

ADVENT

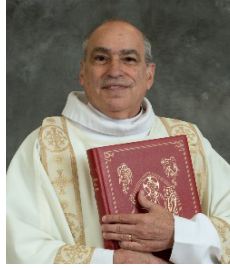
PEACE FOR THE WORLD

Lord,
let us see
your kindness,
and grant us
your salvation.

PSALM 85

A photograph of four tall, thin candles in a wreath. From left to right, the candles are purple, purple, purple, and pink. The first, second, and third candles are lit, with small flames. The wreath is made of green pine needles, purple and gold ornaments, and 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**

We are now in the last month of a very difficult year. **Twelve** months ago, as we approached the familiar stories and scriptures of **Advent** and **Christmas**, life was "normal." We moved about as we wished; we prepared for **Christmas**; we went to movies; we attended concerts; kids went to school; we bought what we wanted; we went out to restaurants; we visited friends and friends visited us; we assembled in groups larger than **10**; we went shopping; we went to church; we went to work and received paychecks; we did all these things and a thousand more ... all without a **second** thought.

A few months later, in what seemed like the blink of an eye, our lives were turned upside down. You know what happened next because it happened to all of us. The entire world was suddenly different than any of us had ever experienced. Everything about life was affected: **families, school, work, shopping, health care, eating, travel for work and travel for fun, finances, exercise ...** every aspect of our lives was affected in one way or another. So today, when we hear the ancient words, "**Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God,**" *our ears might strain to hear more.*

Yes, **2020** has been a year to remember ... or maybe it's a year we'd like to forget. But as we draw near to **Christmas** and the end of the year, we should remember that in **God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit** – we find comfort and hope. **Isaiah** spoke the words in today's first reading to people with little hope, few resources, a bleak past, and an uncertain future. Those same words come to us. We have been tested in ways we could not even imagine a year ago. But **God** is at work in our lives and in the world.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Amen.

Let it be so!

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 Sunday Mass,
December 13, Fr. Klinger**

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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday, December 6, 2020, 9:30 a.m.	
Lector:	Antonio D'Alberto
Eucharistic Min.:	Ed Paganelli
Sunday, December 6, 2020, 9:30 a.m.	
Lector:	Davide Cugini
Eucharistic Min.:	Pat Rossetti

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: **Joyce Tisone**
by Carl Tisone
Blessed Sacrament: **Virginia & Dominick Finissi**
by Norma Jean & Bill Finissi, Sr.

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*

*Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Email: 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. 12/6	9:30 a.m.	Carolyn Panzera by Sam and Donna Troiano
Sun. 12/6	9:30 a.m.	John DiCarlo by the Militello Family
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

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 pm	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:15 pm
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. 12/06	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim, 12:00 p.m. 1:00-2:30 p.m. Meeting in Sala Hall
Mon. 12/07	Italian Village Catholic Faith Sharing Group NO MEETING (Marrapese Hall)
Tues. 12/08	Feast of the Immaculate Conception 10:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church
Fri. 12/11	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 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 1:00 a.m. Midnight Mass	10:30 a.m.

2020 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings

- December 6 – *Second Sunday of Advent*
Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- December 7 – *Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*
Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- December 8 – *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- December 9 – *Advent Weekday*
Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
- December 10 – *Advent Weekday*
Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- December 11 – *Advent Weekday*
Saint Damasus I, Pope
Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
- 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 – *Third Sunday of Advent*
Is 61:2-3a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

*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 6 Robert Contino, OFS
- 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'S

November 22, 2020

Number of Envelopes Used Sunday – 14

Env.:	\$ 875.00
Loose:	\$ 1.00
Holy Day:	\$ 50.00
Total:	\$ 926.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment:	\$ (55.56)
	\$ 870.44

Votive:	\$ 28.00
St. Anthony Bread:	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$ 25.00
Total:	\$ 73.00

?? \$? 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	\$ 926.00	(\$1,959.00)	-68%
FYTD:	\$63,470.00	\$58,101.75	(\$5,368.25)	-8%

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 7, 2020

Aggie Howard and Linda McCreary

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 14, 2020

Aggie Howard and Ed Paganelli



Kroger Plus Cards Earn for St. John the Baptist – You could be earning money for St. John the Baptist just by using your Kroger Plus Card. Simply link your Kroger Plus Card to St. John the Baptist through Kroger's website at www.kroger.com. Once your card is linked, a portion of your purchase price will be donated to St. John's. Participation in this program WILL NOT have any effect on earning fuel perks. The process takes just a few minutes and is an easy way to help our parish. Last quarter rewards were \$34.57 for St. John's! Thank you for your support!

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!

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.



Retirement Fund for Religious: In good times and bad, senior **Catholic** sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Catholic Charities Christmas Help 2020 is a listing of items needed to help clients of our diocesan-sponsored **Catholic** charities. The people who they serve need the basics: **food, clothing, personal hygiene products, and household items**. They also need volunteers. To access the bulletin list online, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/social-concerns-office.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Diocesan Celebration: A diocesan-wide celebration in honor of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** will take place on **Saturday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.-Noon** at **St. Joseph Cathedral**. There will be songs, dance, a keynote speaker, and Rosary. The event will culminate with **Mass** with **Archbishop Christophe Pierre**, the **Apostolic Nuncio** to the **United States**. Due to the pandemic, there will be a limited number of invited guests in the **Cathedral** that day. However, everyone is encouraged to participate virtually via television (**NBC4**), **radio (103.1 La Mega)**, and **social media (YouTube)**. The event will be in **Spanish**, with **English** translation available. If you have any questions regarding this celebration, please email **Lisset Mendoza** at lmendoza@columbuscatholic.org.

Divine Worship Office: The Diocesan Liturgical Calendar for 2020-2021 is posted and available to download via the following link on **Divine Worship's** webpage. You can also find a copy of the **2020-2021 Holy Days of Obligation** there as well. <https://columbuscatholic.org/liturgical-calendar>.

Divine Worship has also dedicated a page on their office's website to resources and information available for parishes and families to use during the seasons of **Advent and Christmas**. For more information, please visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/pandemic-advent-christmas-resources>. The resources will continually be added to during the season.

The Advent Wreath and Christ Candle



The evergreen wreath symbolizes continuous life and the circle of the wreath reminds us that **God's** love has no beginning and no end and through **Christ Jesus** we have everlasting life. Each of the four candles (**three purple, one pink**) is lit on a **Sunday of Advent**.

The **first** purple candle symbolizes **HOPE**.
The **second** purple candle symbolizes **LOVE**.
The **third** candle is pink and represents **JOY**.
The **fourth** purple candle symbolizes **PEACE**.

The **Christ Candle** is a tall white candle often placed in the center of the **Advent** wreath; meaning it is surrounded by the four **Advent** candles. The white signifies **PURITY** as **Christ** is our pure and sinless savior. The **Christ Candle** remains unlit during the season of **Advent**. This candle is symbolic of the light that **Jesus** brought into the world and, on **Christmas Eve**, the **Christ Candle** is lit along with the four **Advent** candles reminding us of the transition from the prophecy to fulfillment.

On **Christmas Day**, the **Advent** candles are removed from the **Advent** wreath so that only the **Christ Candle** remains, reminding us that old things have passed away and that all has been made new. The **Christ Candle** is often lit all the way through the **Epiphany**.

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

~ Pope Francis



Prayer

Almighty and merciful God,
*may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your **Son**,*
but may our learning of heaven wisdom gain us admittance to His company.
*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 06, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Begin at the end

Beginnings are really the Act II of endings. That's why we hear so much Apocalypse in the early Advent readings. Something has to give way for the new thing to arrive. In order to move into the new house, you have to leave the old one. That goes for the life of the world to come, as well. So when John the Baptist summons us to prepare the Lord's way, he simultaneously obliges us to repent our former way. Consider what obstacles need to "pass away" to "make straight" the path of the Christ child's arrival into your heart.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). *"The heavens will pass away with a mighty roar, and the Earth and everything done on it will be found out."*

Monday, Dec 07, 2020

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

To the moon and beyond

You think you're busy? Ambrose, one of the four first doctors of the church, challenged emperors and combated heresies. He converted Saint Augustine and championed celibacy. He was a prolific theologian and contributed to the music of the church. He was so admired he was made a bishop by popular acclaim. Ambrose did a lot of different things—who of us could keep up?—but he had one vision that we can all get behind: that the church rise "like a growing moon" above fleeting worldliness.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). *"We have seen incredible things today."*

Tuesday, Dec 08, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE USA)

Original grace

The Immaculate Conception is so key to Catholic consciousness, it's hard to believe it hasn't been around forever. The teaching—that Mary was born without original sin—was in fact opposed by scholarly saints like Anselm, Aquinas, Bernard, and Bonaventure. They insisted that, because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, Mary would need salvation as much as the rest of us. But the Council of Trent concluded that Mary had been spared, and popular piety began to revere her Immaculate Conception. The significance? Perhaps, as theologian Elizabeth Johnson eloquently points out, it's that "grace is more original than sin."

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."*

Wednesday, Dec 09, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

Celebrate the messenger of love

Born in 1474 near modern-day Mexico City, Saint Juan Diego was named Cuauhtlatotzin (Talking Eagle) and according to tradition lived among his Chichimeca people until the conquest of Mexico in 1521. At the age of 50, Juan Diego was baptized by Franciscan missionaries and began attending daily Mass. While he walked to Mass on December 9, 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared to him with a special request. So begins the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast we celebrate in three days. Today, we honor Juan Diego, the first indigenous saint of the Americas, canonized in 2002, who spent the rest of his life as a

prayerful hermit tending the first shrine built to Guadalupe. On this Advent day, we pray for the grace to imitate his humility, trust, and faithfulness.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). *"They that hope in the LORD will . . . soar as with eagles' wings."*

Thursday, Dec 10, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Walk the simple but elusive path to peace

As Christians await the Prince of Peace, today the world celebrates this year's Nobel Peace Prize awardee—the U.N. World Food Program—for their heroic efforts in war-torn lands in the midst of the pandemic. Human beings are prone to conflict, but the craving for peace and reconciliation runs deep across cultures and faiths. The perennial question is how to achieve it. Here's a simple but profound answer that has been put forth by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for decades: "If you want peace, work for justice." Ask yourself what step toward justice you can take today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). *"Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist."*

Friday, Dec 11, 2020

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

Stormy weather

If we think we've got it tough—juggling the gift list, social schedule, family feuds, and ailing bank account—consider Damasus. He embodied the truism that faith is more a compass than an insurance policy. When he was elected pope, another faction chose someone else. What followed were violent battles, scandals, accusations, heresies, and troubled relations with the Eastern Church. While we might sing carols about the Prince of Peace, the hard reality of human life has, since the Incarnation, also involved moments of hurricane-force wind. Today, let's welcome whatever problem we're reluctant to engage, knowing it might be our teacher.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). *"If you would hearken to my commandments, your prosperity would be like a river."*

Saturday, Dec 12, 2020

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Celebrate the feast!

The apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Mexico City's Tepeyac Hill in 1531 was a game changer. Images of the Virgin had typically carried a distinctly European flavor. The Virgin of Guadalupe, however, had indigenous features. She would become the first *Mestiza* image, for a people who comprise the racially and culturally diverse population of modern-day Mexico. Under her spiritual care and influence, a variety of peoples could unite at least in spirituality. For Mexican Americans, and Latinos everywhere, *la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* is among the biggest religious celebrations of the year. Join the *fiesta*.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."*

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



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