

# St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



December 15, 2024

*Third Sunday of Advent*

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel ~Isaiah 12





December 15, 2024

25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York, 11934-3968  
631-878-0009 | [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org)

## OUR PARISH MISSION

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.

-Mission Statement

## 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 - 7:00 PM

## Next Weekend's Schedule

Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>  
5:00 PM - Fr. Jerry  
7:30 PM (Spanish) - Fr. Peter  
(Saturday Evening 5 PM and 7:30 PM Masses  
will be livestreamed. Videos remain on Facebook  
after the live broadcast.)

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8:00 AM - Fr. Abin  
10:00 AM - Msgr. Walden  
12 noon - Fr. Patrick  
6:00 PM - Fr. Patrick

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

## Pastoral Team

**Reverend Patrick M. Riegger**

Pastor

**Reverend Abin Panicker**

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

**Ed Grieb**

Deacon

**Carolyn Lapham**

Director of Family Ministries

**Michelle Pirraglia**

Director of Faith Formation

**Heather Crayne**

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

**Dawn Waller**

Principal

[dwaller@olqany.org](mailto: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 Schedule

## Confession Schedule

We celebrate the  
Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday - Friday: After the 7 AM & 12 Noon Masses

Saturday: After the 8 AM Mass

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 PM &

7:00 - 7:15 PM (Spanish)

Sunday: 5:30 - 5:45 PM

Confessions will take place in Our Lady's

Chapel in the Church.

# A message from Deacon Michael Hoonhout...



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Joy. Gladness. Exultation.*

All these words appear in this Sunday's readings. They make it clear that the theme of the third Sunday of Advent is joy. But what is Christian joy? Unfortunately, such a short and simple word is often misunderstood, confused with the human emotion of feeling happy. Yet even more lamentable is the lack of joy in many Christian hearts. Joy should be one of the distinctive characteristics that sets Christians apart from all others, yet how many of us Christians are truly joyful? We may not be scrooges or sourpusses, but are our spirits regularly lifted by the good news of Jesus Christ, the love of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts, and the unshakeable assurance of the promise of eternal life in our heavenly Father's Kingdom?

Today's Scripture readings command us: *Rejoice! Fear not. Sing joyfully!* This cannot be an order telling us to feel good or be happy, for our emotions are not something we can simply turn on or off by our will. Rather, they are telling us what our response should be to what God has done, is doing, and will do for us in Jesus Christ. Christian joy is not a feeling or mood, for emotions constantly change and result mostly from extrinsic circumstances. Rather, Christian joy is an interior, spiritual state based upon the truth of our faith. Joy is the spiritual realization of the profound riches of one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ, a deep delight rooted in the knowledge of being loved by God beyond our merits, more than our aspirations, greater than we can conceive or imagine. Christian joy overflows from knowing the unsurpassable greatness of Jesus Christ, and receiving Jesus Christ as God's personal gift to you.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist says that he is unworthy to untie the sandal straps of

Jesus Christ. And yet Jesus says of John the Baptist, "Of those born of women, no one is greater than John the Baptist" (Mt 11:11; Lk 7:28). That John the Baptist is greater than all of us, yet even he is not worthy to loosen his sandals, should give us some inkling of how great Jesus is, and how unworthy we are of Him. Yet our Advent joy is that, in fulfillment of His promises, God sent His Son Jesus to be human like us, to be with us, to be for us. "Cry out with joy and gladness, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel." The One whom Israel had long waited for, the hope of the Messiah that filled the hearts of the people with expectation when John was baptizing, the One whom we await to come in glory with salvation for us His people is Jesus, the Holy One of God.

Because of who Jesus is, and because of who we are now in Jesus, and because we shall become like Him when He comes again, our joy is deep and abiding. In this joy is "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding." Because of this joy, we "have no further misfortune to fear," we are "not discouraged," and we "have no anxiety at all." Out of this joy we can live lives of justice and mercy to others as John the Baptist taught the tax collectors, soldiers, and people awaiting the appearance of the Messiah.

So let us truly rejoice that Jesus is God's gift to us. Being joyful is not achieved by revving up a positive feeling of happiness, but arises in our hearts by contemplating the depth and height, length and breadth of God's love for us shown to us in Christ Jesus. Rejoice in the unfathomable gift and treasure of Jesus Christ, true God who humbled himself to be born a child like us on Christmas, entering into our world and our poverty so that He could take us up into His heaven and the riches of His glory.

# Masses for the Week...

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> *John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

5:00 PM Robert Salomone

7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM Raymond Reid

10:00 AM Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

12:00 Noon Special Intention-Joan Murphy

6:00 PM Michael Ogiejko

Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> *Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Timothy St Clair

12:00 Noon Harold Clark

Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> *Late Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Jack Dyer and his sister Katy Dyer

12:00 Noon Vera Montalbano

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> *Late Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Patricia Cuff

12:00 PM Vito Stabile

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> *Late Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Christopher Bowman

12:00 PM Frank Martinez

Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> *Late Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Tina Vigliotta

12:00 Noon Caterina Stabile

Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> *Late Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM Joseph A. Gallagher

5:00 PM Katy Dyer and her brother Jack Dyer

7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM Cecilia Bermudez

10:00 AM Katy Dyer and her brother Jack Dyer

12:00 Noon Richard Dackow

6:00 PM Monique Belleau

## CHRISTMAS NOVENA OF MASSES

Intention: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope#: \_\_\_\_\_

Offering: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Mass Remembrance Envelopes

Christmas Mass Remembrance Envelopes will once again be collected and placed on the altar for your Special Intentions during all Masses throughout the Christmas season. Please place your envelope in the collection basket or dropped it at the rectory no later than **Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



## PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2024 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2024	\$856,660	48	\$17,847
2023	\$813,754	48	\$16,953

2024

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Revitalizing our Faith - Renewed by the Eucharist*



As of 12/11/2024	2024	2023
Parish Goal	\$115,100	\$115,100
Number of Donors	267	298
Total Pledged to date	\$114,381	\$101,578
Avg. Gift	\$428	\$340
Percent of Goal	99.4%	88.3%

Supporting the CMA helps to support SJE! We receive back 20% of whatever is raised below the goal. If we go above the goal, we also receive 80% of all monies that are raised above the goal! Please help us go above the goal!



# St. John the Evangelist RCC 2024

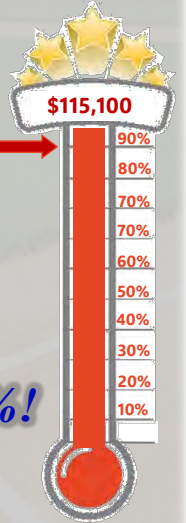


## Catholic Ministries Appeal

**We are in the  
home stretch!!  
Let's hit it out  
of the park!!**



**Less than  
1% to go!**

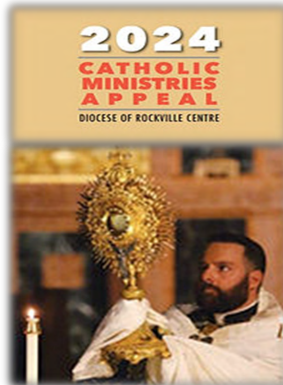


**\*Please help us meet our goal.\***

*Our parish receives \$24,000 in rebates when we reach 100%!*

**ONLY 2 WEEKS TO GO!**

*We appreciate your support! [www.catholicministriesappeal.org](http://www.catholicministriesappeal.org)*



Please take a CMA brochure located at the exits of the church.

Scan to Give:



Text to Give: 516-271-3338



*Gifts are used to live and share our faith, care for God's people and help to build God's Kingdom.*



# Praying For and With One Another

## Remember

Sophie Kostuk + Alexander Troiola

“For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.” -1 Thessalonians 4:14

## Pray for the Sick

Carole De Somma + Thomas Taylor  
Gerri Planz + Barbara Mulholland  
Marilyn Tennant + Scott Ravetti  
Sister Eileen Martin

“In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials...  
-1 Peter 1:6

If you would like a loved one's name placed under Prayers for the Sick, please call the rectory at 631.878.0009 or e-mail to [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org).

## Our Military

### US Marine Corps

LC Michael Abbatiello  
CPL Evan Berkemeyer  
PFC Sean Brady  
SGT Quentin Montemarano  
PVT Charles O'Connor  
E-1 Christian Raeihle  
2<sup>nd</sup> LT Christopher Walther  
PAC Kevin W. Dëshler II

### US Navy

E43CPO Jason Abbatiello  
STGCS Brian Holzmacher  
MMN2 Christopher J Esposito Jr  
ETVSN Angel Gabriel Montoya Rivera  
ET3 Jeremiah Nolan, Jr  
ENS Ralph J. Ruggiero

### US Coast Guard

BM3 Brendan J. Bernath  
CPT Keith Donohue

### US Army

SGT Sean Casey  
PVT Joseph Cestare  
SPC Michael Garcia Jr  
PVT Anthony Koch  
CPL Aidan O'Neill  
PFC David Smith  
Steven Valentin  
PFC Francis J. Amaliftano

### US Air Force

SrA Anthony Auciello  
SSGT David Giese  
SSGT Jason M Hermes  
PFC Kyle Kerstiens  
SSGT Ryan Kerstiens  
SSGT Timothy Kerstiens  
SrA Jared T. Rosato  
MAJ Salvatore Sferrazza

If you wish to place someone on the Military prayer list, please call the rectory at 631.878.0009 or e-mail to [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org).

# Remembering Our Loved Ones



Altar Bread & Wine for the month of December has been donated in memory of:

*Theresa Cartolano*

### Mass Intentions

Remembering one who has passed away at 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.

An offering of \$150 is requested.

### 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. **Altar Candles - \$25.00 per week.**

SJE offers a number of ways to remember loved ones, or honor someone living. To make an offering, visit or contact the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or email to [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org)


December 15, 2024

# Advent

## Day of Confessions

Monday, December 16th  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

in the church



The season of Advent is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for the Lord! The sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at SJE on the following days and times:

Monday - Friday after the 7 AM & 12 Noon Masses  
Saturdays: After the 8 AM Mass, and from 4 - 4:45 PM  
7 - 7:15 PM (Spanish)  
Sundays: 5:30 - 5:45 PM



## Women's Group...



We welcome back our Members & invite New Members to join us as we read together, learn & share our feelings & life's experiences. It's an open group, come when you want or can. You can join throughout the year. There's no commitment. You don't have to share or read out loud, no homework. Everything we share is kept confidential. We respect each other's sharing. No judgement. All you need is desire to draw nearer to Jesus & to have fellowship with like-minded women who know we're not perfect & it's ok. **BRING A FRIEND!!!**

The book we'll read together is "**The Sanctifier**" by Archbishop Luis M. Martinez, explaining in detail how the workings of the gifts of The Holy Spirit bring us into holiness. It's usually in the sharing part of what we're reading that gives us clearer understanding of the subject especially because it relates to our lives at the present moment. We're living the lessons which is comforting when we're in pain, we have a lot of laughs too. We're there for each other! The book will be provided, and a free will offering can be made for the book.

We meet in the white house between the school & rectory every other Monday, unless noted with an asterisk \*, at 10:00 -11:30 AM, ending in time to go to 12:00 Mass if you want.

**Dates:** December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, January 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>,  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>,  
May 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>\*, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

Carol Ketcham and Anita Luccari, Group Moderators ~ For info: 631-878-0009

## Men's Prayer Group...



### CALLING ALL MEN!

Come join the Totus Tuus Men's Prayer Group on **Saturday mornings at 9 AM** in the Convent. Join as us 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, please call the rectory office at 631-878-0009.

## Bereavement Support ...

Grieving is a natural process each of us goes through after the death of a loved one. While no one can take away our sadness, others can help by listening and caring. Sharing our feelings with others who have experienced the death of a loved one help many people begin the healing process.

**Saturday mornings - 10:30 AM to 12 Noon**

First floor meeting room in the Barn.

**REGISTRATION:** Contact the Rectory at

631.878.0009 or via email at [Rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:Rectory@sjecm.org)

\$10 donation for the workbook.

*Grief never ends but it changes. It is a passage, not a place to stay. It is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith. Grief is the price of love.*





The background of the entire page is a dark, atmospheric night sky with a warm, golden-brown glow. In the upper right, a bright, multi-pointed star shines prominently. Below the star, the silhouettes of three figures are visible against the horizon. One figure is riding a donkey, while the other two are walking. The overall scene evokes the journey of the Three Kings.

Please join our parish Choir as we journey from  
Advent to Christmas at our Annual...

# *Christmas Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 22, 2024  
4 o'clock in the afternoon in the Church

# Faith Formation

Last month, our Level 7 & 8 students learned about the Season of Advent. Our Level 7 session focused on Jesus as the Light that shines in the darkness of our lives, while Level 8 students completed a Jesse Tree project! All our Confirmation prep students took home an ornament from our Giving Tree, with the donations being collected during their December Advent Family Prayer Services.



## 2024-25 FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDARS for all our programs are available on the Faith Formation page of our parish website. ([sjecm.org](http://sjecm.org), click on "Faith Formation")

### LEVEL 7 (Confirmation Prep Year 1):

Next Session:  
Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM in the Church

### LEVEL 8 (Confirmation Prep Year 2):

Next Session:  
Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM in the Church

### "FAMILY OF FAITH" - Parent/Student Events (GRADES 1-6):

Next Sessions: Tuesday, January 7 and Thursday, January 9 @ 5 PM & 7 PM in the Church.

# Advent Giving Tree

Our parish Parish Social Ministry is asking for your help during Advent with our annual *Giving Tree* that will benefit the Street Ministry and Ernie's Place.

As we have done in the past, we will have 2 trees in the fellowship area of the church. Please take one or more paper ornaments from them which will list a needed item. These items should be returned UNWRAPPED to the fellowship area of the church or to the rectory office.

We ask that all unwrapped gifts be returned on or before 12/15.

If you have any questions please call the PSM Office  
631.878.0009 ext 120

# The Office of Family Ministry

## Journeying through Advent at SJE



Advent is a beautiful time of year. A time for recalling how many ways we have seen God's love at work in our lives during the past year. It is a time for new beginnings. A time for joyful anticipation of the ways that the coming of our Savior will bring hope, peace, healing and growth in the year ahead. Here at St. John's there are endless opportunities to keep our minds and hearts focused on Jesus during the weeks ahead.



EVERY SUNDAY during Advent, the children of the parish will have the awesome opportunity to spend some time with the prophet Isaiah! The Old Testament hero will be with us each week at the 10:00 Mass. Please come and hear what the prophet of old has to share with all of us here in Center Moriches!



Come make sandwiches for those in need at our Sandwich Sunday event on Sunday 12/15 after the 10:00 Mass. This is a wonderful way to live out the gospel's call to service!



On Sunday, 12/22 at 4 PM in the church, our Parish Music Ministry will be presenting our annual Lessons and Carols. It will be a wonderful afternoon filled with the sharing of poignant scripture readings interspersed between beloved Christmas hymns. Come enjoy an afternoon of beautiful Christmas traditions in the church.



Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> come to our Family Life Ministry Movie & Pizza Night. We will gather at 4:00 pm in the auditorium to watch the movie, "The Star," the heartwarming story of the birth of Jesus from the perspective of the animals who journeyed with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and witnessed the miracle of the Savior's birth. Stay for pizza afterward! A free family event designed to provide some family fun during the I-o-n-g Christmas vacation! Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy a fun evening at SJE.

SJE Family Ministry has been busy, busy, busy during these wonderful days of Advent! Take a peek at our families, their faith and the fun!

### Tree Lighting

On Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> our parish family gathered together for the Blessing and Lighting of the Christmas Tree. With just enough snow to make it a Hallmark moment, many families came together to enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas cookies, hang family ornaments on the tree and watched as the beautiful lights on our blessed, little tree illuminated the dark night. It was a simple reminder of the powerful way that our Savior will break through the darkness of our lives and shine His light of mercy and hope upon all of us! O come, O come Emmanuel!



### The prophet Isaiah comes to the 10:00 Mass!

It's AMAZING! On each of the Sundays of Advent, the prophet Isaiah has been coming to the 10:00 Mass to share his wisdom with the children of the parish. Msgr. Walden and the prophet have shared scripture readings, engaged in unbelievable conversations with the children and have invited the children to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Come to the 10:00 Mass this weekend and next weekend so you can chat with the prophet too!



### The Blessing of the Outdoor Nativity...

On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Patrick blessed our beautiful outdoor nativity after the 10:00 Mass AND he invited the children to do the same. Blessed were all those who saw the absolute joy on their faces as they got to dip the aspergillum (implement used to sprinkle holy water) into the aspersorium (bucket used to hold the holy water) and sprinkle the water on the nativity. They were PRECIOUS! What a wonderful opportunity for our parish children and what a joyful experience for all!



# Parish Social Ministry

## Ernie's Place Shopping List

Here is a list of items needed for our pantry. These items can be left at the doors of the church or at the bin, outside of Ernie's Place.

- Jelly
- Apple Sauce
- Pancake Mix
- Tomato Sauce
- Pancake Syrup
- Mac & Cheese
- Raman Noodles
- Shelf-stable Milk



Thanks to all the many generous donations we received to the food pantry for the holidays, we are only in need of a few items to supplement our Christmas outreach:

- Christmas cookies*
- Jarred tomato sauce*
- Boxed pasta*



## Wednesdays 9 AM - 12 Noon

When you visit our Shop, you'll see lots of new and gently used clothes, pocketbooks, shoes, jewelry, housewares, and lots of great toys, all at great prices. The proceeds from the weekly sales at the shop are returned to our Parish Outreach programs and used to assist our neighbors in need in our parish and the local community.

The success of our Thrift Shop relies on the generous donations from our community that are left in the \*green bins in the school parking lot.

If you are looking for a great way to give back to our Parish community, consider donating your new or gently used clothes, or those toys your children have outgrown.

## Street Ministry

### Join Our Street Ministry Team!

Are you a talented cook? A social butterfly who loves engaging with others? Or do you prefer working behind the scenes? If you enjoy folding clothes and organizing, we would love for you to use the wonderful gifts God has given you to serve those in need in our local community!

Our Street Ministry is a vibrant community of volunteers dedicated to providing hot meals and clothing to individuals and families every Thursday night, many of whom are homeless or unable to access other support services. Whether you're interested in working in our donation room, cooking hot meals, preparing PB&J sandwiches, or joining our van runs, there's a place and a role for everyone!

If you're ready to get started or want more information, please contact Victoria Papatatto at:

[streetministry@sjecm.org](mailto:streetministry@sjecm.org).

### WE NEED YOUR HELP ON THURSDAY NIGHTS...

We urgently need your help on Thursday nights for the **Street Ministry Van Runs!** Volunteers meet at the convent at **6:30 PM** and go out into the community to provide hot meals and clothing to those in desperate need. If you can spare just one hour each week, your assistance would make a tremendous difference. Every bit of help counts! **Interested in Helping?** Please call the Parish Social Ministry office at **631-878-0009 x120**.

Thank you for considering this vital opportunity to serve!

## Street Ministry Shopping List

Below is a list of items that are needed for Street Ministry. These items can be left at the doors of the church.

- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Feminine Products
- ◆ Men's & Women's Socks
- ◆ **Men's & Women's Coats S, M, L, XL**
- ◆ Men's & Women's T-Shirts Sizes S, M, L
- ◆ **DESPERATELY NEED Men's Jeans All Sizes**
- ◆ Men's & Women's Sweatshirts S, M, L, XL
- ◆ Travel Size Shaving Cream & Razors
- ◆ Travel Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- ◆ Men's & Women's Underwear (new) All Sizes



# Christmas

## MASS SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS EVE - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL (CHURCH & AUDITORIUM)

6:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL

9:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL (SPANISH)

12:00 MIDNIGHT MASS

### CHRISTMAS DAY - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25TH

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS

12 NOON MASS

## Solemnity of Mary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

5:00 PM VIGIL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS

12 NOON MASS

A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

## A Message from Msgr. Walden...



“What should we do?” As we prepare for Christmas we have many traditions that we follow. That question is in the first sentence of today’s Gospel (Luke 3:10-18) and is addressed to John the Baptist by those whose hopes he aroused as he spoke about the coming Messiah. This passage says, “The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ.” Those who asked this question were seeking what we all seek in the depths of our being - the presence of God and his love.

What are our personal expectations for this coming Christmas? We decorate our homes, give and receive presents and cards, and gather with family, friends, and coworkers in a spirit of joy. But what is the joy we experience? Does it fill the deepest longing we all have in the depths of our minds and hearts for love, life, peace, and joy, with the same love, life, peace, and joy those asking the question, “What should we do” in today’s Gospel were seeking? Traditions are good and open our minds and hearts to look beyond the present moment to focus on who and what is important in our lives. It is joyful to exchange gifts, especially to see the innocent joy in children as they open their presents.

We give and receive gifts not because we are obligated to do so but because it is an opportunity to express love and gratitude in a tangible way. Our Christmas decorations bring light into the darkness and cold of winter. Jesus came into our world to bring the light, love, joy, and peace of God into the darkness and cold that causes tension, ignorance,

misunderstanding, and fear that we inflict upon one another personally, nationally, and internationally. Christmas makes clear once again the powerful awe of God’s love. Jesus came humbly and gloriously at the same time. His humble birth in a stable of Bethlehem was proclaimed by angels to shepherds and inspired Magi to journey to follow the star that led to His presence.

Truly Jesus is the light in the darkness of our minds and hearts. His presence that is so wondrously proclaimed is the presence of unconditional, forgiving, merciful love. All we have to do is to get beyond the externals of our Christmas celebrations and decorations to see the true gift God is to us in Jesus and how we can be that gift to one another. God’s love seen in His humble entrance into our world over 2000 years ago has not diminished. It has been ignored, rejected, and seen as unrealistic over and over again but has not gone away. His loving presence is seen when we open our hearts in love, mercy, and humble joy. We might not always experience the response we want but we certainly brighten the world with our presence as Jesus did 2000 years ago and continues to do through us who are the family of God, the Church. May the joy of God’s life shine through us, with us and in us in all we say, do, and think each day.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.*

*Amen.*



December 15, 2024

SJE Parish Social Ministry

# SPREAD *the* WARMTH

Our Parish Street Ministry is in Desperate  
need of Men's Coats and Sweatshirts -  
All Sizes!!

## DROP OFF LOCATION:

Donations can be left in the front  
Fellowship area of the Church

**PLEASE DONATE YOUR UNWANTED  
COATS & HELP OTHERS TO STAY WARM**



Knights of Columbus  
Queen of All Hearts Council #4126

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**

Doors Open at 6:30 PM  
Games Begin at 7:30 PM

**\$ 3000 IN PRIZES**

For more information  
kofc4126.com

## Sunday's Word 2025...

The 2025 Sunday's Word books have arrived!

Sunday's Word is for use in conjunction with a hymnal and service book or other music resource, and is intended for those who wish to pre-read the scriptures of the day as a preparation for the celebration, who have difficulty hearing, or who feel the need to read the text as it is proclaimed for full comprehension. The Eucharistic Prayers are also included. It contains the assembly's responsorial psalm refrain for each Sunday and major feast. Sunday's Word also contains the Order of Mass.



The weekday section includes the entrance antiphon, Psalm response, gospel verse, and communion antiphon for all feasts, memorials, and weekdays of the year. In addition, the Order of Mass texts (including both the Nicene Creed and the Apostle's Creed) are printed on the inside front cover for convenience.

A donation of \$5.00  
is requested but not required.

They can be picked up at the rectory office.



*Adoration*  
of the Blessed Sacrament  
at  
St. John the Evangelist

Monday - Friday from  
3:00 - 7:00 PM  
in Seton Chapel, in the Convent

*On Mondays following Adoration, there is a Holy Hour to Pray for Priests from 7 - 8 PM. All are invited to pray for our Shepherds. Please consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.*

If you can be present for a specific hour, email [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org) or call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009.

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the "Christ candle."

*Each of the candles lit before Christmas represent an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent.*

### **The First Week of Advent Represents: Hope**

Candle Name: *the Prophecy Candle* Candle Color: **Purple**

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church, it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation.

### **The Second Week of Advent Represents: Peace and Preparation**

Candle Name: *the Bethlehem Candle* Candle Color: **Purple**

During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

### **The Third Week of Advent Represents: Joy**

Candle Name: *the Shepherd's Candle* Candle Color: **Pink**

This third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

### **The Fourth Week of Advent Represents: Love**

Candle Name: *the Angel's Candle* Candle Color: **Purple**

During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel.

### **Lighting Your Advent Wreath During the Week**

*Each day during the Fourth week of Advent, at the evening meal (or any time), light the first and second purple candles and the pink candle. The following prayers accompany the lighting of the candles.*

All make the sign of the cross: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Someone at table reads the Scripture assigned to the liturgy of the day (one or both of the readings may be used). Go to [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) to find the readings of the day. Then the Leader continues:

Leader: **Lift up your hearts.**

All respond: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

The Leader prays: **God, the Father of mercies, you willed your Son to take flesh, in order to give life back to us. Bless these your gifts with which we are about to nourish our bodies, so that, receiving new strength, we may wait in watchfulness for the glorious coming of Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

After the meal, the Leader says: **Let us live soberly, justly, and devoutly in this world as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

All respond: **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Pilgrimage to Poland:**  
In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II, St. Faustina & St. Maximilian Kolbe






**August 27 – September 4, 2025**

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Spiritual Director:  
**Fr. Peter Dugandzic**

Group Leader: **Sandra Kocaja**

Optional Post-Tour to Medjugorje  
September 4 – 11, 2025 | \$1,899 per person

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**June 1 – 9, 2025**  
**Rome & Assisi**

Spiritual Director:  
**Fr. Francis Pizzarelli**

Contact: [cara@206tours.com](mailto:cara@206tours.com) [dominic@206tours.com](mailto:dominic@206tours.com)  
[silvia@206tours.com](mailto:silvia@206tours.com) (800) 206-8687

**5 STEPS SAFE ADULTS CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUTH ONLINE**



- 1** Maintain open and ongoing communication about social media and online interactions
- 2** Monitor technology use (trust but verify)
- 3** Set and enforce boundaries for utilization of social media and tech
- 4** Educate yourself on the latest trends and potential risks
- 5** Inform children and youth they can always tell you if someone makes them feel scared, uncomfortable or unsafe online

**VIRTUS®**  
Excellence Builds Trust  
[www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

**Safe Environment...**

All volunteers and employees at SJE are required to participate in a VIRTUS training course and to go through a background check. You can sign up for the VIRTUS classes by visiting [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org) or clicking here: <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/index.cfm?>



All SJE volunteers must wear their SJE badge while serving in ministry. Please also check your email regularly to complete monthly bulletin updates. (Be sure to check your "spam" or "Junk" folder.)

**PASTORAL INTERVENTION TEAM**

The dedicated telephone line for reporting allegations of sexual abuse (516-694-9063) continues to be available. If the caller does not reach someone directly, messages can be left on an answering machine connected to the phone. Those messages will be retrieved by a member of the Intervention Team and returned as soon as possible. All appropriate steps will be taken to protect the reputation and privacy of those involved. For more information on the Charter for the Protection of Children / Young People, please visit [drvc.org](http://drvc.org).

# Comunidad Hispano De San Juan Evangelista

La Comunidad Hispana de nuestra Parroquia en Centro Moriches te invita a celebrar la Santa Misa en español los sábados a las 7:30 PM en la Iglesia.

Te invitamos a compartir la Palabra de Dios en el Grupo de Oración, todos los viernes a las 7:30 PM en la Capilla del Convento Parroquial. Ven a enriquecer tu vida espiritual orando

## MINISTERIOS Y SERVICIOS

### BAUTISMO:

Por favor traiga el certificado de nacimiento del niño dos meses antes del bautismo.

### Requisitos:

1. Acta de nacimiento del niño o niña.
2. Certificado de registro de su Parroquia (padres y padrinos)
3. Los padres deben traer estos documentos a la oficina de San Juan para fijar las fechas de la charla prebautismal (OBLIGATORIO para padres y padrinos) y la fecha del Bautismo.

Segundo domingo a las 14 horas en la Iglesia. Las clases de prebautismo son el tercer miércoles de cada mes.

### CASAMIENTO:

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

El personal de la oficina estará disponible para hablar en español de 6 a 8 p.m. los martes.

Asegúrese de llamar antes de venir a visitarnos.

[espanol@sjecm.org](mailto:espanol@sjecm.org)

Office staff will be available to speak in Spanish from 6 to 8 PM on Tuesdays. Be sure to call before you come and visit.

### ¡Dejanos ayudarte!

### DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS DE ERNIE

Abierto - Lunes 6:30 PM a las 7:30 PM  
Jueves 3:00 PM a las 4:00 PM.

### TIENDA DE SEGUNDA MANO

Miércoles - Granero  
Miércoles de 9:00 AM a las 12:00 PM.

### COMIDA COMUNITARIA

Último lunes del mes 6:00 PM  
auditorio de la escuela

### MINISTERIO DE CALLE

Jueves - Estación de tren Mastic-Shirley  
7:15 PM (aproximadamente)  
Se encuentran disponibles comidas y ropa sencillas.

También necesitamos voluntarios para ayudar a traducir para quienes lo necesiten. Necesitamos voluntarios bilingües para nuestra despensa de comida. ¡Avísanos si puedes ayudar!

## Ambiente seguro...

Todos los voluntarios y empleados de SJE deben participar en un curso de capacitación VIRTUS y pasar por una verificación de antecedentes. Puede inscribirse en las clases VIRTUS visitando [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org) o haciendo clic aquí:

<https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/index.cfm?>

### RECORDATORIOS PARA VOLUNTARIOS

Todos los voluntarios de SJE deben usar su insignia de SJE mientras sirven en el ministerio. También revise su correo electrónico periódicamente para completar las actualizaciones mensuales. (Asegúrese de revisar su carpeta de "spam" o "basura").

### EQUIPO DE INTERVENCIÓN PASTORAL

La línea telefónica exclusiva para denuncias de abuso sexual (516-694-9063) continúa disponible. Si la persona que llama no se comunica con alguien directamente, los mensajes se pueden dejar en un contestador automático conectado al teléfono. Esos mensajes serán recuperados por un miembro del Equipo de Intervención y devueltos lo antes posible. Se tomarán todas las medidas apropiadas para proteger la reputación y la privacidad de los involucrados. Para obtener más información sobre la Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes, visite [drvc.org](http://drvc.org).





## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Please take some time look through the back pages of the bulletin! It features many local businesses (and often the work of parishioners) and the good work they do in our community. We have parishioners who do everything from car detailing to car mechanics to lacrosse training to taking care of pets. Take a look and learn more!

Did you know that St. John the Evangelist bulletin is printed free of charge each week? So please frequent the fine establishments that advertise in our bulletin!

Also, if your business could use a shot in the arm, consider advertising in the bulletin. Each weekend, the nearly 1,400 people who attend Mass at St. John the Evangelist - most of whom live and shop in the Moriches, Mastic, Shirley, Eastport, Speonk and Remsenberg area - receive or view our bulletin online. It's an easy way to reach thousands of families in the area with information about your business.

For more information on how to advertise in our bulletin, call  
**The Church Bulletin Company**  
 at 631-249-4994

# Weekly Calendar

## Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 6:30-7:30 PM Food Pantry Open - Ernie's Place
- 7 PM Narcotics Anonymous (Men only) - BMR

## Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
- 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 7 PM Divine Will

## Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 9 AM-12 Noon Thrift Shop Open - Thrift Shop
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC

## Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 3-4 PM Food Pantry Open - Ernie's Place
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
- 4 PM Legion of Mary - BMR
- 7:30 PM Al-Anon - BMR

## Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
- 7:30 PM Knights of Columbus - Bingo - Auditorium
- 7 PM Narcotics Anonymous - BMR
- 7 PM Spanish Prayer Group - SC

## Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 9 AM Men's Prayer Group - SC
- 10:30 AM Bereavement Group - BMR

## Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

BMR - Barn 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Mtg. Room  
 BUR - Barn Upper Room  
 SC - Seton Chapel