

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

The readings this Sunday beg us to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight our paths, so that the Lord Jesus will come more quickly into our lives. God does pursue and wants to enter our life. We have to clear a space for Him so that He can be present. It may require us to make changes in our life that we want to do or need to do. Maybe, it is to be kinder, less anxious about the material things of life, more generous, more devoted to prayer. Most of all, it means making God our priority and that means putting Him at the top of the list of things we need to do each day. This, of course, is prayer. Often, we can begin by putting some quiet time aside to read the Bible and meditate on His words. A reading of a good book on the faith or the life and writings of a saint can help as well. One that I would recommend is Pope Benedict XVI's book, *Jesus of Nazareth, the Infancy Narratives*, published by Image books. It is the prequel of the three-part series on Jesus of Nazareth. It is only about 120 pages, so it is a fairly quick read. It provides an understandable and insightful reflection upon the mysteries of Jesus' birth and the prophecies of the Old Testament that foretold His birth. I find it very helpful to read every year at this time.

I hope your Advent preparations are going well.

**May God bless you this week!**

**Fr. Kitsmiller**

**Associate Administrator**

**Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist**

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Sun., 12/10	9:30 a.m.	Lucertini, Agriesti, & West Families by the Family
Sun., 12/10	11:00 a.m. SH	Lawrence Benintend by Jeffrey Squeo
Sun., 12/17	9:30 a.m.	Damato & Ventresco Families by Carol Ventresca

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

**Blessed Sacrament:** Jimmy Salvatore  
by Chris Soteriades  
**Marian Lights:** Joyce Tisone  
by Carl Tisone

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Sun. 12/10	11:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Altar Guild (Marrapese Hall) San Giovanni Dance Group Practice (Marrapese Hall)
Mon. 12/11	6:00 p.m.	Italian Village Men's Faith Sharing Group (Marrapese Hall) SJB Women's Faith Group (Classroom)

**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 December are:

- December 10 Claudio Pasian
- December 17 Margaret Contino, OFS
- December 24
- December 31 Gary Bosco

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
Sun., 12/10 9:30 a.m.	John Snoad Samantha Fallucco	Leslie Pasian, Pat Rossetti, Pete Tamburro, Judy Pishitelli & Bob Contino
	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
Sun., 12/17 9:30 a.m.	Nick D'Alberto Antonio D'Alberto	Sharon D'Alberto, Andrea Myers, Ed Pagnanelli, Margaret Panico-Harn & Margi Baker

*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\*\***

MOTHER ANGELINE McCrory: Marie Tarantelli

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

**2017 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings**

- December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent  
Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- December 11 – Advent Weekday – Saint Damasus I, Pope  
Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/  
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- December 13 – Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr  
Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
- December 14 – Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- December 15 – Advent Weekday  
Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
- December 16 – Advent Weekday  
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent  
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

\* Pray for our Priests and seminarians

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

December 3, 2017

Number of Envelopes Used – 85

In Envelopes: \$2,493.00 Loose Money \$106.00

Holy Day	\$ 10.00
Regular Collection	\$ 2,609.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (156.54)
	\$ 2,452.46
<b>Votives</b>	<b>\$ 43.00</b>
Saint Anthony Bread	\$ 80.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 280.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 30.00
	\$ 433.00

**??\$ HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? \$??**

**Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/17-6/30/18)**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,609.00	\$( 276.00)	-10%
FYTD:	\$66,355.00	\$58,849.00	\$(7,506.00)	-11%

**SJB Collection Counters**

**for Monday December 11, 2017**

Mary Spellacy, Maria Lucchin, & Tom Elliott

**SJB Collection Counters**

**for Monday, December 18, 2017**


Gus Gastaldo, & Nick Perschetti

**Second Sunday of Advent:** As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man. *"Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, 'the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob', is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes."*

~ catholicculture.org

**The Beauty of the Advent Wreath:** The Advent Wreath is a long-standing Christmas tradition, adding beauty and light to the season. However, it is easy to let slip the true meaning of Christmas it is meant to call to mind. The wreath is a circle, without beginning or end, symbolizing our participation in God's plan of salvation, and our hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The traditional wreath is made from fresh, natural materials, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death and Resurrection. There are three purple or white (depending on tradition) candles, symbolizing penance, preparation and sacrifice. The pink (or rose) colored candle symbolizes the same ideas, but it highlights the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), when we rejoice because our preparation is now halfway finished. The light itself represents Christ. Some modern adaptations include a white candle in the middle of the wreath which also represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord.

– From an article by Fr. William Saunders



**Office Hours:**  
The Parish Office hours are **Monday** through **Friday**, from **9:00 a.m.** to **2:00 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>December 24th</b>		
Christmas Eve Vigil	(SJB)	4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Vigil	(SH)	5:30 p.m.
<b>December 25th</b>		
Christmas Day	(SJB)	10:00 a.m.
<b>January 1st</b>		
New Year's Day	(SH)	10:00 a.m.

**The Altar Guild**  
Will Sponsor a Pancake Breakfast,  
Sunday, December 10, 2017  
In Marrapese Hall  
From 10:30 a.m. until Noon


Breakfast will include Pancakes, Scrambled eggs  
Bacon, Sausage, Orange juice and coffee  
**\$7.50 per person**  
Tickets will be on sale after Mass in Sala Hall

Also, join us in welcoming Fr. Robert Kitsmiller  
To Saint John the Baptist  
Please invite your entire family to enjoy time  
visiting with Father Kitsmiller.


We will be decorating the Church for **Christmas** following Mass on **Sunday, December 17, 2017**. Volunteers are needed!

**AROUND US**

**Liturgical Calendar:** The month of **December** is dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**, which was celebrated on **December 8**. The first 2 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** and are represented by the liturgical color green. The next 22 days fall during the liturgical season of **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold – a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.



Stand Against Corruption:  
**"Reject every form of corruption which diverts resources from the poor."**  
~ Pope Francis



One mightier than I is coming after me.  
I am not worthy to stoop and  
loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
I have baptized you with water;  
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.  
John 1:27

**Prayer**  
*May out thoughtful and courageous living,  
Our attention to an active, laboring love,  
Our belief in the basic good of every living being,  
Reflect Your way, O God.  
To all who strive to turn from evil,  
To all who seek the truth of God,  
Be quiet wholeness,  
Be calm speaking,  
Be wisdom, Be strength,  
Be open-handedness and healing generosity,  
Be the transformation into the ways of God.  
Lord God, teach us gentle wisdom,  
Strengthen us for building peace,  
Accompany us on our journey,  
And let us say:  
Amen*