

St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



February 22, 2026

The First Sunday of Lent

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. ~ Psalm 51



February 22, 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 28th

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

Sunday, March 1st

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

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

Pastoral Team

Reverend Patrick M. Riegger
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

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.

Mass Schedule

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 our Pastor, Fr. Patrick ...

The First Sunday of Lent “The Story of the Temptations” (Mt 4:1-11)

During this first Sunday of Lent, the church turns our attention to The Story of the Temptations. After being affirmed during His baptism that He was God’s beloved Son in whom He was well pleased, we see in the Story of the Temptations how Satan was undermining Jesus’ role as the Son of God. He says several times, “if you are the Son of God”... then do this and do that. “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.” “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from the parapet of the temple and the angels will save you.” It is clear in each response that Jesus is fully aware of His identity and would not be tempted to give in to Satan’s demands.

Jesus was humble enough and knew from the moment of His baptism that He belonged to God. He knew that He was God’s beloved son. He was not intimidated or persuaded to give in to Satan’s demands. And on top of that, it would not be necessary either. For example, why would He have to turn stones into bread when it was not necessary or the time to do so? It was not until the multiplication of the loaves that Jesus would provide enough bread to feed over 5000 people. Moreover, why would it be necessary for Jesus to jump off the parapet of the temple when He had already descended upon the earth that first Christmas night? It would have been redundant and irrelevant to even do so. And why would He want all the kingdoms of the earth when His Kingdom supersedes all other kingdoms as the Son of the Most High? Why would He subject Himself to these earthly kingdoms when His Kingdom endures forever?

We see in today’s gospel how Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit in remaining firm and true to Himself. The truth is, Jesus did not have an identity crisis, as many of us do today. Jesus knew His role and His purpose within the Kingdom of God. He knew He belonged to God and that He was one with God and was the Son of God. He did not need Satan to play mind tricks on Him. Jesus knew His role within the mystery of salvation. Unlike many of us, Jesus knew His place and His purpose in our world. He knew His destiny and was resolutely determined to remain firm to God’s plan so we can have the fullness of salvation.

Although Jesus was tempted in every way possible, as we are today, He did not give into Satan as we often do. He was tempted right to the end. “If you are truly the Son of God, come down off that cross.” Once again, Jesus was being challenged. How delightful from a human perspective it would have been for Jesus to show the world then of His power and glory by coming down from the cross for all to see, especially towards those who crucified Him! In reality, He would come down for His burial. But it was not the time to come down. We see how His time in the desert only prepared Him for His greatest temptation as He hung upon the cross for the world’s salvation. Again, it would have been redundant to respond otherwise because He had already descended upon the world on that first Holy Night. Plus, it would not be too long before He descended upon them through His Spirit during that first Pentecost and every Eucharistic

celebration that we participate in. The Lord always descends upon the earth in His glory and power so we can encounter Him once again each time we gather for liturgy. We can learn from the Story of the Temptations that God’s ways are not always our ways of doing things.

It’s no question that we face temptations every day. In our weakness, we often give into our temptations. It is not easy to avoid giving in when we are surrounded by worldly assets and agendas. Regardless, it is important that we rely on God’s graces more often each day as disciples of the Lord. Probably the greatest temptation that we all have in common is a lack of trust in God’s promise for humanity. We do not place our complete trust in God as often as we should. We lose sight of our identity. We forget that we belong to God and to God alone. We forget that through our baptism we became part of God’s family when we were baptized into His life. We are no longer our own once we enter God’s family. We forget our true purpose in this world is to glorify God in service and love to one another. We forget to rely on His providential care. We try to be more self-reliant and less reliant on God. We wonder why we are burdened and anxious about so many things when we should be relying on God more often to help us on our journey of faith. We forget that we have an active role in the mystery of salvation in assisting our Lord in bringing others home to God.

What is so special about this new season of Lent is that it is a new beginning for all of us. It helps us to put our lives back into perspective. It is a time for us to be strengthened in our faith. It is a time for renewal and spiritual growth. Lent is a time for change. It is a time for us to grow in our awareness and appreciation of the presence of God in our lives. It is a time to renew our baptismal promises and to remember that we belong to God. Lent is a time to start over again and to turn our lives around. It is a time to be reconciled. It is a time to repent and to create a new way of thinking and acting. Lent is a time to reconnect with God and to learn from God.

Lent offers us another opportunity to make more room for the Lord in our lives. It is a time to soften our hearts so we can encounter the Lord more fully each day. It is an opportunity to seek the Lord’s forgiveness and to grow in our faith. It is a season for conversion and a season of transformation. As scripture says, now is the time to trust more and rely more on the Lord for His strength and wisdom knowing that we belong to Him and Him alone. In the end, we see how Jesus, in His humanity trusted that God would provide in His hunger. No question after 40 days He was very hungry. But He knew and trusted that God would lead Him out of the desert safely to usher in the Kingdom of God. Well, the same holds true for us who trust in God’s Word and Providence. We need to hold fast to the truth and allow this new season of Lent to strengthen us in our faith and make us whole again. We need to grow in our understanding and appreciation of God who brings us new and everlasting life in Christ!





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Lent 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In this Lenten season 2026, we offer our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for the Light of Christ's peace and justice to heal the many troubled parts of our nation and world.

Amid so many global and national crises, it is essential that we be guided and inspired by the Word of God. This Lent, let us rededicate ourselves to being deeply biblical Catholics on fire with the Word of God.¹

In Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (2:8-10), the Apostle writes: "The Word of God is not bound," or as another translation renders it, "The Word of God cannot be chained."

The Church of Santa Maria in Via Lata in Rome, near to both the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, is traditionally taken as the site of Saint Paul's imprisonment in the Eternal City. Beneath this holy church stands an ancient, freestanding granite column that I visited and prayed at on May 17, 2024.

Etched into that ancient column is the Latin phrase for "The Word of God is not bound." The column also has rust marks indicating that a chain - possibly the one discovered archaeologically in an adjacent well - was wrapped around it.

How powerful it was to place my hands on that granite column and to touch with my fingers the words of Saint Paul! In my ecclesial mission as the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, that memorable day I asked Saint Paul for his intercession that each one of us in the Diocese of Rockville Centre could be as bold and as audacious in proclaiming that the Word of God cannot be chained!

The Word of God cannot be chained in our own lives and in the lives of our families!

The Word of God bursts through our sin, paralyses, and resistances to change, and ignites our own Road to Damascus conversions!

The Word of God breaks down the self-imposed prison doors of addiction, ego, pride, selfishness, and narcissism, and refocuses our lives on Christ and his call to rejoice!

The Word of God cannot be chained by sin, war, terrorism, racism, injustice, poverty,² or disrespect for the sanctity and dignity of human life!

¹ See Bishop Barres' Pastoral Letter *God's Word is Living and Effective* available at www.drvc.org.

² See Pope Leo XI V's 2025 Apostolic Exhortation *Di/exit Te (On Love of the Poor)* available at www.vatican.va.

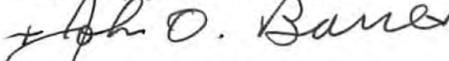
The Word of God cannot be chained by unethical deployments of Artificial Intelligence! ³

The Word of God cannot be chained in the global mission of the Catholic Church, regardless of the 21st century persecutions and martyrdoms she experiences! ⁴

As the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, and in communion and mission with our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, I thank each of you for the way you "cast fire on the earth" (Luke 12:49) through your daily reading, meditating, praying, contemplating, and living the inspired Sacred Scriptures.

Be assured of my prayers for a blessed Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre



³ See *Antiqua et Nova*, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education's January 14, 2025, *Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence* available at www.vatican.va.

⁴ See Robert Royal, *The Martyrs of the New Millennium: The Global Persecution of Christians in the Twenty-First Century*, (New York: Sophia Institute Press, 2025).

Masses for the Week...

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

Monday, February 23rd Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Lisa Dismore
- 12:00 Noon Kathleen Woener

Tuesday, February 24th Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Dorothy Collins
- 12:00 PM Special Intention-Matt Stevens

Wednesday, February 25th Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Peter DeFilippo
- 12:00 Noon Joseph M. Sherry

Thursday, February 26th Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Jordan Hubbard
- 12:00 Noon William Zarcone

Friday, February 27th Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Michael DeNoto
- 12:00 Noon Katy Dyer and her brother Jack Dyer

Saturday, February 28th Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 AM Raymond Galpin
- 5:00 PM Helen Langone
- 7:30 PM *(Spanish)* People of the Parish

Sunday, March 1st Second Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 AM Elizabeth Smith
- 10:00 AM Robert Nidzyn
- 12:00 Noon Special Intention-Adelaide Rego
- 6:00 PM Angela and Frank Cantano





Easter Novena & Mass Remembrance envelopes are now available at all of the exits of the church. These will be the intentions for all of the Easter Masses. All intentions will remain on the altar throughout the Easter Octave. Please return the envelopes to the rectory before Easter.

PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS			
Average Weekly from January 1, 2026 to present.			
Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2026	\$124,332	7	\$17,762
2025	\$117,493	7	\$16,785

2025

Catholic Ministries Appeal
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

We did it!!!
Thank you!!

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!

*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



Praying For and With One Another

Remember

Fergus "Buddy" McDermott
Mona DeSesa + Angiola DeLuca
Lambert L. Auguste

"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
Bill Hasper
Fr. Peter D'Abele
Mark Havens
Michael Lankau
Kevin Coyne

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 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 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 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

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

Liz DellaRatta

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

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.**

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**



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.

February 22, 2026

Lift High the Cross

*Moving with Jesus into
the mystery of salvation*

SJE Parish Lenten Mission

Led by: Fr. Hugh J. Gillespie, SMM

(Montfort Missionaries)

March 23rd, 24th, 25th

7:00 PM: Rosary

7:30 PM: Mission Talk

*All are welcome.
Join us as we
journey with
Christ into the
mystery of
salvation.*

Mardi GRAS

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, helped with set-up, clean-up and everything in between! Thanks to your generosity, over 200 joy-filled parishioners feasted well before the fast that begins with the coming of the Lenten season. A special word of gratitude to the ladies of Family Life Ministry (and their husbands and children!) who worked tirelessly to make Mardi Gras such a wonderful celebration for our parish family, to the Knights of Columbus for the many ways they helped to lighten the load, and to our CYO basketball teams who set up all the tables and chairs!

The joys shared by our parish family were many. To God be all the glory!





February 22, 2026



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Queen of All Hearts Council 4126

KOFC4126.com



Palm Cross

FUNDRAISING SALE

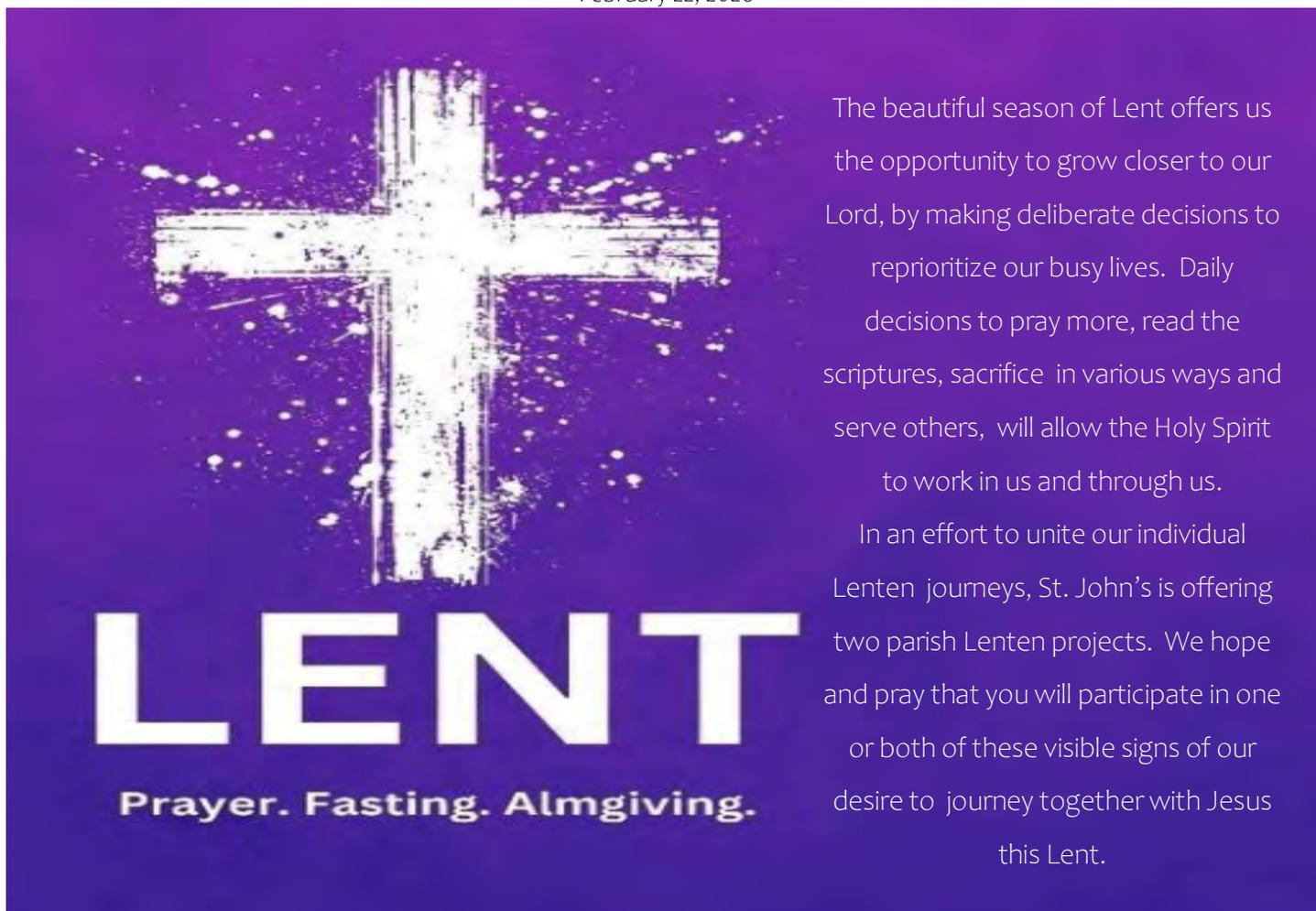
\$15 per cross

March 21st & 22nd

AFTER MASSES



Proceeds from the
sales will go to
assist vocations to
religious Life.



The beautiful season of Lent offers us the opportunity to grow closer to our Lord, by making deliberate decisions to reprioritize our busy lives. Daily decisions to pray more, read the scriptures, sacrifice in various ways and serve others, will allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

In an effort to unite our individual Lenten journeys, St. John's is offering two parish Lenten projects. We hope and pray that you will participate in one or both of these visible signs of our desire to journey together with Jesus this Lent.

Popsicle Stick Project!

When you come to Mass, or stop into the church to pray, think about the different ways that you have prayed and served and fasted and given to others during Lent. Write down what you have done on a popsicle stick and put it in the basket in the fellowship area.

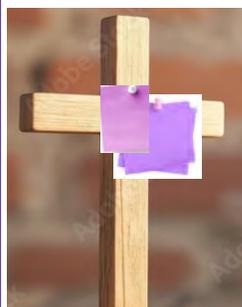


As we sacrifice and pray our way through Lent, we will collect popsicle sticks from everyone in our parish who wants to share a piece of their Lenten journey. These popsicle sticks will be used to build a cross for our parish...a cross created by our good works, our prayers and our sacrifices. By Easter Sunday, the beautiful cross will become a visible sign that we are a Resurrection People!

***Let's try to support each other
on our Lenten journeys!***

Post-It Note Project

Inside the church, by the sanctuary, we will position a large wooden cross. There will be a small table nearby, on which you will find purple post-it notes and pens. Take a post-it note and write your prayer intentions on it, including the graces that you are asking God to grant you during the 40 days of Lent. After you have written your prayers, stick your post-it note on the cross. Throughout Lent, the cross will become a visible sign of the many ways we depend on our God. On Good Friday the cross will be removed from the sanctuary area, and stripped of its prayers. Those post-it notes will become the kindling by which the fire is lit at the start of the Easter Vigil. Each year, that fire is used to light our new parish paschal candle.



***Throughout Lent, let's pray for all of the intentions
on the cross.!***

Bridge for Peace PRESENTS



"Lord, Is It I?"

A Dramatic Presentation of the Last Supper

Bring family and friends

Sunday March 22nd, 2pm at

St. Louis De Montfort Church

75 New York Ave, Sound Beach, NY 11789

Sunday March 22nd, 7pm at

St. John the Evangelist Church

25 Ocean Ave, Center Moriches, NY 11934

Free will offering to support the ongoing ministry of Bridge for Peace

For more information call 631-730-3982

Bridge for Peace—Healing to the Nations



www.bridgeforpeace.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 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.



Our monthly Community Meal is being held in the Parish Auditorium on Monday, February 23rd at 6 PM. If you know of an individual or family in need that would love a hot, home cooked meal, please invite them to join us. This month's theme is Breakfast for dinner!



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



- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Sweat Pants
- ◆ Single Razors
- ◆ Shaving Cream
- ◆ Face/Wash cloths
- ◆ Travel Size Shampoo
- ◆ Travel Size Body Lotion
- ◆ Feminine Hygiene Products
- ◆ Long-Sleeved Thermal Shirts
- ◆ Women's New Underwear (S, M)
- ◆ Men's New Underwear (S, M, L, XL)
- ◆ Small Pack HotHand Hand Warmers
- ◆ 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.*

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Phone: 631-878-0009, ext. 5
Website: <https://sjecmff.blogspot.com/>
faithformation@sjecm.org / mpirraglia@sjecm.org
Office Hours: By Appointment Only

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.

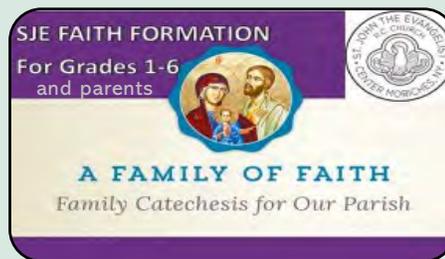
Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles

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

Father Patrick blessed the Scouts on Sunday, February 8th at the 8 AM Mass. God bless Scouting America for their mission to instill values and morality in our young people.



CFN TELETHON '26

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) will continue our immense Telethon tradition this year! This exciting event will commence on **Saturday, February 28th from 2 PM and continue through Monday, March 2nd 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 or by scanning the QR Code below, using 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 TV, and Apple TV.



Please join Queen of All Hearts Council 4126
for a complementary...

Pancake Breakfast

Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Tea & Juice

Sunday, March 29th

After the 10am Mass
in the school Auditorium



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



A Message from Monsignor Walden...



As advanced as we are with all the research, advances and technology we have at our fingertips, the past weeks this winter with the snow, ice, and freezing temperatures challenge us to adapt prudently. Obviously other than escaping to a warmer climate, we are not in control of weather patterns. The Gospel for today's Mass (Matthew 4:1-11), the first Sunday of Lent, presents Jesus being tempted by the devil after forty days of prayer and fasting in the desert. What the devil is tempting Jesus to do is to miraculously satisfy His hunger for food by turning stones into bread. The second temptation that the devil puts forth is for Jesus to jump off the top of the temple and to be caught by angels, showing His divine power. The final temptation the devil puts forth is to promise Jesus control of the whole world if He would lay down before the devil and worship him. The focus of Jesus is not to get our attention by entertaining and amazing us but to open our minds and hearts to our presence in His mind and heart.

There are many messages, programs, and websites that call for our attention everyday. Lent is a time when we are invited to look beyond our physical surroundings and devices to where God is present in our lives. As we pray, receive the Sacraments, and read the Scriptures, we need those quiet times where we can put ourselves into the presence of God and allow Him into our minds and hearts. Before we can do that mentally and reflectively, we need to find the physical place where all the distracting devices are turned off or in another room. Read the Scriptures for the Mass every day, come to Mass every day in the 40 days of Lent, just find some quiet time and place to pray sincerely.

We go out of our way to be present and listen to those who are an intimate part of our lives and whose lives we are in turn are an intimate part of. Jesus humbled Himself and left the glory and joy of heaven to walk the journey of life with us. We encounter Him in a very real, tangible way in the Sacraments and when we sincerely speak to Him from our hearts in prayer. He entered the world of time to walk with us. How good it is when we make

the time everyday to be attentive to His presence to us! He is not out to control us but to enrich us with His goodness, love, mercy, and truth. Lent is not another program to take up our time, but a gift to enrich, inspire and fill us with gratitude, courage, and joy. What is your RSVP?

I offer Psalm 42 for your prayerful reflection.

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.*

*My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
when can I enter and see the face of God?*

*My tears have become my bread, by night, by day,
as I hear it said all the day long: Where is your God?*

*These things will I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God, amid cries of gladness
and thanksgiving, the throng wild with joy.*

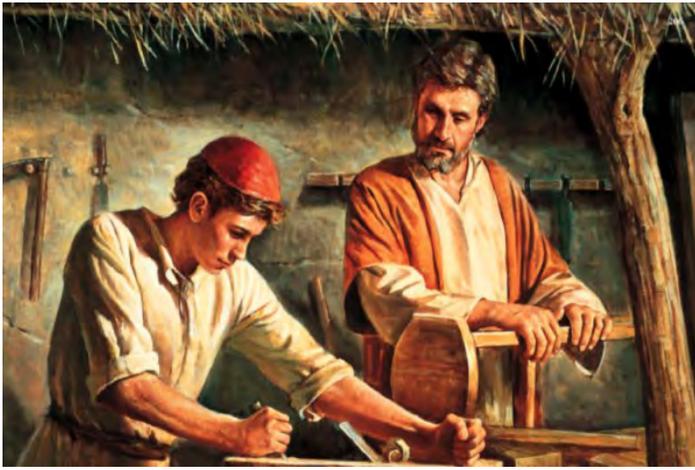
*Why are you cast down, my soul, why groan within
me? Hope in God; I will praise him still,
my savior and my God.*

*My soul is cast down within me as I think of you,
from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon,
from the Hill of Mizar. Deep is calling on deep,
in the roar of waters; your torrents and all your waves
swept over me. By day the Lord will send
his loving kindness; by night I will sing to him,
praise the God of my life. I will say to God, my rock:
Why have you forgotten me?*

*With cries that pierce me to the heart,
my enemies revile me, saying to me all day long:
Where is your God? Why are you cast down, my soul,
why groan within me? Hope in God; I will praise him
still, my savior and my God. Glory...*

Psalm Prayer:

*Father in heaven, when your strength takes
possession of us we no longer say: Why are
you cast down, my soul? So now that the
surging waves of your indignation have passed
over us, let us feel the healing calm of your
forgiveness. Inspire us to yearn for you always,
like the deer for running streams, until you
satisfy every longing in heaven.*



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

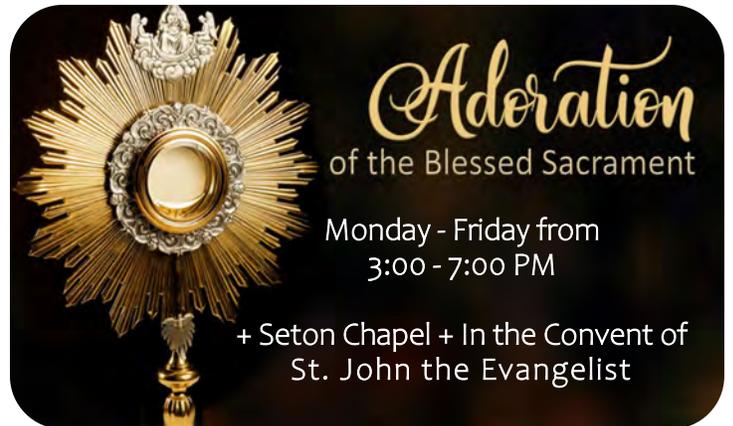
First floor meeting room in the Barn.

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.

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!



First Saturday Devotions

On the First Saturday of every month, the Church invites all to come and take part in a special time of prayer and devotion.

7:30 AM Fatima prayers and Holy Rosary

8:00 AM Mass

Confession and continuation of rosary after Mass

The Five First Saturdays devotion, requested by Our Lady to Sister Lucia on December 10, 1925, in Pontevedra, Spain, is an act of reparation for blasphemies and ingratitude against her Immaculate Heart. The promise includes assisting those at the hour of death with graces necessary for salvation who, for five consecutive months, confess, receive Holy Communion, pray five decades of the Rosary, and meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries with the intention of reparation.

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 23rd, 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, February 24th, 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 25th, 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 26th, 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 27th, 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 28th, 2026

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

Sunday, March 1st, 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