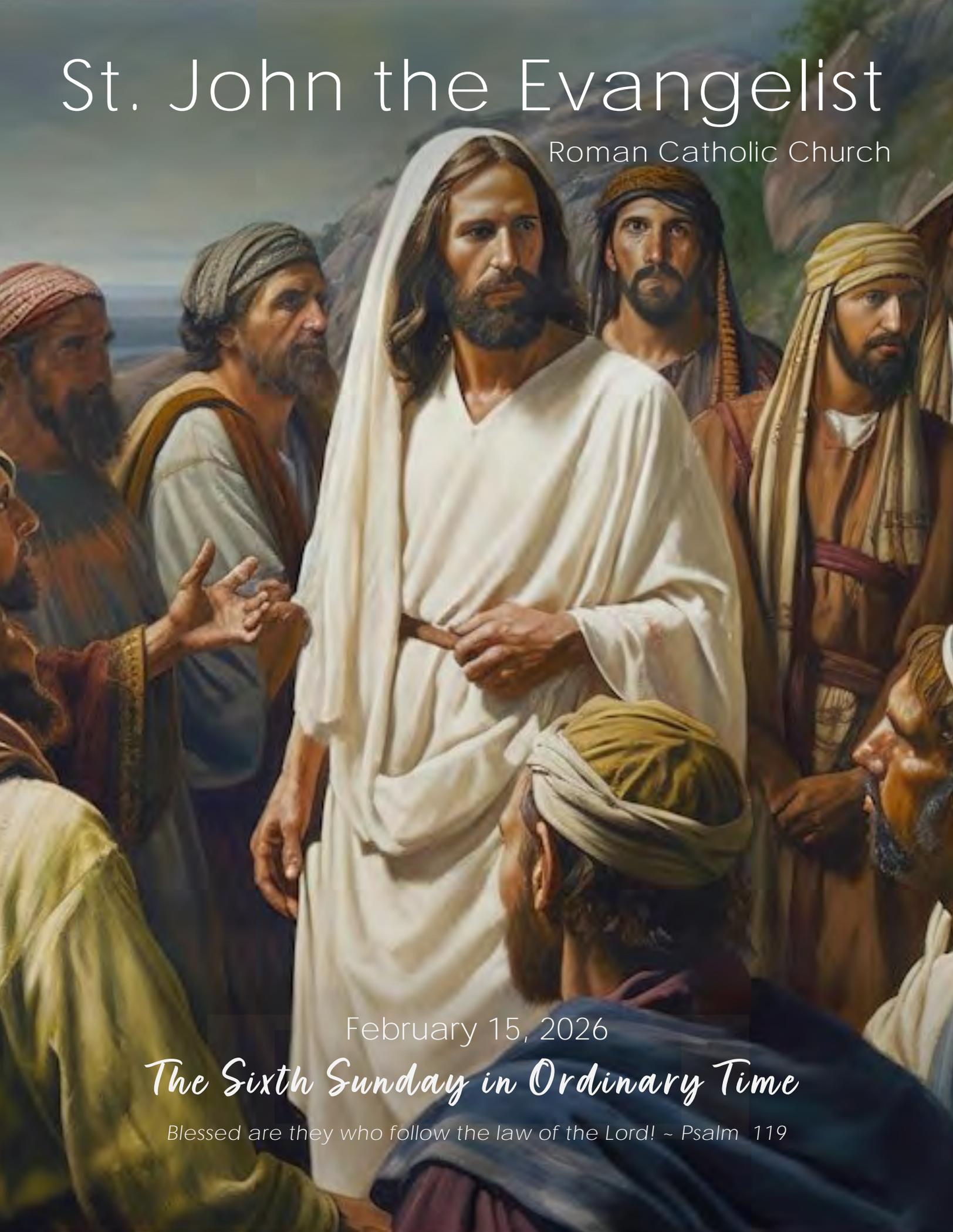


St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



February 15, 2026

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord! ~ Psalm 119



February 15, 2026

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

OUR PARISH MISSION

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

-Mission Statement

Church Hours

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

Next Weekend's Schedule

Saturday, February 21st

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

Sunday, February 22nd

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

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

Pastoral Team

Reverend Patrick M. Riegger
Pastor
Reverend Charline 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
Dawn Waller, Principal
dwaller@olqany.org

Office Hours

Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM - 3:30 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 Michael Hoonhout ...

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 15, 2026



Today's readings raise the question of just what role divine law and commandments have in Christianity. It is an important question for two reasons, one historical and one contemporary. First, while Christianity is distinct from Judaism, still it is not the cancellation of Judaism but its fulfillment. Since Judaism is centered around the keeping of the Law given to Israel through Moses, to what extent does that Law apply to the followers of Jesus Christ? The Law is still historically significant for Christians, but in what way exactly?

Second, the contemporary significance of this question lies in the attitude that many today have regarding the Christian religion. Quite a few people today say that they are spiritual but not religious. It seems they want to claim a connection with what is deep and meaningful, but not be tied down by the demands and rules of "organized religion." Now it is true that religion is not primarily about rules and obligations, for at its heart is living a relationship with God in faith and love. Nonetheless, one cannot *exclude* obeying God and fulfilling commandments from that relationship, because one cannot love God without listening to Him and seeking to do what pleases Him. Given who God is as revealed to us in the Scriptures—the Creator who commanded all things into existence and formed His people by instructing them in His ways—we can only be right with God and show that we truly love Him by keeping His commandments, and trusting in His mercy when we do fail to do so. To prefer a "god" who demands nothing and imposes no obligations on oneself, is to worship an *idol*—that is, a god who has a mouth but cannot speak and therefore can never command. Those who claim to be spiritual but not religious have no God to listen to.

Judaism is a covenant centered on keeping the law's commandments. A few lines from today's Responsorial Psalm capture the point: "*Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart*" (Psalm 119:33-34). Now we should not take the example of the Pharisees in the Gospels as representative in the proper keeping of the Law. While they were very exact in observing its commandments, the Pharisees missed the reason for doing so, which as today's Psalm also says, is to "*seek God with all their heart.*" The Pharisees used their diligence in following the Law to justify themselves before others, and to treat with contempt those who were not as righteous and observant as they were. Jesus condemns them, not for following the law with care, but for their lack of mercy toward others who were not observant. And in today's Gospel Jesus warns us not to fall into the same trap: "*I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.*"

Jesus makes it quite clear how he regards the Law: "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.*" Not only does he not excuse his followers from keeping God's commandments, Jesus "ups the ante" in terms of how he expects his disciples to keep them. With regard to the prohibitions against killing and adultery, Christians are called not just to avoid the *act* but to suppress the *desire and intention* of doing so. And with the question of divorce, Jesus even forbids outright what the Law permitted. He wants his married followers to model the faithful and ever forgiving love that He the Bridegroom has for His Bride, the Church, providing the grace to do so by redeeming marriage from human standards and transforming it into a holy Sacrament.

So Christians are called to obey God's commandments. To pretend that they do not matter is to deny God's claim upon us as our Creator, Teacher and Lord. Yet our relationship, our covenant, with God does not depend upon our success in doing so, but upon faith in Jesus Christ, who kept the Law perfectly without sin, and yet was condemned and put to death because he was falsely accused of breaking the Law. Our righteousness before God is not based upon the merits of our good deeds, but on Christ's merciful love in being willing to suffer and die for us who too often fail to keep God's commandments.

Finally, these readings challenge us to reflect upon our attitude towards God's commandments. Do we see them as a restriction of our freedom, or have we come to realize that true freedom is found in listening to God and doing what He commands of us? For us to *want* to listen and to *want* to obey God it is important that we, as the first reading says, put our "*trust in God, and you too shall live.*" Remembering that "*what God has prepared for those who love him*" (second reading) is greater than we can even conceive or imagine, we can have confidence that what God commands us to do and to avoid is only for the sake of our true blessedness and everlasting joy.

Masses for the Week...

Saturday, February 14th Sts Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop

- 8:00 AM Brandon Sill
- 5:00 PM Susan Sikora
- 7:30 PM *(Spanish)* People of the Parish

Sunday, February 15th The 6th Sunday In Ordinary Time

- 8:00 AM H. Donnell Hulme Jr.
- 10:00 AM Kevin Radigan
- 12:00 Noon Mary Ellen Mitchell
- 6:00 PM Jerry Carullo

Monday, February 16th Weekday

- 7:00 AM Charlie Beck
- 12:00 Noon Jennifer Villaccio

Tuesday, February 17th Weekday

- 7:00 AM Theresa Alperti
- 12:00 PM Frank Albergo

Wednesday, February 18th Ash Wednesday

- 7:00 AM People of the Parish
- 12:00 Noon People of the Parish
- 7:00 PM *(bilingual)* People of the Parish

Thursday, February 19th Thursday after Ash Wednesday

- 7:00 AM John R. Klaus IV
- 12:00 Noon Saverio Giambalvo

Friday, February 20th Friday after Ash Wednesday

- 7:00 AM Sean Howard
- 12:00 Noon John R. Klaus IV

Saturday, February 21st Saturday after Ash Wednesday

- 8:00 AM Louis Kaleb
- 5:00 PM Special Intention-Mary Pochilo
- 7:30 PM *(Spanish)* People of the Parish

Sunday, February 22nd First Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 AM Joan Humphrey
- 10:00 AM Vito and Catherine Stabile
- 12:00 Noon Henriqueta Stoffel
- 6:00 PM John Cerro

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

Moving with Jesus into the Mystery of Salvation

Join us **March 23, 24, 25** at 7:00 PM for Rosary, followed by the mission talk at 7:30 PM, led by **Fr. Hugh J. Gillespie, SMM.**



Ordained in 2006, Fr. Gillespie is a Montfort Missionary with extensive experience in parish ministry, retreats, and catechesis in the U.S. and abroad. He holds degrees in Physics, Materials Science, and Theology, is fluent in Spanish, and brings rich spiritual and academic insight to his preaching.

Currently Acting Director of the **Shrine of Our Lady of the Island** and National Moderator of the **Association of Mary, Queen of All Hearts**, Fr. Gillespie continues to lead missions, retreats, and spiritual programs across the U.S. and internationally.

Join us for this special mission as we journey with Jesus into the mystery of salvation, deepen our faith, and experience spiritual renewal with **Fr. Hugh Gillespie**. Mark your calendars now—this is an event you won't want to miss!

PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2026 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2026	\$107,201	6	\$17,867
2025	\$104,310	6	\$17,385

2025

**We did it!!!
Thank you!!**

Catholic Ministries Appeal
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Renewed by the Eucharist
Sent on Mission*



As of 1/13/2026	2025	2024
Parish Goal	\$115,100	\$115,100
Number of Donors	268	272
Total Pledged to date	\$115,178	\$117,306
Avg. Gift	\$430	\$434
Percent of Goal	100%	101.9%

Supporting the CMA helps to support SJL! 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!

February 18th

Ash Wednesday

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.

Masses & Services

7 am	Mass
10:30 am	Service
12 noon	Mass
2 pm	Service
4:30 pm	Service
7 pm	Mass (Bilingual)

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Ecclesiastes 3:20



Praying For and With One Another

Remember

Maureen Monaghan + Vincent Sena
Charlie Monaghan + Jorge Eduardo
Restrepo + Michael Campanello
James Schumbohm

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

Pray for the Sick

Eileen & Chuck DeRicco	Daniel Treadwell
Bill Hasper	Valentino Liuzzi
Rev. Matthew Considine	Alessandra Veloso Valentim
Fr. Peter D'Abele	Mark Havens
Michael Lankau	Suzan Fitzpatrick
Kevin Coyle	Robert Maldonado

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

Our Military

US Marine Corps

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

US Navy

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

US Army

SGT Sean Casey
PVT Joseph Cestare
SPC Michael Garcia Jr
PVT Anthony Koch
2nd LT Aidan O'Neill
PFC David Smith
Steven Valentin
PFC Francis J. Amalifitano
PVT Cara Williams
PVT2 Justin Monaghan

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

US Coast Guard

BM3 Brendan J. Bernath
CPT Keith Donohue

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



Remembering Our Loved Ones

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

Louis J. Tuttle

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.

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.**

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

February 15, 2026

St. John the Evangelist Parish...

MARDI GRAS

Today!!

Celebration

Please
Join

Us!!

Sunday, February 15th

1:00 pm

in the Parish Auditorium

Come feast before we fast!
Delicious food! Great music!
Games for the kids!
All are welcome!



Interested in lending a hand?
There are plenty of ways to help!
Reach out to us at familylife@sjecm.org

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

PSM Office 631.878.0009 ext. 120

Email: socialministry@SJEcm.org

THRIFT SHOP

We are open every Wednesday from 9 AM-12 PM and feature great items at fantastic prices! The proceeds from our shop are used to support SJE outreach programs that benefit those in need. Come visit and find an amazing gift or something special for yourself! Donations are accepted in the green bins in the school parking lot in front of the shop. We greatly appreciate your support!



STREET MINISTRY

Every Thursday night our Street Ministry team provides a hot meal, bagged lunch, toiletries, clothing, coats, blankets and shoes to those in great need. Please see our list of items requested if you are able to donate. Our donation bin is located in Fellowship Hall at the entrance of Church. Especially requested at this very cold time of year are coats, sweatshirts, sweatpants and blankets. Thank you for your generosity!

If you'd like to get involved or help sort, organize, and fold donations, we'd love you to join us! Please call the Parish Social Ministry office to get started.



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
- * Jelly
- * Ketchup
- * Hot Sauce
- * Drink Boxes
- * Salad Dressing
- * Canned Chicken
- * Jar Pasta Sauce
- * Small Bags of Flour
- * Pancake Mix & Syrup
- * 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)
- ◆ Men's New Underwear (S, M, L, XL)
- ◆ Small Pack HotHand Hand Warmers
- ◆ Long-Sleeved T-shirts and Sweatshirts
- ◆ Warm Winter Socks (not ankle or dress)
- ◆ Gently Used Men's & Women's Sneakers
- ◆ Gently Used Men's Jeans in size 32, 34 and 36

*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.*

Sponsor a Family with an Easter Basket!

We are so appreciative of our parishioner's generosity during the times of Christmas and Thanksgiving in helping those in need in our community. We are once again reaching out to ask for donations for our brothers and sisters during the greatest feast of the year!

Here's how it works!

Purchase an Easter basket, fill it with goodies (see suggestions below), bring your donation to the Parish Auditorium on Thursday **March 26th** between 5-6pm. This is a great Lenten project for you and your family to do together to help a family in need. Be as creative as you wish!

We are also distributing food along with the Easter baskets. Help is needed on the morning of **Saturday, March 28th** to distribute everything. If you are able, please complete the form below and drop it in the collection basket or email Easter@SJEcm.org or call 631-878-0009 ext. 120 . **BEFORE March 19th**

Some suggestions to fill your Easter basket

-  Easter coloring book
-  Easter sticker book
-  Chocolate Crosses
-  Prayers or Family book of the Easter Story.
-  Plastic Easter eggs filled with wrapped candy (no jellybeans please)

- YES! We/I can help Sponsor a Family with an Easter Basket!
- YES! I can help with distribution on Saturday, **March, 28th** between 8:45am and 12:00pm.
- I can help contact families via phone with pick up times. This would be done on your own time the week of **March 23rd.**
- We are in need of Spanish speakers to assist with calling our families the week of **March 23rd.**
- I cannot help on campus this year but please accept the following donation.

NAME _____

Best Phone # _____

Email _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
Please return before **MARCH 19th**



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

As part of their lesson on the Eucharist, we had Eucharistic Adoration for our Level 7 students recently, with Fr. Patrick presiding. Special thanks to Theresa Kainen, who provided a witness talk and music/song for the evening.



2025-26 FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS

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

LEVEL 7 (Confirmation Prep Year 1):

Next Class Session:

Monday, February 23 at 7:15 PM in the Church.

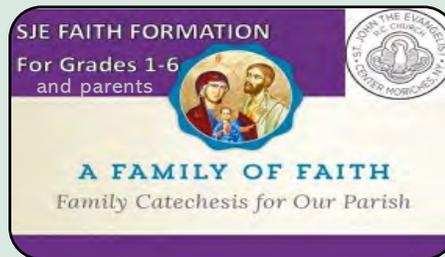
Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles

LEVEL 8 (Confirmation Prep Year 2):

Next Class Session:

Tuesday, February 24 at 7:15 PM in the Church.

Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles!



Next Sessions:

- **Tuesday, March 3 & Thursday, March 5** at 5 PM or 7 PM in the Church (attend one).
- **RESCHEDULED Grade Level 5 Mass: March 22 at 12 Noon**
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!



Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Regional Catholic School

Contact Us!

631-878-1033

olqany.org

SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!



From hands-on learning experiences and service projects to field trips and faith-filled activities, we've had a wonderful first half of the school year for Pre-K thru 8th grade at OLQ A! Come and see the difference a Catholic education can make!



SCAN QR CODE TO SCHEDULE A TOUR! | 2 ST. JOHN'S PLACE, CENTER MORICHES, NY 11934

*Come visit Jesus in the
Blessed Sacrament this Lent...*



Forty-Hour Eucharistic Adoration

March 13th, 14th, 15th

Seton Chapel (Convent)

Adoration will begin at 3:00 PM on Friday, March 13th and end at 7:00 AM Sunday, March 15th

Complete and return below to the basket in the convent chapel or to the rectory office



SELECT A DAY AND HOUR (S)

NAME:

Friday 3/13 {3:00PM - Midnight} _____

PHONE #:

Saturday 3/14 {Midnight - Midnight} _____

Sunday 3/15 {Midnight - 7:00 AM} _____

"Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" -Mt. 11:28

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that "unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." In Matthew 23:3-5, Jesus says, "Do and observe all things whatsoever [the scribes and Pharisees] tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice ... All their works are performed to be seen." What Jesus is inviting us to see is that to authentically live the commandments requires more than mere external compliance with the letter of the law. It's also not about putting on a show so that others think we're "holy." Rather, it's about the quiet, inner transformation of our hearts. The Gospel tells us it's not enough that we avoid murder; God wants to free us from anger and wrath. It's not enough to avoid unfaithfulness in marriage; God wants to give us hearts that are pure and free from lust. Our task is to open our hearts to the transforming power of his commandments which, if we live them, lead us to fullness of life.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In our second reading, St. Paul speaks about some challenges we face when sharing the faith with others. There are those who are unable to grasp God's wisdom, which is different from the wisdom of this age. God's wisdom is mysterious, hidden, and can only be understood and grasped through a revelation of the Spirit. This is an important concept for us as evangelizers. Sometimes no matter how hard we try, no matter how eloquent we are at explaining something, those who are not ready to receive what we have to share will not be able to receive it. In order for others to understand the Gospel, the Spirit must open their hearts to receive it. While we are responsible to share the Gospel as well as we're able, it is up to the person before us to respond to God's invitation.

PRAY

Accepting the Lord's teaching in the commandments requires humility, and understanding their true meaning and depth is the result of the Spirit's work in our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you true insight to live the commandments with your whole heart. Consider using these lines from today's psalm in your prayer: "Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart."

St. John the Evangelist Parish Launches

Baby Bottle Campaign to Benefit Life Center of Long Island



St. John the Evangelist Parish recently kicked off their annual **Baby Bottle Campaign** to support the Life Center of Long Island. Parishioners are encouraged to bring in their filled baby bottles on the weekend of:

February 14th and 15th

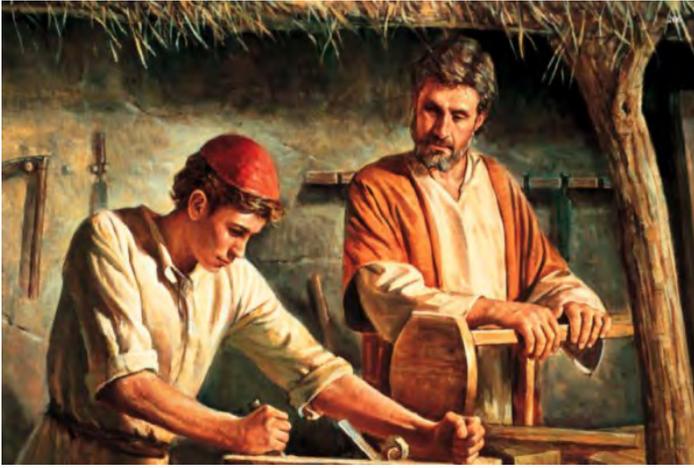
The Life Center provides vital assistance to women and men experiencing unexpected pregnancies. Their services include free pregnancy testing, sonogram referrals, maternity housing with eligibility support, medical care referrals, and essential baby items such as car seats, cribs, clothing, and diapers.

Parishioners are invited to help make a **big, positive difference** by filling a baby bottle with change or a donation. Every contribution, no matter how small, can have a meaningful impact in the lives of mothers and their babies.

Checks may be made payable to the Life Center of L.I.

As the campaign reminds us, "May every drop of a coin remind you to pray to save a unborn baby from abortion and give a mother the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Let's come together as a parish community to support this life-affirming mission.



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 meets Mondays from 10:00–11:30 AM and welcomes newcomers at any time. There are no rules—just a desire to grow in Jesus and enjoy fellowship.

We are reading *The Sanctifier* by Archbishop Luis M. Martinez, reflecting on devotion to the Holy Spirit, His gifts, fruits, and the Beatitudes. Sharing is always optional; we're simply happy you choose to be with us.

There is no charge for the book. Meetings are held in the IHM Room in the convent (white house next to the school) and conclude in time to attend the 12:00 PM Mass if you wish.

2026 Meeting Dates: February 23; March 9 & 23; April 13 & 27; May 11 & 18; June 1, 15 & 29.

(Summer break July & August; resumes in September.)

God Bless you,

Carol & Anita (Moderators)

For info, call **631-878-0009**



Bereavement Support...

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

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

Saturday mornings - 10:30 AM to 12 Noon

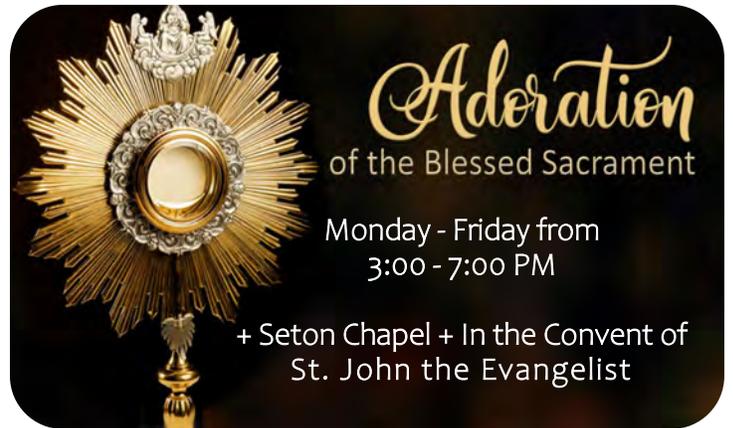
First floor meeting room in the Barn.

REGISTRATION: Contact the Rectory at

631.878.0009 or via email at

Rectory@sjecm.org

\$10 donation for the workbook.



Please consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

On Mondays following Adoration, there is a Holy Hour to Pray for Priests from 7 - 8 PM.

All are invited to pray for our Shepherds.

Please consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

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

631.878.0009.

Stations of the Cross Fridays During Lent

Via Crucis - Viernes Durante la Cuaresma



Each Friday evening during Lent, we invite you to join us for the Stations of the Cross in the church. This beautiful and prayerful devotion helps us walk with Christ on His journey to the Cross and is a meaningful way to deepen our Lenten reflection and conversion of heart.

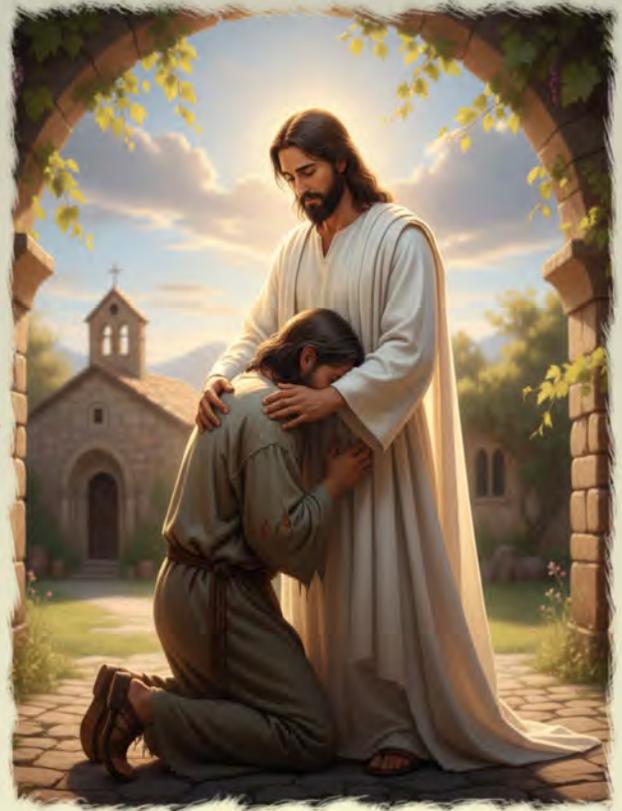
7:00 PM – English 8:00 PM – Spanish

All are welcome to take part in this treasured Lenten tradition as we pause, pray, and grow closer to the Lord together.

Cada viernes por la tarde durante la Cuaresma, los invitamos a acompañarnos al Vía Crucis en la iglesia. Esta hermosa y profunda devoción nos ayuda a caminar con Cristo en Su camino hacia la Cruz y es una manera significativa de profundizar nuestra reflexión cuaresmal y nuestra conversión del corazón.

7:00 PM – Inglés
8:00 PM – Español

Todos son bienvenidos a participar en esta apreciada tradición cuaresmal mientras hacemos una pausa para orar y crecer juntos más cerca del Señor.



Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Lent is a beautiful time to return to the Lord through the Sacrament of Confession. In this season of reflection and renewal, God invites us to lay down our burdens, receive His mercy, and begin again with a clean heart.

Confessions are heard at the following times:

Monday–Friday

After the 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses

Saturdays

After the 8:00 a.m. Mass

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. (Spanish)

Sundays

5:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Diocesan Day of Reconciliation

Monday, March 30 | 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Special Holy Week Confession Times

Good Friday, April 3 | 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 4 | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

All are warmly invited to encounter the Lord's mercy and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially during this holy season of Lent.

A Message from Monsignor Walden...



One of the most important ways to make progress in our lives and to be all we can be is to have a firm moral foundation. Two Sundays ago, we began hearing the Gospel of Matthew where we heard the Beatitudes, those sayings of Jesus that put flesh on the Ten Commandments and spelled out how to live them in our everyday lives through our thoughts, words, and actions. Today's Gospel passage at Mass (Matthew 5:17-37) helps us to see more clearly the fifth and sixth commandments. You shall not kill involves far more than just refraining from the act of murder. Our words, actions, and thoughts can be life draining to others as well as ourselves. On the other hand, our words, actions, and thoughts can be life-giving as they deepen our bond and love for one another. This does not mean we do not speak the truth, but that we speak the truth with love and hope. Our quest is not to win or prevail and get our point across, but to deepen our bond of love with one another. Of course, that takes patience and a willingness to work with one another because we truly love one another. Just our composed, attentive presence is an act of love that enables the truth to strengthen our bonds with one another. We see that over and over again the interchanges between Jesus and the people who were blessed to be in His presence.

As Jesus expands on the sixth commandment, we see that adultery is far more than a physical act; it encompasses the way we look at one another as men and women physically and mentally. One of the most dreadful and addictive things our latest technology has made readily available is the overwhelming amount of pornography on our phones and computers. It is literally at our fingertips. How sad that the wonder of the internet can be so damaging to our minds, hearts, and thoughts.

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent, which we call a penitential season as we focus not only on our sinfulness but, even more, look at how we can grow and prosper by turning away from sin and being faithful to the Gospel. Traditionally, we give up certain foods or entertainments. That is a good way to look beyond ourselves and our everyday

lives to grow in our awareness and gratitude for God's love and presence in our lives and our love and presence in the lives of one another, especially those who are an integral and nourishing part of who and what we are. Sharing our time, thoughts, and words of joy and gratitude with one another not only strengthens our bond and life with one another, it leads to strengthening our bond and life with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Every Sunday we are called to come together as the family of God, the Church. Every Lent we are invited and called to deepen our faith, hope, and love in God and our faith, hope, and love in one another. Everyday we are blessed to live as the gift we are to one another and to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as they are to us.

I offer a prayer I say everyday, the Renew 2000 Prayer:

*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 the 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.

Comunidad Hispano...

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

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

MINISTERIOS Y SERVICIOS

BAUTISMO:

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

Requisitos:

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

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

CASAMIENTO:

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

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

espanol@sjecm.org

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

¡Dejanos ayudarte!

DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS DE ERNIE

Abierto - Lunes 6:30 PM a las 7:30 PM

Jueves 3:00 PM a las 4:00 PM.

TIENDA DE SEGUNDA MANO

Miércoles - Granero

Miércoles de 9:00 AM a las 12:00 PM.

COMIDA COMUNITARIA

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

MINISTERIO DE CALLE

Jueves - Estación de tren Mastic-Shirley

7:15 PM (aproximadamente)

Se encuentran disponibles comidas y ropa sencillas.

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

Queen of All Hearts Knights of Columbus

St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 14th

313 Frowein Rd. Center Moriches

7:00 PM

Buffet Dinner - Corned Beef & Cabbage
Bangers & Mash Soft Drinks & Dessert

\$35 Per Person
Bring your own adult beverage

For Tickets- Call: Jim 631.838.0271
or Frank 516.639.6245

Door Prizes

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



Weekly Calendar

Monday, February 16th, 2026 **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, February 17th, 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, February 18th, 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, February 19th, 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, February 20th, 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, February 21st, 2026

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

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

BMR - Barn 1st Floor Mtg. Room
 BUR - Barn Upper Room
 SC - Seton Chapel
 AMR - Auditorium Mtg. Room

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

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

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

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

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