St. John the Evangelist Greece December 4,

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.



John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt

This is My Advent Prayer From the Desk of Father Peter.....2 **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** Second Sunday of Advent Readings for December 3/4...... 4 **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Family Coffee Hour with Santa Christmas Poinsettias** Remember a Loved One or Honor Someone......7

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

E-mail: gstjohnt@dor.org

Visit www.StJohnGreece.org Follow us on Find us on **f** St John the Evangelist Church of Greece

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Is 35:1-10/	Is 40:1-11/	Is 40:25-31/	Gn 3:9-15, 20/	Is 48:17-19/	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/	Is 35:1-6a, 10/
Ps 85:9ab, 10-14/	Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13/	Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10/	Ps 98:1-4/	Ps 1:1-4, 6/	Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19/	Ps 146:6-10/
Lk 5:17-26	Mt 18:12-14	Mt 11:28-30	Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/	Mt 11:16-19	Mt 17:9a, 10-13	Jas 5:7-10/
			Lk 1:26-38			Mt 11:2-11

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Fax: 585-723-9825

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 Tree.

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. 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.



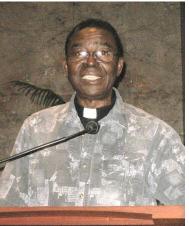
Wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed Advent season. Rev. Peter Enyan-Boadu

Monsignor Samuel Batsa, A Friend and Mentor

Maybe some of you will be surprised as to why I am writing about Msgr. Batsa. He is a priest friend of mine who served some years ago in the Diocese of Rochester. While in Rochester, he served at Our Mother of Sorrows Parish during the sabbatical months of Fr. Alex Bradshaw. He was also the parochial vicar at St. Rita's Parish in Webster and later on served as a chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy on Blossom Road.

Msgr. Sam was a very humble and intelligent man. For three consecutive terms he was the President of Ghana National Association of Diocesan Priests (when it was commonplace to serve only two terms). He was the first African headmaster of

Aquinas High School in Accra, Ghana. He was the founding father of the Catholic University of Ghana. Had it



not been for Msgr. Batsa, I would have been in Canada; he changed the trajectory of my admission to a Canadian University to Fordham University in NYC and the rest is history.

Any time I had issues and concerns, he was there for me with his wisdom and expertise to help me "swim through" the situation at hand. From the picture I have posted, I hope many of you may recognize him from his time serving in Rochester. When he returned home to Ghana, he was made a Monsignor; a Papal Prelate.

Monsignor Samuel Batsa was a great priest and a fine example for me; one whom I

continue to emulate.

He was buried on November 30th from Holy Spirit Cathedral in Accra, Ghana. May his soul rest in peace. *Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*

2

Masses for the Week—December 5—11

MONDAY, December 5 Advent Weekday 8:15 AM + George Grimshaw by Wife & Family

TUESDAY, December 6 St Nicholas 8:15 AM + Michael Pino by The Pino Family

WEDNESDAY, December 7 St Ambrose 8:15 AM + Cardinal Richard Baawobr by Father Peter Vigil + Milt Ryan by Mary Martha

THURSDAY, December 8 Immaculate Conception 9:00 AM + Special Intention for Patrick and Nathan 12:05 PM + For the People

FRIDAY, December 9 St Juan Diego Cuahtlatoatzin 8:15 AM + Leoncia Lacson Lopez by Narcissa Baker

SATURDAY, December 10 Advent Weekday **4:00 PM** + *Dennis Kalebjian* by Michael & Patricia Fredericks

SUNDAY, December 11 Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM + For the People 10:00 AM + Ange Zegarelli by Tom & Agnes Falbo

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

Please keep the following ordained in your prayers this week.

Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10
Pope	Robert	Roy	Stephen	Robert		Carmilite
Francis	Kennedy	Kiggins	Kraus	Kreckel		Fathers



NOTE: We will have our usual 8:15 AM morning Mass on Wednesday, December 7. This Wednesday <u>morning</u> Mass is daily Mass and **not** for the holy day.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, December 5

9:00 AM Bible Study in Parish Center5:30 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting in Parish Center7:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Mtg in Parish Center

Advent Day of Recollection for Priests

On Wednesday, December 7 Bishop Matano will gather the priests of our diocese for an Advent Day of Recollection.

We hear many times of the great load our priests carry every day due to the shortage of priests in our Rochester Diocese and many other places. Let us please take a few moments every day to pray to our Blessed Mother for Pope Francis, Bishop Matano, Fr. Peter, and all our priests, not only for their physical and mental well-being but also their spiritual well-being. Without our priests, we have no Eucharist—a sobering thought indeed. Let us also pray for our seminarians as well as for more vocations with holy men responding to God's call to the priesthood especially here in Rochester.

Advent Giving Trees



Our Advent Giving Trees are up and filled with angels; ready for us to take part in our annual parish spirit of giving.

As we have done the past few years, we have created angels with the different organizations

that will receive our gifts of generosity to help them sustain their important ministry work throughout our community. Please take an angel of your choice for you and your family to **place your donation into the envelope and return it to St. John's on or before NEXT Sunday, December 11.** This is a great way to include children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews in the spirit of giving and at the same time learn more about the different organizations and how they help those in need. The following organizations will be supported through our generosity:

Daystar Kids
Focus Pregnancy
Friendship Center
Nazareth Elementary
House of Mercy

Mary's Place Refugee Outreach St. Michael's Workshop Families in Need at St. John's Mother Teresa Missionary Center at Holy Apostles

For those who have already made a pledge/donation, to the CMA, we are very grateful!

As of Tuesday, November 29, 229 households have pledged \$47,926 taking us to 56.74% of our \$83,000 goal. 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.

Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading Is 11:1-10

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to

Second Reading Continued

think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: *Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.*

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 Mt 24:37-44

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes—November 7, 2022

Opening Prayer: Patty Hoag

Attendance: Father Peter, Bob Gotham, Karen Bessette -Sec, Rick Paoletti, Nick Verdino,Nick Sassano, Tod Simone, Alan Christodaro, Paul Parkman, Jill Bailey, Wayne Howard, Sharon Miller, Melissa Ryan, Patty Hoag, Jan Gallucci *Excused:* Deacon Elmer, Gary Kern, Pam Tofany-Kern, Kathy Christodaro *Visitors:* Marcia Parsons

Approval of Agenda: for tonight's Meeting (Emailed, 11/5/2022) Approval: Melissa Ryan, Second Alan Christodaro

Chairperson's Comments:

- Coffee Hours The Fatima Prayer Ministry hosted the Coffee Hour yesterday and it was nicely done. I am so glad that they have returned, and they have been well attended
- Council Member Update Karen Bessette has graciously accepted the Nominated Member term that was previously Christine's. Please welcome Jan Gallucci our new parish council member who will fill Karen's old position as a Pastor Appointed member. Jan has been active in our parish, including helping with the fish fry's, washing the pews, and even helping with some cement work needed around the church. Thank you Karen and Jan.
- **CMA Update** We are at 37% of our goal. We have 168 donors, donating an average of \$186.00. We need parishioners to donate an average of \$250.00 in order for us to meet our goal. Currently, we are averaging \$186 per donor, so our average per donor is very low.
- Christmas Wreaths I contacted Steve who made our wreaths last year. He is willing to do a fundraiser for our parish again this year the weekend of December 3/4. We will need volunteers for all 3 Masses to help with the sales in order for us to have a successful fundraiser. Bob will contact Steve this week if we have sufficient volunteers to run this fundraiser.

Fr. Peter's Update: Father Peter thanked Karen and Jan for accepting their new positions. Our Church and the dioceses are going through some tough times and we need to support each other. The parish council needs to volunteer and support our parish. Financially we are down a little bit. Our weekly collection and the CMA numbers are down. Please encourage fellow parishioners to donate and encourage those who have not returned to church yet to please donate and support our parish. A parishioner has donated a statue of The Sacred Heart and there will be a blessing of the statue soon. There have been some concerns regarding security, and I will be meeting with Nick to talk about these issues this week. Breakfast with Santa is on Sunday, December 18. In the past the parish council has helped the music ministry with the clean up, please help if your able to. I have met with Patty Hoag who is the chairperson for the arts and environment committee, due to the age of the parish and those who have volunteered in the past that are no longer able to do so, we need new volunteers to help with this committee.

Arts and Environment: Patty Hoag – I met with Father Peter and Marcia; we will be doing some more decorating for Thanksgiving. We will need to change the decorations quickly after Thanksgiving for Advent. There will be a table at the Thanksgiving Mass for food donations and a basket for monetary donations. The Angel trees will go up right after Thanksgiving. I have a list of volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. I also will be sending some Vestments out for dry cleaning.

Certificates of Appreciation: Sharon Miller – There are three certificates that are ready to be awarded, once they have been awarded, I will put an announcement in the bulletin asking parishioners to recommend someone that they feel should receive an appreciation.

Liturgy Committee: Tod Simone – We talked about the 3-year Eucharistic Revival and we will have some plans for this by our next meeting. The bishop has asked us to focus on the Feast of Christ the King. There will be sign-up sheets for the ushers to ask families to light the Advent candles at each Mass. Immaculate Conception Masses will be on Wednesday, December 7 at 4:00 PM and on Thursday, December 8 at 9:00 AM and 12: 05 PM. Tod asked the Parish Council to provide people to cleanup after the Breakfast with Santa Coffee Hour.

Pastoral Ministry/Homebound Outreach Update: Tod Simone – Handed out conflict of interest forms for all of the council members to sign, stating that we had no conflicts as council members with the parish.

Knights of Columbus Council 3892 Update: Rick Paoletti – Our annual Memorial Mass for council members was this past Saturday and it was well attended. The council upon Father's approval will once again sell the *Keep Christ in Christmas* magnets. The council will also set up the Nativity Scene on the church lawn.

Outreach – Social Media/Communications Committee Update:

- Gary Kern No update at this time
- Christine Paoletti Reported from Cleveland that our Face Book page now has 571 likes
- Paul Parkman November is the month of Saints. The Saints inspire us for greater holiness, they are cheering you and your companions on your faith journey. I encourage you to find a saint that you can pray to during Advent.

Safety and Security Update: Nick Sassano – Will be meeting with Father and Tod this week. Father added that with the holiday season upon us we need to be alert. Father is happy with how the ushers have been handling any security issues.

Open Forum/For the Good of the Parish:

- Marcia The Rosary Faith in Action before each Mass is going well. There on average are 7-8 parishioners per Mass that are praying the rosary together. It is so important to say the rosary and please attend if you can. Paul added that seeing the parishioners praying the Rosary before Mass is very beautiful.
- Patty- Asked Tod if there is anything specific, we should decorate the church for the Christ the King and Father said the colors should be Gold and white.
- Father Asked Jan Gallucci about what she expected regarding becoming a Parish Council Member and she said that Bob is very convincing.

Closing Prayer: Patty Hoag Next Meeting: 12/5/2022 Opening and Closing Prayers: Melissa Ryan



Mary Jane Consler Mother of Thomas Consler Alphonse Palermo Father of Steve Palermo Carol Lennox Wife of Edward Lennox Harold "Pete" Hunt Husband of Rita Hunt

BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL

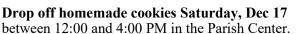
November 19/20ATTENDANCE
BUDGETED Sunday Offering\$ 9,706.00
SUNDAY Offering\$ 7,330.11
ONLINE Giving\$ 3,807.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering\$ 11,137.11
OVERAGE for SUNDAY OFFERING\$ 1,431.11
November 26/27 ATTENDANCE
BUDGETED Sunday Offering\$ 9,706.00
SUNDAY Offering\$ 7,636.01
ONLINE Giving\$ 1,515.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering\$ 9,151.01
SHORTAGE for SUNDAY OFFERING(\$ 554.99)
2nd Collection Catholic University
Sunday Offering\$ 263.00
ONLINE Giving\$
TOTAL Offering\$ 263.00
Fiscal Year 2022-23 as of November 27, 2022
YEARLY BUDGET\$ 495,000.00
BUDGETED TO-DATE\$ 213,532.00
ACTUAL COLLECTED\$ 206,674.37
SHORTAGE TO DATE(\$ 6,857.63)

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

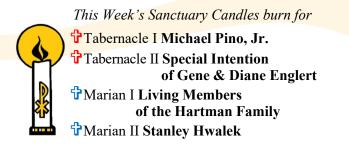
Family Coffee Hour with Santa

Sunday, December 18 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!



Online Giving

You can make your weekly, monthly, annual and one-time donations from your checking or savings account, or by using a credit or debit card, electronically, from your own computer. We use a product from a company that we have been with for a long time and has a long history of working with parishes around the country. It is easy, safe and secure! A link to Online Giving can be found at our Parish Home Page www.stjohngreece.org.



Don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office, 225-8980 for details or assistance with Online Giving.

Reminder on Qualified Charitable

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

In December, 2015, the IRA QCD Legislation was signed into law permanently.

Under the legislation, donors aged $70\frac{1}{2}$ or older can contribute <u>up to</u> \$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 $\frac{1}{2}$ or older on the day of the gift.
- The donor transfers <u>up to</u> \$100,000 directly from their IRA to one or more qualified charities (i.e. St John's). This opportunity applies only to IRA's and no other types of retirement plans.
- Since a QCD can potentially reduce a donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), please discuss your situation with your Financial Advisor.
- 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 Dec., 31, 2022 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



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 basket.

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 2022

HAMILTON NURSING HOME COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE		ELDERWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE		
December 11, 2022	Ron La Force	December 4, 2022 December 11, 2022 December 18, 2022		