

**My brothers and sisters,**

Merry Christmas!! Today, as we celebrate the great revelation of God's love for us in the birth of His only begotten Son, we rejoice in Emmanuel, God with us. May the Joy, Peace and Love of our Savior fill your hearts today. May this same Joy, Peace and Love permeate your lives so that you may bring Hope to your families, friends and all peoples you encounter. May the Incarnation of the Word made Flesh truly be present and visible in our Church and in the world.

Next Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, a holy day of obligation, (and also a Sunday). We will celebrate with the usual Sunday schedule of Masses: Saturday December 31st Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart; Sunday, January 1st, 9:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist, and 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart.

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Have a wonderful and safe week!**  
**Fr. Tony Lonzo**  
**Associate Administrator**  
**Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist**

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Sat., 12/24	5:30 p.m.	Mark Petty by Mary Ann (Petty) Thissen & Family
Sun., 12/25	10:00 a.m.	Marianne Mayer (Palma) by Mary Lou Palma
Tues., 12/27	1:00 p.m.	Joe Colak by Rosemary Colak
Sun., 1/1	9:30 a.m.	Don Veri by Donna Veri

**Blessed Sacrament and Marian Lights Intentions:**

**Blessed Sacrament:** Tony Fissora by Chris Soteriades  
**Marian Light:** Joyce Tisone by Carol Tisone

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Tues. 12/27	Padre Pio Prayer Group – Rosary and Intentions 12:30 p.m. Mass at 1:00 p.m.
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*Please remember in your prayers those who are sick or suffering, especially those who are in Hospitals, Nursing Facilities or Homebound suffering.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS\*\***

THE BARRINGTON OF CARMEL – CARMEL, INDIANA: Yola Rossi  
 MOTHER ANGELINE McCrory: Marie Tarantelli  
 THE JAMES: Sherri Snoad  
 AT HOME: Mike Auddino

**\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input.**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>
Jan. 1 9:30 a.m.	Adolfo Gastaldo Ed Pagnanelli	Leslie Pasion, Pat Rossetti, Karen Quick, Judy Pishitelli, Blaise Marcucci
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>
Jan. 8 9:30 a.m.	Gabe Bishop Bill Nightingale	Andrea Myers, Ed Pagnanelli, Sharon D'Alberto, Bob Contino &, Marge Contino

**The Rosary before Mass on Sunday:** We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact the Men's Faith Sharing group. Leaders for **January** are:

January 1st      Carl Tisone  
 January 8th     Marge Contino, SFO  
 January 15th    Robert Contino, SFO  
 January 22      Adolfo Gastaldo  
 January 29th    Carl Tisone

**2016 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings**

**December 25 – The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)**  
**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16)  
**December 26 – St. Stephen, The First Martyr,**  
 Act 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22  
**December 27 – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**  
 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
**December 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**  
 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18  
**December 29 –**  
**Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**  
**St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr**  
 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35  
**December 30 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23  
**December 31 –**  
**Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**  
**St. Sylvester 1, Pope**  
 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18  
**January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
**The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord**  
 Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

\* Pray for our Priests and seminarians

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S**

December 18, 2016  
 Number of Envelopes Used – 29  
 In Envelopes: \$1,535.00      Loose Money \$575.00

Regular Collection:	\$ 2,110.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (126.60)
	\$ 1,983.40
Votive Lights	\$ 9.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 2.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 10.00
	\$ 21.00

**?? ? ? HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? ? ? ? ?**  
**Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/16-6/30/17)**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Wk:	\$ 2885.00	\$ 2110.00	\$(775.00)	-27%
FYTD:	\$72,125.00	\$65,894.03	\$(6,230.97)	-9%

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 26, 2016**

Mary Spellacy, Genevive Knouff, Paul Cosentino

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, January 2, 2017**

Maruja Paule, Donna Veri, Darlene Rauch



**Office Hours:**

The Parish Office Hours are 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

***Thank You for Witnessing at the Italian Festival******Hello:***

***I wanted to thank you for the special experience that my boyfriend and I had at the Italian Festival (this was our first time there). This “thank-you” note is a testimony of how God answers prayers, because He answered my prayer for my boyfriend. He is from Algeria and his family is tied to the Muslim faith. He is neither Muslim nor Christian, but he is searching for God. I am a Christian, and I have tried to witness to him before, but he is more analytical in nature than me. He had questions that I could not answer. So, I prayed to God to please help me to witness to him. I had no idea that when we decided to go to the Italian festival that God would answer this prayer.***

***We went to the Italian Festival in the early evening. We were watching a couple play music at the bottom of the church steps, when my boyfriend noticed that people were walking in and out of the church. He immediately started walking up the steps and into the church. We were both amazed at how beautifully decorated it was on the inside. I saw him walk through the church with childlike wonder in his eyes, and he told me that this was the first time that he has ever been into any church. My heart started racing, because I knew that this was a prime opportunity to witness to him.***

***We sat in the last pew and that’s when I noticed an older gentleman talking to a small group of people in the little room behind us. When he was done talking to them, he started to walk by us, and that’s when I instinctively reached out to him and asked him about one of the sculptures on the wall. From there, he engaged in a conversation with my boyfriend about Christianity. This gentleman knew about the Muslim faith and had a deep and thorough historical understanding about Christianity. They had an intelligent conversation, and I could tell that he had my boyfriend’s attention. I sat in quiet astonishment as this gentleman answered the questions that my boyfriend previously asked me, in which I did not know the answers to. The amazing thing about that is that neither my boyfriend nor I asked those lingering questions. Through general conversation, the man answered every single question that my boyfriend had without even knowing it! This is a true testimony of the power of God and how he answers prayers!***

***From the bottom of my heart and soul, I want to reach out and thank this gentleman again and let him know that God definitely used him and his wisdom to witness to my boyfriend. I don’t recall this gentleman’s name, but I think he said that he was around 74 years old.***

***My boyfriend is still struggling with his faith. I see him waffling between a hard heart and a soft heart. He still needs prayer and God’s divine intervention. If you could please keep him in your prayers, I would be grateful. Thank you again for being so wonderful and rich in God’s love.***

***With sincerest thanks,  
Laura Giles***

**MASS SCHEDULE****December 31**

**New Year’s Eve (SH) 4:00 p.m.**  
**Mary Mother of God Vigil**

**January 1**

**New Year’s Day (SJB) 9:30 a.m.**  
**New Year’s Day (SH) 11:00 a.m.**  
**Mary Mother of God**

**Around Us**

**NEW YEARS EVE:** Spend **NEW YEARS EVE** with the daughter of **DEAN MARTIN: DEANA Sings DINO**, Rick Brunetto Orchestra & **DEANA MARTIN. THE BLACKWELL INN at OSU.** Dinner, Show & Dancing. Purchase tickets at [www.rickbrunetto.com](http://www.rickbrunetto.com).

**Pope’s December Intentions**

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for specific intentions each month, one for some general worldwide need, and another for a specific need related to evangelization. You are invited to answer the Holy Father’s request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for these intentions each month.

**Universal:** That the scandal of child soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

**Evangelization:** That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness and truth of the Gospel which give joy and hope to life.

**Nativity Prayer by St. Augustine**

Let the just rejoice,  
for their justifier is born.  
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
For their savior is born.  
Let the captives rejoice,  
For their Redeemer is born.  
Let slaves rejoice,  
for their Master is born.  
Let free men rejoice,  
For their Liberator is born.  
Let All Christians rejoice,  
For Jesus Christ is born.

(St. Augustine of Hippo, AD 354-440)