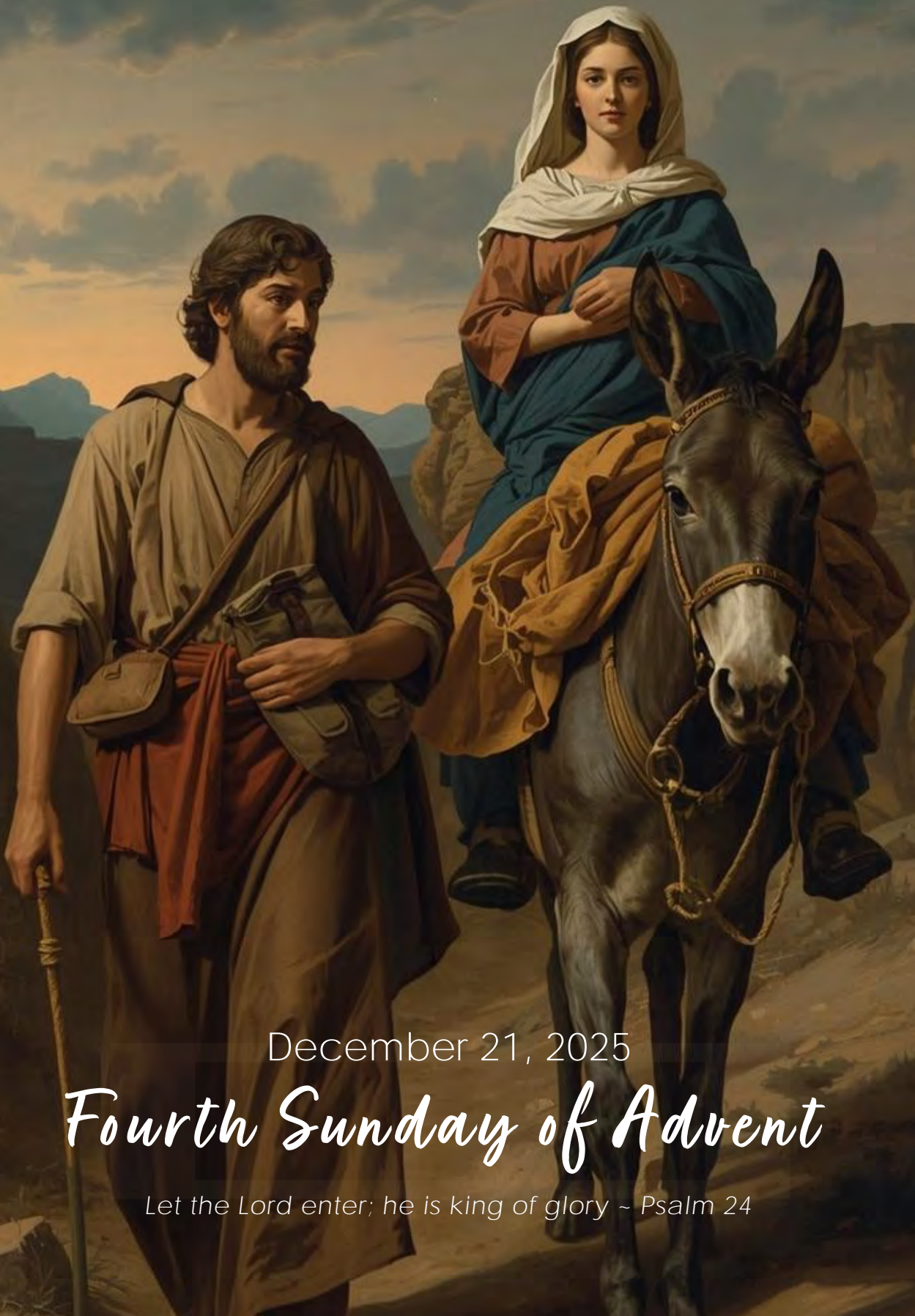


St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory ~ Psalm 24



December 21, 2025

25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York, 11934-3968
631-878-0009 | 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 27th

5:00 PM - Fr. Francis
7:30 PM (Spanish) - Fr. Peter
(Saturday Evening 5 PM Mass
will be livestreamed. Videos remain
on Facebook after the live broadcast.)

Sunday, December 28th

8:00 AM - Fr. Jerry
10:00 AM - Fr. Charline
12 noon - Fr. Patrick
6:00 PM - Msgr. Walden

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

Pastoral Team

Reverend Patrick M. Riegger
Pastor

Reverend Charline 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
Katie Waller
Director of Operations

Carolyn Lapham
Director of Family Ministries

Michelle Pirraglia
Director of Faith Formation

Heather Crayne
Director of Parish Social Ministry

Angela Werner
Director of Music Ministry

Mass Schedule

OLQA

Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Regional Catholic School (on the campus of SJE)
2 St. John Place
Center Moriches, NY 631.878.1033 (ext. 201)
www.olqany.org

Dawn Waller, Principal
dwaller@olqany.org

Office Hours

Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

6 - 8 PM Spanish-speaking support.

Wednesday: 9 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Please call before visiting any parish offices.

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 our Pastor, Fr. Patrick...

Fourth Sunday of Advent "Advent Prepares us for the Joy of Christmas"



In just a couple of days, it will be Christmas again. Yet, it is still Advent until Wednesday. Therefore, there is still some time left for us to prepare ourselves and our hearts for the great Christmas feast, in celebrating how God was faithful to His promise for humanity. Christmas reminds us of a better future with God. It reminds us of our greatest hope, life everlasting. Because of Christmas, a Savior has been born to us so that we may have eternal life. Christmas draws our attention directly to the Nativity scene where prophecy was fulfilled. It leads us directly to Christ who has brought the world the fullness of salvation. This is why we do Christmas big, because without Christmas, Jesus would not have entered the world to redeem humanity and restore us to wholeness.

It is important that we celebrate Christmas well because our faith is completely dependent upon it. Our faith is centered around Christ who came to us on that first Holy Night to show us the path to salvation, a path that never ends. We do Christmas big all around the world because Christmas is everything. It is the greatest story ever told. All time and history are centered around the birth of Jesus because of the significance of His birth and what our Lord has accomplished. His birth brought us new hope and glad tidings. His birth changed the world. It brought us freedom and life everlasting!

So far, we have completed three full weeks of Advent, a time of renewal and spiritual growth and insight. If we take this season seriously, Advent allows us the opportunity to grow in our faith and trust in God. It helps us to reconnect with the Lord, especially through the scriptures and prayerful reflection. It is a time for us to be

restored in our hope in the gift of eternal life. It is a time for us to turn our lives around and redirect our attention back to God who is the source of hope and fulfillment in our lives. We are offered another opportunity to grow in our awareness and appreciation of the presence of God within our lives and to recall all that God has done for us.

Advent also reminds us how God has remained patient and faithful to His promise for humanity, in bringing redemption to the entire world. Advent changes our outlook on life if we allow this season to embrace us in all of its simplicity and entirety. Advent awakens the hearts of all who are longing for truth and holiness. It opens for us the pathway to freedom and happiness. It invites us to open our hearts so that we can enter more deeply into the mysteries of God and experience the joy and hope that Christmas brings.

If Advent is all about preparing for the great Christmas feast and entering more deeply into the mysteries of God, then what are we expecting to get out of Christmas this year? What are we looking for? What are we really preparing for? Yes, it is important to prepare our homes for Christmas with decorations and to enjoy our family traditions of gathering together with our family around the tree and the Nativity. It is wonderful for us to exchange gifts for those who we hold close to our hearts. But if Christ is not at the center of our preparations during this new season of Advent, then something special and essential will be missing this Christmas. Christmas will come and go, and we will not feel any closer to Jesus than before Advent began.

December 21, 2025

Advent Day of Confessions

Monday, December 22nd

2:00~4:00 PM

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



The truth is, we spend a lot of time making so many preparations as we draw closer to another Christmas celebration. But how much time do we set aside in prayer and silence reflecting on the wonder of the Lord and the joy of His Nativity? How close are we to Jesus with less than one week to go until He comes to us on Christmas Day? There is so much going on in our lives and within our world that separates us from the Lord, and from living in peaceful communion with Him. There are so many activities going on right now that demand so much of our time and that pre-occupies our minds with worldly agendas and concerns. It is so hard to change our ways and become more prayerful, reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas when Christ came into this world to liberate us from bondage and to restore us to wholeness and everlasting life. It is so hard for us to find the time and effort to be still and silent in prayer before the Lord to reflect on the countless blessings we have received from Him in abundance.

If this Christmas is going to be more spiritual for us and less worldly, then now is the time for us to start zooming in on the Nativity scene and to begin reflecting on the wonder and the joy that Jesus wants to bring into our hearts once again. Now is the time, with just a few days to go, to make the effort to redirect our attention to the joy and the wonder that is always found in our Lord's Nativity, and feel the peace and joy that Christmas brings into our lives and homes.

I cannot help but think how unfortunate it was for those innkeepers that there was no room in their Inn for Joseph and Mary to give birth to Jesus. They lost out on the joy and wonder that came from that first Christmas. Let's not make the same mistake this new Christmas. There is still time left to open the Inn of our hearts for a special encounter with the Lord as we draw closer to another Christmas celebration. Let us open

our hearts today to invite the Lord once again to live among us and to be a big part of our lives each day. Let us prepare our hearts once again for the joy and wonder that Christmas brings!



I hope by now you have received my Christmas letter in the mail in support of our annual Christmas Appeal. I am so grateful for your continued prayers and generous support towards St. John's. Your generous support is greatly appreciated. Each year you help make our appeal a huge success. I invite you to please join me again in support of this year's Christmas Appeal. Your generosity goes a long way in supporting the many ministries we provide at St. John's and for the upkeep of our church and parish campus.

I hope to see you this Christmas season. The Christmas Mass schedule can be found in this weekend's bulletin. Moreover, this Monday, December 22nd, throughout the diocese we will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 2-4 PM and 6-9 PM. All the priests will be available to hear confessions in the church. I hope and pray that you and your families have a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! Thank you again for all that you do for our parish family!



Masses for the Week...

Saturday, December 20th Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Frank Allecia
 5:00 PM Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney
 7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, December 21st Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Barbara Battani
 10:00 AM Patricia Reiber
 12:00 Noon Joseph Gallagher
 6:00 PM Joseph Martin

Monday, December 22nd Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Kenneth Horsford
 12:00 Noon Jerome and Eileen Uhlinger

Tuesday, December 23rd Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Joseph Sinclair-Marino
 12:00 PM Vito and Catrina Stabile

Wednesday, December 24th Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Christmas Novenas
 4:00 PM (Vigil) Christmas Novenas (Church & Aud)
 6:00 PM (Vigil) Christmas Novenas
 9:00 PM (Vigil) Christmas Novenas (Spanish)
 12:00 Midnight Christmas Novenas

Thursday, December 25th The Nativity of the Lord / Christmas

8:00 AM Christmas Novenas
 10:00 AM Christmas Novenas
 12:00 Noon Christmas Novenas

Friday, December 26th Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

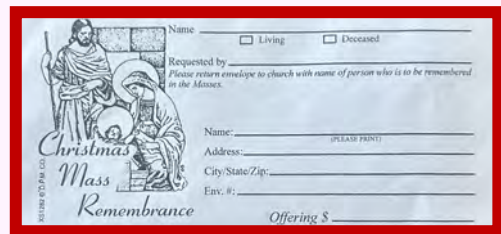
7:00 AM Christmas Novenas
 12:00 Noon Jennifer Villacci

Saturday, December 27th Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:00 AM Christmas Novenas
 5:00 PM Henry Brown Jr.
 7:30 PM (Spanish) Christmas Novenas

Sunday, December 28th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 AM Jose Luis Maysonet
 10:00 AM Lou and Marie D'Amara
 12:00 Noon Tony Svolos
 6:00 PM People of the Parish



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 Tuesday, December 23rd.



PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2025 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2025	\$903,190	50	\$18,064
2024	\$896,983	50	\$17,940

2025 Please help us reach our goal!

Catholic Ministries Appeal
 DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Renewed by the Eucharist
 Sent on Mission



As of 12/16/2025	2025	2024
Parish Goal	\$115,100	\$115,100
Number of Donors	255	267
Total Pledged to date	\$107,853	\$114,381
Avg. Gift\$	\$423	\$428
Percent of Goal	94%	99.5%

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!

A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene, showing Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger, surrounded by shepherds and wise men. The scene is set against a dark green background with two bright yellow stars. The word "Christmas" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script in a light yellow color, positioned below the illustration.

Christmas

MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL (CHURCH & AUDITORIUM)

6:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL

9:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL (SPANISH)

12:00 MIDNIGHT MASS

On Christmas Eve at 11:30 PM, the SJE Choir will offer a prayerful musical prelude to help prepare our hearts for the celebration of Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY - THURSDAY DECEMBER 25TH

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS

12 NOON MASS



Praying For and With One Another

Remember

Nicholas Martello + John Messina
Dulcelina Sepulveda

“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

Ray Galpin	Daniel Treadwell
Eileen & Chuck DeRicco	Valentino Liuzzi
Michael Campanello	Alessandra Veloso Valentim
Bill Hasper	Mark Havens
Baby Isabelle Reyes	Patricia Melillo

*“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.

Our Military

US Marine Corps

LC Michael Abbatiello
CPL Evan Berkemeyer
PFC Sean Brady
PAC Kevin W. Deshler II
SSGT Claudia Kerstiens
TSGT Timothy Kerstiens
SGT Quentin Montemarano
PVT Charles O'Connor
E-1 Christian Raeihle
PFC Kyle Toscanini
2nd LT Christopher Walther

US Air Force

SrA Anthony Auciello
SSGT David Giese
A1C Brenden M. Hayes
SSGT Jason M Hermes
SSGT Kyle Kerstiens
SSGT Ryan Kerstiens
SSGT Timothy Kerstiens
SrA Jared T. Rosato
LT Col Salvatore Sferrazza
SSGT William E. McCauley II
1st Lt. Claire McGrath
A1C James Pfister

US Navy

E43CPO Jason Abbatiello
MMN1 Christopher J Esposito Jr
STGCS Brian Holzmacher
ET3 Jeremiah Nolan, Jr
ETVSN Angel Gabriel Montoya Rivera
ENS Ralph J. Ruggiero
SA Thomas Taylor III
SR Jack Patrick Walsh
SR Michael Paduana
EM3 Andrew R. Casey

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. Amalifitano
PVT Cara Williams

US Coast Guard

BM3 Brendan J. Bernath
CPT Keith Donohue

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.



Remembering Our Loved Ones

The 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 \$250 is requested.

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

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.**

2025

Every Gift Counts!

Catholic Ministries Appeal
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Renewed by the Eucharist
Sent on Mission*

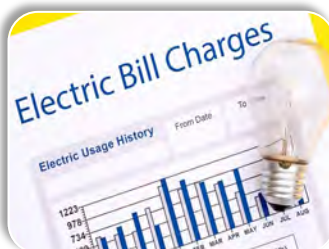


A gift of \$25 may help pay the gas for a Meals-On-Wheels van to deliver food for a day.



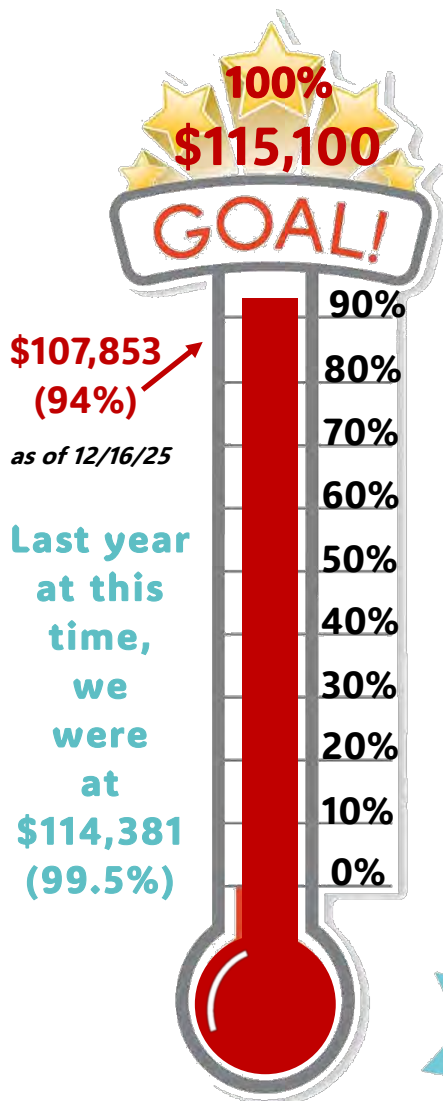
A gift of \$1,000 may help support a Seminarian's education.

A gift of \$50 from an emergency fund may help pay the electric bill in a cold month for a family in need.



A gift of \$250 may help subsidize a home for an adult who is developmentally disabled.

Please help us reach our goal!



We have reached 94% of our goal, with less than two weeks to go! Please help if you can!

Supporting the CMA helps to support SJE! Every dollar raised over 80% comes back to us, up to 100% of the goal!
We will receive \$24,000 in rebates if we reach 100%.

Thank you for your consideration!

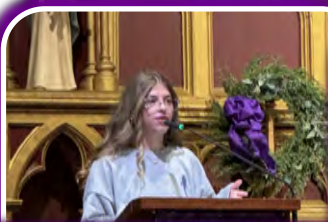


SCAN TO DONATE



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

During our "Family of Faith" sessions this month, our adult and youth volunteers helped our families learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation through special skits on Pentecost and Confirmation. Special thanks to high school students Antonio Gerbino and Kayla Kelly, and Kateri Leavy, who shared with our families about how they are living out their faith after receiving Confirmation. We also discussed the Season of Advent and gave out Advent calendars.



2025 FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDARS for all our programs are available on the Faith Formation page of our parish website. sjecm.org, click on "Faith Formation")

LEVEL 7 (Confirmation Prep Year 1):

Next Class Session:

Monday, January 12 at 7:15 PM in the Church.

Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles!

LEVEL 8 (Confirmation Prep Year 2):

Next Class Session:

Tuesday, January 13 at 7:15 PM in the Church.

Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles!



Next Sessions:

- **Tuesday, January 6 & Thursday, January 8** at 5 PM or 7 PM in the Church (attend one).
 - **Grade Level 4 Mass - Sunday, January 11 at 10 AM.**
 - **Grade Level 5: Sunday, January 25 at 10 AM**
- Come as a family to your child's assigned grade level Mass in the Church, where they will receive a special blessing. Please bring your completed activity sheet (which was given out at the November sessions) and hand it in at the Main Lobby when you enter the church!

SJE Family Life Ministry Presents... December 21, 2025

FAMILY CHRISTMAS MOVIE MATINEE

11:00 AM - Tuesday, December 30th
in the School Auditorium.

Free popcorn
Free Pizza Lunch to be provided after the movie.
All Families welcome!

(children must be accompanied by an adult)



DOORS OPEN AT 10:45 AM

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

PSM Office 631.878.0009 ext. 120

Email: socialministry@SJECm.org

Our Thrift Shop is open every Wednesday from 9 AM-12 PM. All are welcome to shop! The proceeds from the weekly sales at the shop are returned to our Parish outreach programs to help those in need in our local community. Donations are greatly appreciated in the green bins in the school parking lot in front of our shop anytime but especially on Monday and Tuesday mornings between 9-11 AM!



Ernie's Place at St. John's has been selected by the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program and will receive a \$1 donation for each specially marked \$11.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet sold during the month of December 2025 at 999 Montauk Hwy, Shirley. If you are in need of buying a bouquet for a special occasion, we thank you for your support!

ERNIE'S PLACE

Ernie's Place Food Pantry is open to serve those in need in our community on Monday's from 6:30-7:30 PM and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 PM. If you are interested in volunteering to serve when we're open or to help re-stock and organize our pantry shelves, please call to join us!

- *Salt
- *Syrup
- *Ketchup
- *Hot Sauce
- *Drink Boxes
- *Salad dressing
- *Canned chicken
- *Jar Pasta Sauce
- *Small bags of flour
- *Bags of Black & Red Beans
- *Individually wrapped snacks
- *Small bottles of Cooking Oil



STREET MINISTRY

Our Street Ministry team provides food and clothes to those in need every Thursday night. There are lots of opportunities to get involved whether you like to cook, serve, help load our van or fold clothes. Please reach out for more information!



- ◆ Gloves
- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Sweat Pants
- ◆ Single Razors
- ◆ Shaving Cream
- ◆ Face/Wash cloths
- ◆ Travel Size Shampoo
- ◆ Travel Size Body Lotion
- ◆ Feminine Hygiene Products
- ◆ Women's new Underwear (S, M)
- ◆ Gently used men's & women's sneakers
- ◆ Men's new Underwear & Socks (S, M, L, XL)
- ◆ Gently used men's jeans in size 32, 34 and 36
- ◆ Gently used coats (see donation box in fellowship hall)

*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

December 21, 2025



Christmas Outreach

We had a wonderful day spreading Christmas cheer to 60 families in need last Saturday! They each received bags of food for their Christmas meal including a ham or a turkey, and all the trimmings along with gift cards and a special Kringle dessert. In addition, we were blessed with an outpouring of support from our first ever "Stuff a Stocking" drive and were able to give one to each family! They were beautiful and overflowing with all sorts of fun things including games and candy. We also gave puzzles and students from OLQA made homemade Christmas cards for each family. We are incredibly grateful to God for everyone, our parishioners and volunteers, for your loving service to the Church and the community.

May God bless you for your generosity and thank you for being a blessing to others! Merry Christmas from everyone at Parish Social Ministry!

Special thanks to:

Legion of Mary

OLQA Students

Mom's on the Journey

SJE Faith Formation Students

Five Star Nationals Baseball Team



SJE Parish Social Ministry

SPREAD *the* WARMTH

Our Parish Street Ministry is in Desperate
need of Men's Coats

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**

December 21, 2025



Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School Merry Christmas!



Open House:
Sunday, January 25
11AM-1PM



FOR MORE INFO
CALL 631-878-1033
OR SCAN THE QR CODE
OLQANY.ORG





Sunday's Word – Year A Now Available!

The *Sunday's Word – Year A* books are now available in the Parish Office. These handy guides include all the Sunday readings for the coming liturgical year and are a wonderful way to prepare for Mass and reflect on God's Word throughout the week.

A suggested offering of \$5 is appreciated.
Stop by the Parish Office to pick up your copy today!



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.

*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.*

Saturday mornings - 10:30 AM to 12 Noon

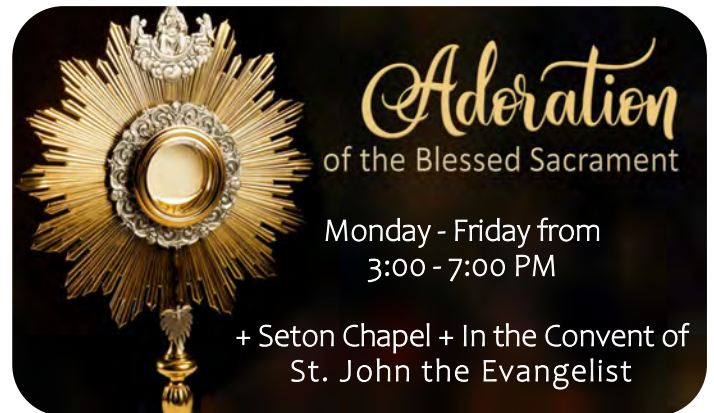
First floor meeting room in the Barn.

REGISTRATION: Contact the **Rectory** at

631.878.0009 or via email at

Rectory@sjecm.org

\$10 donation for the workbook.



Advent Prayer to be like Mary

Blessed Mother,

Mary, as we reflect on your yes to bring the Savior into the world, we ask that you be with us as we strive to bring Jesus to all those we encounter. In this season of joyful hope, we turn to you for guidance. May we imitate your loving example, and steadfastly bring peace and justice to our world.

When we are tempted to distance ourselves from another, give us the grace to say yes to charity. When we are frustrated, let us listen with our hearts to our neighbors. When we are disappointed, Help us seek new solutions as you did when the Inn was full.

Let us embrace our own need for poverty and humility in order to work toward creative solutions for our world as we await the coming of Christ. Amen.



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Please consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. 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 or call the Parish Office at

631.878.0009.

A Message from Monsignor Walden...



Christmas is a wonderful day and season to find hope, joy, gratitude, and wonder in our lives. One of the titles we use at Christmas is to call Jesus the Prince of Peace. We live in a world of international and national conflict where people are dying and living in fear. Personally, it is very hard and challenging to find peace when things do not go our way and we are disappointed. So many negative thoughts and scenarios go through our minds as we seek a winning answer for ourselves. That is exactly where we get lost as the darkness continues and negative thoughts bombard us. There are two conflicting thoughts that point to a solution. One is to prevail with self-righteous anger, spite, and vengeance. The other thought is to allow humility to calm us down, seek the truth and find the path to reconciliation and peace.

As we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate the birth of our Savior. What do we expect Him to save us from? What do we expect Him to save us for? Those are not the questions we should be focusing on. They all too easily turn us in on ourselves. The only way Jesus can and will be our Savior is to ponder what He wants to save us from and what He wants to save us for.

Jesus came 2000 years ago into a world that was messy politically, socially and religiously. There was no room for Him to be born in a place of human habitation. Yet the angels sang and the shepherds came and found the wonder of God Himself in the infant in the manger in a stable. Not only was there no room for Him at the inn, the petty ruler of that time, Herod, heard about His birth from the Magi who asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" The last thing Herod wanted was a threat who would take his place. In his murderous rage, he slaughtered the Holy Innocents causing Mary and Joseph to flee with the child Jesus into Egypt at the angel's bidding (Matthew 2:13-14). As an adult during His public ministry, Jesus, our Savior, angered the people of Nazareth where He lived as they led Him to the brow of a hill intending to throw Him down from it. (Luke 4:29). His response was simply humbling walking away.

To take the presence of Jesus seriously is the

same challenge, call, and privilege we have today. He is not a threatening, overbearing, and conquering presence, but an inviting, open, enriching, and life giving presence. Our new Pope Leo XIV summed up this thought as He appeared as our newly elected Pope: "Peace be with you...A peace that is unarmed, disarming, humble, and persevering." Jesus' presence among us and in our hearts is not a threatening, condemning, oppressive presence but a humble, truthful, loving, truly life giving presence. He came that we might have life and have it to the full (John 10:10). We cannot hold the beautiful infant Jesus in our hands, but we cannot help but being overjoyed knowing He holds us in His mind and heart with His love and mercy. That is exactly the gift we need and are invited to embrace everyday of our lives. He is the gift we all hunger for in our hearts because we are a gift to Him and to one another. Merry Christmas!!!

Praise God!!!!

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Family Life Ministry

On Sunday, November 23rd more than 50 of our SJE families came together to create beautiful Advent wreaths to be used in their homes throughout the Advent season. It was a wonderful way to come together to share faith, fellowship and fun! A very special "Thank you" to Forge River Nursery for donating the greens that we used to make our Advent wreaths!



Family Advent Wreath Making



December 21, 2025



2025 SJE Christmas Tree Lighting

Thank you to everyone who joined us on December 4th for our annual SJE Christmas Tree Lighting! We gathered together on the lawn between the convent and the rectory for the annual Christmas tree-lighting! The night was frigid but thanks to Hampton Coffee, hot chocolate warmed us up so that we could enjoy an evening filled with creating family ornaments and hanging them on the tree, munching on all kinds of Christmas treats, joining in the blessing of the tree and counting down until the beautiful Christmas lights pierced the darkness...reminding us that Advent is the beautiful season during which we await the coming of the Christ Child...the Light of the World! Thanks to Deacon Ed for leading us in prayer and to Angela and the choir for leading us in song. It was one of the coldest nights of the year...and yet every heart was toasty warm. That's just what the joy of the Lord does! May these next two weeks of Advent hold many heartwarming moments for all of us!



A word of great gratitude to Hampton Coffee in Center Moriches for donating the DELICIOUS hot chocolate complete with whipped cream!

And of course a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all of the ladies in Family Life Ministry who worked tirelessly to make this eventshappen! They truly are THE BEST!

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 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.**

Comunidad Hispano...

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 PM los martes. Asegúrese de llamar antes de venir a visitarnos.

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!



Reduce your 2025 Taxes with a Charitable IRA Rollover!

Are you 70 1/2 or older with an IRA? Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) of up to \$108,000 in 2025 to your parish or other ministry.

Satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and keep more of your hard-earned retirement savings out of your taxable income.

A QCD allows an IRA owner (and an IRA beneficiary) aged 70.5 or older to make charitable donations directly through their IRAs. IRA funds are transferred directly from the IRA to a qualified charitable organization. Most importantly, the funds withdrawn and transferred from the traditional IRA are not taxable. Normally, when a withdrawal is made from a traditional IRA, the withdrawal is considered a taxable event.

The best way for you to start is with your IRA custodian. Tell them you want to make a "qualified charitable distribution". In most cases you will only have to fill out a simple form.

VERY IMPORTANT!! Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the Charity. If you receive the money first, then you'll be taxed on it like any other distribution. Beyond annual giving, an IRA Charitable Rollover can be a powerful tool for estate planning. Consider naming our organization as a beneficiary of your IRA, leaving a legacy of support that aligns with your values and lessening the tax burden on your heirs. For more information on Qualified Charitable Distributions, please call Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 ext. 257

This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 22nd, 2025

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

Tuesday, December 23rd, 2025

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

Wednesday, December 24th, 2025 **Parish Offices Closed**

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

Thursday, December 25th, 2025 **Parish Offices Closed**

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 3-4 PM Food Pantry Open - Ernie's Place
- 3:30-5:30 PM Legion of Mary- BMR
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
- 7:30 PM Al-Anon - BMR

Friday, December 26th, 2025 **Parish Offices Closed**

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
- 7 PM Narcotics Anonymous - BMR
- 7 PM Spanish Prayer Group - SC
- 7 PM Knights of Columbus - **NO BINGO Tonight**

Saturday, December 27th, 2025

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

Sunday, December 28th, 2025

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

BMR - Barn 1st Floor Mtg. Room
BUR - Barn Upper Room
SC - Seton Chapel
AMR - Auditorium Mtg. Room

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