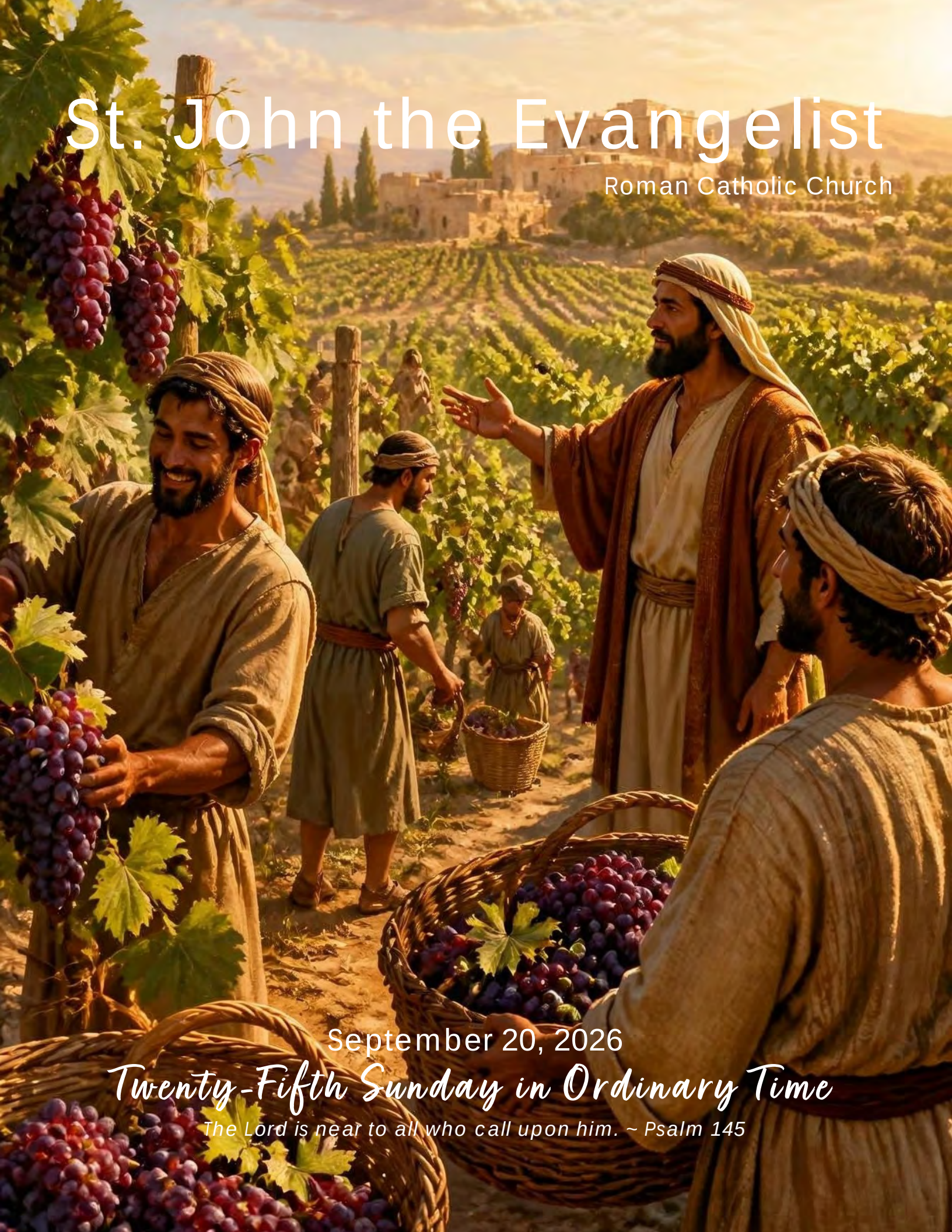




St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Church

September 20, 2026

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord is near to all who call upon him. ~ Psalm 145



September 20, 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 26th

5:00 PM - Msgr. Walden

7:30 PM (Spanish) - Fr. Charline

(Saturday Evening 5 PM Mass will be livestreamed.)

Sunday, September 27th

8:00 AM - Fr. Patrick

10:00 AM - Fr. Francis

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.

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

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.

A Message from Deacon Michael Hoonhout...

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Were you offended by today's Gospel parable? I hope so! Because then at least you were listening. The parable of a vineyard owner paying the same wage for vastly different exertions of labor is meant to disturb our sense of justice. It recalls an exchange between Israel and God recorded in the Old Testament: "You say, 'The Lord's way is not fair!' Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair? Are not your ways unfair?" (Ezekiel 18:25). Sometimes God chooses to act in a manner that rubs us the wrong way, *particularly when we see Him be merciful to the undeserving*. The just payment of workers for their labors is one of the basic contracts in society, unchanged since ancient times. And yet the landowner in the parable is not guilty of underpaying anyone. What seems unfair to us is simply the result of the owner being very generous with his own money towards those who worked only a little.

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah encapsulates the issue succinctly when God tells us: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways, and my thoughts above your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). The fundamental truth about God is: His majesty is incomprehensible. God is not simply greater than we realize, He infinitely exceeds even the best conception we could ever achieve in this life. St. Anselm of Canterbury said that God is that which nothing greater can be thought. St. Augustine of Hippo said that whatever you comprehend God to be, God is not that (*Si comprehendis, non est Deus*). Yet that God's mystery always exceeds our finite minds is not really a problem. In fact it is a wonderful truth, since it means the eternal enjoyment of God is *inexhaustible*; the joyful wonder of seeing God in heaven will *always* be new and overwhelmingly ecstatic. No, what *is* the problem is that we tend to grow complacent in our thoughts about God, dumbing the mystery of God down to where we are comfortable. We 'domesticate' God, still thinking of Him as better than anything else, but also thinking of Him as another thing among all other things. We should not make the mistake of understanding or comparing God to the things of this world. *God surpasses everything in worth and value*—including our very selves, our lives, our loved ones and our deepest desires—surpassing them to the extent that everything is nothing compared to God. For God is the reason why everything else we love exists, is good, and is lovable. Only with God can everything you cherish remain yours beyond this life, and when you lose God, you lose absolutely everything.

When we live with a God conceived according to our small-mindedness, we will treat Him as just another object among many things, not as the One whom we should love

with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength (Deut 6:4; Matt 22:37). When we become content with our own ideas of what God is *we measure God by our mind*, expecting Him to meet our expectations and our standards, instead of the Holy One before whom prophets and saints fell prostrate. We see this in the parable, when those who "bore the day's burden and the heat" grumbled at the unfairness of how being paid the same as the "last ones who worked only one hour." Their sense of fairness is not wrong in itself, but it *is* misapplied, for the landowner chooses to be generous and give the less worthy more than they deserve.

It is important to realize that at the beginning of the parable Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven may be likened *to a landowner* looking to hire workers to gather in his harvest. Jesus does *not* liken the kingdom of heaven to the events of the parable—i.e., the seemingly unjust outcome that unfolds when workers who worked different lengths of the day were all paid the same. In saying the kingdom of heaven is like this landowner, Jesus is clarifying that the kingdom of heaven is what it is because of the most merciful, most lavish character of God the Father, exemplified by the landowner and his shocking generosity. The kingdom of Heaven that God gives those who obey Him will not be measured by our own hopes and expectations, or our sense of fairness and justice. It will not be in accordance with what any of us earn or deserve by our good deeds—thank God! Heaven is measured in terms of the infinite love of God. Though a sense of entitlement often creeps into our relationship with God and we think in transactional terms about our salvation, the wonderful truth is that what God has in store for the blessed is in accord with His merciful nature as our Father, who sent His Son to suffer and die for us "wicked" sinners (cf. Matt 7:11), or as St. Augustine put it, sacrificed His Son in order to ransom a slave. God's ways are not our ways! For which of us would ever dream to make the cross the means of salvation?

We need to assess our mental attitude and approach to God. Is God ever more mysterious to us, or has our minds settled upon basic ideas of God learned many years ago? How much effort do we spend reflecting upon God's unimaginable greatness? Does our prayer include humble silence before His majestic and awe-filled mystery, or are we busy telling God what He ought to be doing for us, or reminding Him of all the good things we do? Do we ask Jesus to reveal the mystery of the Father to us? Are we ever overwhelmed by how good and great God is so that our hearts break forth into praise and thanksgiving? May we continue to pray this week the Responsorial Psalm: "Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable." Amen.

Masses for the Week...

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

Monday, September 21st St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

7:00 AM Julia Morizzo

12:00 Noon Patricia Anne Melillo

Tuesday, September 22nd Weekday

7:00 AM Julia Morizzo

12:00 Noon Rosalie Delquaglio

Wednesday, September 23rd St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

7:00 AM Billie Radkiewicz

12:00 Noon Elizabeth Kiernan

Thursday, September 24th Weekday

7:00 AM Jeff Kirk

12:00 Noon Steven Sinacore

Friday, September 25th Weekday

7:00 AM Ron Kutkiewicz

12:00 Noon Jack & his sister, Katy Dyer

Saturday, September 26th Weekday

8:00 AM Michael O'Brien

5:00 PM Diane Albano

7:30 PM (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, September 27th 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Robert Salomone

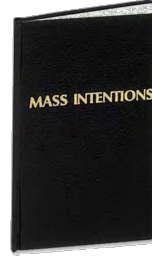
10:00 AM Glenn Probeyahn

12:00 Noon Maria Petosa

6:00 PM Lou Agnotti

2027 Mass Book Now Open

The 2027 Mass Book is now open. Parishioners wishing to arrange a Mass intention for a loved one are welcome to stop by the **Parish Office** during regular office hours.



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.

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	\$682,511	37	\$18,446
2025	\$657,624	37	\$17,774



As of 9/14/2026	2026	2025
New Parish Goal	\$120,855	\$115,100
Number of Donors	214	195
Total Pledged to date	\$93,433	\$82,199
Percent of Goal	77%	71%

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!



Please help us reach our goal!



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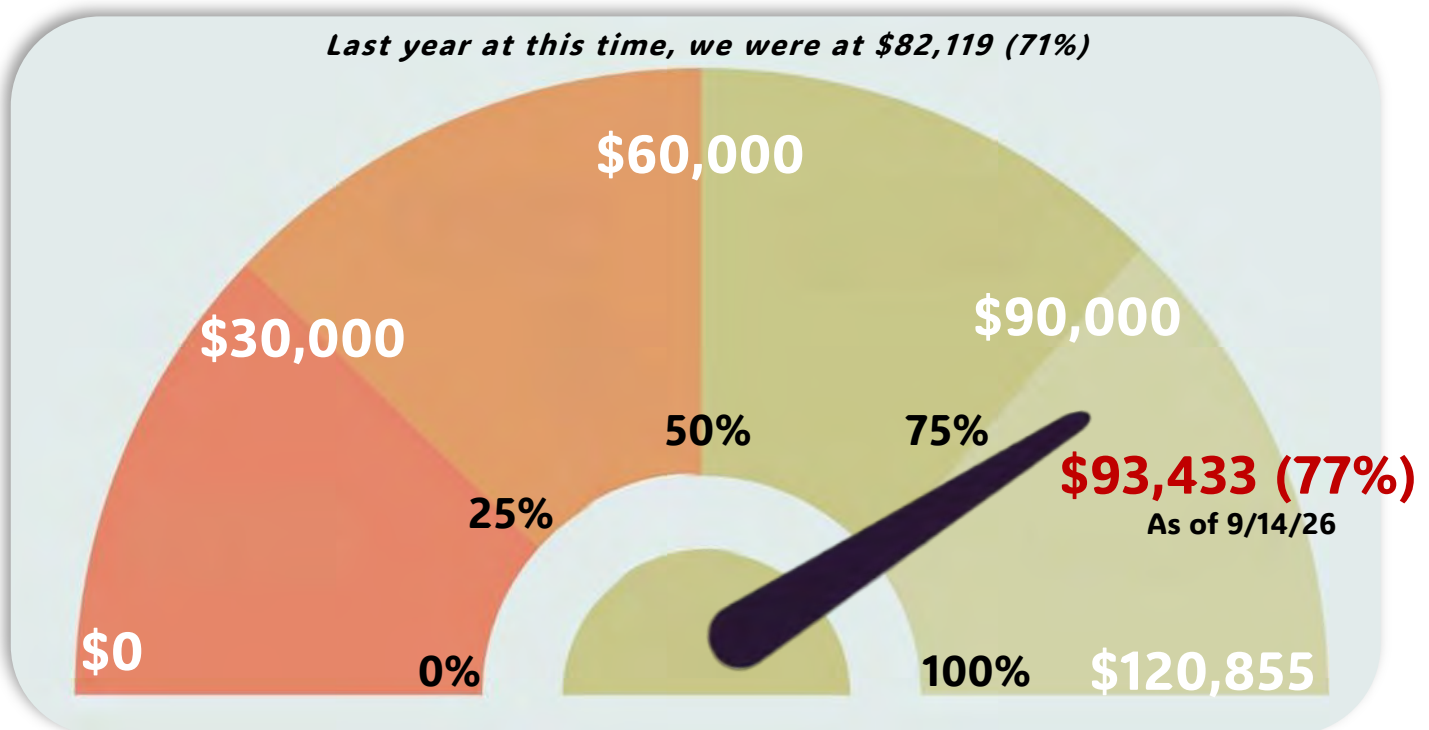
We are more than three quarters of the way there!

There will be a special collection for the CMA campaign on the weekend of September 26th & 27th.

Many thanks to those who have made their pledge to the CMA! If you haven't made your pledge yet, please prayerfully consider how your generosity can make a world of difference!



Last year at this time, we were at \$82,119 (71%)



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.

John Robert Walther

Rudolph D Sunderman

Felomena Webb Sorensen

Maria Ofelia Rosario

Claire Polidoro-Marracello

Joseph Dorr

Baby Aliceya Rosina Meinhold

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

Frank Paterno

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.

Celebrating a Century of
Faith • Education • Service

+ St John the Evangelist School +
+ Our Lady Queen of Apostles Centennial +
1926–2026

A Lasting Legacy

As we celebrate 100 years of Catholic education, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Centennial Legacy Garden will serve as a lasting tribute to the Sisters of Charity and dedicated faculty whose faith, commitment and loving service have shaped generations of students and families.

At the heart of the garden will stand St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, whose vision for Catholic education continues to inspire our mission today.

Personalized Legacy Bricks will become part of this special garden, offering alumni, families, parishioners and friends an opportunity to honor a loved one, celebrate a connection to our school, or leave a lasting mark for generations to come.

The completed garden will be dedicated during our Centennial Year in 2027!

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Centennial Legacy Garden



Commemorative Brick Program

For a donation of **\$200**, you can personalize a 6" x 9" Legacy Brick to honor or remember someone special, celebrate a graduating class, recognize a Sister of Charity, clergy member, faculty or staff member, or commemorate your own connection to our school.

Your Legacy Brick will become a permanent part of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Centennial Legacy Garden—a lasting tribute connecting the generations of our school community, past, present and future

Personalize Your Legacy Brick

Please print your inscription exactly as you would like it engraved.

Maximum 4 lines • 15 characters and spaces per line

Complete Your Brick Engraving Online

For your convenience, you may complete your commemorative brick engraving form and payment online. Simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera to submit your brick inscription and payment.

*Thank you for becoming a lasting part of the
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Centennial Legacy Garden.*



SJE
Family Life Ministry

Join us for... **Blessing of the Animals**

#FeastofStFrancisofAssisi

Sunday, October 4th @ 3 PM

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 from the weekend of September 26 through the weekend of October 4. Donation bins will be available in the fellowship area of the church throughout the collection period, as well as at the Pet Blessing..

Here's the Wish list from Kent...

- Clorox wipes
- Paper towels
- Detergent
- Dish soap
- Bleach
- Garbage bags (13 gallon and 45 gallon)
- Gently used towels and blankets
- Purina cat chow
- Purina kitten chow
- any kind of canned dog food
- any kind of canned cat food
- any kind of canned kitten food



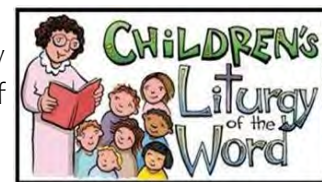
OFFICE OF FAMILY MINISTRY



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 / mpiraglia@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](http://www.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! 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

2025-26 FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDARS for all our programs are available on the Faith Formation page of our parish website. [sjecm.org](http://www.sjecm.org),

"Family of Faith" (Grades 1-6) Opening Prayer Services (Parent/Student Event)

Attend ONE of the following services with your child/children:

Tuesday, 9/22 or Thursday, 9/24 at 5 PM or 7 PM
in the Church

Level 8 Opening Prayer Service (Parent/Student Event) Monday, 9/28 at 7:15 PM, Church

"Fearless" 2026 Confirmation Prep:
Next Session: **Tuesday, 9/29 at 7:15 PM** in the Church

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



⇒ 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!

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

Our sit-down meal will be served this month on Monday, September 28 at 6 PM. It is a beautiful gathering, nourishing the less fortunate in our community. Please call the PSM office if you can drop off a hot meal, a side dish or would like to make anything special for this month's meal!



Thank you to Kids Planet Discoveries for their very generous donation to St. John's parish social ministry programs. The kids sold lemonade and raised \$350! We are grateful to them for thinking of us and for their loving hearts in wanting to help those in need.

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.

Second Collection this 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.



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>

Please support our beloved priests in their retirement years.

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.*

Starts October 17th

Saturday mornings from 10:30 AM to 12 noon
First floor meeting room in the Barn

REGISTRATION:

Contact the Rectory
at 631.878.0009 x 102
or via email at Rectory@sjecm.org

\$10 donation for the workbook



Blood Drive

Show up for those fighting cancer

Share your strength. Give blood.



St. John the Evangelist

2 ST. JOHN'S PLACE, CENTER MORICHES
SPONSORED BY THE SAINT JANUARIUS MINISTRY

Saturday, October 10th
9:00am – 3:00pm

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

- SCAN QR CODE
- CONTACT MELISSA AT:
(917) 566-8537 / MGATTO@NYBC.ORG

Please include full name, date of blood drive and donor ID # (or phone #)



Prepare to donate

• Eat well and hydrate

• Bring a photo ID

• Feel good and symptom free

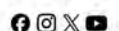
• Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form

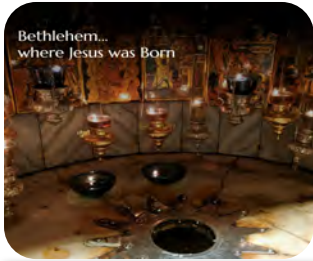
• Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit nybc.org/eligibility

Walk-ins are welcome! Appointments help reduce waiting.

800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org





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.

Next weekend, **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



Adoration
of the Blessed Sacrament

**Monday - Friday from
3:00 - 7:00 PM**
*Seton Chapel + In the Convent of
St. John the Evangelist*

All are invited to join
Lay Franciscan & Catholic Recording Artist
AL BARBARINO
as we gather together to pray
THE PATRIOTIC ROSARY

★ **Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7pm** ★

St. John the Evangelist Church
25 Ocean Avenue
Center Moriches, Long Island, NY

This special evening of prayer and song is in honor of
the **250th Anniversary Celebration of America &**
continued **BLESSINGS & PROTECTION FROM GOD!**



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.

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

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 28, October 5, 19,

November 9, 23, December 7, 21

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

For more information, please call **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 you for your cooperation!



A Message from Monsignor Walden...



That's not fair! Those are the words of the day laborers who were graciously hired by a landowner to work in his vineyard for the day as the Gospel recounts (Matthew 20:1-16). This passage says that the landowner went out early in the morning and almost hourly until late in the day to hire those who had no employment for the day. When it came time to pay each one of them, all received a full day's pay. Of course, those who worked the whole day thought they should get more. What is the point? Be grateful for who you are and what you have.

This point came across to me so clearly once again as my friend Joey, who is forty-nine years old, died this past Monday after 66 days in the hospital. Joey was born at 27 weeks in 1977 and was not expected to live very long. During his forty-nine years, he had to live in group homes and fortunately his last residence, by pure luck, was only four blocks from his mother's house. Physically, Joey could not walk and his right hand was almost powerless. Once he was taken out of bed with a lift every morning, he was put in his power wheelchair. Strapped in with over twelve belts on different parts of his body he was ready to roll. He went to a UCP program everyday in Hauppauge. On Fridays, his mother and I would pick him up in her converted minivan and go out to eat. During the years, he has played wheelchair basketball, gone bowling, taken cruises, and was an elected advocate for the handicapped. There is a group that has a four-day retreat every year for Joey and his peers at Camp Alvernia. All of them are volunteers who share much joy and love. Everyone Joey met was greeted: "Hi! I'm Joey! What is your name?" There was absolutely no "poor me" in him. He knew what he could do and what he could not do, and lived his life to the fullest in that way. He was a humble, grateful, joyful man to be with.

It is all too easy to be like the disgruntled workers in today's Gospel. Even the smallest inconveniences can upset or anger us. Who and what are the blessings in our lives? Who are we a blessing for? May we always rise above whatever or whoever angers us. It is not what we have or do not have. Joey embraced the life he was given. May we see the blessings we are to one another, and how much we are known and loved as the children of God and brothers and sisters of one another.

Psalm 139

O Lord, you search me and
you know me,

you know my resting and my rising,
you discern my purpose from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down,
all my ways lie open to you.

Before ever a word is on my tongue
you know it, O Lord, through and through.
Behind and before you besiege me,
your hand ever laid upon me.
Too wonderful for me this knowledge,
too high, beyond my reach.

O where can I go from your spirit,
or where can I flee from your face?
If I climb the heavens, you are there.
If I lie in the grave, you are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn
and dwell at the sea's furthest end,
even there your hand would lead me,
your right hand would hold me fast.

If I say: "Let the darkness hide me
and the light around me be night,"
even darkness is not dark for you
and the night is as clear as the day.

For it was you who created my being,
knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you for the wonder of my being,
for the wonders of all your creation.

Already you knew my soul
my body held no secret from you
when I was being fashioned in secret
and molded in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw all my actions,
they were all of them written in your book;
every one of my days was decreed
before one of them came into being.

To me, how mysterious your thoughts,
the sum of them not to be numbered!
If I count them, they are more than the sand;
to finish, I must be eternal, like you.

O search me, God, and know my heart.

O test me and know my thoughts.

See that I follow not the wrong path
and lead me in the path of life eternal. Glory...

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!

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.



Celebrating a Quinceañera at St. John the Evangelist

Celebración de una Quinceañera en San Juan Evangelista

St. John the Evangelist welcomes families wishing to celebrate a Quinceañera, a beautiful Catholic tradition giving thanks to God on a young woman's 15th birthday. While a Quinceañera is not a sacrament, it includes a special blessing as the young woman enters a new stage of life and embraces the responsibilities of living out her Catholic faith.

Families wishing to schedule a Quinceañera must be registered parishioners of St. John the Evangelist or reside within the parish boundaries. Celebrations must be scheduled at least four months in advance, and the young woman should have received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. If she has not yet been confirmed, she must be enrolled in the parish Faith Formation program.

Before making reception or other arrangements, families must first meet with a priest or member of the Pastoral Team to discuss preparation and secure a date with the Church.

San Juan Evangelista da la bienvenida a las familias que desean celebrar una Quinceañera, una hermosa tradición católica en la que se da gracias a Dios al cumplir una joven sus 15 años. Aunque la Quinceañera no es un sacramento, incluye una bendición especial para la joven al comenzar una nueva etapa de su vida y asumir las responsabilidades de vivir su fe católica.

Las familias que deseen programar una Quinceañera deben estar registradas como feligreses de San Juan Evangelista o residir dentro de los límites de la parroquia. La celebración debe programarse con al menos cuatro meses de anticipación, y la joven debe haber recibido los Sacramentos del Bautismo, la Primera Comunión y la Confirmación. Si aún no ha recibido la Confirmación, deberá estar inscrita en el programa de Formación en la Fe de la parroquia.

Antes de hacer arreglos para la recepción u otros preparativos, las familias deben reunirse primero con un sacerdote o un miembro del Equipo Pastoral para conversar sobre la preparación y reservar una fecha con la Iglesia.

**For additional information or to
begin the process, please
contact the Parish Office at
631-878-0009 or
rectory@sjecm.org.**

**Para obtener más información o
comenzar el proceso,
comuníquese con la Oficina
Parroquial al 631-878-0009 o por
correo electrónico a
rectory@sjecm.org.**





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, September 21st, 2026

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

Tuesday, September 22nd, 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 23rd, 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 24th, 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 25th, 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 26th, 2026

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

Sunday, September 27th, 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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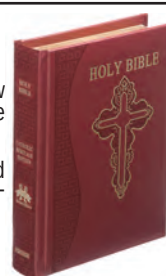
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