

St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church

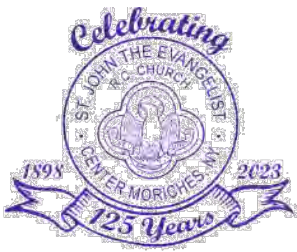


December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

“The Lord will strengthen us to the end”

Corinthians 1: 3-9



December 3, 2023

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

OUR PARISH MISSION

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

-Mission Statement

Church Hours

Monday through Friday 6:30 AM - 2:45 PM
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Seton Chapel
(Convent) - Monday through Friday
3:00 - 7:00 PM

Next Weekend's Schedule

Saturday, December 9th

5:00 PM - Fr. Jerry

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 10th

8:00 AM - Msgr. Walden

10:00 AM - Fr. Patrick

12 noon - Msgr. Walden

6:00 PM - Fr. Patrick

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

We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

Saturday: After the 8 AM Mass

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 PM &

7:00 - 7:15 PM (Spanish)

Sunday: 5:30 - 5:45 PM

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

Pastoral Team

Reverend Patrick M. Riegger

Pastor

Reverend 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

Andrew McKeon

Director of Music Ministries

Michelle Pirraglia

Director of Faith Formation

Katie Spellman

Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

Katie Waller

Director of Operations

OLQA

Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Regional Catholic School

(on the campus of SJE)

2 St. John Place

Center Moriches, NY 631.878.1033

www.olqany.org

Dawn Waller

Principal

dwaller@olqany.org (ext. 201)

Office Hours

Parish Office - Blue House

Monday - Thursday:

9 AM - 8 PM

Tuesdays: 6-8 PM Spanish-speaking support.

Friday - Saturday

9 AM - 2 PM

We ask that you call before visiting any parish offices.

Mass Schedule

Confession Schedule

A Message from Msgr. Walden



One of the delightful things to behold is the innocent joy of children. They look at things we take for granted and express wonder, awe, and joy. Many years ago, when one of my nephews was four years old, I took him to a beach in Greenport and we walked out on the dock there. It was January and there was no wind at all. You could look down in the water and see the bottom of the seabed. He looked at that pristine experience and said in wonder: “Where is everybody?” In the summer time that beach would be full of people, but on this magnificent day in January, we were the only two there.

We all too easily lose our sense of wonder, joy, and awe as we get older and get immersed in the routines of our daily lives. Today we begin another season of Advent where, spiritually and mentally, we are invited to get ready for one of the ultimate realities of wonder and awe that brings hope, joy, and peace to our hearts: the entrance of God Himself into our world and entrance our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. Last week we were deluged with advertisements beckoning us to get down to serious shopping with Black Friday bargains and sales. Why? It would be good for retail businesses and for the economy. Yet the true Black Friday, in reality, was that first Good Friday when Jesus Christ was crucified. On that day, the Gift that all people longed for and still long for today was “returned” to where it came from. Jesus did not “fit”.

As we go through life, we are not always so excited when we are given gifts. They don’t “fit” because we are not interested in using them. As we come to Mass on the first three Sundays of Advent (today is the first) we will hear words from the Prophet Isaiah all human beings need and long to hear: “God is coming to save you! God is coming to love you.” Today we hear: “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him.” It is not what God is coming to save us from as much as what He is coming to save us for and how He is going to do that. Wonder and awe (one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we receive in the Sacrament of Confirmation) blossom in our hearts when we realize that God’s presence in Jesus is a pure gift, given with divine hope, joy, and love. It is not a gift we ask for by size and shape, but a pure gift. It is not earned or not comprehended without wonder and awe.

I conclude these thoughts with a quote and prayer from the book I am reading called “The Rabbi’s Heartbeat” by Brennan Manning: “God is the father who ran to his prodigal son when he came limping home. God weeps over us when shame and self-hatred immobilize us. God loves who we really are - whether we like it or not, and calls us, as He did Adam, to come out of hiding into a more safe place. No amount of spiritual makeup can render us more presentable to Him. “Come to Me now,” Jesus says. “Acknowledge and accept who I want to be for you: a Savior of boundless compassion, infinite patience, unbearable forgiveness, and love that keeps no score of wrongs.”

Prayer: “Father God, thank you for calling to me when I am hiding from you and everyone else, including myself. Thank you, that when I was matted and muddy with sin You loved me and looked for me to return home. Thank you for giving me a safe place within the unconditional love of Christ. Amen.”

How blessed we are everyday here at St. John the Evangelist parish to encounter God’s love in the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confession. The wonder and awe of God’s loving presence is THE GIFT we all long for and are given.

Preparing for the Week

Saturday, December 2nd

5:00 PM Alba Carramusa
 7:30 PM *Spanish* People of the Parish

Sunday, December 3rd *First Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM James Paulsen
 10:00 AM Katy Dyer
 12:00 Noon Augustine Xavier
 6:00 PM Domenica Monteleone

Monday, December 4th *Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Richard Montemarano
 12:00 PM Anne Mintel

Tuesday, December 5th *Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Mary DiCioccio
 12 Noon Mary Fazio

Wednesday, December 6th *Advent Weekday*

7:00 AM Frank Stabile
 12 Noon Josphine Simeone

Thursday, December 7th *St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

7:00 AM Josephine Fay
 12 Noon Nora Arnold
 5:00 PM (Vigil) Gregory Mensch

Friday, December 8th *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

7:00 AM Cecelia Lisante
 12 Noon Dolores Madigan
 7:30 PM Charles and Margaret Peters

Saturday, December 9th *Advent Weekday*

8:00 AM Vivian Cordeiro
 5:00 PM Anthony Ricci
 7:30 PM *Spanish* People of the Parish

Sunday, December 10th *Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 AM James Paulsen
 10:00 AM Katy Dyer
 12 Noon Dolores Madigan
 6:00 PM Edward Robert Hopkins

Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.



Masses

Thursday, December 7th (Vigil)
 5 PM (Church)

Friday, December 8th
 7:00 AM ~ 12 Noon
 7:30 PM (Church - *English*)

The Parish Offices will be closed on in observance of this holy day of obligation.

PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Week January 1, 2023 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2023	\$813,404	47	\$17,306
2022	\$713,143	47	\$15,173

2023
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL
OFFICE OF FIDELITY & ETHICS

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



	2023	2022
Parish Goal	\$115,100.00	\$115,100.00
Number of Donors	295	281
Total Pledged to date	\$100,567	\$105,843
Avg. Gift	\$341	\$377
Percent of Goal	87%	92%

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!

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
\$14,533 TO GO!



“Advent, then, is a time for overturning our perspectives ... for letting ourselves be surprised by the greatness of God’s mercy,” -Pope Francis

Pause and Reflect this Advent Season

During the Advent Season we are called to slow down during the frenetic season of shopping, visiting friends and family, baking, wrapping gifts and perhaps even studying for finals.



Are you still struggling to get a unique present for someone special? Consider a gift for all seasons – a donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. It’s a special gift that touches the lives of over 600,000 people by supporting programs that allow us to build of community of faith, hope and love in our diocese and beyond.

Have you tried Text-to-Give to make a donation! It’s fast and secure.

Go to the following link to find your parish’s keyword: bit.ly/3VFrMCE

**TEXT your parish’s Keyword To:
(516) 271-3338**

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.

Praying For and With One Another

Remember

Antoinette Donohue
Maria Lucia Zoe

"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

Kenneth Danielsson,
Joseph Oppici and
Joseph Stillitano

"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

PVT Joseph Cestare, PFC David Smith,
SPC Michael Garcia Jr., CPL Aidan O'Neill,
PVT Anthony Koch, SPC Daniel Sisco,
SGT Sean Casey, Steven Valentin

US Air Force

SSGT Jason M. Hermes, SSGT Ryan Kerstiens,
SSGT Timothy Kerstiens, PFC Kyle Kerstiens,
MAJ Salvatore Sferrazza, SSGT David Giese

US Marine Corps

PFC Sean Brady, E-1 Christian Raeihle,
2nd LT Christopher Walther, PVT Charles O'Connor,
SGT Quentin Montemarano, CPL Evan Berkemeyer,
LC Michael Abbatiello

US Navy

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

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

Altar bread and wine for the month of December has been donated:

*In Memory of Deceased Members of the
Ciolino and Hammond Families*

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

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.

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

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, **Isaiah 9:** (lines 1-2 and 5-6)
or **Isaiah 63** (lines 16-17 & 19) or **Isaiah 64** (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:

he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,

he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, desire of nations, bind

in one the hearts of humankind;

bid ev'ry sad

division cease

and be thyself our Prince of peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

Then, a member of the family lights the first Advent candle. Another member of the family says following prayer:

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. ~AMEN.

—From Catholic Household Blessings—<http://store.usccb.org/catholic-household-blessings-and-prayers-p/5-645.htm>*



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.**

SJE Christmas Tree Lighting



Tuesday, December 5th at 6:15 PM

The Parish Tree Lighting will be held on the lawn between the Convent and the Parish Office / Rectory. Come watch as we light our newly planted Douglas Fir, sing some carols, and enjoy a nice cup of hot chocolate and some Advent treats! If you would like to help string the lights (before the 5th) or help with the set-up/clean-up of the hospitality that evening please contact the Office of Family Ministry at Clapham@sjecm.org. Hope to see you there!

Advent

Giving Tree

This year, Parish Social Ministry will continue our annual "Advent Giving Tree" that will benefit our *Street Ministry* and *Ernie's Place*.

Your donations at Christmas help us to manage the upcoming winter months.

We will have three trees this year, one at each exit of the church. Please take one or more paper ornaments from them,

Which will list a needed item. You can return these items, UNWRAPPED to the fellowship area of the church or the rectory office.

We will be running the Giving Tree until the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

Call 631-878-0009 ext. 119 for more info.

Once again, our Parish Social Ministry is asking for your help during Advent Your donations as so very appreciated and will be of great help during the winter months.

As we have done in the past, we will have 3 trees, one at each exit of the church, filled with paper ornaments that list items that are of greatest need. Please return these items, UNWRAPPED, in the fellowship area of the church or in the Rectory office. You will find ornaments on the trees throughout Advent.

Ernie's Place

The items listed below 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

- Icing
- Cake Mix
- Syrup
- Pancake Mix
- Canned Corn
- Canned red beans
- Bagged red beans
- Peanut Butter
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes

Street Ministry

CLOSET CLEAN OUT !!

St. John's Street Ministry is in **DESPERATE** need of **MEN'S COATS** - all sizes.

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



Parish Social Ministry Christmas Giving...

There are many ways you can help, together we can make a difference!

Donate Food: Leave non-perishable food in the bins in front of Ernie's Place or in the Fellowship Hall. \$25 gift card donations also welcome.

Sponsor a Family: Provide a meal for a neighbor. Have your family help their family. Email Christmas@SJEcm.org or call 631.878.0009 ext. 120 for details.

Put it all together: We will need your help on **Saturday, December 16th** with food sorting and distribution.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE COLLECTION BASKET AT MASS, THE RECTORY OR VIA EMAIL TO CHRISTMAS@SJEcm.ORG NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 12TH

Let us know how you can help.

Name: _____

Best Phone Number: _____

Best Email: _____

Bilingual? Yes No Languages spoken: _____

SPONSOR A FAMILY

___ **YES!** We can help to Sponsor a Family for Christmas
Please circle family size you wish to support: 2 3 4 5 More than 5

HELP WITH CONTACTING OUR FAMILIES

___ **YES!** I can contact our families via phone to schedule pick up times.
This will be on your own time the week of **December 11th.**

HELP ON CAMPUS

___ **YES!** I can help with Thanksgiving Basket distribution on
___ **Saturday, December 16th** from 8:30 to 10 a.m.
___ **Saturday, December 16th** from 10:30 to 2 p.m.

Monetary donations always welcome.

"You pray for the hungry, then you feed them. That is how prayer works." ~ Pope Francis

St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY DEC. 24TH

4:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL (CHURCH & AUDITORIUM)
6:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL
9:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL (SPANISH)
12:00 MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY SUNDAY DEC. 25TH

8:00 AM MASS
10:00 AM MASS
12 NOON MASS

25 Ocean Avenue - Center Moriches, New York 11934



Christmas Confessions...

The season of Advent is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for the Lord! The sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at SJE on the following days and times.



Monday - Friday after the 7 a.m. & 12 noon Masses

Saturdays - after the 8 a.m. Mass, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

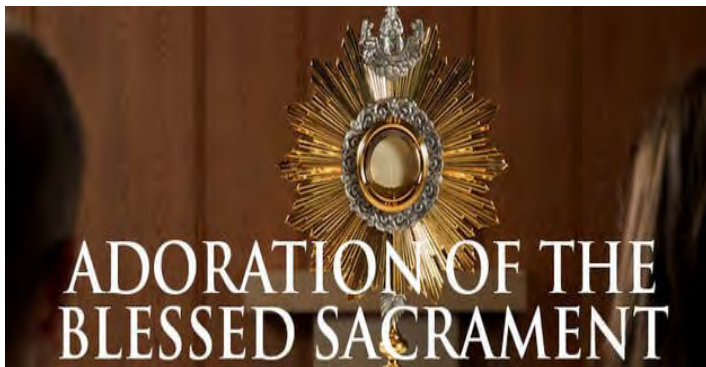
7 - 7:15 p.m. (Spanish)

Sundays—5:30 —5:45 p.m.

Advent Confession...

Monday, December 18th

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*-If we only knew the value of a Holy Hour, we would never miss a single day without making one. Because the Cross is infinite in merit there is no limit to the value of a Holy Hour!
(Letters to a brother priest.)*

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.



December

Upcoming Events

Blessing of the Advent Wreath
During the 5 o'clock evening Mass



2nd
5:00



Tree Lighting

5th
6:15

Come watch as we light our newly planted Douglas Fir, sing some carols, and enjoy a nice cup of hot chocolate and some Advent treats! .

Blessing of the Creche


Join us after the 10am Family Mass, to bless the Parish Creche



10th
10:00

The Messiah

SJE Parish Family will host...The Choral Society of the Moriches, Inc. invites you to the 84th Season of Handel's Messiah, in the church. Free entry with good will offering.



10th
3:00

Sandwich Sunday

Please come and live the true spirit of Advent by taking some of your precious time to help those in need. In the school cafeteria.



17th
11:00

Advent Confessions

The season of Advent is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for the Lord! The sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at SJE on the following days and times. Confessions will be heard between 6:00pm & 9:00pm in the church.



18th
6:00

Lessons and Carols

Come lesson and join in to our Parish Choir at 7pm in the Church



20th
7:00



Church Decorating

Come help SJE Art & Enviroment Ministry decorate the church for Christmas. Wednesday, December 20th 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Family Ministry



Moms on the Journey~ Grace, Grit and Gratitude

On Saturday, November 18th, our Moms on the Journey ministry worked together to distribute Thanksgiving turkeys, Christmas gift cards and children's coats to those in need in our local area. Under the direction of Katie Spellman, Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry, the moms manned Ernie's place - the first stop during the Thanksgiving meal distribution. These ladies are filled with the grace of God...making sure that every encounter was joyful, supportive and filled with the love and compassion of Jesus. But that's not all - they have the grit needed to battle the cold and the dampness and the seemingly endless line of cars. They worked together like a well-oiled machine and never stopped smiling! And at the end of the day, they were filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve. Sound like the kind of ladies you'd like to hang with? Come join us on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room of the Barn. All moms are welcome ! Come share faith, fellowship and fun! Next gathering will be in January!



Our Family Advent Wreath Making Event was WONDERFUL!

A word of great thanks to all who made our Family Advent Wreath Making Event such a tremendous success. The ladies on the Family Life Ministry worked tirelessly to make sure that everything was just perfect for all of the families who attended. Our Youth Service Corps did an outstanding job with our set-up on Saturday afternoon. Our parish office provided unbelievable support by creating our online registration procedures and making sure that everything was accessible through the parish website! Forge River Nursery generously donated our fresh pine branches and Fr. Patrick and Msgr. Walden led us in our Blessing of the Advent Wreaths. A tremendous THANK YOU to all! Check out these joyful families and their beautiful Advent wreaths!



Family Advent Wreath Making...





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



December 3, 2023 | First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7 | 1 Cor 1:3-9 | Mk 13:33-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In a nineteenth-century sermon, St. John Henry Newman wrote of today's Gospel: "[Jesus] mercifully whispers into our ears ... not to share in the general unbelief [around us], not to be carried away by the world but to 'beware, keep alert' and look out for his coming." I love the thought that Jesus is "mercifully whispering" to us. Welcome to Advent! We know that Advent is a time of anticipation and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ, but today's readings also speak to me of training ourselves to be alert for God's presence in the small, everyday moments of our lives. In his Letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes that "[we] are not lacking in any spiritual gift" as we await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are gifted with his grace. Our loving God bestows countless graces on us each day, and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can seek ways to be more aware of these graces. Yes, we can be more "alert" to them, but can also be thankful for these small moments of God's presence with us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Advent is a season of joyful hope. "I hope I can get my Christmas shopping done in time ... I hope I have time to get my house decorated this weekend." We all have "hopes and dreams" for this time of year, and, God-willing we will be blessed with a truly festive and joyous holiday season with our families. For Catholics, though, this season of "joyful hope" is one that has a much deeper meaning. We long for the return of Christ and our eternal union with him with a hope that is built on the promises of Jesus in the Scriptures. Our hope is not passive, but active. We know that God is always there for us, comforting us in bad times and rejoicing with us in times of happiness. Let us give thanks for our Triune God who desires to be in relationship with us enough that he sent his Son to take on our humanity. And let us silence any noise in our hearts so as to hear Jesus' merciful whisper of encouragement to be on the watch for his coming.

SING *People, look east. The time is near / Of the crowning of the year. / Make your house fair as you are able, / Trim the hearth and set the table. / People, look east and sing today; / Love, the guest, is on the way.*

Thanksgiving...

SJE Holiday Meal Distribution...

in the Parish



Thanksgiving Mass...



Meal Prayer of Gratitude for Those Who Feed Us

Gracious God, we thank you for providing those who sustain the world. All thanks be God for our...
 Blessed are you, God of Mercy, who strengthening the...
 Blessed are you, God of Justice, who...
 Blessed are you, God of Life, who...
 Blessed are you, God of Love, who...
 We give you thanks, O Lord, for all these good gifts and honor you for the food we are about to receive.
 Let the blessing of God be on the food and the blessing be for us, for the food and the blessing be for us, for the food and the blessing be for us.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Choral Society of the Moriches, Inc.
invites you to our 84th Season of*



GF Handel's
The Messiah

Directed by Martha Campanile



DECEMBER 8, 2023 | 7:30 PM
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE
10 CHURCH ST, PATCHOGUE, NY, 11772

DECEMBER 10, 2023 | 3:00 PM
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RC CHURCH
25 OCEAN AVE, CENTER MORICHES, NY, 11934

*Free Entry with Good Will Offering
For more information visit moricheschoral.org*

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.

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 19:30

Jueves 15 h. a las 4 PM.

TIENDA DE SEGUNDA MANO

Miércoles - Granero

Miércoles de 9 a 12 h.

COMIDA COMUNITARIA

Último lunes del mes 6 PM

auditorio de la escuela

MINISTERIO DE CALLE

Jueves - Estación de tren Mastic-Shirley

19:15 (aproximadamente)

Se encuentran disponibles comidas y ropa sencillas.

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

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

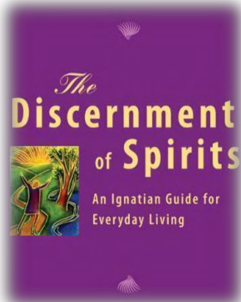
All **SJE employees and volunteers must** wear their SJE badge while serving in ministry. Please also check your email regularly to complete monthly updates. (Be sure to check your "spam" or "Junk" folder.)

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: December 4, 18, January 8, 22, February 5, March 4, 18, April 15, 29, May 13, 10, June 24 (summer break).

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.

Sunday's Word 2024

The 2024 Sunday's Word books have arrived ...

A donation of \$5.00 is requested but not required.

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 4th, 2023

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 PM Narcotics Anonymous-Men only- BMR

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023

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 6th, 2023

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 7th, 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 8th, 2023 Parish Offices Closed

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 9th, 2023

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous- BMR

9 AM Men's Prayer Group- SC

10:30 AM Bereavement Group—BMR

Sunday, December 10th, 2023

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous- BMR

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