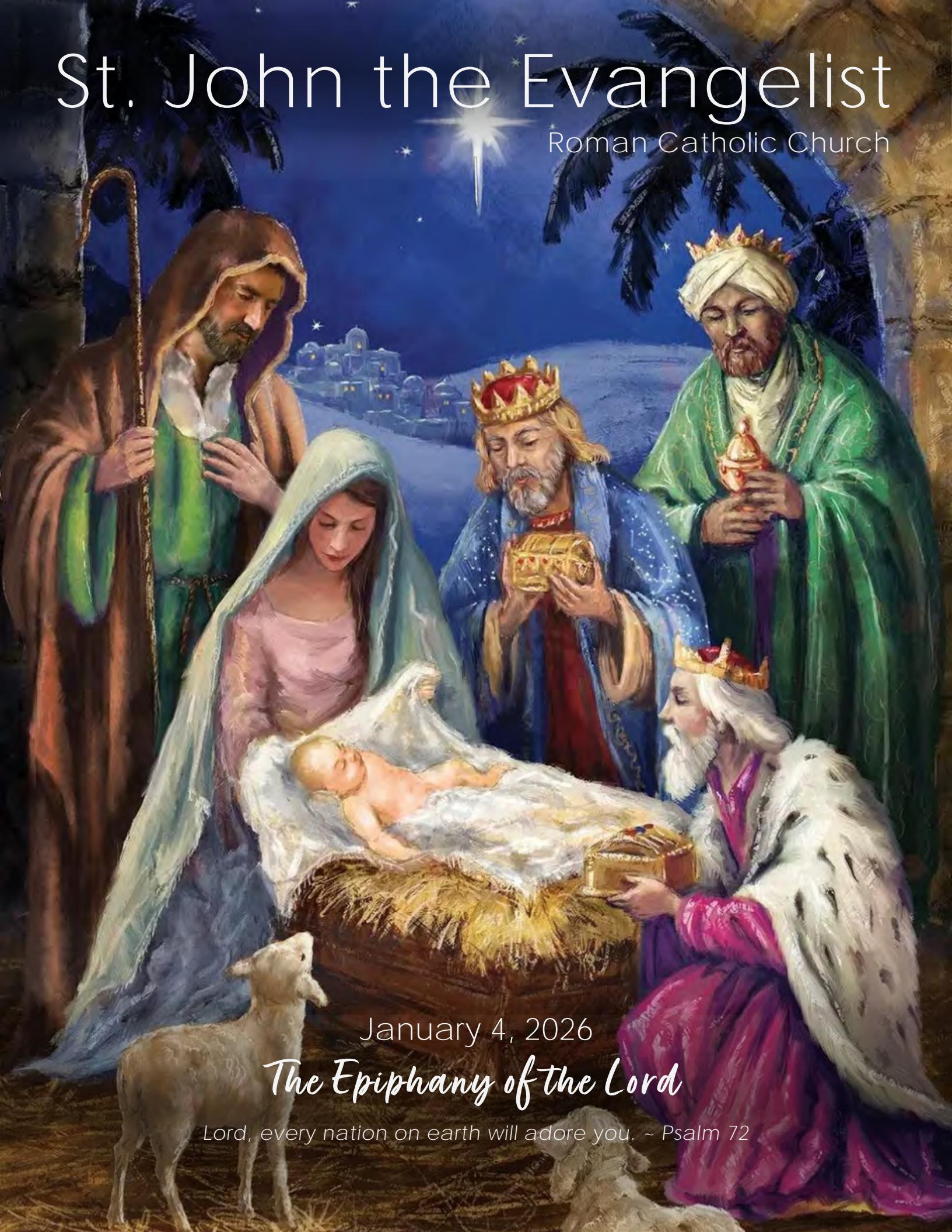


# St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



January 4, 2026

*The Epiphany of the Lord*

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. ~ Psalm 72



## Pastoral Team

**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

## 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

**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.

January 4, 2026

25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York, 11934-3968  
631-878-0009 | [rectory@sjcem.org](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM - Fr. Jerry  
7:30 PM (Spanish) - Fr. Pete  
(Saturday Evening 5 PM Mass  
will be livestreamed. Videos remain  
on Facebook after the live broadcast.)

### Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

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

\*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 Message from our Pastor, Fr. Patrick...

## The Feast of the Epiphany

*"Reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas"*

**Each year, we celebrate Christmas big!** We celebrate Christmas with great solemnity and festivity all around the world. We celebrate Christmas big because Christmas is everything! Christmas is the greatest story ever told! Christ entering the world is the fulfillment of all of our hopes and longings. Christmas draws our attention to the Lord's Nativity in which prophecy was fulfilled. We are reminded every Christmas of how God remained true to His promise to bring salvation to humanity, salvation without end. Christmas reminds us that we have hope. It reminds us of our bright future in eternity, where Christ reigns forever!

**Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.** Today's feast, during this new Christmas Season, reminds us that God has revealed His complete love for us through His only Son Jesus Christ. It reminds us that the fullness of wisdom, knowledge and the love of God are found in Christ alone. We see on that first Christmas how God has made His love known through Jesus. It is clear from that first Christmas, that when one encounters the Lord, one encounters the fullness of God. The Nativity of the Lord reminds us of this. It is also clear from the Magi, that when one encounters the Lord, one is transformed. The implications are enormous when one is touched by the goodness of the Lord. The Magi heading home by a different route after encountering the Lord at the Nativity signifies conversion of heart. Their lives are renewed and changed forever. They head on a new path filled with new life, wonder and understanding!

**The truth is: no Christmas, no Jesus!** No Jesus, no salvation! Christmas reminds us of our greatest hope, heaven without end. Yet every year, the Christmas Season is cut short. It seems like, for the most part, that Christmas ends on the evening of December 25th, when in reality the season is only beginning. Each year it ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is two weeks long. Yet, according to today's standards, it is only one day long. Yes, we begin preparing for this great feast, with great joy and expectation during the Season of Advent. But in actuality, this

season only begins on Christmas Eve with the celebration of liturgy.

**For me, the days following the 25<sup>th</sup> of December** leading up to the Feast of the Epiphany are my favorite because it is my time to be alone in prayer reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas. It is so hard, in the beginning of Advent with all the preparations, celebrations and social gatherings to be silent and reflective. However, this time during the Christmas Season, I find it very peaceful. I enjoy spending extra time in prayer next to my tree and the Nativity reflecting on the joy and wonder of Christmas; God's complete love for humanity found lying in the manger. For me, this is a time to be extra grateful for the countless blessings in my life; to be extra grateful for the gift of my family and for my assignment here at St. John's. It is a time to encounter the Lord once again, who comes to us each Christmas filled with the love and the joy and the wonder of God. God everlasting!



## Parish Update

**I hope that all of you are having a great Christmas** surrounded by the love of family and friends. I hope that we all experience great conversion of heart and are led on a new path filled with the joy and the wonder of the Lord. A special thank you for your generosity this Christmas Season in supporting our annual Christmas Appeal. I am grateful for your prayerful and financial support. Without your help, I cannot do my part. In the next couple of weeks, I will be sending out letters thanking you for your Christmas gift to St. John's Church. I also want to thank you in joining me in supporting this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. It is never easy trying to meet our goal, but we have received 95% of our goal so far. As of now, we will receive a rebate of \$18,400 which will go towards the ongoing maintenance of our parish. Last year's rebate of \$24,000 went towards the cleaning of the outside of the entire church structure, and towards the upkeep of the church's parking lot.

**Thank you again for everything!** Thank you for your love for our parish. I pray that you and your families have a happy and healthy New Year!

# Masses for the Week...

Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Weekday

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

Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany of the Lord

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

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> Saint John Neumann, Bishop

7:00 AM Patricia Cuff

12:00 Noon Jennifer Villaccio

Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM James Garvey  
 12:00 PM Joseph DeLessio

Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM Special Intention-Ann Garvey  
 12:00 Noon Sr. Genevieve Lanahan

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM Patricia Cuff  
 12:00 Noon Harry Serres

Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM Special Intention-  
 Peggy and Pete Tormisano  
 12:00 Noon Rudy Hanfner

Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Weekday

8:00 AM Alexis Lynne Schieferstein  
 5:00 PM Saverio Giambalvo  
 7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 AM Albert Glover  
 10:00 AM Jeannie Krucher  
 12:00 Noon Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney  
 6:00 PM Robert Salomone



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!



CHRISTMAS APPEAL	TOTAL GIVING
2025 as of 12/29/25	\$66,862
2024 year end final total	\$76,594

## PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2025 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2025	\$923,073	52	\$18,099
2024	\$937,882	52	\$18,036

**2025** Please help us  
 reach our goal!

Catholic Ministries Appeal  
 DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Renewed by the Eucharist  
 Sent on Mission



As of 12/29/2025	2025	2024
Parish Goal	\$115,100	\$115,100
Number of Donors	256	270
Total Pledged to date	\$108,978	\$117,106
Avg. Gift	\$426	\$434
Percent of Goal	95%	101.8%

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!



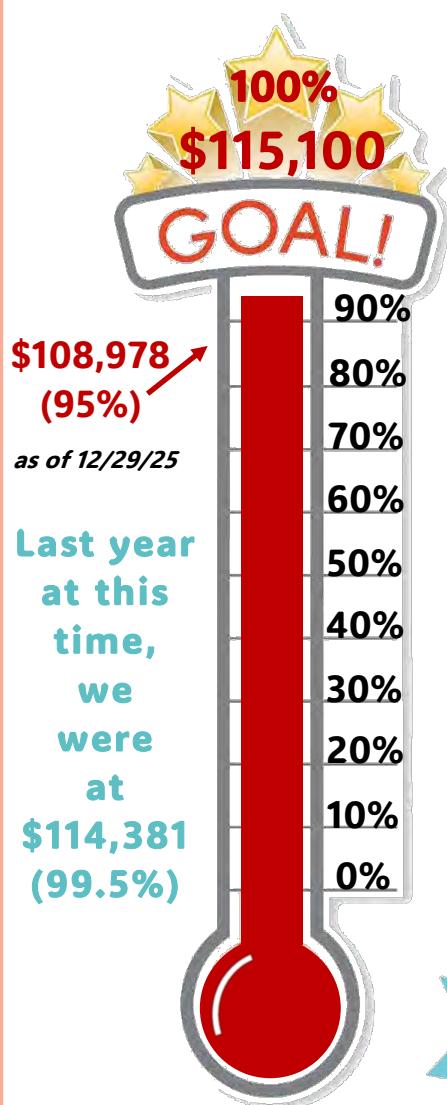
***"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'***

**-Luke 2:10**

**Glory to God in the Highest! May the blessings of God's special gifts be yours this Christmas and in the New Year.**

**Sincerely Yours in Christ,**

**The Staff of The  
Catholic Ministries Appeal**



**Please help us reach our goal!**



**To date, we have reached 95% of our goal, as the 2025 CMA comes to a close! 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

### Jane Marzillier

"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

Eileen & Chuck DeRicco

Michael Campanello

Bill Hasper

Baby Isabelle Reyes

Baby Leonardo Fulfree

Daniel Treadwell

Valentino Liuzzi

Alessandra Veloso Valentim

Mark Havens

Patricia Melillo

Tommaso Campione

"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).

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

## *The Deceased of the Parish*

### 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)

## 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 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

### 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 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  
A1C Peter A. Traina

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

### 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.**

# Our Lady Queen of Apostles

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
IN CENTER MORICHES

*Called to be a Family of Families*



## Open House

Sunday, January 25th

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### Why OLQA?

- Faith-centered community rooted in Catholic values
- Individualized learning environment & dedicated teachers
- Students grow spiritually, socially, and academically



Come & See the  
Catholic School Difference



# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

PSM Office 631.878.0009 ext. 120

Email: [socialministry@SJEcm.org](mailto:socialministry@SJEcm.org)

*Happy Blessed New Year from everyone at Parish Social Ministry! If you have been thinking about volunteering for any of our outreach ministries, now is a great time to get started. Please call the office for more information. If you are in need of your SJE issued volunteer badge or are new to volunteering, please call Cathy at ext. 126 to get registered for the Virtus training class. Thank you for sharing your time!*



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



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

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**



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

\$10 donation for the workbook.



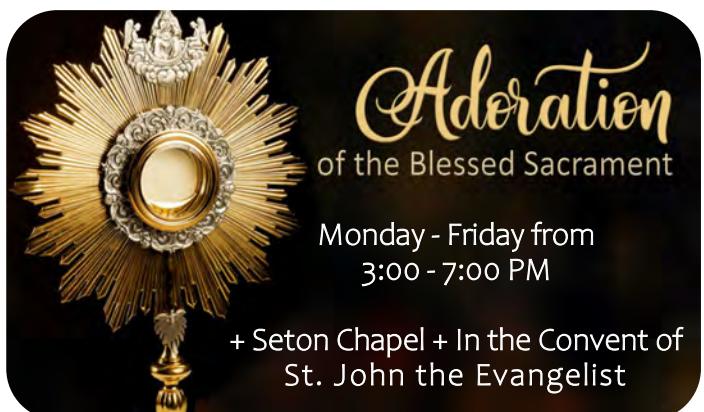
**CATHOLIC FAITH  
NETWORK**

[www.cfntv.org](http://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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org) or call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009.

# 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.

Phone: 631-878-0009, ext. 5  
 Website: <https://sjecmff.blogspot.com/>  
[faithformation@sjecm.org](mailto:faithformation@sjecm.org) / [mpiraglia@sjecm.org](mailto:mpiraglia@sjecm.org)  
 Office Hours: By Appointment Only



## 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!

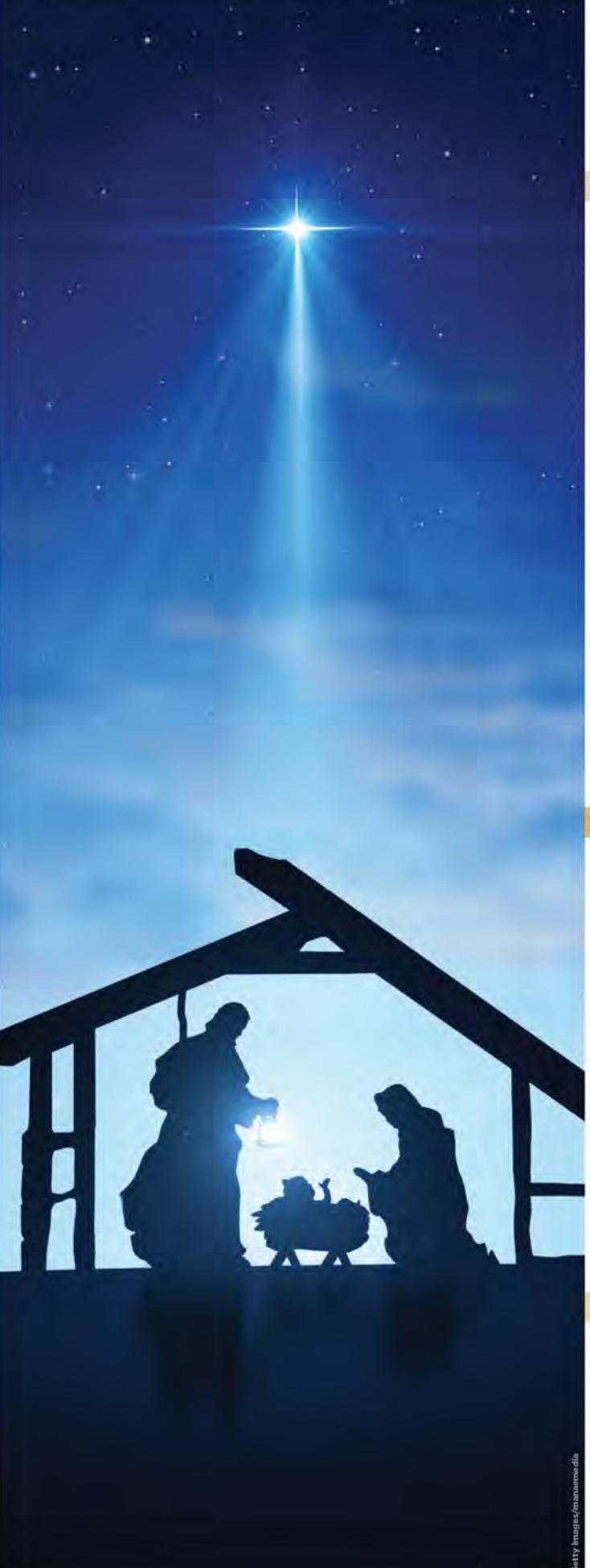
### LEVEL 8 (Confirmation Prep Year 2):

#### Next Class Session:

**Tuesday, 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!



January 4, 2026

Written by

THE

FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

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

Have you ever had a moment where you've been so joyful that your heart "throbbed and overflowed"? (Is. 60:5)

Perhaps this prompt might call to mind moments we have been chosen or noticed, especially when we otherwise felt sidelined or forgotten. (Imagine expecting to be picked last for the team, only to be someone's first choice!)

Today's first reading speaks of a moment like that. While the nations of the earth are shrouded in darkness, God shines his light and glory on Jerusalem, and all the nations come streaming to her bearing precious tributes. Similarly, our Gospel speaks about how God chose Bethlehem — a seemingly insignificant town — to be the birthplace of his Son: "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people." Like Jerusalem and Bethlehem, we, too, have been chosen by God. As we continue our celebration of Christmas, our hearts are filled to overflowing when we recall that by taking on our flesh, God has chosen to make his home with us for all eternity.

## GO EVANGELIZE

### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul reminds us that God has chosen us, not only for ourselves, but for the sake of others: "You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit." God gives Paul a special revelation to know the mystery of God so he could preach the Gospel to the Gentiles and to all peoples. We who know the joy of having been chosen to be God's beloved sons and daughters have the beautiful task of helping others to know that they, too, are chosen by God. Because of this, evangelization is not simply an item on our spiritual to-do list; it is a work of joy — the joy of helping others to discover their own "belovedness" as children of God. And of course, this message is for everyone!

## INVITATION

One of the best presents we can offer to someone is our presence. Make an effort this week to intentionally spend time with someone who may feel lonely or forgotten, setting aside other tasks to focus entirely on them. The goal is to help them feel special and *chosen* as a way of giving a glimpse of God's love that chooses each of us out of the many. May the gift of your presence help them to remember how very loved they are.

# A Message from Monsignor Walden...

Today we celebrate the Epiphany, the journey the three kings made to find the Christ child. While we do not know the exact distance, it is clear they followed a star and found the Christ child. Physical distances are no real problem for us today; air travel has turned hours and days, and long distances into a matter of minutes and hours. Mentally, we travel "miles" everyday as we follow one thought to another and physically travel distances that are short, but centuries ago would have taken hours or days.

The first reading for Mass today (Isaiah 60:1-6) has these joyful words of encouragement and hope: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance." We have the blessing and opportunity of being in God's presence through our attentiveness in prayer at any time or place, and the gift of Church buildings here and around the world where we can come into the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He is far more than the infant in the manger adored by the Magi. He is our God who has humbled Himself in taking on our human nature, giving His life on the cross for us, rising from the dead, and being present in every Catholic Church in the Blessed Sacrament. He feeds us with Himself in the words of the Scripture and literally comes into our very bodies in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. He is the Word of life and the Bread of Life. What gift do we bow down and give Him?

First of all, it is a true blessing and gift to be in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The key is to focus on who we are with and communicating with. When we pray in places other than a church building, we find many even more distractions as we seek quiet, quality, enriching time in prayer and reflection. The key is to focus on who we are with in humble joy, hope, and gratitude. One of the greatest gifts we can give to each other is our undivided attention. The phone, TV, computer, and radio are all devices that are constantly at our fingertips and calling for our time and attention. How refreshing it is to spend quality, focused time with loved ones. That is what prayer is all about. It is simple but very challenging at times to experience the joy of the Magi through our prayer and reception of the Sacraments where we personally encounter God and

His love, mercy, and joy.

We are always uplifted when we experience the joy of quality time with one another. When we put our heart and soul into those we are with, we are enriched, uplifted, and inspired. The same happens when we spend quality time in God's presence in prayer and the celebration of Sacraments. Our undivided attention to those we are with is an expression of our love for one another. Recently I read this thought in the book I am reading, "Love Your Enemies" by Arthur Brooks: "Love is a verb, not a feeling." Hopefully, we see and experience that everyday. Would that everyday be an Epiphany where we mentally bow down in gratitude and joy for the gift of faith, the presence of Jesus, and the gift and presence of one another? That light is a true gift and sorely needed in our hearts and our world today.

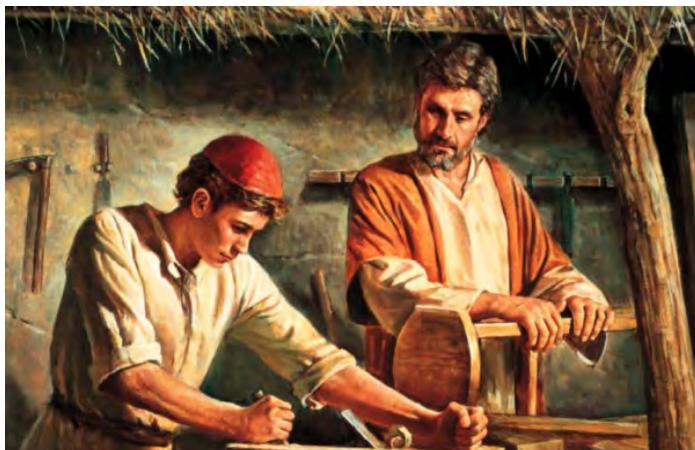
I close with these words of St. Paul from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Notice all words we can use to express love and those that attack love.

*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 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.

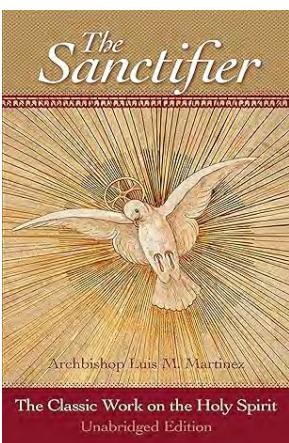


## Women's Group...

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)

## Thank You to Our SJE Art & Environment Team



Our heartfelt thanks to the Art & Environment Team who work so tirelessly each season to prepare our church and make it a sacred and welcoming place for all. Your dedication, creativity, and love for our parish were beautifully reflected in the Christmas décor.

May the Christ Child bless each of you abundantly this Christmas season.



# Marriage Struggling?



**REGISTER**



**NOW!**

 [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org)  
**RETRouveAILLE**  
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

**JAN. 23-25TH • HUNTINGTON, NY**  
*Register by: Jan. 9th • [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)*

- Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- Do you feel hurt and angry?
- Does talking make it worse?
- Thought of leaving or divorce?
- Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

**No Marriage is Beyond Hope.**

## 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**

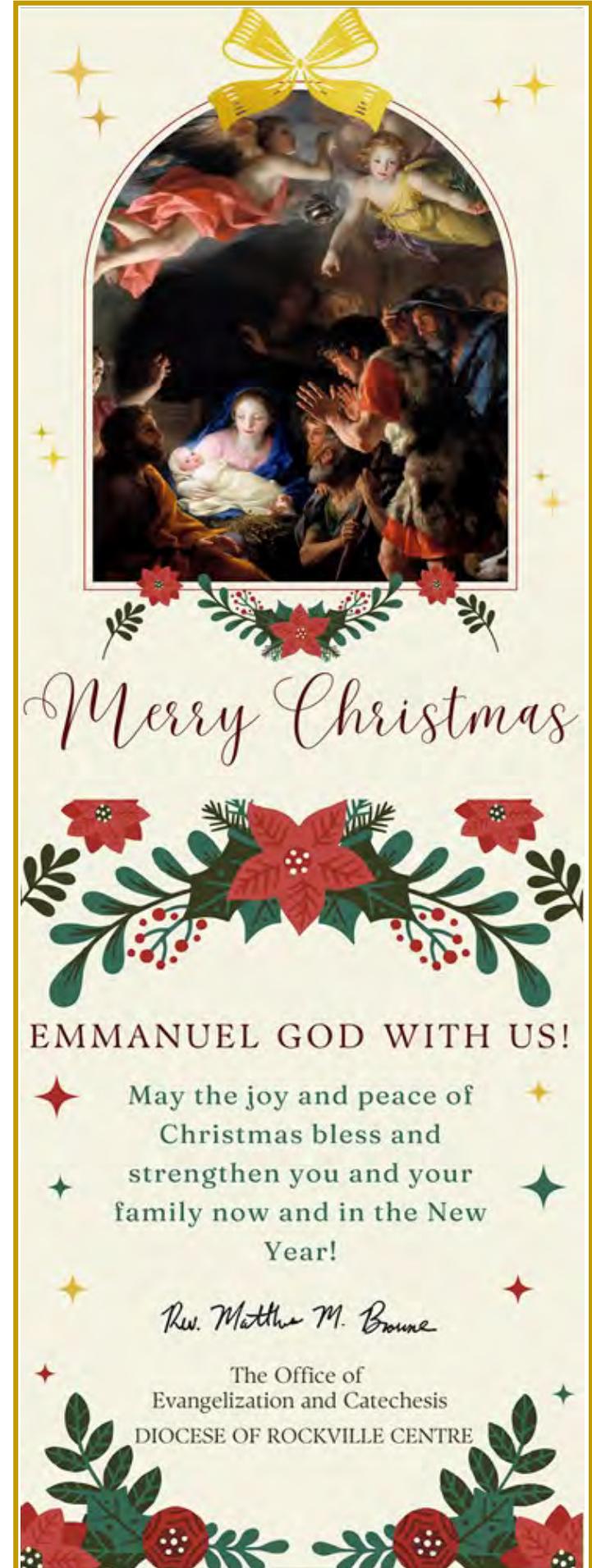
Último lunes del mes 6:00 PM  
auditorio de la escuela

#### **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!



# Weekly Calendar

## Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

## Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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