

St. John the Evangelist

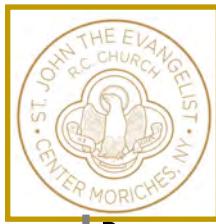
Roman Catholic Church



December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways ~ Psalm 128



Reverend Patrick M. Rieger
Pastor

Reverend Charlince Vendredy
Parochial Vicar

Reverend Monsignor Ellsworth R. Walden
Retired, In Residence

Reverend Francis Lasrado
Retired, In Residence

Reverend Jerry DiSpigno
Parish Assistant

Reverend Peter D'Abele
Parish Assistant

John Pettorino
Deacon

Michael Hoonhout
Deacon

Ed Grieb
Deacon

Katie Waller
Director of Operations

Carolyn Lapham
Director of Family Ministries

Michelle Pirraglia
Director of Faith Formation

Heather Crayne
Director of Parish Social Ministry

Angela Werner
Director of Music Ministry

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

www.olqany.org
Dawn Waller, Principal
dwaller@olqany.org

Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

6 - 8 PM Spanish-speaking support.

Wednesday: 9 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Please call before visiting any parish offices.

Pastoral Team

OLQA

Office Hours

December 28, 2025

25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York, 11934-3968

631-878-0009 | rectory@sjcem.org

OUR PARISH MISSION

Inspired by our Patron, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Center Moriches seeks to bring the light of Christ to a world in need, so that as Christ has done, we may also do. From the celebration of the Eucharist, we are sent forth to serve God and neighbor through ministries of formation, education and outreach.
-Mission Statement

Church Hours

Monday through Friday 6:30 AM - 2:45 PM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

in Seton Chapel (Convent)

Monday through Friday

3:00 - 7:00 PM

Next Weekend's Schedule

Saturday, January 3rd

5:00 PM - Fr. Patrick

7:30 PM (Spanish) - Fr. Pete

(Saturday Evening 5 PM Mass
will be livestreamed. Videos remain
on Facebook after the live broadcast.)

Sunday, January 4th

8:00 AM - Fr. Charlince

10:00 Msgr. Walden

12 noon - Fr. Patrick

6:00 PM - Fr. Jerry

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

Confession Schedule

We celebrate the
Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday - Friday: After the 7 AM & 12 Noon Masses

Saturday: After the 8 AM Mass

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 PM &

7:00 - 7:15 PM (Spanish)

Sunday: 5:30 - 5:45 PM

Confessions will take place in Our Lady's
Chapel in the Church.

A Reflection from our Music Ministry Director, Angela Werner...

A Reflection on the Gospel: Matthew (2:13-15,19-23)

"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."

The one present that I knew wouldn't arrive in time for Christmas was (of course) the one that I was counting on to make Christmas extra special for a friend. Can anyone relate? As I started to feel that wave of disappointment, a little voice inside me offered the wisdom I needed at exactly that moment: *Leave room for the wonder and awe.* I soon began to realize that what Amazon (or Santa) couldn't deliver, God already did. One *delivery*, sent straight from Heaven, truly changed the course of history!

Sometimes wonder and awe can easily get lost amid the hustle and bustle, financial concerns, and stressful preparations that come with the Christmas season. The same can be true for life in general. How often do we forget to live in the moment? How often do we find ourselves immersed in hectic scheduling and anxiety about the future, without noticing the possibilities that God has in store for us when we trust in His plan?

Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, we were given a glimpse of the Holy Family's trials, shared from Joseph's perspective. When Mary was found with child, Joseph "decided to divorce her quietly" for "he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame." Despite his anxiety, however, Joseph was able to leave room in his heart for God's plan. In a dream, the angel of the Lord revealed a new possibility, instructing Joseph not to be afraid, but instead to have faith that the child Mary was carrying was indeed the One who would "save his people from their sins." Perhaps most remarkable about this passage is Joseph's response. Upon waking, he did not question or dismiss the possibilities suggested in the dream. No, Matthew tells us, "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." In Luke's Gospel, we learn that it didn't matter that there was no room at the inn, because both Mary and Joseph left room in their hearts for all that God could do and, as a result, brought our Savior into the world.

In reflecting on today's gospel, we realize that anything is possible with God. We are also reminded that the Holy Family's life was a lot more stressful than ours. A missing present is nothing compared to the struggles they faced. We tend to idealize the Nativity scene with Mary and Joseph in the stable, basking in the light of Baby Jesus, surrounded by angels, shepherds, and the Magi, while this gospel reading reminds us that not everyone was giving glory to God in the highest on that Holy Night. Herod, out of selfish fear and ignorance, was determined to find the newborn King and destroy Him. Herod's fear later became so great that "He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." Jesus' life was in jeopardy, and it was Joseph's responsibility to keep Him safe. Thankfully, Jesus' earthly father remained open to God's possibilities and continued to respond to the heavenly directions given to him in dreams. When the angel told Joseph, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to

Egypt, and stay there until I tell you," Joseph did just that. He "rose and took the child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt." He didn't scoff, or complain; he trusted in God's plan. In the years ahead, Joseph continued to protect and care for his family, following the angelic instructions that ultimately guided them to Nazareth, "so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He shall be called a Nazorean.'" Joseph never wavered in his faith, and God never failed him. Faith involves trusting God's guidance, even when circumstances are uncertain. God can turn a negative situation into a greater positive one, when we do as He commands. Nothing is impossible with God!

Matthew presents the flight to and from Egypt as a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, quoting Hosea 11:1, "Out of Egypt I called my son." The flight to Egypt is interpreted as a *new exodus*, with God faithfully protecting His Son from a wicked king, just as He protected Moses from a wicked Pharaoh. By going to Egypt and then being called back, the Holy Family retraces Israel's steps, showing how Jesus, God's own Son, embodies and completes that redemptive narrative. The life of the Holy Family was filled with danger and vulnerability as Jesus was in need of protection, especially from the malice of human powers. Their journey serves as a model for Christian families, emphasizing guardianship, unity, shared responsibility, mutual respect, and a willingness to trust and follow God's will, even in the face of adversity. Their story is a testament to a life of holiness lived in love, even during hardship. Mary and Joseph raised Jesus, teaching Him about God, love, and the importance of their faith through prayer and temple visits. Joseph served God as Jesus' earthly father, a role guided by his devotion to Mary, and his duty as the *Custodian of the Redeemer*.

How different would our lives be if we consistently surrendered to God's will? Joseph must have been terribly afraid, but he didn't allow that fear to overpower him. Instead, he embraced his responsibility as a father, while always remembering to leave room in his heart for God. He never let his fear crowd out the space that was meant for God. His example of wisdom, courage, and obedience serves as an inspiration for both parents and church leaders to follow. May our hearts be more like Mary's and Joseph's, ever open to God's amazing love as we make room for the wonder and awe of Christmas, and the miracle of the Incarnation.

When my children were little, it became a tradition on Christmas morning that before any presents were opened, they would rush straight to the manger in the creche (which was empty during the Advent Season) to find Baby Jesus lying there. That became the moment Christmas arrived. Nothing compares to the wonder and awe that is seen in the eyes of a child on Christmas morning. This is why Jesus said that we must "turn and become like children" in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. God wants us to relearn what already comes naturally to them. The Holy Family helps us to realize that Christmas isn't about *our presents*, but *His presence*. May every family strive to be a *holy family*.





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2025

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

Merry Christmas!

Throughout this year, we have marked many significant milestones in the life of the Church leading us to the Lord's Nativity and this holy season of Christmas, most especially the passing of Pope Francis at Easter and the election of Pope Leo XIV in May.

What a gift it has been to walk these months with our new Holy Father, to learn from his teaching, and witness his example.

On October 4th, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo released his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Di/exit Te - I Have Loved You*. It is a profound meditation on love for the poor and speaks powerfully to the mystery of the Lord's Birth and the grace of this season.

The Holy Father reminds us: "The Gospel shows us that poverty marked every aspect of Jesus' life. From the moment he entered the world, Jesus knew the bitter experience of rejection. The Evangelist Luke tells how Joseph and Mary, who was about to give birth, arrived in Bethlehem, and then adds, poignantly, that 'there was no place for them in the inn' (*Lk 2:7*). Jesus was born in humble surroundings and laid in a manger; then, to save him from being killed, they fled to Egypt (cf. *Mt 2:13-15*). At the dawn of his public ministry, after announcing in the synagogue of Nazareth that the year of grace which would bring joy to the poor was fulfilled in him, he was driven out of town (cf *Lk 4:14-30*). He died as an outcast, led out of Jerusalem to be crucified (cf *Mk 15:22*). Indeed, that is how Jesus' poverty is best described: he experienced the same exclusion that is the lot of the poor, the outcast of society. Jesus is a manifestation of this *privilegium pauperum*. He presented himself to the world not only as a poor Messiah, but also as the Messiah of and for the poor." (n. 19)

Before these words of Pope Leo, we recall the wonderful truth: Christ became poor so that we who are poor might become rich (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9). This is the good news of Christmas. We are not alone. We are not left to ourselves. A Savior has come - Christ the Lord.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we remember with Pope Leo that "Christian holiness often flourishes in the most forgotten and wounded places of humanity." (n. 76)

How beautifully the followers of Christ have responded to the cry of the poor and looked with love upon the most vulnerable among us. As we rejoice in Christ's Birth, we renew our commitment to love others as he has loved us.

On Sunday, December 28th at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we will conclude our Jubilee Year of Hope.

We thank both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV for igniting hope within our families, the global mission of the Church, and the human family, and we contemplate the light and grace that radiates from the refugee Holy Family (73) and that radiates to every family.

Our Catholic biblical and sacramental worship, especially at the Catholic Mass, focuses and ignites both our global mission to the poor (n. 42) and our humble openness to being evangelized by the poor (n. 102), the treasures of our Church (n.38).

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 this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Solemnity of MARY MOTHER of GOD



A Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31st

5:00 PM VIGIL

Thursday, January 1st

8:00 AM Mass

10:00 AM Mass

12 Noon Mass

Masses for the Week...

Saturday, December 27th Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

- 8:00 AM Christmas Novenas
- 5:00 PM Henry Brown Jr.
- 7:30 PM (Spanish) Special Intention-LaFamilia Quinde Sinchi Suna

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

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

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

- 7:00 AM Vivian and Louis Cordeiro
- 12:00 Noon Linda Stinga

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

- 7:00 AM Joe A. Chambel
- 12:00 PM Thomas Blomberg

Wednesday, December 31st Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

- 7:00 AM Chase Filandro
- 12:00 Noon Ammeris Drago
- 5:00 PM (Vigil) Jerome O'Brien

Thursday, January 1st The Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 8:00 AM Christmas Novenas
- 10:00 AM Christmas Novenas
- 12:00 Noon People of the Parish

Friday, January 2nd St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

- 7:00 AM Patricia Cuff
- 12:00 Noon Kenneth Horsford

Saturday, January 3rd Christmas Weekday

- 8:00 AM Venusta Carnevale
- 5:00 PM Katherine Chimelewski
- 7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, January 4th The Epiphany of the Lord

- 8:00 AM Joseph Meinken
- 10:00 AM Gloria Profeta
- 12:00 Noon Ed Cuccia
- 6:00 PM Antoinette Vella



We thank you for your generous

Christmas Appeal Offering!!

It's still not too late to make your donation! Please scan this QR code to make your donation today!



PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2025 to present.

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

2025 Please help us reach our goal!

Catholic Ministries Appeal
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Renewed by the Eucharist
Sent on Mission*

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

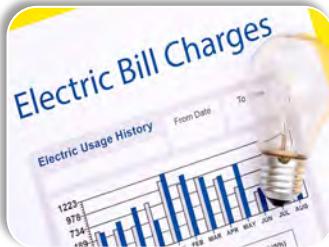
Supporting the CMA helps to support SJE! We receive back 20% of whatever is raised below the goal. If we go above the goal, we also receive 80% of all monies that are raised above the goal!
Please help us go above the goal!



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



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



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



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



Please help us reach our goal!



We have reached 94% of our goal, with under one week to go! Please help if you can!

Supporting the CMA helps to support SJE! Every dollar raised over 80% comes back to us, up to 100% of the goal!

We will receive \$24,000 in rebates if we reach 100%.

Thank you for your consideration!



SCAN TO
DONATE 





Praying For and With One Another

Remember

The Deceased of the Parish

"For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died." -1 Thessalonians 4:14

Pray for the Sick

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

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

If you would like a loved one's name placed under Prayers for the Sick, please call the rectory at 631.878.0009 or e-mail to rectory@sjecm.org.

Our Military

US Marine Corps

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

US Air Force

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

US Navy

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

US Army

SGT Sean Casey
PVT Joseph Cestare
SPC Michael Garcia Jr
PVT Anthony Koch
CPL Aidan O'Neill
PFC David Smith
Steven Valentin
PFC Francis J. Amalifitano
PVT Cara Williams

US Coast Guard

BM3 Brendan J. Bernath
CPT Keith Donohue

If you wish to place someone on the Military prayer list, please call the rectory at 631.878.0009 or e-mail to rectory@sjecm.org.



Remembering Our Loved Ones

The Altar Bread & Wine for the month of December has been donated in memory of:

Theresa Cartolano

Mass Intentions

Remembering one who has passed away at Mass is a most noble practice calling us to pray for one who has died at the most powerful prayer we know - the celebration of the Eucharist.

Altar Bread and Wine

Names will be listed in each bulletin during the course of that month.
An offering of \$250 is requested.

SJE offers a number of ways to remember loved ones, or honor someone living.

To make an offering, visit or contact the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or email to rectory@sjecm.org

Votive Candles/Altar Candles

A number of votive candles enlighten the beautiful statues in our church. You may have a particular devotion to one of these saints. These candles are next to the statues of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Teresa, St. Gerard Majella and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. They bring a certain light to the statues and, hopefully, inspire some deeper times of prayer and reflection. **Altar Candles - \$25.00 per week.**

FAMILY CHRISTMAS MOVIE MATINEE

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

Free popcorn

Free Pizza Lunch to be provided after the movie.

All Families welcome!

(Children must be accompanied by an adult)



DOORS OPEN AT 10:45 AM

SJE Parish Social Ministry

SPREAD *the* WARMTH

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

All Sizes

DROP OFF LOCATION:

Donations can be left in the front
Fellowship area of the Church

**PLEASE DONATE YOUR UNWANTED
COATS & HELP OTHERS TO STAY WARM**

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

PSM Office 631.878.0009 ext. 120

Email: socialministry@SJECm.org

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



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

ERNIE'S PLACE

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

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



STREET MINISTRY

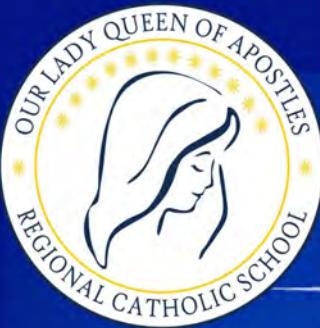
Our Street Ministry team provides food and clothes to those in need every Thursday night. There are lots of opportunities to get involved whether you like to cook, serve, help load our van or fold clothes. Please reach out for more information!



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

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world.

- St. Teresa of Avila



Our Lady
Queen of Apostles
Regional Catholic School

Merry Christmas!



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



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



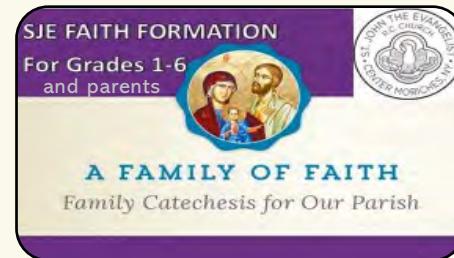
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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



2025 FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS

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



LEVEL 7 (Confirmation Prep Year 1):

Next Class Session:

Monday, January 12 at 7:15 PM in the Church.
Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles!

LEVEL 8 (Confirmation Prep Year 2):

Next Class Session:

Tuesday, January 13 at 7:15 PM in the Church.
Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles!

Next Sessions:

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



Sunday's Word – Year A Now Available!

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

A suggested offering of \$5 is appreciated.

Stop by the Parish Office to pick up your copy today!

Bereavement Support...

Grieving is a natural process each of us goes through after the death of a loved one. While no one can take away our sadness, others can help by listening and caring. Sharing our feelings with others who have experienced the death of a loved one help many people begin the healing process.

*Grief never ends but it changes.
It is a passage, not a place to stay.
It is not a sign of weakness,
nor a lack of faith.
Grief is the price of love.*

Saturday mornings - 10:30 AM to 12 Noon

First floor meeting room in the Barn.

REGISTRATION: Contact the Rectory at

631.878.0009 or via email at

Rectory@sjecm.org

\$10 donation for the workbook.

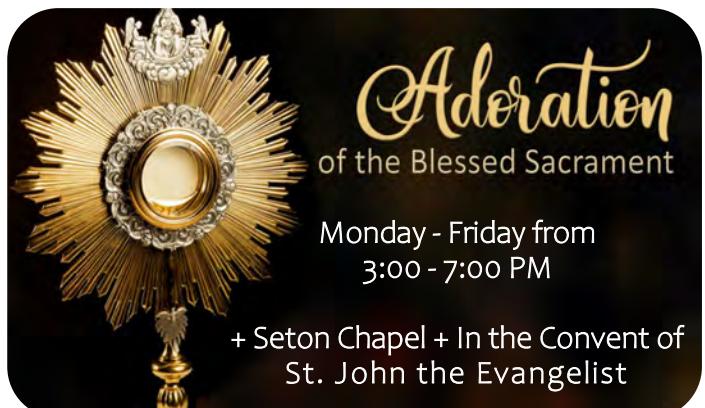


www.cfntv.org

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is at the service of the Word, the Church, the Bishops and the Encounter of Faith and Culture. Our mission is to proclaim the teachings of our Lord to the Catholic Community and beyond using media in all forms.

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is available on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Charter Spectrum channel 162/471 throughout the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut area.

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is also available on selected cable and satellite systems nationwide, along with a vast on-demand library of original programming and a high quality 24/7 live stream.



Please consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. On Mondays following Adoration, there is a Holy Hour to Pray for Priests from 7 - 8 PM. All are invited to pray for our Shepherds. Please consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

If you can be present for a specific hour, email rectory@sjecm.org or call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009.

A Message from Monsignor Walden...

This is the time of the year when we focus on gifts and gatherings. It is always good to give and receive gifts with joy. When I speak with children this time of year I ask them, "Are you going to get gifts for your family?" When they joyfully respond yes, I ask a second question, "What is the best gift?" They usually smile and start to think. Then I point my finger at them and say, "You are the gift!" Then their faces light up and a smile comes on their faces. Yes, we are a gift to one another and whatever we give materially as a gift is a reflection of the joy we bring to each other as family and friends.

I am always delighted to reflect on the first reading for Mass today (Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14) and these words in particular: "My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you." As children, we see our parents in their prime and find peace, security, and love through, with, and in them. As we grow into adulthood and leave home, the relationship changes. Now, many of us assume the role of parenthood and come to see and live what they received as children. As our parents age, they find peace, security and love in our concern for them, just the simple gift of our presence brings joy. I experienced this with both of my parents, but especially with my father while he was on hospice the last months of his life. It was my joy and privilege to help him get dressed, cut his toenails, and take him out for rides in the car - something he and my mother did for us on Sunday afternoon at times in the 1950s. It was so simple, yet joyful just being together as family.

As we are still in the Christmas season, we are encouraged to look at the trials, joys, and faith of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and come to see the faith, hope, and love they had as THE HOLY Family. Their life was not easy. There was no room in the inn for Jesus to be born, only a stable was

available. They fled to Egypt to escape the horrible quest of King Herod to kill him. That did not stop God from coming into our world to save us from life without Him and enrich us with Himself as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are an intimate and cherished part of who the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are as well as the gift of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. It is this union of perfect love and wisdom that we cherish in our own families and hope to experience and contribute to as the Church, the Family of God.

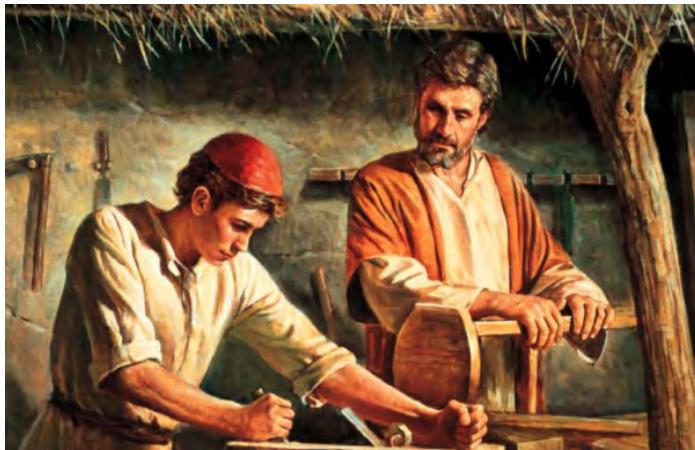
I close with the beautiful words of hope, love, and inspiration from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (13:1-13).

"If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing."*

"For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love."



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 us as we learn to follow the example of St. Joseph and grow in our faith, reflect on the Gospel and have coffee. For more information, please call the rectory office at 631-878-0009.

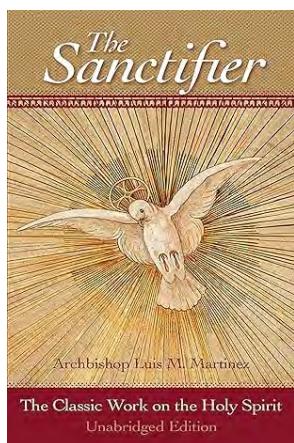


Women's Group...

Our Women's Group will begin again on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 10 AM to 11:30 AM. We welcome newcomers anytime to join our group. All meetings are open, come when you can. There are no rules, just **desire** for growth in Jesus and fellowship.

We're still reading *The Sanctifier* by Archbishop Luis M. Martinez. Part I is about True Devotion to the Holy Spirit. Part II: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Part III: The Fruit of the Spirit. Part IV: The Beatitudes.

As we read, we come to understand through our sharing, that the Holy Spirit is working in our daily lives & we're right where we're supposed to be on our journey. We're growing a little at a time. We all have the same feelings, doubts, fears, lack of knowledge, we're imperfect & we come to accept that. We're sisters in Jesus cheering each other on. If you're uncomfortable to share, you don't have to. We're just happy that you choose to be with us.



There is no charge for the books, all meetings are on Mondays, 10-11:30 AM, which gives you time to attend 12:00 mass if you wish. We're in the white house meeting room (convent), between the school & the rectory (blue house).

God Bless you, Carol & Anita (Moderators)
For info call 631-878-0009

2026: January 5, 26, February 9, 23, March 9, 23,
April 13, 27, May 11, 18, June 1, 15, 29

(Summer break July, August, back in September)

Comunidad Hispano...

La Comunidad Hispana de nuestra Parroquia en Centro Moriches te invita a celebrar la Santa Misa en español los sábados a las 7:30 PM en la Iglesia.

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

MINISTERIOS Y SERVICIOS

BAUTISMO:

Por favor traiga el certificado de nacimiento del niño dos meses antes del bautismo.

Requisitos:

1. Acta de nacimiento del niño o niña.
2. Certificado de registro de su Parroquia (padres y padrinos)
3. Los padres deben traer estos documentos a la oficina de San Juan para fijar las fechas de la charla prebautismal (OBLIGATORIO para padres y padrinos) y la fecha del Bautismo.

Segundo domingo a las 14 horas en la Iglesia. Las clases de prebautismo son el tercer miércoles de cada mes.

CASAMIENTO:

Las parejas que planean casarse deben concertar una cita con uno de los sacerdotes antes de la boda. Esto les dará tiempo suficiente para recibir las instrucciones prematrimoniales y obtener los documentos necesarios. Para más información llame a la oficina.

El personal de la oficina estará disponible para hablar en español de 6 a 8 PM los martes. Asegúrese de llamar antes de venir a visitarnos.

espanol@sjecm.org

Office staff will be available to speak in Spanish from 6 to 8 PM on Tuesdays. Be sure to call before you come and visit.

¡Dejanos ayudarte!

DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS DE ERNIE
Abierto - Lunes 6:30 PM a las 7:30 PM
Jueves 3:00 PM a las 4:00 PM.

TIENDA DE SEGUNDA MANO

Miércoles - Granero
Miércoles de 9:00 AM a las 12:00 PM.

COMIDA COMUNITARIA

Último lunes del mes 6:00 PM
auditorio de la escuela

MINISTERIO DE CALLE

Jueves - Estación de tren Mastic-Shirley
7:15 PM (aproximadamente)

Se encuentran disponibles comidas y ropa sencillas.

También necesitamos voluntarios para ayudar a traducir para quienes lo necesiten. Necesitamos voluntarios bilingües para nuestra despensa de comida. ¡Avísnos si puedes ayudar!



Reduce your 2025 Taxes with a Charitable IRA Rollover!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 29th, 2025

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
6:30-7:30 PM Food Pantry Open - Ernie's Place
7-8 PM Holy Hour to Pray for Priests - SC

Tuesday, December 30th, 2025

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

Wednesday, December 31st, 2025 **Parish Offices Closed**

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

Thursday, January 1st, 2026 **Parish Offices Closed**

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

Friday, January 2nd, 2026

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
7 PM Narcotics Anonymous - BMR
7 PM Spanish Prayer Group - SC
7 PM Knights of Columbus - BINGO

Saturday, January 3rd, 2026

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

Sunday, January 4th, 2026

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
BMR - Barn 1st Floor Mtg. Room
BUR - Barn Upper Room
SC - Seton Chapel
AMR - Auditorium Mtg. Room



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Please take some time look through the back pages of the bulletin! It features many local businesses (and often the work of parishioners) and the good work they do in our community. We have parishioners who do everything from car detailing to car mechanics to lacrosse training to taking care of pets. Take a look and learn more!

Did you know that St. John the Evangelist bulletin is printed free of charge each week? So please frequent the fine establishments that advertise in our bulletin!

Also, if your business could use a shot in the arm, consider advertising in the bulletin. Each weekend, the nearly 1,400 people who attend Mass at St. John the Evangelist - most of whom live and shop in the Moriches, Mastic, Shirley, Eastport, Speonk and Remsenberg area - receive or view our bulletin online. It's an easy way to reach thousands of families in the area with information about your business.

For more information on how to advertise in our bulletin, call The Church Bulletin Company at 631-249-4994