

# St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



December 7, 2025

*Second Sunday of Advent*

*Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever ~ Psalm 72*



December 7, 2025

25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York, 11934-3968  
631-878-0009 | [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org)

## OUR PARISH MISION

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 13<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM - Msgr. Walden

7:30 PM (Spanish) - Fr. Pete

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

### Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM - Fr. Charlinec

10:00 AM - Fr. Patrick

12 noon - Fr. Francis

6:00 PM - Fr. Jerry

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

## Pastoral Team

**Reverend Patrick M. Riegger**  
Pastor

**Reverend Charlinec 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

## Mass Schedule

## OLQA

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles**  
**Regional Catholic School** (on the campus of SJE)  
2 St. John Place  
Center Moriches, NY 631.878.1033 (ext. 201)  
[www.olqany.org](http://www.olqany.org)

**Dawn Waller**, Principal  
[dwaller@olqany.org](mailto:dwaller@olqany.org)

## Office Hours

### 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.

## 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 Deacon Ed Grieb ...

### Second Sunday of Advent (Matthew 3:1-12 )



*'I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I... He will Baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire'*

Today's Gospel reading reminds us that this season of Advent is more than just a warm-up period to our Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent, like Lent, is also penitential in nature, a time when we reflect on our lives and consider what changes may be necessary as we wait for His promised second coming, a "New Heavens and a New Earth," as spoken of in the Book of Revelation.

Advent, derived from the Latin 'ad-venire', means 'to come.' Advent has a two-fold meaning to us in our faith. First, we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord's Birth some 2000 years ago and what that means to each of us; but, secondly, we also prepare ourselves for His next coming. It's in this preparation that we take inventory of ourselves and our life, opening our hearts to ready ourselves as we look for Christ alive in our presence and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us on this path of repentance. And it's in this second coming that we see the source of our Christian Hope - that God will bring all things to fulfillment in Him.

*"When He comes again in glory and majesty and all at last is made manifest, may we watch for that day...inherit the great promise in which now we dare to HOPE."*

*- Preface I of Advent*

Our 1<sup>st</sup> reading today from the Prophet Isaiah gives us a glimpse into our Christian Hope. A Hope that we share with our Jewish sisters and brothers. Isaiah's words reveal to us that world that is to come. As Christians, we see the realization of these promises in Jesus Himself as He establishes the beginnings of His Kingdom here on earth, and we also know in faith that it will be fully realized in the world to come. Our

passage today from Isaiah is from a time when the Jewish nation is all but in ruin as the result of an unworthy king, and so Isaiah compares it to a stump of a tree, one that no longer has branches nor bears leaves or fruit. But all is not lost, and he prophesizes that from this stump a great leader will blossom, God's anointed One.

St. Paul reminds us in a passage from his Letter to the Romans that it is through Holy Scripture that we find the encouragement for hope. When we read scripture, we not only find instruction and guidance for our faith, but also the inspiration to carry it through in our actions. And when we do, we will find ourselves working toward building God's Kingdom in our world.

Our passage from Matthew's Gospel today is a call to hope by John the Baptist, that the coming of the Messiah is at hand, and time is now to repent...to see in ourselves what it is we need to change. Though John the Baptist has harsh words for the Jewish temple leaders, we hear how many others were in fact listening and following John's call. It's a reminder for us to ask ourselves, have we accepted Jesus into our hearts, like those that were following John the Baptist? Do we hear and listen to the call to repentance? Though we face difficulties and challenges in living out our Christian lives in a society that largely does not accept Him, we know that Jesus is there to walk with us in love, helping us make those changes that are necessary.

The Jubilee Year of 2025 in our Church, with its theme "Pilgrims of Hope," will end later this month. In announcing the Jubilee last year, Pope Francis invited the faithful to embrace HOPE, calling it "a virtue which must be sourced above all in the grace of God and in the fullness of His mercy." May we all have a blessed Advent season, and may the Holy Spirit enkindle in us a spirit of Hope that allows us to open our hearts to the loving presence of Jesus in our lives.

# Masses for the Week...

## Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> Advent Weekday

- 8:00 AM Vivian Cordeiro
- 5:00 PM Richard O'Neill Sr.
- 7:30 PM *(Spanish)* People of the Parish

## Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM Marie Daniels
- 10:00 AM Frank Stabile
- 12:00 Noon Dolores Madigan
- 6:00 PM Pablo Lopez

## Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary *(Holy Day of Obligation)*

- 7:00 AM Anthony Ricci
- 12:00 Noon John Immel
- 7:30 PM People of the Parish

## Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> Advent Weekday

- 7:00 AM Dolores Madigan
- 12:00 PM John Robert Klaus IV

## Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> Advent Weekday

- 7:00 AM Patricia Cuff
- 12:00 Noon Katy Dyer and her brother Jack Dyer

## Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> Advent Weekday

- 7:00 AM Richard, Janet and Stephanie Heusmann
- 12:00 Noon Ernest Vigliotta

## Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 7:00 AM Bradley K. Kane
- 12:00 Noon Patrick Mannix

## Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

- 8:00 AM Darrell Supter
- 5:00 PM Cecilia Giustino
- 7:30 PM *(Spanish)* People of the Parish

## Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM Thomas Strong Sr.
- 10:00 AM Donna Autuori
- 12:00 Noon Patrick Rooney
- 6:00 PM Girard Preston

## The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

### Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

This solemnity is a holy day of obligation.

Mass times in the church:

7:00 AM, 12 Noon,  
and 7:30 PM



### Christmas Mass Remembrance Envelopes

Christmas Mass Remembrance Envelopes will once again be collected and placed on the altar for your Special Intentions during all Masses throughout the Christmas season. Please place your envelope in the collection basket or dropped it at the rectory no later than Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.



### PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2025 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2025	\$863,630	48	\$17,992
2024	\$856,660	48	\$17,847

### 2025 Please help us reach our goal!

Catholic Ministries Appeal  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Renewed by the Eucharist  
Sent on Mission



As of 12/2/2025	2025	2024
Parish Goal	\$115,100	\$115,100
Number of Donors	252	261
Total Pledged to date	\$101,053	\$107,581
Avg. Gift\$	\$401	\$412
Percent of Goal	88%	93.5%

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!

# 2025

## Every Gift Counts!

*Catholic Ministries Appeal*  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Renewed by the Eucharist  
Sent on Mission*

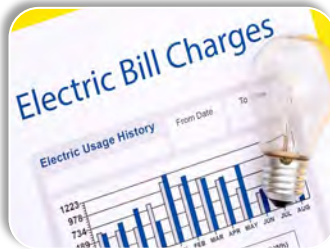


**A gift of \$25** may help pay the gas for a Meals-On-Wheels van to deliver food for a day.

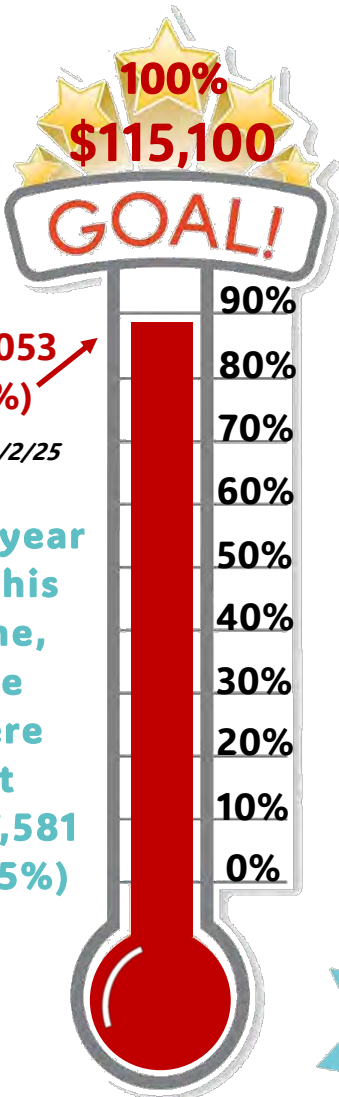


**A gift of \$1,000** may help support a Seminarian's education.

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



### Please help us reach our goal!



*We have reached 88% of our goal, with just three weeks 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

Anthony Bailey + Salvatore Iannone  
Florence Rose Watts

“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  
Jennifer Deschler  
Eileen & Chuck DeRicco  
Michael Campanello  
Bill Hasper  
Baby Isabelle Reyes  
Mark Havens  
Michael Lankau

Thomas Capone  
Michael Redmond  
Daniel Treadwell  
Margaret Frost  
Millie McDonald  
Valentino Liuzzi  
Suzan Fitzpatrick  
Tony Lupo

Alessandra Veloso Valentim

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

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

## Our Military

### US Marine Corps

LC Michael Abbatiello  
CPL Evan Berkemeyer  
PFC Sean Brady  
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  
2<sup>nd</sup> LT Christopher Walther

### US Navy

E43CPO Jason Abbatiello  
MMN2 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. Amalfitano  
PVT Cara Williams

### 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 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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org).



# Remembering Our Loved Ones

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

*Theresa Cartolano*

This week, the Altar Candles will be lit in Memory of:

*Joanne Cavalieri*

### 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](mailto: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.**

First Sunday of Advent,  
A Visit from the Prophet Isaiah



Last Sunday, the parish was blessed with a special visit from the prophet himself—and the good news is, *he's coming back!* **EVERY SUNDAY** during Advent, the children of the parish will have the awesome opportunity to spend some time with the prophet Isaiah! The Old Testament hero will be with us each week at the **10:00 Mass**. Please come and hear what the prophet of old has to share with all of us here in Center Moriches!



# OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Our Level 7 & 8 students learned more about the Season of Advent!

*Level 7 students* learned more about the Season of Advent and the Advent Wreath. Advent also is a reminder of Jesus breaking through the darkness of the world as the light of the World, and students wrote down places in their own lives where they need Jesus' light to shine, placing their intentions in the empty manger.

*In Level 8*, our students worked on a Jesse Tree project. They used their "Breakthrough" Youth Bibles to research some of the Bible Figures who are featured in the Jesse Tree, which explains the lineage of Jesus and Salvation History.

*All Level 7 & 8 students* also took an ornament from our Advent Giving Tree and will bring back the item for our Street Ministry at their December Advent Family Prayer Service.



## 2025 FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDARS for all our programs are available on the Faith Formation page of our parish website.

([sjecm.org](http://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.**

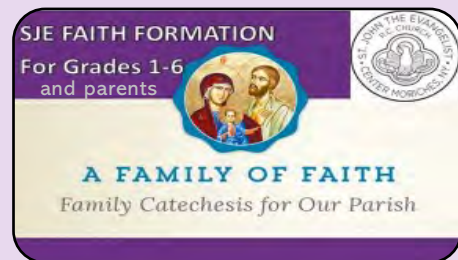
Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles!

### LEVEL 8 (Confirmation Prep Year 2):

**Next Class Session:**

**Tuesday, December 9 at 7:15 PM in the Church.**

This is a Parent/Student event. Please bring the Advent Giving Tree Donation (unwrapped) to the service!



Next Sessions:

- Tuesday, January 6 & Thursday, January 8 at 5 PM or 7 PM in the Church (attend one).
- Grade Level 4 Mass - Sunday, 1/11 at 10 AM.
- Grade Level 5: Sunday, 1/25 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!



# Advent Giving Tree

Our Parish Social Ministry is asking for your help during Advent with our annual *Giving Tree* that will benefit the Street Ministry and Ernie's Place. As we have done in the past, we will have 2 trees in the fellowship area of the church. Please take one or more paper ornaments from them which will list a needed item. These items should be returned UNWRAPPED to the fellowship area of the church or to the rectory office.

We ask that all unwrapped gifts be returned on or before 12/15.

If you have any questions please call the PSM Office  
631.878.0009 ext 120

# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



*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!

## 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!

- \* 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



- ◆ 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.*



# STUFF A STOCKING!

This year, Ernie's Place is once again providing complete Christmas meals to those in need. To make the holiday extra special for the families we serve, outreach at parish social ministry would like your help with a new treat:

**Stuff a Christmas stocking for a family!**

It's easy to get involved and a great activity for the whole family during the Advent Season!

## How to Help

- Purchase a Christmas stocking
- Stuff it with whatever treats and useful items you'd like.
- Drop it off at the parish auditorium on Thursday, 12/11 between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM

## Stocking Stuffer Ideas

Christmas Candy  
Deck of playing cards  
Snacks  
Pack of tissues  
Crayons  
Small games  
Be as creative as you wish!

Thank you for helping us bring extra cheer to families this Christmas!





### 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!

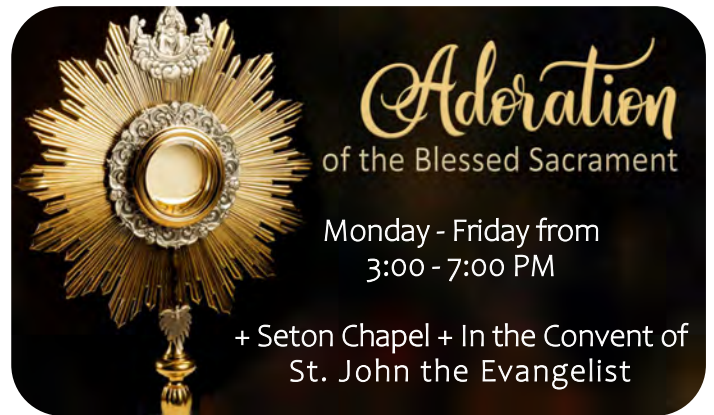


## Bereavement Support...

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 Rector at  
631.878.0009 or via email at  
[Rector@sjecm.org](mailto:Rector@sjecm.org)  
\$10 donation for the workbook.



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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org) or call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009.

**A BETTER KIND OF POLITICS**  
Civilize It

**Advent Prayer to be like Mary**

Blessed Mother,  
Mary, as we reflect on your yes to bring the Savior into the world, we ask that you be with us as we strive to bring Jesus to all those we encounter. In this season of joyful hope, we turn to you for guidance. May we imitate your loving example, and steadfastly bring peace and justice to our world.

When we are tempted to distance ourselves from another, give us the grace to say yes to charity. When we are frustrated, let us listen with our hearts to our neighbors. When we are disappointed, Help us seek new solutions as you did when the Inn was full.

Let us embrace our own need for poverty and humility in order to work toward creative solutions for our world as we await the coming of Christ. Amen.

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Our Lady Queen of Apostles  
Regional Catholic School

Contact Us!

631-878-1033

olqany.org

Scan QR Code



# Food Drive

Last month, our students donated more than 1,200 non-perishable food items to benefit the Food Pantries of our supporting parishes!



## A Message from Monsignor Walden...



Our spiritual preparation for Christmas at times can be put on the back burner as we send cards, buy gifts, and arrange and attend joyful gatherings with family, friends, and coworkers. Our spiritual preparation is called the season of Advent. In contrast to the season of Lent where we focus on sacrifices, prayer, devotions, and good works, the season of Advent is a time that is permeated with joyful thoughts of being enriched and enriching one another with our physical gifts and our physical presence. In the Gospel for today's Mass (Matthew 3:1-12) we have these words from John the Baptist: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at Hand!" All of the gifts and gatherings are really an opportunity to remind ourselves of what a gift it is to be loved and to love one another, which then points to and opens our minds and hearts to God's love for us. Every time and place we share the love in our hearts with our time, presence, and undivided attention we are embracing the season of Advent.

But the real key is to focus on what Christmas is really all about. The commercial celebration of Christmas has a traditional beginning with the Friday after Thanksgiving (Black Friday) where the stores open wide their doors and the on line deals for physical gifts seek our attention. This is a very important time for the monetary side of Christmas. But what is it that we do spiritually to get ready? Of course we are faithful to daily prayer and Sunday Mass. We also have the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance of the Monday before Christmas as there will be priests in every parish in our diocese, including our own St. John the Evangelist, where confessions will be heard. In reality in our parish we offer the Sacrament of Penance after every weekday mass, on Saturdays from 4:00-5:00 PM, and on Sunday evening at 5:30. Confession is not a sacrament that readily comes to mind when we think of preparing for Christmas, but is one of the wonderful gifts we

all need to find peace in our hearts and to once again experience the joy and inspiration of God's merciful love. The birth of our Savior in the Christ Child is a powerful sign and reality of the love experienced in our humble, mercy filled, encounter with Jesus. The gift of His presence is a gift of pure, unconditional, life giving, merciful love.

Jesus is the Son of God who almost unbelievably humbled Himself and came into our world as one of us. He was born in a stable because there was no room for Him at the inn. He did not come to rule over us but to invite us into His life and to be invited into ours. Giving Him our time, attention, and presence throughout the Advent Season and everyday of our lives is exactly the gift He came to experience as He continues to give us His time, attention and presence. He is the present and presence we all seek and we are the present and presence He seeks.

I conclude with the RENEW 2000 prayer which is a beautiful expression of what Advent and the gift of Jesus is all about as well as the gift we are to Him and one another.

*Gracious God and Father,  
We are your people embraced by your love.  
We thank you for your presence with us  
throughout all time.*

*As we celebrate over 2000 years since the birth  
of Jesus, your Son: Create us anew.  
Liberate us from all that keeps us from you.  
Send your Holy Spirit, enabling us  
to recreate our world and restore justice.*

*Heal us from every form of sin and violence.  
Transform us to live your Word more profoundly.  
Reconcile us so enemies, become friends.  
Awaken us to the sacred;  
Nurture our relationships;*

*Enliven our parishes; reunite our families.  
Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullness of life.  
Empower us to be a community of love  
growing in your likeness by the  
grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SJE Parish Social Ministry

# SPREAD *the* WARMTH

Our Parish Street Ministry is in Desperate  
need of Men's Coats and Sweatshirts -  
All Sizes!!

## DROP OFF LOCATION:

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

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

December 7, 2025

*The Choral Society of the Moriches, Inc.  
Invites you to Our 86<sup>th</sup> Season of*

**GF Handel's  
The Messiah**

**Directed by Martha Campanile**



**Friday, December 12, 2025 at 7:30 pm  
St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church  
105 Randall Road, Shoreham, NY 11786**

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**Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 3:00 pm  
St. John the Evangelist RC Church  
25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, NY 11934**



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](http://www.usccb.org) to find the readings of the day. Then the Leader continues:

Leader: **Lift up your hearts.**

All respond: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

The Leader prays: **God, the Father of mercies, you willed your Son to take flesh, in order to give life back to us. Bless these your gifts with which we are about to nourish our bodies, so that, receiving new strength, we may wait in watchfulness for the glorious coming of Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

After the meal, the Leader says: **Let us live soberly, justly, and devoutly in this world as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

All respond: **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**



# For You Too Were Once Aliens...

A STATEMENT BY THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF NEW YORK STATE  
November 13, 2025 | Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini



## ***Leviticus 19:33-34***

*“When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.”*



In September, a striking mural depicting immigrants of the past and present was dedicated at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in Manhattan. Among the multitude of those immigrants now gracing the narthex walls of our venerable metropolitan cathedral – nameless men and women who came to this land often “tired...poor...[and] yearning to be free” – stands a young Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Mother Cabrini, a woman consecrated to the Lord, was an indefatigable advocate, protector, and educator of newly arrived immigrants to New York. A native of Italy, she overcame anti-Italian prejudice in her adopted country of America and established, with God’s grace, numerous charitable institutions and schools to serve those finding their way in a new land.

Mother Cabrini reminds us of the Church’s longstanding care and concern for immigrants, as the mural itself, stunning in its scope, illustrates an indisputable fact: New York was and is a land of immigrants whose contributions have enriched and transformed, indeed built, our society.

Contemplating this magnificent mural at a moment when our nation considers again the plight of the immigrant, we recall that Christian charity, as lived so powerfully by Mother Cabrini, demands we welcome the stranger and treat every individual with respect and dignity.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes this clear.

*“The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him.”*

*“Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants’ duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.”* (n. 2241)

Pope Leo XIV, like his predecessors, has already taught this truth and shown particular solicitude towards migrant refugees—those who leave their homes not simply to seek a better life abroad, but who are forced to take flight because of violence and oppression in their own nations. In his first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, proclaimed on October 4, 2025, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, he wrote:

*"The Church, like a mother, accompanies those who are walking. Where the world sees threats, she sees children; where walls are built, she builds bridges. She knows that her proclamation of the Gospel is credible only when it is translated into gestures of closeness and welcome. And she knows that in every rejected migrant, it is Christ himself who knocks at the door of the community." (Section 75)*

In recent years, many such refugee migrants have come to New York. Some have arrived from war-torn countries like Ukraine and Afghanistan; others from Central or South America have fled poverty, authoritarian governments, and drug cartels that made life in their country of origin dangerous for themselves and their families. Some have been granted refugee or temporary protected status, while others have no legal status. Most of these migrants – the majority, our neighbors – are good people who arrived on our shores seeking a better life.

Sadly, as in any group, some have exploited the system and committed serious crimes and other misdeeds. Those immigrants or refugees who commit crimes should face the appropriate criminal and civil penalties, including deportation. At the same time, general enforcement of the immigration laws must be carried out in a humane manner that does not target the hard-working and law-abiding; that does not permit the wanton and unnecessary separation of families; and that does not rely on campaigns of fear that cripple whole communities.

As such, we do not support the sweeping revocation of the temporary protected status that was granted to many migrants who arrived in this country to escape the horrors occurring in their own, and who have justifiably relied upon the legal protections our government offered to them. Such persons should not be subject to the arbitrary cancellation of their legal status and threatened with a sudden return to the troubled and dangerous nations from which they fled. At the same time, while we support the right to peacefully protest and witness opposition to political policies, we can never condone violence against immigration and law enforcement agents.

Before the complex questions of immigration, we maintain, without question, that our government has a duty to secure our borders and ensure that those who wish to enter the United States do so lawfully. In union with our brother Bishops across the United States, we have consistently urged our civil leaders to craft immigration laws that respect our borders and create an orderly process for those who wish to enter our nation, while offering a measure of forgiveness towards those who arrived here without legal status but who have proven their contributions and loyalty to our country over a period of time.

These are all good points to ponder. However, most important to recall is the law of Christ set down in the Great Commandments: To love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as ourselves. All other imperatives are subject to this law of charity, and it is concerned neither with legal status nor country of origin. As individuals and as a society, we are bound to follow this supreme command and to make all our actions consistent with it, to the best of our abilities, even in difficult circumstances.

Returning to the example of Mother Cabrini, the Bishops of the United States have called on Catholics in all walks of life to stand in solidarity with immigrants and refugees by signing *The Cabrini Pledge, an Invitation to be Keepers of Hope*. We encourage New York Catholics to sign the pledge. By doing so, you will follow in the footsteps of our beloved Mother Cabrini in acknowledging our duty to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate immigrants in accordance with the guidance proclaimed by Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church.

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## ***The Cabrini Pledge***

Sign the pledge today by scanning the QR code or visiting this link: [www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge](http://www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge). Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini is the patron saint of all migrants. We seek her intercession for the concerns we have mentioned. By joining us in signing the Pledge, you commit your prayers and energy for the welcome, protection, promotion, and integration of migrants.



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**Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan**, Archbishop of New York  
**Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger**, Apostolic Administrator of Albany  
**Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan**, Bishop of Brooklyn  
**Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher**, Bishop of Buffalo

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley**, Bishop of Ogdensburg  
**Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano**, Bishop of Rochester  
**Most Reverend John O. Barres**, Bishop of Rockville Centre  
**Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia**, Bishop of Syracuse

**And the Most Reverend Auxiliary and Emeritus Bishops of New York State**

## 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](mailto:espanol@sjecm.org)

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

#### ¡Dejanos ayudarte!

#### DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS DE ERNIE

Abierto - Lunes 6:30 PM a las 7:30 PM  
Jueves 3:00 PM a las 4:00 PM.

#### TIENDA DE SEGUNDA MANO

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

#### COMIDA COMUNITARIA

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

#### MINISTERIO DE CALLE

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

Se encuentran disponibles comidas y ropa sencillas.

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

## 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.*

## COMING TO ST. ISIDORE CHURCH

622 Pulaski Street, Riverhead



Creative Ministries  
Performing Arts Center

## BEHOLD... THE MOMENT A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

BY PETER B. FRANCIS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
4 PM**

Good Will Offering

# Men's Prayer Group...



## CALLING ALL MEN!

Come join the Totus Tuus Men's Prayer Group on Saturday mornings at 9 AM in the Convent. Join as us as we learn to follow the example of St. Joseph and grow in our faith, reflect on the Gospel and have coffee. For more information, please call the rectory office at 631-878-0009.

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

**HOLIDAY**

**FESTIVAL**

Indoor Event!  
FOOD | VENDORS | FARM ANIMALS | PICTURES WITH SANTA | MUSIC | BOUNCE HOUSE

DECEMBER 13TH  
12-4

Cassidy Hill Farm  
30 North St, Manorville

Cassidy Hill Farm is honored to support a local pediatric oncology patient and their family. We hope this festival brings joy to our community while also lending a helping hand to those who need it most. A portion of the festival proceeds will go directly to support the family during this challenging time.

Moriches Rotary presents...

Photos with Santa \$8

**Breakfast with Santa**

Sunday, December 7th

9:00 am - 12 noon  
Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck  
Chet Swezey Road, Center Moriches

Adults \$12 Seniors \$10 Kids \$8 (12 and under)



# Weekly Calendar

## Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 **Parish Offices Closed**

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

## Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 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, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 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, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 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, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

## Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

BMR - Barn 1<sup>st</sup> 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