

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent

& Christmas Edition

the
EVANGELIST
SAINT JOHN *the* EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



Christmas: Christ's Light Shines With Eternal Promise

Dear Friends of Saint John the Evangelist,

May the Blessings of Christ be with you all as you celebrate the Feast of the Incarnation! Christmas reminds us about God's light coming into the world to illuminate our lives with an eternal promise. Jesus' birth tells us that God wants to make his dwelling amongst us. We are never alone as we journey through life because Jesus made the commitment to us that he would be with us until the end of time. Each and every Christmas we call to mind when Christ came into the world. We celebrate the fact that Jesus is the most beautiful person that ever walked the face of the earth. Everything that he did and said changed our history forever.

It is always wonderful to see parents and grandparents bringing their children and grandchildren up to the manger scene in the Church. It reminds us all of Christmas past when we were led by the hand to look at this humble sight with a sense of awe and wonder. Anytime we hear "Silent Night" being sung it evokes the deepest emotions within us. For some of us the tears that come to our eyes speak to our love for our loved ones who are no longer with us. However, as we share this Christmas together as a parish community, we are comforted by the hope that those we have lost now dwell in the blessedness of Christ's light.

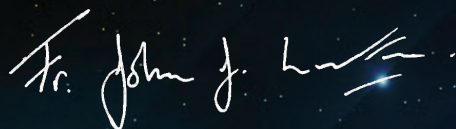
During this Christmas Season I would like to thank the countless people who share in the various ministries, councils, and groups that make up this incredible parish. All of you live the mission of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in the way you witness to knowing, loving, and serving God. Many hours of your time are sacrificed in order for this community to become fully alive. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your commitment to the Lord and his people.

Over the past year the "Build our Future – Serve our Past Campaign" has successfully raised over \$8.3 million in pledges to provide facilities in which people of all ages can come and feel a place of belonging in a building dedicated to mingle, recreate, and socialize. We want our parish to be the heart of the community in North Naples where no one feels alone. Thanks to all of you who have pledged over the past year to make this a reality.

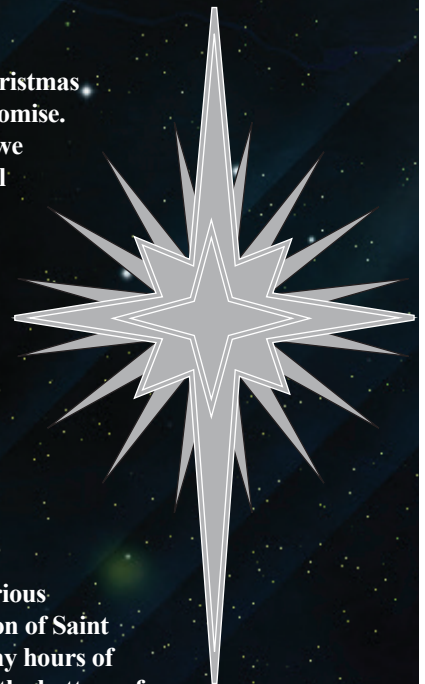
May the peace of Christ continue to bless all of you and those you love. Please be assured of my continued prayers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Christ's Love,



Fr. John J. Ludden



Mass for Deceased (+) and Special Intentions Requested by

December 19, 2015 Saturday			
8:00 AM	+	Delores McLaughlin	Elsa McAvoy
Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday			
3:00 PM	+	Jean Smith	Millie Lucanegro, Larry & Kathleen Tominelli Tom Wood, Jeff Wood and Tony Manes
5:00 PM	+	Jane & Stanley Pelak	The Family
December 20, 2015 Sunday			
7:00 AM	+	Sharon McCarthy	Joseph McCarthy
9:00 AM	+	Stephen Conger	Family & Friends
11:15 AM		For Our Parishioners	
1:15 PM	+	Sharon McCarthy	Joseph McCarthy
5:00 PM	+	Frank & Jeanette McCoy	Karen McCoy
December 21, 2015 Monday			
8:00 AM	+	Poor Souls in Purgatory	Dominic V.
9:00 AM		Howard Kelly	Lucy Kelly
December 22, 2015 Tuesday			
8:00 AM	+	Lewis Albergo	Nancy Squittieri
9:00 AM		Fedeli Family	Dick & Helen Fedeli
December 23, 2015 Wednesday			
8:00 AM	+	Norman Zerilli	Mary Maritato
9:00 AM		Edward Parada	Family
December 24, 2015 Thursday (Christmas Vigil)			
8:00 AM	+	Gloria Metcalf	Ray & Diane Mailhot
9:00 AM	+	Jack Blake	Joe & Marie Langlois
3:00 PM	+	Ozzie D'Addario	Janet D'Addario
5:00 PM	+	Rita O'Reilly	Bill & Jinny Deagan
10:00 PM	+	Patricia Slattery	Co-workers of Rick's from Gerry Estate
December 25, 2015 Friday (Christmas)			
7:00 AM	+	De & Val Family	Peter DeFrancesca
9:00 AM	+	Jean & Anthony DeCare	Kay Reid
11:15 AM		For Our Parishioners	
1:15 PM		Mass for the Unborn	Respect for Life
December 26, 2015 Saturday			
8:00 AM		Vito Capizzo	Liz Rick
Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday			
3:00 PM	+	Jack & Mary Fox	John & Geraldine Fox
5:00 PM	+	Jane, Stanley & Larry Pelak	The Family
December 27, 2015 Sunday			
7:00 AM	+	Peter DeFrancesca	Peter DeFrancesca
9:00 AM	+	Ann Mulvey	Family
11:15 AM		For Our Parishioners	
1:15 PM	+	Sharon K. McCarthy	Joseph McCarthy
5:00 PM		Gerard Hopt	Mr. & Mrs. Wm Pfau

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK**Saturday, December 19, 2015**

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

Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday

Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Sunday, December 20, 2015**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday, December 21, 2015**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

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

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

Wednesday, December 23, 2015**St. John of Kanty**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday, December 24, 2015**The Vigil of Christmas**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Friday, December 25, 2015**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]**Saturday, December 26, 2015****St. Stephen; First day of Kwanzaa**

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Sunday, December 27, 2015**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

MASS INTENTIONS...

Campaign Corner

December 20, 2015

“The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this ‘art of accompaniment’ which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5). The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life.”

— Pope Francis “EVANGELII GAUDIUM



**A Capital Campaign for
Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church**

Life Center and Beyond: St. John Welcomes Everyone to Our Catholic Community

For all our guests and Parish Family members who may have been away for a little while, we wanted to enlighten you about the future of Saint John the Evangelist. We have successfully reached our initial goal for our Capital Campaign to **Build Our Future, Serve Our Past**. This campaign will allow us to construct a unique space in the Naples area for people of all ages. This Life Center will provide activities and events ranging from wellness activities for seniors, after-school programs for youth, sports, fitness, and social activities for adults, food and drink services for various times of the day, music and theatrical shows, and lively group discussions around coffee and bocce courts. It will house the first active Catholic Youth Organization in Florida and the first Catholic Adult Organization in the United States. As the heart of our community, it will constantly be alive with programs supporting and encouraging the joyful encounter with our faith and with each other. This radical and expansive endeavor could not be possible without the support of time, talent, and treasure of our Parish Family. If you would like to join with us in realizing this future, please fill out this pledge card and either drop it in the offertory basket or bring it to the church office.

While we have begun the work our current blessings have allowed us to accomplish for the **Build Our Future, Serve Our Past** capital campaign, we still need our entire Parish Family to give in order to reach our additional goals. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Lichwalla, the Campaign Coordinator at 239.495.2001 or email: campaign@sjecc.com.

You can also learn more information about the Campaign at: www.sjecc.com/future

See photos of the proposed Life Center on page 5.

Jean-Paul Boucher,
General Manager
jp@sjecc.com

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone: _____



A Capital Campaign for
Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church

For Office Use Only

TOTAL GIFT:	\$
PAID HEREWITH:	\$
BALANCE:	\$

ACK CMS

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church

625 111th Avenue North • Naples, FL 34108

In support of the "BUILD OUR FUTURE-SERVE OUR PAST" Campaign, I/We pledge the total sum of \$ _____ to be paid over _____ years beginning Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____

Payment Terms: Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly Other _____ **Auto Giving**

Named Gift#: _____ In Honor/Memory of: _____

I would like to talk with someone about including the church in my will or living trust.

Email Address: _____

This commitment can be changed at any time by notifying the Church Office.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Please make checks payable to: SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH.
NOTE: Please enter in check memo line: BUILD OUR FUTURE-SERVE OUR PAST CAMPAIGN.

BUILD OUR FUTURE - SERVE OUR PAST CAMPAIGN

DECEMBER 20, 2015 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EDITION

PARISH CLERGY



Fr. John J. Ludden, Pastor

Fr. Robert Murphy	Associate
Fr. Jim Simko	Associate
Deacon Hal Brenner	
Deacon Forrest Wallace	
Deacon Frank Paniccia	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 1:00 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
Jean-Paul Boucher: 228.3910
Fax: 239.566.9117
jp@saintjohntheevangelist.com

Parish Secretary

Deborah Marsh

Assistant to the Pastor

Tricia Schwarz

Pastoral Musician and Liturgist

Tom Oram: 228-3920

Choir Director

Ellie Roberts

Sacristan

Lan Tran

Director of Family Mission

Jean-Paul Boucher

Parish Publications/Bulletin Editor

Kathy Sims

Memorial Garden

Jean-Paul Boucher

Religious Boutique

Jackie Gibson: 228.3921

Maintenance

566.8740

Education Staff

Director of Religious Education

Natalie Campbell: 228.3904/3909

Coordinator, Adult Faith Formation & RCIA

Jack Kindsvater: 556.8740, ext. 3918

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: www.saintjohntheevangelist.com When on the website, click on the **Forms** tab at the top of the home page and select New Parishioner Form. Download the form, complete it and return the completed form to the parish office or drop in the collection basket.

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.

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 and 9:00 a.m.

Thursday Evening

6:30 p.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 Intentions

We are currently accepting intentions for 2016.

Altar Flowers and/or Host & Wine

We have 2016 Mass availability and 2015 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.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*To Know, To Love, and To Serve God
in His church and our community.*

PARISH INFORMATION...

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

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19 & 20

Readings:	620		
Entrance Hymn:	77	The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns	
Preparation Hymn:	68	Emmanuel	
Communion Hymn:	227	This Is Jesus	
	374	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	
Closing Hymn:	63	O Come, O Come Emmanuel	verses 1, 4 & 5

Choral Anthems at 9 & 11:15 AM Masses

Prelude	Come, Emmanuel, Come	<i>Ruth Elaine Schram</i>
Communion	When Will We See the Little One?	<i>Jay Althouse</i>

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

Readings:	621 (3 & 5 PM), 622 (midnight), 623 (7 AM), 624 (9, 11, & 1)		
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 the Midnight Clear	
Closing Hymn:	94	Joy to the World	



#ToKnow, #ToLove, #ToServe – Living Our Mission to Welcome All with Joy and Mercy as the Field Hospital of Love

It is such a blessing we have as a Parish Family to be able to live, work, play and enjoy our lives in Naples, FL, whether that is all year long, or just a few weeks at a time. We are especially thankful to everyone who enters our church doors during these holiday weeks. Many are friends and relatives. Others are guests who may have never set foot on our campus before.

For those who have been away for a while, welcome home. I wanted to take this chance to inform those individuals who are not involved in our parish weekly about what we are up to, as a specific parish as well as a Catholic Church. It has been an exciting year to be a Catholic, from Pope Francis' visit to the United States to the Meeting of Bishops on Family (see photos on page 7), to our amazing Capital Campaign. The St. John Mission: To Know, To Love, and To Serve God, is integrated into everything we do here, and we cannot wait to share our future with you.

Catholic Church Celebrates Year of Mercy

For all the fear, pain, and suffering going on around the world (and right here in our own backyard), we must continue to illustrate that acts of terror will not change who we are and what we believe. The Year of Mercy is the Catholic Church's call for all of us to live our God's mercy in our everyday actions, with works of mercy, love and reconciliation. Jubilees (what this Year of Mercy is called) are special years in our faith for the remission of sins and universal pardons. Normally occurring every 50 years or so, this Extraordinary Jubilee was only announced in March. I hope you all will have your hearts filled with His love during your time here at St. John and then go out and spread that love in our neighborhoods and world around us. This should be especially true with our actions to welcome and include those who have traditionally felt excluded from our church. Our church is universal and should be a safe haven for all.



Catholic News Service Photo

by Jean-Paul Boucher
General Manager
jp@sjecc.com



Field Hospital for Humanity

In one of his first interviews as Pope, Our Holy Father clearly illustrated his mindset for the Catholic Church:

The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds.

— Pope Francis 9/19/2013

Pope Francis is focusing us all on the big picture. We can find love, joy, and peace together not with lots of rules and regulations, but with building a welcoming community and showcasing the happiness that comes with a personal relationship with Jesus through the sacraments. Cardinal Tagle sums it up perfectly:

We are one Church, one home, one family. The Church must embody the redemptive mission of God... [L]et us recognize our own

wounds. Facing our own wounds will enable us to be compassionate and understanding to the wounded... [W]e must accept that the Church is a field hospital. We should be ready to respond in emergency cases. We should be prompt with creative solutions. We should be agile and flexible... [W]e should be infuse the field hospital with hope. We cannot be healers if we look desperate. I don't know how those glum looking people could even generate trust and healing. Smile please.

— Cardinal Luis Tagle 9/24/2015

From the doors of our church to every place you see a Parish Family member out in the community, I hope you are seeing our smiling faces, helping and enjoying each other and all those around us.

Capital Campaign Success Welcomes Community to St. John Campus

Finally, I am so excited to educate all of you about our Capital Campaign (details can be found on our Capital Campaign page 3 and on our website at: <http://saintjohntheevangelist.com/tag/le>). This campaign's main

Parish Mission & Life continues on page 7

Parish Mission & Life

Parish Mission & Life continued from page 6

thrust has been to renew our facilities and create new programs in the area that are both uniquely Catholic, like Catholic Youth Organization, and will make St. John a home-away-from-home for parishioners and residents in the local area. We are a comfortable, engaging place where individuals from 3 to 97 (and beyond) can be fed, body, mind, soul, and spirit. From senior wellness activities and bocce leagues to after-school programs and pick-up basketball games after work, there is something for everyone. Even for those who are here for a short time, they can stroll over and get a cup of coffee after Mass, or enjoy our facilities for a few months, instead of paying for a yearly membership fee to a gym.

We have reached our core goal to implement our new Life Center and these programs. The future is incredibly bright here at St. John and we want to include all of you in it. We will be posting specific ground-breaking dates and renovation schedules very soon!



Merry Christmas and God Bless You All!

Children and families with Bishop Dewane



Putting together Meals Ready to Eat



Painting mural by numbers commemorating the World Meeting

Mass Times Christmas and New Year

Advent Penance Service at St. John

Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Christmas Eve Mass

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. (featuring the Children's Choir)

10:00 p.m. (Music starts at 9:00 p.m.)

Friday, December 25, 2015

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)

Thursday, December 31, 2015

Vigil of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2016

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

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

Advent Penance Service at St. Elizabeth Seton

Monday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m.

2730 53rd Ter Sw, Naples

Holiday Office Closing

The Parish Office will be closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, 2015 for the Christmas Holiday.

The Parish Office will be closed as well on Thursday, December 31, 2015 and Friday, January 1, 2016 for the New Year's Holiday.

Altar Servers:

Jean-Paul Boucher
 jp@saintjohntheevangelist.com

Arts & Liturgical Environment:

Kay Sanfelippo 949.7122

Eucharistic Ministry

Nace Baier *EMMinistry@sjecc.com*

Homebound

Call the Office 566.8740

Hospital

Mary Ellen Metro
maryellen@sjecc.com

Greeters & Ushers:

John Smith 598.2306

Jamaica Mission:

Jeanne Stamant 514.0290
 (summer) 239.248.3248

Lectors:

Victor Yopez *Lectors@sjecc.com*
Youth & Family Mass Lectors
 Miguel Castillo *miguel@sjecc.com*

Prayer Group:

Linda Reilly 821.8982

Respect Life:

Rosemary Erickson 597.3941

Pastoral Stewardship Council:

President/Contact Rick Beebe
psc@sjecc.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. Jack Kindsvater: 566.8740, ext. 3918

AA. Monday, 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

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. Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. St. Leo Catholic Church, Juan Diego Building. Carol: 804.306.5323

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

Arimatheans. A group of caring parishioners who support parishioners by attending funerals as representation of our faith community. Elaine: 566-8160

Boy Scout Troop 226 – St. John the Evangelist. Meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. For information: *scoutmaster@troop-226.com*

Cub Scout Pack 226 – Chartered at St. John the Evangelist. All 1st - 5th grade boys welcome.

Meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. For information: *pack226naples@gmail.com*

Choirs:

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 566.8740

Companion Driving Ministry. Ongoing "Need a Ride/Give a Ride" program offered to anyone in need of transportation to attend church services. For more information or to sign up for a ride or to become a volunteer driver, contact the parish office at 566.8740 or the ministry director, Beth Lucci at 877.6254 or email *sjeride@gmail.com*

Cursillistas. Third Tuesday monthly at 7:00 p.m. The Naples area Ultreya meets at St. William's Ministry Center, Seagate Drive. All Cursillistas and visitors welcome. Robyn DeVille: 253.6275 or *robyndeville@earthlink.net*

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

Divorced and Separated Support Group. Anyone who is going through a separation or has experienced it in the past (no matter how many years ago) is welcome. Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Lhara Echevarria: 239.293.3694 or *Lhara@sjecc.com*

Faith Chat. Wednesdays at 5:45 - 7:30 p.m. Call office: 239.566.8740

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. Scott Baier: 877.9784 or Chet Lucarelli: 289.2807

Grief Support. The next 7-session series begins February 16 and ends March 29 (Tuesdays only). For any concerns related to the Bereavement Ministry contact Dee: 594.7193

Hospitality Ministry. Volunteers serve light refreshments for parishioners who gather after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses for

sharing, communicating and extending fellowship. If interested in helping contact Elida Gil: 239.597.8909 or Judy Hemond: 561.779.6024

Job Search Skills & Support. Thursdays 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the library. This is an open meeting for anyone who is unemployed or seeking a career change. Free. Carol Marlow: 948.0050

Knights of Columbus St. John Council 11281. Meets first Monday of the month. Officers at 6 p.m.; business meeting at 7:15 p.m. Social meeting last Monday of the month. Visiting Knights are welcome. Scott Schwarz, Grand Knight: 293.6876

Knights of Columbus Arthur J. Corr Assembly 3308. Meets third Tuesday of every month at Noon except January and February when they meet at 6:30 p.m. Visiting Knights are invited. S/K Gary Ray: 821.5115

Knitting & Crocheting. Tuesdays from 10:00 - 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. Call the office: 566.8740

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 Carolyn McNichols at 239.919.2675 or *carolyn@tsusa.us*. 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. Our organization combines service work in support of the parish with social activities. We always welcome new members. Monthly meetings are held at 2:00 p.m. on the second Thursday. Joe Lichwalla: 239.495.2001

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

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

Project Rachel Lay Companion. A post-abortion healing ministry providing one-on-one counseling. Loretta Judy: 239.293.5897 or *lnbjudy@comcast.net*

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. Rosemary Erickson: 597.3941

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

St. Vincent de Paul. Meets first and third Tuesdays after 8:00 a.m. Mass. SVdP Office: 775.1667

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. and Monday evenings. (Will resume on first Thursday in January.) Maggie Miller: 239.687.0687 or *maggnana@comcast.net* or Linda Reilly, 821.8982

■ Please check the Event Sheets on the building doors for the meeting location of the group. Groups do not always meet in the same location from week to week. ■

PARISH MINISTRIES & OUTREACH PROGRAMS & EVENTS...

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

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 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:

Cpl. Francisco Alvarenga
U.S. Marines

Sp. Petrus Botha
U.S. Army

S. Isaiah Brutus
U.S. Air Force

Ensign Stuart Campbell
U.S. Navy

BM2 Charley Davidson
U.S. Navy (USS Samuel B. Roberts)

Adam Decker
U.S. Air Force

Nicholas Detloff
U.S. Air Force

Sgt. Anthony J. Diamante
U.S. Army

Joshua Emmons
U.S. Air Force

LCpl. Conor Fleurant
USMC

Lt. Colin Flood
U.S. Army, Special Forces

Lt. Bernardo Garcia
U.S. Marines

Lt. Joseph Gilig
1st Marine Division
* LAV Recon

Cpl. Dylan Granza
U.S. Army Ranger

Specialist Shelby Granza
U.S. Army

Gunnery Sgt. Patrick H. Hammer
USMC * Embassy Security (New Zealand)

Specialist Douglas Hennessy
U.S. Army

Marine Lt. Colonel Brian Howlett
USMC

Lt. John Meyers
U.S. Army

LCpl. Randy A. Novak
USMC

LCpl. Ryan D. Novak
USMC

Ryan D. Novak
USMC

Cpt. Daniel Palmer
U.S. Army

Cpt. John Palmer
U.S. Army

Cpt. Martin Palmer
U.S. Army
(Afghanistan)

Lt. Robert Pedrigo
U.S. Army

Lt. Joseph Schafer
U.S. Army

Pvt. 1st Class Aron Siwek
U.S. Army

Houng Tran
U.S. Army

IT2 Jason E. Tydingco
(USN)

SSGT. Matthew Watson
U.S. Air Force
(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. Linda Reilly: 821.8982

Centering Prayer /Lectio Divina

One hour of peaceful, silent and beautiful prayer and contemplation. Mondays: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday morning Centering Prayer in the Parish Library

following the morning Mass. Maria Jones: 348.5361

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. Linda Reilly: 821.8982

PRAYER LIST

We remember those who have died recently, especially:

Thomas Abele

May they rest in eternal peace.

AJM Rich Annunizata Fernando Ardila Tomas Ardila Paschal Arpaia Patricia Arpaia Baby Boy Robbie Barnicoat Patty Barry Richard Becker Margie Benefico Barbara Berg Linda Berry Jamie Boas Kathleen Bradach Vicki Brenner Carol Brooks John Brooks Anthony Caiazzo Ron Caiazzo Nancy Campbell Steve Caputo Glenn Carroll Sheira Cavanagh Tiffany Chill Frank & Joan Ciccarelli Sam Comeriato Bill Copeland Susan Culey Jennifer Cusmano Vivian Daleo Anthony D'Antuono Mark Dabronzo Leo Dauwer Robert Decraene Chuck Dee Florence Demski Rick Derkman Marlene Dezee Jim Diamante Julie Dieter Al DiMenna Lauren Di'Orio Shelly Drummond Dr. Steve Evans	Carolyn Felner Patrick Finck May Flanagan Donna Flynn Anna Focht Follese-Fiedler Family Susan Foster Rois Maire Ni Gabann Jack and Madeline Gaffey Janet Gainey Edward Gaynor Cathy Gelharr Michael & Terry Getty Dick Goepel Laura Harbrough Cindy Harold Brad Harriet Reg Hart Judy Hemond Richard Henning Gerard Heyen Kim Hocker Charlotte Hollohan JMG Maria Joyce Dawn June Charleen Kasabian Chester T. Kauffman Sean Keating Ashley Kelley Kevin Kincaid Bill Kinchla Katie, Johnathan and Hebert Kovacevic Jim Krauser Family Josephine Lancia Joan Lane Ruth Lang Ray & Joan LaPointe Lindsay Lavery Diane Leahy Dan & Louise LeBlanc	Mary Lou and Ned Leibig Mary Lenick Rosemarie Lopez Lillian Luchini Jean Lydon Margie Lynch Pat M Jeanne Macari Julia Maciocia Joan Maier Maria and Family Ann Maniuszko Kenneth J. McAvoy Barbara McCabe Kevin McDonagh Simone McGaffee Mary McKay Lucille McMahan Carolyn McNichols Glenn Meyers Art Midili Nancy Mitchell Gilbert & Shirley Monacelli Andrew Moss James Murphy Paige Nelson Patricia Norton Roger Nottmeier Gloria Oliver George O'Hara Emma O'Rourke Maryla Panagos Pluc Family Joe Pohrer Richard Pratt Matthew Quinn Linda Reilly Aurelia Rein Ellen Roberts Rea Rossi Robert Sabatka Paul Sanchez Lisa Sanfelippo Peter R. Scariati	Isolde Scherer Joanne & Edwin Schnackenbeck Eli Schneider Leonard Seidl Don Selinga Melinda Shannon Jane & Bob Shengulet Teresa Shengulet Bruce Sherman Marilyn Shields John Smith Winnie Smith Nancy Stewart Susan Stokes Jeannie Stoll Jeannie Sullivan Pat Sutter Joanmarie Switalski Rita Taranto Marilyn Taylor James Thompson Joseph Tomaszewski Maaria Torres Jennifer Toth Patricia Trapnell Pat Urban Pat Velasquez Lena Vittolo Anne W Patti Wakim Wardein Family Max West Tom Wood Bob Wright John & Mary Yotis Helen Zaks Ed Zerrer
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LET US PRAY...

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

DECEMBER 20, 2015 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EDITION

5 PM Mass Music Worship Aid

Sunday, December 20, 2015:

the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Opening Song

Everlasting God

Brenton Brown CCLI Song No. 4556538. © 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing). Brenton Brown | Ken Riley. For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. CCLI #2008891

Strength will rise as we wait up - on the Lord, we will wait
 up - on the Lord, we will wait up - on the Lord. Our God,
 You reign for - ev - er. Our Hope,
 our strong De - liv - 'rer
 You are the ev - er - last - ing God, the ev -
 er - last - ing God You do not faint, You
 won't grow wea - ry You're the de - fend - er of the weak,
 You com - fort those in need. You lift
 us up on wings like ea - gles. ea - gles.

Kyrie

• 5A *hymnal*

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 80) Music by Tom Oram, © 2005, 2011 A Chasing After Wind Music (BMI.) All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Response (cf. v.4)

Lord, make us turn to you; — let us see your face and
we shall be saved, we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation • 11A *hymnal*

Preparation Song **Shout to the Lord** Darlene Zschech
CCLI Song No. 1406918. © 1993 Hillsong Publishing (Admin. in U.S. & Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music). All rights Reserved. CCLI License #2008891.

Verse) My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you!
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my Shelter,
tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship you!

Chorus) Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King!
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name!
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you!

Communion Songs **227 This Is Jesus** Jim Cowan
374 I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light Kathleen Thomerson

Closing Song **63 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1, 4, & 5)** Traditional

The O Antiphons & Advent 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 1500 years; perhaps even longer. They include, beginning on December 17, O **S**apientia (O Wisdom), then O **A**donai (O Lord), O **R**adix lesse (O Root of Jesse), O **C**lavis Davidica (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). Fascinatingly, the first letters of each title, read backwards, also spell the Latin phrase **ERO CRAS**, “Tomorrow, I will be [there]”, 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. 20th, O Clavis Davidica, is translated below. (V.5 was Saturday’s antiphon.)

**⊙ Clavis Davidica, regna reclude caelica:
fac iter tutum superum, et claude vias inferum.**

*O Key of David, open the kingdom of heaven:
Make safe the way above, and close the roads below.*



The Word & Life

Micah 5:1-4A

Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Born of a Mother's Love

It is the tradition of the Catholic Church to focus on the person of Mary on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Mary plays an important part in the event of Incarnation. It is through Mary that Jesus is nurtured in the womb and the Word became flesh. As mother, Mary would safeguard the infant king and protect him as he made his first steps. Mary, along with Jesus' foster father, Joseph, would have passed on personal faith. Many of the parables Jesus used in his public ministry were probably adaptations of stories given him by a mother's love as she tucked her son into bed at night. Mary, along with her husband Joseph, would have played an extremely important part in what is considered to be the hidden years of Jesus' life where he developed his relationship with the Father in heaven.

There are few references to Mary in the gospels, but these few references we have provide a great insight into who she was. In today's gospel, Elizabeth tells Mary, "Blessed are you who believed that what

was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary believed in the fulfillment of God's Word in her life. Mary's life in the scriptures shows how she constantly ponders the events that she agreed to participate in. Mary recognizes God's will and accepts it. She says yes to the angel when asked to be mother of our Lord and risks the stigma of a pregnancy outside of marriage. Mary says yes to the lineage of Jesus and humbles herself by giving birth to God's king in a common stable that became her homeless shelter. This mother risks political exile in her flight into Egypt in order to escape the slaughter of her child. She says yes to God in raising Jesus in her faith and allowing him freedom to accomplish God's work in his public ministry. She says yes to God in being there for Jesus during the scandal of the cross and the rejection of all but one of his disciples. Mary returns to those tyrants who left Jesus alone in his most painful hour, to an upper room to await resurrection. In doing these things, Mary dedicates her whole life to God.

Reflection Questions

1. Who was Mary?
2. What relevance does she have for us as Christians?
3. What risks does she take?
4. What characterizes the life of Mary?
5. How am I inspired by her life?
6. What risks shall I take for Christ?
7. How do I understand my life?
8. What role do I play in the economy of salvation?
9. How can my life become an expression of the good news of Christ's presence?

Why? Because she believed that His words would be fulfilled, thus giving witness to the resurrection.

Mary is truly a model of faith for us. When we contemplate her life we see great witness and commitment to God. The relevance of Mary in our lives is that we mirror the example that she gave us and we honor the memory of one so beautiful, gentle, and great!

Prayer

Heavenly Father we ask you for the courage to accept your will as Mary did. May we be inspired by the life of the Mother of your only Son. She said yes to You and your will. Enable us to say yes to You with each step of our life's journey. We ask you, Mary, our Mother, to pray for each one of us, now and until the hour of our death. Amen.

Voices of Faith

Lady of Grace

The simplicity of a maiden girl
Filled with humility and gentleness
Radiates the beauty of God
Vessel of God's grace
She protects the essence of God's love
In the warmth and security of her womb

This lady of grace journeys forth in haste
to Elizabeth, both relative and friend
The olive trees shroud the arid hillside of Judah
Testaments of life amidst barren landscape
Life bursts forth in a land parched with thirst
And in lives hungering for God

Entering into humble abode
Mary is greeted by a woman of faith,
All is possible for God
As the infant within sacred womb
Leaps for joy
For one who was once considered barren

"Blessed are you among women,"
The Spirit-filled cousin did say,
"And blessed is the fruit of your womb."
The sacredness of God's presence is noted
The promise of Israel comes true
The prayers for Messiah are granted

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



But how could it happen
That the mother of the Lord comes to one in such lowly estate?
How could it be that a lady of grace, humble though she be
A Blessed believer in Word fulfilled?
For such is the greatness and graciousness of God
To find his promise and dwelling in the humble of heart

God remains also with man
As he makes his way through life
The sacredness of God's presence is found within every soul
The great towering cathedrals
And the humblest chapel upon hillside green
Reminders of the eternal promise of Emmanuel

—*"Peaceful Moments"* by Fr. John J. Ludden

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas): Year C

Vigil Mass

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 89:4-5,
16-17, 27, 29, Acts 13:16-17,
22-25, Matthew 1:1-25

Mass at Night

Isaiah 9:1-6, Psalm 96:1-2,
2-3, 11-12, 13, Titus 2:11-14,
Luke 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn

Isaiah 62:11-12, Psalm 97:1,
6, 11-12, Titus 3:4-7, Luke
2:15-20

Mass During the Day

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98:1,
2-3, 3-4, 5-6, Hebrews 1:1-6,
John 1:1-18

The Word & Life

Christmas – The Birth of Hope



Christmas is a beautiful time of wonderment for children and memories for adults. The passage of time and space becomes transparent in the seamless garment of the swaddling clothes that covered Jesus in the manger at Bethlehem. The scene of the Nativity calls to mind thoughts of Christmases gone by and evokes a sense of security and peace within us. We remember a Savior has been born to us today — Jesus Christ the Lord. The first Christmas witnessed the birth of a shining star, the shepherds' awe and wonder, the choirs of the angels, and the journey of the magi. This Christmas, we remember the great things from years gone by that give our lives meaning and purpose.



Image: The Adoration of the Shepherds

Source: Wikimedia Commons /Gerard van Honthorst

The birth of Jesus marks the birth of our destiny. As Jesus was laid in a manger, we also know that our hope made its resting place in a world hungering for God's love. When the shepherds were told, "Do not be afraid", so the world was given the same message of courage. The reality of the child Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes led humanity into an ongoing journey into the heart of God. Hidden in the folds of the swaddling clothes, was the mercy and forgiveness of God waiting to unfold in the life of Jesus. While Jesus' manger was made of the poorest wood, it contained the world's finest treasure worth more than gold — a treasure that would promise paradise.

For some, like the shepherds and the wise men, the journey ended at Bethlehem. However, for us, that is where our journey begins. The ultimate sign of God's love was for his only Son to be born into a world of poverty and need. Mary and Joseph found themselves without shelter on the day of Jesus' birth. Even so, shepherds came to visit their Savior and wise men came to offer their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Extraordinary events surrounded Jesus' humble birth.

Christmas is ultimately good news for us. It is a statement from the Father in heaven. God wants to be close to us. No matter how rich or how poor we are, God's initiative is to make his dwelling among us to change our lives. The gift of the Christ child is God's gift to us — even thousands of years later. The work of redemption and salvation continues today as we journey through the years of our lives. The ordinary lives that we lead may one day be an extraordinary life of someone who has answered God's call to live the truth of the gospel. Each one of us is opened to the reality of God's presence through Christ's birth. Christ came to build a bridge between God and humanity. The experience of the Incarnation initiates a deeper relationship with God. This is the hope that the event of Bethlehem establishes for us.

Voices of Faith

The Christmas Gift

The festival of lights illumine the heavens
Over an ancient land
Where people watch and pray
For the eternal promise
Breaking through the moonlit skies
Appears the comet as a bright shining star
Leading humanity to stable stall
Where Emmanuel is born – God with us

On hillsides shepherds stand and watch
Protecting their sheep from wandering wolves
And suddenly heaven is wedded to earth
As the angelic throngs join together in heavenly chorus
“Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!”
Music to the ears of simple folk
Souls filled with faith and hope

Trembling with fear
The shepherds are asked to fear not
Surrounded by God's glory
Their prayers for a savior now answered
An infant wrapped in swaddling clothes
Lying in a manger
Is the dream of God fulfilled

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



Prayer

*Word made flesh, be with us as we celebrate your birth.
May Christ always live in our hearts and give us the power
to understand who we are called to be. Your Son, Father,
was your gift to us. May our lives become our gift to you.
Amen.*

Reflection Questions

1. What does Christmas mean to me?
2. How does the coming of Christ gift my life?
3. How does the world change with the coming of Christ?
4. How can I become a gift to God?
5. What can I do to offer such homage to this infant king?
6. Do I allow God's Word to become heaven's treasure in my life?
7. How do I permit Christ to enter into my heart?

With no room at the Inn
Mary and Joseph in a manger rest
Delivering salvation's dawning day
Through the eyes of their child
God peers out at the world in wonder
The poverty of stable stall
Beholds a priceless treasure longed for by both prophets and kings

Amidst poverty comes Emmanuel –
God is with us
There is no longer room for fear
Blessed reassurance as God becomes one of us
To show us how to live and love
To show us how to forgive and hope
To show us how to die and to rise again!

— “Peaceful Moments” by Fr. John J. Ludden

Faith Formation

2015-2016 School Year

First Reconciliation Rehearsal and Ceremony Date Change

Please note, that the **First Reconciliation Ceremony has been changed to Wednesday, February 3 at 5:45 p.m.** in the church. Please arrive with your child by 5:30 p.m. Our First Reconciliation Rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, January 27 at 5:45 p.m. in the church. *We needed to make the changes due to the additional Thursday evening 6:30 p.m. Mass added to the Mass schedule.* Thank you for your patience and understanding. Childcare will be provided for those who need it.

Faith Formation Lessons Over the Christmas Holiday

While Faith Formation is not in session over the Christmas holidays, materials are being sent home to support learning at home in our lectionary based program. If possible, please take time with your children to read the upcoming Gospel together before attending Mass. The readings for the upcoming Gospels can be accessed at www.usccb.org by just clicking on the calendar date you need, on the home page of the website.

Here are the Gospel readings for the dates we will not be in class:

Sunday, December 20, 2015 – 4th Sunday of Advent

– Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, The Nativity of the Lord,

December 24, 2015 – Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas, December 25, 2015 – Luke 2:1-14

Sunday, January 3, 2016 – Epiphany- Matthew 2:1-12

- Pflaum weeklies will come home with children grades K-6.
- This is a great time to teach your child how to find readings in their bible or access the readings online at www.usccb.org.
- Gospel at Home lesson plans and support are available at www.pflaumweeklies.com.

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas!



Last month at Families in Christ the children with their parents made about 450 Christmas cards for the hundreds of presents the Ladies of Charity distributed during the holiday season. These are just three samples of the Christmas cards that the families made. We thank the families for their creativity.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Christmas Holiday for the remainder of the month.

Classes resume Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

Faith Formation Office Hours

Mondays: 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. (on days of Faith Formation Class only)

Fridays: 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Sundays: 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. (on days of Faith Formation Class only)

Natalie Campbell, Director of Religious Education
natalie@sjecc.com 239.566.8740, ext. 3909

ANTIPHONS for WEEKDAY MASS

Monday, December 21: Monday of Fourth Week of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Cf. Is 7: 14; 8: 10*

The Lord and Ruler will be coming soon,
and his name will be called Emmanuel,
because he will be called God-with-us.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Lk 1: 45*

Blessed are you who have believed,
that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Tuesday, December 22: Tuesday of Fourth Week of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Ps 24 (23): 7*

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Lk 1: 46, 49*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Wednesday, December 23: Wednesday of 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. 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.

Thursday, December 24: Thursday of 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. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Lk 1: 68*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

Saturday, 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.

*The staff at Saint John
the Evangelist wishes all of our parishioners
and their families and friends a joyous
Christmas and a happy and healthy 2016.
Merry Christmas.*



NURSERY CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

The nursery will NOT be open on
Christmas Eve, December 24, and
Christmas Day, December 25, so that
everyone can enjoy Christmas with their
families.

Thank you for your understanding.

**The 2016
Saint John the
Evangelist Catholic
Calendar
will be available
the weekend of
December 26-27.**

Catholic-Jewish Dialogue

“The Jewish Cardinal” Screening Wednesday, January 6 at St. John

“The Jewish Cardinal” may sound like a punch line, but it accurately describes a real man, Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Paris-born son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, who at 13, bar mitzvah



age, converted to Catholicism in the fraught year of 1940.

It is the amazing true story of a man who maintained his cultural identity as a Jew even after converting to Catholicism and joining the priesthood. Lustiger was

appointed Archbishop of Paris by Pope Jean Paul II and found a new platform to celebrate his dual identity as a Catholic Jew. When nuns plan to build a convent within the walls of Auschwitz, Lustiger may be forced at last to choose his side.

This haunting film is about reconciliation, the reconciliation of two faiths, Judaism and Christianity. “The Jewish Cardinal” reminds us of the possibility for goodness if there is respect, love and forgiveness between and among cultures and those of faith.

This family film will be shown in the St. John PLC on Wednesday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Please RSVP to cjdialogue@naples.net

image: Le cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger sur le parvis de Notre Dame de Paris le 15 août 1988. source: Claude Truong-Ngoc [CC BY-SA 3.0] (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons

SAVE THE DATE!


Thursday, January 28th 6:30pm-8:30pm
doors open at 6 pm

Open to Men & Women



Gus Lloyd, the exciting and engaging host of “Seize the Day” on Sirius XM 129: The Catholic Channel, is coming to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church for the Faith & Wine. His topic for the evening will be “Proclaiming the Gospel of Joy”

Are we a people of joy? Are we preaching the Gospel? Are we putting the two together? At the next Faith and Wine, Gus Lloyd, host of Seize the Day, the morning radio show on The Catholic Channel on Sirius XM, will talk about proclaiming the Gospel OF Joy and WITH Joy! Don't miss one of the most magnetic speakers in America today as he shares the Joy of the Gospel with us.

 *Faith and Wine*

GUS LLOYD

CATHOLIC *Apologetics*

Please prepay for this event no later than noon on January 26th, by going to www.faithandwine.com (using PayPal) or dropping off your check made payable to “Faith and Wine, Inc.” to the St. John parish office.

Or you can mail (postmarked before Thursday January 21st) your check to Kathleen Millard at 1937 Crestview Way Unit 172; Naples, FL. 34119

DONT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR GUS SPEAK AND GROW IN THE GIFT OF JOY

5 Life Saving Screenings Here Thursday, January 7

Once again we will offer a preventive health event on Thursday, January 7 in conjunction with Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings. For those people who are unsure, vascular disease is progressive and this means that if it's been longer than a year since you were last screened, it's time again to go through the safe, non-invasive process.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: **blocked arteries**, which is a leading cause of stroke; **abdominal aortic aneurysms**, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; **hardening of the arteries in the legs**, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; **atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat**, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a **bone density screening**, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm for \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. You will receive a \$10 discount on the screening packages by calling 888.653.6441 to pre-register.

Adult Faith Formation & RCIA

Becoming Catholic

“My brothers and sisters, this truly is a day of joy!”

With this greeting, our pastor, Fr. John, began the **Rite of Welcoming the Candidates** at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 6.

Stephanie Masone, Patricia Yolich, William Wieckert, Kent Grissom and their sponsors were introduced to the congregation by the RCIA Coordinator, Jack Kindsvater. They asked to be accepted as candidates for reception into the full communion of the Roman Catholic Church and membership in our parish of Saint John the Evangelist.

in another Christian tradition or baptized Catholic but never catechized. Often they are already attending Mass with family or friends.

They will continue formation of their faith in the RCIA process. They responded “I am” when asked if they were prepared to reflect more deeply on the mystery of their baptism, to listen to the apostles’ instruction, and to join with the community in a life of prayer and service. Meeting weekly they will continue to explore what Catholics believe, what Catholics do, and why.

Their sponsors declared their readiness to help these

Candidates prepare for reception into the full Communion of the Catholic Church, and the members of the congregation affirmed their responsibility to journey with these Candidates and their willingness to help in their preparation.

Let us all support these Candidates, their sponsors, and their families with our prayers.



Front Row: Candidates Stephanie Masone, Patricia Yolich, William Wieckert, Kent Grissom.

Back Row: Sponsors Gina Manfredi, Catherine Murphy, Lou Altieri, missing: Michael Mick.

This Rite marked the formal beginning of the Candidate’s journey toward Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil in March. But it should be noted that unlike the situation with unbaptized Catechumens, this rite did not confer any change in status on the candidates. By virtue of their previous baptism they were and remain members of the priestly people of God. The prayers and ritual gestures used in this Rite acknowledge that these candidates are already part of the community because they have been marked by baptism.

You may ask, who are these Candidates? Typical of Candidates around the world, they were either baptized and catechized

**ADULT CONFIRMATION is for YOU...
if you have been baptized Catholic, made
your First Confession and received your First
Communion, but for whatever reason have not
been confirmed**

Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be at Saint John the Evangelist in late April or May to confirm our young adults as well as “mature” adult baptized Catholics who have not been confirmed. We expect to have the exact date in February.

A list of all interested adults is being developed; those on the list will receive regular updates about the process and the appropriate preparation.

Please send your name, preferred phone and email contact information to jack@sjecc.com.

More information about any of these programs can be obtained by contacting:
Jack Kindsvater, Adult Faith Formation and RCIA Coordinator. Call 239.566.8740, ext. 3918 or email jack@sjecc.com

Christmas for Everyone in Divine Gift Boutique

It is a Christmas Wonderland in the Divine Gift Boutique. From a beautiful manger set to Christmas crosses, Christmas figurines, and Christmas clocks. From an assortment of holiday candles and votive holders to baby, children and adult ornaments and Christmas magnets. There are also festive night lights, cookie cutters and holiday spatulas.

The gift shop also stocks a Christmas book by our own Maggie Gadsby. There are Irish Christmas plaques and a variety of stocking stuffers and holiday gift bags. There is a wide range of gift items for all the favorite people on your Christmas list.

Please stop by and get lost in this wonderland right here in your own church across from the restrooms.



Wanted - Business Owners
for Business Expo Sunday, January 17
 If you are a registered business owner and a parishioner of Saint John the Evangelist, you qualify to participate in our annual Business Expo to be held on Sunday, January 17 after all the masses.
 It is an opportunity for fellow parishioners to meet business owners who are also members of Saint John the Evangelist parish.
 If you would like to participate at no cost, please call Carol Marlow at 239.948.0050 or email her at carolmarlow@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE for Valentine Dinner Dance
 Please mark your calendars now for the Knights of Columbus Annual Valentine Dinner Dance scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016.
 Tickets go on sale January 2.

Volunteers Needed at Eden Park in Immokalee

Five volunteers are needed to assist children with learning in Eden Park School in Immokalee every Thursday beginning January 7, 2016. If you cannot commit to every week, substitutes are also needed. A teaching background is desirable but not mandatory.

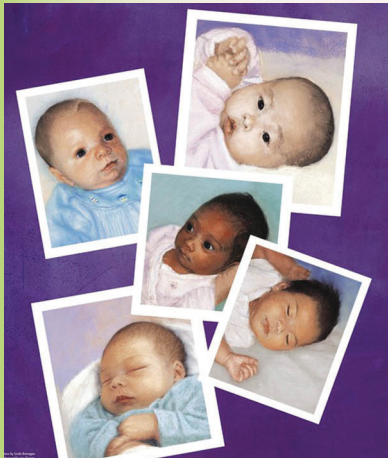
Volunteers are transported by bus, leaving from two locations — Sam's Club and McDonald's on Immokalee Rd. — at 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. respectively. The bus pick-up is at Noon to return to Naples.

If interested in volunteering and have a desire to assist children in need, call Diane Stanley, Volunteer Coordinator, at 239.353.4942.

“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 Friday, 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.



Luke 2:10-14 - The angel said ... “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.””

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



“For unto us a child is born.” Isaiah 9:6

*From our family to
yours, May the
miracle of Christmas
touch your life!*



Save the Date

for Milestone Anniversary Mass

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in two locations: February 13 at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice and March 12 at St. Leo Parish in Bonita Springs. Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Registration will be through the parishes and information will be received by January.

Bishop Dewane Will Celebrate Christmas Day Televised Mass for the Homebound

The televised Christmas Day Mass for the Homebound with Bishop Frank J. Dewane as Celebrant will air for a full hour on Christmas Day. For viewers in the northern portions of the Diocese (Manatee, Highlands, Hardee, DeSoto, Sarasota counties), the Mass airs at 9:30 a.m. on the CW Network. In the southern portions of the Diocese (Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades, Lee), the Mass airs at 10:00 a.m. on WFTX-TV (FOX-4). Please check your cable provider for channel listings.

Leaflet missals are available upon request by calling 941.486.4714 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.

SAVE THE DATE

**Bonita Village Band
Annual FREE Concert
Saturday, January 30, 2016
at Saint John the Evangelist.
More details will follow.**

For more info: Pat Lampe at 592.7845

Jamaica Outreach Program

JOP Christmas Tea 2015

The poor in Jamaica will be blessed with net proceeds of over \$7,700, as a result of the 8th annual JOP Christmas Tea, which was held Wednesday, December 2. For the 301 people in attendance, there was a champagne reception, vendors, fashion show and the traditional tea, sandwiches, scones and sweets.

“The scones and food served by Here’s Howe were exceptional, and their service was gracious and efficient,” said Jeanne Stamant, event organizer.

Ten gentlemen (most in tuxedos) served the guests champagne upon arrival or sold raffle tickets or photographed the event. DJ Rick Blake played Christmas music, both during the event and fashion show hosted by Steinmart (Bonita store). Donors of gifts made it possible for us to offer four valuable silent auction items and 27 lucky ladies won raffle prizes; 14 others won door prizes. Three vendors sold gifts, floral arrangements, jewelry or botanical products 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 to the St. John staff for helping to make this the most successful Tea yet.

text submitted by JOP

