

The Season of Advent

LOVE

LET THE LORD ENTER; HE IS KING OF GLORY.

Psalm 24

DECEMBER 18, 2022 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

An Irish priest, **Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB**, once wrote: “**As Christmas** approaches, people’s hopes soar. However, commercial interests often dictate the substance of these hopes. Little wonder, then, that when the sun goes down on **Christmas Day**, many feel disappointed, not because they promise too little, but too much – of the wrong thing.

What our hearts long for is a taste of what the angel announced to the shepherds:

‘Behold, I bring news of great joy; today a Savior has been born to you.’

“This joy is the real hope to receive it.”

So, as we approach the final stages of our preparation for the coming **Christmas**, never forget the spiritual side of it:

Like Mother Mary, make the best space in your heart to welcome **Jesus**.

Like Joseph, never be discouraged by obstacles of our life, but always follow the will of **God**.

Like shepherds, find the way and time, to adore **Jesus** and allow **Him** to bless you.

Like Magi, follow the signs of the time; search and find **Him**, the **Lord of Lords**, and the **King of Kings**.

My Friends, God loves you...keep smiling, be positive.
Fr. Andrew

The Mass is available on **St. John’s Facebook** page or **YouTube** channel, **Saint John the Baptist, Cbus**. Go to our **website: www.sjbitaliana.com** under **Livestream Mass**.

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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	December 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Ed Pagnanelli, Davide Cugini
Euch. Min 1 & 2.:	Margaret Panico-Harn, Pat Rossetti
Saturday	December 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Ed Pagnanelli, Gabe Bishop
Euch. Min 1 & 2.:	Ed Pagnanelli, Pat Rossetti
Sunday	December 25, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Kurt Heining, Gretchen Heining
Euch. Min 1 & 2.:	Antonio D’Alberto, Sharon D’Alberto

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 12/18	9:30 a.m.	Leo Santilli by Dr. Linda Records
Monday 12/19	9:00 a.m.	Americo Milano by Rose & Larry Liguore
Tuesday 12/20	9:00 a.m.	Joe Pishitelli by Judy & Phillip Pishitelli
Saturday 12/24	4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil	Tony Solazzo by Irene Solazzo and Family
Sunday 12/25	9:30 a.m.	Karen Mikalonis by Heining Family
Monday 12/26		NO MASS
Tuesday 12/27	9:00 a.m.	Edoardo Cua by Michael Cua

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 YouTube channel, Saint John the Baptist, Cbus, by visiting our website www.sjbitaliana.com

Office Hours: are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Will be closed Friday, December 23 and

Monday, December 26, and will reopen

Tuesday, December 27, 2022.

Email: info@sjbitaliana.org

Father Andrew Kozminski, SAC – Administrator/Rector
Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community
Ms. Aggie Howard – Executive Assistant
Ms. Victoria Gammell – Secretary and Bulletin Editor
Ms. Gina Bishop – Director of Liturgy
Mr. John Huffman – Organist and Musical consultant

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
9:00 a.m. Mondays & Tuesdays

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: For all Members of St. John by Gianantonio Family

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 **k.koesters32@gmail.com**. Leaders for **December** and **January** are:

December 18 Gary Bosco
December 25 Albert Iosue
January 1 Kevin Koesters
January 8 Maureen Iosue



BANNS of MARRIAGE
Michael Dennis and Markee Osborne
December 31, 2022

**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, Laura Williams, Guy Williams, John Contino and Tony Caradonna.**

EVENTS THIS WEEK

12/18 Sunday	KCC Sunday Mass – Fr. Kim 12:00 p.m. Meeting in Sala Hall after Mass KCC – Religious Education – Library & Classroom 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. SJB Choir Practice – Gina Bishop – Library 12:00 Noon
12/19 Monday	SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski 9:00 a.m. SJB church Rotary Club Luncheon – Marrapese & Sala Hall 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
12/20 Tuesday	SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski 9:00 a.m. SJB Church
12/22 Thursday	SH Young Professionals Meeting – Fr. Kozminski – Italian Cultural Room 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
12/23 Friday	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim 6:00 p.m. – SJB Church
12/24 Saturday	SJB Christmas Vigil – SJB Church 4:00 p.m. KCC Christmas Vigil – Fr. Kim – SJB Church 8:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. – Meeting in Sala Hall
	Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S
December 11, 2022
Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 66**

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,855.00
Loose:	\$ 1,344.00
Holy Day:	\$ 40.00
Total	\$ 3,239.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ -(194.34)
	\$ 3,044.66

Votives	\$ 62.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 385.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 30.00
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 298.00
Total	\$ 785.00

? ? ? ? How IS St. JOHN'S DOING? ? ? ? ?

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/22-6/30/23)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Wk.:	\$2,885.00	\$3,239.00	\$354.00	12%
FYTD:	\$69,240.00	\$59,145.61	-(10,094.39)	-15%

50/50 Winner: Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Susi who won the November 2022, 50/50, Drawing! Thank you for your support!

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 19, 2022
Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Tuesday, December 27, 2022
Nick Persichetti and Aggie Howard

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild Ohio State bowl game pool sold out in just 2 days, so a big thank-you to all who signed up. Pool numbers were drawn after Mass the second Sunday in December. The annual Super Bowl pool will go on sale the last Sunday of December/first Sunday of January. Cost will be \$50.00 per square, with winning payouts of \$1,000.00 per quarter. Good luck to all who participate and a sincere thanks for supporting the Altar Guild's ongoing efforts to fund items for our beloved church.

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 and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Vigil	Church	Mass Time
December 24	Sacred Heart	6:00 p.m.
	St. John	4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	Church	Mass Time
December 25	Sacred Heart	11:00 a.m.
	St. John	9:30 a.m.
New Year's Eve	Church	Mass Time
December 31	Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m.
	St. John	No Mass
New Year's Day	Church	Mass Time
January 1	Sacred Heart	11:00 a.m.
	St. John	9:30 a.m.

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's during this special time of year. Thank you.

The La Befana Celebration will be January 8, 2023, after 9:30 a.m. Mass in Marrapese Hall. Please bring children, grandchildren and enjoy this beautiful Italian tradition. Sponsored by the Le Donne.

Where Are My Offertory Envelopes? The company that manufactures envelopes for our parish informed us of a manufacturing issue that is forcing production to run at a significantly slower pace. This delay is affecting the delivery of envelopes across the country. If you have not received your shipment of envelopes for November and December, please submit your weekly offering in an envelope that has your name and address displayed on the front of the envelope. Thank you for your cooperation.



Q: Why didn't Rudolph get a good report card?
A: Because he went down in history.

Proverbs 15:15: "For the despondent, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast."

AROUND US

Liturgical Year: 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** marks 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 dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**.

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.



If you (or someone you know) is struggling from a past abortion experience, please call 614-309-0157. All calls are confidential. Post-abortion Healing.



Nominations now open for the 2023 Catholic Man of the Year:

The **Catholic Men's Luncheon Club** is accepting nominations for the **Diocese of Columbus 2023 Catholic Man of the Year**. The annual award will be presented by **Bishop Earl Fernandes** on **Friday, February 3, 2023**, at the **Men's Luncheon** held at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown **Columbus**. The **Catholic Man of the Year** is awarded to one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony. Nominations will be accepted through **December 31, 2022**. For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholic-man-of-the-year>. Submit your nomination and let us know why your parishioner, husband, father, son, uncle, brother, or friend is the **Catholic Man of the Year**!

Museum of Catholic Art and History: **Nativity Displays** are at the **Diocesan Museum**. Join us for our annual **Nativity** display at the diocesan **Museum of Catholic Art and History**. Come be inspired and see our nearly **500 Nativity** sets representing cultures from all over the world. The display will be open until **January 9**. The **Museum's** hours are **Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Adult admission is **\$10.00**, and students/seniors are **\$5.00**. The **Museum** is in the **Catholic Foundation** building at **257 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215**. Call **614-618-4030** for more information.



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 and symbolizes 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**, 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**.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Peace: On the **fourth** week of **Advent**, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our **Savior**. This final candle, the "**Angel's Candle**," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "**Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men**."

Religious Give Thanks: A sister writes, "We remember the many people who believe in the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion." **God** bless you for donating to last week's second collection.



Today's Gospel: The **Gospel** is from **Matthew 1:18-24**. This is the last **Sunday** of our preparation for **Christmas**, the anniversary of **Christ's** birth. Like **Joseph**, we can all feel unworthy of the honor of welcoming Him into our hearts and our homes. We are indeed unworthy, not because we have little of this world's goods, but because we have so little humility, so little charity, so little faith and trust in **God's** goodness. Let us try to imitate **Joseph and Mary**, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in **God's** goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar. Though we are unworthy of His infinite love, it nevertheless stands out as clear as the noonday sun in the **Incarnation**. We realize that we can never make ourselves worthy of this infinite love but let us imitate **Joseph** and accept the honor which **God** is giving us, as we trust that He will continue to make us daily less unworthy.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings*
by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

"In the many painful crossroads of our present history, God continues to send us the Mother of His Son. Our Lady of Guadalupe invites us to trust in the "true God for whom we live," joyfully and confidently directing us to reaffirm our belonging to the Lord."

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A PRAYER FOR THE Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people,
even when we fail to see you.
In each and every moment that we are blessed
to recognize you here and now,
give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.
Amen.



Sunday, Dec 18, 2022**Welcome!**

Most folks live in the land of their birth. Only one in 30 migrate, and for many reasons. They may marry a non-national and relocate to make a life together. Jobs may move overseas. But most often, people migrate under forces they can't control: military conflicts, natural disasters, extreme poverty, or other dangers. Migration may not be chosen, but it doesn't have to spell doom to those who depart or those who receive them. Migrants have knowledge, networks, and skills to share. U.S. history proves it as does the history of our faith. As Yahweh told the Israelites: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt" (Lev. 19:33-34). On this International Migrants Day, O Sacred Lord, give us the spirit of welcome and openness so we may each find our way to you.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O SACRED LORD)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10). *"The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it."*

Monday, Dec 19, 2022**Cherish your roots**

Today's O Antiphon—"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!"—invites us to meditate on the theme of Jesus' genealogy and our spiritual ancestry. Jesse was the father of King David, and God told the prophet Nathan that David's royal family would last forever. Jesus is the enduring branch that grows out of the root of Jesse, the fulfillment of a hope past and present. When we belong to Christ, we belong to the rest of the tree, too—a family that includes God and humanity. Christmas brings people together, biologically related or not—let the longing of this season bond you closer to all in love.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). *"He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God."*

Tuesday, Dec 20, 2022**Let's make some room at the inn**

We're in the middle of two great spiritual traditions that overlap in Advent: The O Antiphons (December 17-23)—recited at vespers for the church's Liturgy of the Hours—and the celebration of "Las Posadas" (December 16-24), reenacting Joseph and Mary's search for shelter ahead of Jesus' birth. Since Las Posadas come from our Latin American brothers and sisters, each year the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages us to work and pray, in intentional ways, for migrants to our country who—like Mary and Joseph—seek safety and basic biblical hospitality. The Key of David is also the key to our hearts. See Justice for Immigrants for more background and suggested actions.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). *"Listen, O house of David!"*

Wednesday, Dec 21, 2022**A light of faith from the North Star**

On this day in 1892, Saint Peter Claver Catholic Church was founded in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the first black parish in the state of Minnesota. Founded decades before the Great Migration of southern blacks to northern states, the church was the brainchild

of hopeful black Catholics (inspired by Josephite founder John Slattery, S.S.J.) and Archbishop John Ireland, a tireless advocate for black liberation in an era of widespread racism. The new church was named for the famed Jesuit missionary, just a few years after his canonization by Pope Leo XIII, and among its first members was Fredrick McGhee, the first black lawyer in state history. May he and his companions inspire our faith and encourage us to witness for justice in our daily lives!

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN)

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). *"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!"*

Thursday, Dec 22, 2022**Picture this**

For Americans, the O Antiphon for today, "O King of All Nations," might be less than compelling since our incipient nation rebelled against the only king it ever had back in its colonial days. The image of God or Jesus as "king" comes from the prevailing social structures 2,000 years ago. Centuries of church-monarchy unity in Europe and elsewhere kept the tradition going. Contemporary Catholics can understand the power and authority of kingship, but God's tenderness and mercy can be sidelined by this term, which leads to a good question for any disciple: What is your image of God? What helps you connect with the Divine?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). *"The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name."*

Friday, Dec 23, 2022**Rejoice, rejoice!**

The "O Emmanuel" antiphon heralds the conclusion of Advent. It also conveys a powerful truth about how we experience the divine. Yes, God is awesome and transcendent—and God is the one who draws close to us, takes on our humanity, and is truly Emmanuel, "God with us." As we prepare to enter into the mystery of the Incarnation, let us take a moment to pray "O Emmanuel" and reflect on how we experience God with us in our day-to-day life. And as a church let us sing together, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel."

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). *"Yes, he is coming."*

Saturday, Dec 24, 2022**Forgiveness under the tree**

If you haven't finished your Christmas shopping by now, you're toast (at least according to consumer culture). The best you can hope for now is forgiveness. Which is exactly what this day and this night are all about. Zechariah's Benedictus in today's gospel (which takes its name from the first words in Latin—*Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel*, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel") reflects God's eternal plan of deliverance: "To give his people knowledge of Salvation by the forgiveness of their sins." The best present you can give anybody, tonight or ever, is the forgiveness of their sins. Today is the perfect day to give this perfect gift!

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). *"To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins."*

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



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