

St. John the Evangelist Greece

December 17, 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.



A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

Strengthen Our Hearts

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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

Jer 23:5-8/
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/
Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday

Is 7:10-14/
Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6/
Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

Sg 2:8-14
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/
Lk 1:39-45

Friday

1 Sm 1:24-28/
1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Saturday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14/
Lk 1:57-66

Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/
Rom 16:25-27/

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.

Strengthen Our Hearts

God's grace can accomplish more in people than we can ever imagine. GRACE, God's on-going sharing of the Holy One's very self with all creation, quietly, but surely, moves us to embrace the divine will and carry it out. Most of the time we are not even aware of what God is doing in and through us.

Advent offers us the opportunity to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord into our lives. It is not what we do, but what God is waiting to do in us.

The epistle of James says, "Strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord is near." James 5:8. Advent calls us to a METANOIA—a serious change of heart, a complete turning around. It calls us to a change of heart and the desire to deepen our commitment to Jesus and his Gospel message. When the goal is far in the distance, it can be difficult to justify great change in our lives. The coming of God's kingdom sometimes



seems such a remote possibility, that we sometimes become complacent on the need for change. It can be easy to conjure up any plausible excuse to stay comfortable with the status quo.

My friends, let us be sensitive to others as we become mindful of our own need to change. They might not recognize or appreciate, the new you. This is why we need God's grace in order to accept one another, and to live in perfect harmony with others. There

is no need to fear the future. Each of us can impact the future by living according to the dictates of our faith. **MAY THE LORD STRENGTHEN OUR HEARTS WITH THE LIGHT OF HIS LOVE.** Advent means hope as the word of God has become flesh in our lives in the person of Jesus.



HAPPY ADVENT TO ALL. May the coming Christmas bring us *Holiness in Peace.*

Rev. Peter Enyan-Boadu

Holiness in Peace

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 THIS Monday, December 18.

Masses for the Week—Dec 18—24

MONDAY, December 18 *Late Advent Weekday*
8:15 AM + **Gary Hans**
by Sister, Shirley

TUESDAY, December 19 *Late Advent Weekday*
8:15 AM + **Frederick Ryan**
by Sam & Jean Profetta

WEDNESDAY, December 20 *Late Advent Weekday*
8:15 AM + **Francesca & Luigi Grillo**
by Family

THURSDAY, December 21 *St Peter Canisius*

FRIDAY, December 22 *Late Advent Weekday*
8:15 AM + **Deceased Members of the Drdul Family**
by John Drdul

SATURDAY, December 23 *St John of Kanty*
4:00 PM + **The People of St John's,
Living & Deceased**

SUNDAY, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM + **Robert Kowalski**
by Wife & Family

SUNDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve
4:00 PM + **James J. Fleming
& Nicoline & Norman Gowdy**
by Family
10:00 PM + **Maria, Alfonso, & Patsy Sciortino**
by RGH General Surgery Team

This Week's Schedule

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

Monday, December 18
9:00 AM Bible Study in Parish Center
6:30 PM Fatima Women's Prayer Ministry
in Parish Center then Church

Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent
NO RCIA Class Today
9:00 AM Mass in Church
10:00 AM Arts & Environment Decorating in Church

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve
4:00 PM Nativity of the Lord Family Vigil Mass
10:00 PM Nativity of the Lord Night Mass in Church



Since Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year, we take this opportunity to share, not only our Christmas Mass schedule, but also our regular Sunday Mass obligation schedule for Sunday, December 24. Please take note of the following:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The following 2 Masses are not for Christmas
Saturday, December 23 at 4:00 PM
Vigil Mass for **Sunday Obligation**
Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 AM
Sunday Obligation Mass

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24
4:00 PM Mass with Youth Choir
Prelude music/carols beginning at 3:45 PM.
10:00 PM Mass with Adult Choir
Prelude music/carols beginning at 9:30 PM.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25
8:00 AM Mass with Cantor
10:00 AM Mass with Adult Choir
Prelude music/carols beginning at 9:45 AM.

As We Approach Christmas

This year with the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve both on the same date; Sunday, December 24, we'd just like to help alleviate any confusion there might be about our Mass obligations and the Mass times available.

We all have our usual Sunday Mass obligation to fulfill and you can do so at the usual 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday, December 23 OR on Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 AM.

NOTE: Due to Sunday also being Christmas Eve, we **will not have both** of our usual Sunday Masses at 8 and 10—**JUST 9 AM.** These Masses do **not** fulfill one's Christmas obligation.

The **evening** of Sunday, December 24 **begins** Christmas and the following Masses are available to fulfill one's Christmas obligation: Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 PM or 10 PM OR on Monday, December 25 at 8 AM or 10 AM.

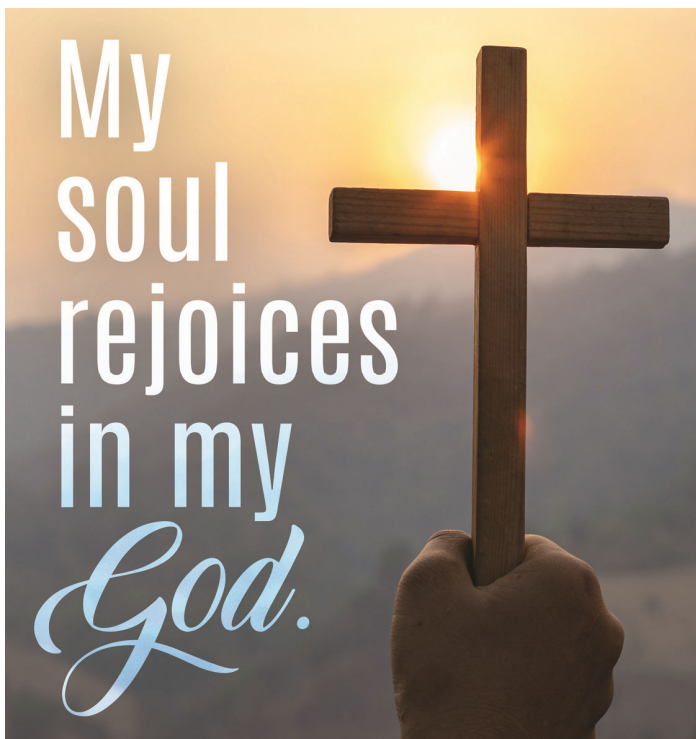


We offer this friendly reminder that there are two offerings—one for the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 24 and one for Christmas, December 25. Please use your traditional church envelopes OR you can donate electronically online OR you can donate with a loose monetary donation. Please know we are grateful for everyone's generosity.

Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent**First Reading** Is 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

**Responsorial Psalm** Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54**R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. My soul rejoices in my God.**Second Reading** 1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Alleluia Is 61:1 (cited in Lk 4:18)**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

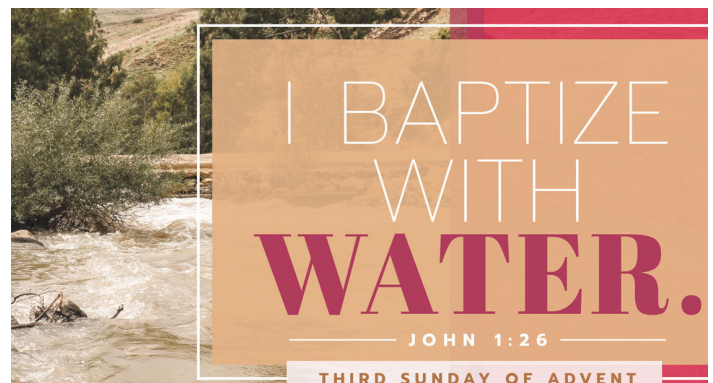
R. Alleluia, alleluia.**Gospel** Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

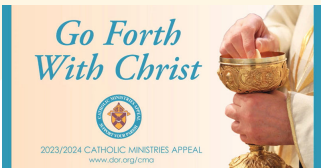
A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said:

*"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'make straight the way of the Lord,'"*

as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.





**As of Friday,
December 8, 257
households have
pledged \$74,155
taking us to 91.55%
of our \$81,000 goal.**

**If you haven't given, this
is a great time to do so as
WE ARE SO CLOSE!**

Please fill out your
envelope, be sure to make
your check payable to:
CMA and put
039-St John's—Greece
in the check memo.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Mr. John B. Adams, III
Mr./Mrs. Joseph Aleo
Mr./Mrs. Rickie Angie
Mr./Mrs. Donald Annechino
Mr./Mrs. Joseph Anthony
Mr./Mrs. Joseph Arbia
Mr./Mrs. James L. Bailey
Ms. Lynda Baird
Mr./Mrs. Barry J. Balch
Mr./Mrs. Peter Balcom
Mrs. Isobel Barbour
Mrs. Rose Marie Battisto
Ms. Maureen A. Beattie
Mr./Mrs. Michael Bessette
Mr./Mrs. Robert Boothby
Mr./Mrs. James Borden
Mrs. Angela L. Borrelli
Mr./Mrs. Benjamin J. Borrelli
Mrs. Joanne Brand
Mr./Mrs. Stephen Braya
Mr./Mrs. Paul J. Brescia
Mr./Mrs. Richard Bridgeman
Mr./Mrs. Allen Briggs
Mr./Mrs. Michael Buda
Mr. Ryan Buda
Mr. Martin Budinski
Mrs. Kathryn Burke
Mr./Mrs. David R. Campbell
Mr./Mrs. Armand Cantatore
Mr./Mrs. Lynn Carson
Ms. Mary K. Castelein
Mr./Mrs. Michael Catalano
Mr./Mrs. John Caterino
Mrs. Nancy Chiapperi
Mr./Mrs. William Childs
Mr./Mrs. Alan Christodaro
Mr./Mrs. Daniel Conte
Mrs. Sylvia Coppeta
Mrs. Jeanne Corbit
Mrs. Michelina Corsi
Ms. Gail Curcio
Mrs. Jean DePetres
Ms. Marie A. DeRosa

Ms. Donna Cross
Miss Ann Marie Cullen
Mrs. Barbara H. Czajka
Mr./Mrs. William D'Ambrosio
Miss Catherine DeConinck
Mrs. Gilbert F. DeGrave
Mr./Mrs. David Deisenroth
Mr./Mrs. James DeLucia
Mr./Mrs. Ronald DeVos
Mrs. Rose DiBella
Mr./Mrs. Robert DiLaura
Ms. MaryAnn DiRaddo
Mr. Nicholas DiStasio
Mr./Mrs. Michael A. DiStefano
Mrs. Frances DiTucci
Mr./Mrs. James Dolan
Ms. Carol Doll
Mr./Mrs. Gerald Dominik
**Dr. Laurence Donahue
and Dr. Elizabeth Donahue**
Mr./Mrs. Michael Drexler
Mr./Mrs. George J Duford
Mr./Mrs. Eugene Englert
Ms. Loretta M. Ennocenti
The Rev Fr Peter Enyan-Boadu
Mr./Mrs. Joseph Favata
Ms. Jill Finan
Mrs. Joan G. Fleming
Mrs. Shirley Flynn
Mr./Mrs. Paul Foery
Ms. Darlene Forte
Mr./Mrs. Kenneth Francis Sr.
Mr./Mrs. Donald Frank
Mr. Frederick G. Frank
Mr./Mrs. Ernest Frasco
Mr./Mrs. Michael Fredericks
Ms. Julie Frisa
Mr./Mrs. Thomas Funston
Mr./Mrs. John Gaffney
Mr. Thomas Galligan
Ms. Jeannette E. Gallucci
Mr./Mrs. Brian Gardner
Mr./Mrs. Michal Gasiorec
Mr./Mrs. Christopher Gates
Mr./Mrs. Ronald Gaudelli
Mr./Mrs. Michael Gendron
Mr./Mrs. David Giarrizzo
Mr./Mrs. Richard Giarrizzo
Mrs. Mary Gilligan
Mr./Mrs. Mark Gionta
Mrs. Carol Giordano
Ms. Anne Giuliano
Ms. Patricia Gogal
Mr. Alfred Gonnella
and Ms. Gina DiBella
Mr./Mrs. Robert Gotham
Mr. Thomas J. Grieco
Mrs. George Grimshaw
Miss Shirley Hans
Mr./Mrs. Philip Hart
Mr. Frank G. Haszlauer
Mr./Mrs. Gregory Hauck
Mrs. Katherine K. Headley
Mrs. Shirley Healey
Mr./Mrs. Terry Hearne
Mrs. Mary Ann Heh
Mrs. Germaine Calawa-Hill
Ms. Agnes/Ms. Patricia Hill
Ms. Christine Hoefler
Ms. Lynn Hueber
Mr. William Hueber

Mr./Mrs. Paul Hugh
Mrs. Jennifer M. Hull
Mr./Mrs. Daniel Kabasin
Mr./Mrs. Michael Kasperowicz
Ms. Marianne M. Katz
Mr./Mrs. Michael Keane
Mr./Mrs. Michael Keenahan
Mr./Mrs. Robert Keenehan
Mr./Mrs. John Kerhaert
Mr./Mrs. Gary Kern
Mr. Robert Kester
Mrs. Theresa A. Kier
Mr./Mrs. John N. Kilpatrick
Mr./Mrs. Glenn Klingenberg
Mr. Joseph Konecki
Mr./Mrs. John H. Korb
Mrs. Annabelle Kowalski
Mr./Mrs. John J. Lacey, III
Mr./Mrs. Frank Lader
Mr./Mrs. William L. Lafferty
Mr. Ronald LaForce
Miss Norma Lamendola
Mr./Mrs. John E. Leary, Jr.
Mr./Mrs. Kevin Leary
Mr./Mrs. Leonard W. LeBeau, Jr.
Mr./Mrs. Angelo Leonardis
Mr./Mrs. Harry F. Lindstadt
Mr./Mrs. James Lodato
Mr./Mrs. Vincent Lombardini
Ms. Carol Lombardo
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Mr./Mrs. Paul Magliocco
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Mrs. Patricia McGahan
Mr./Mrs. Scott McNair
Mr./Mrs. Roger Measer
Mr./Mrs. Paul J. Miller Sr.
Mrs. Theresa Miraglia
Mrs. Elaine Mokhiber
Mr./Mrs. Joseph Morinelli
Mrs. Helen Morone
Mr./Mrs. Anthony J. Muscato
Mrs. Carol O. Napierala
Mr./Mrs. Samuel Nicchitta
Mrs. Linda Niccoli
Mr./Mrs. Richard Noterfonzo
Mrs. Carol Novick
Mr./Mrs. David T. O'Connor
Mr. Thomas P. Opida
Mr./Mrs. Frank Orrico
Mr. Ronald A. Palumbo
Mr./Mrs. Richard Paoletti
Mr./Mrs. Paul J. Parkman
Mr./Mrs. Raymond Parsons
Mrs. Elaine Passero
Mrs. Nazarien Patricelli
Mr./Mrs. David Pawlak
Mr./Mrs. James E. Pellman
Mr. Gilbert Picard
Mrs. Mary Ann J. Pino
Mr./Mrs. Joseph Pizzi
Mr./Mrs. David Post
Mrs. Alice Gorski-Pye
Mrs. Marie Quercia
Mr./Mrs. Frank Ragusa
Mr./Mrs. Thomas Raisbeck

Mr. Kevin A. Rath
Mrs. Jeanne Reiser
Mr./Mrs. Rene J. Richard
Ms. Veronica Richardson
and Ms. Joan Richardson
Mrs. Inez Ringholz
Mrs. Jean A. Rossignolo
Ms. Sara Rossignolo
Ms. Sharon Rucinski
Mr./Mrs. James Ryan
Mrs. Mary Martha Ryan
Mr./Mrs. Gary Santangelo
Mr./Mrs. Paul Sawicki
Ms. Roseanne Scarson
Mr./Mrs. Robert Schenkel
Mr./Mrs. Philip Schmerbeck
Mr./Mrs. John Secash
Mr./Mrs. James Seelman
Mr./Mrs. Bradford Shea
Mr./Mrs. Richard Signorino
Ms. Alyssa Simone
Mrs. Sylvia Simone
Mr./Mrs. Tod Simone
Mr. Robert Skrypek
Mrs. Michaeline Slattery
Ms. Patricia Smeltzer
Mr./Mrs. Gary D. Smith
Mr./Mrs. Glenn E. Smith II
Mr./Mrs. James D. Smith, Jr.
Mr./Mrs. Thomas A. Smith
Mr./Mrs. William R. Smith Jr.
Mr./Mrs. Filippo Sorce
Ms. Mary Speer
Mr./Mrs. Anthony Stagnitta
Mrs. Deborah M. Stanton
Mr. Ronald Stein
Mr./Mrs. Sylvester Stein
Mr./Mrs. Michael Sufr
Mr./Mrs. Ralph R. Taccone Jr.
Mr. Anthony Testa
Mr./Mrs. Victor Tifone
Mr. Mark Tomasino
and Ms. Jane Wood
Mr./Mrs. David A. Tomasso
Mr./Mrs. Frank J. Topeck
Mr. Ivan Garrido-Torrio
Mr./Mrs. Nick S. Verdino
Mr./Mrs. Alan A. Vieira
Mr./Mrs. Richard Vincelli
Mr./Mrs. William M. Vogt
Mr. Kenneth Volkmar
Mr./Mrs. Edwin Voll
Ms. Allison Vorndran
Mr./Mrs. Kurtis Walker
Ms. Mary Walz
Mrs. Jean Ward
Mr./Mrs. Jerome Wasilewski
Mr./Mrs. Michael Watt
Mr./Mrs. George Weinmann
Mrs. Judith Wenskus
Mr./Mrs. Paul Westlake
Ms. Joan E. Wiesner
Mrs. Carol Wigton
Mr./Mrs. Michael Wilson
Ms. Barbara Wojcicki
Mr./Mrs. Richard J. Wrue
Mrs. Dorothy M. Yax
Ms. Karen Cottorone-Young
Mr. Anthony J. Zanni
Mr./Mrs. Michael Zodarecky



Linda Yager Mother of Frank Dattalo



This Week's Sanctuary Candles burn for

- ✚ Tabernacle I Families in Need
- ✚ Tabernacle II Fallen Away Catholics
- ✚ Marian I Jim Wigton
- ✚ Marian II Expectant Mothers

BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL



Due to early bulletin deadlines for the upcoming Christmas Holidays, our December 9/10 Mass attendance and contributions will be noted in NEXT Weekend's bulletin.

Thank you!

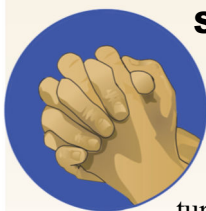
December 2/3	ATTENDANCE.....	430
BUDGETED Sunday Offering.....	\$	9,530.00
SUNDAY Offering.....	\$	8,156.02
ONLINE Giving.....	\$	1,550.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering.....	\$	9,706.02
<hr/>		
OVERAGE for SUNDAY OFFERING.....	\$	176.02

December 2/3		
Catholic University Collection.....	\$	592.00
ONLINE Giving.....	\$	40.00
<hr/>		
TOTAL Catholic University Collection.....	\$	632.00

Fiscal Year 2023-24 as December 3, 2023

YEARLY BUDGET.....	\$	486,000.00
BUDGETED TO-DATE.....	\$	219,190.00
ACTUAL COLLECTED.....	\$	216,071.04
<hr/>		
SHORTAGE TO-DATE.....	(\$	3,118.96)

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



Share a Prayer

Couple Prayer
—An Invitation to Grow Together
While maintaining and developing their individual life of prayer, spouses can commit to a daily prayer in which they turn to God together to express their love

for Him; their gratitude, sufferings, desires, disappointments and needs. This is done by speaking to God, out loud and listening to him in one another's presence.

The following was received from a parishioner in response to our request for *Share a Prayer*.

My wife and I say the *St. Therese Prayer* every night:

Reminder on Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) (sometimes referred to as "IRA Charitable Rollovers) as a Way to Donate to St. John's Parish

Under the legislation, donors aged 70½ or older can contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA's directly to qualified charities without having to pay income taxes on the money.

Here is a quick recap of the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution rules. Gifts qualify under the law if:

- The donor is age 70 ½ or older on the day of the gift.
- The donor transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to one or more qualified charities. This opportunity applies only to IRA's and no other types of retirement plans.
- The donor does not receive any goods or services in return for the rollover gift in order to qualify for tax-fee treatment.
- The gift/check must be dated on or before December 31, 2023 to qualify this year.
- The gift needs to be sent directly to the charitable organization which also has to be the payee for the gift.
- The official name and address to use for the receiver of the donation is: St. John the Evangelist Church
2400 W Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14626

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact your financial advisor. If you have other questions, please call or email Joe Spurrier: Business Office at St. John's, at 585-225-8980, or joseph.spurrier@dor.org

Winter Solstice

THIS Thursday, December 21



"May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us."



Celebrating JOY during Advent

During the season of Advent, we await the celebration of Christ's birth and His coming again at the end of time. Over four weeks, we prepare our hearts for Christmas in penitential reflection. But in the middle of the season, Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice in hope!

We invite you to learn (or review!) a few facts about this special day.

What does Gaudete mean? Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin.

Why do we light a pink candle on Gaudete Sunday?

The Catholic Church uses the color rose to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday. Gaudete Sunday's counterpart in Lent is Laetare Sunday, another break in penance to rejoice in hope as we approach Easter. During both days, a priest will usually wear rose vestments.

A note on Advent Wreaths...

In the Christian tradition, Advent wreaths are as beautiful as they are symbolic. These evergreen wreaths are shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. Advent wreaths have four candles that remind us that Christ is the light of the world.

One of these candles is rose or pink. We light it on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday in Advent, to represent joy and anticipation of Christmas.

Can you help me with the pronunciation?

Gaudete is pronounced in three syllables: *Gow-day-tay*

Senior Home Communion Service Ministers December 2023

HAMILTON NURSING HOME COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

Resumes in January

THE VILLAGE AT UNITY

December 17, 2023 Tom Grieco
December 24, 2023 Bob & Barb Gotham

ELDERWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

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