

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



317 FIRST STREET • DUNELLEN • NEW JERSEY 08812



The third Sunday of Advent



Dear St. John the Evangelist Parish Family,

May the peace of this Advent season be with you and your loved ones. I can't believe it's already the third week of Advent and Christmas is almost here.

This is a tough and a different Christmas for us in one way or another, wearing masks and social distancing. Some of us may have lost a loved one, or gotten sick, or lost jobs or are just stressed by this situation. But this does not take away the hope and joy Jesus brought to us at his first coming. At the same time, we count our blessings and pray that through God's help, a safe vaccine will be available for us soon and our life will go back to normal.

As Christians, Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. This Advent, we shall not have the Multi-Parish Penance Service because of the Pandemic. But I invite you to the Sacrament of reconciliation on Saturday December 19 at 11:00 am to 12:00 and from 4 until 4:45 pm. Needless to mention, you know that I am also available any other time by appointment and you all know my number at which to reach me. I also welcome those who seek some peace and spiritual renewal to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which takes place in the Chapel on Thursday from 8:30 am until Benediction at 4:00 pm.

Please note, due to the CDC restrictions that are in place because of the Pandemic, the 4 pm Christmas Vigil Mass, which is always crowded, will be live streamed in the Auditorium. Once the allowed seating in the Church is taken, our Ushers will direct the overflow downstairs to view the Mass projected on a screen, as well as receive Holy Communion there.

Thank you again for all that you do for St. John's. Your response in replacing the leaking rectory roof and installing a new Church boiler back-to-back is a sign of how much you love this our parish. I wish you God's blessings and Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Father Alphonsus Kariuki

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays of Advent:

December 12 – 4:00 to 4:45 pm

December 19 - 11:00 am to Noon and 4:00 to 4:45 pm

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY ~ CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

12 Midnight

NATIVITY OF THE LORD ~ CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

12 NOON – SPANISH MASS

MASSES DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sunday, December 27, 2020

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Regular Mass Schedule

Friday, January 1, 2021

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

8:00 AM

Sunday, January 3, 2021

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Regular Mass Schedule

Sunday, January 10, 2021

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Regular Mass Schedule

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, December 14

8:00 am Michael Renavitz by Sue Ellen Bibby

Tuesday, December 15

8:00 am Helen Tamalonis Zukowsk
by Barbara Mastrian

Wednesday, December 16

8:00 am Adolph Horbotowicz
by Barbara Mastrian

Thursday, December 17

8:00 am Rev. Msgr. Richard Behl
by the Hummel family

Friday, December 18

8:00 am Larry Jupina by the Brioness family

Saturday, December 19

5:00 pm Alicia Glennon by the George family

Sunday, December 20

8:30 am Parishioners of St. John's & Deceased
members of the D'Ovidio &
Tagliatella families by Tony &
Cathy D'Ovidio
10:30 am Ted Yanushefski by wife Connie

Sacrificial Offerings 2020

Sunday, December 6

Regular Collection: \$4,685.95
Online Giving: \$ 777.25

Bills Paid This Week: \$7,594.11

Restoration of Masses with a Congregation

WELCOME HOME! We are so excited to once again celebrate Holy Mass as a parish family.

Some restrictions and noticeable differences to ensure everyone's safety:

All parishioners must follow social distancing guidelines, wear masks, and use hand sanitizer.

Seating - in order to enable safe social distancing during Mass every other pew has been closed off with white cord. Ushers and Greeters will guide you where to sit to maintain safe social distancing. There is a limit of no more than 150 people within a building.

Offertory Procession - there will not be an Offertory Procession during Mass. The gifts of bread and wine will be kept up on the altar.

Distribution of Holy Communion - The diocese has directed that at the discretion of the pastor the distribution of Holy Communion can now be restored to its proper place within Mass. In keeping with CDC health and safety guidelines, we will still have a single file Communion line to the altar and ask that you please maintain two pews distance between yourself and the person in front of you.

Mass will still be available on our website at 8:30 for those of you who do not feel comfortable attending public Mass.

Thank you for your patience as we adjust to these guidelines. If you are interested in joining the "Back to Mass" volunteer team please call the parish office, 732-968-2621.

Online Giving

Have you tried our new Parish online giving system? There are three ways to give through Tithe.ly:

- *Through our website
- *through our Facebook page
- *using the Tithe.ly mobile giving App

When giving Tithe.ly you can donate by credit/debit card or bank transfer. You can also select "reoccurring gift" to automate your regular weekly offering so that it is donated automatically on a schedule that you choose. As with any automated service there is a small transaction fee for the church. You have the option to select "cover the fee" to make this transaction fee a part of your tax deductible gift. If you need assistance setting up a gift or learning how to use Tithe.ly email stjohnpcl@gmail.com

Give the Gift of Faith

Churches are dependent upon the generosity of others to fulfill their mission of spreading the Good News as mandated by Christ on the day of his Ascension. To perpetuate our church's mission in our area, please consider putting St. John the Evangelist Church in your will.



Decorating for Christmas

The Art & Environment Committee will be decorating the church for Christmas at

1:30 pm on Sunday, 12/20. Anyone who is interested in helping is welcome to join us at this time.

Christmas Book Program

Many thanks to Thomas E. Sheenan and The Sheenan Funeral Home and an anonymous donor for their generous donations to fund the upcoming Christmas Book Program. This Christmas we will be giving out Do Something Beautiful For God by Mother Teresa and I Heard God Laugh by Matthew Kelly.



Christmas Basket Raffle

The Music Ministry is selling tickets for their Christmas Basket Raffle after the 8:30 and 10:30

Masses. The winner will be drawn the weekend before Christmas. Proceeds will benefit the Music Ministry. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Memorials

You are invited to make a memorial donation for the Christmas season. Your donation will help provide flowers and decorations for the church. To participate you may pick up a form at the exits of the Church or simply write down your name, phone number, and the name of the person or persons you wish to memorialize and send it along with your payment to the Parish Center by **noon on Monday, 12/14.**



December 13, 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Whole Community Catechesis

Gospel Weekly Discussion Questions:

John the Baptist Prepares for Jesus

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Life Question: Whose voices today help renew and revive you?

Gospel Question: What do you say for yourself as a Christian: Who are you? To what do you witness?

EXPLORING THE GOSPEL BY AGE

Exploring the Sunday Readings

(Adults)

Gospel Question: Do you know when it's time to shine and when to withdraw so that others might share their light?

Visions (Grades 7–9)

Life Question: How have you used social media to spread a positive message?

Gospel Question: How do you think society would view John the Baptist if he was delivering his message today?

Venture (Grades 4–6)

Life Question: What is the best present you've received? Why?

Gospel Question: How do you think people will be able to recognize who Jesus really is?

Good News (Grades 2–3)

Life Question: How is our parish getting ready for Christmas during Advent?

Gospel Question: How does John the Baptist help us get ready for Jesus' coming at Christmas?

Promise (Grades K–1)

Life Question: What gifts can I make for those in my family?

Gospel Question: How am I ready for Christmas?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: Can you tell the Christmas story?

Gospel Question: What is a way we can welcome Jesus?

ADVENT RESOURCES



How are you preparing for the coming of Jesus this Advent? Below is a list of Free Virtual Advent Resources and Events.

Holy Heroes Advent Adventures

Sign up to receive free Advent activities for your children:

<https://www.holyheroes.com/Holy-Heroes-Advent-Adventure-s/48.htm>

Word on Fire

Daily Advent Gospel Reflections with Bishop Barron:

<https://www.adventreflections.com/>

Dynamic Catholic Best Advent Ever

Let Your Soul Shine with Matthew Kelly:

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever.html>. Sign up for a free Daily Advent experience.



Prayers for Our Service Members

Please pray for the following parishioners who are currently serving in the Military:

U.S. Navy Reserve Lt. Michael Bartilotti

U.S. Army Pvt. Luke Harshaney

U.S. Army Pvt. Raymond C. Pizzigoni

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Ed Sella

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Paul Frabizzio

U.S. Marine Mer. Cpl. Thomas Tyler Lizak

U.S. Army Pfc. Sean Parente

U.S. Marine Pvt. Dante Parente

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Casey Wenzel

U.S. Army Spec. 4 Timothy Francisco

U.S. Marine LCpl. Stephen Wright

U.S. Marine Pvt. José Citron

If there are any other military members you would like to be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish Office.

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