

# St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



February 23, 2025

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful. Psalm 103





February 23, 2025

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, March 1<sup>st</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, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 AM - Fr. Abin

10:00 AM - Fr. Jerry

12 noon - Fr. Patrick

6:00 PM - Fr. Patrick

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

## 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 Abin Panicker**

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

**Ed Grieb**

Deacon

**Carolyn Lapham**

Director of Family Ministries

**Michelle Pirraglia**

Director of Faith Formation

**Heather Crayne**

Director of Parish Social Ministry

**Katie Waller**

Director of Operations

**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

[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.*

### Mass Schedule

### Confession Schedule

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

# MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

*“I don’t really have any enemies.”*

*“I forgive others.”*

*“I love my neighbor.”*

*“I give to those in need.”*

*“I don’t judge others.”*

*“I pray for those who have hurt me.”*

Maybe these responses are valid... maybe true to some extent. But the message Jesus gives us in today’s gospel challenges us to go above and beyond... to go to the uncomfortable places with the people who annoy us, disagree with us, take advantage of us, even those who have judged us, condemned us, hurt us... and yes... even those who have hurt our loved ones. Jesus doesn’t make a few mere suggestions about how we might want to live our lives, He gives **directives** “To you who hear...” So, perhaps the first question to ponder is:

*“Do I hear?”*

Jesus often went off by Himself to pray. Will I take the quiet time that I need to hear and reflect on His words in today’s gospel? Will I listen intently with an open mind and an open heart, acknowledging that Jesus is speaking directly to me? Will I take the time to honestly reflect on my words and actions... as well as on my lack of words and actions? Will I ask Jesus how and when and where He wants me to respond? Our individual calls to holiness are about the choices we make. Today’s readings up the ante.

*How will I respond?*

The Christian life can be difficult at times. It requires us to sacrifice, to give, to forgive and to love, again and again and again. In the first reading, David had the chance to get rid of the problematic Saul once and for all. But he chose not to “harm the Lord’s anointed.” I don’t know about you, but sometimes I am so tired of trying. I am exhausted by doing the right thing, trying to be kind, holding my tongue and giving to others even when I feel as if I have nothing left to give. Truth be told, sometimes I even want to hold a grudge because it’s easier than doing the work of forgiveness and reconciliation. But it’s not easier. In the long run, when we seek the greatest goodness in others, ask God for His grace, forgive and pray for those who have hurt us, the love of God is released, and His love conquers all of our hurts and fears and prejudices and griefs. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are unleashed, and we are blessed with the fruit of life in the Spirit. For us... MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. For God... just another way to show His love for us and to help us to love others.

*So, what next?*

The season of Lent is less than two weeks away and calls us to sacrifice in clearly defined ways: pray more, give more, fast more. Somehow Lent gives us the motivation and the unity that helps us respond to today’s readings. **A challenge? YES! A reason for self-condemnation or discouragement? NO!** Our responsorial psalm reminds us very clearly that our Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. He is forgiving and compassionate, pardoning our iniquities, healing us and providing the grace that we need to truly love one another. While the mission may seem impossible, it is a challenge that we as Catholics should approach with hope and confidence, trusting that the God who called us to this high standard will provide all that we need to respond. We need but to trust Him, to follow His plan, to receive His grace and mercy, and depend on Him. While independence and self-sufficiency are applauded in the secular world, surrendering to and dependency upon our God is the true measure of real strength. Jesus meets us where we are and shows us where we need to go.

*He will lead... we just need to follow.*

*-Carolyn Lapham*





# Masses for the Week...



**Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle**

- 5:00 PM Liz DellaRatta
- 7:30 PM (Spanish) Rose E. Portillo

**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 8:00 AM People of the Parish
- 10:00 AM Matthew Rankel
- 12:00 Noon George Napolitano
- 6:00 PM Eileen Clowry

**Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> Weekday**

- 7:00 AM Special Intention - SJE Woman's Group
- 12:00 Noon Vito and Catrina Stabile

**Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> Weekday**

- 7:00 AM Paul Donohue
- 12:00 PM Joseph M. Sherry

**Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> Weekday**

- 7:00 AM Ann Ryan
- 12:00 Noon Jordan Hubbard

**Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> Weekday**

- 7:00 AM Louis Bavaro
- 12:00 PM John Brady

**Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> Weekday**

- 7:00 AM Karolina M. Felber
- 12:00 Noon Margaret Gillard

**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> Weekday**

- 8:00 AM Michael Jr. and Michael Sr. Capozzola
- 5:00 PM Alice Brown
- 7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

**Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 8:00 AM Cornelius Flaherty
- 10:00 AM John F.R. Clark
- 12:00 Noon Joseph M. Sherry
- 6:00 PM Robert Nidzyn

| PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS                         |           |            |                |
|---|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Average Weekly from January 1, 2025 to present. |           |            |                |
| Year  | Total     | # of Weeks | Average Weekly |
| 2025  | \$107,507 | 7          | \$15,358       |
| 2024  | \$139,387 | 7          | \$19,912       |



| As of 1/6/2025        | 2024      | 2023      |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Parish Goal           | \$115,100 | \$115,100 |
| Number of Donors      | 272       | 311       |
| Total Pledged to date | \$117,306 | \$116,993 |
| Avg. Gift             | \$434     | \$376     |
| Percent of Goal       | 101.9%    | 101.7%    |

Supporting the CMA helps to support SJE! We receive back 20% of whatever is raised below the goal. If we go above the goal, we also receive 80% of all monies that are raised above the goal! Please help us go above the goal!



February 23, 2025

St. John the Evangelist Parish...

# MARDI GRAS



## Celebration

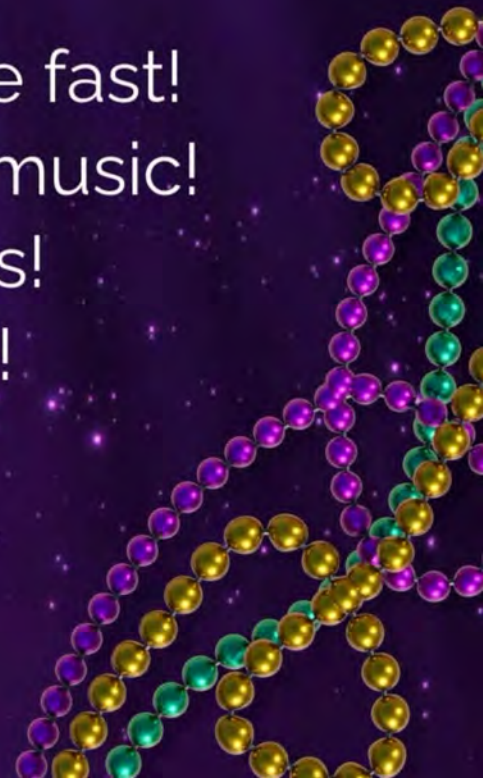
**Sunday, March 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**in the Parish Auditorium**

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

Plenty of ways to help!  
Just email us at:  
[familylife@sjecm.org](mailto:familylife@sjecm.org)







# Praying For and With One Another

## Remember

Jennifer Lynn Villacci

“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

Christopher Peck + Janet Penney  
Janice Chivelly + Virginia O’Sullivan  
James Green + Maureen Hogan

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

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

## Our Military

### US Marine Corps

LC Michael Abbatiello  
CPL Evan Berkemeyer  
PFC Sean Brady  
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  
ENS Ralph J. Ruggiero

### US Coast Guard

BM3 Brendan J. Bernath  
CPT Keith Donohue

### US Army

SGT Sean Casey  
PVT Joseph Cestare  
SPC Michael Garcia Jr  
PVT Anthony Koch  
CPL Aidan O’Neill  
PFC David Smith  
Steven Valentin  
PFC Francis J. Amalifitano

### US Air Force

SrA Anthony Auciello  
SSGT David Giese  
SSGT Jason M Hermes  
PFC Kyle Kerstiens  
SSGT Ryan Kerstiens  
SSGT Timothy Kerstiens  
SrA Jared T. Rosato  
MAJ Salvatore Sferrazza  
SSGT William E. McCauley II  
1st Lt. Claire McGrath

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:

*Joseph A. and Betty Mazarella*

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 \$200 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](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org)



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

# HOLY HOUR *for* VOCATIONS

7:30 PM FRIDAY, MARCH 7th

*We invite all to come together and pray for vocations  
for Priests and Religious as a parish family!*



*We are very excited to welcome back  
Father Louis Cona as the Guest Homilist*

Associate Pastor Church of St. Patrick Smithtown, NY



[drvcvocations.com](http://drvcvocations.com)

DOORS AT 7:00PM



THE LIFE CENTER  
OF LONG ISLAND  
*Change for Life*

By filling the Baby Bottle, you are directly supporting the life-changing work of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of women and men who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy.



*How Can You Help?*

We are reminding everyone to **return** their baby bottle filled with your donations **THIS weekend, February 22 & 23.**

Please make checks payable to the **Life Center of Long Island.**

40-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

COME VISIT JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT THIS LENT. Jesus invites us to find solace in his friendship and love. In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, you will find rest and strength for the journey.

*Come spend an hour or two with Jesus*

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Seton Chapel (in the Convent)

Adoration hours will begin at 3:00 PM Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, until 7:00 AM Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

We need to cover each hour for 40 hours so that Jesus is never left alone. Forty-hours is the number of hours the Lord's body remained in the tomb prior to the resurrection

Sign up in the church fellowship area March 1st & 2nd and 8th & 9th or call the rectory at 631-878-0009,



*Let's show Jesus how much we love him!*



February 23, 2025

# Ash Wednesday

March 5<sup>th</sup>

## 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

# Parish Social Ministry

Once again we have been selected for **Stop & Shop's Bloomin' 4 Good Program!**



Ernie's Place Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation for every specially-marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during all of February at: 999 Montauk Highway, Shirley NY

*Please think of us for your floral needs when you visit Stop & Shop this month!*

## Ernie's Place Shopping List



Here is a list of items needed for our pantry. These items can be left at the doors of the church or at the bin, outside of Ernie's Place.

- Jelly
- Pancake Mix
- Tomato Sauce
- Pancake Syrup
- Mac & Cheese
- Dry Red Beans
- Dry Black Beans
- Raman Noodles
- Shelf-stable Milk
- Cooking Oil

## Thrift Shop

**Wednesdays from 9 AM - 12 Noon**

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.

Please place your donations in the green bins in the school parking lot, located in front of the thrift shop. The best times to donate are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 9 AM-10:30 AM.

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.

## Street Ministry

### Join Our Street Ministry Team!

Are you a talented cook? A social butterfly who loves engaging with others? Or do you prefer working behind the scenes? If you enjoy folding clothes and organizing, we would love for you to use the wonderful gifts God has given you to serve those in need in our local community!

Our Street Ministry is a vibrant community of volunteers dedicated to providing hot meals and clothing to individuals and families every Thursday night, many of whom are homeless or unable to access other support services. Whether you're interested in working in our donation room, cooking hot meals, preparing PB&J sandwiches, or joining our van runs, there's a place and a role for everyone!

If you're ready to get started, are 18 or over and would like more information, please contact:

[socialministry@sjecm.org](mailto:socialministry@sjecm.org)

### WE NEED YOUR HELP ON THURSDAY NIGHTS...

We urgently need your help on Thursday nights for the **Street Ministry Van Runs!** Volunteers meet at the convent at **6:30 PM** and go out into the community to provide hot meals and clothing to those in desperate need. If you can spare just one hour each week, your assistance would make a tremendous difference. Every bit of help counts! **Interested in Helping?** Please call the Parish Social Ministry office at **631-878-0009 x120**.

**Thank you for considering this vital opportunity to serve!**

## Street Ministry Shopping List

Below is a list of items that are needed for Street Ministry. These items can be left at the doors of the church.

- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Feminine Products
- ◆ Men's & Women's Socks
- ◆ **Men's & Women's Coats S, M, L, XL**
- ◆ Men's & Women's T-Shirts Sizes S, M, L
- ◆ Men's Jeans All Sizes
- ◆ Men's Sweatshirts Sizes L, XL
- ◆ Travel Size Shaving Cream & Razors
- ◆ Travel Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- ◆ Men's & Women's Underwear (new) All Sizes
- ◆ Men's & Women's Gloves
- ◆ Washcloths



# ALTAR SERVER TRAINING



If you are in 4th grade or higher and you would like to serve the church in this special ministry, we would love to have you! Altar servers assist the priest or deacon with sincere devotion and decorum in the spirit of the Liturgy by carrying the incense, processional cross, lighting candles at Eucharistic celebrations, Sacraments, funeral masses, benediction, and prayer services. This ministry allows the youth of the parish to become involved and contribute to the Liturgy of the Mass by serving others.

## OUR NEXT PARISH TRAINING SESSION WILL BE...

March 17th 4:00-5:30 PM

March 19th 4:00-5:30 PM

March 22nd 11:00AM-12:30PM

(Pizza will be served at the conclusion of the final session)

We will celebrate a special installation Mass of all our new altar servers on **Sunday, March 23rd** at the 10:00am Mass at which all our new trainees will serve at the Mass for the first time.

Please email your child's name, grade level, email, phone number to [servers@sjecm.org](mailto:servers@sjecm.org) BEFORE Friday, March 14TH if you are interested in becoming an altar server.





# Faith Formation

Phone: 631-878-0009, ext. 5  
Faith Formation Website: <https://sjecmff.blogspot.com/>  
Email: [faithformation@sjecm.org](mailto:faithformation@sjecm.org) / [mpirraglia@sjecm.org](mailto:mpirraglia@sjecm.org)  
Office Hours: By Appointment Only (Mon-Thu - BARN, Upstairs)

This month in our Family of Faith program for Grades 1-6, we were very grateful to have our middle and high school youth volunteers, as well as some of our adult team members, help families learn about the Paschal Mystery through a special acting presentation. Families also worked on a Scripture activity and learned about the Last Judgment.



## 2025 FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS

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

([sjecm.org](http://sjecm.org), click on "Faith Formation")

### LEVEL 7 (Confirmation Prep Year 1):

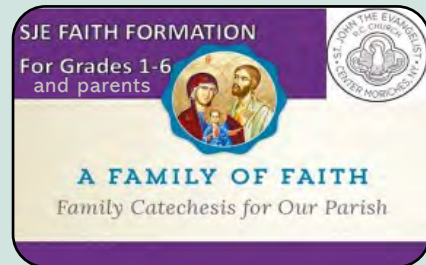
Next Session:

**Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM in the Church**  
*Don't forget to bring your Breakthrough Bibles!*

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

Next Session:

**Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM in the Church**  
*Don't forget to bring your Breakthrough Bibles!*



Next Sessions:

**Tuesday, March 11 & Thursday, March 13**  
**@ 5 PM & 7 PM in the Church.**



# Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School Spring Basket Auction and Food Extravaganza



Saturday, March 29th  
6:00 PM  
Doors open at 5:30

Tickets \$40 each

(Ticket price includes food to try from various restaurants)

**CALL TO PURCHASE  
YOUR TICKETS!**

Tickets available till March 7th  
or we are sold out

**NUMEROUS BASKETS  
TO CHOOSE FROM !**

(Basket raffle tickets purchased  
separately at the event)



**(631) 878-1033**

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

# The Office of Family Ministry

## **The Office of Family Ministry**



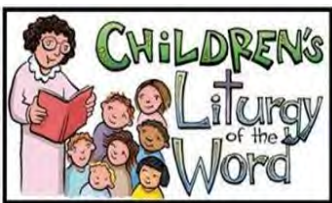
at St. John's focuses on engaging parish families in fun activities, service projects and prayerful experiences. With the purpose of deepening faith, strengthening good Catholic family practices and building our parish family, our office works in conjunction with Faith Formation and Parish Social Ministry to meet the varied needs of our parish families. If you would like to learn more about our ministries or need additional information about any of the upcoming events, please call us at 631-878-0009 x124, or email [Clapham@sjecm.org](mailto:Clapham@sjecm.org). Here are some of our ministries!

## **Moms on the Journey:**



Our moms' group is going strong! We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the upper meeting room of the Barn. A casual, fun-filled, Spirit lead group, "Moms on the Journey" provides an opportunity for busy mothers to be pampered... to grow in their faith... and to share the joys and challenges of Christian motherhood with other moms. This ministry has been a true blessing for all those who come. If you're a mom who wants to go deeper and enjoy the company of other Christian moms, please consider joining this amazing group of women. Our next monthly gathering will be Wednesday, March 26, 2025. Bring a friend and come on down.

## **Children's Liturgy of the Word:**



This program meets during the 10:00 Mass every Sunday. Our young parishioners leave Mass after the Collect (Opening Prayer) and return in time for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. While at CLTW, the children enjoy the readings, responsorial psalm and gospel presented in language that is easy for them to understand. An interactive homily and prayer of the faithful allow the children to participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Word. All children ages 4 and up are welcome. No registration is necessary...just come to the 10:00 Mass and have your children join the group when the priest invites the children to come up. This program is a joy-filled blessing for all!

## **Family Life Ministry**

*Our Family Life Ministry provides varied opportunities for families of all ages to come together to pray, to serve others and to share in some good clean family fun. We meet every month on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 PM in the upper meeting room of the barn. We pray, brainstorm, share ideas and plan family activities, events and service projects. All are welcome!*

## **Family Life Ministry Events for Lent 2025**

- March 9 Sandwich Sunday ~ 11:00 AM - 12 noon in the School Cafeteria
- March 21 Lenten Soup Supper ~ 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the School Cafeteria, *followed by Stations of the Cross*
- April 2 Monthly Planning Meeting ~ 7:00 PM in the Upper Room of The Barn
- April 4 Lenten Soup Supper ~ 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the School Cafeteria, *followed by Stations of the Cross*
- April 13 Sandwich Sunday ~ 11:00 AM - 12 noon in the School Cafeteria
- April 17 Holy Thursday Children's Service ~ 4:30 PM in the Church
- April 18 Good Friday Children's Service ~ 12:00 noon in the Church
- April 19 Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt on the Great Lawn after the 11:00 AM Prayer Service
- April 20 Easter Sunday Masses (Sunrise Mass, 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 noon)





Queen of All Hearts Knights of Columbus

# St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

## Saturday, March 15th

313 Frowein Rd. Center Moriches

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

**STARTS AT 7 PM**

Bring your own adult beverage

**\$35 Per Person**

**Door Prizes**

For Tickets- Call: Jim 631.838.0271  
or Frank 516.639.6245





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

*Adoration*  
of the Blessed Sacrament  
at  
St. John the Evangelist

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

Please consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. On Mondays following Adoration, there is a Holy Hour to Pray for Priests from 7 - 8 PM. All are invited to pray for our Shepherds. Please consider offering one hour per week before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

If you can be present for a specific hour, email [rectory@sjecm.org](mailto:rectory@sjecm.org) or call the Parish Office at 631.878.0009.

Office for the Protection of Children and Young People

**Keeping our promise to protect.**  
**Learn more.**

[www.drvc.org/OPCYP](http://www.drvc.org/OPCYP)

POWERED BY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS · DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



# PILGRIMS OF HOPE



2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church." The concept of

"Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to re-new ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."

## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the  
Gospel. May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



# THE CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK TELETHON

will take place this weekend

**Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**from 2:00 – 10:00 PM**

and on **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**from 12:00 – 10:00 PM** respectively.



CFN is available throughout the Tri-State Area on Optimum, channel 29/137; Verizon FiOS TV channel 296; Spectrum, channel 162/471.

It will be broadcast live from our studios in Uniondale.



If you are able, and can support us, please email [LTangredi@CFNtv.org](mailto:LTangredi@CFNtv.org), or scan the QR code to make your donation. Thank you for your generous support.



**GROW + GO**

**"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."**

(Lk 6:36)

## A Message from Msgr. Walden...



One of the titles we use for the Sacrament of Penance is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To be reconciled is to become one with those who we are at odds with, those who have offended us, or those we have offended. In the Gospel for today's Mass (Luke 6:27-38) we have these words from Jesus: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back." To say the least, these words are certainly challenging. They go against our initial reaction to protect ourselves, strike back and get even. Yet, Jesus lived these words to His very last breath as He prayed on the cross for His persecutors, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Before we even think about being reconciled with those who have hurt us, we must first reconcile ourselves to the fact that we do not know everything and that our lives are far more than just being winners and losers. As we reflect on these words of Jesus they are clarifying and can only be accepted with humility, trust, and faith: "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6). How do enemies become friends? It is unbelievably challenging to take the first step, especially when there seems to be no hope of reconciling. Is it a waste of time? Jesus' death on the cross shows us that in the end we will only be at peace with God if we make the effort and try our best. Sometimes all we can seem to do is simply not to make matters worse or not widen the gap between those we are at odds with. That opens the door to light, even if it is only slightly ajar.

As much as we pray for forgiveness and the wisdom and courage to seek reconciliation, we must first truly trust Jesus. Before we approach the altar to receive Holy Communion at Mass we say, "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed." If we cannot find peace, hope, and inspiration from Jesus' love and mercy toward us personally, the light that illumines the path to peace and reconciliation will not open our minds and hearts and guide us.

A good way to find hope and light is to receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. For most of us it is a Sacrament we do not take advantage of often enough. Yet as we humbly and hopefully look at ourselves and seek peace, this Sacrament is a pure gift. Jesus never says, "What kept you away" or "Where have you been" or "You did what". It is only the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness that reconciles us to Him and gives us the grace to seek reconciliation with one another.

I offer Psalm 51 for your prayerful reflection, a Psalm prayed in the Breviary on Friday mornings:

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
 In your compassion blot out my offense.  
 O wash me more and more from my guilt  
 and cleanse me from my sin.  
 My offenses truly I know them;  
 my sin is always before me  
 Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
 what is evil in your sight I have done.  
 That you may be justified when you give sentence  
 and be without reproach when you judge,  
 O see, in guilt I was born,  
 a sinner was I conceived.  
 Indeed you love truth in the heart;  
 then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.  
 O purify me, then I shall be clean;  
 O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.  
 Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,  
 that the bones you have crushed may revive.  
 From my sins turn away your face  
 and blot out all my guilt.  
 A pure heart create for me, O God,  
 put a steadfast spirit within me.  
 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
 nor deprive me of your holy spirit.  
 Give me again the joy of your help;  
 with a spirit of fervor sustain me,  
 that I may teach transgressors your ways  
 and sinners may return to you.  
 O rescue me, God, my helper,  
 and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.  
 O Lord, open my lips  
 and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
 For in sacrifice you take no delight,  
 burnt offering from me you would refuse,  
 my sacrifice, a contrite spirit,  
 a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.  
 In your goodness, show favor to Zion:  
 rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
 Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,  
 holocausts offered on your altar. Glory...

**Psalm Prayer:** *Father, he who knew no sin was made sin for us, to save us and restore us to your friendship. Look upon our contrite heart and afflicted spirit and heal our troubled conscience, so that in the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit we may proclaim your praise and glory before all the nations.*



# 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!



February 23, 2025

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 | 1 Cor 15:45-49 | Lk 6:27-38

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

"Love your enemies" may be one of the most oft-quoted verses of Scripture. We tend to think of it as a moral principle to guide us in our dealings with people who rub us the wrong way. But do we ever consider what it tells us about God? After all, Jesus, who is God himself, speaks it. God tells us to love our enemies because *God* loves his "enemies" - that is, those who freely choose to oppose his plan of life and love. On the cross, Jesus forgave and prayed for the people who sought to kill him *while they were crucifying him*. But his mercy was not confined to that time and place alone; he died for each of us who, whenever we sin, refuse to love him. If we get this into our heads and our hearts - "God loves and forgives me" - we can begin to rest in his embrace like children confident in the unconditional love of their father's heart.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

If, as a child, you learned a musical instrument for which regular recitals were the norm, you know how many hours of practice are required for a few short minutes of performance. You know, too, that if you are well prepared, a musical composition which appeared impossible months before comes easily and naturally on the day of the recital. For most of us, loving our enemies as Jesus commands us to do appears far beyond our reach - impossible, in fact. But this kind of heroic love is nevertheless God's call for us, and he will never deny us the grace we need to respond to his call. What's required on our part is a willingness to practice. If we practice loving in small things even when it's difficult - listening patiently to someone whose conversation bores us, for example, or taking on an extra chore without seeking recognition or thanks - we will be prepared for the day when God asks us to make an even greater act of love for his sake.

### PRACTICE

This week, go out of your way to find opportunities to love even when it's difficult. Do your best to be conscious of your intentions, even in the moment, by asking God for the grace to love generously and by offering your act of love to him.

**Pilgrimage to Poland:**  
In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II, St. Faustina & St. Maximilian Kolbe






**August 27 – September 4, 2025**  
\$5,133 per person  
from Newark (EWR), New York (JFK), or Portland (PDX)  
All prices based on double occupancy. Pricing available from any airport. [www.206tours.com/airports](http://www.206tours.com/airports)

Spiritual Director:  
**Fr. Peter Dugandzic**

Group Leader:  
**Sandra Koceja**



**Optional Post-Tour to Medjugorje**  
September 4 – 12, 2025 | \$2,276 per person  
Accommodations at Ivan Dragicevic's Family Home

Book Now:  
[www.206tours.com/koceja/poland](http://www.206tours.com/koceja/poland)  
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Contacts:  
Sandra: [romevilla11@gmail.com](mailto:romevilla11@gmail.com)  
Cat: [cat@206tours.com](mailto:cat@206tours.com)






**June 1 – 9, 2025**  
**Rome & Assisi**

Spiritual Director:  
**Fr. Francis Pizzarelli**



Contact: [cara@206tours.com](mailto:cara@206tours.com) [dominic@206tours.com](mailto:dominic@206tours.com)  
[silvia@206tours.com](mailto:silvia@206tours.com) (800) 206-8687

## Diocese of Rockville Centre Eucharistic Pilgrimage

*During those days, Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to the town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1: 39-40*

Beginning on May 31, 2025, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, two nine-day Eucharistic Pilgrimages will embark across Long Island, both culminating at St. Anthony's High School on Sunday June 8, 2025, for the celebration of our local Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. The Western Route will journey from St. Agnes Cathedral (Rockville Centre) through Nassau County, while the Eastern Route will journey from the Parish of Saint Therese of Lisieux (Montauk) through Suffolk County.

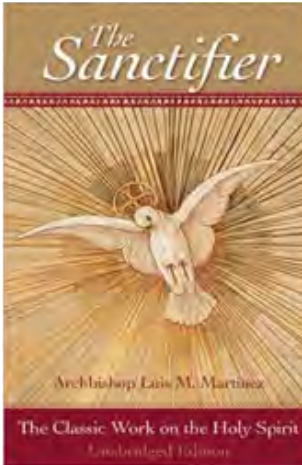
The Holy Eucharist will be carried in procession across the Diocese through many of our towns, schools, hospitals, cemeteries, and parishes. During this pilgrimage, there will be opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, the celebration of Mass, Eucharistic Catechesis, Praise and Worship, public processions, and other Eucharistic celebrations. The People of God will be invited to walk with Jesus, truly present in the Holy Eucharist, pray in the pilgrim churches, and proclaim the Gospel to bystanders as Jesus passes through their towns.

DIocese OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
**EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS**  
**BEHOLD 2025**  
SAVE THE DATE  
PENTECOST SUNDAY  
LOCATION  
ST ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL  
SOUTH HUNTINGTON, NY  
**JUNE 8**  
[WWW.DRVC.ORG/CONGRESS](http://WWW.DRVC.ORG/CONGRESS)






## Women's Group...



We welcome back our Members & invite New Members to join us as we read together, learn & share our feelings & life's experiences. It's an open group, come when you want or can. You can join throughout the year. There's no commitment. You don't have to share or read out loud, no homework. Everything we share is kept confidential. We respect each other's sharing. No judgement. All you need is desire to draw nearer to Jesus & to have fellowship with like-minded women who know we're not perfect & it's ok. **BRING A FRIEND!!!**

The book we'll read together is **"The Sanctifier"** by Archbishop Luis M. Martinez, explaining in detail how the workings of the gifts of The Holy Spirit bring us into holiness. It's usually in the sharing part of what we're reading that gives us clearer understanding of the subject especially because it relates to our lives at the present moment. We're living the lessons which is comforting when we're in pain, we have a lot of laughs too. We're there for each other! The book will be provided, We meet in the white house between the school & rectory every other Monday, unless noted with an asterisk \*, at 10:00 -11:30 AM, ending in time to go to 12:00 Mass if you want.

**Dates:** February 24<sup>th</sup>,

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>,

May 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>\*, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

Carol Ketcham and Anita Luccari, Group Moderators ~ For info: 631-878-0009

## 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.

## 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.

**Saturday mornings - 10:30 AM to 12 Noon**

First floor meeting room in the Barn.

**REGISTRATION:** Contact the **Rectory** at

631.878.0009 or via email at

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

\$10 donation for the workbook.

*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.*



The 2025 Sunday's Word books have arrived ...  
A donation of \$5.00 is requested  
but not required.

## Sunday's Word 2025



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.

## 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

# Weekly Calendar

## Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 6:30-7:30 PM Food Pantry Open - Ernie's Place
- 7 PM Narcotics Anonymous (Men only) - BMR

## Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 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

## Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 9 AM-12 Noon Thrift Shop Open - Thrift Shop
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC

## Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 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 AI-Anon - BMR

## Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
- 3-7 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - SC
- 7:30 PM Knights of Columbus-Bingo-Auditorium
- 7 PM Narcotics Anonymous - BMR
- 7 PM Spanish Prayer Group - SC

## Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

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

## Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

- 6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

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