

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice...Indeed, the Lord is near." These words come from **St. Paul's** letter to the **Philippians (4:4-5)** in which he encouraged the **Philippians** to rejoice because of the grace of **God** that was working through them, especially in their faith and their spirit of generosity. This passage comes from the second reading for today's Mass. This **Third Sunday of Advent** has traditionally had joyful, expectant tone, because the **Advent Season** is half way over and the celebration of **Christmas** is almost here. This is also why the color pink or rose is used in the **Advent wreath** and sometimes the liturgical vestments. For some people, this time of year can be a lonely or difficult time. Persons who have lost loved ones recently or have no family around or who suffer from depression may find it difficult to get into the holiday spirit. They may feel alone. It is important for us to reach out to persons who are struggling during the holidays. They may benefit from an invitation to a **Christmas dinner, Christmas Mass**, a present or simple conversation over coffee. As we think about the many details of the **Christmas** festivities, let us also reach out to those in need who need to know that the **Lord** is near.

**Have a blessed Third Week of Advent!**

**Fr. Kitsmiller**  
**Administrator**

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Sun., 12/16	9:30 a.m.	<b>Sully Caradonna</b> by Antonio Caradonna
Mon., 12/17	5:30 p.m.	<b>Angelina Dinovo</b> by Joe & Dina Milano
Tues., 12/18	1:00 p.m. <b>Padre Pio</b>	<b>Bruno Masdea</b> by Mary Lou Palma
Sun., 12/23	9:30 a.m.	<b>Yola Rossi</b> by Joanne Paesano & Julie
Mon., 12/24	5:30 p.m.	<b>Tony Solazzo</b> by Julie & Dan Kirn
Tues., 12/25	10:00 a.m.	<b>Parishioners of St. John</b> & Sacred Heart Church

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Sun. 12/16	<b>Blessed Mother Sodality (After Mass)</b> (Marrapese Hall)
Mon. 12/17	<b>Italian Village Men's &amp; Women's Faith Sharing Group</b> will not be meeting until after the 1st of the year beginning January 7th, 2019
Tues. 12/18	<b>Padre Pio Prayer Group –</b> <b>Rosary &amp; Intentions – 12:30 p.m.</b> <b>Mass at 1:00 p.m. (Chapel)</b>

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 16, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lectors:</b>	Adolfo Gastaldo, Bob Contino
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Margi Baker, Andrea Myers, Marge Contino, Leslie Pasian & Pete Tamburro
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 23, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lectors:</b>	Nick D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Margaret Panico-Harn, Pat Rossetti, Sharon D'Alberto, Judy Pishitelli & Ed Pagnanelli

**Please remember in your prayers those who are sick or suffering, especially those who are in Hospitals, Nursing Facilities or Homebound.**

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

**Marian Lights:** Virginia & Dominick Finissi  
by Norma Jean & Bill Finissi, Sr.  
**Blessed Sacrament:** Mike Martina  
by Chris Soteriades

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

**\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. Pray for Diamond Boggs, sister of Linda McCreary.**

**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 16** Robert Contino, OFS  
**December 23** Norma Jean Finissi  
**December 30** Gary Bosco

Anyone interested in leading the Rosary on Sundays, please contact Bob Contino at 614-833-0371. Thank you!

**2018 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings**

**December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent**  
Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18  
**December 17 – Late Advent Weekday**  
Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17  
**December 18 – Late Advent Weekday**  
Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
**December 19 – Late Advent Weekday**  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
**December 20 – Late Advent Weekday**  
Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38  
**December 21 – Late Advent Weekday**  
Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45  
**December 22 – Late Advent Weekday**  
1 SM 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56  
**December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

\*Pray for our Priest and seminarians



**Office Hours:** The Parish Office will be closed on **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** and will resume on **Wednesday, December 26, 2018**. The office will also be closed **New Year's Eve** and **New Year's Day** and will resume on **Wednesday, January 2, 2019**. Regular office hours are **Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve, December 24th**  
Monday, Sacred Heart 4:00 p.m.  
Monday, St. John 5:30 p.m.  
**Christmas Day, December 25th**  
Tuesday, St. John 10:00 a.m.  
**New Year's Eve, December 31st**  
Monday, Sacred Heart 5:30 p.m.  
**New Year's Day, January 1st**  
Tuesday, St. John 10:00 a.m.

**Thank You:** A huge "Thank-You" to the women of the **Altar Guild, Chris Soteriades, the Knights of Columbus** and those who helped with the pancake breakfast last **Sunday**.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN**

December 9, 2018

Number of Envelopes Used – 61

In Envelopes: \$2,915.00 Loose Money \$489.01

Holy Day	\$ 205.00
Regular Collection	\$ 3,606.01
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (216.54)
	\$ 3,389.50
Votive	\$ 52.00
Religious Relief Fund	\$ 125.00
Diocesan Charities	\$ 10.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 65.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 290.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 592.00</b>

**?? \$ ? HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? \$ ? \$ ?****Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/18-6/30/19)**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 3,606.01	\$ 721.01	25%
FYTD:	\$69,240.00	\$67,079.07	-\$2,160.93	-3%

**SJB Collection Counters****for Monday, December 17, 2018**

Tom Elliott, Maria Lucchin &amp; Mary Spellacy

**SJB Collection Counters for Wednesday,****December 26, 2018**

Nick Perschetti &amp; Tom Elliott

**Reconciliation:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers a wonderful opportunity to experience **God's** mercy on a very personal level. The Sacrament of **Penance** is a beautiful Sacrament through which we are reconciled to **God**, ourselves and our neighbors. Remember the words of **St. Paul**, "**God** is rich in mercy; because of His great love for us, He brought us to life with **Christ** when we were dead in sin (Eph 2:4). **Father** is available for **Confession** prior to **Mass**, and by calling the office for an appointment.

**Christmas Flowers:** Christmas poinsettias are available again this year. Flowers may be requested in memory of a loved one and will be placed on the altar throughout the **Christmas Season**. An envelope for **Christmas** poinsettias is included in the **December** offertory envelopes. You may also put your donation and memorial request in a regular envelope and place it in the collection basket. There is a suggested donation of **\$10.00** per poinsettia. The **Christmas** flowers add such beauty to **St. John** during this special time of year. Thank you.

**Mandarini Cheese Raffle Winners:** Congratulations to **Mr. A. Molino**, who won the cheese raffle last **Sunday**. **Vince Militello** cut the cheese into quarters for him and he gave away half of what he won. **Mr. Molino** had **Vince** draw **two** more tickets for the **two** pieces he donated back to the church raffle. The other **two** winners were **Chris Soteriades** and a lady named **Victoria**. **Thank you, Vince, for donating the cheese!**

**AROUND US****The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2018:**

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**Third Sunday of Advent:** Today is known as **Gaudete Sunday**. The term **Gaudete** refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." **Rose** vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. As **Christmas** draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the **Lord** will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. ~ catholicculture.org

**Last Minute Shopping?** Please consider supporting **Catholic Relief Services** by shopping their online catalog at <https://ethicaltrade.crs.org/guide>. With every purchase through **CRS**, a donation is made to the agency's fair trade fund. For more than **20** years, the fund has invested in **CRS** projects here and around the world.

**Christmas Giving: Catholic Charities Christmas Collection:** This annual collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including **J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs)**, **St. Stephen's Community House**, **Catholic Social Services**, **St. Francis Center**, **St. Lawrence Haven**, **St. Vincent Family Center**, and the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the **Catholic Charities** collection this year. Look for the envelope in your parish giving **December envelope packet**.

**Liturgical Calendar:** The month of **December** is dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**, which is celebrated on **December 8**. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, **this is a holy day of obligation** in the United States. The first day of **December** falls during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** and is 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.

**Prayer**

*God of power and mercy,  
open our hearts in welcome.  
Remove the things that hinder us  
from receiving **Christ** with joy,  
so that we may share His wisdom  
and become one with Him  
when He comes in glory,  
for He lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one **God**,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen***