

# ADVENT

LOVE FOR THE WORLD

For ever  
I will sing  
the goodness  
of the Lord.

PSALM 89

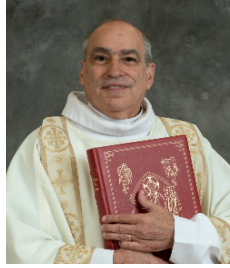


THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH**



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

As we celebrate this **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, in this **Sunday's Gospel** we have the arrival of the angel **Gabriel**, who invites **Mary** to rejoice that she has been chosen to be the mother of **Jesus – The Mother of God**. Classical artists tend to depict **Mary** as a docile young woman, often kneeling in prayer as she accepts the awesome invitation.



**Mary**, though, is also eminently practical and asks the angel to explain how this will be possible since she has no husband. **Mary** is testing the wisdom of the message she has received. She is being invited to risk her reputation and even her life. The law of **Moses** would have classified her someone deserving death by stoning, since she would have been regarded as an adulteress. She would also have known that her parents would have been disgraced in their community because of their daughter's shame. The angel, in reply, can offer compelling evidence that the invitation to **Mary** is genuine. Against all odds, **Mary's** kinswoman **Elizabeth**, well beyond the age of childbearing, is now expecting a baby herself as a sign of **God's** blessing.

In the **Gospel**, we will see **two** sides of **Mary's** character. She is a meek and humble servant of the **Lord**, but she is also a **strong** and **courageous** young woman, able to ask sensible questions, even of an angel, the messenger of **God**.

We, of course, know that the story of **Jesus** unfolded to reveal all sorts of joy and sorrow, contradictions, and challenges, leading to His death on the cross of a criminal and, ultimately, His resurrection in glory. But, like the uncertainty which has been the hallmark of this year, let us simply sit with the tensions and the challenges of what **Mary** was asked to do and be assured that it all worked out well for her, and for us, in the end.

*Saint John the Baptist pray for us!**Have a blessed 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 Christmas Eve Mass,  
December 24, Fr. Paul Nobile  
Celebrant for Sunday Mass,  
December 27, Fr. Cotton**

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

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Sunday, December 20, 2020, 9:30 a.m.	
<b>Lector:</b>	Ed Pagnanelli
<b>Euch. Min.:</b>	Antonio D'Alberto
Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020, 5:30 p.m.	
<b>Lector:</b>	Landa Brunetto
<b>Euch. Min.:</b>	Andrea Myers
Sunday, December 27, 2020, 9:30 a.m.	
<b>Lector:</b>	Nick D'Alberto
<b>Euch. Min.:</b>	Sharon D'Alberto

*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.  
Office will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.  
Website: [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.****

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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
Thurs. 12/24	5:30 p.m.	Joe Agriesti by Mr. & Mrs. James Filichia
Thurs. 12/24	5:30 p.m.	Bruno Quaranto by Angie Carfagna
Sun. 12/27	9:30 a.m.	Rina Tiberi by Steve & Geneva Dennison
Sun. 12/27	9:30 a.m.	Lucian Susi by Frank & Rita Blateri

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

**Marian Lights:** *Joyce Tisone*  
by Carl Tisone  
**Blessed Sacrament:** *David Spellacy*  
by Mary Spellacy & Family

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARISH  
REGULAR 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. 12/20	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim, 12:00 p.m. 1:00-2:30 p.m., Meeting in Sala Hall Secular Franciscan Meeting in Marrapese Hall, 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Thurs. 12/24	KCC Christmas Eve Vigil 8:00 p.m. – SJB Church
Fri. 12/25	KCC Christmas Mass, Fr. Kim 10:30 a.m. – SJB Church

**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 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/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 – Late Advent Weekday**  
*Saint John of Kanty, Priest*  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66  
**December 24 – Late Advent Weekday**  
*Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79*  
**December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**  
*Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Night: Is 9:1-6,  
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14; Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/  
Lk 2:15-20; Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14*  
**December 26 – Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**  
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22  
**December 27 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,  
39-40 or, in Year B, Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3/Heb 11:8, 11-12,  
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

*\*Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, & 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. Please keep in your prayers Maria Lucchin and Laura Williams, and for James Graf, who is having heart surgery.*

**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 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'S**

December 13, 2020

Number of Envelopes Used Sunday – 33

Env.:	\$ 2,135.00
Loose:	\$ 502.00
Holy Day:	\$ 200.00
Total:	\$ 2,837.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment:	\$ (170.22)
	\$ 2,666.78
Votive:	\$ 36.00
St. Anthony Bread:	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$ 205.00
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 20.00
Total:	\$ 271.00

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

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/20-6/30/21)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,837.00	(\$ 48.00)	-2%
FYTD:	\$69,240.00	\$63,128.75	(\$6,111.25)	-9%

**Correction in last week's bulletin: the date for Weekly Stewardship was for December 6, 2020 instead of December 13th.**

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 21, 2020**  
Aggie Howard and Nick Persichetti

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 28, 2020**  
Aggie Howard and Maruja Paule

**50/50 Drawing:** Congratulations to Miss Raffaella Leggieri, winner of the 50/50 Drawing for the month of November.

**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**.

### 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

**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.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Today, the **Church** celebrates the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. We light the last candle on our **Advent** wreath and our preparation for **Christmas** is almost finished. We also reach the culmination of the **O**

**Antiphons**. In previous antiphons, our cry was directed to the **Messiah** as **He** manifested **Himself** to the **Chosen People**, to the **Gentiles**, and in nature; now He is addressed in person and asked to remain with us as **Emmanuel**.

**"The secret of Christian living is love. Only love fills the empty spaces caused by evil."**

~ Pope Francis



**"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel..."**

**Matthew 1:23**

## The 12 Days of Christmas

On the "Nth" day of Christmas my true love sent to me... True love mentioned in each stanza does not refer to an earthly suitor, but to **Almighty God**.

**12 drummers drumming:** The number **twelve** for the **Jewish** people represented completion and fullness. The **twelve** drummers drumming could represent the **twelve** minor prophets, the **twelve** precepts of the **Apostles' Creed**, the **twelve** apostles and/or the **twelve** tribes of Israel.

**11 pipers piping:** **Eleven** pipers piping are the **eleven** faithful apostles at the time of the Resurrection and Ascension.

**10 lords-a-leaping:** Represents the **Ten Commandments**.

**9 ladies dancing:** **Nine** fruits of the **Holy Spirit** and **nine** choirs of angels.

**8 maids-a-milking:** Signifies the **eight** Beatitudes.

**7 swans-a-swimming:** The **seven** swans-a-swimming could refer to the **seven** gifts of the **Holy Spirit**, the **seven** Corporal Works of Mercy, the **seven** Spiritual Works of Mercy, and/or the **seven** deadly sins.

**6 geese-a-laying:** The **six** days of creative work recounted in **Genesis**

**5 golden rings:** The number **five** signifies the first **five** books of the **Old Testament** – the **Pentateuch** or **Torah** (the books of law for the **Jewish** people).

**4 calling birds:** The **four** calling birds are associated with both the four evangelists and their Gospels – **Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**, and the **four** major prophets – **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel**.

**3 French hens:** **Three** **French** hens signify both the gifts of the **Magi (gold, frankincense, and myrrh)**, and the **three** theological virtues of **faith, hope and charity**.

**2 turtle doves:** **Two** turtle doves represent the **Old and New Testaments**.

**...and a partridge in a pear tree:** The partridge in a **pear tree** is **Christ**. In nature, a mother partridge will feign injury to lure predators away from her defenseless nestling. In the same way, our **Lord** protects us, vulnerable human beings, from **Satan**. The **pear tree** symbolizes the salvation of mankind, just as the apple tree symbolizes **Adam and Eve's** fall from **Grace**.



## Jesus Birth

On **Christmas Day**, use your family birthday traditions to celebrate the birth of **Jesus Christ**. Instead of gifts, offer kind deeds and loving words to those around you. If you have young children, sing **Happy Birthday** to remind them this is all about the birth of **Christ Jesus**.

## Prayer

**God, our loving Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to counter all the forces of evil: sin, suffering and death, and to overcome evil with the force of good; hatred with the power of love, Your great love for us in Jesus. Help us to be instruments of Your light and love by doing one special act of kindness or by being Your instrument of reconciliation this New Year. May the Christ Candle we light symbolize our desire to bring light into a world of darkness and hope into a world of despair. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Sunday, Dec 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O KEY OF DAVID)

### Unlocking every door

Those who have been incarcerated know exactly what it means to face a locked door. So do folks who have been institutionalized with mental illness. But even those of us who have not been behind a literal door may find ourselves living under a sentence of fear, bitterness, depression, or unforgiveness. We may be locked out of relationships that are important to us because of resentment or past actions. Poverty is often a prison that keeps opportunity and hope out, while also fostering despair within. O Jesus, Key of David, unlock every door that keeps us from experiencing your freedom!

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

## Monday, Dec 21, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN)

### Just before dawn

They say it's darkest just before the dawn, and today we've reached that moment on the darkest day of what has been a very dark year. Our hope in the worst of circumstances reaches a crescendo in today's O Antiphon: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." We've reached the edge of a dramatic precipice in our waiting. Have faith and get ready—daybreak is coming.

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

## Tuesday, Dec 22, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

### The unexpected king is arriving

Today's O Antiphon heralds the Messiah's long-expected arrival as king. But clearly Jesus is not a typical king—because God's kingdom is not a typical earthly kingdom. Jesus will later proclaim, through the Beatitudes, that the kingdom of God is the inverse of what we humans expect. "Blessed are the meek," he insists—and the poor, the persecuted, and those who mourn. In fact, according to Saint Matthew's version of the Final Judgment, Jesus will be the king wielding harsh judgment against all who've neglected the "least of these." How will you serve our expected-but-unexpected king today?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). *"He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly."*

## Wednesday, Dec 23, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)

### Do not doubt—God is with us

As we the church celebrate Evening Prayer—whether in monasteries or in our own homes, the domestic church—tonight we pray or sing the seventh and final O Antiphon of Advent with these words: "O Emmanuel, our king and giver of law, come to save us, Lord our God." The name *Emmanuel* means God-with-us. As the season of Advent longing comes to a close, in a world that is in need of God's compassionate and saving presence, let us pray tonight for eyes to see and hearts to embrace the presence

of God-with-us in the events and conversations of these holy holidays. Indeed, O come, O come Emmanuel.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). *"What, then, will this child be?"*

## Thursday, Dec 24, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### More than a song and dance

For many Catholics of Mexican heritage, today is the final celebration of Las Posadas, nine days of reenacting Mary and Joseph's search for *posada*, shelter. Each day the ritual is the same: Participants knock on doors, sing songs begging for shelter, while hosts respond with songs denying shelter, and finally end with the glorious moment when the door is opened wide and the Holy Family is given shelter for the night. The repetition drives home the desperation of the most famous migrant family and migrants of all times and places, including our own. Can you take some action in support of migrants and refugees this Christmas season?

TODAY'S READINGS: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). *"Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!"*

## Friday, Dec 25, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

### The Light shines upon us!

Today as we gaze upon a tiny infant born in difficult circumstances, we are also gazing upon a powerful love that has transformed the world—and us. Fragility and strength, new life and enduring love—these are not mutually exclusive. In the Incarnation, we encounter a God who has loved us since before the creation of the world and who longs to draw close and bring us life. This life is not to be "spiritualized" but to be incarnate in our whole life, including our places of pain and challenge. Saint Athanasius writes, "For the Lord touched all parts of creation, and freed and undeceived them all from every deceit." What is the freedom that God has begun to unfold within you?

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."*

## Saturday, Dec 26, 2020

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

### Don't cloak your compassion

Even the greatest among us have their darkest moment. The great Saint Paul had such a moment before his conversion, when he looked on approvingly and guarded the cloaks of those who stoned the church's first martyr, the young and courageous deacon Stephen. Saul of Tarsus, as Paul was known before his conversion, no doubt was convinced that righteousness called for such a cruel and harsh death sentence. Be on guard for misguided righteousness wherever it rears its head, especially when that head is on your own shoulders. It rarely leads to compassion or mercy, God's signposts. Saint Stephen, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"Stephen, filled with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people. . . . They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him."*

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



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