

St. John the Evangelist Greece

December 10, 2023

2400 West Ridge Road
Rochester, New York 14626

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT
As disciples of Jesus Christ serving on the Parish Pastoral Council, we collaborate with the Pastor and Staff inviting the people of St. John the Evangelist Church to joyfully celebrate the Eucharist, faithfully teach Catholic tradition, and fervently form Catholic spirituality, so that together we may go forth in love to serve the Lord and each other.



"Prepare the way of the Lord." - Mk 1:3

This is My Advent Prayer

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CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Evening: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Holy Days: As announced in bulletin

Weekdays: Monday–Wednesday & Friday 8:15 AM

CONFESSIONS By Appointment Only. *Please contact the Parish Office 225-8980.*

BAPTISMS For parishioners requesting Baptism for their child, we encourage you to please contact the Parish Office at (585) 225-8980 before the birth of your child to prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism.

MARRIAGE Arrangements for the Sacrament of Marriage must be made at least SIX MONTHS in advance. Call the Parish Office at 225-8980.

PRAYER LINE Jill Finan StJohnPrayerLine@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Peter Enyan-Boadu - 225-8980

Deacon: Elmer Smith - 230-3074

Pastoral Minister: Tod Simone- 225-8980

Director, Music Ministry: Dawn Chmiel - 225-8980

Director, Choir Ministry: Consuelo De Los Santos 225-8980

Faith Formation Coordinator: Cristyn Simone - 261-0831

Secretary: Marcia Parsons - 225-8980

Business Office: Joe Spurrier - 225-8980

Finance Director: Christopher Frontale 225-8980

Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Bob Gotham 227-4638

Parish Office hours: Monday-Wednesday & Friday: 9-Noon and 1:30-5 PM; Thursday: 9-Noon

Fax: 585-723-9825

E-mail: gstjohnt@dor.org

Visit www.StJohnGreece.org Follow us on [@StJohnGreece](https://twitter.com/StJohnGreece)

Find us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/StJohntheEvangelistChurchofGreece) St John the Evangelist Church of Greece

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday

Is 35:1-10/
Ps 85:9ab, 10-14/
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

Zec 2:14-17
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/
Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday

Is 40:25-31/
Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

Is 41:13-20/
Ps 145:1, 9-13ab/
Mt 11:11-15

Friday

Is 48:17-19/
Ps 1:1-4, 6/
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/
Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19/
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/
Lk 1:46-50, 53-54/
1 Thes 5:16-24/
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Welcome!

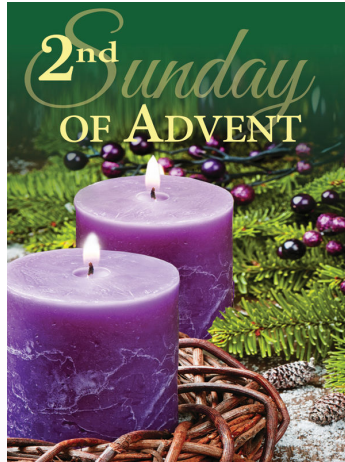
If you are new in the parish, we invite you to become a member of our faith community where we come together to worship the Lord and celebrate the Eucharist. We want to get to know you so please if you can introduce yourself after Mass, we will be grateful. Please know that your prayers, your presence, and support of our beloved St. John's Church are appreciated. Please call or e-mail the Parish Office for registration assistance. You will find contact information on the front cover of the bulletin.

This is My Advent Prayer

My Advent prayer is that WE ALL BECOME "THE Church that witnesses" as we journey in faith during the season and share our hearts with others through the Giving Trees.

John the Baptist went throughout the whole territory of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance and the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the Prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Advent is a time of expectation, a time of preparation and a time of renewal in the Lord. Our God, the spirit of Advent declares is a God who comes in a historical moment, in the midst of this present time, and in an unknown future time.

Already since our celebration of Thanksgiving, our world is ablaze with lights and the noisy clamor of commerce that the season brings. Stores and malls ring with the fervor of the busy shopper in the midst of unemployment and financial strain. Our Advent, to the contrary, is "STILL WITNESSING" even as we await in the darkness of the early dawn for the coming of the "LIGHT OF NEW HOPE, THE WORD MADE FLESH."



As we go about our daily lives, one day melts into the next. We may find out that the noise that competes with the inner voice has picked up the "commercialism of the season." Amid all that noise, we struggle to hear another voice. Sometimes it is difficult to hear it amid all the jingle bells around us. Advent invites us to prepare, be ready, and renew ourselves in the grace of God. Amid all the noise we strive to find at least some moments with the Lord—*Holiness in*

Peace. We can do so by inviting ourselves and family members to understand this season of GRACE. All in all, the Advent voice of John the Baptist has our best interest at heart. It is not as if the voice of John is going down hard on us to make us feel guilty or to require us to make some unrealistic changes in our lives, it ONLY wants us to give equal the time we spend in shopping to the Lord. Let's face it, we all need to change, and maybe for some of us, a lot of change may be necessary if we want to get a better grip on our lives.



Wishing everyone a Holy and Peaceful Advent season.

Rev. Peter Enyan-Boadu



Family Coffee Hour with Santa

THIS Sunday, December 10 in the Parish Center following the 10:00 AM Mass hosted by our Music Ministry

- Toddlers to Teenagers can visit Santa and receive a gift
- Lots of Goodies to Eat!
- Come and Enjoy the Fun!
- Donated homemade cookies would be welcome.

Come join in the festivities hosted by our Music Ministry.

We look forward to seeing you there!



In Thanksgiving

I take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for your generous support once again for the food and monetary donations collected on Thanksgiving Day for the Greece

Ecumenical Food Shelf. Through your generosity we were able to deliver 334 lbs of food and there is a monetary donation of \$510. In these challenging times, with so many in need, you found the resources to provide a corporal work of mercy by feeding the hungry. May God bless you abundantly for your goodness and kindness. A special thank you to Rick Stein for delivering the food to the Greece Food Shelf; we are grateful, Rick.

God bless, Fr. Peter

Masses for the Week—Dec 11—17

MONDAY, December 11 *St Damasus I*
8:15 AM + *James Pierce*
by Don & Beverly Frank

TUESDAY, December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
8:15 AM + *Joseph McKee*
by Rick & Kathy Paoletti

WEDNESDAY, December 13 *St Lucy*
8:15 AM + *Kenneth Ward*
by The Stein Family

THURSDAY, December 14 *St John of the Cross*

FRIDAY, December 15 *Advent Weekday*
8:15 AM + *James Mikel*
by Family

SATURDAY, December 16 *Advent Weekday*
4:00 PM + *Florence Cally*
by Daughter, Barbara

SUNDAY, December 17 *3rd Sunday of Advent*
8:00 AM + *Ken Preston*
by Bette & Dan Conte
10:00 AM + *The People of St John's,*
Living & Deceased

**Wills/Bequests/Memorials—
Please Remember St. John the Evangelist Parish**

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, December 10 *2nd Sunday of Advent*
9:00 AM RCIA in Meeting Room **THIS Week**
Coffee Hour with Santa following the 10:00 AM Mass
in Parish Center

Monday, December 11
9:00 AM Bible Study in Parish Center

Sunday, December 17 *3rd Sunday of Advent*
9:00 AM RCIA in Parish Center



Advent Giving Trees

Reminder: all angel donations placed in the envelope provided are due back to St. John's on or before NEXT Sunday, December 17.

The Diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal

The goal for St. John's is \$81,000. For those who have already made a pledge/donation, we are very grateful!

As of Friday, December 1, 233 households have pledged \$66,874 taking us to 82.56% of our \$81,000 goal. *The listing of names of the contributing households will continue in next weekend's bulletin.*

Join Us as We Celebrate the Feast of St. John the Evangelist—the Beloved One

THE BELOVED DISCIPLE
ST. JOHN



On Wednesday, December 27, 2023, come celebrate our patronal feast day; we encourage your participation on this special day—a beautiful and peaceful way to continue celebrating the Christmas season.

The day will begin with the Celebration of the Eucharist at 8:15 morning Mass. Immediately following Mass we will begin a period of Eucharistic Adoration in silent prayer. Adoration will continue until 11:45 AM at which time Final

Benediction will take place and conclude at noon. We recognize you may not be able to stay for the full time of Adoration but it is our hope that each of us will spend some quiet, peaceful time before our Blessed Lord.

After Benediction, from Church we will proceed to the Parish Center where we will watch a 30 minute EWTN documentary in which the Miracle Hunter explores **Lanciano**, the site of the first and greatest Eucharistic miracle in Christian history. Following the movie we will enjoy fellowship along with a soup and sandwich lunch.

Space for the movie and lunch is limited so in order to plan accordingly, we will need you to register by calling the Parish Office at 225-8980 no later than Monday, Dec 18.

God is entrusting to you the task ... of working with Him in the building of the civilization of love.
—St. John Paul II

Pastoral Planning Task Force Update

The Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Pastoral Planning Task Force met on November 8. This meeting was devoted to discussing the report

created by a subcommittee of the best parish groupings if our 7 parishes had only 5, 4, 3, or 2 leaders (Pastors/Pastoral Administrators). The subcommittee was praised for their fine work. They were asked to meet again to create multiple options for the time when the number of current leaders decreases, since it is unknown which of our leaders would be the first to leave due to being transferred, entering senior status (retirement), or other potential causes. We recognize that any implementation of these proposals would be at the discretion of the Bishop of Rochester. The task force will discuss the next draft report at its January meeting. Parish staff members will be gathered to give their input in February followed by pastoral and finance councils and then parishioners at large. Minutes of task force meetings are available at <https://holycrossrochester.org/index.php/taskforce>

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent**First Reading** IS 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

**Second Reading** 2 PT 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

**Alleluia** LK 3:4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MK 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in
the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight
his paths.”*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Parish Council Meeting Minutes—November 6, 2023

Opening Prayer: Jill Bailey

Attendance: Father Peter, Bob Gotham, Gary Kern, Pam Tofany-Kern, Rick Paoletti, Nick Sassano, Tod Simone, Paul Parkman, Jill Bailey, Melissa Ryan, Wayne Howard, Sharon Miller, Karen Bessette, Patty Hoag, Nick Verdino, Alan Christodaro *Absent: Excused:* Deacon Elmer, Kathy Christodaro, Tammy Mahar *Visitors:* None

Approval of Agenda: for tonight's Meeting (Emailed 10/26/2023) Approval: Gary Kern, Second: Wayne Howard

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Chairperson's Comments:

CMA UPDATE: Our Goal for this year is set at \$81,000, which is lower than last year. As of November 5th

- # of Donors to date – 165
- \$\$ committed to date - \$41,304.
- Average per Donor - \$250.33
- % of Goal – 50.99%
- Donors short by 3 from last year
- \$\$ ahead of last year - \$10,043

Food Drive for the Greece Food Shelf: Weekend of October 21/22: We gathered 14 Boxes/964 pounds of can goods, plus a single donation of \$500. Carol Napierala had transporting help from Joe Waters, Mike Wilson and Gene Preston in transporting the heavy boxes to the Greece Food Shelf. Photos will be placed in an album located in the back of church- east end.

Memorial Mass: Held on Saturday November 4 at 10:00 AM. This was a very nice service and in talking to a few of the families, they really appreciated St. John's for doing this.

Fr. Peter 's Update: There will be a holy hour and adoration on Nov 8 hosted by the choir. I gave the liturgy committee 3 options for our Advent theme, and they have chosen Holiness in Peace. Father thanked Gary for all of the time and effort he put in for the cut over to our new parish website. We are coming up to the end of the year which means Christmas is coming. It was discussed at the liturgy committee what time the masses will be due to Christmas eve being on a Sunday this year.

Arts and Environment: Patty Hoag said that on Saturday, November 11 the committee will be preparing the angels for the gift giving tree in the parish center. The angels will be placed on the trees on December 2. We have 9 agencies this year and 230 angels. Last year we did not keep track of how many angels that came back from parishioners, this year we plan to monitor this. We will also be putting up 2 Jessie trees this year, there will be scripture readings and coloring pages for the children. The date for decorating for Christmas is still being determined.

Certificates of Appreciation: There is one certificate pending.

Liturgy Committee: Tod – Thanksgiving Mass will be at 9 AM. The Immaculate Conception Masses will be on December 7 at 4 PM and on December 8 at 9 AM and 12:05 PM. Christmas Eve Masses will be at 9 AM, 4 PM and 10 PM. Christmas Day Masses will be at 8 AM and 10 AM. We are currently working on a Lenten retreat.

Pastoral Ministry/Homebound Outreach Update:

Tod- There has been an uptick on funerals in the past couple weeks.

Knights of Columbus Council 3892: Update: Rick Paoletti said the Knights had their annual Memorial Mass for deceased members this past Sunday. The 40 Days for Life campaign ended yesterday. Rick asked Paul Parkman to speak about an experience that happened while he was campaigning on Saturday. Paul said he was running late or he would have missed this young woman who was headed to planned parenthood to speak to someone about her pregnancy. She had been in an abusive situation and while walking to planned parenthood she said to God, if there is someone on the corner when I arrive let it be a sign to me that I should not do this. Paul spoke to her, and waited with her until Focus Pregnancy opened and she went in that direction instead. Paul was so grateful that he had been there to assist this young woman.

Outreach – social media/Communications

Committee Update: Gary Kern -New Website: We had a successful launch of the new St. John's Website on October 30. A lot of effort went in to delivering the new website in just 5 weeks. A special thank you to everyone that participated in the process. Gary said that the cutover took approximately 4 hours. During the 1st week there have been 400 site visits with 1260 page views. Web searches, Facebook, and direct entry of stjohngreece.org were used to locate the site. Global access includes US, Canada, UK, Japan, Philippines, Denmark, and South Africa. Devices used to access the site, 50% Smart phones, 40% Laptop and computers, 10% Tablets.

Christine Paoletti via Cleveland– Facebook update – 594 likes and 769 followers.

Paul Parkman – Faith Stories update – Paul said that just over a year ago he started to receive songs from the Lord. He said it was just there in his head. Paul found someone to help him to mix the lyrics into a song which he has named The Golden Heart. He would like to put his song on our website and Facebook page per approval from the Diocese to propagate the Lord's message.

Safety: Nick Sassano: There are only 2 people on the safety committee, we have to rely on the ushers to help with safety, there are 25 cameras that are monitored during each mass. Father reminded us that if we see something say something.

Open Forum/For the Good of the Parish: Pam said that a parishioner approached her at the 10 AM Mass and said that he saw a picture of himself attending the annual memorial mass. He did not appreciate his picture online during a very sensitive time for him. Pam advised Gary and Carol and the picture was removed immediately. Nick Verdino asked if we would be selling Christmas Wreaths again this year and Father said No. Bob said that the sale was very time consuming. Father thanked everyone for attending and wished us all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Closing Prayer: Jill Bailey

Next Meeting: 12/4/2023

Opening and Closing Prayers: Wayne Howard



Rezario Neguse *Husband of Rigbe Ogbamichael*



This Week's Sanctuary Candles burn for

- ✝ Tabernacle I Sarah and Joseph Oliveri
- ✝ Tabernacle II Well-Being of Recently Released and Current Hostages in Gaza
- ✝ Marian I The Unborn
- ✝ Marian II Peace in the Middle East

BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL



November 25/26	ATTENDANCE.....	431
BUDGETED Sunday Offering.....	\$	9,530.00
SUNDAY Offering.....	\$	6,332.50
ONLINE Giving.....	\$	862.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering.....	\$	7,194.54
SHORTAGE for SUNDAY OFFERING....	(\$	2,335.46)

Fiscal Year 2023-24 as November 26, 2023

YEARLY BUDGET.....	\$	486,000.00
BUDGETED TO-DATE.....	\$	209,660.00
ACTUAL COLLECTED.....	\$	206,365.02
SHORTAGE TO-DATE.....	(\$	3,294.98)

With sincere gratitude, Fr. Peter thanks all who continue with their financial assistance in support of the many needs in our parish.

Due to early bulletin deadlines for the upcoming Christmas Holidays, our December 2/3 Mass attendance and contributions will be noted in NEXT Weekend's bulletin.

Thank you!



The March for Life January 19, 2024

Webster Committee for Life is now taking reservations for the 2024 "March for Life" Bus Trip to Washington, DC, leaving from The Church of the Holy Spirit (leaves

Thursday, January 18 at 9:00 PM). If you would like to attend, please visit our web site at <http://march4life.gmsander.info> and fill out a reservation request form.

The cost this year is \$80 per person.

For more information, visit the web site, or call Gerry Sander at 585-503-3256 or email us at webstercommitteeforallife@gmail.com.



Holy baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission...

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1213

We welcomed Nora Catherine Anthony, daughter of Matthew and Jamie Anthony, into One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church through the Sacrament of Baptism on November 25, 2023, by Rev. Peter Enyan-Boadu, Pastor.

May the sanctifying grace she received at her baptism, through the power of the Holy Spirit, be nurtured by her family, godparents, and friends on her journey of faith.



Lift Up Your Hearts: Deepening Eucharistic Spirituality

Presented by Fr Robert Kennedy

**THIS Tuesday, December 12
St Charles Borromeo Church
3003 Dewey Ave**

9:00 AM Mass celebrated by Fr Kennedy, followed by Meditation and then Refreshments

7:00 PM Meditation by Fr Kennedy followed by Refreshments

Pope St John Paul VI called the liturgy "the first school of Christian spirituality." The full and active participation of the faithful in the Eucharist is the primary source for shaping them in that spirituality. This meditation will focus on the actions of the liturgical assembly as they come together and engage in the Church's central sacramental act.

585-663-3230 | www.stcharlesgreece.org



Christmas Poinsettias

During the Christmas season, remember a loved one or honor someone by making a donation for a poinsettia to add to the beauty of our beloved St. John’s Church. Please complete the order form at right.

Make checks payable to:

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

Write Poinsettias in the Memo; and Send your order form and donation to: St. John the Evangelist Church, 2400 West Ridge Road, Rochester, NY 14626

OR Place your order and donation in an envelope marked “Poinsettias” and drop this into the collection box.

Please print

Print your name as you want it to appear in the bulletin.

Phone Number

Would like to donate poinsettias for the holiday season. in memory/honor of:

Please indicate if living or deceased

Senior Home Communion Service Ministers December 2023

HAMILTON NURSING HOME COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 10, 2023 Tod Simone

THE VILLAGE AT UNITY

December 17, 2023 Bob & Barb Gotham

ELDERWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 10, 2023 Chris Hoefler
December 17, 2023 Dan & Melissa Kabasin
December 24, 2023 Carolyn Kerhaert
December 31, 2023 Chris Hoefler