

# St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



December 22, 2024

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

-Psalm 80





December 22, 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 28<sup>th</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 29<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM - Fr. Abin

10:00 AM - Fr. Jerry

12 noon - Msgr. Walden

6:00 PM - Fr. Abin

\*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 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

**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

[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.

### Confession Schedule

# *A message from our Pastor, Fr. Patrick...*

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*A Good Advent leads us to the  
Joy of Christmas*

**Every year Advent flies by.** This Advent season is no different. It is quickly coming to an end. In just a few short days, it will be Christmas again. The big question is: will we feel closer to Jesus when He comes again this Christmas in all of its festivity and solemnity? Will we feel excited, different and more connected to the Lord who is our joy and wonder? **In today's Gospel**, we see so much excitement and joy in Mary as she awaits the coming of the Savior. Do we feel the same way during this new Advent with Christmas just around the corner? Do we feel the joy and excitement in our hearts right now knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of all of our hopes and longings?

**You see, the purpose of Advent is to awaken our hearts and souls** and redirect our attention back to God. Advent draws us closer to the Lord through the scriptures and liturgies that this season has to offer. **Advent is a time to grow** in our awareness and appreciation of the presence of the Lord in our lives. It is a time for renewal and spiritual growth. Advent is a time to repent and to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. It is a time to change course. It is a time to turn our lives around so that when Jesus comes again this Christmas, He will be at the center of a new celebration and close to our hearts.

**The truth is we need Christmas because we need Christ.** Christmas day brought us Jesus. Our Lord's name is in the word Christmas itself. Christmas is all about the celebration of Jesus coming into our lives to fill us with new hope and joy. Christmas is all about the Nativity. It is prophecy being fulfilled. The Nativity points us to Jesus. Jesus is at the center of every Nativity scene. It reminds us that Jesus came on that first Holy Night, that First Christmas, to redeem the world and free us from captivity. Christmas gave humanity another chance to grow closer to God. Christmas gave humanity a new beginning; another opportunity to reconnect with God through our love and appreciation with the Lord.

**We do Christmas big because our faith in Jesus is big.** It is everything! Without Jesus, there is no Christmas celebration. The meaning and joy of Christmas would

not exist without Jesus. It is important for us to celebrate Christmas big because of Jesus' significant role in salvation history. We would still be a lost sheep without a shepherd if He did not come to us. **Because of Christmas day**, we have life eternal. We have everlasting life! Advent reminds us that the Lord is near and coming soon. Advent leads us to a new encounter with the Lord, if we take this time of preparation seriously. Advent prepares our hearts and minds to receive the one who can bring us new joy and wonder and knowledge in God's great promise for humanity, life everlasting. Because of Advent, we should be prepared for Christmas. We now have Christ! Every Advent leads us into a new Christmas celebration. It is never too late to open our hearts to the joy and wonder behind Christmas.

**Even though Christmas is right around the corner**, there is still time left for us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. There is still time to remove any obstacles that block our vision or access to a full and complete encounter with the Lord. **There are still a few more days of Advent** to prepare ourselves for this great encounter that Christmas offers with great festivity and mystery. What can we still do this Advent with three days left to prepare for the big day? We can ask ourselves have we been to confession recently? Or when was the last time I made a good confession? Or have I spent quality time alone with Jesus in prayer this Advent? Christmas invites us to reflect on the wonder and the joy that is found lying so peacefully in the manger. Christmas, if taken seriously, changes us. It changes our whole outlook on life with Jesus at the center of our lives. It leads us deeper into the mysteries of God's love and wonder for the world! Like Mary during that first Advent, let us get ready for the birth of Christ!





# Masses for the Week...

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

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

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

7:00 AM Emma Feldman  
 12:00 Noon Patricia Reiber

## Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> *Late Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM People of the Parish  
 4:00 PM *Vigil - Church & Aud* Christmas Novenas  
 6:00 PM *Vigil* Christmas Novenas  
 9:00 PM *Vigil, Spanish* Christmas Novenas  
 12:00 *Midnight* Christmas Novenas

## Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> *The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*

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

## Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> *Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*

7:00 AM Patrick Cartier  
 12:00 PM Jacob Geiger

## Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup> *Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*

7:00 AM Gilbert Curtin, Sr.  
 12:00 Noon Rachel Ann Motti

## Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup> *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

8:00 AM Lawrence Citarelli Sr.  
 5:00 PM Anthony Bocchiere  
 7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

## Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

8:00 AM Russell Hammond  
 10:00 AM Louis and Vivian Cordeiro  
 12:00 Noon Patricia and James Casey  
 6:00 PM Joe A. Chambel

### 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	\$877,607	50	\$17,940
2023	\$829,308	50	\$17,034

2024

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Revitalizing our Faith -  
Renewed by the Eucharist*



As of 12/15/2024	2024	2023
Parish Goal	\$115,100	\$115,100
Number of Donors	269	302
Total Pledged to date	\$115,381	\$102,353
Avg. Gift	\$429	\$339
Percent of Goal	100%	88.9%

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!



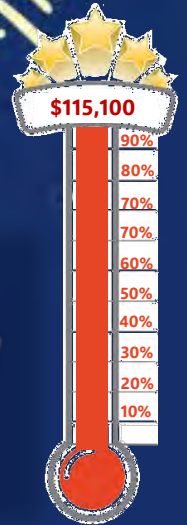
# St. John the Evangelist RCC 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal



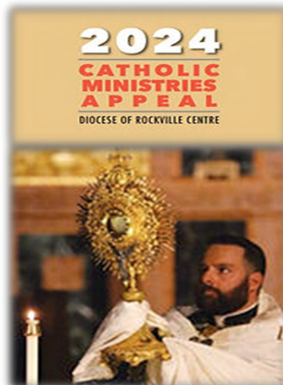
# Thank You!!

## \*WE'VE MET OUR GOAL\*

*Our parish receives \$24,000 in rebates since we reached  
100%! We have until January 31<sup>st</sup> to pay all pledges.  
Every new pledge now comes back to our parish!!*



*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.*





December 22, 2024

# Praying For and With One Another

## Remember

**Daniel Cacamis**

“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  
Beth Schupp + Sister Eileen Martin  
Theresa Rosenhal**

“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. Deshler II

### 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

### US Navy

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

### US Coast Guard

BM3 Brendan J. Bernath  
CPT Keith Donohue

### 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*

This week, the Sanctuary Lamp Candle will be lit in memory of:

*The deceased members of the Ciolino and Hammond Families*

## 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)



# 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



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 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.**

### *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, and from 4 - 4:45 PM,*

*7 - 7:15 PM (Spanish)*

#### ***Sundays***

*5:30 - 5:45 PM*



The background of the entire poster is a dark, atmospheric night sky with a warm, golden-brown glow from a low sun or moon. In the upper right, a bright, multi-pointed star shines prominently. Below the star, in the lower left, are the silhouettes of the Three Kings. One king is riding a donkey, while the other two are walking, one pointing towards the star. The horizon shows faint, rolling hills.

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

# *Christmas Lessons & Carols*

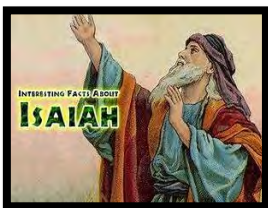
Sunday, December 22, 2024  
4 o'clock in the afternoon in the Church

# 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!





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 aspensorium (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!





SJE Family Life Ministry  
PRESENTS

# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

**MONDAY**

December 30th 4:15PM

Parish Auditorium

Doors open at 4:00PM



Come to our Family Life Ministry Movie & Pizza Night.

"The Star," a 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. A free family event designed to provide some family fun during the l-o-n-g Christmas vacation! Stay for pizza afterward!

Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy a fun evening at SJE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL [CLAPHAM@SJECM.ORG](mailto:CLAPHAM@SJECM.ORG)



# Faith Formation

Phone: 631-878-0009, ext. 5

Faith Formation Website: <https://sjecmff.blogspot.com/>

Email: [faithformation@sjecm.org](mailto:faithformation@sjecm.org) / [mpirraglia@sjecm.org](mailto:mpirraglia@sjecm.org)

Office Hours: By Appointment Only (Mon-Thu - BARN, Upstairs)

## *Merry Christmas!*

*Wishing all our families a blessed Christmas and happy & healthy New Year!*

### What We've Been up to...

- **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!:** Thank you to our catechists, priests, volunteers and parish staff who've helped serve the nearly 1,000 students in our Faith Formation program this past year! We are grateful for your flexibility and support! We're always looking for more volunteers to mentor our young people! If you are interested, please contact Michelle Pirraglia, director of Faith Formation, at 631-878-0009, ext. 123 or via email at [mpirraglia@sjecm.org](mailto:mpirraglia@sjecm.org).
- **REGISTRATION:** Our program begins when children enter 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. Registration for the 2025-26 Academic Year will run from June-August 2025 - check the bulletin for future info!
- **"FAMILY OF FAITH" (Grades 1-6)** Our next sessions are January 7 & 9 at 5 PM or 7 PM in the Church. This program for our students in Grades 1-6 is a family catechesis model, where parents and students attend on-campus sessions once a month, then work at home with their children. This includes children preparing for First Communion, which is a two-year process.
- **CONFIRMATION PREP (Grades 7 & Up):** Our next sessions are January 13 (Level 8) and January 14 (Level 7) at 7:15 PM in the Church. Using a youth ministry model, our Confirmation prep is a two-and-a-half year process, typically beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We confirm in the Fall of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We feature interactive, experiential learning and small group discussion.



# 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
- Pancake Mix
- Tomato Sauce
- Pancake Syrup
- Mac & Cheese
- Dry Red Beans
- Dry Black Beans
- Raman Noodles
- Shelf-stable Milk

## SJE Thrift Shop

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. Monday and Tuesday mornings are the best times to donate while the volunteers are present.

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 Paparatto 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
- ♦ 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





We had a wonderful day of giving to 59 families in need for Christmas! It was cold but sunny and the day started early with members of the Five Star National baseball team helping to stuff 120 bags of food, organized by the amazing team of volunteers at Ernie's Place food pantry. Moms on the Journey from Family Life Ministry gave out coats, turkeys and loaves of bread, and parishioners volunteered to hand out the bags of food containing a complete family meal ending with Christmas cookies and apple pie! We are so blessed and thankful for all our extremely generous parishioners whose donations enabled us to serve those in need in our community. Thank you all very much! Merry Christmas from SJE Parish Social Ministry!

***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!***



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**



## A Message from Msgr. Walden...



Jesus is coming! Jesus is here! What does that mean to me? Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Matthew 11:28-30) Rest is one of the last things we seek to do as we prepare to celebrate Christmas with our family and friends and even God Himself. The question we ponder to truly celebrate Christmas and all that it means is, "Where is Jesus in my life?" There is no doubt about where we are in His life: "She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7) Jesus did not come with public fanfare or even decent accommodations (there was no room for them at the inn). But He came joyfully and humbly anyway: "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." What do I want Him to save me from? What do I want Him to save me for? He saves me from life without the love of God and saves me for life with God in this world and forever in the life to come.

Looking at our world we can think at times most people are living as if God does not exist. In a meditation book by Pope Benedict XVI I am using everyday, there is this thought from him: "In practice, even for one for whom the existence of God, the world of faith has grown dim, should live today as if God really exists." To be happily married, you cannot live as if your husband or wife doesn't exist. If we live as if God does not exist, we put ourselves in the position where it is every man for himself and every woman for herself. Life is not peaceful and secure where we feel it is every person for himself or herself. If God is part of

me then I have a clear vision of the way life could and should be. No one had that vision more clearly than Jesus as He walked the face of the earth. That vision became a reality for us because Mary and Joseph put their hopes and vision for life together aside and listened to God's voice from an angel. Mary listened to the angel Gabriel and Joseph listened to the voice of the angel in a dream and took Mary as wife (Matthew 1:20-23). Was their life easy? Certainly not. But they had the inner peace that only comes that true faith in God brings.

The more we live believing that God exists, the stronger our faith, the more powerful and life giving our love and mercy, and the clearer our hope for a full life not matter how long or short it is, no matter how many challenges or obstacles we face. Christmas is not a fairy tale to help us rise above the distraction, trials, and troubles of life. Christmas is the gift of God Himself in all His being that will bring us peace and purpose in this life and peace and joy with Him forever in heaven. Merry Christmas!!!

### 1 John 1:1-3

*This is what we proclaim to you:  
what was from the beginning,  
what we have heard,  
what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we looked upon  
and our hands have touched -  
we speak of the word of life.  
(This life became visible;  
we have seen it and bear witness to it  
and proclaim to you the eternal life  
that was with the Father  
and became visible to us.)  
What we have seen and heard  
we proclaim in turn to you  
so that you may share life with us.  
This fellowship of ours is with the Father  
and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

A graphic featuring three overlapping bingo cards in green, orange, and red. In front of the cards are five bingo balls with numbers 15, 25, 45, 37, and 17. The word "BINGO" is written in large, bold, yellow letters at the bottom.

**No Bingo on Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

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](http://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.

A graphic for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It features a golden monstrance on the left. The text is in a mix of script and serif fonts.

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

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

*There will be **no** Adoration  
December 24th through January 1st  
Adoration will resume,  
Thursday January 2, 2025 at 3:00 PM*

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.





*Our Lady Queen of Apostles  
Regional Catholic School*

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



**OPEN HOUSE**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26  
| 11AM-1PM |**

**FOR MORE INFO CALL 631-878-1033 OR SCAN THE QR CODE**

**OLQANY.ORG**





## 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:** 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.*





# 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 23<sup>rd</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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Parish Officed Closed)

- 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Parish Officed 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

Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Parish Officed Closed)

- 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Parish Officed Closed)

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
- 7:30 PM **No Bingo Tonight** Knights of Columbus
- 7 PM Narcotics Anonymous - BMR
- 7 PM Spanish Prayer Group - SC

Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

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