to lay down our burdens, receive His mercy, and begin again with a clean heart.

## Days of Reconciliation

Monday, March 30th  
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3rd  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



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

# Family Ministry

Carolyn Lapham  
Director of Family Ministry

631-878-0009 x 124  
Clapham@sjecm.org

**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](mailto:Clapham@sjecm.org). Here are some of our ministries!

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

This 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!

## Moms on the Journey

Our moms' group is going strong! We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 25, 2026 at 7:00 pm in The Barn.** Bring a friend and come on down.

## 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!

## Family Life Ministry Events for Lent 2026

- March 4 Monthly Planning Meeting 7:00 pm-Upper Room of The Barn
- March 8 Sandwich Sunday 11:00-12 noon-School Cafeteria
- April 1 Monthly Planning Meeting 7:00 pm-Upper Room of The Barn
- April 2 Holy Thursday Children's Service 4:30 pm- Church
- April 3 Good Friday Children's Service 12:00 noon-Church
- April 4 Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt-Great Lawn after the 11:00 am Prayer Service
- April 5 Easter Sunday Masses (Sunrise Mass, 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon)

**Family Stations of the Cross are in the planning stages. Check the Sunday Bulletins and parish website for more information!**

# Family Ministry

Carolyn Lapham

Director of Family Ministry

631-878-0009 x 124  
Clapham@sjecm.org

## Martha & Company

All of you “Marthas” out there, this ministry is for you! We are chefs and bakers, movers and shakers, festive environment coordinators, shoppers, organizers clean and specialists when it comes to setting up and cleaning up! This ministry of hospitality provides opportunities for fellowship in conjunction with weekend Masses, prayer services and special



events. The beauty of this ministry is that you do *what you can, when you can*. There is no major time commitment. All are welcome to join this multi-generational ministry comprised of joyful people who generously share their time and talents with our parish family!

## SJE Youth Service Corps

*YOUNG PEOPLE answering the call to serve!*

This ministry provides varied opportunities for the young people of our parish to respond to the call to serve others, here at St. John’s and beyond. Geared for middle school, high school and college students, the SJE Service Corps enlists the help of our youth volunteers to serve in a variety of capacities from volunteering as actors and actresses for our faith formation program, to leading our children at our vacation bible camp, to setting up and serving at parish events and helping those in need through the outreach efforts of our parish social ministry office. There are so many ways to help throughout the course of the year. Young people help when they are available. There is never any as we are sensitive to the busy lives that our teenagers lead. The SJE Youth Service Corps is great way

for teens to use their talents, connect with other faith-filled young people, serve the parish and the community, and have fun!

## Vacation Bible Camp

This year our amazing VBC will be held from Monday July 13– Friday, July 17 (9:00 am-12:00 noon). Students who are currently enrolled in Pre-K through Grade 4 are eligible for VBC. This is a wonderful program of faith, fellowship and fun for our young parishioners. Youth and adult volunteers are most welcome as our program runs completely on volunteer power! Check the parish website and the upcoming bulletins for additional information. Registration will begin in April.



SERVE

# Faith Formation

Michelle Pirraglia  
Director of Faith Formation

631-878-0009 x 123  
mpirraglia@sjecm.org

CHECK OUT FAITH FORMATION ON THE PARISH WEBSITE!  
Registration Begins June 2026!

## FAST FACTS:

- St. John the Evangelist's Faith Formation program serves our parish youth, beginning in FIRST GRADE, and their families as they grow in faith and prepare for the Sacraments.
- Information about our registration process & programs will be available on the parish website ([sjecm.org](http://sjecm.org)) in June! (Registration runs through August).
- 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.

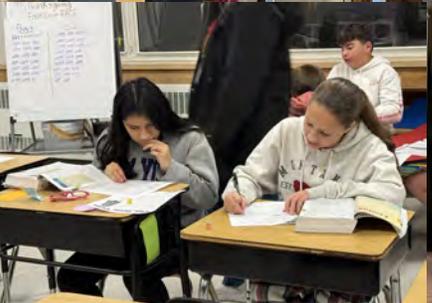
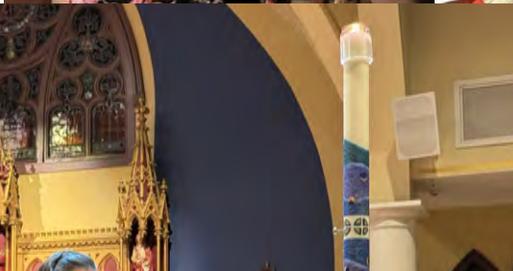
#### ♦ FAMILY OF FAITH (Grades 1-6)

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 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 2026!





# Parish Social Ministry

Heather Crayne

Director of Parish Social Ministry

631-878-0009 x 120  
socialministry@sjecm.org

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 find 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 of our outreach programs. We continue to see a need for food and other necessities from many struggling individuals and families in our local community. We work year-round to help those less fortunate strive for sustainability.

## ***There are many ways to get involved!***

\*Donate – food, toiletries, gently used clothing. Please see the latest bulletin for an updated list of current needs for Ernie's Place and our Street Ministry.

\*Cook – Our Street Ministry takes out individual, hot meals to feed the homeless every Thursday night. Our Community Meal volunteer team would love half or full trays of hot food or salads and desserts on the last Monday of every month.

\*Give of your time – Every ministry could use another pair of hands, pick the ministry that speaks to you and give the outreach office a call to get started!

Your time, talent and treasure and vital to the success of our ministries, we could not run our programs successfully with volunteer help!

*Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world.*

*-St. Teresa of Avila*

## **Upcoming PSM events in 2026:**

\*Please take an SJE bag at the exits of Church and find a list inside to fill with donation items and return during Lent.

\*Sponsor a Family by donating a filled Easter basket by 3/26, please see the latest bulletin for more information or email [Easter@SJEcm.org](mailto:Easter@SJEcm.org)

\*Saturday 3/28, 8:45am Easter Outreach Event, help us hand out food and Easter baskets to those in need! If you're able to help, please call x 120 to sign up.

\*August – One day event for back-to-school supplies given out on a Wednesday morning at the Barn, call Heather at the PSM office if you're able to help.

\*November – Thanksgiving Outreach Event

\*December – Christmas Outreach Event

## ERNIE'S PLACE

### SJE FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our parishioners who donate food, an amazing team of volunteers who work together to stock the shelves of our pantry a few days a week and a group of volunteers who welcome and help our families shop every week, Ernie's Place provides food assistance to approximately 162 families per month. In 2025 we fed over 6,000 people in need. The doors to Ernie's Place are open to everyone in our community. We are most grateful for the support we receive from our parish community. There are many ways you can help; you can leave non-perishable food donations in the bin 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 and Thursday.

Please contact the social ministry office via email at [socialministry@sjecm.org](mailto:socialministry@sjecm.org) to learn how you can become an active volunteer at Ernie's Place, we would love to have you join the team!

If you are in need or know someone that is, or would like to volunteer and support our programs, please call or email our office.

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## STREET MINISTRY

Our Street Ministry is an amazing community of volunteers who provide hot meals, clothing and toiletries to individuals and families every Thursday night, many of whom are homeless or unable to receive other supportive services. We need your help! Come use the awesome gifts that God gave you to serve those in need in our local community. All areas on the Street Ministry team need volunteers including - cooking hot meals at home and dropping them off on Thursday nights (we provide take-out containers!), making PB&J sandwiches, helping to load our van with blankets, clothing, shoes and toiletries, and participating in our van runs where you can hand out meals and clothing to those in need. The Street Ministry has a place and a job for everyone! Scan the QR code for more details about how you can be part of our Street Ministry. To get started please call 631-878-0009 ext. 120 or for more information email [socialministry@sjecm.org](mailto:socialministry@sjecm.org) and once you are ready to start volunteering look for emails from [StreetMinistry@sjecm.org](mailto:StreetMinistry@sjecm.org) to sign up in your area of interest.

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 feel more comfortable behind the scenes? Do you love to organize and fold? If so, the Street Ministry Sorting Closet @ the Barn is the ministry for you! This dedicated group of volunteers work at the Barn on Wednesday mornings sorting, organizing and packing donations that go out in the van on Thursday nights for the Street Ministry. They 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 by calling 631-878-0009 ext. 120 or via email at [socialministry@sjecm.org](mailto:socialministry@sjecm.org)



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Director of Parish Social Ministry

631-878-0009 x 120  
socialministry@sjecm.org

## COMMUNITY MEAL

Once a month, something pretty incredible happens in the Auditorium. The last Monday of the month at 5:30 pm, volunteers stream into the OLQA auditorium bringing all kinds of home-cooked goodness made with love. That's the essence of the Community Meal Ministry: a team of St. John's volunteers who bring a hot dish to share with our neighbors. Our guests don't stand in lines here. Instead, they're served a sit-down meal, restaurant-style-greeted by name, welcomed with dignity, and invited to enjoy a warm plate at our table.

!If you've ever wanted to get more involved... if you've ever felt passionate that no one in our community should go hungry... consider this your personal invitation. Each month we share a new menu and simple suggestions. You sign up and bring what you can. Each month, it's a miracle- it all comes together into an amazing meal.

Worried about the commitment? Don't be! You don't have to volunteer every month, or even every other month. You can cook and drop off, or stay and serve (and trust us, staying is the best part!). All we ask is that you help when you're able, cook with love, and keep food safety in mind. If you're thinking,

*"Yes, this is for me—I want to make a difference!"*  
Fantastic! Here's your next step:

Email [communitymeal@sjecm.org](mailto:communitymeal@sjecm.org)

## GARDEN MINISTRY

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. 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 that 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 is a rewarding ministry and can be personally and deeply spiritual as well. To learn more about the Garden Ministry, please call the Parish Social Ministry office at 631-878-0009 ext. 120 or email at [socialministry@sjecm.org](mailto:socialministry@sjecm.org)

**We hope to see you in the Spring!**



# Parish Social Ministry

Heather Crayne  
Director of Parish Social Ministry

631-878-0009 x 120  
socialministry@sjecm.org

## THRIFT SHOP

Wednesdays—9 a.m. to 12 Noon

St. John's Thrift Shop is open every Wednesday from 9am to 12 noon, offering many great items at fantastic prices. You'll find all sorts of treasures, from brand name clothing to beautiful jewelry, housewares, toys and children's clothes, really there is something for everyone. Proceeds from the Thrift Shop support our Outreach programs. The Thrift Shop relies on donations of gently used clothing and household items. Donations can be left in the green bins located in the school parking lot in front of the shop (not in the bins behind the shop) or preferably dropped off on Monday or 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 donating 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.



## 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, toiletries 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, Heather Crayne, Director of Parish Social Ministry. If you are in need or know someone that is, or would like to volunteer and support our Parish Social Ministry Outreach Programs, please call our office at 631-878-0009 ext. 120 or email [socialministry@sjecm.org](mailto:socialministry@sjecm.org)

# Prayer and Worship

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTRY OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

St. John the Evangelist is pleased to offer the Homebound Ministry to serve our parishioners with short- or long-term illnesses or disabilities who cannot travel to or attend Mass at our Church.

Our Homebound Ministers are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who have been further trained and designated by our Pastor to bring The Body of Christ to those who are bound to a healthcare facility such as a rehabilitation center, nursing home, sometimes to a hospital and always to an individual residence. During the Lenten season, we also provide Ashes to our homebound parishioners on Ash Wednesday. Through this outreach, we are able to connect those most in need with Christ at a time when they need Him most.

Over the last two years our Ministry has distributed the Blessed Sacrament to 4,431 of our parishioners in their homes or healthcare facilities.

We will be happy to serve you, a family member or friend, the special gift of Holy Communion. If necessary, please contact the Parish Rectory and they will coordinate with this Ministry to visit with you.

You know that good feeling you get when you help someone who's dealing with a difficult situation, and you call, visit or send flowers to buoy their spirits? Imagine the feeling when you're visiting them with the Blessed Sacrament, and share a prayerful visit? It's unrivaled!!

If you're interested in joining our ranks, contact Father Patrick and let him know.

## THE LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady of Hope Praesidium

The Legion of Mary is a ministry dedicated to apostolic work, bringing Christ to the world through the love of Mary. Members serve as instruments of the Holy Spirit through a balanced program of prayer and active service.

The Legion's works include visiting the sick and elderly, religious education, prison ministry, community outreach, bringing Communion to the homebound, and more. Through membership, many good intentions are prayerfully supported and brought to fruition.

Come join us in giving glory to God by spreading the love of Jesus with the help of Our Blessed Mother. The Legion of Mary meets on **Thursday afternoons**. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to the rectory office 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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org).



## 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 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.

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

We have a variety of prayer cards available throughout the Church and in Our Lady's Chapel. These cards are offered for you to take and use in your own personal prayer, or to share with a family member, friend, or anyone who may be in need of prayerful support. There is no fee or donation expected for the prayer cards—they are a gift for our parish community. Available prayers include devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as well as prayers seeking the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Dymphna, St. Joseph, and St. John the Evangelist. We invite you to take a moment to explore these prayers and allow them to enrich your prayer life.



### FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

*On the First Saturday of every month, the Church invites all to come and take part in a special time of prayer and devotion.*

7:30 AM Fatima prayers and Holy Rosary  
8:00 AM Mass  
Confession and continuation  
of rosary after Mass

The Five First Saturdays devotion, requested by Our Lady to Sister Lucia on December 10, 1925, in Pontevedra, Spain, is an act of reparation for blasphemies and ingratitude against her Immaculate Heart. The promise includes assisting those at the hour of death with graces necessary for salvation who, for five consecutive months, confess, receive Holy Communion, pray five decades of the Rosary, and meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries with the intention of reparation.

# Stations of the Cross

## Estaciones de la Cruz

Los invitamos a acompañarnos en el  
Via Crucis en la iglesia los viernes por  
la tarde durante la Cuaresma.

7:00 PM en inglés  
8:00 PM en español

We invite you to join us for the  
Stations of the Cross in the church,  
Friday evenings during Lent.

7:00 PM English  
8:00 PM Spanish

# Many Ministries. One Mission

Get involved at SJE

## 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 of 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: [consolation@sjecm.org](mailto:consolation@sjecm.org)

## 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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org) for more information. Please reference St. Genesius Guild in the subject line.

## 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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org).

## CHURCH CLEANERS

### St. Zita Society

*St. Zita (1212–1278) is the patron saint of domestic workers and church cleaners. Though her work was humble and often unseen, she performed every task with great love for God, offering her daily duties as prayer.*

*St. Zita reminds us that caring for our churches—sweeping floors, dusting pews, and preparing sacred spaces—is holy work. Through her example, we see that no act of service is too small when done with faith and love.*

Inspired by her example, **St. Zita's Society** is a group of women passionate about the cleanliness of our beautiful church. We meet every Thursday after the 12:00 PM Mass to dust pews and furniture, sweep floors, vacuum carpets, and wash windows. Currently, nine members joyfully serve together and have formed caring friendships along the way.

If you wish to join us, just show up—we welcome you!

For more information, contact the Parish Office at 631-878-0009 or email [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org).



St. Zita: Patron Saint of Church Cleaners

St. Zita, pray for us.

# Art & Environment

The Art and Environment Ministry serves SJE by decorating the church and Seton Chapel for each liturgical season. Using flowers, plants, linens, fabric, and other elements, we help create prayerful and welcoming spaces throughout the year. If you are interested in getting involved or helping with this ministry, please reach out to [cdem@sjecm.org](mailto:cdem@sjecm.org)



# La Comunidad Hispana de San Juan Evangelista

La Comunidad Hispana de nuestra Parroquia de Center Moriches te invita a celebrar la **Santa Misa en Español:**

**Viernes** – 7:30 PM: Grupo de Oración (Capilla del Convento)

**Sábado** – 7:00 PM: Santo Rosario / Confesiones (en la Iglesia)

7:30 PM: Santa Misa (en la Iglesia)

## MINISTERIOS Y SERVICIOS

**Bautismos:** Segundo domingo del mes a las 2:00 PM en la Iglesia.

Las clases pre-bautismales se llevan a cabo el tercer miércoles de cada mes.

**Requisitos:** (con al menos 2 meses de anticipación)

1. Certificado de nacimiento del niño(a)
2. Certificado de inscripción en su parroquia (padres y padrinos)
3. Los padres deben llevar estos documentos a la oficina de San Juan y **completar la clase pre-bautismal (OBLIGATORIA para padres y padrinos) antes de poder fijar la fecha del bautismo.**

### Matrimonios:

Las parejas que planean casarse deben programar una cita con uno de los sacerdotes antes de la boda. Esto asegura tiempo suficiente para recibir las instrucciones prematrimoniales y obtener los documentos necesarios. Para más información, llame a la oficina parroquial.

## 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

## Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento

**Lunes – Viernes, 3:00 – 7:00 PM**

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

Si puede comprometerse a una hora específica:

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

En el Santísimo Sacramento, ¡Dios nos ama con tanta ternura que se entrega por completo por nosotros!



## EL PEQUEÑO LIBRO NEGRO

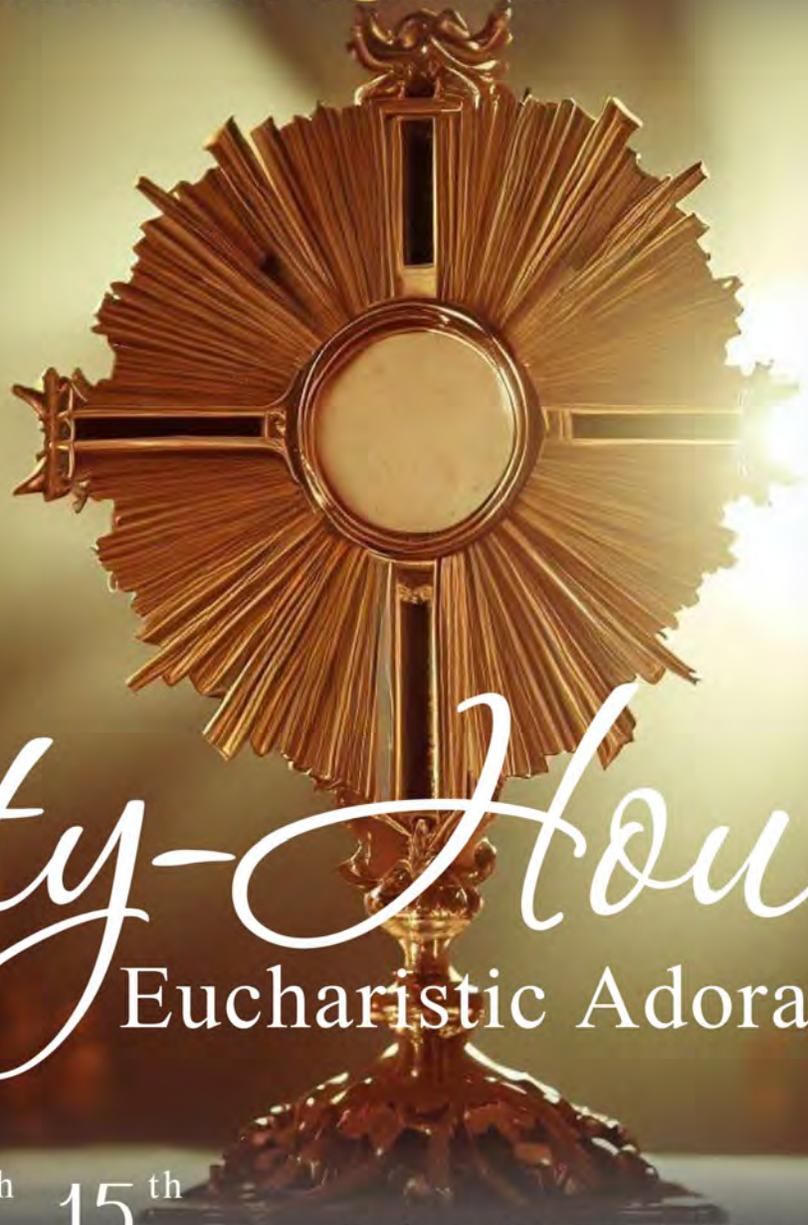
Esta Cuaresma, San Juan ofrece nuevamente *El Pequeño Libro Negro* para la oración y reflexión diaria. Hay ediciones disponibles en inglés y en español, y pueden encontrarse en las puertas de la iglesia.

Puede llevarlo con usted, dejarlo en su automóvil o colocarlo en un lugar de su hogar donde lo vea cada día. Es una manera sencilla y significativa de llevar el espíritu de la Cuaresma a su vida diaria.

Los libros son gratuitos. Si desea hacer una donación, por favor colóquela en la Caja de los Pobres para apoyar la labor del Ministerio de Acción Social Parroquial.



*Come visit Jesus in the  
Blessed Sacrament this Lent...*



# Forty-Hour

## Eucharistic Adoration

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>

Seton Chapel (Convent)

Adoration will begin at 3:00 PM on Friday, March 13th and end at 7:00 AM Sunday, March 15th

Complete and return below to the basket in the convent chapel or to the rectory office

SELECT A DAY AND HOUR (S)

NAME:

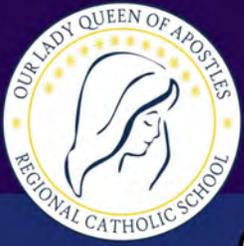
Friday 3/13 {3:00PM - Midnight} \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #:

Saturday 3/14 {Midnight - Midnight} \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday 3/15 {Midnight - 7:00 AM} \_\_\_\_\_

*"Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" -Mt. 11:28*

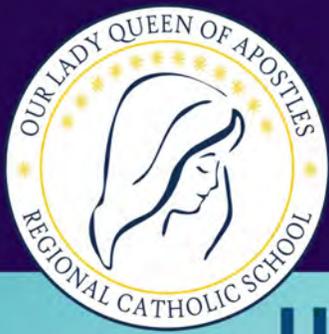


# Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School

## SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!



From hands-on learning experiences and service projects to field trips and faith-filled activities, we've had a wonderful first half of the school year for Pre-K thru 8th grade at OLQA! Come and see the difference a Catholic education can make!



# Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School

## Contact Us!



631-878-1033



olqany.org

# UPCOMING

## Winter/Spring 2026

*events*



March 21

### Spring Extravaganza!

Our Spring Basket & Food Extravaganza will take place on Saturday, March 21 6PM in the auditorium. Doors open at 5:30PM

> Tickets available thru 2/25. Call 631-878-1033.

MAY 2

### Senior Luncheon

Seniors are welcome to sign up for our annual Senior Luncheon on May 2. Our students from The Mission (Grades 6, 7 & 8) will be serving. There will be Mass at St. John's at 11AM, followed by the lunch.

> Sign up before May 1 - Call 631-878-1033.



MAY 5

### Project REACH

Beginning in 7th grade, our students choose a topic of interest and, with the help of mentors, conduct a small-scale research project, which they present at the end of 8th grade.

REACH stands for Research, Excellence, Academics, Catholic, Hope. Their projects reflect all these aspects and help them develop strong research and presentation skills. Our 8th graders will be presenting their projects at our symposium on Tuesday, May 5.



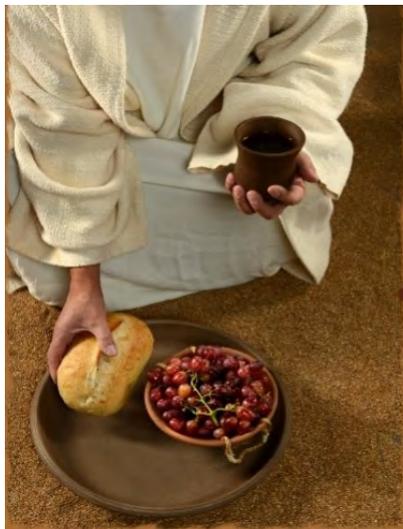
MAY 8-9

### School Play

Our students will be performing "The Little Mermaid, Jr." on Friday, May 8 at 6PM & Saturday, May 9 @ 1PM.

> Purchase tickets by May 1 - Call 631-878-1033





# Holy Thursday

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Holy Thursday marks the beginning of the Sacred Triduum and commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples. On this night, the Church remembers the institution of the Eucharist, when Jesus gave us His Body and Blood, and the institution of the priesthood. Holy Thursday also recalls Jesus washing the feet of His disciples, a powerful sign of humble service and love. The Mass of the Lord's Supper invites the faithful to reflect on Christ's self-giving love and His call to serve one another.

## Morning Prayer

9:00 am in the church.

Come begin the Triduum with morning prayer.

## Family Prayer Service

4:30 pm in the church. This family prayer service will help our children to truly understand the significance of Holy Thursday and it will provide an opportunity for all to experience the Washing of the Feet.

## Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:30 pm in the church.

Come and pray this beautiful liturgy, experience the washing of the feet and process to the auditorium for the response of the Blessed Sacrament.

## Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

8:45 pm (after the Mass of the Lord's Supper) until 11:45pm.

Come and pray in the quiet peace of Christ.

## Holy Thursday Night Prayer

11:45-12 midnight in the Auditorium.





Good Friday is the solemn day when Catholics remember the Passion and death of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is a day of prayer, fasting, and reflection on Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. The Church does not celebrate Mass on Good Friday; instead, the faithful gather to venerate the cross and listen to the story of the Lord's Passion, holding hope in the promise of the Resurrection.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

# Good Friday

## Morning Prayer

9:00 am in the church.  
Come continue the Triduum with morning prayer

## Stations of the Cross

1:00 pm in the church.  
Come pray the Way of the Cross.

## Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

3:00 pm in the church. Pray through the Passion of our Lord, receive the Eucharist and venerate the cross.

## Confessions

4:300 - 6:00 pm in the church.

## Living Stations of the Cross

6:15 pm in front of the church. Walk as our Spanish Ministry leads us in this profoundly personal way of the cross.

## Family Prayer Service

12 noon. This is a beautiful way for children to experience the Passion of our Lord in a very personal way. There will be one or two practices prior to Good Friday. The Good Friday Children's Service takes place in the church.



# Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is a quiet day of waiting and prayer, as the Church reflects on Jesus' burial in the tomb. That evening, Catholics gather for the Easter Vigil, the most sacred liturgy of the year, when light overcomes darkness and Christ's Resurrection is joyfully proclaimed.

April 4<sup>th</sup>

## Morning Prayer

9:00 am in the church.

Come continue the Triduum with morning prayer and blessing of the food.

## Family Prayer Service and Egg Hunt

11:00 am in the church followed by the egg hunt on the Great Lawn in front of the school.

## Confessions

4:00 - 5:00 pm in the church.



## Easter Vigil

7:30 pm in the church. This liturgy begins in darkness and takes us into the light of Christ. Celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation with our OCIA candidates.

*Easter Sunday Masses celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the heart of the Catholic faith. Filled with joy, music, and prayer, these liturgies proclaim Christ's victory over sin and death and invite the faithful to rejoice in new life and hope.*

April 5<sup>th</sup>

# Easter Sunday



*Sunrise Mass*

6:00 AM Convent Lawn

*Masses*

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 noon in the Church

*Misa de Pascua Española*

2:00 pm en la Iglesia

*“Sing a new song to the Lord, for He has done marvelous deeds!”* -Psalm 98:1

St. John the Evangelist invites all who love to sing to share their gift of music as we journey through Lent toward the joy of Easter. The Adult Choir leads music for key liturgies throughout the season.

All voices are welcome—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. No prior experience is needed, just a love for music and a desire to serve.

Rehearsals are held **Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the church**. Please confirm in advance, as schedules may occasionally change.

For more information, contact Angela Werner at [MusicDirector@SJEcm.org](mailto:MusicDirector@SJEcm.org) or call the parish office at (631) 878-0009.



*Do you know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic?*

## Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

[OCIA]

Jesus said to his apostles, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). The Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ is meant for all peoples, and the Catholic Church is open to all who believe. A non-Christian becomes a Catholic by baptism, and those Christians who are already baptized in the Name of the Trinity enter fully into the Catholic Church by receiving Confirmation and Eucharist. These three Sacraments of Initiation are given to adult candidates once a year on the most Solemn Feast of Easter.

The preparation to become a Catholic through the Easter sacraments, known as the OCIA, involves coming to know the faith taught by the Church and by prayer and ritual receiving the grace to commit to living that faith. Informal classes on the Catholic Faith are offered to candidates over fifteen weeks leading up to Easter. And in the six weeks of Lent preceding Easter candidates will be formally welcomed by the faith community.

For more information on becoming a Catholic through the OCIA program, contact Deacon Michael at [mhoonhout@sjecm.org](mailto:mhoonhout@sjecm.org).

*Do you or someone you know need Confirmation?*

## Confirmation for Adult Catholics

For those who were never confirmed as a child, there is a way to receive this holy sacrament as an adult. The Sacrament of Confirmation is a strengthening in the indwelling, action and grace of the Holy Spirit. Without it, one is not fully initiated into the Catholic Church, because this Sacrament confirms your baptism and empowers you to live a genuine life of witness as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Preparation is needed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, which is given to adult Catholics once a year on the Solemn Feast of Pentecost. The process to be confirmed as an adult requires a mature grasp of the Catholic faith and freely committing oneself to live it. Informal classes on the Catholic Faith are given to adult candidates for Confirmation over the seven weeks leading up to Pentecost.

For more information on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as an adult, contact Deacon Michael at [mhoonhout@sjecm.org](mailto:mhoonhout@sjecm.org).



## Altar Server Training – Spring Session

Altar Servers play a special and prayerful role in the celebration of the Mass, assisting the priest at the altar and helping the liturgy unfold with reverence and care. This ministry is a beautiful way for our young parishioners to grow closer to Jesus, especially through service at the altar during the Eucharist.

If you are in **4th grade or higher** and are interested in becoming an Altar Server, we invite you to take part in our **Spring Altar Server Training**. Those who serve learn more about the Mass, the sacred vessels, and the traditions of the Church, while offering their time and talents in service to God and our parish community.

Please contact the **Rectory Office** 631.878.0009 for more information or to register for the upcoming training. We look forward to welcoming new servers to this important ministry.

## HELP US GROW

Before you know it, spring will be here! The SJE Holy Grounds Ministry is looking for volunteers to help care for and beautify our parish grounds. All are welcome—whether you love gardening or simply enjoy helping outdoors.

If you would like to continue with a garden from last year or help with a new area, please contact the parish office or email [garden@sjecom.org](mailto:garden@sjecom.org) before planting begins.

*“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth.”*

- 1 Corinthians 3:7

Queen of All Hearts Knights of Columbus

# St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

## Saturday, March 14th

313 Frowein Rd. Center Moriches  
7:00 PM

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

**\$35 Per Person**  
Bring your own adult beverage

For Tickets- Call: Jim 631.838.0271  
or Frank 516.639.6245

Door Prizes

Knights of Columbus  
Queen of All Hearts Council 4126  
KOF-C4126.com

# Palm Cross

## FUNDRAISING SALE

\$15 per cross

### March 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

AFTER MASSES

Proceeds from the sales will go to assist vocations to religious Life.

Knights of Columbus  
Queen of All Hearts 4126

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

Visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus)  
Use promo code: Blessed McGivney



## 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.

## 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.



*"May the Church be a place...where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel."*

-Pope Francis

Please join Queen of All Hearts Council 4126 for a complementary...

# Pancake Breakfast

Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Tea & Juice

Sunday, March 29th

After the 10am Mass  
In the Parish Auditorium.



CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK

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

CFNTV.ORG

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