

St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



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



**Christ's Light
Shines Here**



Christmas 2021/Feast of the Holy Family

December 25/26, 2021

“...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...”

—John 1:5

Loving our Neighbor

Thank you for your incredible generosity and support of our parish social ministry outreach! What a gift to our parish! This year, we have been able to support over 170 families in an effort to make their Christmas a little merrier and brighter. This would never happen without your support. Here are some pictures scenes from our distribution day last week! For more information about getting involved in parish social ministry, contact Katie Spellman at 631.878.0009 or e-mail to kspellman@sjecm.org.



Christmas
Mass Schedule

Feast of the Holy Family
Sunday, December 26, 2021
8 a.m. + 10 a.m. + 12 Noon + 6 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary - New Year's Day
Friday, December 31st - 5 p.m. + 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Saturday, January 1st - 8 a.m. + 12 Noon



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Night and Light

SCORE ONE FOR THE SHEPHERDS!

Dear Parish Family:



Merry Christmas! A word of great welcome for those who may be returning to church today, particularly after time away due the impact of COVID-19. You are most welcome here!

As I write this letter, we are just wrapping up the school Christmas Pageant. Each year, the school pageant at the Catholic School in Center Moriches brings great excitement and energy as our 8th graders take the lead in telling part of the story of Christmas. They're assisted by the other students in the Mission (our middle school academy) and some of the younger students as well...and even some other live guests as well.

Depending on the Mass you attend, as you listen to the Gospel, the shepherds play a big role in the Gospel of Luke. There is some discussion about the role of the shepherds. Some say they would have been in the "lower classes" of the time and looked down upon. Others say the role of shepherd was always significant for the Jewish people in the Old Testament (think David, the psalms and others). I sort of find both descriptions encouraging. God works through those unlikely characters to tell great messages. He relies on those who seek to care for others. Doesn't this sound a little like you and me? Maybe Christmas is a good time to remember our role?

At various times and moments have we become maybe a little too self-possessed, maybe a little too dependent on the things of this world? Many of our divisions and disagreements (pick your place: world, country, church, family, community, etc.) either come from a place or can lead us to a place of arrogance and self-righteousness. We can find ourselves filled with judgment, condemnation, and disdain for another with whom we disagree or struggle. This is not shepherd-like behavior! We're called to compassion, a compassion that inspires to reach out to the lost. We are never to give up or write off.

Then, listen to what the shepherds do! They are the ones greeted **at night** by the angels while guarding their flocks. They **encounter angels**. They **go to Jesus, Mary and Joseph** and tell them all they were told about Jesus! (See Luke 2:8-20). Doesn't this sound like our mission? Perhaps Christmas is a good reminder of this, too!

Here's how it might work. In the darker moments of our lives, we can so easily feel lost or tempted to fall into despair. Yet for so many in the spiritual life the darkness is where the Light of Christ shines brightest! We know those times of darkness. We might be in the midst of one of them right now. Don't despair...look around!

This leads to the second step. Pay attention to the angels! They may not appear with wings and halos like they did in the pageant. They are there, though. They might be a kind gesture of a friend or stranger. It might be a feeling of reassurance and peace in the midst of a struggle. It might be that you walked through the door and entered the church for the first time in a while. The shepherds saw the signs of the angels and were able to take the next steps. So can you and I! (This bulletin is filled with many opportunities for each of us to take the next steps here at SJE!)

Finally, they go to Jesus! This, too, is our work. With everyone that we face in this life—good and bad, successes and struggles, fears and worries, victories and vices—we are called to bring it to Jesus. We do this through our prayer at Mass, our private prayer, our time for supportive conversation and counsel, our moments of outreach to others, and more. We find Jesus in all of these places. He's waiting for us like he was for the shepherds. What are we waiting for? Like the shepherds, let's move in haste!

Let's go!

If you can, please say a prayer for me.



Featherman

*Merry Christmas from all of us at
Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic
School*



*"And the Word became flesh, and
made His dwelling among us, and we
saw His glory, the glory of the
Father's only son, full of grace and
truth"*

John 1:14



**Open House
Sunday, January 30, 2022
10 A.M. - 12 P.M.**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Call to schedule your tour 631-878-1033

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church

St. John's is looking for committed and dedicated individuals to join an exciting and faith-filled team committed to caring for the parish and the people we are called to serve.

- **Afternoon/Evening Receptionist/Bulletin Editor:** The ideal candidate for this job is comfortable speaking with people both in person and on the phone; being the "first contact" with those who visit or contact our parish. Position also includes light clerical duties. Additionally, this position requires the use of graphic design skills to assist with publishing the weekly bulletin and weekly email communications. Microsoft Publisher experience preferred but not required. Approximately 20 hours per week (3-8 p.m. Monday – Thursday) with room for growth.
- **Part Time Maintenance Staff:** Working with the Pastor and Director of Operations, the candidate for this job will coordinate the tasks needed to maintain and enhance our buildings and grounds—inside and out! This position requires the ability to work well with others, take initiative and good organizational skills. A preferred candidate will have some prior experience- formal or informal – in limited construction. More specific details provided upon application. Approximately 20-25 hours per week. This is a great role for someone looking for part time work and flexibility with hours.
- **Maintenance Assistant:** This role will support the part time maintenance staff on projects and tasks related to the maintenance of parish buildings and grounds. He/she is able to take direction, follow through, and complete tasks and assignments. Hours flexible. Might be an ideal position for a local college student and/or someone recently retired.
- **Sacristan:** The person in this role will join a team to assist with Sunday and holy day liturgies throughout the year. He/she must be attentive to detail, organized, and have the ability to manage small maintenance tasks while working, including distribution of donations, set up and take down of events, and assuring the cleanliness of the worship spaces. Hours will vary based liturgical time of the year.

For more information about these positions, contact Mrs. Katie Waller and Fr. John at kwaller@sjecm.org and jsureau@sjecm.org or call the Rectory at 631.878.0009. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Come and join us! Get involved! Be a greater part of SJE!

St. Zita Society

CHURCH CLEANING CREW!

St. John's parish is so fortunate to have a beautiful church in which to worship. The cleaning crew, totaling seven women, meets once a week, usually Thursdays, after 12 p.m. Mass. We are



honored to assist in keeping the entire church shining and bright. Our focus is washing windows, dry mopping floors, dusting pews, vacuuming the entry areas and the church floors, and now and then eliminating wayward Cheerios or Froot Loops :)!

If anyone cares to join our group, feel free to call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or email to rectory@sjecm.org or stop by the church and speak with us. The only requirement is having Virtus clearance which can assist you in obtaining.

St. Genesis Guild

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in working in an office environment? Meeting and helping your fellow parishioners? Then the St. Genesis Guild would be a great fit! We could really use your help! We are a volunteer ministry where we help out with office work in the rectory. No experience is necessary. We provide all training. We help out at the rectory Monday-Thursday from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., and on Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., in two shifts. Due to the pandemic, at present, we are only working on Saturdays. Some of our duties are to answer the rectory phone, direct callers to the proper ministries, assist the priests with appointments, help with mass cards, print funeral booklets, general office work, etc. Please e-mail Rosanne Giese in care of rectory@sjecm.org for more information. Please reference St. Genesis Guild in the subject line.



FAITH FORMATION

Phone: 631-878-0009, ext. 5 + Website: sjecm.org + Facebook: StJohn FaithFormation
Email: faithformation@sjecm.org / mpirraglia@sjecm.org
Office Hours: By Appointment (Mon-Thurs.) - BARN

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

The Faith Formation Office will be closed for Christmas break beginning Thursday, December 23. We will reopen Monday, January 3.

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 1,200 students in our Faith Formation program this past year! From going virtual to shifting back in-person, 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 or via email at mpirraglia@sjecm.org.
- **REGISTRATION:** Our program begins when children enter 1st Grade. Registration for the 2022-23 Academic Year will run from June-August 2022—check the bulletin for future info!
- **"FAMILY OF FAITH" (Grades 1-6)** 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):** 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.



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SJE

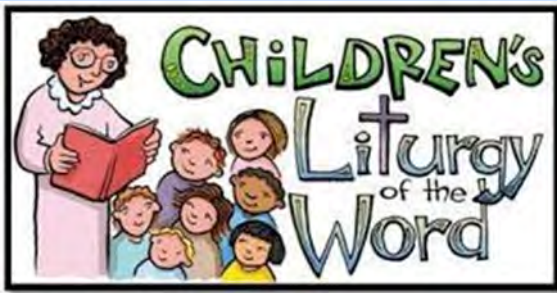
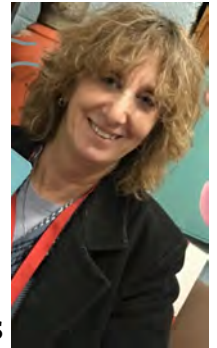
Office of Family Ministry



The Office of Family Ministry supports families of any shape and size and age who are on the journey of faith (or would like to be!). From supporting formal Faith Formation, to connecting families to various resources, to informal chats about faith, to providing fun, faith-based family activities our ministry is here for YOU! Together we try to tackle the obstacles that make living our Catholic faith a challenge in 2021. Call or email if you want to chat...to ask questions...to make suggestions...to share ideas...to get involved or simply to be heard, understood and encouraged. We are here for you!

Clapham@sjecm.org or call 631-878-0009 x 124.

-Carolyn Lapham, Coordinator of Family Ministries



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children's Liturgy of the Word is a wonderful opportunity for children to hear the Sunday scripture readings proclaimed in words that they are better able to understand. With an interactive homily the children come to a better understanding of God's messages of love and hope. Utilizing a

reduced pace and a visual display, the children come to learn the prayers and mass responses that are part of the Liturgy of the Word. Bringing together faith, friends and fun, this experience enriches our young people's participation in liturgy and helps to create a firm foundation on which to continue building active participation as middle school and high school Catholics. Children's Liturgy of the Word meets on Sundays during the 10:00 Mass. Parents remain in the church while children in grades K-5 retreat to their own special place of prayer in the school auditorium. Children return for the Liturgy of the Eucharist and rejoin their families. We would love to have you join us! If you're interested in finding out more about this ministry please contact us at CLTW@SJECDM.org

Do you know how to send a text message? Can you cross a street safely?

Are you a good reader? Do you enjoy being with children?

If you answered YES to one or more of these questions then you've got what it takes to join **Children's Liturgy of the Word**.

If you want to marvel at the insight of our parish children and have a whole lot of fun in the process, this joyful ministry might be a good fit for you!

If you're interested in finding out more about this ministry please contact us at CLTW@SJECDM.org. or complete the form below and drop it in the basket as you exit the church.

Name: _____

Cell phone #: _____

Email address: _____

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

IF YOU ARE IN NEED, PLEASE REACH OUT

If we are unable to assist you directly, we will be more than happy to connect you to resources that can help.

During these days, please call to make an appointment. Our staff is here to serve you but not on campus at all times.

Please call 631-878-0009 ext. 120 to make an appointment.

Ernie's Place (Food Pantry) -Monday 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Thursdays 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thrift Shop - Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

CONTACT PSM MINISTERS
PHONE # 631.878.0009
+ RECTORY @SJECM.ORG

Katie Spellman + *Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry*
Christian Diconsiglio *Case Manger*

Sister Ann Berendes+*Director of Senior Ministry*

Ernie's Place—Food Pantry Ministry
Ministry of Consolation: Eve O'Brien

Communion to the Homebound: Kevin Both

Respect Life Group: Maria Sikora

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Street Ministry— serving the homeless in our area each week

Donations Needed: **MEN'S UNDERWEAR (36-38 & 40-42 & 44-48) + Adult sweatshirts (L & XL) + Women's Leggings and sweatpants (M & L) + Men's Sweatpants (M & L—waist sizes 36+), + Men's Winter Socks** You can put them in a bag-just remember to label it street ministry- and drop off in the green bins. Thank you!

Ernie's Place Food Pantry— serving those in need on Mon. and Thurs.

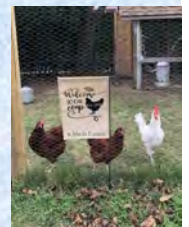


We are looking for men and women age 18 and above to assist on Monday evenings and/or Thursday afternoons. While limited in the number of volunteers we can have in the pantry at one time, we would like have more available volunteers. If you're interested or would like some more information, please call the Parish Office or email to rectory@sjecm.org.

Donations Needed: **Small Bags of Rice + Small Ketchup + Small Vegetable Oil + Boxed Pasta + Mayo + Bags of Red Beans or Black Beans**

Chicken Ministry— taking care of God's creatures to provide for the poor!

Chicken Tenders Wanted— We are looking for volunteers to help care for the chickens and their coop. Morning shift is before 8:00 am and evening shift is at dusk. Please contact Lynn and Mike Walsh for details at rectory@sjecm.org *Note: We are not taking any more egg crates.*



Thrift Shop— provide garments, gems and great items for the local community.



Donations may only be left **in the green bins**. Anything left outside is discarded. *Donations for all parish social ministries may be left in Fellowship Area of the Church or Rectory.*

LITURGICAL PRACTICES, GOOD HEALTH AND COMMON SENSE

As we come to celebrate Mass together each week during these winter days, it's a good time to review some common-sense liturgical practices and issues, to help everyone stay healthy and to care for one another.

- **MASKS ARE NOW REQUIRED IN ALL BUILDINGS, INCLUDING THE CHURCH.** I have requested this over the past few weeks and it is now mandatory. This week, we were advised by the Diocese of Rockville Centre that as we do not check for vaccination status, all who enter the church building and other buildings must wear a mask.

As I wrote last week, I respect and honor that there are many opinions about this. I do not wish to get into any debates or stoke anyone's ire. For me, particularly, I hear more of our parishioners becoming more anxious about the risk of sickness to themselves and others, I believe it offers another layer of protection and another layer of care and concern for the other. If it is going to even offer the tiniest amount of protection or comfort for another, is there a reason I would not do it? (I do understand there are medical reasons that some cannot wear a mask. If this is the case, please do your best to keep a safe social distance from others.)

Thank you for wearing a mask at Sunday Mass and at other parish liturgies and events.

- **Not feeling great, STAY HOME!** Please do not take any chances for your sake or anyone else's! Join us via social media or watch Mass on the Catholic Faith Network. The risks are too great for you and for others in these days. There is no obligation to attend Mass if you are not well; it is not a sin to miss Mass for this reason. (Also, there is no need to go to Confession if you miss Mass because you are sick.)
- **Entering the Church:** You must enter through the main fellowship doors with your mask on. Please sanitize your hands, take a worship aid and enter the church. Remember, you may leave your gifts for the offertory as you enter and as you leave.
- **Holy Communion:** Priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion wash and sanitize their hands before Mass begins and immediately before distribution of Holy Communion. When Extraordinary Ministers go to their station, they place the vessel on the small table near that station and sanitize their hands before distributing Holy Communion.
- **Communion from the Chalice:** The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended at this time.
- **Greeting of Peace:** The greeting of peace has been reinstated. You do NOT need to shake hands to exchange the sign of peace if you are not comfortable.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SJE

-The Knights of Columbus Present-

BINGO NIGHT

Friday Evenings@OLOA Auditorium

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
(First game 7:30 p.m.)

\$2000 IN PRIZES!

MAXIMUM ATTENDANCE IS 100 PLAYERS
MASKS ARE ENCOURAGED BUT NOT REQUIRED



Come and join us! Get involved! Be a greater part of SJE!

Ministry of Consolation

Saint John the Evangelist **Ministry of Consolation** is devoted to making every family as comfortable as possible in planning and experiencing a funeral for a family member or friend. We do our very best to reduce their uneasiness throughout the funeral experience.

If you think you might like to be a part of the Ministry to provide support and comfort to our families, consider these roles:

Companion - meeting with the family to obtain a brief biography of the deceased, assisting them in arranging the details for the funeral mass, and escorting them throughout the liturgy;

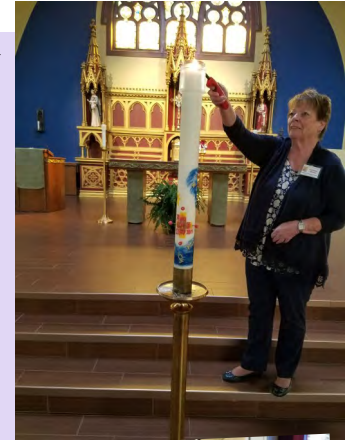
Greeter - meeting those attending the funeral mass, escorting them during the mass;

Publisher - preparing a booklet for use as a worship aid for the funeral mass, containing the prayers, readings and hymns selected by the family;

Baker – preparing a cake or similar treat for the family to enjoy after the vigil or funeral;

Coordinator – contacting the members in the above roles as needed to provide the best possible experience for the family.

We are a joyful Ministry, eager to share our joy. We would be delighted to welcome you as you explore one or more of these roles in our Ministry of Consolation. For more information contact the Rectory at 631.878.0009 or email to rectory@sjecm.org.



Community Meal

What is the Community Meal Ministry?

We are amazing! The Community Meal is a monthly opportunity to share the gift of time, service, love and food. The Community Meal Ministry invites EVERYONE to join us at our table once a month. Once a month we gather in the gymnasium of OLQA, each member bringing an item they prepared to the table. You can choose to prepare an item, stay to serve and clean up, or you can be a “drop and run”! We give a theme each month, such as Birthday Meal or Backyard BBQ, provide a sign up with suggestions and our volunteers sign up to bring food items, supplies or help. We ask hot items are brought in hot, and we’ll keep it hot with sternos. We need everything – vegetables, salads, fruit, drinks, breads, hot entrees, starches, desserts- and if you’re not a confident cook then we need your hands to serve or drop supplies like napkins, plates, and flatware. There is a role for everyone! The goal is to provide a hot meal, prepared with love, served with kindness and a warm welcome to anyone that attends. That’s right, we serve our guests- often by name as they become familiar faces and are welcomed to enjoy a meal at our table.



If you are thinking, “Yes, I can do that...but not every month”, it’s OK, we STILL want you. In fact, we NEED you. COVID has really affected our team, we have less volunteers and more guests. I am personally inviting you to sign up and commit when you can, whether it’s once a month or twice a year, we’ll welcome you just the same!

You’re probably thinking, “Yes! That’s the ministry for me!!”. Fantastic!! What do you do next? Email Aimee Mattiolo at rectory@sjecm.org with the subject line “Community Meal”. I’ll add you to the monthly ministry email, and when you receive the email you decide what you can do that month! Merry Christmas and let’s get cooking!!

Come and join us! Get involved! Be a greater part of SJE!

The Legion of Mary

Our Lady of Hope Praesidium

The Legion of Mary is a ministry which undertakes apostolic work to give Christ to the world through the love of Mary. Members become instruments of the Holy Spirit through a balanced program of prayer and volunteer work, which includes visits to the sick and aged, religious education, prison ministry, community outreach, communion to the homebound and more. Many good intentions are brought to fruition through Legion membership. The Legion of Mary has been approved and acclaimed by the last six Popes: “You are a movement of lay people who propose to make faith the aspiration of your life up to the achievement of personal sanctity.” - Pope John Paul II

The Legion meets weekly and welcomes you to join in praying the rosary, spiritual readings and discussing service to our neighbors. Some of our active members are pictured above with our Spiritual Director, Father Felix, and Our Mother, Mary. Come join us in giving glory to God by spreading the love of Jesus with Our Lady’s help. Please call Judy Paulsen or Christine Cappiello at the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or email to rectory@sjecm.org.

Chicken Ministry

Did you know SJE has an active and vibrant chicken ministry. The eggs they produce are given to our guests at Ernie’s Place, SJE’s Food Pantry Ministry. You can see they survived their first winter storm this year and they are actively preparing for the celebration of Christmas!



We are always in need of chicken tenders – men, women, and families – to let the chickens out of their coop in the morning and usher them back into the coop at night.



For more information, contact the Rectory at 631.878.0009 or email rectory@sjecm.org.

Cana Care Crew

The Cana Care Crew was formed in June 2020. They work to create a space of welcome to all who visit our Church each week. You’re greeted by a member of the Cana Care Crew as you enter (they usually have a distinctive T-shirt or sweatshirt). They also may ask you to assist with bringing up the gifts. They are also good “go-to” people if you to find a seat or have a question.

Now we need more members of the Cana Care Crew! What about you? It works –for the most part—around your schedule. We generally have between two and four members of the Cana Care Crew at each Mass. While there is a schedule you can also request times on and times off.

Please consider this!

Our motto - Do whatever He tells you—comes from the Gospel of John! It’s a reminder that we respond as the Lord calls. Is HE telling you to do this? We hope so!

To sign up, please contact Fr. John at jsureau@sjecm.org or 631.878.0009. This is great ministries for people of all ages and for families working together!

Please consider signing up today - WE NEED YOU!

MUSIC MINISTRY

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

I would like to invite you to be a part of the *Friends of Music*. We are already busy preparing weekly for the completion of a wonderful season here at St. John the Evangelist. I am continually amazed at the dedication and talent of so many people from our parish who come together to make beautiful music for the praise and glory of God; we are indeed richly blessed. With the generosity of our patrons in the *Friends of Music*, we will be able to offer even more beautiful music for our liturgies, concerts, and special programs throughout the year.

Contributions will be used to directly support the music program at St. John the Evangelist including Lessons and Carols, concerts, additional brass, woodwind, and string instruments for special liturgies for Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Acknowledgments will be made in programs for our concerts and special musical offerings throughout the year as well as in our parish bulletin.

Contributions can be given at any of the following levels:

- ◆ St. Cecilia (\$350 or more)
- ◆ Cantor's Circle (\$100 to \$199)
- ◆ Chorister's Guild (\$25 to \$49)
- ◆ Schola Cantorum (\$200 to \$349)
- ◆ Psalmist's Platform (\$50 to \$99)
- ◆ Angelic Chorus (up to \$24)

Please consider being a part of our music history at SJE! God bless you in advance for your generosity, and support.

-Andrew McKeon, Director of Music Ministries

SJE FRIENDS OF MUSIC 2021-2022

I wish to support the *Friends of Music* by making a donation of \$_____

(please make checks payable to St John The Evangelist)

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone#: _____

This donation is:

- In memory of _____
- In honor of _____
- Anonymous



JOIN THE CHOIR! WE NEED YOUR VOICES!

Practices – Wednesday Evenings
Sing – 10:00 a.m. Mass

The Church tells us that the praying we do during communion is the Sung Prayer of hymns and songs. If you wish to “pray twice” please send an email to Music@sjecm.org with your name, and best telephone number!

Come and join us! Get involved! Be a greater part of SJE!

Monday - Friday 3PM - 7PM @ Seton Chapel

- Consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. If you can be present for a specific hour, fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/qrC4P6nyDRrJ4xpu5>, email Fr. John at jsureau@sjecm.org or call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009.
- Parishioners are always welcome to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament even if they cannot make the regular hour commitment.

*"In the Blessed Sacrament God loves us so tenderly, He empties Himself completely.
O, who could believe it? Withholding nothing, He gives his all.
He gives his flesh for us to eat. He gives his blood for us to drink. He gives his soul, his
infinite being. To transform us into Himself. Praised be the Blessed Sacrament!"*
- St. Louis de Montfort (Hymn No. 30, 3rd Stanza)



DAILY ROSARY WITH SR. ANN

10:00 AM ON ZOOM

Sr. Ann will be praying the Rosary daily at 10 AM via Zoom online. There also is a phone call-in option. All information is below. If you can, please pray with us.

Zoom Online Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87129471841>



Meeting ID: 817 2947 1841
Passcode: 560695
Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

**NEW LINK AND
PASSCODE**

CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM BISHOP BARRES



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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

On December 1, 2019, Our Holy Father Pope Francis issued *Admirabile Signum*, an Apostolic Letter On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene. It is a beautiful reflection that I draw on every Christmas season and one which I urge you to read and pray.

In it, the Holy Father reminds us that the simple act of arranging our Nativity set links us to the past, opens questions for the present, and orients the future. It is an act that has an existential impact.

Pope Francis says: “Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on the event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.”

The beautiful scene of parents and grandparents setting up creches together with children and grandchildren is a powerful multi-dimensional experience of catechesis – the teaching and passing on of our Catholic faith and our belief in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Parents and grandparents have that wisdom of teaching children and grandchildren how to assemble and situate the creche, but at the same time, they also have the catechetical and relational sensitivity to let children and grandchildren make choices about where the shepherds, the sheep, the three kings are to be placed.

Children are encouraged to place the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the Prince of Peace – with their own hands into the center of the creche. How often children then enjoy, sometimes on their own and sometimes with brothers and sisters and family members, moving and interacting with the figurines. How often their biblical imaginations and souls are set on fire with God’s love as they play with their family Nativity sets.

The Holy Father continues: “I would like now to reflect on the various elements of the nativity scene in order to appreciate their deeper meaning. First, there is the background of a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night. We represent this not only out of fidelity to the Gospel accounts, but also for its symbolic value. We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the meaning of life. Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die? It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (cf. Luke 1:79).”

We can drift through life dodging and repressing these critical existential questions of life. We can live blindly and superficially.

Our Catholic belief in the unity of the Nativity and the Crucifixion, the Creche and the Cross, Bethlehem and Golgotha keeps our lives centered and focused on the things that really count in our short time on earth – the Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell) and a belief in the Eternal Joy of Heaven, our true home.

The Holy Father continues to press the existential questions: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Matthew 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.”

May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness, and solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering.

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!



**Para obtener esta carta en español,
visite aquí:
<https://www.drvc.org/>**

Sincerely in Christ, Most Reverend John O. Barres

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Community Meal



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Weekly Scripture Reflection

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the joy and hope to our “brothers and sisters” who are poor by assisting families, providing food, gifts, and utility and rent bills. Thank you!

To arrange for a large furniture pick up, click here: <https://www.svdpli.org/get-involved/donate/schedule-pickup/schedule-a-pick-up-suffolk-county/>. **SJE DOES NOT ACCEPT FURNITURE ON CAMPUS.**

SJE is proud to have a St. Vincent de Paul Conference. We are always looking for new members. For more information, call 631.878.0009 or e-mail to rectory@sjecm.org and your information will be shared with the leaders of the conference.

Join us Monday, December 27, 2021 in the auditorium at St. John the Evangelist Church in Center Moriches.

The Meal will consist of a home-made dinner from **6:00PM-7:30PM**. If you are in need of toiletries or clothes, please let a volunteer know!

2021 Christmas Collection

A mailing went home in the spirit of St. Francis Xavier requesting your support of the 2021 Christmas Collection. You can return the envelope or go to www.sjecm.com and click on Giving. You may also use this QR code. We rely on the Christmas Collection to continue the many good works that happen here at SJE.



To sign up for the COVID-19 Vaccine, visit <https://www.vaccines.gov>

“It’s an ethical choice, because you are playing with health, life, but you are also playing with the lives of others...I’ve signed up...”
-Pope Francis



HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

- L.I. Women’s Coalition:** 631-666-8833
- Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk:** 631-360-3606
- Child Abuse:** 631-439-0480
- Brighter Tomorrow:** 631-395-1800
- The Retreat (Hotline for Domestic Violence):** 631-329-2200
- Birthright:** 631-821-9727 or 1-800-550-4900
- Catholic Charities (Food Stamp Info):** 631-789-9546
- Fidelis (Family Health Plus):** 1-888-343-3547
- Good Shepherd Hospice:** 631-376-3758
- Hope House Ministries:** 631-473-6030
- Alcoholics Anonymous 24-Hour Hotline:** 631-669-1124
- Suicide Prevention:** 1-800-SUICIDE
- Women’s Help Line:** 631-698-2074
- Narcotics Anonymous:** 631-689-6262
- RESPONSE:** 631-751-7500
- Gambler’s Anonymous Hotline:** 1-855-222-5542
- American Red Cross L.I.:** (516) 747-3500

ATTENTION MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

SERVING JUSTICE EXCELLENTLY Youth Service Corps



There is such a great need for service in the life of our parish and often a huge number of young people who want to help those in need. This new Service Corps is one way to make this connection.

Here's how it works:



1. ANY middle school, high school and college aged students complete the Google form for Service Corps—<https://forms.gle/PoExRYg9xLkDjFxm9> or use the QR code to the left.
2. As requests for help come from or come into our parish, you'll be contacted to see if you can help.
3. If you can help with a particular project, great! If not, no problem. You'll be contacted for the next one!

It really is that easy!

This is also a great way to meet high school and middle school service requirements as you are reaching out to those within our own local and parish community. By serving through the SJE Service Corps, you are also connecting and building relationships within our own parish and local community.

How marvelous it would be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: today I have performed an act of charity towards others." -Pope Francis



SIGN UP TODAY by completing the form below or e-mailing Fr. John at jsureau@sjecm.org or Katie Spellman at kspellman@sjecm.org. Projects are starting soon—so get involved today!

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

E-mail _____@_____

2021-22 grade: ___ Middle School ___ High School ___ College

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SJE+125

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN 2023?

Comunidad Hispano de San Juan Evangelista, Center Moriches

La Comunidad Hispana de nuestra Parroquia en Centro Moriches, te invita a celebrar la Santa Misa en Espanol los Sabados a las 7:30 p.m. en la Iglesia, y los Martes a las 7:30 p.m en La Capilla del Convento.

Te invitamos a compartir la Palabra de Dios en el Grupo de Oracion, todos los Viernes a las 7:30 p.m. 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.

R.I.C.A: Padre Jaime- 1-631.878.0009

Templos del Espiritu Santo (Grupo de Jovenes) cada sabado a las 5PM en el Red Barn

Feligreses de la comunidad Hispana de St. Juan Evangelista en Centro Moriches

*La subscripcion deben hacerla en linea usando la pagina de <http://www.stjohntheevangelist.com>.

*Hacer click en el cuadrado que dice "Baptisms."

*Usted puede ver el video que sigue en la pagina siguiente, o puede ir en la parte superior al texto que dice: "click here to continue with the process".

*Si no estas registrado como parroquiano de San Juan, debes hacer este paso primero, para que obtengas tu numero de parish ID.

*Si ya estas registrado, usa tu numero de Parish ID, para que llenes el registrado con los datos de tu bebe.

Permítanos ayudarlo!

DESPENSA DE COMIDA DE ERNIE

Abierto - Lunes 6:30 p.m. a las 7:30 p.m.
Jueves 3 p.m. a las 4 p.m.

TIENDA DE SEGUNDA MANO

Miércoles - Red Barn
Miércoles de 9 a.m. a 12 p.m.

COMIDA COMUNITARIA

Último lunes del mes 6 p.m.
Auditorio de la escuela
Diciembre– 27 de diciembre de 2021

MINISTERIO DE LA CALLE

Jueves - Estación de tren Mastic-Shirley
7:15 p.m. (aproximadamente)
Comidas sencillas y ropa disponible.

También necesitamos voluntarios para ayudar a traducir para aquellos que lo necesiten

CFN ESPAÑOL www.CFNEspanol.org

- Red Digital 24 horas en CFNEspanol.org
- Un Canal disponible las 24 horas en la aplicación CFN
- Misa diaria en vivo a disposición
- Devociones
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- Eventos del Vaticano en vivo
- Contenido de la USCCB y de diócesis de todo el país

Visite: www.CFNEspanol.org

Baje gratis hoy la aplicación de CFN

Apple Android

PRAYING FOR AND WITH ONE ANOTHER

We Remember

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine up on them.

**-Entrance Antiphon, Funeral Mass
Helen Kollman**

We Pray

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

Transito Sanchez, Mary Peterson

Names will be announced at Mass the first week they are submitted and will remain on this list for approximately four weeks. 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

Praying for Our Military

US Army

Sgt. Justin Sikorski, PVT Bailey Meyer, PVT Sean Casey, SGT Daniel Smith, PVT Joseph Cestare, PFC David Smith, PFC Jack Dyer, PVT Michael Garcia Jr., SPC Daniel Sisco, SGT. Sean Casey

US Air Force

SSgt. Jason M. Hermes, SSgt Ryan Kerstiens, SSgt Timothy Kerstiens, PFC Kyle Kerstiens, MAJ Salvatore Sferrazza, CMS James Nizza

US Marine Corps

Pfc Sean Brady, Patrick Kimes, Lt. Col. Robert K. Maldonado, CPL Andrew Schlosberg PVT Charles O'Connor, SGT Quentin Montemarano, Recruit Evan Berkemeyer

US Navy

STGCS Brian Holzmacher, ET3 Jeremiah Nolan, Jr., MMN3 Christopher J. Esposito Jr.

US Coast Guard

SR Brendan J. Bernath, Capt. Keith Donohue

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS – The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6
Jerusalem is exalted.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul declares the Gentiles co-heirs to the Kingdom..

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men journey to the infant Jesus.



THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE YOUR GIFTS ONLINE



IT'S SAFE. IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S CONVENIENT.

Support your church today using your debit, credit cards, checking, or savings accounts.

- 1 Visit your church website and click Give Online.
- 2 Select the collection or event of your choice.
- 3 Set up your donation or payment. That's it!



Contact our Customer Support Team at weshare@4lpi.com

Remembering our Loved Ones
Helping our Parish

Altar Bread and Wine—for the month an offering of \$150 is requested
Altar Candles—\$25.00 per week



Altar bread and wine for the month of December has been donated: In memory of Agnes McKeon

PREPARING FOR THE WEEK

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 27, 2021 + Feast of St. John, Evangelist and Apostle

7:00 a.m.	Helen Keane
12 Noon	Justine Cortes

Tuesday, December 28, 2021 + Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:00 a.m.	Briget Carter
12 Noon	Russel Hammond
7:30 p.m.	Intention Still Available

Wednesday, December 29, 2021 + Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

7:00 a.m.	Louis Cordeiro
12 Noon	Special Intention—Mateo Salvatore Haass

Thursday, December 30, 2021 + Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

7:00 a.m.	Joseph Vespoli
12 Noon	Ann Noszke

Friday, December 31, 2021 + Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

7:00 a.m.	Philip Storch
12 Noon	Jerome O'Brien
5:00 p.m.	John T. Cifelli
7:30 p.m.	The People of the Parish`

Saturday, January 1, 2022 + Solemnity of Mary

8:00 a.m.	John Immel
12 Noon	John Immel

The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass of Anticipation

5:00 p.m.	Chuck Baker
7:30 p.m.	Intention Still Available

Sunday

8:00 a.m.	Special Intention— Alicia Afalonis
10:00 a.m..	Glenn Probeyahn
12:00 p.m.	John Immel
6:00 p.m.	John Immel

Weekly Calendar

BMR—Barn 1st Floor Mtg. Room/BUR—Upper Room SC –Seton Chapel

Monday, December 27, 2021

- 6:45 a.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous– BMR
- 3-7 p.m. | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament– SC
- 6:00 p.m. | Community Meal—Auditorium
- 6:30 p.m. | Food Pantry Open—Ernie's Place
- 7:00 p.m. | Holy Hour for Priests—SC
- 7:25 p.m. | Narcotics Anonymous—Cafeteria
- 7:30 p.m. | Spanish RCIA– BUR

Tuesday, December 29, 2021

- 6:45 a.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous– BMR
- 3-7 p.m. | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament– SC
- 7:00 p.m. | Divine Will Prayer Group– BUR
- 7:30 p.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous– BMR

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

- 6:45 a.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous– BMR
- 9:00 a.m. | Thrift Shop Open-Thrift Shop
- 3-7 p.m. | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament– SC
- 6:00 p.m. | CYO Girls– Auditorium
- 7:25 p.m. | Narcotics Anonymous—Cafeteria

Thursday, December 30, 2021

- 6:45 a.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous– BMR
- 3:00 p.m. | Food Pantry Open—Ernie's Place
- 3-7 p.m. | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament– SC
- 4:00 p.m. | Legion of Mary– BMR
- 6:00 p.m. | CYO Boys– Auditorium
- 7:00 p.m. | Street Ministry– Convent
- 7:30 p.m. | Alanon– BMR

Friday, December 31, 2021

- 6:45 a.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous– BMR
- 3-7 p.m. | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament– SC
- 5:00 p.m. | Bingo Night– Auditorium
- 7:00 p.m. | Narcotics Anonymous– BMR
- 7:00 p.m. | Spanish Prayer Group– SC

Saturday, January 1, 2022

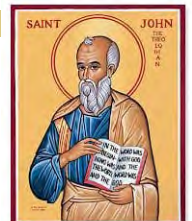
- 6:45 a.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous– BMR
- 9:00 a.m. | Men's Prayer Group– SC
- 7:00 p.m. | Narcotics Anonymous– BMR
- 9:30 p.m. | Spanish Community Epiphany Celebration– Auditorium

Sunday, January 2, 2022

- 6:45 a.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous– BMR
- 1:40 p.m. | CYO Game 7th Grade Boys– Auditorium

Rectory Holiday Hours

The Parish Office is closed Monday December 27th at 12 noon and will reopen Tuesday at 9 a.m. We will also close Friday, December 31st at 3 p.m. and reopen Monday, January 3rd at 9 a.m.





St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church

25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York 11934-3698
631-878-0009 | rectory@sjecm.org



Pastoral Team

Reverend John Sureau
Pastor + jsureau@sjecm.org

Reverend Felix Akpabio
Parochial Vicar

Reverend Jaime Calderon-Hernandez
Parochial Vicar

John Pettorino
Deacon

Sr. Ann Berendes, IHM
Director of Senior Ministry

Carolyn Lapham
Director of Family Ministries

Andrew McKeon
Director of Music Ministries

Michelle Pirraglia
Director of Faith Formation

Katie Spellman
Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

Katie Waller
Director of Operations

OLOQA

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)

Office Hours

In the Blue House
Monday – Thursday:
9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
We ask that you call before visiting any parish offices.

Mass Schedule

Come and pray with us!

Saturday Evening

5 p.m. + 7:30 p.m. (Spanish Mass)
(Saturday Evening 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Masses will be livestreamed. Videos remain on Facebook after the live broadcast.)

Sunday

Church: 8:00 a.m. + 10:00 a.m.
+ 12 Noon + 6:00 p.m.
Please call the Rectory or check SJE Social Media for latest updates.

Weekday Mass

Monday—Friday: 7:00 a.m. + 12 Noon
Tuesday: 7:30 p.m. (Spanish—Seton Chapel)
Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m.
(The 7 a.m. Daily Mass will be livestreamed. Videos remain on Facebook after the live broadcast.)

The Sacraments

Come and know God's Mercy!

We celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**
Monday—Friday: After the 7 a.m. + 12 Noon Masses
Saturday: After the 8 a.m. Mass
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. + 7:00—7:15 p.m.
(Spanish)
Sunday: 5:30—5:45 p.m.
Confessions will now take place in Our Lady's Chapel in the Church.

Come and know God's healing of the sick!

Please contact the Rectory (631.878.0009, x. 9) for a priest to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick with the seriously ill or those preparing for surgery.

Come to know Mary, Our Lady Queen of Apostles

All are invited to pray the Rosary after Daily Mass in the Church. In addition we pray the Rosary via Zoom each morning at 10 a.m.

Zoom Online Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81729471841?>

Meeting ID: 817 2947 1841

Passcode: 560695

Zoom Phone #: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Extra Rosary beads are available at the doors of the Church and Seton Chapel. Not sure how to pray the Rosary? Click [here](#)— or click here and pray online—https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtJM_V8scoo

Come to know Mary, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

The Miraculous Medal Novena is prayed on Mondays after the 7 a.m. and 12 Noon Masses. Booklets are provided. We ask that you take the booklet and keep it, bringing it back each Monday. You can also view it online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zfrp55orahg>.

Come to the Quiet!

The church building and Seton Chapel (located in the white convent building) are open from Monday - Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. + Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

All who visit must wear a mask and use sanitizer before entering the worship space. Please when possible, keep a safe social distance from others.

Come and spend some time with the Lord!

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Seton Chapel Mondays —Fridays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. All are invited to quiet times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament when the Church and Seton Chapel are open.

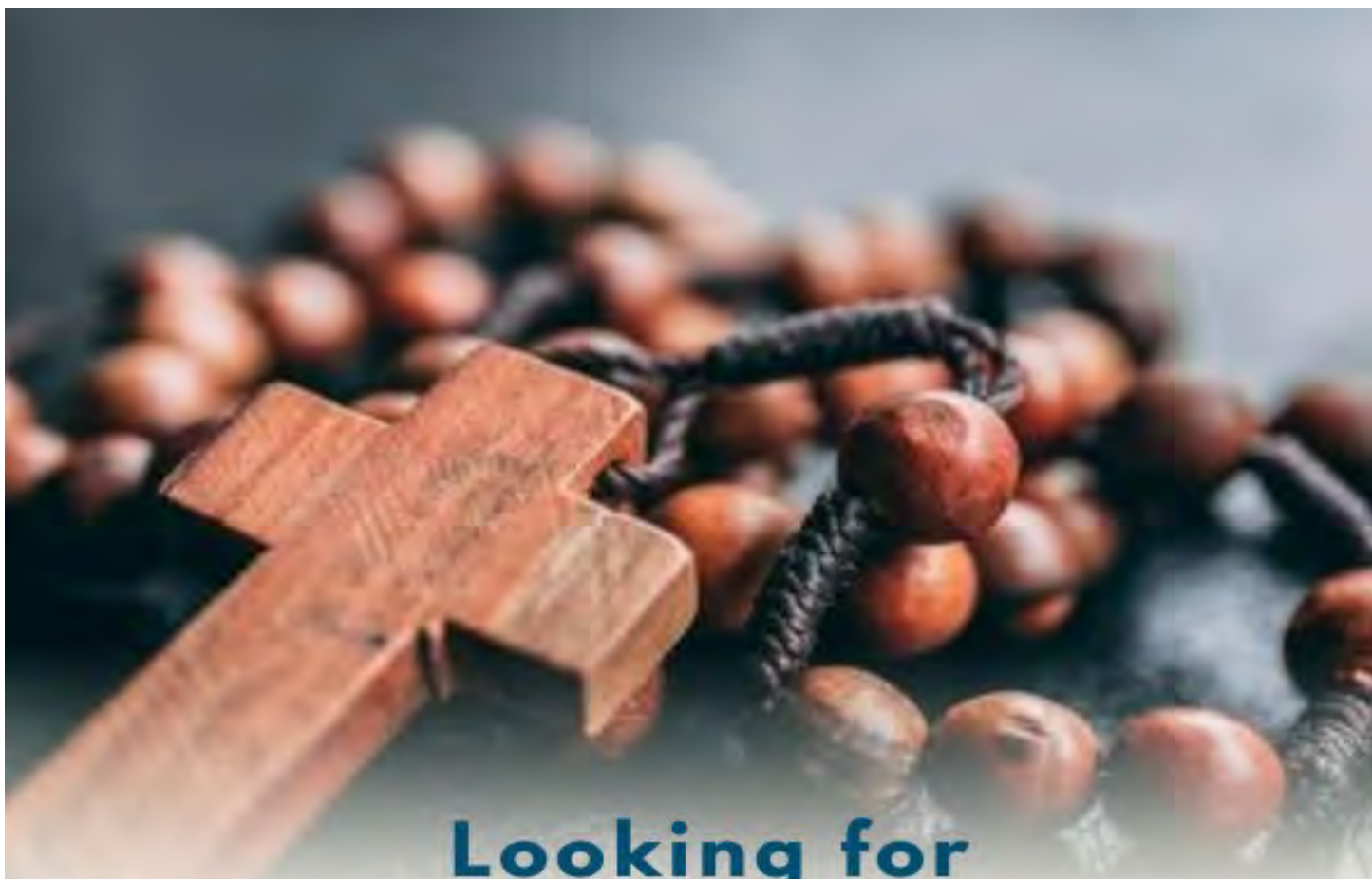
Come pray the Liturgy of the Hours!

The communal celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours is postponed until further notice. Those who wish to pray may visit univiersalis.com or you can click [here](#) for Ibrevariary. You may also download the app for your iphone or android device. Those who wish to pray may pick up a *Christian Prayer* book from the lobby of Seton Chapel to keep in these days



All are encouraged to stay connected with our local and global church through the Catholic Faith Network (CFN).

CFN is available on
Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296,
and Charter Spectrum channel 162/471
and can be accessed via catholicfaithnetwork.org



Looking for
Daily Inspiration?

Call 631-878-0009
Ext. 185

**Call each day for a prayer, spiritual reflection, or
scripture reading from Fr. John or Sr. Ann**

**Share it with those who might need a lift - anyone
can call from anywhere!**