

St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



March 1, 2026

The Second Sunday of Lent

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. ~ Psalm 33



March 1, 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, March 7th

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

Sunday, March 8th

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

*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
dwall@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 our Pastor, Fr. Patrick ...

The Second Sunday of Lent The Transfiguration of Our Lord A Moment of Great Revelation (Mt 17:1-9)



During this 2nd Sunday of Lent (and every 2nd Sunday of Lent), we recall the story of our Lord's transfiguration! We see Jesus transfigured before the world, upon the mountain top in all of His glory signifying His oneness with God and His future Resurrection. What a great moment of revelation and affirmation for Jesus during this transitional period! He has now completed His ministry in the Northern Region of Israel, where He was comfortable doing the work of redemption. And before He changes course and heads down to Jerusalem, where the tension and hostility is high, He is being reaffirmed during this great encounter with God that He is on the right side of salvation history. Just like at His baptism on the Jordan, before He ushered in a new era of hope, God reassures Him once again, as He prepares to head to the city of Jerusalem for our salvation, when He says to all, "this is my Beloved Son, listen to Him!"

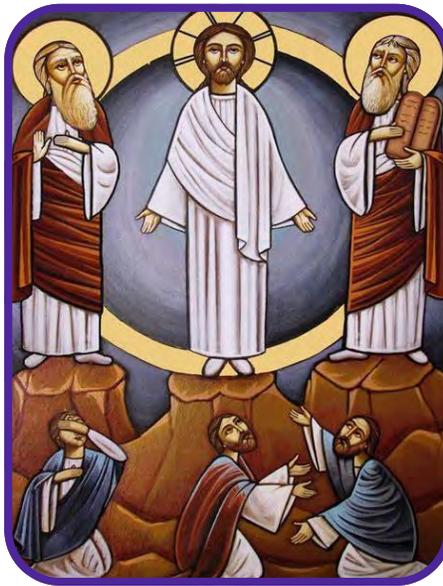
Again, to hear God tell the world that His Son has the words of everlasting life must have given Jesus a big boost, knowing He was on the right side of history in redeeming the world from their sins! It is clear, through His conversation with Moses and Elijah, that He will lead all of humanity, from all the ends of the world, through a new exodus. He will deliver us from bondage and captivity, and free us from eternal damnation. He will deliver us from evil and darkness into God's marvelous light.

We can only imagine the great joy that our Lord is experiencing at this moment in His public ministry, knowing the rough road that lies ahead in the city of Jerusalem, where He will turn over His life for our redemption. In His humanity, Jesus needed this moment of grace and revelation during this turning point in His public ministry. He needed to be "reassured" of God's great promise for humanity. He needed to be "reassured" that everything He did up to this point in His public ministry, and everything that He would do leading up to His passion and crucifixion, would redeem humanity. For Jesus, this was "D" day. Decision Day! Would He go the distance for our salvation? Or would He give up and remain in the north in Galilee where things were less resistant for Him when ministering?

How true this is of us at times! Like Jesus in today's

gospel, we too have our crosses and sometimes we need to be reassured of our faith and future with God forever in heaven. We need to be reassured that we too are on the right side of salvation history in doing the work of redemption. We need to be reminded that we have a secure future with God for all of eternity.

For some of us, this might be a turning point in our lives. Maybe we are at a crossroad or a mid-point in our life. Yet, it is clear in today's gospel that God is close to us, revealing His glory and love through Jesus, especially in word, prayer and the sacraments.



The timing of His transfiguration signifies the inauguration of a new era of restored hope. It was a defining moment whether or not Jesus would remain faithful to the end. It was upon the mountain top close to God where Jesus made the decision to head down to Jerusalem, knowing what was at stake for humanity.

This season of Lent prepares us for the Easter Mysteries. It is an opportunity for us to grow in our awareness and appreciation of all that God has done for us through Jesus, in delivering us from evil into the joys of paradise. It is a time for us to reflect more on the Lord's Resurrection and to enter more

deeply into the saving mysteries of God; to reflect on the wonder and the goodness of the Lord. Lent is a time for us to remember how faithful God has been to His promise for humanity, in bringing us new and everlasting life.

Lent is another opportunity for all of us to believe again. It is another opportunity to be drawn closer to God through the spiritual disciplines of Lent; prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is an opportunity for us to be strengthened in our faith and renewed in God's Spirit. Lent reassures us of our greatest hope, life everlasting! It reassures us that we are on the right side of salvation history regardless of what crosses or crossroads we encounter at times. Lent prepares us for another Easter celebration. If we take this new season of Lent more seriously, we will rise again and walk again in the newness of life once Easter arrives. Hopefully during this 2nd Sunday of Lent, we can reconnect with God once again and renew our hope and trust in Him and Him alone, knowing of the great future that is in store for all of us, as we share in the glory of our Lord's own Resurrection!

Masses for the Week...

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

Monday, March 2nd Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM John F.R. Clark
- 12:00 Noon Joseph Sherry

Tuesday, March 3rd Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Carol Jordan
- 12:00 PM Terance DeMoroto

Wednesday, March 4th Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Yvonne English
- 12:00 Noon Thomas Gonce

Thursday, March 5th Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Gene, Mary and Antoinette Savi
- 12:00 Noon Catherine Leahy

Friday, March 6th Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 AM Lucille Splendorio
- 12:00 Noon Antonia Migliore

Saturday, March 7th Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 AM Kathy Lindars
- 5:00 PM Goncalo Rego
- 7:30 PM *(Spanish)* People of the Parish

Sunday, March 8th Third Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 AM Avelino Jose Goncalves
- 10:00 AM Kristen Bigora
- 12:00 Noon John R. Klaus IV
- 6:00 PM Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney





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			
2025			

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!



Praying For and With One Another

Remember

Angelina DeLuca
Denise Calcagno

*"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
Toni Newman

Mark Havens
Michael Lankau
Kevin Coyne
Melissa Branigan

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 Coast Guard
BM3 Brendan J. Bernath
CPT Keith Donohue

US Air Force

SrA Anthony Auciello
SSGT David Giese
A1C Brenden M. Hayes
SSGT Jason M Hermes
SSGT Kyle Kerstiens
SSGT Ryan Kerstiens
SSGT Timothy Kerstiens
SrA Jared T. Rosato
LT Col Salvatore Sferrazza
SSGT William E. McCauley II
1st Lt. Claire McGrath
A1C James Pfister
A1C Peter A. Traina

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



Remembering Our Loved Ones

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.

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

*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

*In preparation for the Forty-Hour Eucharistic Adoration,
the Eucharist Adoration Committee at St. John the Evangelist presents:*

Two Talks on the Eucharist by Deacon Michael Hoonhout, Ph.D.

TALK #1 – JESUS’ TEACHING ON THE EUCHARIST IN JOHN 6

Saturday, March 7th at 9:00 AM in the Main Church

In the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. John, Jesus gives an extended discourse on the Eucharist. While John’s Gospel can be challenging to understand, and the connecting thread through this lengthy chapter can be difficult to follow, nevertheless profound, beautiful and awe-inspiring truths lie hidden in its passages. Deacon Michael will unveil how this chapter reveals the mystery of the Eucharist and prophesies how in the centuries to follow his teaching will be received. This chapter is the biblical “anchor” which has kept the Church’s faith in the Real Presence from wandering off course. *Please bring a copy of the Bible in your favorite translation to this talk.*

TALK #2 – THE EUCHARIST: THE SACRAMENT OF CHARITY

Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 PM in Seton Chapel (Convent)

In the Church’s Tradition the Eucharist has long been called the “sacrament of charity.” Fittingly so, because the Eucharist first of all makes present and communicates the divine and perfect love of Jesus for us. Jesus gives us his heart in this sacrament. The Eucharist is also given to us so that we might grow in charity toward others. Our offering of the Eucharist for others is a supreme act of charity, and our reception of the Eucharist worthily will lead us to love others as Christ has loved us. Deacon Michael’s talk will help you to understand the connection between the Eucharist and charity so that we might better cooperate with its profound dynamic of receiving and giving divine love.

*These two talks will help prepare your mind and heart to adore Jesus during
the upcoming Forty-Hour Eucharistic Adoration.*



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 Via 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

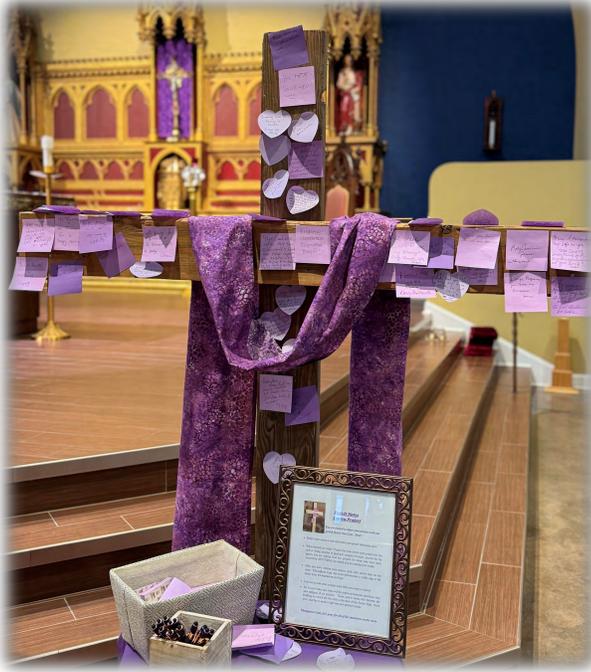
Monday, March 30 | 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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.



Post-It Note Lenten Project

You are invited to share your prayers with our parish family this Lent.

How does it work?

Simply take a Post-it note and write your prayer intention on it.

What can you write?

- ♥ Prayers for your loved ones
- ♥ Prayers for the sick or dying
- ♥ Prayers of gratitude
- ♥ Prayers of praise
- ♥ Prayers for graces you are asking God for
- ♥ Prayers for those who have died
- ♥ Prayers for ANYTHING for which you are asking God's help

After writing your prayer, 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.

Feel free to add more prayers each time you come to church.

On Good Friday, the cross will be removed from the sanctuary and stripped of its prayers. The 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 Paschal Candle.

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

Popsicle Stick Project!

Each of us is invited to grow closer to Jesus, especially during this beautiful season of Lent.

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!



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!

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

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.



*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**





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.

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of **Father Jerome Kaywell**, who died peacefully in his sleep on February 23, 2026, at the age of 72.



Father Jerry was with us last year for our Parish Lenten Mission, where he touched many hearts through his joyful spirit, prayerful witness, and deep love for the Lord. A dear friend of Father Patrick, he was also a friend to our parish community, and we remain grateful for the faith he shared with us.

Born in 1953 in West Palm Beach, Florida, Father Jerry was ordained to the priesthood on October 25, 1991, at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, Florida. He served as Parochial Vicar at St. Andrew Parish in Cape Coral and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Naples before being assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Punta Gorda in 2004, where he later became Pastor in 2008.

At Sacred Heart, he faithfully led the parish through the devastation of Hurricane Charley in 2004, which destroyed the church, and again through the severe damage caused by Hurricane Ian in 2022. He also served on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and as Chaplain to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Before entering the priesthood, Father Jerry was an award-winning professional musician and composer, earning a Grammy Award.

As he often said, “the veil is very thin between heaven and earth.” We trust that he has now entered fully into the presence of the God he loved so deeply.

Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of his family and loved ones. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.

March 1, 2026

Lift High the Cross

*Moving with Jesus into
the mystery of salvation*

SJE Parish Lenten Mission

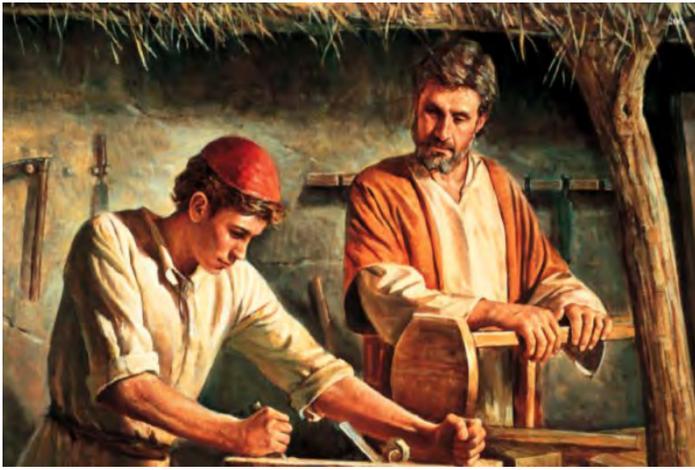
Led by: Fr. Hugh J. Gillespie, SMM
(Montfort Missionaries)

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.*



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

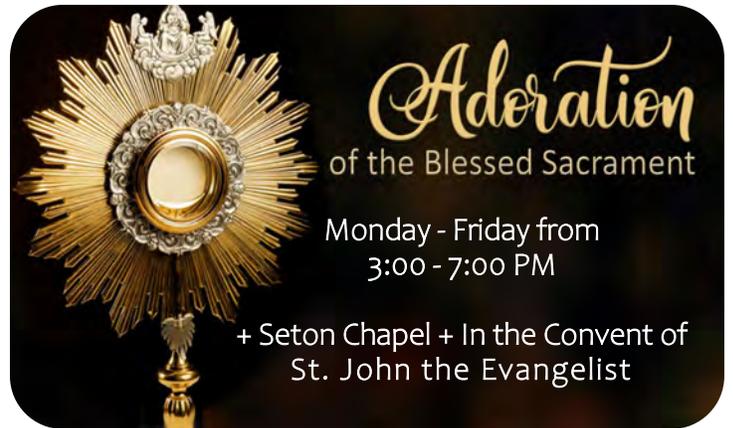
First floor meeting room in the Barn.

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.

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!



LENTEN BAG CHALLENGE

During Lent, we are called to the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Rest assured, you can do all those things here!

If you are able, please take one reusable shopping bag, you'll find them at each exit of the Church. There's a small list of items in need inside, please fill the bag throughout the season of Lent. Donations can be left inside the main doors of the Church. Thank you for your generosity!



THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK

This Lent, St. John's is once again offering *The Little Black Book* for daily prayer and reflection. **Both English and Spanish editions are available** and can be found at the doors of the church.

You can carry it with you, keep it in your car, or place it somewhere at home where you'll see it each day. It's a simple and meaningful way to bring the spirit of Lent into your daily routine.

The books are free of charge. If you wish to make a donation, please place it in the Poor Box to support the work of Parish Social Ministry.



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) 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.

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Phone: 631-878-0009, ext. 5
Website: <https://sjecmff.blogspot.com/>
faithformation@sjecm.org / mpiraglia@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.

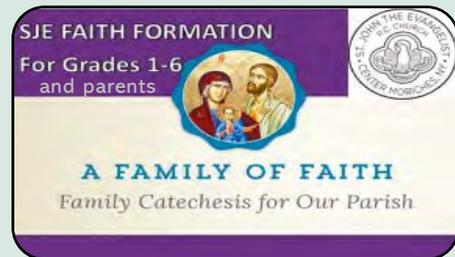
Please remember to bring your Breakthrough Bibles

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

UPCOMING

Winter/Spring 2026

events

MARCH 21

Spring Extravaganza!

Our Spring Basket & Food Extravaganza will take place on Saturday, March 21 6PM in the auditorium. Doors open at 5:30PM

> Tickets available thru 2/25. Call 631-878-1033.



MAY 2

Senior Luncheon

Seniors are welcome to sign up for our annual Senior Luncheon on May 2. Our students from The Mission (Grades 6, 7 & 8) will be serving. There will be Mass at St. John's at 11AM, followed by the lunch.

> Sign up before May 1 - Call 631-878-1033.



MAY 5

Project REACH

Beginning in 7th grade, our students choose a topic of interest and, with the help of mentors, conduct a small-scale research project, which they present at the end of 8th grade.

REACH stands for Research, Excellence, Academics, Catholic, Hope. Their projects reflect all these aspects and help them develop strong research and presentation skills. Our 8th graders will be presenting their projects at our symposium on Tuesday, May 5.



MAY 8-9

School Play

Our students will be performing "The Little Mermaid, Jr." on Friday, May 8 at 6PM & Saturday, May 9 @ 1PM.

> Purchase tickets by May 1 - Call 631-878-1033



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

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!





A Message from Monsignor Walden...



In one of the parishes I was in there was a lady who would call me up and say, “Do you know who I am?” She did that not to impress me with who she was but because she thought I did not know her name. Over time that greeting from her became a source of laughter and joy. Do you know who I am? That is the question Peter, James, and John see answered in an awesome way in today’s Gospel (Matthew 17:1-9) as Jesus takes them up a mountain and is transfigured before them. They see Him in an awesome light and conversing with Moses and Elijah. Overwhelmed, they fell prostrate on the ground in fear. But that fear was quickly turned into wonder as Jesus touched them and said, “Rise, and do not be afraid.” As they arose and looked up they saw Jesus alone and went back down the mountain to where they were before.

Peter, James, and John saw Jesus for who He truly was. But when crunch time came and Jesus was arrested, condemned and crucified only John stayed with Him to the end. James ran away and Peter denied Him three times. Out of the twelve apostles one denied Him, one betrayed Him, and nine ran away in fear when He was condemned and crucified. Only one stayed on to the end. There is no doubt about where we are in the mind and heart of Jesus. The question and thought we are called to ponder is, “Where is Jesus in my life?” We can only come to know someone by spending time with them and seeing how far we let them into our lives. The true wonder is how far Jesus has let us into His life (While we were still sinners, Christ died for us - Romans 5:8)

Lent is a gift of forty days to spend more time and reflection in prayer. We do not need a cell phone to text Jesus, all we need to do is give Him our time and attention in prayer. Quiet time is not easy to come by but spending quality time focusing on being in the presence of Jesus opens our minds and hearts to the blessings we have and the blessing His

presence brings to us. To find security, peace, and direction we need to find who we can trust and accept us for who we are and who inspires us to be more than we would ever be without them. I encourage you during Lent to take some quiet, focused time in prayer, reflecting on the words you are addressing to God and being open to the thoughts prayer inspires. The more time and attention we put into a relationship the more we know and are known. Where is the “mountain” where we can find the wonder and joy of Peter, James, and John? It is not just a place, but an experience where we speak to God from our hearts and are filled with hope, peace, and joy because of it.

I offer Psalm 63 for your prayerful reflection.

*O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.*

*For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.*

*On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. Glory...*

Psalm Prayer: Father, creator of unfailing light, give that same light to those who call to you. May our lips praise you; our lives proclaim your goodness; our work give you honor, and our voices celebrate you for ever.



Discover
 OUR LADY QUEEN OF
 APOSTLES SCHOOL

**ADMISSION
 OPEN NOW!**

**2026-27
 ACADEMIC YEAR**



*One Journey Through
 Faith and Education*

Pre-K – 8th Grade

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles School is a
 faith-based school where children grow
 academically, spiritually, and socially.**

*Visit us and see what makes our
 school community so amazing!*



631-878-1033



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2 St. John's Place,
 Center Moriches, NY 11934

March 1, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Lent

Gen 12:1-4a | 2 Tim 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9

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

What struck me when I first read this passage from the Book of Genesis, in which the Lord speaks to Abraham, is God's proclamation that it is through *his will* and *his work* that the blessings and goodness of Abraham's future will come about. It is not a vague statement, in which the subject is omitted. God clearly says, "*I will make your name great.*" Abraham was a faithful servant of God and sought to obey God's will, but that is not what made his name memorable. It is due to God's will and generosity that Abraham's blessings came about. I sometimes struggle with giving up credit for the good things in my life. I want to believe that *my work*, *my talents*, and *my dedication* have brought about these good things. But the reality is that all of who I am and the skills that I have is a gift. I was created by God and formed by others to hone certain dispositions and talents that have led to my accomplishments. When we come to realize that all we have is a gift, we are able to offer our lives back to be transfigured and glorified by God, who creates and gives all things.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Many scholars identify this moment of the Transfiguration as the climax of the narrative arc of the Gospels, after which Christ's actions lead to his suffering and death. In his passion, Christ demonstrates the ultimate submission to the will of God, taking on the weight of human sin in order to redeem us. In this moment of Transfiguration on the mountain, we glimpse the beauty of the glorification that will result from this perfect obedience to God's will. We, too, are called to surrender ourselves fully to God. Following Jesus' model of humble submission to the Father's will does not involve false humility, in which we are self-deprecating or overly critical of ourselves. Instead, we are called to acknowledge and celebrate our gifts and accomplishments, while also recognizing that who we are and the gifts that we have come from our generous and loving God.

REFLECT

Reflect on the gifts and talents you have been given, as well as the accomplishments that have come about because of these gifts. Take a moment to thank God for all that he has given to you, and ask him to reveal how you can be a witness to his goodness through the prudent use and celebration of these gifts.



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

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!

1 de marzo de 2026

Segundo domingo de Cuaresma

Gn 12,1-4

2 Tm 1,8-10

Mt 17,1-9

CRECER COMO DISCÍPULO | ORA, ESTUDIA, COMPROMÉTETE, SIRVE

CRECER: Lo que me llamó la atención cuando leí por primera vez este pasaje del Libro del Génesis, en el que el Señor habla a Abraham, es la proclamación de Dios de que es mediante su *voluntad* y su *obra* que se producirán tanto las bendiciones como la bondad del futuro de Abraham. No se trata de una declaración vaga en la que se omite el tema. Dios dice claramente: "Engrandeceré tu nombre". Abraham fue un siervo fiel de Dios y procuró obedecer su voluntad, pero no fue eso lo que lo hizo memorable. Las bendiciones de Abraham se produjeron gracias a la voluntad y generosidad de Dios. A veces me cuesta atribuirme el mérito de las cosas buenas de mi vida. Quiero creer que *mi* trabajo, *mis* talentos y *mi* dedicación han provocado esas cosas buenas. Pero la realidad es que todo lo que soy y las habilidades que tengo son un don. Fui creado por Dios y formado por otros para perfeccionar ciertas disposiciones, así como talentos, que han conducido a mis logros. Cuando nos damos cuenta de que todo lo que tenemos es un don, podemos ofrecer nuestras vidas para que Dios, que crea y da todas las cosas, las transfigure y glorifique.

IR Y EVANGELIZAR | ORACIÓN, INVITACIÓN, TESTIMONIO, ACOMPAÑAMIENTO

IR: Muchos eruditos identifican este momento de la Transfiguración como el clímax del arco narrativo de los Evangelios, tras el cual las acciones de Cristo conducen a su sufrimiento y muerte. En su pasión, Cristo demuestra la máxima sumisión a la voluntad de Dios, asumiendo el peso del pecado humano para redimirnos. En este momento de la Transfiguración en la montaña, vislumbramos la belleza de la glorificación que resultará de esta obediencia perfecta a la voluntad de Dios. También nosotros estamos llamados a entregarnos plenamente a Dios. Seguir el modelo de Jesús de humilde sumisión a la voluntad del Padre no implica una falsa humildad, en la que seamos autodespreciativos o excesivamente críticos con nosotros mismos. Por el contrario, estamos llamados a reconocer y celebrar tanto nuestros dones como logros, al tiempo que reconocemos que no solo lo que somos, sino también los dones que tenemos, proceden de nuestro generoso y amoroso Dios.

REFLEXIONAR

Reflexiona sobre los dones y talentos que se te han concedido, así como sobre los logros que has alcanzado gracias a ellos. Dedicar un momento a dar gracias a Dios por todo lo que te ha dado, y pídele que te revele cómo puedes ser testigo de su bondad mediante el uso prudente y la celebración de estos dones.

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

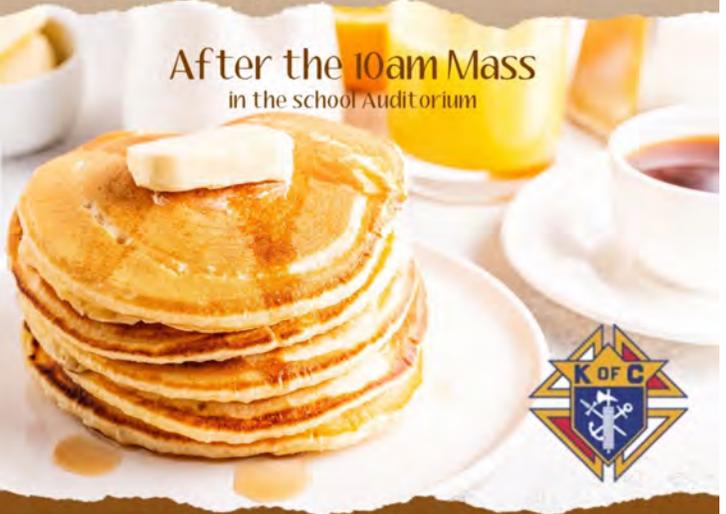
Door Prizes

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



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.

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, March 2nd, 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, March 3rd, 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, March 4th, 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, March 5th, 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, March 6th, 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, March 7th, 2026

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

Sunday, March 8th, 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