

St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



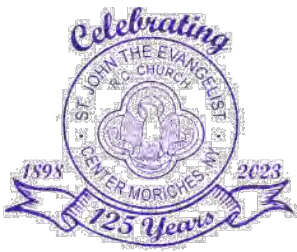
In Loving Memory
John & Joseph Grammas
William Heblich
Theresa & Anthony Esposito
The Sita Family
Marie & Frank DePaulo
Deceased Members of
Harrington & Dyer
Special donations in honor of Tony J. Michalek
The entire staff are built and donated by...

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“God strengthens the Gentiles in their understanding of the Gospel”

Romans 16:25-27



December 24, 2023

25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York, 11934-3968
631-878-0009 | rectory@sjecm.org

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
Michelle Pirraglia
Director of Faith Formation
Katie Spellman
Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

Katie Waller
Director of Operations

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

Dawn Waller
Principal
dwaller@olqany.org (ext. 201)

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.

OLQA

Office Hours

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 30th

5:00 PM - Msgr. Walden
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 31st

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

Monday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
8:00 AM ~ 10:00 AM ~ 12 noon

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

Mass Schedule

Confession Schedule

We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday - Friday: After the 7 AM & 12 Noon Masses
Saturday: After the 8 AM Mass
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 PM &
7:00 - 7:15 PM (Spanish)
Sunday: 5:30 - 5:45 PM
Confessions will take place in
Our Lady’s Chapel in the Church.

December 24, 2023



St. John the Evangelist R.C Church

25 Ocean Ave
Center Moriches, New York 11934
631-878-0009

“God comforts and abides with us in love, seeking out those who are lost or who have gone astray.”

Christmas 2023

Dear Parishioners;

Around this time of the year, I often think of how popular the Inn that turned away Mary and Joseph on the eve of the Messiah’s birth would be today if the owner of the Inn accepted Mary and Joseph as their guests. The number of pilgrimages to this Inn over the last 2000-plus years would have been enormous just like those that have occurred in Bethlehem at that historic cave where Jesus was born.

Advent is a time for us to renew our hope and trust in the Lord. It is a time to open our hearts, the Inn of our hearts, to Jesus Christ. Advent is a time for spiritual growth; a time to grow in our relationship with the Lord. It is a time for us to open wide our hearts to welcome the One who brings us joy and glad tidings. It is a time to increase our faith and to receive Jesus with great joy and anticipation in His second coming. Hopefully, we are now ready to welcome Jesus again into our lives.

Too often, we are preoccupied or concerned with worldly figures, assets, and agendas and we forget about the presence of the Lord in our lives. We often forget how Jesus longs to be with us each day and how He comes to fill us with His peace and love; how He comes into our lives to reassure us and strengthen us in our faith. But, because our hearts are set elsewhere, we fail to welcome Him into our midst. Our hearts are closed and filled with so many worldly allurements that we have no room in the Inn of our hearts for Jesus.

Let us not make the same mistake that the Innkeepers made over 2000 years ago. If we do, Christmas will come and go, and we will not feel any closer to the Lord. Let us learn from their missed opportunity and not take this new season of Christmas for granted. This is a wonderful time of the year for us to prepare our hearts once again for the coming of the Lord. He will come among us in spirit, wonder and truth. He will come again without delay on December 25th. The question is, will the Inn of our hearts be ready to welcome Jesus with great joy, wonder and the appreciation of His complete love for humanity?

This year, as in the past, we will offer several Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The schedule for this year for Christmas Eve will be a 4 PM Mass in the Church and a 4 PM overflow Mass in the auditorium. We will also have a 6 PM evening Mass; a 9:30 PM evening Mass in Spanish; and a Midnight Mass in the Church. On Christmas Day, we will celebrate Mass at 8 AM, 10 AM, and 12 Noon in the Church. The music and the environment will be festive and beautiful. We hope to see you this Christmas!

Moreover, I ask that you please join me in supporting our Annual Christmas Appeal. We really rely on your generosity to continue the mission of the Church here at St. John the Evangelist. We as a parish provide many ministries in service to our community including the food pantry and Street Ministry. We also rely on your continued generosity so we can properly maintain our church and other facilities on our parish campus. I kindly ask, if your means allow, that you will be as generous as you can with our Christmas collection.

I hope and pray that this Christmas celebration will be more joyful and meaningful for you than ever before. May God bless you and your families. Have a blessed Christmas!

Sincerely,

Rev. Patrick M. Riegger
Pastor



Christmas 2023 - We Share QR Code



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 Letter from Our Bishop



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2023

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In recent years at Christmas, I have meditated on the relationship between the Nativity of the Prince of Peace and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

I have been especially inspired by Pope Francis' analysis of the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the second chapter of his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. It is powerful and provocative, and I would recommend it for your mental prayer.

The short phrase in the Christmas Gospel narrative in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke reads: "She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

"No room for them in the inn." No Good Samaritan stepped up to help the Holy Family. They were ignored and treated perfunctorily and impatiently. Some passed them by. Some pretended not to notice their plight.

Remember too that in the Parable of the Good Samaritan an "inn" is also mentioned. Luke 10 reads: "But a Good Samaritan while traveling came near him, and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

The inn that the Holy Family approaches on the way to Bethlehem is a sign of rejection and indifference.

The inn in the Parable of the Good Samaritan is a sign of the Good Samaritan's compassion and commitment to go the extra mile and to make sure that the wounded man is taken care of until he is completely healed.

Contemporary literary criticism might very well emphasize that the use of "inn" by the Gospel writer in both the Nativity in Luke 2 and the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 is not by accident.

Christmas Letter from Our Bishop

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

In a sense, the phrase "there was no room at the inn" in the Nativity foreshadows and connects with the phrase in the Parable of the Good Samaritan describing the callous indifference of both the priest and the Levite toward the wounded man on the side of the road: "[H]e passed by on the other side."

As Pope Francis says in *Fratelli Tutti*: "Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders."¹

Our Lady, St. Joseph and the unborn Christ Child experienced the reality of people who decided to be indifferent bystanders.

The Christmas Gospel narrative from Luke 2 poses a question which is posed again later in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10.

Will we be Good Samaritans?

Or will we be indifferent bystanders?

As the Holy Father reminds us, we make that choice every day.

May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Nativity Mystery. May the Good Samaritan Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness and peace unite us in solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and all war-ravaged areas of the world.

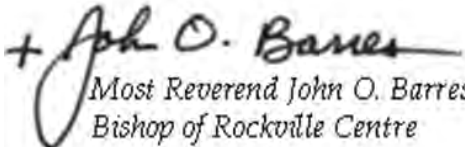
May our commitment to "holiness and mission" bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and Love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic Missionary Spirit on this Christmas night and throughout the New Year.



Sincerely in Christ,


+ *John O. Barres*
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ Francis, encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, October 4, 2020: *AAS* 112 (11) 969-1074, at no. 70.

Preparing for the Week

Saturday, December 23rd Late Advent Week

5:00 PM Katy Dyer
7:30 PM Spanish People of the Parish

Sunday, December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Charles and Margaret Peters
10:00 AM Rosemary Curtin
12:00 Noon Christmas Novenas
Sunday, December 24th The Nativity of Our Lord - Vigil Masses

4:00 PM (Church and Auditorium) Christmas Novenas
6:00 PM Christmas Novenas
9:30 PM Spanish Christmas Novenas
12:00 AM Midnight Christmas Novenas

Monday, December 25th The Nativity of the Lord

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

Tuesday, December 26th Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

7:00 AM William Winkelman
12 Noon Anne Mintel

Wednesday, December 27th Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

7:00 AM Brayden Alias
12:00 Noon Santo and Natalia Giampaolo

Thursday, December 28th The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:00 AM Thomas Tebbens Sr.
12 :00Noon Thomas Blomberg

Friday, December 29th Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 AM Louis Cordeiro
12:00 Noon Russell Hammond

Saturday, December 30th Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM Joe A. Chambel
5:00 PM Harry Conn
7:30 PM Spanish People of the Parish

Sunday, December 31st The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 AM Anne Mintel
10:00 AM Thomas Tebbens Sr.
12:00 Noon Katy Dyer
6:00 PM Jerome O'Brien



CHRISTMAS NOVENA 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 boxes at the church.

PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2023 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2023	\$864,684	50	\$17,294
2022	\$751,402	50	\$15,335

2023
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL
OFFICE OF FIDELITY CENTER

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



	2023	2022
Parish Goal	\$115,100.00	\$115,100.00
Number of Donors	303	298
Total Pledged to date	\$111,678	\$115,373
Avg. Gift	\$369	\$387
Percent of Goal	97%	100%

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!

From the Desk of Msgr. Walden



One of the joyful experiences I have at this time of the year as I encounter children in school and in our church is asking them if they are going to get presents for their family for Christmas. Usually they say yes, and then I ask them what is the best gift they can give. I let them think about that for a few seconds and then point out them and say: "YOU are the best gift!" Their faces light up when they hear that. Christmas is about gifts and ultimately about the gift of God Himself in the

Christ child. Like all of us He came into our world just as we do - as a precious child bringing joy and wonder to His parents. How amazing that the God of all creation was so humble in His love for us to come as a defenseless child who changed not only the lives of Mary and Joseph but of countless people since then, and thankfully we are included. There was no room in the inn for His birth, which shows the purity of the power of His loving presence.

With all the acronyms and abbreviations we use when we text one another, I take the word GIFT and use it as an acronym to remind us that God Is Forever There or God Is Forever Thine. The Christmas decorations we use to brighten our homes at this time of the year point beyond themselves to an almost unbelievable reality - in Jesus, God has come into our world with His creative, redemptive, and unconditional love to bring us into His life and into unity with one another. Not only do we have the gift of God Himself in Jesus, we are invited to be fully a part of His life. What a gift we are given when He says, stretching out his hand toward his disciples, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother to me." (Matthew 12:49-50) What is the will of the Father? To do what Jesus said and did, "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Matthew 13:34-35)

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and contemplate His presence in the manger in the stable in Bethlehem, may we all recognize the gift we are to God, and through Him the gift we are to one another.

Luke 2:15-20: "When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them."

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

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
\$3,422 TO GO!
Almost there!!!



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.



Fr. Louis Cona

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.



Deacon Michael Hoonhout

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.

Praying For and With One Another

Remember

Trudy Barbara Minicozzi John Murphy
 Joseph Maldonaldo Thomas Russo
 Josephine Clark Lynn Gail Drysdale

"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.

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
 2nd LT Christopher Walther

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.

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

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

This Week, the Altar Candles will be lit:

In Memory of Michael Stachnik

This Week, the Blessed Mother Candle will be lit:

In Memory of Anne & Frank Lomaga

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

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.



Getty Images/Kara Gebhardt

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 | Rom 16:25-27 | Lk 1:26-38

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” The angel Gabriel announces this in the Gospel today, and it is a phrase with which we are all familiar thanks to our recitation of the Hail Mary prayer. Although some may be comforted by such a message and its angelic messenger, it is troubling to Mary because the angel goes on to tell her she will conceive and bear the Son of God. Thinking practically, Mary is being told the impossible will happen - who wouldn't be troubled? And yet Mary offers herself: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Despite her fear and trepidation, Mary went on to answer God's call and do his will. Our Blessed Mother became a great example of fortitude at that moment, as she exemplified what it means to step outside of our own uncertainty and trust God completely. Although doing God's will can be difficult at times, St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans that we can ask God for the strength to say “yes” in spite of our fears.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Up until today, December has probably been a whirlwind. Trees and lights, ornaments, parties and presents - all these things help to kick off “the most wonderful time of year” beginning soon after Thanksgiving. Come Dec. 26, however, for many, the decorations become a nuisance and Christmas trees are out on the curb for pickup. Thank goodness for our Catholic faith because for us, Christmas is just beginning! Mary didn't say “may it be done to me” only to forget about it the next day. No, in the coming months, the Blessed Mother nurtured the baby Jesus in her womb, anticipating the arrival of her firstborn and the Son of God. And on that blessed Christmas night, her work as the Mother of God was only just beginning. So, as we anticipate the arrival of the Christ Child, we are joyful that *our* Christmas season continues until we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on January 8. Let us use this time to draw closer to God and make every effort in the new year to do his will.

SING *Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*



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.**

Family Ministry



Merry Christmas from the Office of Family Ministry. May the wonder and awe of that very first Christmas thrust all of us into the New Year with peace and hope!

Have a beautiful, holy Christmas. Cherish the gift of family and friends and our amazing parish. Kneel in gratitude before the Nativity and thank God for sending us a Savior. And as we welcome the new calendar year, may we surrender our hearts more readily, reach out to those in need more willingly, find joy in the simple things, and love more tenderly whenever and wherever we can.

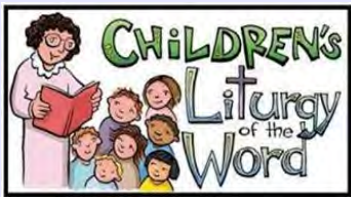
May all God's finest blessings be yours.

The Office of Family Ministry at St. John's focuses on engaging parish families in fun activities, service projects and prayerful experiences. With the purpose of deepening faith, strengthening good Catholic family practices and building our parish family, our office works in conjunction with Faith Formation and Parish Social Ministry to meet the varied needs of our parish families. If you need ANYTHING, please contact us at 631-878-0009 ext. 124 or email clapham@sjecm.org. We are always in need of volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering or if you would like additional information please contact us! Here are some of our ministries!

Moms on the Journey



Our **Moms' Group** is going strong! We meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm in the upper meeting room of the Barn. A casual, fun-filled, Spirit lead group, "Moms on the Journey" provides an opportunity for busy mothers to be pampered...to grow in their faith... and to share the joys and challenges of Christian motherhood with other moms. This ministry has been a true blessing for all those who come. Every mom can use a little TLC right? If you can use some too, please consider joining this amazing group of Moms on the Journey! Our next monthly gathering will be Wednesday, January 24, 2024. Bring a friend and come on down. Hope to see you on the 24th! Email Clapham@sjecm.org for more information and/or to get on our email list.



Our **Children's Liturgy of the Word** program meets during the 10:00 Mass every Sunday. Our young parishioners leave Mass after the Collect (Opening Prayer) and return in time for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. While at CLTW, the children enjoy the readings, responsorial psalm and gospel presented in language that is easy for them to understand. An interactive homily and prayer of the faithful allow the children to participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Word. All children ages 4 and up are welcome. No registration is necessary...just come to the 10:00 Mass and have your children join the group when the priest invites the children to come up. For more information or to volunteer for this joy-filled ministry, email clapham@sjecm.org.

Family Life Ministry

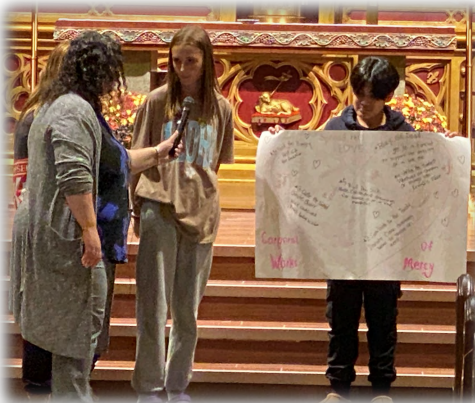
Our **Family Life Ministry** provides varied opportunities for families of all ages to come together to pray, to serve others and to share in some good clean family fun. We are in need of additional volunteers to help our ministry grow so please consider coming on board. We meet every month on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm in the upper meeting room of the barn. We pray, brainstorm, share ideas and plan family activities, events and service projects. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024. All are welcome!

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.
- **REGISTRATION:** Our program begins when children enter 1st Grade. Registration for the 2024-25 Academic Year will run from June-August 2024—check the bulletin for future info!
- **“FAMILY OF FAITH” (Grades 1-6)** Our next sessions are January 9 & 11 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 22 (Level 7) and January 23 (Level 8) @ 7:15PM in the Church. Using a youth ministry model, our Confirmation prep is a two-and-a-half year process, typically beginning in 7th grade. We confirm in the Fall of 9th grade. We feature interactive, experiential learning and small group discussion.





Our Lady
Queen of Apostles
Regional Catholic School



"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..." Isaiah 9:1

Wishing You A

Merry

Christmas

Open House:

JAN 28 | SUNDAY | 11AM-1PM

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



OLQANY.ORG

Parish Social Ministry



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



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

Knights of Columbus Queen of All Hearts Council #4126

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!

worldwide
**marriage
encounter**

Give the greatest CHRISTMAS gift
YOURSELF!!!

Are you ready for more growth and happiness in your marriage or priesthood?

Uncover the secrets to a lasting, supportive, transformational marriage!

This experience will help you listen, share and connect more deeply with your spouse

Apply at:
www.WWME.org
click apply and search by zip code or address

Make this Christmas even more special
Give the gift of a weekend away to focus on your relationship

February 9-11

Held at the
Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
Huntington, Long Island

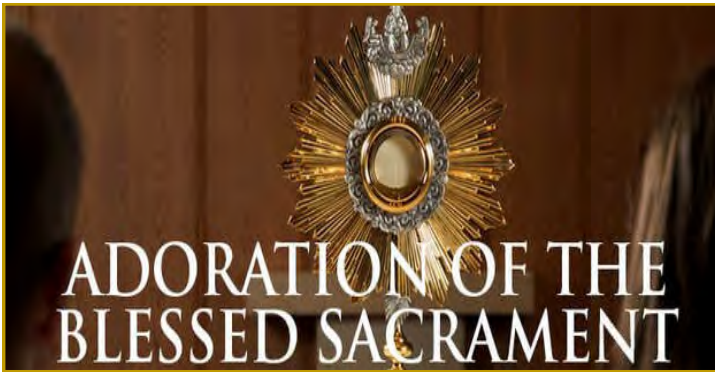
Questions?
call
Kevin & Regina Hickson
(516) 554-3835
Long Island
Application Couple

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.



The daily Adoration or visit to the Blessed Sacrament is the practice, which is the fountainhead of all devotional works.

(Saint Pope Pius X)

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 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.

HOLY HOURS

FOR VOCATIONS | 2023-2024 DATES

~~9.15~~ // ~~10.20~~ // ~~12.15~~ // 1.19 // 2.23 // 3.15 // 4.19

SPONSORED BY DRVCVOCATIONS.COM

DOORS OPEN 7 PM, BEGINS 7:30 PM | AT THE SEMINARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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 to:

westernvicariate@drvc.org

or call Suzanne at 516-744-6850.



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

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. ¡Avisanos 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 or clicking here: <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>

REMINDERS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

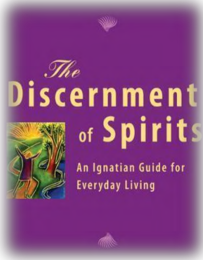
All SJE employees and volunteers **must** wear their SJE badge while serving in ministry. Please also check your email regularly to complete monthly updates. (Be sure to check your "spam" or "Junk" folder.)

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.

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: January 8, 22, February 5, 26*,
March 4, 18, April 8*, 15, 29,
May 13, 20*, June 24 (summer break).

*Dates with * are makeup 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.

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

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 25th, 2023 **Parish Offices Closed**

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 26th, 2023 **Parish Offices 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 - Front Mtg Rm - Auditorium

Wednesday, December 27th, 2023 **Parish Offices Closed**

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 28th 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 29th, 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 30th, 2023

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

9 AM Men's Prayer Group - SC

10:30 AM Bereavement Group - BMR

Sunday, December 31st, 2023 **Parish Offices Closed**

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

BMR - Barn 1st Floor Mtg. Room

BUR - Barn Upper Room

SC - Seton Chapel