

# ADVENT

JOY FOR THE WORLD

My soul proclaims  
the greatness  
of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices  
in God my Savior.

LUKE 1:46-47

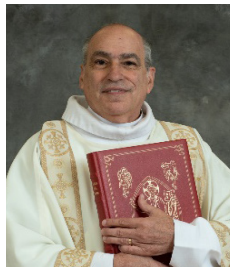
A photograph of four lit Advent candles in a wreath. The candles are purple, purple, purple, and pink from left to right. They are set in a wreath of green pine needles, purple and gold ribbons, and gold pinecones. The background is a light-colored wood grain.

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH**



**From the Deacon's Desk****Dear friends in Christ,**

In the present scene from today's Scripture, John the Baptist is questioned about his identity by the Judean religious leaders, and instead of saying "I am," three times he answers, "I am not."



1. "I am not the Messiah," he says unequivocally. At that time many of the **Jewish** denominations, and there were many, were looking for an anointed one, a kinglike figure who would lead the people. There was great disagreement about what that **Messiah**, or **Christ**, would be, but **John** makes it clear he is none of them.
2. "I am not Elijah," he said. **Elijah** had been taken alive into heaven, and there was a belief that someday he would return to herald that **Messiah**, but **John** insists that he is no **Elijah**.
3. "I am not the Prophet," he tells them. At the end of **Deuteronomy**, after the death of **Moses**, we are told there was never a prophet like him who saw **God** face to face, but there was a belief at that time that a **Moses-like** prophet would be coming into the world. But **John** is not this prophet either.

Then **WHO** was our parish patron, **John the Baptist**? He claimed that he was like the one spoken of by **Isaiah**, the one crying aloud in the wilderness, preparing the way for the **Lord**. As the gospel writer had said earlier, **John had come to witness to the light**. What does all this mean for us?

This passage is all about what **John** is not and what **John** is. **John** was not the light. **John** was a witness to the light.

It's the same for us. We are not the light. We are not messiahs. We are not **Elijahs**. We may not be very good prophets.

Instead, we are something completely different: **witnesses to the light**. Yes, we are broken, broken down, hurting people. It's the time of year when the days are shortest, and the nights never seem to end. In some locations it just gets colder and colder. We can feel really blue without being able to pin down the cause. But even if we are deprived of light, we believe in the light, and we can point to the eternal light of **Jesus**.

How will you address the **Word** made flesh? How will you act as witness to the light this **Advent** season when all seems darkest? What will you say to make it clear that this is no ordinary **Christmas** on the horizon?

**Saint John the Baptist pray for us!**

**Have a good week,**

**Deacon Frank**

**Dear St. John Parishioners**, join me periodically on **St. Brigid of Kildare Parish** livestream. If you missed it, the videos are available at **St. Brigid YouTube channel** and **St. Brigid of Kildare Facebook page**.

**Celebrant for Sunday Mass,  
December 20, Msgr. Cody**

**Confessions Heard before Mass  
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

**My Dear Friends,**

**I have every expectation that we will have Christmas Masses celebrated in public with congregations and with all the health-related precautions we have become accustomed to now for several months. However, the number of positive cases and critical patient admissions to hospitals due to COVID-19 is growing at a concerning rate. We know much more about this virus than we did in March. The Churches have been safe places because you have sacrificed and taken this very seriously; for that, I am extremely grateful. At this point, I must implore you in the strongest possible terms to use face coverings when indoors, to observe all the guidelines we have about safe social distancing, and to make frequent use of hand sanitizer. This is imperative for us and our ability to continue public worship in a safe way during this pandemic.**

**Know of my prayers for you and your families during this pandemic and this Season of Advent.**

**Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Bishop Robert Brennan**

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**The Italian Catholic Community at St. John the Baptist  
Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets  
Church Mailing Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street,  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 294-5319, Fax: (614) 294-4303**

**Livestream our 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on our  
St. John the Baptist Facebook page or by visiting our  
website [www.sjbitaliana.com](http://www.sjbitaliana.com)**

**Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
Email: [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org)**

**Deacon Frank Iannarino – Administrator  
Msgr. John Cody – Weekend Assistant  
Father Charles Klinger – Weekend Assistant  
Father Charles Cotton – Weekend Assistant  
Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain,  
Korean Catholic Community  
Ms. Aggie Howard – Executive Assistant  
Ms. Victoria Gammell – Secretary and Bulletin Editor  
Mrs. Gina Bishop – Director of Liturgy  
Mr. John Huffman – Organist and Musical consultant**

**Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday  
Sacrament of Penance – 9:00 a.m. (before Sunday Mass or  
by appointment)**

**Sacrament of Baptism and Baptism preparation (by  
appointment)**

**Sacrament of Matrimony (you must be registered at Saint  
John at least 6 months prior to scheduling your wedding by  
Deacon or Priest)**

**Sacrament of Confirmation and Rites of Christian  
Initiation for Adults (please make an appointment with Parish  
Administrator)**

**Saint John Italian Festival (please visit our website for more  
information)**

**Sala Hall and Marrapese Hall (scheduled with approval of  
Parish Administrator)**

**Bulletin Deadline: Announcements must be submitted in  
writing by Tuesday at noon.**



**Requiescat in pace!** In the charity of your prayers, please remember the family and friends of:

**Daniel "Danny" LaPenna**, longtime devoted member of **St. John the Baptist Church**, who died and was buried this past week.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

<b>Sunday, December 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
<b>Lector:</b>	Davide Cugini
<b>Eucharistic Min.:</b>	Pat Rossetti
<b>Sunday, December 20, 2020, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
<b>Lector:</b>	Ed Pagnanelli
<b>Eucharistic Min.:</b>	Antonio D'Alberto

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Sun. 12/13	9:30 a.m.	Viola DelGreco by Lou & Betty Tiberi
Sun. 12/13	9:30 a.m.	Tina Gallo by Marilena Cugini and Family
Sun. 12/20	9:30 a.m.	Mary McDonald by Joann Paesano
Sun. 12/20	9:30 a.m.	Joe Pishitelli by Charlie & Jo Clarke

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

<b>Marian Lights:</b>	<b>Rita Metzger</b> by Chris Soteriades
<b>Blessed Sacrament:</b>	<b>Lucian Susi</b> by Robert & Margaret Contino, OFS

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARISH MASS SCHEDULE**

Catholic Churches	Saturday	Sunday
St. Patrick's	7:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church	4:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral	5:15 p.m.	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m.
St. Mary Mother of God GV	4:00 p.m.	9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
St. Francis Assisi	No Mass	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Sun. 12/13	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim, 12:00 p.m. 1:00-2:30 p.m., Meeting in Sala Hall
Fri. 12/18	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim, 7:00 p.m.

**HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Catholic Churches	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m. Midnight Mass	No Mass
St. John's	5:30 p.m.	No Mass
Korean Catholic Community	8:00 p.m.	10:30 a.m.
St. Francis of Assisi	5:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
St. Patrick	4:00, 6:00, 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 Midnight Mass	7:00, 8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral	4:00 and 6:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m. Choir Concert 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass	10:30 a.m.

**2020 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings**

**December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent**  
Is 61:2-3a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 14 – Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**  
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

**December 15 – Advent Weekday**  
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

**December 16 – Advent Weekday**  
Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Lk 7:18b-23

**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 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

*\*Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated religious life.*

**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. For Vienna D'Alberto, who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village.*

**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 13** Carl Tisone  
**December 20** Vincent Davis  
**December 27** Margaret Contino, OFS

If you would like to volunteer to lead the Rosary, contact the office at 614-294-5319 for more information.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN**

December 13, 2020

Number of Envelopes Used Sunday – 33

Env.:	\$ 2,140.00
Loose:	\$ 0.00
Holy Day:	\$ 50.00
Total:	\$ 2,190.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (131.40)
	\$ 2,058.60
Votive:	\$ 40.00
St. Anthony Bread:	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$ 160.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 20.00
Total:	\$ 230.00

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

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/196/30/20)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week.:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,190.00	(\$ 695.00)	-24%
FYTD:	\$66,355.00	\$60,291.75	(\$6,063.25)	-9%

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 14, 2020**

Aggie Howard and Ed Pagnanelli

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 21, 2020**

Aggie Howard and Nick Persichetti

**PAVERS:** The front **Pavilion** of **St. John's Church** is covered with **Pavers**. These **Pavers** are available for purchase and engraving in remembrance of family members and loved ones. For more information, please call the office of **St. John's** at **614-294-5319**.



**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 box. **There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 per poinsettia**. The **Christmas** flowers add such beauty to **St. John's** during this special time of year. Thank you for your generosity!

**Volunteers Needed** to help decorate the church for **Christmas** on **Saturday, December 19th** at **10:00 a.m.** For more information, please contact **Gina Bishop** at **614-597-8157** or email: [mrs.bishop@bwhs.org](mailto:mrs.bishop@bwhs.org).

#### Thank you!

Thank you to **Tony Tiberi** and **Maeder Quint Funeral Home** for donating our **2021 calendars** both in **Italian** and **English**. Please pick up your calendar after Mass each week or contact the office (**614-294-5319**) to have one sent by mail.

### AROUND US

**Liturgical Calendar:** The month of **December** is dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**. The first **24 days** of **December** fall during the liturgical season known as of **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple – a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. 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.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2020:** *For a life of prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.*

**Christmas Catholic Charities 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.

#### The Significance of the Christmas Tree



In **2004**, **Pope John Paul** called the **Christmas** tree a symbol of **Christ**. This very ancient custom, he said, exalts the value of life, as in winter what is evergreen becomes a sign of undying life, and it reminds **Christians** of the "tree of life" of **Genesis 2:9**, an image of **Christ**, the supreme gift of **God** to humanity.

**Third Sunday of Advent:** Today we celebrate the third **Sunday of Advent**, also 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.

**Blessing of Your Family Christmas Tree:** A beautiful prayer before you light your family **Christmas** tree (**Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers**):

*Lord our God, we praise You for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.*

*We praise You for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.*

*We praise You for Jesus Christ, Your son: He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of Your love.*

*Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we light this tree.*

*May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.*

*May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*  
**Amen.**



"Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down."

~ Pope Francis



"I baptize with water;  
but there is one among you whom you do not recognize,  
the one who is coming after me,  
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."  
John 1:26-50

#### Prayer

*O God, who see how Your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

**Amen**





## Sunday, Dec 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Discern the spirit

Often we get an intuition, a burning in the heart that feels motivating. It may tell us to speak up or shut up; to reach out or keep our hands off a situation; to admit we need help or to stop leaning on others. Do we obey the prompt, or ignore it? The problem with following what may be a divine nudge is that we can't always discern the Holy Spirit from a lesser kind.

Discernment involves prayer, familiarity with scripture, consultation with faithful others, and sometimes spiritual direction. Above all, it needs to be practiced. Befriend the Spirit!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 (8). *"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances."*

## Monday, Dec 14, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Be a light in the darkness

We have so many options in our modern world that it's easy to walk away from any organization or community that we struggle with and simply join ones that are more agreeable to us. But what if we stayed and worked to make them better instead? Saint John of the Cross did exactly that and reformed his Carmelite order, despite imprisonment for his efforts. When you feel disillusioned with institutions you love, be guided by John's writing—considered among the greatest in all of Spanish literature—about darkness leading to the light.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). *"By what authority are you doing these things?"*

## Tuesday, Dec 15, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### The darkness before dawn

Two days ago we celebrated Gaudete Sunday with refrains of rejoicing. Two days from now, we'll begin to pray the O Antiphons—seven days to laud the fast-approaching Messiah. What to make of this in-between time, when scripture shows Jesus chiding religious leaders and Old Testament prophets preach fire and brimstone? "The day in which we now find ourselves is still night," wrote Saint Augustine. But the promise of salvation is sure. "Keep your attention closely fixed on it, as you would on a lamp shining in a dark place until the first streaks of dawn appear."

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). *"Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God."*

## Wednesday, Dec 16, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Usher in a renewed Advent

This Advent season is so different from any other in our lifetimes, and the holidays may not allow for worship in person with our faith communities or celebrations with beloved families. For many of us, this brings sadness to these Advent days as we mourn the loss of familiar rituals. The poetic words of theologian, educator, and civil rights leader Howard Thurman remind us that the work of Christmas is to "find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry . . . rebuild the nations and bring peace among others." Let us pray for the grace to overcome any disappointment we feel and focus on feeding the hungry, having compassion for the broken,

and rebuilding the relationships around us. In such practices, we will find Advent hope and peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189). *"The poor have the good news proclaimed to them."*

## Thursday, Dec 17, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

### Heavenly sounds

Today is the first of the O Antiphons, an Advent tradition from the seventh century whereby for a week the church's evening prayer salutes the coming Messiah by different names each evening. Tonight monasteries, parishes, and ordinary Christians will sing or recite "O Sapientia" (Wisdom). Reading about the loveliness of this prayer is no substitute for hearing it. Let the ethereal sound of this ancient tradition uplift your prayer today. Here is "O Sapientia" sung by Dominican friars in Oxford, England.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations."*

## Friday, Dec 18, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD)

### A call to rescue and restore

The calamities that piled up in 2020 point surely to the longing of today's O Antiphon. A wave of global pandemic, quarantine, massive unemployment, fires, floods, and protest for racial justice crests, resonating with the yearning for freedom. More than ever, we yearn for the Leader who will restore justice and rescue us with mighty power. And at a time when more people are exiled from their homes than ever before in human history, we commemorate Migrants Day with a plaintive call: *Come, Lord Jesus to our human mess. We need you as we have throughout the centuries.*

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). *"O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."*

## Saturday, Dec 19, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

### Creation is full of surprises

The image of "Jesse's Stem" in today's O Antiphon comes from the Book of Isaiah. Using the image of a tree much like we use a family tree to trace our lineage, Isaiah traces the lineage of the kings of Judah forward from Jesse, the father of King David, to the hoped-for Christ, the new king who might restore the monarchy to its former greatness. But like the birth of John the Baptist, the actual coming of the Christ would be a surprise, a new revelation of a heavenly Kingdom. Reflect on the various ways God has surprised you in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). *"O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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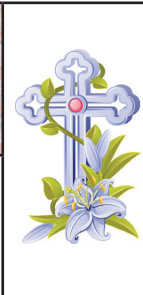
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