



ADVENT

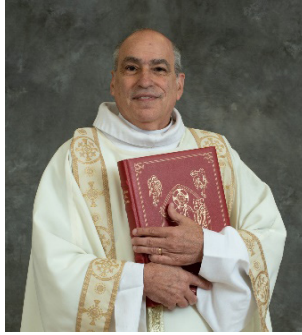
Make Room

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Luke 3:4

December 5, 2021 | Second Sunday of Advent

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

There is a good chance that the first measurable snow fall of **Central Ohio** is right around the corner. My **Dad** was very particular about the way in which he shoveled snow off our sidewalks during the long winters. My preferred method was also the quickest: push the snow to either side and clear enough space for the average-sized human body to pass through. If a patch of snow stuck here and there, so be it. The basic idea, in my mind, was to make navigation possible for those who were brave enough to be outside on these cold days in the first place.

But my father treated the snowy sidewalks as he treated all things: A task worth doing was worth doing perfectly, to his way of thinking. And so, he labored hard to clear the entire sidewalk, all the way to the house on one side and to the curb on the other. He piled snow neatly and compactly near the gutters. What's more, he pushed and scraped until the bare metal of the shovel made absolute contact with the cement, until the pavement was as clean and dry as on a summer's day. He did it for the ladies who would take this route on their way to the store. He did it for the children who would pass by on their way to school. He did it for the men on their way to the corner bar, for neighbors, and for strangers. He did it for my mother, and for himself. He made the way smooth, dry, and safe for all of us.

The desert scenes evoked by Scripture today are not snowy landscapes by a long shot. But **God** does for the citizens of **Jerusalem** what my father did for the people of our neighborhood. **God** prepares for their safe and comfortable passage to the land of their desire. And though they might well get there even if the way weren't perfect, **God** makes it perfect, for their sake.

Our patron, **John the Baptist**, announced the end of business-as-usual for the empire – and for all empires as far as that goes. **John** burst out of the desert to declare the straightening of **God's Road** once and for all. **Rome's** apparently smooth route to the empire was about to become bumpy, because an uncontainable power was about to be revealed. As valleys rose and mountains bowed down to make straight the path of **God's** salvation road, the powers that be would find their own way increasingly encumbered. The way of a new king is being cleared, and that process will be a winnowing of your own authority.

Don't forget to celebrate the feast day of **Mary's Immaculate Conception** this coming **Wednesday** by attending **Mass** at the local parish nearby.

May **Our Blessed Mother** and good **Saint John the Baptist** – both are highlighted during the **Season of Advent** – pray for us.

Have a good week,
Deacon Frank

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

**Mass celebrant for December 12 is
Fr. Klinger assisted by Deacon Frank.**

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

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 Sunday Mass on our St. John the
Baptist Facebook page by visiting our website www.sjbitaliana.com*

*Office Hours: are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Website: info@sjbitaliana.org*

Deacon Frank Iannarino – Administrator/Rector
Msgr. John Cody – Retired/Holy Service on weekends
Father Charles Klinger – Retired/Holy Service on weekends
Father Charles Cotton – Retired/Holy Service on weekends
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**.

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: **Joyce Tisone**
by Carl Tisone
Blessed Sacrament: **Charlie and Bonnie Agriesti**
by Teresa Metcalf and
Maria O'Connell

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
Lector 1 & 2:	Davide Cugini, Kurt Heininger
Euch. Min 1 & 2:	Ed Pagnanelli, Andrea Myers
Sunday, December 12, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
Lector 1 & 2:	Landa Brunetto, Krissy Ciacchi
Euch. Min 1 & 2:	Albert Iosue, Pat Rossetti

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sun. 12/5	9:30 a.m.	David C. Urbanek by Kara Cugini & Family
Sun. 12/5	9:30 a.m.	Robert W. Contino, Sr. by Maria Capoccia
Sun. 12/12	9:30 a.m.	Donna Veri by Landa & Rick Brunetto
Sun. 12/12	9:30 a.m.	Peter and Anna Walter by James Russell & Maureen Corrigan

**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. Also, keep in your prayers Maria Lucchin, Laura Williams, James Graf, Linda McCreary, Raffaella Leggieri, and Guy Williams.**

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 Kevin Koesters at 937-902-7446 or via email at k.koesters32@gmail.com. Leaders for December are:
 December 5, 2021 Gary Bosco
 December 12, 2021 Marge Contino
 December 19, 2021 Carl Tisone
 December 26, 2021 Gary Bosco

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun. 12/5	<u>KCC Sunday Mass – Fr. Kim</u> 12:00 Noon – Meeting in Sala Hall after Mass
Mon. 12/6	<u>Rotary Club Luncheon – Marrapese Hall</u> 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Tues. 12/7	<u>Piave Club Christmas Party – Hickory House</u> 6:30 p.m.
Fri. 12/10	<u>KCC – Mass – Fr. Kim</u> 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 12/11	<u>Italian Language Class – Cultural Room</u> 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
	<u>Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</u>

St. John Faith Group: There will be no meeting on December 7, 2021, due to the holidays. Next meeting will be first Tuesday of the month January 4, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Piave Club members: 2021 Christmas 🎄 party will be our next meeting Tuesday, December 7th, 6:30 p.m. at the Hickory House Restaurant, 550 Offcenter Place, Gahanna, OH 43230. All members and their guests are \$10.00. Please RSVP to club President John Contino. Grazie!

Learn Italian!! Join us on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The class started in October. This is an eight-week program that will introduce you to the beautiful language and culture of Italy. You do not need any prior knowledge of the language. The cost will be \$100.00 per person for the entire 8 weeks and all materials will be provided. The class will be held at Saint John's in the Italian Cultural Room. All you need is a desire to learn and a love for all things Italian! For more information and to sign up for the class, contact Maria Milano at milano727@sbcglobal.net, 614-205-1156.

Vince Militello's Famous Sauce will be on sale for the next two weeks or until he is sold out. Cost is \$5.00.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN

November 21, 2021
Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 35

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,655.00
Loose:	\$ 587.00
Total:	\$ 2,242.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment:	\$ (134.52)
	\$ 2,107.48
Capital Improvements:	\$ 40.00
Campaign for Human Development:	\$ 50.00
Votives	\$ 38.00
Total:	\$ 128.00

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

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/21-6/30/22)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,242.00	(\$ 643.00)	-22 %
FYTD:	\$60,585.00	\$49,590.32	(\$10,994.68)	-18%

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN

November 28, 2021
Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 31

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,175.00
Loose:	\$ 290.00
Holy Day:	\$ 10.00
EFT: For month of November:	\$ 1,903.33
Total:	\$ 3,378.33
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment:	\$ (202.70)
	\$ 3,175.63
50/50 Drawing:	\$ 10.00
Votives	\$ 51.00
Total:	\$ 61.00

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

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/21-6/30/22)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$2,885.00	\$3,378.33	\$493.33	17%
FYTD:	\$63,470.00	\$52,968.65	(\$10,501.35)	-17%

**SJB Collection Counters
for Monday, December 6, 2021**
Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for
Monday, December 13, 2021**
Darlene Rauch and Aggie Howard

St. John's Altar Guild UPDATE: OSU football: The Altar Guild is now selling squares for the annual Ohio State Bowl game. Cost is \$10.00 a square, with payout of \$200.00 to the winning numbers at the end of quarter 1, 2, 3, and end of game. 80% of the money raised is paid back out to the pool participants with the remaining 20% going to the Altar Guild. Every cent raised that goes to the Guild is used to fund the needs of St. John, not things such as dinners, etc. In the past, money raised has purchased vestments the priests & deacons wear, altar cloths & banners, plus helped to cover the cost of the new tabernacle, etc. This pool **always** sells out fast so do not miss the opportunity to have some additional fun watching the **Buckeyes** compete in a bowl game this season, while supporting a worthwhile cause for our beloved church. If interested see Gary Bosco in Sala Hall after any Sunday Mass. Thanks for supporting the needs of the church and good luck!!

PAVERS: The front Pavilion of St. John 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.

KROGER REWARDS FOR ST. JOHN:

For this week was \$28.91.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. We will be doing this on Sunday, December 19th immediately following 9:30 a.m. Mass. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE 2021

Catholic Churches	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m. Vigil	No Mass including 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Day
St. John's	5:30 p.m. Vigil	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 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 12:00 Midnight Mass	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 Noon
St. Joseph Cathedral	4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 12:00 Midnight Mass	10:30 a.m.

AROUND US

Liturgical Calendar: The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as **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 month of December is also dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**.

“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.” ~ Pope Benedict XVI

Holy Father's Intention for December 2021: *Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: 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. Through the centuries, the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.” — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

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.

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.

Retirement Fund for Religious: Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priest served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes — often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Catholic Social Services Blanket and Toiletry Drive: Help our families this holiday season by donating New Fleece Blankets for children and seniors. Also needed are Toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath soap and hand soap. The drive ends by December 14. Please contact Julie at 614-857-1236 for questions or to schedule a drop-off. Thank you!



The Beauty of the Advent Wreath: The Advent Wreath is a long-standing Christmas tradition, adding beauty and light to the season. 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 candles, symbolizing penance, preparation, and sacrifice. The pink or rose-colored candle highlights the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), when we rejoice because our preparation is now halfway finished. The light itself represents Christ. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord.

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

~ Pope Francis

**Prayer:**

May our 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.

LISTEN THIS ADVENT!

ST. GABRIEL

**CATHOLIC RADIO
FM 88.3**

Sunday, Dec 05, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In praise of community service

Consider him an early volunteer. John the Baptist preached and baptized through the countryside, preparing the community for the way, truth, and life about to open to them. He wasn't paid for these services, which is probably why his diet was locusts and honey, and his clothing coarse. Today on International Volunteer Day, we give thanks for all who helped their neighbors with grocery runs and check-ins during the long season of sickness. We can continue this spirit of social engagement: giving blood, organizing group clean-ups, shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk. Volunteering builds empathy!

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6 (6). "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

Monday, Dec 06, 2021

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

The wonder of it all

Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas, but he evolved into a legendary figure so intertwined with Christmas, it's almost as if he were part of the Nativity story. The actual Nicholas lived 300 years after the birth of Jesus. Whether he secretly gave gifts to children or not, the spirit of his story is real. Centuries later as presents are wrapped in mystery and kept under the tree in anticipation, emotions of waiting for the Christ Child heighten as we ponder a miracle we can't fathom. Thank you, Saint Nicholas, for a tradition that helps incarnate our joy and wonder!

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

Tuesday, Dec 07, 2021

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Wage peace

Advent anticipates the Prince of Peace. But as we recall Pearl Harbor, Catholics also embrace a tradition that includes just war theory—sketched out by the likes of Saint Augustine, fleshed out by the likes of Saint Ambrose. King David "never waged war unless he was driven to it," Ambrose observed, illustrating that wars should be fought only as a last resort. Further, war should be waged selflessly—to help and protect others. War that "preserves one's country [or] defends the weak . . . is full of justice." Pray for those in the armed services who sacrifice and protect, and also pray for peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). "Comfort, give comfort to my people."

Wednesday, Dec 08, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

A day of pure celebration

Today we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, the church's teaching that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. It is one of only two dogmas proclaimed infallibly by a pope. All of today's readings are related: They trace the tale back to the Fall, followed by a celebration of the "marvelous deeds" of God's salvation, culminating in the gospel reading of the Annunciation, where Mary learns she will bear a son who will reverse the curse of sin. Today, honor our Blessed

Mother and thank God for her preservation from sin so that she might bring Christ into the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). ". . . he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him."

Thursday, Dec 09, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

Be a witness to the miracle of God's love

We are told that Saint Juan Diego was undistinguished before he became the person to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Tepeyac, Mexico in 1531. Juan Diego had an opportunity to open himself to God's grace—Mary's appearance and miracle. He responded in faith by listening to the Virgin and persistently communicating her message, even though as an indigenous person, his word was at first discounted. His part in the miracle at Tepeyac has had enduring impact by opening other indigenous and mestizo Mexicans to the gospel message, and by opening church leaders—albeit slowly, in fits and starts—to the message indigenous peoples have for the wider church. Are you ready to receive God's grace, as did Juan Diego?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Friday, Dec 10, 2021

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

Jesus makes his presence known

Emmanuel, "God is with us," is our guiding truth. Christians find many ways to remind ourselves of God's Real Presence. Of course, the primary way is through the Eucharist. But shrines and relics are also a very Catholic way of pointing to the reality of Christ in our lives. Take for example the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, which resides in Loreto, Italy, a small town on the Adriatic coast. It is there that the original home of Mary is said to have been moved, either by angels or more probably by a wealthy Italian merchant, after the late 13th-century siege of Jerusalem. At this shrine we can presumably touch the same stones that Jesus touched as a boy. What a remarkable reminder that the Word was made flesh and lived among us. Pray to Our Lady of Loreto for continued reminders of God's abiding presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185/689B). "The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us!'"

Saturday, Dec 11, 2021

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

By the book

By the fourth century of the Christian era there were 20 or so gospels floating around the early church communities along with the familiar four. Dozens of epistles existed in addition to the 21 we now recognize. It was today's saint, Pope Damasus I (c. 305–384), who presided over the Council of Rome in 382 that determined the canon, or official list, of the Bible. He also encouraged Saint Jerome to produce a translation of the existing Greek and Hebrew texts into Latin, the common language of the day. Inexpensive versions of the Catholic *New American Bible Revised Edition* make great Christmas gifts for friends and family looking to deepen their faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

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



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