


December 22, 2013

Fourth Sunday of Advent



the
EVANGELIST

SAINT JOHN *the* EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas: A Gift and Blessing

Dear Friends of St. John the Evangelist Church,

As we approach Christmas, we recognize it this event as gift and blessing. The gift of the Christ child is a reminder of how God's word became flesh to live among us; to touch us, to nurture us, to heal us, to teach us and to redeem us. Every time we celebrate this holy event memories collide of years past when our loved ones, who are no longer with us, helped us to celebrate the presence of God with us. We now celebrate that they are with God. The coming of Jesus reminds us that we are never alone. Christ was born in Bethlehem to tell us that God's dwelling is with the human race. God is with us at all times, especially the moments in which vulnerability and fragility touch our spirits. As Jesus told his disciples, "Behold, I am with you until the end of the world!" To all of our parishioners who have lost spouses or family members this year, I offer you my thoughts and prayers.

For many, Christmas is a time for new experiences, especially those in our community who will celebrate this feast for the first time as a married couple or as parents of a newborn child. May Christ fill your hearts with his peace and joy. For the majority of you all, I pray that you enter into the mystery of God made man and experience His presence in your lives and the lives of those whom you love.

Christmas is a busy time for certain people in the parish. The choirs under the leadership of Tom and Ellie have spent countless hours practicing to joyfully celebrate the liturgies. Members of the Arts and Liturgical Environment committee have sacrificed hours of their time decorating the Church and making it look beautiful. The sacristans also give of their time behind the scenes making sure that everything is ready for the celebration of the Mass. Every liturgical ministry, including the ushers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and the altars, continue to give of themselves during this Season. My brother priests and staff give generously through their work also. To all of you, I offer my gratitude and prayers.

May God continue to bless you and protect you!

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!



Fr. John J. Ludden



625 111th Avenue North, Naples, FL 34108 • Phone 239.566.8740 • Fax 239.566.9117
www.SaintJohnTheEvangelist.com • E-mail: info@SaintJohnTheEvangelist.com

Daily Mass: 8:00 & 9:00 a.m.; Saturday Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil: 3:00 & 5:00 p.m. — Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, 11:15 a.m., 1:15 & 5:00 p.m.

Scan this tag with your smartphone to view our mobile website.

Mass for Deceased (+) and Special Intentions Requested by

December 21, 2013 Saturday		
8:00 AM +	Lois Wellman	Mary Crane
	Vigil Mass	
3:00 PM +	Louis Albero	Nancy Squittieri
5:00 PM +	Linnae Family	Dick & Helen Fedeli
December 22, 2013 Sunday		
7:00 AM +	Val & DeFrancesca Families	Peter DeFrancesca
9:00 AM +	Joan & Al Moser	Children
11:15 AM	For Our Parishioners	
1:15 PM +	Blanche Bovey	Dick & Lois Tinucane
5:00 PM +	Owen Murphy	Mary Murphy Wheeler
	<i>Altar Flowers in Memory of Louis Albero ~ Requested By The Loving Family</i>	

December 23, 2013 Monday		
8:00 AM +	Bernard Hannigan	Maureen & John
9:00 AM +	Fay Moots	Mark Moots Family

December 24, 2013 Tuesday		
8:00 AM +	Fedeli Family	Dick & Helen
9:00 AM +	Lois Wellman	Lan Tran
	Vigil of Christmas	
3:00 PM +	Ozzie D'Addario	Janet D'Addario
5:00 PM +	Thomas Calandrucci	Kim & Carole
10:00 PM +	Harold Atzingen & Mildred Henrichsen	Wife & Atzingen Family
	+ John Claussen	Fr. John

December 25 2013 Wednesday - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)		
7:00 AM	Helen Mellia	Barbara Wettels
9:00 AM +	Al Moser (Birthday)	Family
11:15 AM	For Our Parishioners	
1:15 PM	Novena of Masses for Life	Respect Life

December 26, 2013 Thursday		
8:00 AM +	Al and Joan Moser	Gelineau
9:00 AM +	Anthony & Jean DeCesare	Kay & Joe Reid

December 27, 2013 Friday - Pastoral Feast of our Parish		
8:00 AM +	Joseph Nicosia	Frank & Lucille LaBarbera
9:00 AM +	Margaret Barrett	Veronica & Family

December 28, 2013 Saturday		
8:00 AM +	Holy Innocents	Respect Life
	Vigil Mass	
3:00 PM +	Dennis Broderick	Dennis Doogan
5:00 PM +	Dennis Broderick	Frank & Colleen Doogan

December 29, 2013 Sunday		
7:00 AM +	Ronald Miranowicz	Peter DeFrancesca
9:00 AM +	Al Moser	The Ohio Clary's
11:15 AM	For Our Parishioners	
1:15 PM +	Anthony Fabiano	Wife - Marie Fabiano
5:00 PM +	Robert Hatt	Charlie DiGangi & Toni Biordi

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 21, 2013
St. Peter Canisius; *Winter begins*
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Vigil Mass
Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Sunday, December 22, 2013
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Monday, December 23, 2013
St. John of Kanty
Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24, 2013
Vigil of Christmas
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday, December 25, 2013
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] *Night:* Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Thursday, December 26, 2013
St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins;
Boxing Day (Canada)
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday, December 27, 2013
St. John
1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday, December 28, 2013
The Holy Innocents
1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Vigil Mass
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5;
Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Sunday, December 29, 2013
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5;
Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

NURSERY CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The nursery will NOT be open on Christmas Day, December 25, so that everyone can be with their families.

Thank you for your understanding.

MASS INTENTIONS...

ANTIPHONS for WEEKDAY MASS

Monday, December 23: Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. *Is 9: 5; Ps 72 (71): 17*

A child shall be born for us,
and he will be called God, the Almighty;
every tribe of the earth shall be blest in him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. (see Luke 21:28) Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Rev 3: 20*

Behold, I stand at the door and knock:
if anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me,
I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

Tuesday, December 24: Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. *Gal 4: 4*

Behold, when the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son into the world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. (2) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. *Hg 2: 7*

Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come,
and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.

Thursday, December 26: Feast of St. Stephen, first martyr

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The gates of heaven were opened for blessed Stephen,
who was found to be first among the number of the Martyrs
and therefore is crowned triumphant in heaven.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Acts 7: 58*

As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, Lord Jesus,
receive my spirit.

Friday, December 27: Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist (Patronal Feast of our Parish)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper,
the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed
and who spread the words of life through all the world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Jn 1: 14, 16*

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,
and from his fullness we have all received.

Saturday, December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The innocents were slaughtered as infants for Christ;
spotless, they follow the Lamb
and sing for ever: Glory to you, O Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from a fowler's snare.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Rev 14: 4*

Behold those redeemed as the first fruits
of the human race for God and the Lamb,
and who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

Pope Francis Named *Time's* 2013 Person of the Year



Pope Francis has been named *Time's* 2013 Person of the Year, as announced on the NBC "Today" show, Wednesday, December 11. Pope Francis stood out "as someone who has changed the tone and perception and focus of one of the world largest institutions in an extraordinary way," Time managing editor Nancy Gibbs said on the "Today" show.

We congratulate Pope Francis and pray for his continued guidance.

(Photos from Catholic News Service)

PARISH CLERGY



Fr. John J. Ludden, Pastor

Fr. Len Gioeli	Associate
Fr. Jim Simko	Associate
Deacon Hal Brenner	
Deacon Rob Chalhoub	
Deacon Frank Paniccia	
Deacon Forrest Wallace	
Deacon Al Groh	Senior Status

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Sacrament of Baptism

The Diocese requires that parents seeking baptism for their child attend a baptism preparation class. To schedule a baptism class, parents must be registered practicing members of St. John's for a minimum of two months. Classes are offered once a month and baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month after the 1:15 p.m. Mass. Please call the parish office to register for a class. Upon completion of the class and fulfillment of the godparent requirements, parents may schedule a baptism date.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Those who wish to be married in our parish must complete the Marriage Preparation Program. The Diocese requires a six month notice.

Anointing of the Sick/Funeral Arrangements

Call the parish office 566.8740. If the office is closed the answering machine will provide an emergency phone number for you to reach a priest.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Business Office is located in the PLC (behind the Church)

**All Administrative Staff
239.566.8740**

General Manager

Scott Schlossberg: 566.1678
Fax: 239.325.2100

Administrative Assistant & Records

Melanie Harrison
Assistant to the Pastor
Tricia Schwarz

Pastoral Musician and Liturgist

Tom Oram
Choir Director
Ellie Roberts

Sacristan

Lorna Woonsam
Communications
Kathy Sims

Memorial Garden

Scott Schlossberg
Religious Boutique
Jackie Gibson: 228.3921

Director of Maintenance

Marcos Burgoa: 248.6588

Education Staff

Director of Faith Formation
Margie Lynch: 228.3904/3909

Director of Youth Ministry
Call the Office: 566.8740

Director of RCIA
Margie Lynch: 228.3909

Family Ministry
Call the Office: 566.8740

email staff members at:
info@SaintJohnTheEvangelist.com

PARISH REGISTRATION

Parish Registration Forms are available on the tables in the church narthex, in the parish office and on the website: saintjohntheevangelist.com Click on the **Welcome** tab on the top left side and scroll down to **Forms**. Return to office.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

625 111th Avenue North
Naples, FL 34108

Phone: 239.566.8740

Fax: 239.566.9117

www.SaintJohnTheEvangelist.com

Administrative Office Hours are:

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(Office closed Noon - 1 p.m.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
(until all are heard)

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass:

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Saturday - 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Masses:

3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,

11:15 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Contemporary Mass

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, etc. in your family, please notify the front office at 239.566.8740 or email: info@saintjohntheevangelist.com
Thank you!

BULLETIN SUBMISSION

Please submit all ordinary time submission requests by Thursday at 10:00 a.m. **10 days prior** to the Sunday publication you are requesting. You can **e-mail: kathys@saintjohntheevangelist.com** or drop your submission off in the parish office.

Mass Cards

Selections of cards are available in the parish office.

Mass Intentions

We are currently accepting intentions for 2014.

Altar Flowers and/or Host & Wine

We have 2015 Mass availability and 2013 wine and host and flowers availability. Stop by the parish office to offer the wine and host and/or the altar flowers in memory or in honor of your loved ones.

MISSION STATEMENT

The spirit-filled community of St. John the Evangelist is committed to following the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church through stewardship and serving its parishioners, the community and those most in need.

PARISH INFORMATION...

SAINT JOHN the EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH • WWW.SAINTJOHNTHEEVANGELIST.COM

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21 & 22

Readings:	618	Year A
Entrance Hymn:	64	The King of Glory
Preparation Hymn:	68	Emmanuel
Communion Hymn:	248	Seed, Scattered and Sown
	362	I Have Loved You
Closing Hymn:	63	O Come, O Come Emmanuel verses 1, 6, & 7

Choral Anthems at the 9:00 & 11:15 Masses

Before the Mass	When Will We See the Little One?	Albrecht / Althouse
Communion	We Feel Your Presence, Lord	Jeremy Young

Hymns for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 24 & 25

The music for the 9 PM Lessons & Carols at 'Midnight' Mass can be found on separate sheet.

Readings:	621 (3 & 5)	622 (10 PM)	623 (7 AM)	624 (9, 11:15, & 1:15)	
Entrance Hymn:	79	O Come, All Ye Faithful			
Preparation Hymn:	87	O Little Town of Bethlehem			
Communion Hymn:	84	Silent Night			
	92	It Came Upon a Midnight Clear			
Closing Hymn:	94	Joy To the World			

The staff at St. John the Evangelist wishes all of our parishioners and their families and friends a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy 2014. Merry Christmas.

Christmas Sneaker and Sock Drive



A small collection of sneakers and socks from the Ladies of Charity Christmas Sneaker and Sock Drive, which ended December 15.

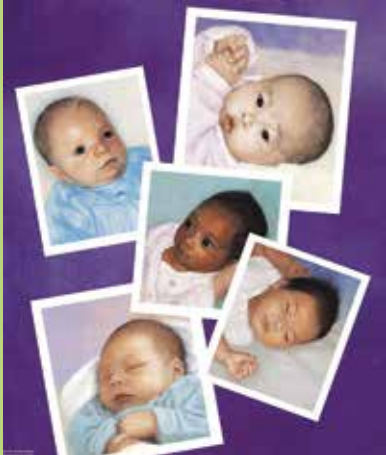


Spiritual Adoption Program Ends With Month Nine

“Here I Am!” HAPPY BIRTHDAY SPIRITUALLY ADOPTED BABY!

MONTH 9- Here I am!”

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month – nine



months after her mother conceived her. The only change at birth is a change in the external life support system of the baby. She is no different now than she before birth except that she breathes and eats differently. She is truly a miracle. She began as a

46-chromosome cell and has grown over the past nine months into this unique human baby we now can see. Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved her life. Thank you on behalf of all of the little babies and their parents for your loving prayers that helped to bring them to birth “so that they might have life and have it to the full!

”The next Novena of Masses for Life at St. John will be Wednesday, December 25 at 1:15 p.m. This Mass will be celebrated in special observance of the life of Jesus in the womb of our Blessed Mother.



Feast of the Holy Innocents Memorial Mass Saturday, December 28

December 28 is the Feast of the Holy Innocents. The feast day officially remembers all the male children slaughtered by Herod’s order in an effort to kill the newborn king of the Jews. Those little boys were the first martyrs for Jesus. Likewise, in the modern age, we recognize all the innocents; those babies who were never born, or those who died in childhood.

Here at St. John, we commemorate these children in a special way on their feast day. On Saturday, December 28, the 8:00 a.m. Mass will be said for all those who have suffered

a pregnancy loss, or born the grief of the death of a child. Before the Mass, you will be invited to enter your child or children’s names in the Book of the Innocents. You can then take a rose to the altar for each child you have listed in the book. The children listed in the book will be remembered in that Mass, as well as all of us who are left to remember their precious lives, however short they might have been.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information, contact Loretta Judy at 596.2291 or 293.5897.

Claim Lost and Found Items by January 31

Please check the Lost and Found area in the Electrical Room to the right of the ladies restroom for any items you may have lost.

More expensive items are locked up. See Lorna Woonsam, head sacritan, before or after Mass, or call her and leave a message at 566.8740, ext. 3912.

Any items not claimed by Friday, January 31, 2014, will be donated to the farm workers.

Famous Women in the Catholic Church Conference Saturday, January 14

The Rice School is holding the latest in a series of conferences about women in the Catholic Church. On Saturday, January 14, on the topic is St. Elizabeth Seton, the first native born American to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

The conference will be at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Venice from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The speakers include Sister Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., and Sister Albert Marie Surmanski, O.P.

The cost is \$40 per person and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For more information or to register, please call the Rice School at 941.766.7334.

Everyone Is Invited to Sister Carmella’s Retirement Open House January 14

Sister Carmella DeCosty has announced her resignation from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center, effective December 31, 2013, after 18 years of dedicated service.

An Open House to Honor Sister Carmella is being held:

Sunday January 14, 2014

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

1301 Center Road, Venice

Please come and share your memories, show your appreciation and gratitude for her friendship and dedication.

RSVP by January 12, 2014 either by calling the OLPH Retreat Center at 941.486.0233 or e-mail olphretreat@gmail.com

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Mysteries of Our Faith

Presented by Deacon Hal Brenner



St. John the Evangelist will be conducting a series of 10 classes to explore various aspects of our Catholic faith, called **Mysteries of Our Faith**. Each of the 10 classes will cover topics on Baptism, Eucharist, Church, Grace, Tradition, Incarnation, Salvation, Trinity, Reconciliation, and Vocation. The objective of this course is to grow in our faith and develop a deeper relationship with God. We will also explore how God is present and active in the world and in our lives today.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Parish Life Center. Classes will start on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, and will begin with a short video followed by questions/answers/group discussion.

Come learn and share your faith. There is no charge and all are welcome. To register or for more information call Deacon Hal at 566.8740 ext. 3926 and please leave a message.

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to grow in our faith and develop a deeper relationship with God. We will also explore how God is present and active in the world and in our lives today.

Course Description

This series of classes will explore various aspects of our Catholic faith. Each topic/class is self-contained. The opening video is designed to awaken our faith and stir the Holy Spirit which dwells within each one of us. Then as a group we will let the Spirit lead us in our discussion to explore our lives of faith and deepen our relationship with God.

Class 1 - 1/7/14	Baptism	Class 6 - 2/11/14	Incarnation
Class 2 - 1/14/14	Eucharist	Class 7 - 2/18/14	Salvation
Class 3 - 1/21/14	Church	Class 8 - 2/25/14	Trinity
Class 4 - 1/28/14	Grace	Class 9 - 3/4/14	Reconciliation
Class 5 - 2/4/14	Tradition	Class 10 - 3/11/14	Vocation

12th Annual Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice Christmas Appeal Runs Through January 2014

The Christmas Appeal, which takes place during December 2013 and January 2014, needs the support of everyone to provide assistance to the most vulnerable persons in your community. This Appeal goal is to raise \$500,000 for the many programs and services of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Venice.

A gift to the Christmas Appeal results in a better way of life for the families and individuals who come to Catholic Charities seeking help to overcome their crisis. Catholic Charities is grateful for your generosity and compassion, and your partnership in its mission to "Provide Help, Create Hope, Serve All".

To donate, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or mail a check payable to Catholic Charities to 5824 Bee Ridge Road, PMB 409, Sarasota, FL 34233-5065. For more information, please call 941.497.0930.

Mass Times Christmas and New Year

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

Christmas Eve Mass

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

3:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m. is Children's Mass;
Midnight Mass at 10:00 p.m. with special music of Lessons & Carols at 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

Christmas Day Mass

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m.
(No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Vigil of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

Bishop Dewane Will Be Celebrant for Televised Christmas Day Mass for the Homebound on WFTX-TV

The televised Christmas Day Mass for the Homebound with Bishop Frank J. Dewane as celebrant will air at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day. For viewers in the northern portions of the Diocese, the Mass airs on ION Television Network and SNN.

For viewers in the southern portions of the Diocese, the Mass airs on WFTX-TV (FOX-4 in Cape Coral). Please check your cable provider for channel listings. Leaflet missals are available upon request by calling 941.484.9543 and asking about the TV Mass or by writing: TV Mass, Diocese of Venice, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285. For more information contact Gail Ardy at 941.486.4714 or email ardy@dioceseofvenice.org.

Altar Servers:

Jean-Paul Boucher
jp@saintjohntheevangelist.com

Arts & Liturgical Environment:

Kay Sanfelippo 949.7122

Calling & Caring:

Deacon Al Groh 566.8740

Eucharistic Ministry

Call the Office 566.8740

Homebound

Call the Office 566.8740

Greeters & Ushers:

John Smith 598.2306

Jamaica Mission:

Jeanne Stament 514.0290
(summer) 413.739.7609

Lectors:

Victor Yopez 290.9090

Youth Lectors Bill Janes
bacjanes@comcast.net

Family Mass Lectors Tricia
and Scott Schwarz
566-8740, ext. 3902; email:
tricia@saintjohntheevangelist.com

Pastoral Council:

Jack Kindsvater jkinds@me.com

Prayer Group:

Linda Reilly 821.8982

Respect Life:

Rosemary Erickson 597.3941

Stewardship Council:

Bob Claussen naplesrgc@gmail.com

Adult Faith Enrichment Ministry.

Offers adult education programming for continued growth in our faith through such activities as retreats, Bible & Catechism studies, lectures, seminars, social action opportunities and workshops. Margie Lynch: 228.3909; margie@saintjohntheevangelist.com

AGA (Alienated Grandparents

Anonymous). Provides information and support to grandparents who feel alienated or estranged from access to their grandchildren. First Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the library and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the PLC ballroom. aga-fl.org

AA. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. PLC.

Al-Anon. Monday 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Wednesday - beginners, 11:30 a.m.; and noon - discussion; all in PLC. Carol: 804.306.5323

Ala-Teen. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. PLC.

Arimatheans. A group of caring parishioners who support parishioners by attending funerals as representation of our faith community. Virginia: 597.7687

Bible Story Time. Bible stories, crafts, prayer and fun Mondays, 10 - 11 a.m., in PLC preschool classroom. Parents and children ages 0-5 years old welcome. Mary Chalhoub: 414.791.9363

Bible Teaching. Lectors and friends convene Saturdays, 10 a.m. in the Claussen Center for relevant Bible teaching and retelling of the Scriptures. Join us in acquiring greater understanding of the weekly readings and growing in faith with us. Victor: 290.9090

Choirs:**Adult Choir of St. John the Evangelist.**

Rehearsals Wednesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Residents and seasonals welcome. Tom Oram: 566.8740

Children's Choir of St. John the Evangelist.

Rehearsals Wednesdays, 5:00 to 5:25 p.m. Grades 1-5. Tom Oram: 566.8740

Contemporary Choir of St. John the Evangelist.

Rehearsals Sundays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Grades 6-12 especially welcome. Tom Oram: 566.8740

Circle of Comfort. If you have cancer, or are taking care of someone who does, you may be facing challenges that may leave you feeling overwhelmed, frightened, alone and in need of comfort. Let us share our experience of faith, strength and prayer with you. We help each other live one day at a time through encouragement, prayer, laughter or whatever it takes to bring comfort to each other. Jim or Darlene 495.9741

Cursillistas. Third Tuesday monthly at 7:30 p.m. The Naples area Ultreya meets at St. William's Ministry Center, Seagate Drive. All Cursillistas and visitors welcome. Loretta Judy: 596.2291

Divine Gift Boutique (located across from the ladies restroom). Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., Saturday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If interested in volunteering in the gift shop on Sunday contact Jackie Gibson: 228.3921

Faith Chat. Wednesdays at 5:45 - 7:30 p.m. in Library. Maggie Miller: 239.687.0687

Families Helping Families. Mondays at 3 p.m. For families with a member who has a problem with alcohol &/or drugs. This is a small caring group to talk & answer questions. Bill: 732.5979

Grief Support. Sessions will be on the following Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in room 1 of the Claussen Center: October 8, October 15, October 22, October 29, November 12, November 19 and November 26. Dee: 594.7193

Knights of Columbus St. John Council 11281.

Meets first Monday of the month. Officers at 6 p.m.; business meeting at 7 p.m. Social meeting last Monday of the month. Visiting Knights are welcome. Paul Barrus, Grand Knight: 609.741.4593

Knights of Columbus Arthur J. Corr Assembly 3308. Meeting are third Tuesday of every month at Noon in the Seminar Room of the Claussen Center. Visiting Knights are invited. S/K Bill Wright FN 593.5965

Knitting & Crocheting. Tuesdays from 10 - Noon: Want to learn? We are a service group that knits & crochets to benefit those in need: blankets for soldiers, hats for cancer patients, baby hats & booties & prayer shawls. Mary Chalhoub: 414.791.9363

Ladies of Charity. Meets the second Friday of every month, volunteers in Immokalee schools, the Guadalupe soup kitchen and clothing bank and visits local nursing homes to assist residents who want to attend Mass. For friendly visits and simple errands for the homebound, call Dianne Pesce at 630.571.0707. If interested in joining, call MarieElaina Mullin: 273.1702.

Mah Jong. Wednesday, Noon - 3 p.m. Beginners welcome. Joan Scariotti: 594.0994

Men's Club. Group of dedicated men (with the superb assistance from their ladies) who assist the Pastor and the parish. Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, 2-3 p.m.. New members welcome. Joe Lichwalla: 348.1828

Gospel Forum. Group of men who join together to discuss the following Sunday's gospel and its application to everyday life. Prayer and casual discussion of various spiritual writings follows. Pizza and soft drinks offered. Meets Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in PLC. Scott Baier: 877.9784 or Chet Lucarelli: 289.2807

Narcotics Anonymous. Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, 8 p.m. PLC.

Philothea. Women ages 20-45 meet to support and encourage one another through the joys and struggles of life, work and motherhood in Christian environment. Alternate Wednesdays, 7 - 9 p.m. Martha Oram: 407.615.9017 or mjr.oram@gmail.com

Pinochle. Tuesday, 1-4 p.m. Joseph DeJesus: 598.9865

Respect Life. A group of parishioners committed to protecting the sanctity of life in all of its stages. They coordinate all respect life activities within the parish as well as outreach to the community. Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Claussen Center. Rosemary Erickson: 597.3941

Sewing Group. Meets to sew for needy children on Wednesdays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in room 1 of the PLC. New members are invited. Nancy Cote: 514.0410

St. Vincent de Paul. Meets first and third Tuesdays in the PLC after 8:00 a.m. Mass. Bill Smart: 566.8740

Sing-A-Long. Tuesday, Nov. 19 at Juniper Village at Naples and Tuesday, Dec. 17 at Kiva of Canterbury - at 2 p.m. Jayne Potter: 597.5483

Third Order of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Lay Carmelites. Phyllis Gryskiewicz, 566.7307

Women's Bible Study. Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Library and Monday evenings in Room 3 and 4 in the PLC. Maggie Miller: 239.687.0687 or maggna@comcast.net or Linda Reilly, 821.8982

PRAYER GROUPS

Pray The Rosary & The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

We pray in the Church every morning except Sunday. We begin 45 minutes before Mass. Please join us. *(We have printed guides with the prayers.)*

Cenacle of Life Prayer Group

Blessed John Paul II said "a great prayer for Life is urgently needed!" Cenacle participants pray for an end to the Culture of Death every Tuesday evening, 6:00 to 6:45 p.m., in the Adoration Chapel. In the powerful presence of the Blessed Sacrament, we offer 10 mysteries of the rosary and related prayers and we fast one day a week on our own. All are welcome! Please call the parish office for the Chapel code.

THROUGH THE DARKNESS BRING US TO THE LIGHT

Please pray for our loved ones who are serving in the military:

Lcpl. Francisco Alvarenga U.S. Marines	Specialist Douglas Hennessy U.S. Army
Sp. Petrus Botha U.S. Army	Marine Lt. Colonel Brian Howlett U.S. Marine Corp
S. Isaiah Brutus U.S. Air Force	AT3 Corinne MacFarlane U.S. Navy
Ensign Stuart Campbell U.S. Navy	Lt. John Meyers U.S. Army
Bradley N. Chartier U.S. Army	LCpl. Randy A. Novak (USMC)
BM2 Charley Davidson U.S. Navy (USS Samuel B. Roberts)	LCpl. Ryan D. Novak (USMC)
Adam Decker U.S. Air Force	Ryan D. Novak (USMC)
Nicholas Detloff U.S. Air Force	Cpt. Daniel Palmer U.S. Army
Sgt. Anthony J. Diamante U.S. Army, (Afghanistan)	Cpt. John Palmer U.S. Army
Joshua Emmons U.S. Air Force	Cpt. Martin Palmer U.S. Army
Lt. Colin Flood U.S. Army, Special Forces	1Lt. Robert Pedrigi U.S. Army
Lt. Bernardo Garcia U.S. Marines	Lt. Joseph Schafer U.S. Army
Lt. Joseph Gilig 1st Marine Division * LAV Recon	Lt. Gregory Spencer U.S. Army, (Afghanistan)
Cpl. Dylan Granza U.S. Army Ranger	Lt. Kelly Spencer U.S. Air Force
Specialist Shelby Granza U.S. Army	Houng Tran U.S. Army
Sgt. Patrick H. Hammer U.S. Marine Corp * LAV Recon	IT2 Jason E. Tydingco (USN)
	Co. Glenn Yeck U.S. Navy (Afghanistan)

Divine Will Prayer Group

Are you hungering and thirsting for the Lord. Come. Grow in the knowledge of his most adorable will where you will be filled to overflowing with his love. The group meets on Fridays at 9:45 a.m. in the Claussen Center, room 15. Linda Reilly: 821.8982

Centering Prayer /Lectio Divina

Forty-five minutes of peaceful, silent and beautiful prayer and contemplation. Only your quiet presence is needed. Mondays: 5:30 p.m., Room 15 Claussen Center. Following the morning Mass, every

Wednesday, Wednesday Centering Prayer will meet in the Parish Library.

Liturgy of the Hours

Members of the third order of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Lay Carmelites pray the Morning Prayer after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

St. John Charismatic Prayer Group "Blazing Hearts"

Prayer group meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in cry room. Linda Reilly: 821.8982

PRAYER LIST

Let us pray for the sick of the parish, especially

Carmela Abbate	Alexandria Dolkas	Nadiya Joseph	Radel Family
Thomas Abell	John Dovi	Chester T. Kauffman	Joe Reid
Deacon Al	Michael Dunlop	David Kelly	Esther Riley
Maureen Alonso	Trudy Eddy	Mary Kelly	Mary Rossi
Marie Amont	Nancy Ellert	Colleen Kirkmaier	Betsy Russo
Jim Amont	Ellen Enright	Anna LaGrasta	Anneliese Salamon
Jacob Andrew	Ann Marie Esposito	Lamport Family	Kathleen Salvi
Agatha Barczynski	Edith Esposito	Diane Leahy	Edna Sanvidge
Jennifer Basile	Claire Febrezio	Mary Jane Leake	Reagan Scacchetti
Bev Basler	Troy Feidler	Pattie Leiner	Cynthia Scariati
Margie Benefico	Tiffany Fiedler	Lindsay Lavery	Michael Scheidemann
Linda Berry	Thomas O. Flood	Becky Locke	Cathy Schloendorn
Mary Bessner	Donna Flynn	Josh & Carl Locke	Joanne Scimone
Lucretia Biasi	Edward Gaynor	Kevin Locke	Douglas Scott
Anthony Bonavita	Stephen Gibson	Mr. & Mrs. Louser	Walter Scott
Marge Bond	Joan Gleason	Ann & Ray Maniuszko	Mary Seeger
Genevieve Brown	Veronica Glennon	Sharon McCarty	Carol Seiffert
Pat Brothy	Dick Goepel	Carolyn McDonald	Jane & Bob Shengulet
Frank Caccavo Jr.	Stephen Golia	Dr. Martin McKenna & Family	Teresa Shengulet
Joseph Carchia	Madelon Gorsky	McKee Family	Jean Smith
Robert Carnevale	Rich Greenwood	Harriet Meza	Jeff Smith
Anna Cassara	Carmela Grosso	Jim Moran	Inga Sovia
Christine Cassara	Diana Gust	Ed Moriarity	Margaret Stovich
James Castaldi	Harry Hammond	Mildred Morrison	Pat Sutter
Diane Centenaro	Barbara Hanson	Peter Nicoletta	Joanmarie Switalski
Drew and Kanema Clark	William "Bill" Hardy	Ed O'Brien	Tara & Family
Richard Clark	Frank Harris	Honey O'Connell	Rita Taranto
Claussen Family	Luci Hartert	Jim Orlando	Patricia Trapnell
Arthur Cuellar	Jerry Heyen	Tyler Ostos	Gabe Vale
Susan Cusick	Colleen Hill	Maryla Panagos	Pat & Eloisa Velasquez
Edna D' Antuono	Ann Hogg	James Patton	Larry Watson
Alice Daley	Karen Hohne	Irene Pires	Lucy Westman
Brian Davis	Charlotte Hollohan	Joe Pohrer	Aimme Witcoff
James Diamante	Peggy Hooper	Kimberly Porter	John Yotis
Julie Dieter	Donald Howe	Katherine Prince	Mary Yotis
Patty Dillow	Val Hunt	William Pulte	
Connie Dimucci	Pam Jenkins		
	Ned Johnston		

LET US PRAY...

To submit a two-week prayer request call 566.8740, or email: info@saintjohntheevangelist.com

DECEMBER 22, 2013 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



On behalf of the clergy and staff of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and for those who are traveling over the holidays, a Happy New Year. Did you know that this coming Tuesday will be the 21st anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in our church? On December 24, 1992, the first Mass was celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Fr. John Ludden is eagerly awaiting the celebration of his fifth Christmas Mass as our pastor. Please come out and join us for a beautiful celebration of the birth of Christ.

While I am sure that my comments last week regarding the weather irritated more than a few of our seasonal residents and visitors, I will change my thought process this week and write from the perspective of a winter visitor from the Midwest.

As I write my weekly column, I cannot help but think of how blessed we are to be living in "paradise." The current temperature in Cleveland is 19 degrees with light snow. The current temperature in Naples is 75 degrees headed up to a high of 78 degrees. And let us not forget that winter only began this past Friday. For the next ten days, the temperature in many areas of the Midwest and Northeast will not reach 40 degrees while we will be basking in cloudless skies with temperatures in the upper 70s and lower 80s. Although our recent and forecast temperatures are going to be well above normal, I seriously doubt anyone is complaining. If anyone has ever questioned why so many people choose to winter in Naples, the next ten days are a prime example. While it is true that during "season" we must deal with increased traffic congestion and arrive at Mass early for a good seat, it sure beats the alternative of driving on icy roads in bone chilling cold.

I had the oddest phone call the other day which I thought I would share with you, especially those of you with hearing problems. The call was from a local audiologist. She explained that one of her patients (a parishioner) was in her office for an appointment. When asked how her hearing aid was working, she commented that it was working OK, but there was really only one place where she could hear perfectly. She said that it was almost a miracle that she could hear every word clearly while attending Mass at St. John the Evangelist. The audiologist asked me what kind of sound system we had, and I explained that the clarity her patient was recognizing was the Hearing Loop System installed over the summer. She then told me that this patient was in the

office to have a T-coil installed and did not have this in place prior. If you remember my comments months ago, you will remember that I said you must have the T-coil in your hearing aid to take advantage of the Hearing Loop. I am not sure what this parishioner is experiencing, however, if you have had a similar experience, please contact me and let me know. Further, if you are utilizing our Loop System, please email or call me and let us know how it is working.

We have officially made the switch to our new online giving module. WeShare is our new vendor and will securely process all of your giving via credit card or EFT. WeShare will also be used to handle registration and ticket sales to any number of parish and parish affiliated events. For those who are signed up with PledgeConnect, you should have received an email by now notifying you of the change. I am excited for the flexibility that we will recognize through WeShare and look forward to our parishioners taking advantage of the new capabilities.

Thank you to everyone that gave so generously this Christmas season. Whether it was a gift to the CFA, a donation to Jamaica, a gift to the Sneaker Drive or a contribution to the regular offertory, you defined the essence of Christmas. I am continually amazed every year at this time by the outpouring of generosity shown by our parishioners. It is truly remarkable what you do for others while ensuring that St. John is provided for. I am not a "cradle catholic" like many of you, however, I have visited my share of catholic churches, especially during the design stages of St. Agnes. As I have said many times before, there are countless parishes out there that could learn a thing or two by visiting St. John the Evangelist and simply observing. There just seems to be a spirit that exists here at St. John that does not exist at any other parish I have visited. Obviously, the Holy Spirit is present at Mass; however, there is something more that exists within the friendly confines of St. John.

Due to extremely early deadlines for Christmas, there will be no collection data for the weekend of December 14 - 15 in this bulletin. Please look for this data in next week's bulletin. Thanks for your understanding.

The Parish office will be closed on December 24, 25 and 26. The Parish Life Center and Claussen Family Center buildings will also be closed on December 24, 25 and 26.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager

In order that we may enhance communication within the parish through our new email module, we must have your email address. We will use the email address to send out newsletters and pertinent emails relating to upcoming events which you may want to be involved. Thank you for your co-operation.

Drop in the collection basket or turn in at the parish office.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

SAVE THE DATE

**Bonita Village Band
Annual FREE Concert**

Friday, January 10

7:30 p.m.

in Parish Life Center

More details will follow.

Contact:

Pat Lampe 592.7845

NURSERY CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

**The nursery will NOT be open on Christmas Day, December 25,
so that everyone can be with their families.**

Thank you for your understanding.

The 2014 Saint

John the Evangelist

Catholic Calendar

**will be available next
weekend.**

Deacons Celebrate Feast of St. Stephen December 26

The liturgical calendar celebrates the Feast of St. Stephen, one of the first deacons and the first Christian martyr on Thursday, December 26. This day has special meaning for deacons all over the world.

The only first hand source of information on the life and death of St. Stephen is found in the Acts of the Apostles (6:1-8:2). Stephen is one of seven men appointed deacons and specially ordained by the Apostles to better serve the needs of the community. This is the essence of the diaconate today.

As many men are called to the ministry of priesthood, others hear the call to the diaconate. While the men of both ministries receive the Sacrament of Ordination, their pastoral focus differs. Deacons are not priests, nor glorified altar servers. Most deacons are men with families, who along with their work-day job, take on the added ministry of service to the Church and their communities.

Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium, offers us the best description of the nature of the Permanent Deacon:

"It is the duty of the deacon, to the extent that he has been

authorized by competent authority, to administer baptism solemnly, to be custodian and dispenser of the Eucharist, to assist at and bless marriages in the name of the Church, to bring Viaticum to the dying, to read the sacred Scripture to the faithful, to instruct and exhort the people, to preside at the worship and prayer of the faithful, to administer sacramentals, and to officiate at funeral and burial services."

Many deacons receive the faculty to preach after added study and preparation.

In his role as a minister of charity, the deacon is a leader in identifying the needs of others and directs the Church to use her resources to meet those needs. He also dedicates himself to eliminating injustices or inequities that cause such needs.

Continue to pray for our deacons here at Saint John the Evangelist. Like St. Stephen, they are faith-filled men on a mission to bring all of us a little nearer to Him who is the supreme example of charity.

Thank you, Deacons, for your service.



Deacon Al



Deacon Frank



Deacon Hal



Deacon Rob



Deacon Forrest

Hungry

Kathryn Scott CCLI Song No. 2650364 © 1999 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)

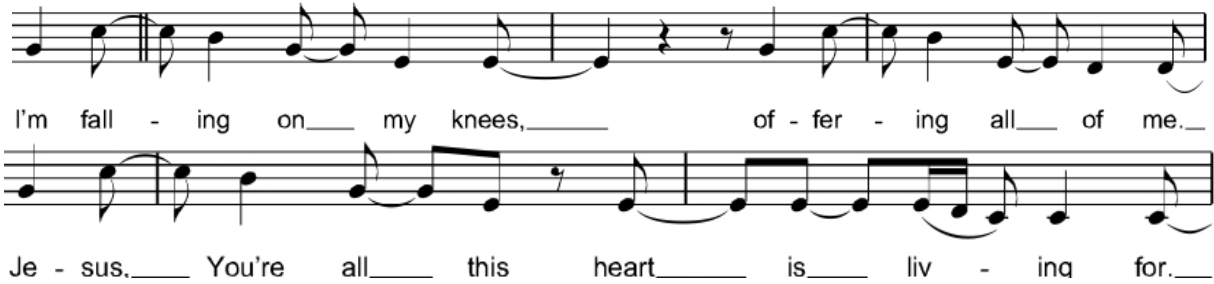
(Admin. by Vineyard Music UK). Kathryn Scott. All rights Reserved. Reprinted under CCLI License No. 2008891.

Verse 1)

Hungry I come to you for I know you satisfy
I am empty but I know your love does not run dry
And so I wait for you; so I wait for you (chorus:)

Verse 2)

Broken I run to you for your arms are open wide
I am weary, but I know your touch restores my life
And so I wait for you; so I wait for you (chorus:)



Closing Song

63 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1, 6, & 7) Traditional

The O Antiphons and Advent Tom Oram

Each of the seven verses of **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** is associated with a particular day of the Octave (or “eight days”) before Christmas Eve, the “Golden Nights”: December 17th through the 23rd. The “O Antiphons”, as they are known, each employ a different title for the Messiah, as foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Micah, of Jesus the Christ. The Church has used them at Vespers (Evening Prayer) for as many as fifteen hundred years, or perhaps even longer.

They include, beginning on December 17, O **S**apientia (O Wisdom), then O **A**donai (O Lord), O **R**adix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O **C**lavis Davidicae (O Key of David), O **O**riens (O Dawn), O **R**ex gentium (O King of nations), and O **E**mmanuel (O God with us). In a fascinating detail, the first letters of each title, read backwards, also spell the Latin phrase **ERO CRAS**, “Tomorrow, I come”, a phrase completed only on Dec. 23 with the singing of the final antiphon. Thus: after we have called upon the Lord to come to us, he answers us, “**ero cras!**”, referring to his coming in the great Solemnity of the Nativity! The antiphon for today, Dec. 22nd, O **R**ex Gentium (Latin for “King of the Gentiles”), is translated below (cf. Isaiah 9:6). (Verse 6 was Saturday’s antiphon.)

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum,
sapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et
salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

O King of the Gentiles, and their desired One,
the cornerstone, which makes both one,
come and save mankind,
whom you have created out of dust.



The Word & Life

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

From the Ordinary Comes the Extraordinary

The events surrounding the story of the Incarnation challenge us to discover the extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary. Our attention is drawn to Mary and Joseph in the last Sunday of Advent. What do we know about them? The scriptures indicate that Mary was a simple virgin who said “yes” to the angel and, as a result, was found with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. God chose an ordinary girl to give witness to the extraordinary reality of God. Mary gave birth to a Son who was to be known as “Emmanuel” which means “God with us”. As we listen to the first reading today, Isaiah prophesied about this. He tells us that God will give the ultimate sign when the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and name him “Emmanuel”. God is with us in the story of Nazareth. The humble dwelling of a simple girl becomes God’s dwelling place. Mary’s womb becomes the tabernacle in which the presence of God is tangible. This ordinary girl in an ordinary little town becomes the reference point of the extraordinary point of change in the history of salvation.

We are all too familiar with the foundations of our history of faith. Such a familiarity can lose the profound significance of the Christ event. Mary and Joseph were merely simple human beings who lived in a small town. However, their response changed our world history forever – giving their lives extraordinary significance. The figure of Mary has dominated our church because of her willingness to answer God’s call to become the Mother of God. Joseph is the biblical dreamer who follows the voice of the angel in his sleep. In following his dreams, he helps fulfill the promises of scripture and becomes the foster father of Jesus.

As we enter into the fourth week of our Advent season, we have to realize that the coming of Christ involves all of us. Divinity finds its resting place in the person of Jesus. As we contemplate the meaning of our Christian faith, we constantly remind ourselves that we must clothe ourselves



in Christ. When we consciously do so, we are also clothing ourselves and participate in a divine reality. The story of the Incarnation reminds us that we must comprehend that it is to people like us that God sends his messengers to. The people who witness these events are just like you and I. Christ becomes flesh so that we may be able to comprehend how we are to live the truth in love. The message that goes forth from the manger and into the world, through the lips and actions of Jesus, is the same message that captures the hearts and imaginations of many Christians today. In our final week of preparation for Christmas, every one of us ought to be aware that it is such an event that gives us dignity as human beings, which ultimately paves the way to a destiny of resurrection and hope!

Prayer

Marantha, come Lord Jesus. Come enter into our lives as you did in ancient times. We know that you entered into the lives of Mary, Joseph and the prophets from of old – so enter into our lives. May you find a welcome in our homes and in our work. Let us always be aware of your presence in our world. As we approach the day of your birth – may we learn from your humanity and know your saving love. Amen.

Reflecting on the Sunday Readings with Fr. John J. Ludden, Pastor



Reflection Questions

1. What is the significance of “Emmanuel” for the history of the world?
2. How is “Emmanuel” significant for you personally?
3. Why does Joseph decide to divorce Mary quietly?
4. What is the significance about Joseph’s dream and how he responds to that dream?
5. How does Joseph’s example inspire you?
6. What are the implications for Mary in this gospel account?
7. Why does God choose simple characters like Mary and Joseph to participate in the event of the Incarnation?
8. How does God call you to participate in the history of salvation?

Wisdom of the Fathers



Mary the Blessed Virgin/www.catholic.org

Her Amazement at Her Only Child

Light piercing, gradually, everyday events;
a woman’s eyes,
hands used to them since childhood.

Then brightness flared, too huge for simple days,
and hands clasped when the words lost their space.
In that little town, my son, where they knew us together,
you called me mother; but no one had eyes to see
the astounding events as they took place day by day.

Your life became the life of the poor
in your wish to be with them through the work of your hands.
I knew: the light that lingered in ordinary things,
like a spark sheltered under the skin of our days –
the light was you; it did not come from me.

And I had more of you in that luminous silence
Than I had of you as the fruit of my body, my blood.

— “The Place within” Blessed John Paul II

Faith Formation



Angel of the Lord Appearing to Joseph

Mark Your Calendar

December 22 – January 5

Christmas Break

(No Faith Formation Classes)

January 8

Wednesday Classes Resume

January 12

Sunday Classes Resume

January 15

First Communion Parent Meeting

January 22

Families in Christ

Faith Formation News

Christmas Break...There are no Faith Formation classes from December 22, 2013 through January 5, 2014. Please have a blessed and safe Christmas season.

Wednesday Classes Resume...on January 8, 2014 after the Christmas break.

Sunday Classes Resume...on January 12, 2014 after the Christmas break.

First Communion Parent Meeting...will be on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the seminar room in the Claussen Center. All parents who have children making their First Eucharist in May 2014 need to attend this meeting.

Families in Christ...will take place on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the ballroom.

Faith Formation continues on page 17

REFLECTION

Sunday's Gospel appears to be a simple story, but it tells us a lot about Jesus. In a dream an angel tells Joseph to take Mary as his wife, for her pregnancy is an act of God. The angel also tells Joseph the name to give Mary's child and his stepson.

In ancient Israel the man who names a child becomes the child's legal father. Since Joseph belongs to the family of David, so will his son. This is Matthew's way of telling us Jesus is the Messiah, who was to come from David's royal line.

The angel tells Joseph he should name the child Jesus. This name means "he will save." Jesus' name tells us his purpose among us.

Matthew also connects Jesus' birth with the words of the prophet Isaiah, "A woman is with child and will give birth to a son, and call him Emmanuel." The name "Emmanuel" means "God with us," another way of expressing Jesus' mission.

Gospel for All Ages, Good Ground Press and Pflaum Publishing Group



By Kathleen M. Carroll

THE HOME CHURCH

One of the hardest lessons to teach—or to learn—is knowing when and whom to trust. Trust too easily and yours is a life of betrayal; trust too reluctantly and your relationships wither. Most children grow up able to trust their mothers and fathers completely (at least until the teenage mind discovers the abundant flaws in all adults); others learn too early that parents are, at best, only human.

The Good News, especially the story of the Incarnation, asks for our trust. Just as Joseph had to overcome his doubts to embrace the great truth unfolding in his life, we are asked to believe in a divine lover so profound that it could only be expressed in the birth, life, and death of Jesus. How can we even begin to believe such a thing?

We can believe because it is God who makes the promise. All our human relationships are going to falter at some time; God alone is worthy of our supreme trust. Knowing there is One who will never disappoint us gives us strength to weather the times when others do.

Bringing Home the Word, December 22, 2013, Franciscan Media

PRAYER

Emmanuel,

We know you are with us.

Help all Christians live your promise by living in love and meeting the challenge to become the people you made us to be.

Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS THIS WEEK

GRADE 1

Life Question: Why are parents important?

Gospel Question: Who is Jesus' mother?

GRADES 2-3

Life Question: How do you share your happiness?

Gospel Question: Who is Jesus' mother and stepfather?

GRADES 4-5

Life Question: How do we know it's Christmas?

Gospel Question: What does the angel tell Joseph? What makes Joseph ready to believe the angel?

GRADES 6-8

Life Question: When have you seen Jesus in another person?

Gospel Question: How are Joseph's dreams different from what he thinks awake?

GRADES 9-12

Life Question: How do good friends influence you?

Gospel Question: How is Jesus Emmanuel?

ADULTS

Life Question: What life choices are you glad that you slept on and weighed prayerfully?

Gospel Question: What ideal qualities of a husband and father does Joseph embody?

Gospel for All Ages, Good Ground Press and Pflaum Publishing Group

Director of Religious Education

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faithformation@saintjohntheevangelist.com

Website:

www.saintjohntheevangelist.com

Jesus Is the Reason for the Season



Bible Story Time participants learned about Christmas symbols in one of the last classes before Christmas. We concentrated on the candy cane which showed us that when it was turned over it made the letter "J" which stands for the first letter in Jesus' name. We also realized it looked like a shepherd's hook to remind us that Jesus is The Good Shepherd. We worked a bit of magic when we put two candy canes together to form a heart!



Along with the candy canes, we also talked about our decorated trees, stockings, Christmas cards, and poinsettias, which the Mexicans call "flor de la Noche Buena."



We then heard a story about the little gray donkey who was an important part of the Christmas story. He carried a very special passenger to the city of Bethlehem. After crafting a paper donkey, we put a picture of Mary upon its back. Oh, how much longer will the journey take!



*text and photos
submitted by
Mary Chalhoub,
Bible Story Time
Director*

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet



For the Intentions of

Living _____

Deceased _____

Your donation will furnish the Sanctuary with flowers during the Christmas season and your loved ones will be remembered in the Christmas Spiritual Bouquet during the Christmas Masses. **DROP THE FORM AND DONATION IN THE COLLECTION BASKET OR DROP OFF AT THE PARISH OFFICE DURING BUSINESS HOURS.**

For your convenience, envelopes are also available in the Narthex.

Donor Name _____ \$ _____

st. john the evangelist youth ministry

SPOTLIGHT ON...

what we've been up to lately!

(What HAVEN'T we been up to, more likely...it's been really busy! Which is kind of the way we like it.)

Anyway, the **High School youth ministry** has now met *seven weeks in a row* under our spiffy new management. On our kickoff night, November 10, we started off **LIFE TEEN** with **SCRIPTURE**, where we talked about what the Bible is and how we got it (when was the last time you pondered where it came from?). It didn't drop from the sky as a unit—it took the Church centuries, guided by the Holy Spirit, to decide (as noted theologian **Bob Seger** has said) "What to leave in / what to leave out".

Then we had a night on **PRAYER**, part of which we shared with our younger friends in the Altar Servers, during which we talked about our need for quiet time with God. If we are, as Jesus said, "no longer slaves" but "friends" (Jn 15:15), then we need to cultivate friendship with the Lord—and nobody has a friend they never talk to, right? The night culminated in 20 minutes of silent (partially guided) meditation. As one of our seniors said afterward, "**It was exactly what I needed!**" **Theresa Barbale**, the youth minister at St. Peter the Apostle in Naples, came by on December 1 to talk about **PURITY**—particularly as it regards what we wear, how we treat people, and how we behave on social media and the internet in general.

Next week **Martha Oram** led us in a discussion about **The BLESSED MOTHER**, she who said "I am the Immaculate Conception", and how she is a crucial part of **ADVENT**—so important that we need to "journey with her to Bethlehem" in order to arrive at Christmas, prepared for the season. Finally, on the 15th we threw an Advent/Christmas **PARTY** which culminated with a **WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE**, which was EPIC and you SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE because AWESOMENESS, etc.

(We **do not meet** on the 22nd or 29th, but will get right back to it on January 5. See you there!)

The **Middle School** has really been enjoying their **EDGE** Program, which kicks off each night with games that lead into a lesson. Right now we are learning about Scripture. In the fun-packed night with the theme "It Takes Two!" students competed to win a three-legged obstacle course, learning that they need to work together to get the best time. Winners got t-shirts! They then learned that just as it took two people to beat the obstacle course, it takes both **Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition** to give us the fullness of our Faith. Most recently, the Middle Schoolers were able to attend the **Listening Forum** to witness this historic event firsthand. We discussed the importance of our participation in our parish communities and the need to be pastoral in our response to people who feel left out.

(Obviously we don't meet on the 25th or 1st, but we'll start again January 8!)

Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't include a picture of **the Littlest Youth Minister**, Zuzu, who knows a little something about being a teenager herself (having just turned 14 months). We'd really like to thank the kids for being so good to her—they're like big brothers and sisters to our wonderful daughter. *Photo by godmother/youth volunteer Jen Cox!*



Middle School youth meet Wednesdays, 5:30 to 7, in the Youth Room.
High School teens meet Sundays, 6 to 8, in the CFC Seminar Room.

BIG BAND DANCES STARTING SOON.

*The Men's Club Big
Band Dance Schedule:*

January 14, 2014

January 28, 2014

February 11, 2014

February 25, 2014

March 11, 2014

March 25, 2014

April 8, 2014

*The Big Sock Hop is
scheduled for
Friday, January 31, 2014*



*Oh Lord, how precious is your Love,
we seek your Holy Will.*

**The Ladies of Charity Annual
Christmas Food Drive
for our local soup kitchens**

Ending: **December 28-29
This Weekend!**

- A tree is in the Narthex with ornaments on it.
- Parishioners are encouraged to take an ornament and generously donate a check to St. John the Evangelist with "Food Drive" written in the memo line. Your checks can be placed in the collection baskets passed during Mass or taken to the church office.

NO FOOD PLEASE! We are requesting checks only.

- The organizations that will benefit are The Guadalupe Soup Kitchen, St. Matthews House and the St. Vincent de Paul Council.
- The Ladies of Charity will designate the money collected to be used during the summer months when food shelves are near empty.

Thank you for helping us stock the soup kitchens.

Jamaica Outreach Program

Jammin' for Jamaica Festival
Very Casual Attire Dinner/Dance

Friday February 7, 2014
5:30 p.m. St. John the Evangelist Ballroom
\$50 per person
Complimentary Cocktails, Dinner, Dancing,
Auctions and Treasure Chest



Mail checks payable to Jamaica Outreach, P.O. Box 110581, Naples, FL 34108-1929
Or, call Jeanne Stament 514-0290 for credit card and telephone orders .

Or, buy online at www.JamaicaOutreach.ORG

Telephone and mail ordered tickets will be mailed to you .

Please let us know who you want to be seated with.



St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School

Where Faith and Learning...go hand in hand

Mark your calendars now!

Our **Open House** is

Sunday, January 26

11:30 am—1:30pm

Make a plan to come learn how your child can be a part of our Seton family



To schedule a tour or to learn more about our school, please call Ms. McLaughlin at 239-455-2262, or email at mclaughlin@seseton.org

Happily Married Couples

SPECIAL END OF YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT!

Do you want more romance and happiness in your marriage? Do you want more passion and joy in your marriage? Do you want sparkle and pizzaz!

And WHY NOT? You're in LOVE! You DESERVE it! SPECIAL YEAR END SAVINGS!!

During the months of December and January, apply for the next weekend, January 24-26 at the Franciscan Center in Tampa and receive ONE HALF OFF the regular application rate – just \$42.00! THIS IS A LIMITED TIME OFFER!

For information call the Application Couple at 813.270.7832 or go online at www.wmme-tampabay.org.

JOIN FATHER JOHN AND YOUR ST. JOHN FRIENDS TO THE **EASTERN CARIBBEAN**



8 Days ~ From Only \$794

January 18 - January 25, 2014

**Receive \$25 per person discount on this cruise when making final payment by cash or check!*

Only 5 Cabins Remaining.

Save the Date!

January 11, 2014 ~ PreCruise Reception from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the PLC Ballroom. Refreshments - wine/cheese, etc. will be served. Fr. John will celebrate Mass at 5:00 p.m. in Church.

PRIVATE MASSES WITH FR. JOHN

Reserve your cabin with only \$250 per person.

FOR INFORMATION, PRICING SCHEDULE AND RESERVATIONS CALL:

APRIL WILLIAMS

Toll Free: **800.741.1770**

push **1** then ext. **6409**

e-mail: awilliams@allaboardtravel.com

www.allaboardtravel.com

Parish Contact: Dave Quist • 239-594-2071

e-mail: dquist@comcast.net

Cruise, shore excursions, and transportation is the sole responsibility of Celebrity Cruise Line, any shore excursion company and motor coach company. St. John the Evangelist parish, the Diocese of Venice, and or any of their employees shall be held harmless in the event of any liability or litigation incurred as a result of this contract.

Celebrity **X** Cruises®
aboard the
NEW Celebrity Reflection (oct. 2012)
www.celebritycruises.com

COCKTAIL PARTY!

Jamaica Outreach Program

JOP Christmas Tea

The poor in Jamaica will be blessed with net proceeds of over \$5,600, as a result of the 6th annual JOP Christmas Tea, which was held Wednesday, December 4 in the PLC ballroom. Some 274 people attended, which included a champagne reception, vendors, entertainment and the traditional tea, sandwiches, scones and sweets.

“The yummy scones and food served by Cappelli’s Catering was top notch as always,” said Jeanne Stamant, event organizer.

Seven gentlemen served the guests champagne upon arrival or sold raffle tickets or photographed the event. Fr. Rourke said the blessing. “The NEW Chorale of SW Florida”, a group of 30 men and women, presented their festive Christmas Concert. Donors of gifts made it possible for 23 lucky ladies to win the raffle prizes and 9 others won door prizes. Four vendors sold gifts, floral arrangements, jewelry and crafts and each donated a percentage of their sales to the charity. “The ballroom always looks so festive at this event,” said one St John staff member.

Thank you to the committee, volunteers, and St John staff for helping to make this one of the most successful Teas yet.

text and photos submitted by JOP

