

St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church



September 13, 2026

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion." ~ Psalm 103



September 13, 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, September 19th

5:00 PM - Fr. Patrick

7:30 PM (Spanish) - Fr. Charlince

(Saturday Evening 5 PM Mass will be livestreamed.)

Sunday, September 20th

8:00 AM - Fr. Francis

10:00 AM - Msgr. Walden

12 noon - Fr. Charlince

6:00 PM - Msgr. Walden

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

Pastoral Team

Reverend Patrick M. Riegger

Pastor

Reverend Charlince Vendredy

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Monsignor Ellsworth R. Walden

Retired, In Residence

Reverend Francis Lasrado

Retired, In Residence

Reverend Jerry DiSpigno

Parish Assistant

Reverend Peter D'Abele

Parish Assistant

John Pettorino

Deacon

Michael Hoonhout

Deacon

Ed Grieb

Deacon

Katie Waller

Director of Operations

Heather Crayne

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Carolyn Lapham

Director of Family Ministries

Michelle Pirraglia

Director of Faith Formation

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 - 3:00 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM - 3:00 PM

6 - 8 PM Spanish-speaking support.

Wednesday: 9 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday: 9 AM - 3:00 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Please take note of the summer hours.
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.

Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education

WORLD'S FINEST

Dear Parish Family:

I first came to Our Lady Queen of Apostles in the 1990s. I was the Campus Minister at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School and would come to speak about the high school to the kids here. In all honesty, I asked to come out here because in those days no one came to St. John the Baptist from this part of the island...so I guess you could say I was on the "B" team!

I am glad I was.

We would come and speak to the 8th graders in Mrs. Auer's class, give out some folders and hope for the best. However, we would not get past Sister Eileen Martin without receiving a World's Finest Chocolate bar! (I know you remember those!) We always came in the midst of the candy sale and she always had a stash in her offices for guests like us!



I think of that today as SJE celebrates the 100th Anniversary of St. John's/OLQA Regional Catholic School. I hope you can take some time to reflect how, indeed, you are part of the finest in Catholic education on this campus. The mission of Catholic schools is extensive. Yes, form the mind and prepare them for high school. Yes, provide ways for them to discover their gifts and talents. Yes, do all you can to meet the many needs of students, inside and outside of the classroom. But, most important, help them to realize and recognize their value as a beloved son or daughter of God!

And do our young people need to remember that? You bet! Do we - you and I - need to remember that? Absolutely! I think the Scriptures this Sunday help us too! They bring us back to a lot of the basics of our faith. We are mindful of a God who is kind and merciful and calling us to be the same. They remind us that ultimately everything we are about - whether we live or die - is about Jesus Christ. They call us to extend the mercy God has given us to all we meet, to love one another as he has loved us - a great message from St. John the Evangelist!

And what better places for these qualities to be offered, modeled, shared and challenged than in the Catholic school! And what finer place than here in Center Moriches.

In my service as the pastor of this incredible parish and school, I learned so many of those qualities from each of you. As members of the parish and/or school communities you taught me often about mercy, identity, compassion, kindness - the basics.

When I became the pastor here, the school was a huge part of our work and my own ministry as well. I had the chance to teach, begin a graduation research project (REACH), serve as one of the social workers, offer classes in study skills and teach middle school religion. And for two of those years (2018-2020), I served as the Principal of this incredible school. In the midst of a recovery from a church fire, a sudden departure of the previous principal, and COVID, the school showed what made it the finest. The Mission, the middle school, was created. Greater efforts for outreach service were offered for and by our students. New academic interventions were added. We cared for each other in the midst of a pandemic. We found a way to not only survive, but to thrive in the midst of some difficult times.

I left SJE over four years ago but the lessons each of you taught me remain and show up again and again in my life here at St. Brigid's in Westbury. I learned from the best - parishioners, teachers, former principals, students, alumni, friends - what it takes to live out the Gospel...lessons I carry with me each day. That's what you get from being part of the World's Finest! Let's celebrate this in the year ahead, confident in the Queen of Apostles who always brings us closer to her son!

Please pray for me.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, pray for us!

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us!



Father Jim Sire

Masses for the Week...

Annual Summer Appeal

Saturday, September 12th Weekday

8:00 AM Liz Della Ratta
 5:00 PM Canonization of Bl. Michael McGivney
 7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, September 13th 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Michael Lankau
 10:00 AM Katy & her brother, Jack Dyer
 12:00 Noon Patricia Lake
 6:00 PM George Casella

Monday, September 14th Exaltation of the Cross

7:00 AM Crescenzo Vigliotta
 12:00 Noon Kristen Bigora

Tuesday, September 15th Our Lady of Sorrows

7:00 AM Patricia Cuff
 12:00 Noon Patricia Barry

Wednesday, September 16th Sts. Cornelius, Pope & St. Cyprian, Bishop; Martyrs

7:00 AM Jon Raymond Rivera
 12:00 Noon Jane Ann Sherry

Thursday, September 17th St. Bellarmine, Bishop; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin; Doctors of the Church

7:00 AM Michael O'Brien
 12:00 Noon Christopher Bowman

Friday, September 18th Weekday

7:00 AM Glenn Stollberger
 12:00 Noon Special Intention—Joe C.

Saturday, September 19th St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr

8:00 AM Josh Gutowski
 5:00 PM Clara Hoffmeier
 7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, September 20th 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM William T. & Joan M. O'Brien
 10:00 AM Vladimir Zajic
 12:00 Noon John Enright
 6:00 PM Lena Vallejo

Please support
our Annual
Summer Appeal!



Summer Appeal

Year	Total:	As Of:
2026	\$36,850	9/7/26
2025	\$39,604	Final

PARISH WEEKLY DONATIONS

Average Weekly from January 1, 2026 to present.

Year	Total	# of Weeks	Average Weekly
2026	\$661,927	36	\$18,387
2025	\$641,155	36	\$17,810



As of 9/7/2026	2026	2025
New Parish Goal	\$120,855	\$115,100
Number of Donors	212	190
Total Pledged to date	\$90,050	\$79,790
Percent of Goal	75%	69.3%

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!



20
26

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*"Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another."
- Pope Leo XIV*

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports vocations to the priesthood and diaconate in our Diocese. It ensures that those who are looking to serve their parish and diocese have the resources and guidance they need to discern their call to service to provide spiritual nourishment to the people of our diocese.

Deacon O'Brien brings God's message of love, mercy, and hope to others.

"As a Deacon, I hope to revitalize the faith of others. I go to nursing homes and the residents hear the Word of God and receive the Eucharist. At wake services, when people have lost a loved one, I hope to revitalize their faith so that people know that they can call on and rely on God to help them through the difficult times. In happy times such as a baptism or a wedding, God is there for them for the rest of their life."

— Deacon O' Brien



**St. John's
has reached
75% of our
CMA goal
with just
over 3
months
to go!!!**

75%



We pray for our Service Members

We honor and remember the following men and women for their service, dedication, and sacrifice. Lord, hold our troops in Your loving care. Protect and bless them and their families for their selfless service. We give thanks for all veterans and pray for those currently serving at home and abroad.

United States Army

Monaghan, Justin — Private Second Class
O'Neill, Aidan — Second Lieutenant
Smith, David — Private First Class
Valentin, Steven — Private First Class
Williams, Cara — Private

United States Marine Corps

Abbatiello, Michael — Lance Corporal
Berkemeyer, Evan — Lance Corporal
Brady, Sean — Private First Class
Casey, Sean — Sergeant
Cestare, Joseph — Sergeant
Deshler II, Kevin W. — Corporal
Montemarano, Quentin — Sergeant
Toscanini, Kyle — Private First Class
Walther, Christopher — Second Lieutenant

United States Navy

Casey, Andrew R. — Engineman Third Class
Esposito Jr., Christopher J. — Machinist's Mate Nuclear First Class
Montoya Rivera, Angel Gabriel — Electronics Technician Seaman
Nolan Jr., Jeremiah — Electronics Technician Second Class
Paduana, Michael — Seaman
Raeihle, Christian — Seaman
Ruggiero, Ralph J. — Lieutenant
Taylor III, Thomas — Seaman
Walsh, Jack Patrick — Seaman
Racioppi, Dominick — Seabee EO-2

United States Air Force

Auciello, Anthony — Staff Sergeant
Casey, Andrew R. — Technical Sergeant
Giese, David — Technical Sergeant
Hayes, Brenden M. — Airman First Class
Hermes, Jason — Technical Sergeant
Hermes, Sabrina — Technical Sergeant
Kerstiens, Claudia — Staff Sergeant
Kerstiens, Kyle — Staff Sergeant
Kerstiens, Ryan — Staff Sergeant
Kerstiens, Timothy — Technical Sergeant
McCauley II, William E. — Staff Sergeant
McGrath, Claire — First Lieutenant
Pfister, James — Airman First Class
Rosato, Jared T. — Senior Airman
Sferrazza, Salvatore — Lieutenant Colonel
Traina, Peter A. — Airman First Class

United States Coast Guard

Bernath, Brendan J. — Boatswain's Mate Third Class
Donohue, Keith — Captain



If you would like a loved one to be remembered in our **Military Prayer List**, please call the rectory at **631.878.0009** or email rectory@sjecm.org. We will lift their intentions to God, asking for protection, strength, and peace for all who serve and their families.

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with grateful hearts, thanking You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon our nation. Guide our country in the ways of truth, justice, freedom, and peace.

We entrust to Your loving care all who serve in our Armed Forces. Protect them, strengthen them in times of challenge, and grant them courage, wisdom, and perseverance. Keep them safe wherever they serve and bring them home to their loved ones.

We remember with gratitude those who have given their lives in service to our country. Welcome them into Your eternal Kingdom, and comfort their families with the hope of the Resurrection and the assurance of Your un-failing love.

Help us to be faithful stewards of the freedoms we enjoy. Inspire us to live with integrity, serve one another with charity, uphold the dignity of every human person, and always seek the common good.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace and Patroness of the United States, bless our nation with unity, wisdom, justice, and lasting peace. Guide our leaders, strengthen our communities, and help us always to place our trust in You.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Grace Fata

Catherine Mary O'Hare

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

May the Lord grant them comfort, strength, and healing.

Bill Hasper
Mark Havens
James Patrick Lapham
Rachel Tekula
Robert Cantillo Sr.

Robert Cantillo Jr.
Jessica King
John Sapienza
Neil Hart
Holly Redmond
Rosemary Avitabile

*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*

ALTAR BREAD & WINE INTENTIONS

For the month of **September**, the altar bread and wine are
offered for the repose of the soul of:

Michael Stachnik

ALTAR CANDLES

For the month of **September**, the altar candles are offered for the:

Sisters of Charity

Prayer and Remembrance

At SJE, we offer parishioners many ways to remember loved ones or honor someone living through the offering of votive and altar candles, as well as altar bread and wine. These offerings create a visible sign of prayer and devotion while supporting the life of our parish.

Votive candles illuminate the beautiful statues throughout our church, including the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Teresa, St. Gerard Majella, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As these candles burn, they bring light to our sacred space and invite quiet reflection, inspiring deeper moments of prayer and trust in God.

Both **votive candles** and **altar candles** may be offered for \$25 per week. **Altar bread and wine** may be offered for \$250 per month. The names of those remembered or honored through these offerings will be listed in the parish bulletin during the month.

To make an offering, please visit or contact the Parish Office at 631.878.0009 or email rectory@sjecm.org. May these candles be a sign of hope, remembrance, and prayer for all who gather in our church.

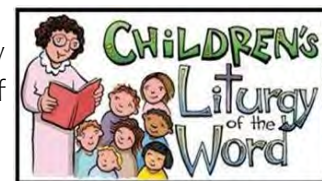


OFFICE OF FAMILY MINISTRY

Our Family Ministries are looking for enthusiastic adult volunteers who would like to share their gifts and help build a vibrant parish community. Whether you enjoy working with children, planning events, or simply lending a helping hand, there is a place for you!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Help our youngest parishioners grow in their faith during the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. Volunteers are needed as **Readers, Homilists, Shepherds, and Heralds**. If you're curious about the ministry, come visit a session and see what it's all about!



Family Life Ministry

If you enjoy bringing people together, this is the ministry for you! From seasonal celebrations to family activities and special parish events, our Family Life Ministry helps create meaningful experiences for all ages. We meet on the **first Wednesday of each month**, and there's always room for new ideas and helping hands.

If you would like more information or are ready to get involved, please email familylife@SJECm.org. We'd love to welcome you to the team!

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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



Registration deadline extended !

Incoming 1st Graders / New Students & Returning Students (Levels 1-8): St. John the Evangelist's Faith Formation program serves our parish youth, beginning in First Grade, and their families as they grow in faith and prepare for the Sacraments. Please see sjecm.org for more info.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Scan the QR code above or visit the Faith Formation page on our parish website and follow the instructions for New and Returning Students:

<http://www.stjohntheevangelistcm.com/sjecm/faith-formation>



* NEW STUDENTS *

If you have a first grader/new student, you must also fill out the New Student Registration Form: <http://www.stjohntheevangelistcm.com/FamilyAndEnrollStudentForm.html> If your child is a new student and was not baptized at SJE, please email a copy of your child's baptismal certificate to: faithformation@sjecm.org

INCOMING LEVEL 7 Students - Please contact the office for late registrations...

To parents/guardians of students enrolled in our Level 6 program this past year who will be entering 7th grade in the Fall, please check your email for instructions on how to apply for our Confirmation program! (An email was sent to all Level 6 students in April). If you have a child who is in 7th grade or older but has not started the Confirmation program, please email us at confirmation@sjecm.org

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

PSM Office 631.878.0009 ext. 120

Email: socialministry@SJECm.org

THRIFT SHOP

Open to the public Wednesday's 9 AM—12 PM. Proceeds from our sales support St. John's outreach programs. Please visit the shop to support our efforts and pick up a gift or something special for yourself!



STREET MINISTRY

Every Thursday our Street Ministry van goes out, serving the poor in our community with a hot meal, basic essentials and more. Volunteers also gather on Wednesday mornings to organize all the clothing, shoes and toiletry donations that are given out with the food.



Street Ministry donations requested:

- ♥ Deodorant, Washcloths, Men's Jeans sizes 32-36 gently used, Men's and Women's new underwear, Men's and Women's new socks, Single razors and small shaving cream, Men's and Women's Sneakers gently used

ERNIE'S PLACE

Our food pantry is open to serve families in need every week on Monday nights and Thursday afternoons. Non-



-perishable donations can be placed in the brown bin outside of Ernie's or in the wagon inside Church near the main entrance. All donations are greatly appreciated, here's a few suggestions of items we're currently low on:

- ⇒ Jelly, Syrup, Bar soap, Ketchup, Hot Sauce, Small bags of Flour, Jarred Tomato Sauce, Baby Wipes & Diapers, Canned & small bags of red beans

Community Meal – We serve a hot, sit-down meal once a month, usually the last Monday of each month, to those in need in our community.



Parish social ministry could always use your help! Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to serve the poor in our community. As you live out a beautiful way of loving your neighbor, great joy is experienced in serving others, along with making friends along the way. Being part of a team of faith filled people is a beautiful blessing!

We rely on volunteers to help keep all our ministries operating; the commitment can be as little as an hour or two once a month. All you need to begin is your SJE issued volunteered badge, please call x126 if you need yours.

Here are a few areas we are currently in need of volunteers, but help is welcome in all our ministries:

- ◆ Ernie's Place food pantry - Monday nights at the check-in desk.
- ◆ Street Ministry - 5 hot meals (we supply the tins to put them in), drop off is on Thursday evenings.
- ◆ Street Ministry - Donate a case of water.
- ◆ Community Meal- Serve those in need on a Monday evening once a month.

Please call the PSM office at the number above to get more information, we look forward to hearing from you!



Laia Balcells, Alexa Everoski & Caileigh Hayes recently raised over \$600 for St. John's food pantry, Ernie's Place!

As part of their Center Moriches 8th Grade International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) Community Service Project, the girls designed, created, and distributed an original Healthy Eating Cookbook, with all proceeds benefitting Ernie's Place. Their project received the MYP Project of the Year Innovation Award.

Way to go!! Thank you so very much for thinking of us and for the extremely generous donation!

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.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
IN CENTER MORICHES

Called to be a Family of Families



Enroll Today!

Serving Pre-K to 8th Grade
Set Up A Tour!

Why OLQA?

- Faith-centered community rooted in Catholic values
- Individualized learning environment & dedicated teachers
- Students grow spiritually, socially, and academically



**Come & See the
Catholic School Difference**

631-878-1033
www.olqany.org
2 St Johns Place
Center Moriches, NY 11934





Full-Day & Half-Day Classes Available!

PRE-K 3 & 4

2026-2027

ENROLLMENT

*Give your child the best start
with a preschool that nurtures
faith, creativity, confidence,
and a love for learning!*

Learn

- ✓ Small class sizes & personalized attention
- ✓ Hands-on, faith-based learning
- ✓ Safe & welcoming environment

**REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN**
Schedule a Tour Today!



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VISIT: WWW.OLQANY.ORG



Play



Do something special!
Do something life changing!
Live your best life in love!

Attend a
Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Weekend

Fri., Sept. 18—Sun., Sept. 20, 2026

Or
Fri., Nov. 13—Sun., Nov. 15, 2026

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, NY



Additional info?
Call: 646-642-7463
Email: jimmy.bernice.acevedo@wwme.org
Visit: wwme.org

Apply TODAY!



Scan Code to go to
website to apply!





CYO BASKETBALL

AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST!

Calling all boys and girls in 4th through 8th grade!

Join us for a fun, faith-filled, and competitive basketball experience where players will grow in their skills, build friendships, and learn the value of teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect both on and off the court.

Whether you are new to the game or an experienced player, everyone is welcome! Come be part of a great team and a wonderful CYO community.

🏀 **Coaches Needed!**
If you have a passion for basketball and enjoy working with young athletes, we would love for you to join our coaching team.

For more information, please contact:
Ross Baldwin, SJECYO Basketball Director cyo@SJECm.org





**Please join us for our parish
Blessing of the Animals
on Sunday, October 4th at 3:00 PM
on the Convent Lawn**



Bring your four legged, furry, feathered or scaled family members to St. John's for a special blessing on the Convent Lawn. Family Life Ministry will provide treats for all pets and parishioners after the blessing.

We will also be collecting donations for **Kent Animal Shelter** at the pet blessing and throughout the weekend of September 26—October 4. Donation bins will be at the blessing on Friday and in the fellowship area of the church Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Here's the Wishlist from Kent:

Purina Cat Chow, Purina Kitten Chow, any kind of canned dog food, canned cat food, canned kitten food, Clorox wipes, paper towels, detergent, dish soap, bleach garbage bags (13 gallon and 45 gallon) and gently used towels and blankets.

Thank you from all our furry friends at Kent!

Second Collection next weekend for St. Pius residence

"...at the root of every vocation, God is present, in his mercy and his goodness..." ~Pope Leo XIV

The mission of St. Pius X Residence is to provide a nurturing environment that respects and cherishes the lifelong commitment of our beloved priests. The Residence strives to create a warm and supportive community where they can enjoy their retirement years with dignity, surrounded by like-minded individuals who share their dedication to faith.

As our elderly priests enter this stage of their life, they often experience ongoing challenges that require added care and attention, and because of you, the St Pius X Residence is there for them. Even in retirement, our priests continue to make a profound impact on the spiritual and personal lives of Catholics of all ages. When they are able, they celebrate Mass in area parishes, visit the sick and homebound, and bring God's Word to those in prison.

Please support our beloved priests in their retirement years.



Fr. Steve Pietrowski, Rector

"I am so proud to be able to serve all the wonderful priests residing at St Pius. This house provides a place for our priests who have a need for care and help for daily activities. It's a

safe place to age gracefully. Here at St. Pius, we provide for one another. We call this place home," shared Fr. Pietrowski

Msgr. Ron Richardson:

"When I was living on my own for a number of years, I felt a sense of isolation, especially during Covid but here I am with many of my fellow priests who I served with at times throughout the years. I've always been a walker, most of my life I've walked and jogged. I love the outdoors and I am so grateful to be here at this gorgeous campus."



**The special collection for retired priests living at St. Pius X Residence will take place this weekend. Please be as generous as possible!
Thank You!**

<https://www.stpiusresidence.org>

Who Can Be a Godparent? A Simple Guide—and an Invitation

Being asked to serve as a **godparent (or sponsor)** is a beautiful honor in the life of the Church. It means you are being entrusted with helping someone grow in faith—not just on the day of Baptism or Confirmation, but for a lifetime. Because of this sacred responsibility, the Church asks that sponsors meet a few important requirements. These aren't meant to exclude, but to ensure that those who stand as witnesses are ready to truly live and share the faith.

You may hear this described as part of *Canon Law*. That might sound a little intimidating—but don't worry, it's not as complicated as it sounds! Canon Law is simply the Church's way of keeping things ordered and meaningful—think of it as a guidebook that helps us live our faith well and care for one another in the right way.

According to the Church's law, a sponsor must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Be a **Baptized Catholic** who has received **First Holy Communion** and **Confirmation**
- Be living a life in harmony with the faith and the role they are taking on
- If married, be **married in the Catholic Church**
- Not be the parent of the person being baptized or confirmed

At first glance, this may feel like a high bar—but it's really an invitation. The Church wants sponsors who can confidently say, *"Yes, I strive to live what I believe."*

If you find that you don't meet one or more of these requirements right now, please don't be discouraged. There are simple and welcoming ways to "make things right," and we are here to walk with you every step of the way.

Missing Confirmation? If you are a baptized Catholic who has not yet been confirmed, our parish offers Adult Confirmation classes. A new session will begin right after Easter—this is a wonderful opportunity to complete your sacraments and deepen your faith.

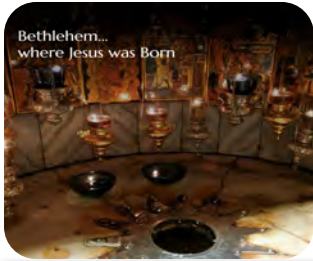
Married outside the Church? If your marriage was not celebrated in the Catholic Church, it can be "convalidated" (recognized by the Church). This process is often simpler than people expect, and it brings great spiritual peace.

Wherever you are in your journey, know this: the Church's doors are open to you. These requirements are not barriers—they are pathways into a fuller life of grace.

If you have questions or would like to begin any of these steps, please reach out to the parish office. We are here to help.

"Encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

That is what a sponsor does—and what we are all called to do for one another.



Little Bethlehem Christians is a group that represents over 300 Christian and Catholic families who live in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Shepherd's Field, and the Holy Land area, and make their livings as Olive Wood Carvers.

On the weekend of **September 26 & 27**, the group will be represented by the Al-Sahouri family displaying a collection of hand carved Olive Wood religious items for sale. The profit goes to support the existence of Christianity in the land of Christ. Please take a moment to view this beautiful collection of items.



Meet Al-Sahouri Family



Crafted By Hand



BINGO

Knights of Columbus
Queen of All Hearts Council #4126

FRIDAY NIGHT'S

**Doors Open at 6:30 PM
Games Begin at 7:30 PM**

\$3000 IN PRIZES

For more information
kofc4126.com



Women's Group...

Our Women's Group meets every other Monday from 10:00–11:30 AM, September through June, in the Convent on Ocean Avenue.

Newcomers are always welcome at any time. All that is needed is a desire to grow in our faith and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Our books for this year are:

- **Beautiful Holiness** by Kathleen Beckmann
- **Back to Virtue** by Peter Kreeft

These books complement each other, helping us recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the importance of praying for virtue.

A suggested offering of \$25 is appreciated to help offset the cost of the books. However, no one should ever feel unable to participate because of the offering. Sharing is always optional—we're simply happy you've chosen to be with us.

2026 Meeting Dates

September 14, 28, October 5, 19,

November 9, 23, December 7, 21

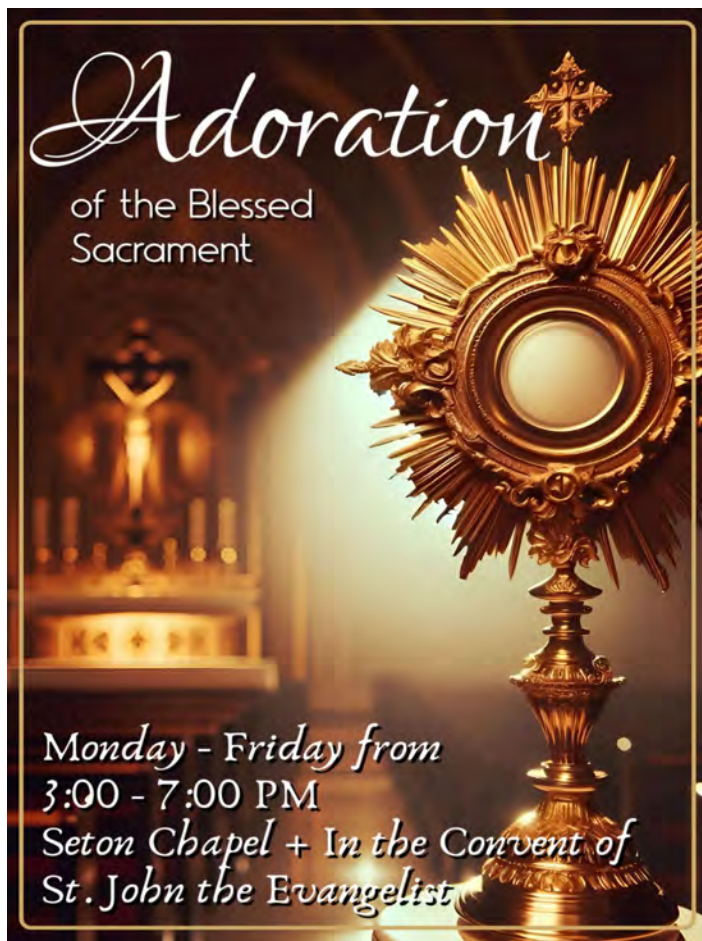
God bless you, **Carol & Anita** (Moderators)

For more information, please call 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.



Parking Reminder...

To help keep our parking lot safe and traffic moving, please park only in designated, marked parking spaces, including the marked spaces along St. John's Place.



We also ask everyone to please follow the directional arrows in the parking lot.

Following the designated traffic flow helps reduce congestion and keeps pedestrians and vehicles safe. Thank your for your cooperation!



A Message from Monsignor Walden...



Hypocrisy is expecting from others what we would not personally do ourselves. One of the most challenging areas where we struggle is forgiving and reconciling to the point where there is true inner peace. We can say words of forgiveness but they only bear fruit when we speak them from our hearts. Each time we pray the Our Father, the prayer Jesus Himself taught us, these words come from us: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." It is easy to forgive small hurts but when they are repeated over and over again it gets harder and harder. When we feel betrayed, neglected, or taken for granted, it gets much harder. While it is easy to mouth the words, "I forgive you", they only bring peace when they come from a loving, hopeful, grateful heart. All too often our initial reaction to being hurt or offended festers and fills us with spite, disappointment, and vengeful thoughts.

In Matthew 12:1-8, Jesus is criticized for allowing His disciples going through a field on the Sabbath when no work is permitted as they were picking grain to eat. His response was: "If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men." While it is very easy to judge and condemn, it really brings no peace if we do not know the truth. Forgiveness sincerely given brings hope, peace, gratitude, and reconciliation. In John 8:1-11, we see "upright" religious leaders bringing the woman caught in adultery to Jesus. Jesus, first of all, tells them to look into their own hearts and finding no sin, cast a stone at her. The accusers get the message and walk away. Jesus brings peace and hope to this woman with these words: "Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She replied, 'No one, sir.'" Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." Some of the truly merciful words of Jesus were spoken as He was dying on the cross as He prayed for His sinful accusers: "When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.'" They divided his garments by casting lots. The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God." (Luke 23:33-35)

In the Gospel for today's Mass (Matthew 18:21-35), Peter asked Jesus how many times must he forgive others, seven times. Jesus' reply was "seventy times seven times". In other words, don't stop hoping and loving. Jesus never stopped hoping. He did not come to conquer, get the upper hand, or punish. He came to save us from our sins by experiencing the epitome of human sinfulness as He was crucified. He endured that injustice and pain to make clear His

faith, hope, and love for us.

May we take the words of Psalm 51 to heart and readily share with one another what we pray for in this Psalm and in the Our Father: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

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...

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!

2027 Mass Book...

Opens September 10th

The 2027 Mass Book will open on Thursday, September 10. Parishioners wishing to arrange a Mass intention for a loved one are welcome to stop by the Parish Office during regular office hours beginning that day.

Offering a Mass for a loved one - living or deceased - is a beautiful way to remember them in prayer and entrust them to God's loving care.



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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, September 14th, 2026

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR
6:30-7:30 PM Food Pantry Open - Ernie's Place

Tuesday, September 15th, 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, September 16th, 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, September 17th, 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, September 18th, 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

Saturday, September 19th, 2026

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

Sunday, September 20th, 2026

6:45 AM Alcoholics Anonymous - BMR

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

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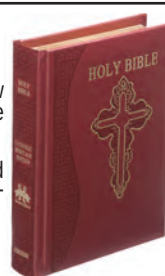
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