## St. John the Evangelist Greece January 29,

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.



"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." - Mt 5:10-12a

#### **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**

Elmer Smith - 230-3074	Marcia Parson
Pastoral Minister:	<b>Business Offic</b>
Tod Simone- 225-8980	Joe Spurrier -
Director, Music Ministry:	<b>Finance Direc</b>
Dawn Chmiel - 225-8980	Christopher F
<b>Director, Choir Ministry:</b>	225-8980
Consuelo De Los Santos	

**Faith Formation Coordinator:** Cristyn Simone - 261-0831 Secretary: ns - 225-8980 ce: 225-8980 tor: Frontale

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 Find us on **F** St John the Evangelist Church of Greece

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Heb 9:15, 24-28/ Ps 98:1-6/ Mk 3:22-30	Heb 10:1-10/ Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11/ Mk 3:31-35	Acts 22:3-16 Ps 117:1bc, 2/ Mk 16:15-18	2 Tm 1:1-8 Ps 132:1-5, 11-14/ Mk 4:21-25	Heb 10:32-39/ Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40/ Mk 4:26-34	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/ Lk 1:69-75/ Mk 4:35-41	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/ Ps 146:6-10/ 1 Cor 1:26-31/ Mt 5:1-12a

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Worshipping Together

Pastor: Rev. Peter

**Deacon:** 

225-8980

Enyan-Boadu - 225-8980

#### January 29, 2023

#### We are Invited to Embrace the Light of Christ

What would it have been like to live while Jesus walked the earth? What if we could see Him face-toface, hear His voice, touch

Him and walk with Him. What if we were with Him when he made the blind see or the lame walk, cured the lepers or raised a dead man back to life? How would we have reacted? It is tempting to think that we would have been His disciples, that we surely would have seen His power and holiness and have believed in Him. How could it be otherwise? It would be obvious that this was, indeed, the Son of God—or would it?

Perhaps His very humanness would have been a stumbling block? Perhaps we would have found it difficult to see past this rather ordinary human being who dressed simply, likely spoke with the accent of His Galilean countrymen, walked the same hard ground that we walked and, like us, grew hungry and thirsty and tired. Is it more likely that we would have reacted as His relatives did? Would we remember Jesus only as a little boy from our village growing up and learning His father's trade in the carpenter shop? Like them, would we have said, "*He is out of his mind*!" and tried to take him home?

Even today our minds cannot fully understand the mystery of Jesus. Only faith and the grace of God can bring us to believe in Christ as true God and true man. However, if we allow ourselves to be



drawn into His beautiful mystery we begin to appreciate the deep humility and infinite love that is embodied in Christ becoming one of us and offering Himself as the only acceptable and lasting

sacrifice to reconcile us to the Father. Only as true God and man could Christ be both our High Priest and our Sacrifice, holy and unblemished, offering Himself to the Father and bringing us the hope of eternal life. Similarly, Jesus invites us into a type of partnership or relationship with Him which offers us many graces and blessings; these include the promise and hope of salvation, peace, joy, and fulfillment.

We live in a world that so often worships at the altar of riches, power, comfort, status, and individualism. A world of consumerism that expects all from church but sometimes forgets to give back. It can be all too easy for us to forsake the ways of God and love of neighbor, and worship these false gods, ourselves. That is where regular attendance at Mass, daily prayer and frequent reading of Scripture can come to our aid. The Church is us, we make up the body of Christ. These things can help keep us close to Jesus. It can be a challenge to our ego to realize that we need Jesus to help keep us on the right path, to work with us in the little tasks we do day in and



day out. It is the best path nonetheless.

Peace and Love to all, Father Peter

#### Why Pray the Rosary? Please Join Us—All Are Invited

We remember the days when our mothers asked us to do something, and we knew we'd better do it, right? As the saying goes, *mother knows best.* This also holds true for our Blessed Mother, the heavenly Mother of all, when asking us to do something. When she appeared to the shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, her message was clear in directing everyone to pray the Rosary each day. Although many Catholics have heard of Our Lady of Fatima, some may not know the incredible story in its entirety or its crucial importance in world history, the life of the Church, and our own eternal salvation. Consider reading more about this but in the meantime, **please consider joining us in praying the Rosary on Saturdays and Sundays, 30 minutes prior to each of our weekend Masses**. This is not a select group of people but a group open to anyone and everyone to take part—women and men, those experienced in praying the Rosary and those who are new to it—ALL are welcome and encouraged to join us. If you join us, there is no pressure—you simply pray along with us and if need be, learn as you go along knowing there is support and guidance available. We gather in the pews in front of the Tabernacle where we pray the Rosary together. There is a leader to guide everyone and some pamphlets on how to pray the Rosary. The participants at each Mass have been steady and dedicated but small in number so we are encouraging more of you to take a leap of faith and join us in following our Heavenly Mother's request to Pray the Rosary!

#### Masses for the Week—Jan 30—Feb 5

MONDAY, January 30 Weekday 8:15 AM + Daniel Englert by Jim & Jeanne Scantlin

**TUESDAY, January 31** St John Bosco 8:15 AM + Fernanda Scuderi by Peter Nicotina

WEDNESDAY, February 1 Weekday 8:15 AM + Mae Sassano by Family

THURSDAY, February 2 Presentation of the Lord

FIRST FRIDAY, February 3 Sts Blaise & Ansgar 8:15 AM + Rose & Dominick Ennocenti by Daughters 10:00 AM + Benediction

FIRST SATURDAY, February 4 Weekday 8:15 AM Fr Peter's Intentions 4:00 PM + *Erasmo DiTucci* by Family

SUNDAY, February 5 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:00 AM + Mike Pino, Jr. by Family 10:00 AM + For the People of St. John the Evangelist

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

### Please keep the following ordained in your prayers this week.

Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4
Sriram Sadhana	la Carlos Sanchez		Michael Sauter		Vocations & Seminarians	Bishop Salvatore Matano





Join Us for Coffee Hour! NEXT Sunday, February 5 following the 8:00 & 10:00 AM Masses

Come socialize with your fellow parish members and your hosts for this month, our Columbus. *We look forward to seeing you* 

Knights of Columbus. *We look forward to seeing you there!* 

#### This Week's Schedule

Monday, January 30 9:00 AM Bible Study in the Parish Center

First Friday, February 3 8:15 AM Mass followed by Adoration with Benediction at 10:00 AM in Church

**First Saturday, February 4** 8:15 AM Mass followed by the Rosary and Prayers NO Prayer Shawl Gathering—will resume March 4

Sunday, February 5 Coffee Hour following the 8 AM and 10 AM Masses in the Parish Center

#### **Worshipping Together**

This week brings us First Friday, February 3 and First Saturday, February 4. On Friday, Father Peter will celebrate 8:15 morning Mass followed by Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 AM concluding with Benediction at 10:00 AM.

**PLEASE NOTE:** On First Saturday, February 4, Fr. Peter will celebrate 8:15 morning Mass. At this particular Mass and going forward with each *First* Saturday Mass of the month offered here at St. John's, we will welcome our friends from Our Mother of Sorrows Parish and anyone else who wishes to join us for this monthly devotion to our Blessed Mother. Following Mass all are welcome to join members of our Fatima Women's Prayer Ministry as we pray the Rosary followed by a 15 minute period of silent meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary, and concluding with The Fatima Prayers (prayer sheets provided).

**ADDITIONAL NOTE:** Our Mother of Sorrows will continue offering their Saturday morning Mass on the **remaining** Saturdays of each month at 8:00 AM.



#### *Mother Teresa—No Greater Love* Movie

Showing Saturday, February 11 at 1:15 PM in the St. John's Parish Center

The Knights of Columbus Council 3892 will be presenting a free showing of the recently released movie

"Mother Teresa - No Greater Love". This is the definitive historical account of the life and legacy of this most beloved saint for our times.

The movie is 1 hr. and 55 minutes long. There is no admission, but registration is encouraged to help us plan for refreshments.

Register by calling or texting Rick Paoletti at 489-9555 with your name and number of people attending.

#### Sunday, January 29 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### First Reading Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of Israel. They shall do no wrong and speak no lies; nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue; they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

#### R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The LORD keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free.

#### R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down. The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.

#### R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The fatherless and the widow the LORD sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts. The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!



#### Second Reading 1 Cor 1:26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

#### Alleluia Mt 5:12a

#### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven. **R. Alleluia, alleluia.** 



#### Gospel Mt 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

#### **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.

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#### Parish Council Meeting Minutes—January 9, 2023

#### **Opening Prayer:** Pam Kern

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

**Approval of Agenda:** for tonight's Meeting (Emailed, 12/23/2022) Approval: Nick Verdino, Second: Gary Kern

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** from December 5, 2022 Meeting (in bulletin on 12/18/2022) Approval: Pam Tofany-Kern, Second: Patty Hoag

**Chairperson's Comments:** CMA UPDATE: as of 1/6/2023 we had 311 donors that have pledged \$72,184.75 of our goal of \$83,000. That is 86.97% of our goal. That is an average of \$232 per donor. We need to be around \$250 per donor. We are behind last year, at this time by \$4,767.25 and 33 donors. We need another \$10,815.25 to reach our goal

**COFFEE HOURS:** The music ministry hosted the December coffee hour and did a great job with breakfast with Santa.

The coffee hour was well attended, and we had 20-25 children that enjoyed seeing Santa. Yesterday, the Faith Formation hosted the January coffee hour, and the kids and the parents did a fantastic job.

**Fr. Peter's Update:** Happy New Year! I would like to say that you are all welcome to another year of building faith in our church community. Father gave a breakdown of the attendance at each Mass that was celebrated on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. 4 PM Mass = 294, 10 PM Mass = 103, 8 AM Mass = 122, 10 AM Mass = 151. Unfortunately, there is a national downward trend in church attendance; churches of all denominations and not just the Catholic Church. The national statistics show 33% fewer people attending Mass since the pandemic. We all have a lot of work to do to bring people back to church.

Ash Wednesday is on February 22nd and Bishop Matano will lead our Multi-Parish Lenten Mission that begins Thursday, February 23rd with his focus being The Eucharist. Bishop Matano will celebrate Mass at St. John's on Saturday, February 25th at 8:15 AM.

There have been some complaints regarding the chatter that goes on in the back of the church before Mass. As you enter church you should prepare yourself by meditating and praying before the Mass begins.

On December 29th, Our Mother of Sorrows Church hosted a dinner for young men/students who may be interested in a vocation to the priesthood. There were 12 discerners who attended the dinner and Father was very pleased that one of the discerners is from our beloved St. John's.

**Arts and Environment:** Patty Hoag is the leader. There were 210 Angels on the giving trees and St. John's contributed a total of \$8,705 to 9 organizations. This was almost \$1,000 more than last year. Patty Hoag – All of the Christmas decorations were taken down this morning.

Patty thanked all that helped decorate the church for Christmas. The next decorations to go up will be for Ash Wednesday. Patty will also be hosting a re-potting party to replant all of the plants that are displayed on the altar. This will be held at the end of January or the beginning of February and the date will be published in the bulletin.

**Christmas Decorations:** The Church was decorated for Christmas on December 23rd. The Choir helped along with others. The Decorations will be removed on January 9th after the 8:15 AM Mass.

**Certificates of Appreciation:** Sharon Miller – Sharon tells me that we have one more nomination that is being worked on.

**Liturgy Committee:** Tod (5 Min) – We will be asking each ministry to lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday's during Lent. It was agreed upon that the Parish Council will lead on March 31st. Tod will be reaching out to the ministries and ask them to sign up for the remainder of the Fridays.

**Pastoral Ministry/Homebound Outreach Update:** Tod Simone (5 min.) - The task force that was set up with the Greece/Charlotte parishes is asking for 3 collaborative initiatives. The initiatives are Reaching out to inactive parishioners, a shared vocation approach/committee, and developing a shared electronic platform. We are in a red zone for priests. The 7 parishes will work together to pray for vocations, alternate Mass times for holy days, and share electronic platforms with each other.

**Knights of Columbus Council 3892 Update:** Rick Paoletti – Bob thanked Rick and the Knights of Columbus for the Nativity Scene that was set up outside of church. There were many parishioners that commented on how beautiful it was. Rick said that the Knights will be hosting the February coffee hour. Rick also asked Father Peter if the Knights could show the movie Mother Theresa No Greater Love in the parish center. The date will be determined and announced soon. Rick also said the fish fries will begin again soon and he will be looking for volunteers.

#### Outreach – Social Media/Communications Committee Update:

**Website update:** Gary Kern – Gave statistics for the St John's website from 2022. The website was viewed 28,000 times. 53% were from mobile phones or tablets. 47% were from lap tops. 90% of the views were in English, 10% in another language. 89% were viewed in the US and 11% were viewed internationally.

Christine Paoletti via Cleveland- Facebook update - no update

Paul Parkman - Faith Stories no update

Safety & Security: Nick Sassano – no update at this time

**Open Forum/For the Good of the Parish:** Wayne – Suggested that the decorating of the church be at a time when parishioners are not working so that they can assist with this committee. Patty advised that decorating all depends on when the holy day is. Timing is usually a small window. Decorating for Easter will probably happen on Saturday April 8th. Patty may not be in town for Holy week so Marianne Katz will oversee those events.

Pam – Thanked Patty and the Arts and Environment Committee for doing such a great job decorating for Christmas. Pam said that several parishioners commented on how beautiful the altar looked.

Father Peter - Thanked Wayne for his commitment to being the number one vocalist and singing at more than one Mass each weekend.



Most Rev. Bishop Emeritus Matthew H. Clark, 8th Bishop of Rochester Herman Klingenberger, Father of Elaine Begy

# BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL

January 14/15 ATTENDANCE	
BUDGETED Sunday Offering\$	9,706.00
SUNDAY Offering\$	7,403.75
ONLINE Giving\$	1,468.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering\$	8,871.75
SHORTAGE for SUNDAY OFFERING (\$	834.25)

<b>January 21/22</b>	ATTENDANCE	
BUDGETED Sunday Offeri	ng\$	9,706.00
SUNDAY Offering	\$	6,248.08
ONLINE Giving	\$	2,461.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering	\$	8,709.08
SHORTAGE for SUNDAY	OFFERING (\$	996.92)

#### Fiscal Year 2022-23 as of January 22, 2023

YEARLY BUDGET	\$	495,000.00
BUDGETED TO-DATE	\$	291,180.00
ACTUAL COLLECTED	\$	282,293.30
SHORTAGE TO DATE	.(\$	8,886.70)

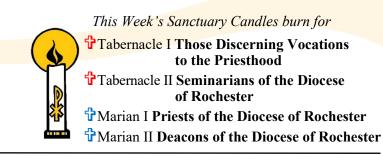
With sincere gratitude, Fr. Peter thanks all who continue with their financial assistance in support of the many needs in our parish.

#### **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.



#### Continued from page 5

Jan Gallucci – As a Council member she presented two questions posed to her by a fellow parishioner: First, why has the Holy water not returned? Father said it was discussed at the Liturgy Committee Meeting and it will be returning at Easter. Secondly, why Father is not inviting the congregation to share the Sign of Peace? Fr said that due to Covid we are not shaking hands and it is the parishioner's choice if they would like to share the sign of peace with their families. Wayne suggested a simple nod, smile or wave would be appropriate.

Marcia- We continue to pray the rosary before each Mass. The Church Nave and Sanctuary is sacred space deserving of a quiet and reverent atmosphere out of respect for the Lord's presence and to allow for people's prayerful preparation before Mass whether it be a group Rosary or individual prayer.

Gary – Questioned why for the weekday Masses, only the center doors of the church were unlocked. Gary was approached by a parishioner that parks in a handicap spot but has to walk to the center doors. Gary's concern is that we should consider unlocking the end doors for easier access by those who park in the handicap parking.

Bob – Council members, we are Father Peter's eyes and ears and encourage parishioners to bring their suggestions, questions and concerns to a member of the Parish Council.

Next Meeting: 02/6/2023



Dear Father Peter,

Thanks for empowering children with complex medical conditions...

Your generous gift of \$950 will give our incredible infants and children priceless opportunities to push their limits, rebuild their strength, and earn new skills to help bridge the gaps caused by their prolonged periods of hospitalization and recovery.

...Thanks for your continued faith in our mission and for believing in Daystar Kids. Warmly.

Kím Condon, CEO

Please join in praying together at the end of each Mass the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

#### **PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Thank you to all who have pledged their support!

As of Friday, January 20, 316

households have pledged \$72,859.75 taking us to 87.78% 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.

As furnished by the Diocese of Rochester on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, these are the latest additions to the listing of St. John the Evangelist CMA Donors.

Mrs. Marie R. Asposto Mr./Mrs. David Deisenroth Mr./Mrs. Jeffrey A. Heh Mr. Wayne Howard Mrs. Francine M. Minch Mr./Mrs. James Suflita

#### **Senior Home Communion Service Ministers, January/February 2023**

HAMILTON NURSING H	OME COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE	ELDERWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE		
February 5, 2023 February 19, 2023	Steve & Mary Ann Donato Ron LaForce	January 29, 2023 February 5, 2023 February 12, 2023	Dan & Melissa Kabasin Carolyn Kerhaert Chris Hoefler	
THE VILLAGE AT UNIT	Y	February 19, 2023	Dan & Melissa Kabasin	
February 5, 2023 Bol	o And Barb Gotham	February 26, 2023	Carolyn Kerhaert	