

# St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



February 11, 2024

*The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

“I turn to you, O Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation”

Psalm 32: 1-2, 5, 11



25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, New York, 11934-3968  
631-878-0009 | [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto: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, February 17<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM - Msgr. Walden  
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, February 18<sup>th</sup>

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

\*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

**Michelle Pirraglia**

Director of Faith Formation

**Katie Spellman**

Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

**Katie Waller**

Director of Operations

## 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

[www.olqany.org](http://www.olqany.org)

**Dawn Waller**

Principal

[dwaller@olqany.org](mailto: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.

## Confession Schedule



# A Message from the Coordinator of Family Ministry...

It's not just a question for lepers!



Although the readings today revolve around leprosy and how it was dealt with thousands of years ago, when we go deeper, we see that these scriptures target key spiritual truths that can beautifully usher us into a humble acceptance of the Lenten journey.

Our first reading comes from the book of Leviticus. This book delineates the required priestly responses to ordinary matters. The purpose of these

regulations was to ensure that the people of Israel would live a life centered on God. It was the responsibility of the priest to examine a person and determine whether or not the person had a diagnosis of “leprosy”. If leprosy was confirmed, the person afflicted was required to live in public disgrace and exclusion, until such time that the condition was resolved, and the person was reexamined by the priest and determined “clean”. Leprosy was considered a punishment from God. A few years ago, I learned a little bit more about leprosy during the times when the scriptures were written. I was quite surprised. The Hebrew word “saraat”, often translated as leprosy, does not refer to the same disease that we know today as leprosy or Hansen’s disease. It was more of a general term that encompassed a variety of visible skin conditions including things like ringworm, smallpox, measles, etc. Imagine...being banished because of ringworm? Hold that thought!

In the second reading, St. Paul presents a simple, but challenging, premise which should govern our words and actions. “Will what I am about to do bring glory to God? Will what I say offend God or His people in any way? Will my words and actions be beneficial for others? In a nutshell, “Am I imitating Christ?” St. Paul’s main concern is our salvation, and he provides a very clear guide to decision-making. Nothing confusing about that... but it requires humility, prayer, discipline, and surrender. Keep this idea in mind as we look at the gospel.

Today’s gospel reading comes from the gospel of Mark and recalls for us the familiar story of Jesus healing the leper. It is a short, powerful reminder of the compassionate mercy of Christ. The leper who comes to Jesus has much to teach us. He comes to Jesus and says, “If you will, you can make me clean.” He acknowledges that his healing rests in the hands of Christ. He surrenders himself to the will of God. He asks Jesus to “make him clean”. Those words are carefully chosen. Being made clean...is different than being healed. Being healed would rid him of his disease, but being made clean would allow him to return to his family and to his community, to regain his life. And we know what happens... in his mercy, Jesus does just what the leper asks of him.

Jesus’ response brings restoration to that leper and reassurance to all of us. Jesus reached out to the leper who was deemed an outcast...sinful...unworthy...unclean. Ever feel like that? I know I have. But that loving hand of Christ is extended to every one of us. We only need to...humbly acknowledge that our healing rests in Him; expose our “sores” with complete truth; and allow Him to touch us... without pulling back, turning away, or avoiding His mercy.

So, as we begin our Lenten journey let us ask ourselves, “Am I clean or unclean?” I think we all know the truth. We may not have leprosy or Hansen’s disease, but each of us has our own “spiritual leprosy” that keeps us from experiencing the fullness of life with God. Lent sends us a beautiful invitation to kneel before the Lord and beg Him to, “Make me clean!” Perhaps we can use today’s readings as an examination of conscience.

**From Leviticus:** Am I living a God-centered life according to the commandments?

Have I judged others based upon what I see (or what I think I see) or based on what I hear (or I think I hear)?

Have I overexaggerated something that resulted in hurting someone else (misdiagnosing ringworm as leprosy!).

Have I banished others spiritually, physically, or emotionally?

**From Corinthians:** What are the deciding factors that govern the words and actions of my life? Glory to God? Benefit of others?

**From the gospel:** Do I truly acknowledge that everything is in God’s hands? Or am I in control?

Will I make myself vulnerable before the Lord and expose my oozing, recurring, embarrassing, disgraceful “sores”?

Will I kneel before the Lord and beg for healing?

Will I allow the loving hand of Christ to touch me? Will I reach out to take hold of mercy and forgiveness?

**This is just one way to** “Repent and believe in the gospel.” Whatever we choose to do during the days and weeks ahead, let’s support each other. Let’s pray each other through Lent. Let’s allow ourselves to be cleansed of our spiritual leprosy.

And by Easter Sunday... let’s pray that we’re all squeaky clean!

With hope,

Carolyn Lapham, Coordinator of Family Ministry

# Masses for the Week...

## Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> Weekday

5:00 PM People of the Parish  
7:30 PM *Spanish* Special Intention-Bryan Stevens

## Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Goncalo Rego  
10:00 AM Jenio and Suzanne Szvetez  
12:00 Noon Angelina Vigliotta  
6:00 PM Marian Denyse

## Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> Weekday

7:00 AM Ann and Jim Garvey  
12:00 Noon Theresa Cartolano

## Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> Weekday

7:00 AM Frank Trester  
12:00 Noon Special Intention—for the Stevens Family

## Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Joseph Sinclair Marino  
12:00 Noon William John Horbatuk

## Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> Thursday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Mary Ellen Mitchell  
12:00 Noon Jeffrey Shachmut

## Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> Friday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM John Klaus IV  
12:00 Noon Frank Pirro

## Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday after Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM Theresa Cartolano  
5:00 PM Anne O'Brien  
7:30 PM *Spanish* People of the Parish

## Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Henriqueta Stoffel  
10:00 AM Brian Cooke  
12:00 Noon Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney  
6:00 PM Daniel Dern Jr.



## PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2024 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2024	\$105,782	5	\$21,156
2023	\$81,568	5	\$16,314

**2023**  
**CATHOLIC**  
**MINISTRIES**  
**APPEAL**

*One Family - Journeying together in  
Communion, Participation and Mission*



	2023	2022
Parish Goal	\$115,100.00	\$115,100.00
Number of Donors	311	300
Total Pledged to date	\$116,993	\$115,673
Avg. Gift	\$376	\$386
Percent of Goal	102%	100%

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!





St. John the Evangelist

# ASH WEDNESDAY

## *Masses & Services*

**FEBRUARY 14th**

7:00 AM Mass  
10:30 AM Service  
12 Noon Mass  
2:00 PM Service  
4:30 PM Service  
7:00 PM Mass

### ABSTINENCE & FASTING

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14th) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all the Fridays of Lent.

All Catholics between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59) inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from the Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fast and abstinence.

# Praying For and With One Another

## Remember

Kenneth Danielsson

*"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

John Fitzpatrick, Frank Macchia,  
Geraldine Ambrosia

*"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 Army

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

### US Marine Corps

LC Michael Abbatiello  
CPL Evan Berkemeyer  
PFC Sean Brady  
SGT Quentin Montemarano  
PVT Charles O'Connor  
E-1 Christian Raeihle  
2<sup>nd</sup> LT Christopher Walther  
PAC Kevin W. Deshler II

### US Navy

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

### US Coast Guard

BM3 Brendan J. Bernath  
CPT Keith Donohue

### US Air Force

SSGT David Giese  
SSGT Jason M Hermes  
PFC Kyle Kerstiens  
SSGT Ryan Kerstiens  
SSGT Timothy Kerstiens  
A1C Jared T. Rosato  
MAJ Salvatore Sferrazza

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

Altar Bread & Wine for the month of February has been donated:

### *In Memory of the Deceased of the Parish*

This week, the Sacred Heart Candle will be lit:

### *In Memory of Marie Joyce*

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)

### 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.**



# Don't Forget Your Baby Bottle!

On the weekend of **February 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**, once again St. John the Evangelist Parish will be hosting a Baby Bottle Fundraiser to benefit the Life Center of Long Island. Last year our parish raised over \$12,000 through the Baby Bottle Fundraiser.

The Life Center is a pregnancy care center that consults with women and men who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Did you know that they provide?



Free pregnancy test kits + Free sonogram + Maternity housing w/eligibility requirements referrals

Medical care referrals + Male advocates available to speak with fathers

Material aid including car seats, cribs, clothing, diapers, and many other needed baby items

We are asking that you pick up a baby bottle and fill it with your donation.

**(Please make checks payable to the Life Center of L.I.)**

**PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTLES ON FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>**

Most importantly, we are asking you to recite the prayer attached to the baby bottle. Prayers bring about something very powerful at the Life Center... a change of a mother's heart! We believe these prayers lead abortion-minded women to reach out to the Life Center in the beginning of their pregnancy.

Prayers also spiritually equip our consultants at the Life Center to say just the right words a mother or father may need to hear with hope of choosing the gift of life for their baby.

*Let us pray for the conversion of a mother's heart  
to give the gift of life to her preborn baby!*



**LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND**  
*A Voice for the Unborn on Long Island*





# THANKS!!

A word of great gratitude to EVERYONE who worked so hard to make our parish Mardi Gras celebration such a big success. MANY THANKS to all of the parishioners who prepared festive Mardi Gras foods, baked delicious desserts and brought snacks. We feasted before the Lenten fast thanks to you! To those of you who helped set up, decorate, serve and clean up, "THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! You truly embodied the old adage, "Many hands make light work!" Thanks to our Knights of Columbus for the delicious hot dogs and for overseeing the burning of the palms. And of course, a very special thank you to our Family Life Ministry Leadership Team-Patricia Baker, Linda Filosa, Christina Koch and Eileen O'Reilly who worked tirelessly for many weeks before Mardi Gras to make sure that our celebration went off without a hitch. Thanks ladies...you truly are THE BEST!

***Mardi Gras was truly a wonderful parish event,  
thanks to our wonderful parish family!***







What is Mardi Gras?  
- is translated to Fat Tuesday  
- people eat lots of fun and fatty foods before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday  
- in some other Mardi Gras areas, a whole week that's called 'Carnival'





February 11, 2024

Our parish celebrated Scout Sunday on February 4<sup>th</sup> at the 8:00 AM Mass.





# Family Ministry

## Sandwich Sunday

This Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM in the school cafeteria

Grab a loaf of bread and your family and friends and come have some fun while helping to feed the hungry in our area. Students can earn volunteer service hours!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



## Lenten Soup Suppers

Fridays, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and

Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM

Come enjoy a delicious bowl of hot soup with friends and family followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM.



## Children's Holy Week

### Prayer Services!

Middle School and High School students (and adults) needed to help with our Palm Sunday Egg Hunt, Holy Thursday reenactment of the Last Supper and Good Friday-Passion of Our Lord Pageant.



Email [Clapham@sjecm.org](mailto:Clapham@sjecm.org) if you would like to help!

A photograph of a golden monstrance with a white host (Eucharist) in the center, set against a background of soft, out-of-focus lights.

*The specific way that Jesus asks you to love him in return is to spend one quiet hour with him in the Blessed Sacrament.*

*"Where your treasure is, there is your heart..."*

*"Could you not watch one hour with me?"*

(Matthew 6:21;26:40)

Monday - Friday 3:00 - 7:00 PM  
Seton Chapel, in the Convent

**EUCCHARISTIC**

**Adoration**

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.



# Faith Formation

Phone: 631-878-0009

Website: <https://sjecmff.blogspot.com/>  
[faithformation@sjecm.org](mailto:faithformation@sjecm.org) / [mpirraglia@sjecm.org](https://mpirraglia@sjecm.org)



During last month's "Family of Faith" session (Grades 1-6), students learned about the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the Holy Spirit, with special guest speaker Msgr. Walden working with our families!

**Level 7** students learned about the saints and the Sacrament of the Eucharist during their last two sessions (John 6). Special thanks to the Legion of Mary for donating "Digital Disciple: Carlo Acutis and the Eucharist" - a new comic book about Blessed Carlo who used modern technology to spread the faith and teach about the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.



## Level 7: Next date

Monday, February 12 @ 7:15 PM, Church

**Level 8** students learned about the Rosary and the Blessed Mother through reflection on the Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2). Many thanks to the Leavy family, who made rosaries for all 130 of our Level 8 students!

## Level 8: Next date

Tuesday, February 13 @ 7:15 PM, Church





# Parish Social Ministry

## SJE Thrift Shop Wednesdays - 9 AM - 12 Noon

Are you are looking for a great deal? St. John's Thrift Shop is the place for you and your family. Everyone is welcome!

When you visit our Shop, you'll see lots of new and gently used clothes, pocketbooks, shoes, jewelry, housewares, and lots of great toys, all at great prices. The proceeds from the weekly sales at the shop are returned to our Parish Outreach programs and used to assist our neighbors in need in our parish and the local community.

The success of our Thrift Shop relies on the generous donations from our community that are left in the green bins in the school parking lot. If you are looking for a great way to give back to our Parish community, consider donating your new or gently used clothes, or those toys your children have outgrown.



## Closet Cleanout!

St. John's Street Ministry is in need of:

- **Men's Winter Coats**
- **Men's Sweatshirts**
- **Men's Jeans**
- **Blankets**

Donations can be left in Fellowship Hall of the Church.

Thank you for your support of our Outreach Ministry!

## Ernie's Place

Here is a list of items we will be collecting to help fill our Easter baskets. These items can be left at the doors of the church or at the bin, outside of Ernie's Place.

### Pantry Shopping List

- |                 |                    |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Pancake Mix   | • Corn             |                    |
| • Pancake Syrup | • Mashed Potatoes  | • Easter Chocolate |
| • Pasta         | • Cake Mix Icing   | • Peeps            |
| • Peanut Butter | • Biscuit Mix      | • Jelly Beans      |
| • Jelly         | • Canned Pineapple |                    |



## Street Ministry



Are you a great cook? Or perhaps a social butterfly who enjoys engaging with others in the community? Maybe you prefer to work behind the scenes? Do you love to fold clothes and organize things? *Come use the awesome gifts that God gave you to serve those in need in our local community!*

Our Street Ministry is an amazing community of volunteers who provide hot meals and clothing to individuals and families every Thursday night, many of whom are homeless or unable to receive other supporting services. Whether you are interested in working in our donation room, cooking hot meals, making

PB&J sandwiches, or participating in our van runs, Street Ministry has a place and a job for everyone! To get started or for more information contact Victoria Paparatto at [streetministry@sjecm.org](mailto:streetministry@sjecm.org)



# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE<sup>®</sup>

February 14 - March 24

*Sign up to save lives in the Patchogue area.  
Spring Campaign begins soon!*

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over **20,000 babies** saved
- Over **200 abortion workers** converted
- Over **100 abortion centers** closed

Here's how to take part in **40 Days for Life** in our community:

**Vigil location:**

Sidewalk near Planned Parenthood  
(450 Waverly Ave., Patchogue)

**Vigil hours:**

Mondays: 10 AM - Noon

Wednesdays: 10 AM - Noon

Wednesdays: 3 PM - 5 PM

Saturdays: 10 AM - Noon

**Local contact:** Bob at 631-615-1735 or  
[WaverlyAvenueRespectLife@gmail.com](mailto:WaverlyAvenueRespectLife@gmail.com)

Learn more...get involved...sign up for prayer times  
by visiting our campaign at:

**[40daysforlife.com/Patchogue](http://40daysforlife.com/Patchogue)**

**Walk-ins welcome!**

***Come and spend an hour in prayer for these precious lives!***



# A Message from Msgr. Walden...

As all of America knows today is Super Bowl Sunday. Sports certainly gets a lot of hype and attention in our society. This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, a day noted for people coming to have ashes placed on our foreheads as the words "Repent and believe" in the Gospel are spoken over us. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our forty day journey to the ultimate Sunday of the year, Easter Sunday. As Ash Wednesday begins it is good to think about where we are in our life with God as individuals and as the Church.

We live in a world and a nation with much dissension and division. How can we break down barriers, talk with one another, and be reconciled? The only true source of hope and way to peace comes from the author of life and His Son Jesus Christ. There is no other Way, Truth, or Life. No one and nothing has what only our God can give us. A few weeks ago in a spiritual book, "St. Paul Speaks to Priests" by John Gilchrist, I am reading and using to pray at morning prayer I read this passage over and over again: "St. Paul spent his entire Christian life in conflict. Yet, he asks us to strive for peace, while at the same time admonishing us to "see to it" that no one falls away from grace. People who are being tempted by evil are in a situation of stress. An alcoholic does not want to hear about abstinence. A man in an adulterous relationship does not want to be told about morality. The sad plight of today's society has come from its abandonment of God. The poison of secularism leads men and women with a worthless value system. The sickness infects all of their hopes and dreams. Their value system is worthless because it begins with the world and ends with the world. Our peace comes from a pure heart that sees all things as God's and all people as creatures of God."

The forty days of Lent is our God given time to refocus on who and what is important in our lives. Yes, it is about where we allow God to fit into our lives. But first and foremost is about being reawakened and renewed by how God allows us to fit into His life. As common sense points out and as we know all too well relationships only grow and give life when we put our minds, hearts, and souls into them. We think about what we are going to give up as a penance during Lent. But what do we

really have to give up to spend more time in sincere prayer, reception of Jesus in Holy Communion, and being uplifted by His words of forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance? Would that we would spend 10% of the time we spend with our electronic devices every day praying sincerely and prayerfully reflecting on the Scriptures. A very "holy" thing we can do on our phone, iPad or computer is go on the site USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). It quickly makes available the readings for Mass each day and all the books of the Bible. I use it frequently, especially when I am writing a column such as this. Even google is so helpful. I type in "where in the Bible does Jesus say..." and in a second or two the passage comes up.

Lent is a good time to be part of 40 Days for Life in Patchogue through prayer and/or our presence with those praying by the abortion facility on Waverly Avenue. (See page 9)

I close with this passage from Isaiah 26:1-4, 7-9, 12:

A strong city have we;  
he sets up walls and ramparts to protect us.  
Open up the gates  
to let in a nation that is just,  
one that keeps faith.

A nation of firm purpose you keep in peace;  
in peace, for its trust in you.

Trust in the Lord forever!  
For the Lord is an eternal Rock.

The way of the just is smooth;  
the path of the just you make level.  
Yes, for your way and your judgments, O Lord,  
we look to you;  
Your name and your title  
are the desire of our souls.

My soul yearns for you in the night,  
yes, my spirit within me keeps vigil for you;  
When your judgment dawns upon the earth,  
the world's inhabitants learn justice.

O Lord, you mete out peace to us,  
for it is you who have accomplished all we have done.





February 11, 2024

## St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church

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*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 helps many with the healing process.*

### **Bereavement Support Group**

**Saturday mornings, thru the end of April.**

**10:30 am to 12 noon**

**First floor meeting room in the Barn.**

The Barn is the blue building located in the rear school parking lot.

*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.*

Contact the Rectory office to  
Register, 631.878.0009 or  
email [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org)

Facilitators:  
Maureen Harney &  
Loretta Gallagher  
\$10 donation for the workbook.



Knights of Columbus  
Queen of All Hearts Council #4126

LOTTERY

**BINGO!**

*Every Friday Night*  
**\$3000 in Prizes**  
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 P.M. • GAMES BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M.  
SJE Parish Auditorium



The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) will continue our immense Telethon tradition this year! This exciting event will commence on **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM and continue through Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM.**

Guaranteed to be the most engaging telethon to date, the entertainment will continue with many surprise guests along with our on-air family that you have come to know. Please join the excitement and consider pledging! The process is easy, you can pledge securely online by visiting [www.CFNtv.org](http://www.CFNtv.org) or by scanning the QR Code below, using a smartphone or any smart device. We know we can continue to count on you, as we always have! CFN is available throughout the Tri-State Area on Optimum, channel 29/137; Verizon FiOS TV channel 296; Spectrum, channel 162/471. Additionally, you can tune in nationwide on the following streaming services – Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Roku, Android, and Apple TV.





## 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](http://www.drvc.org) or clicking here: <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>

Our Parish will be offering classes...

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> @ 6:30 PM in the Barn**  
**and**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> @ 1:00 PM in the Barn**

### 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](http://drvc.org).



February 11, 2024

# Give from the heart

February is American Heart Month.

Chase depended on blood during heart surgery and in recovery.

**DONATIONS  
SAVE LIVES**



## BLOOD DRIVE

# St. John the Evangelist

2 St. John's Place, Center Moriches  
**OLQA School Auditorium**

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**

**9:00am – 3:00pm**



**To make an appointment:  
Scan the QR code**



call 1-800-933-2566, or email Melissa at [mgatto@nybc.org](mailto:mgatto@nybc.org)

**WALK-INS ARE WELCOME**

Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Mask requirements may change depending on CDC guidelines. Visit [nybc.org/coronavirus](https://nybc.org/coronavirus) for complete COVID-19 safety protocols.



800.933.BLOOD • [nybc.org](https://nybc.org) [#nybloodcenter](https://twitter.com/nybloodcenter)

# 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 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 p.m. 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!

## Tienda de segunda mano SJE los miércoles:

de 9 AM a 12 del mediodía

¿Estás buscando una gran oferta? St. John's Thrift Shop es el lugar para usted y su familia. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

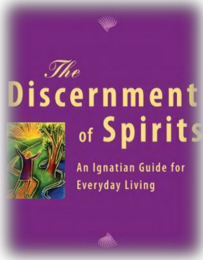
Cuando visite nuestra tienda, verá mucha ropa, carteras, zapatos, joyas, artículos para el hogar y muchos juguetes fantásticos nuevos y en buen estado, todo a excelentes precios. Las ganancias de las ventas semanales en la tienda se devuelven a nuestros programas de Alcance Parroquial y se utilizan para ayudar a nuestros vecinos necesitados en nuestra parroquia y la comunidad local.

El éxito de nuestra tienda de segunda mano depende de las generosas donaciones de nuestra comunidad que se dejan en los contenedores verdes del estacionamiento de la escuela. Si está buscando una excelente manera de retribuir a nuestra comunidad parroquial, considere donar su ropa nueva o en buen estado, o aquellos juguetes que a sus hijos les hayan quedado pequeños.



## 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:** February 26\*,

March 4, 18, April 8\*, 15, 29,

May 13, 20\*, June 24 (summer break).

*Dates with \* are makeup dates.*

**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.

## The Diocese of Rockville Centre GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

### Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years

The Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to honor those couples who celebrated Fifty Years of Marriage in 2024 by inviting them to attend one of the Masses below for a special blessing.

**Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.**

The Cathedral of St. Agnes, Rockville Centre

Celebrant: Most Reverend Andrzej Zglejszewski

Registration must be received by Tuesday, April 16, 2024

**Sunday, May 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.**

Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patchogue

Celebrant: Most Reverend Robert J. Coyle

Registration must be received by Tuesday, April 30, 2024

**Register online at [drvc-faith.org](http://drvc-faith.org)**

For questions, please contact Lisette Robustelli, Associate Director at (516)678-5800 ext. 200 or via email at [lrobustelli@drvc.org](mailto:lrobustelli@drvc.org)



The 2024 Sunday's Word books have arrived ...  
A donation of \$5.00 is requested  
but not required.

## Sunday's Word 2024



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.

### 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, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 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
- 7:00-8:00 PM Holy Hour to Pray for Priests - SC
- 7 PM Narcotics Anonymous-Men only - BMR

## Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 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, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Ash Wednesday)

- 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, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 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, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 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, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

## Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

BMR - Barn 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Mtg. Room  
BUR - Barn Upper Room  
SC - Seton Chapel