

# St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



December 17, 2023

*Third Sunday of Advent*

“Rejoice and pray always”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24



December 17, 2023

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 23<sup>rd</sup>

5:00 PM - Fr. Patrick

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 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve Day)

8:00 AM - Msgr. Walden

10:00 AM - Fr. Jerry

12 noon - Fr. Felix

4:00 PM (Church) - Fr. Jerry

4:00 PM (Auditorium) - Fr. Felix

6:00 PM - Msgr. Walden

9:30 PM (Spanish) - Fr. Peter

12:00 Midnight Mass - Fr. Patrick

(See page 5 for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses)

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

## We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday - Friday: After the 7 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.

## Pastoral Team

**Reverend Patrick M. Riegger**

Pastor

**Reverend Felix Akpabio**

Parochial Vicar

**Reverend Monsignor Ellsworth R. Walden**

Retired, In Residence

**Reverend Jerry DiSpigno**

Parish Assistant

**Reverend Peter D'Abele**

Parish Assistant

**John Pettorino**

Deacon

**Michael Hoonhout**

Deacon

**Carolyn Lapham**

Director of Family Ministries

**Andrew McKeon**

Director of Music Ministries

**Michelle Pirraglia**

Director of Faith Formation

**Katie Spellman**

Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

**Katie Waller**

Director of Operations

## OLQA

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

(on the campus of SJE)

2 St. John Place

Center Moriches, NY 631.878.1033

[www.olqany.org](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

# *A Message from Angela Werner*

## A Reflection on the Gospel: John (1:6-8, 19-28)

*"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord."*



For anyone with a passion for principles, John the Baptist is your man. He wasn't one to back down from a worthy moral conflict. To do so would be to walk away from loving. He wasn't even afraid to go head-to-head with King Herod himself, calling him out on his sinful behavior.

There are times when each of us are faced with a choice to either stand up for what is right, or take the path of least resistance. We might have to be that one voice crying out in the desert, or even risk being portrayed as a hairshirt for others, but

what is the alternative? Condoning bad behavior isn't real love. Tough love isn't easy. That's why it's called tough love. We are all on the same mission as John the Baptist, which is to help each other get to Heaven, and that starts with getting onto the straight path.

When that time comes, what will we say when God asks us what we did to help our brother or sister to walk the straight path? Will we have backed down because it was more comfortable for us, or spoken up because it was more helpful to them?

John the Baptist (who was beheaded) was willing to face martyrdom rather than compromise on principles. No guts, no glory!

The choices we make will either strengthen or weaken our relationship with God. Ultimately, they will either unite us to Him, or separate us from Him. Who among us would ever want to sever ourselves from God? What do we cling to? Is it this life which is passing away, or a life with God that will last forever?

With John, baptism was a symbol of repentance, which was meant to draw people toward Jesus. But with Jesus, Baptism allows the Holy Spirit to enter and dwell within a person, transforming the act from a symbol into a sacrament. The Holy Spirit is the driving force of goodness in the world, with enough power to take us all the way to Heaven.

John the Baptist was rough, and tough, and he took no guff. However, John's mission was one of preparation. He was the table setter. And we have all been invited to sit at that table by Jesus Himself, who is not only the Host, but the Feast!

*By Angela Werner*



# Preparing for the Week

## Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM Anna Ostermeyer

7:30 PM *Spanish* People of the Parish

## Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM Timothy St. Claire

10:00 AM Patrick Mannix

12:00 Noon Catherine Sikora

6:00 PM Vera Montalbano

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

7:00 AM Richard Montemarano

12:00 Noon Joan J. Arcari

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

7:00 AM Raymond McKenna

12 Noon Christopher Bowman

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

7:00 AM Joseph R. Bosnack Sr.

12:00 Noon Ruth Ramus

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

7:00 AM Joseph Gallagher

12 :00 Noon Taylor Beltramini

## Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> *Late Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Trudi Norton

12:00 Noon Anne Mintel

## Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> *Late Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM Harry Hogan

5:00 PM Katy Dyer

7:30 PM *Spanish* People of the Parish

## Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM Christmas Novenas

10:00 AM Christmas Novenas

12:00 Noon Christmas Novenas

## Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> *The Nativity of Our Lord - Vigil Masses*

4:00 PM Church & Auditorium Christmas Novenas

6:00 PM Christmas Novenas

9:30 PM (Spanish) Christmas Novenas

12:00 AM (Midnight) Christmas Novenas



### Christmas Novena of Masses

Christmas Novena Envelopes will once again be collected and placed on the altar for your Special Intentions during the Christmas Masses. You can drop them into the collection basket or at the Rectory.

## PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2023 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2023	\$849,228	49	\$17,331
2022	\$751,402	49	\$15,335

**2023**  
**CATHOLIC**  
**MINISTRIES**  
**APPEAL**  
OFFICE OF MINISTRIES DEVELOPMENT

*One Family - Journeying together in  
Compassion, Participation and Mission.*



	2023	2022
Parish Goal	\$115,100.00	\$115,100.00
Number of Donors	301	296
Total Pledged to date	\$105,678	\$114,273
Avg. Gift	\$351	\$386
Percent of Goal	92%	99%

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 goal!





# CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

## CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY DEC. 24TH

4:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL (CHURCH & AUDITORIUM)

6:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL

9:30 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL (SPANISH)

12:00 MIDNIGHT MASS



## CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY DEC. 25TH

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS

12 NOON MASS

### *Christmas Confessions*

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

4 - 4:45 PM

7 - 7:15 PM (Spanish)

**Sundays** 5:30-5:45 PM

### *Advent Confession*

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 9 PM



## Praying For and With One Another

### Remember

Margaret Sullivan-Ohlson

*"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

Barbara La Vallee

*"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 Army

SGT Sean Casey  
PVT Joseph Cestare  
SPC Michael Garcia Jr  
PVT Anthony Koch  
CPL Aidan O'Neill  
SPC Daniel Sisco  
PFC David Smith  
Steven Valentin

#### 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

#### US Navy

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

#### US Coast Guard

BM3 Brendan J. Bernath  
CPT Keith Donohue

#### US Air Force

SSGT David Giese  
SSGT Jason M Hermes  
PFC Kyle Kerstiens  
SSGT Ryan Kerstiens  
SSGT Timothy Kerstiens  
A1C 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 Deceased Members of the  
Ciolino and Hammond Families*

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)

### 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.  
For the 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.**



2023

CATHOLIC  
MINISTRIES  
APPEAL

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



Scan to give!



*One Family - Journeying together in Communion, Participation and Mission*

PLEASE HELP US REACH  
OUR GOAL

Parish Goal is \$115,100

\$9,422 TO GO!

Almost there!!!

92 %

Only 2 Weeks to go!



**If our campaign is successful, then 20% of our parish goal comes back to us, plus 80% of everything OVER our goal!!**

How does the Catholic Ministries Appeal Care for God's People? It supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs, providing food and nutrition to more than 15,000 people.



*Fr. Joe Catafago*

Catholic Charities provide food programs for seniors, low-income families and maternity services for women and their children; affordable and safe housing for seniors, veterans and adults with mental and physical disabilities; and substance abuse services include residential and day treatment programs.

The Office Evangelization and Catechesis programs include: Faith formation of our lay leaders, Hispanic Ministry, Multicultural Diversity, Young Adult and Youth Ministry – Quo Vadis ran another successful summer camp that fosters vocations and evangelization in our youth.

The Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics provides prayer, education, witness and support of Respect Life Initiatives with the weekly rosary, resources for pregnant and postpartum parents.



*Deacon Michael Hoonhout*



*Fr. Louis Cona*





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.**



## From the Desk of Msgr. Walden

We can read about people and hear about people but the only way to really come to know others is to spend time with them. In the Gospel for today's Mass (John 1:6-8, 19-28), people are asking John the Baptist, "Who are you?" People were coming to him to have their sins washed away with a water ritual that was not what we call the Sacrament of Baptism. Quoting the prophet Isaias, John's reply was, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord." As we go through our preparations for Christmas, that is a very clear reminder and call to recognize what we are celebrating and why we are celebrating.

As much as we are using a lot of energy to shop, send cards, wrap presents and schedule visits with one another, we can still be "in the desert" if we do not focus on why we are doing all this preparing. Like the people seeking out John the Baptist, like John the Baptist himself, we all have an inner thirst and hunger for God. In the first reading from last Sunday, we were encouraged by Isaias to "make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God." Without the foundation of faith and the conscious presence of God in our lives, we are in a "wasteland". We consume a lot of time and energy in a desert when we look to our electronic devices to entertain, amuse, and distract ourselves. Money can so easily become a source of concern with ever-rising prices. The gift of Jesus in our midst brings enrichment, purpose, and inspiration to us. The ultimate source of peace, purpose, meaning, and hope is in God, who has so wonderfully given us Himself the person to Jesus Christ, who became one with us in our humanity so we can become one with Him in His divinity. The first question to ponder is not how far I let Jesus Christ into my

life but how far He has let me into His life. All we have to do is find a quiet place, turn off all distractions, and speak to him attentively and prayerfully. In many ways, our prayers echo the words of the father seeking a cure from Jesus for his son who said, "I believe, help my unbelief." (Mark 9:24). We are not unbelievers, we are people of faith, hope, and love.

Advent is not so much a penitential season but a time of hope and joy. Isaias told a hungry world, as did John the Baptist, that God and his love was near not because we earned it but because God, in His all powerful love, is faithful. In Jesus Christ, God came Himself to free us from life without Him and walk with us on the journey of life to our ultimate destination and hope - eternal life with Him in heaven.

I offer the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary that we might know her joy in God love for her and all of us. (Luke 1:46-55)

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for  
ever. Amen.*









**Sandwich Sunday** 11 AM

Please come and live the true spirit of Advent by taking some of your precious time to help those in need. In the school cafeteria.

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**Advent Confessions** 6 - 9 PM

The season of Advent is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for the Lord! The sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at SJE in the Church.

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**Church Decorating** 1 - 4 PM

Come help SJE Art & Environment Ministry decorate the church for Christmas.

**Lessons and Carols** 7 PM

Come lesson and join in with our Parish Choir in the Church.

## JOY

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we light the pink candle of the Advent wreath, in anticipation of the joy that Christmas brings. Joy is much different than pleasure. Pleasure appeals to our senses, but joy actually reaches the very heart of one's soul. Pleasure is fleeting, because it is manufactured by the world. But joy is lasting, because it is given to us by God. Pleasure is taken, while joy is received.

From His Throne, to His Cradle, to His Cross, to His Altar, God never stops sharing the gift of His Love, and He gives us the opportunity to enter into that Love. Only in God's Love can we find true peace, and joy. Why would anyone refuse such a gift? If we (as human beings) were to fully comprehend the event that takes place on the altar at every mass, we would die of joy, because complete joy can only be experienced in Heaven. Joy is a gift from God.

### Where is Joy?

Joy can't be found in a box with a bow.  
It's not in a bank, or a chest filled with gold.  
You can't store joy in a small glass jar,  
and you can't get to joy in a boat or a car.

Joy can be felt in a soft warm breeze,  
through the shake of a hand, or a cat with a sneeze.  
Joy can be seen in a small child's face,  
in the young, in the old, and it's shared by each race.

Joy can be heard through a song or a prayer.  
Though life can be hard, still joy can be there.  
So can joy shine like the sun on your nose.  
You can even find joy in the scent of a rose.

Joy can be shared by the things that you do,  
the things that will bring out the best in you.  
Joy is a gift that lives in the heart.  
It's wrapped up in love, and it's there from the start.

Angela Werner





# Advent

## Giving Tree

This year, Parish Social Ministry will continue our annual “*Advent Giving Tree*” that will benefit our *Street Ministry* and *Ernie’s Place*. Your donations at Christmas help us to manage the upcoming winter months.

We will have three trees this year, one at each exit of the church. Please take one or more paper ornaments from them, which will list a needed item. You can return these items UNWRAPPED to the fellowship area of the church or the rectory office.

We will be running the Giving Tree until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent.  
Call 631-878-0009 ext. 119 for more info.

## Parish Social Ministry

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St. John's Street Ministry  
is in DESPERATE  
need of:

- **Men's Winter Coats**
- **Men's Sweatshirts**
- **Men's Jeans**
- **Blankets**

Donations can be left in  
Fellowship Hall of the Church.  
Thank you for your support of our  
Outreach Ministry

SJE Thrift Shop  
OPEN  
Wednesdays  
9 AM to 12 Noon



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## Ernie's Place



The items listed here are items that Ernie's Place  
is in most need of this week. These items can be  
left at the doors of the church or at the bin,  
outside of Ernie's Place.

### Pantry Shopping List

- Cereal
- Canned Tuna
- Small bags of white rice
- Black Beans (cans or bags)
- Red Beans (cans or bags)
- Canned Chicken
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Tomato sauce
- Canned tomatoes
- Spaghetti
- Jelly



# Office of Family Ministry

As Advent continues and we anticipate the wonderful gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we encourage all families to surrender some time each day to pray together. Whether you read your Jesse Tree summary, pray around your family Advent wreath, say grace before your family dinner, pray a decade of the rosary, offer prayers of gratitude and hope before going to sleep and /or all of the above or whatever type of family prayer speaks to your hearts... just pray! Please don't let the craziness of this world's "To Do" lists and the secular anticipation of December 25<sup>th</sup> rob you of opportunities to thank God for the gift of Jesus.

Speaking of gratitude, a word of tremendous thanks to all who worked to make our parish Tree Lighting such a wonderful event! A HUGE Thank you to the Family Life Ministry, the members of which are continuously working behind the scenes to create beautiful opportunities for the families of St. John's to grow together in faith and to enjoy some family fun! Kudos to our SJE maintenance crew for the awesome job with the lights and our parish office staff for all that they did to make sure that our parish tree lighting went off without a hitch. Special thanks to Msgr. Walden for leading us in prayer, Andrew McKeon for leading us in song and Michelle Pirraglia for capturing the evening in photos that we will have for years to come. It was truly a evening that was blessed many times over as children of God from 1 to 99 gathered around our newly planted Christmas tree, sipped hot chocolate, nibbled on Christmas cookies and waited for the lighting.

Msgr. Walden lead us all in an absolutely beautiful blessing of the tree and our family ornaments. His words of encouragement and hope for the journey of Advent were just perfect! Then, at last, Nicholas flipped the switch and everyone ooooo-ed and ahhhh-ed as the tree brought a beautiful, peaceful light in the darkness of the night. Much like the way the birth of our Savior brings light and peace to our hearts, our lives, and our world... Andrew lead us in song as the children placed their family ornaments on the tree and within a few moments the small, once dark and barely noticeable tree, was humbly illuminating the darkness with the brilliance of hope and unity.

*We thank you Lord God for the gift of that evening,  
this parish and Your Son. Amen!*



December 17, 2023





# Faith Formation

Phone: 631-878-0009, ext. 5

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

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

Office Hours: By Appointment Only



Our Level 7 & 8 students learned about the Season of Advent and took home ornaments with items needed for our Parish Social Ministry from our Advent Giving Tree. Our Level 7 students discussed the meaning of Advent and how Jesus is the Light of the World, while our Level 8 students learned about the Jesse Tree, using their Youth Bibles to look up select Jesse Tree Bible Figures and present on them.



## Family of Faith (Grades 1-6) - Next Sessions

(Parent/Student - Attend One):

Tuesday, January 9 or Thursday, January 11

at 5 PM or 7 PM in the Church

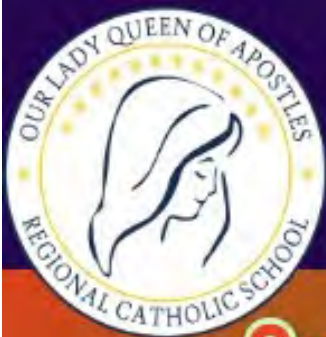
### Level 7: Next date

Monday, January 22 @ 7:15 PM in the Church

### Level 8: Next date

Tuesday, January 23 @ 7:15 PM in the Church





December 17, 2023

## Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School

### Contact Us!

631-878-1033

olqany.org

Scan QR Code



# See What We've Been Up To!

**FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS:** Gathering to sing Christmas songs, students had fun while waiting for St. Nicholas to pay a visit and leave goodies in their shoes!



**CHRISTMAS CONCERT & PAGEANT:** OLQA students helped us get into the spirit of the Season during the annual Christmas Concert & Pageant. Through band & choir presentations, students performed fun, familiar & moving Christmas musical numbers. After the concert, our 8th graders presented the Nativity narrative (along with some help from our 7th graders), while grades 4-6 led us in song. Special thanks to all the faculty & staff who helped prepare students!





# Knights of Columbus Queen of All Hearts Council #4126

A promotional graphic for a Bingo Night event. The background is a textured orange. In the center, a white rectangular box contains the text "Knights of Columbus" in a small, black, sans-serif font, followed by "BINGO" in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters, and "Night" in a large, white, cursive script font. Below this, the text "Every Friday", "Doors Open at 6:30 P.M.", and "Games Begin at 7:30 P.M." is written in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the white box, "\$3000 IN PRIZES" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Surrounding the central text are several colorful bingo balls (blue with number 4, red with number 5, yellow with number 1, green with number 2) and two lottery tickets labeled "LOTTERY". A yellow pencil is also visible. The entire graphic is framed by a thick, rounded orange border.

Knights of Columbus

# BINGO

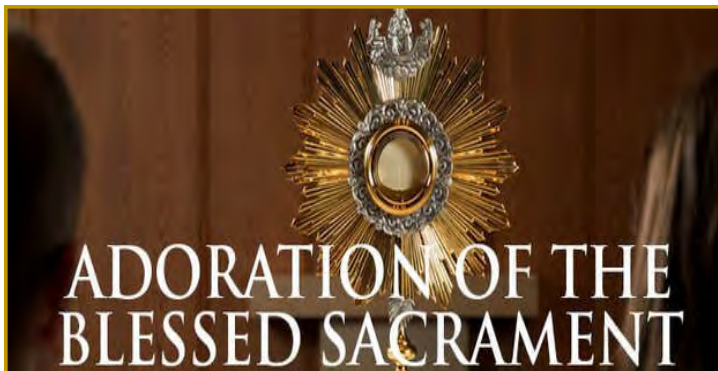
Night

Every Friday  
Doors Open at 6:30 P.M.  
Games Begin at 7:30 P.M.

**\$3000 IN PRIZES**

**SJE Parish Auditorium**  
**Next Bingo is on Friday, January 5, 2024!**

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*Do you realize that Jesus is there in the Blessed Sacrament, expressly for you, for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart!  
(Saint Therese of Lisieux)*

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

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.

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.



# St. John the Evangelist 125th Anniversary

## \$10 Keepsake Christmas Ornament



Get yours before supplies run out!

Also available in the parish office, during office hours.



# 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 Sabados a las 7:30 p.m. en la Iglesia.

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

## MINISTERIOS Y SERVICIOS

**Bautismos:** Segundo Domingo a las 2p.m. en la Iglesia.  
Clases pre-bautismos es el tercer miércoles de cada mes.

Favor de traer el certificado de nacimiento del niño dos meses antes del bautismo.

### Requisitos:

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

### Matrimonios:

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

El personal de la oficina estará disponible para hablar en español de 6 a 8 PM los martes! Asegúrese de venir a visitarnos y permítanos servirle! por favor llame a la oficina de la rectoría 631-878-0009 o envíe un correo electrónico al ministerio español a

[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 come and visit and allow us to serve you!

¡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!

## Safe Environment Updates...

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/>

## REMINDERS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

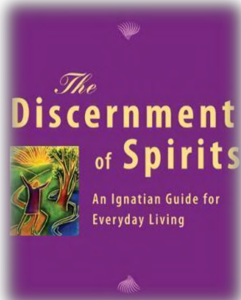
All SJE employees and volunteers **must** wear their SJE badge while serving in ministry. Please also check your email regularly to complete monthly updates. (Be sure to check your "spam" or "Junk" folder.)

## 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).

## Women's Group...

Fr. Timothy Gallagher's book on *The Discernment of Spirits*, lists St. Ignatius' 14 rules for discernment, then goes through each rule a chapter at a time, describing how to apply it in our lives. In the ups & downs, consolations and desolations of our spiritual life, we go through times of pure joy to "Where are You Jesus?"



St. Ignatius (1491-1556), recuperating from war wounds was given reading material on the life of Christ & the saints. As he thought about what he read, he became aware of his thought patterns, how the thoughts affected his feelings, and how the good feelings remained with him. When he had worldly thoughts, although he felt good while thinking them, he noticed that afterward the feelings left him empty. He continued reading spiritual books, growing in wisdom. God was leading him, fulfilling His Plan for him to be a great saint & to teach us. God's plan for us is the same, the *process is slow*.

As women who love Jesus, we need & want to learn to recognize Jesus' voice & grow closer to Him. At times we feel inadequate, wondering is this Jesus speaking, me or the enemy? In our group we begin to see we're all equal, with the same problems, emotions, weaknesses, confusion, strengths, desires, fears, doing the best we can, we don't have to be perfect. Jesus consoles us through our love for each other. If you feel desire to come but are fearful, we understand because we've been there & at times still are, so just come as you are, no rules or requirements, you don't have to read or share. We respect the privacy of others, sharing is *anonymous*!

We meet *every other Monday* from 10:00 - 11:30 AM in the IHM room, white house (convent) between school & rectory.

**Dates:** December 18 (Christmas brunch at the facilitator's house at 11 AM), January 8, 22, February 5, 26\*, March 4, 18, April 8\*, 15, 29, May 13, 20\*, June 24 (summer break).

*Dates with \* are make-up dates.*

**Facilitators:** Carol Ketcham, Anita Luccari.

For additional information, please call the rectory office at 631-878-0009. Or... *just show up!*

## 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, call the rectory office at 631-878-0009.

The 2024 Sunday's Word books have arrived ...

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

## Sunday's Word 2024



These books contain all of the Sunday readings as well as the psalm and antiphons for Daily Mass. They can be picked up at the rectory office.



# LECTIO DIVINA

- Lectio
- Meditatio
- Oratio
- Contemplatio



**Join Bishop Andrzej**  
For Scripture Reflection Series  
**on St. JOSEPH - Part IV**  
**Wednesday, December 27, 2023**  
at 7:30 pm - ZOOM webinar.

Bible Study Verses

**JOSEPH**  
**The Man of Loving Justice**  
**Gospel of Matthew 1:18-25**

The Annunciation to Joseph

**Registration is Required.**  
in order to receive the ZOOM link to each session.  
Please contact the Western Vicariate office with your  
name, parish, email address and phone number.

Send your email:  
[westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org) or  
call Suzanne at 516-744-6850.



## Bereavement Support Group...

*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.*

**WHEN:** Saturday mornings, through January 6, 2024

**TIME:** 10:30 AM to 12 Noon

**WHERE:** First floor meeting room in the Barn.

The Barn is the blue building located in the back of the school parking lot.

**FACILITATORS:** Maureen Harney & Loretta Gallagher

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

**FEES:** \$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.*

## Important DRVC Information...

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claim for victims of sexual abuse who were over 18 or older when the alleged conduct occurred and the forms to use can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese's bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page:

<https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

## 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? Not only that, our parish receives a part of the advertising commission. 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC

6:30-7:30 PM Food Pantry Open - Ernie's Place

7:00-8:00 PM Holy Hour to Pray for Priests - SC

7 PM Narcotics Anonymous-Men only - BMR

## Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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 - Front Mtg Rm - Auditorium

## Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

9 AM-12 Noon Thrift Shop Open - Thrift Shop

3-5 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC

## Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC

7:30 PM Knights of Columbus-Bingo Night - Auditorium

7 PM Narcotics Anonymous - BMR

7 PM Spanish Prayer Group - SC

## Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

9 AM Men's Prayer Group - SC

10:30 AM Bereavement Group - BMR

## Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Parish Offices Closed

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

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