

The Season of Advent

PEACE

JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH IN HIS TIME,
AND FULLNESS OF PEACE FOR EVER.

Psalm 72



DECEMBER 4, 2022 • SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This coming Thursday, December 8th, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States since it is the patronal feast of our nation.

The Immaculate Conception is not the virgin birth. I want to make that really clear at the beginning, since far too many people get hopelessly confused on that point. Furthermore, the conception that was "immaculate" was Mary's, not Christ's.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains:

"To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of her annunciation salutes her as "Full of grace." In fact, for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be borne by God's grace.

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. This is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

"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."

My friends: Mother Mary experienced uncertainty and insecurity when she said "yes" to the angel.

She knew what oppression was when she couldn't find a room in which to give birth to **Jesus**.

She lived as a refugee in a strange land.

She knew the pain of having a child who does not follow the accepted path.

She knew the loneliness of the widow and the agony of seeing her only **Son** executed.

She is the friend of all the poor and oppressed women of our times.

She gives hope to those who struggle for justice, and challenges us to live a simpler life, a life of unconditional trust in God.

Mary, Immaculate Mother of Jesus, keeps her vocation of holiness before us, and serves as a model for us. She attained holiness by obedience to **God**. She is blessed, not simply because she was the mother of **Jesus**, but because she heard the word of **God** and did it.

Let us imitate Her!

Fr. Andrew

"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

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 4, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Lector 1 & 2:	Antonio D'Alberto, Nick D'Alberto
Euch. Min 1 & 2.:	Sharon D'Alberto, Ed Pagnanelli
Sunday	December 11, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Lector 1 & 2:	Nick Sciarretti, Maria Frissora
Euch. Min 1 & 2.:	Andrea Myers, Al Iosue

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 12/4	9:30 a.m.	Americo Milano by Rosa Tavella
Monday 12/5	9:00 a.m.	Donna Veri by Lou & Joyce Nobile
Tuesday 12/6	9:00 a.m.	Jon Derek Bonar by Judy & Phillip Pishitelli
Thursday 12/8	12:00 p.m.	Sam and Emma Mae McCreary by Sam & Linda McCreary
Sunday 12/11	9:30 a.m.	JoAnne Stasiulewicz by Judy Pishitelli
Monday 12/12	9:00 a.m.	Rina Tiberi by Tim and Ida Shook
Tuesday 12/13	9:00 a.m.	Anita Verigili by Tricia Speicher

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: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

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 Nuns, Sisters, & Secular Orders (Living and Deceased)* by Gianantonio Family

**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.**

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 are:
 December 4 Gary Bosco
 December 11 Gary Bosco
 December 18 Gary Bosco
 December 25 Albert Iosue

 **Requiescat in pace!** In the charity of your prayers, please remember the family and friends of:
 • **Anthony J. Sammartino**, a longtime member of St. John's who passed away last week. May he rest in peace with the Risen Lord!



CONGRATULATIONS! To Todd Caserta and Katie Cannon who entered into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on December 3, 2022.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

12/4 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.
12/5 Monday	SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski 9:00 a.m. SJB church Rotary Club Luncheon – Marrapese Hall 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
12/6 Tuesday	SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski 9:00 a.m. SJB Church St. John's Prayer Group and Piave Club CANCELED
12/8 Thursday	SJB Mass – Immaculate Conception 12:00 p.m. SJB Church
12/9 Friday	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim 6:00 p.m. – SJB Church
	Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S
November 20, 2022
Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 35**

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,731.00
Loose:	\$ 207.00
Total	\$ 1,938.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (116.28)
	\$ 1,821.72
Votives	\$ 57.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 65.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 30.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 31.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 10.00
Total	\$ 193.00

?? ?? ? 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	\$1,938.00	-\$947.00	-33%
FYTD:	\$60,585.00	\$50,134.28	-\$10,450.72	-17%

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S
November 27, 2022**

Number of Envelopes used Sunday 40

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,076.00
Loose:	\$ 640.00
Total	\$ 1,716.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (102.96)
	\$ 1,613.04

Votives	\$ 39.60
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 10.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 20.00
Total	\$ 99.60

?? ?? ? 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	\$1,716.00	-\$1,169.00	-41%
FYTD:	\$63,470.00	\$51,850.28	-\$11,619.72	-18%

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 5, 2022

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 12, 2022

Darlene Rauch 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 will be drawn after Mass no later than the **second Sunday in December**. Photocopies will be made that afternoon and score sheets will be available for everyone beginning the following **Sunday**. 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.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception is December 8, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at Sacred Heart will be at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and St. John's will be at 12:00 p.m.

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 Volunteers Needed: Help us decorate **St. John the Baptist for Christmas!** **Saturday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m.** Many hands make for light work, and we can really use your help! See **Gina Bishop** or **Ed Pagnanelli** with any questions. Also, we will have a **Christmas Choir** for the **4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.** We rehearse at **noon in the Library** on the following **Sundays: December 4, 11, and 18.** No choral experience is necessary...just a love of singing! Contact **Gina Bishop** with any questions.

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.

Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart: **Bishop Watterson High School Choir** will be performing at **Sacred Heart** on **Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.**

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.

AROUND US

Liturgical Year: 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 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.

Charity Newsies Paper Sale and President's Church Service: Since **1907** **Charity Newsies** have provided warm new clothing to school age children in **Franklin County.** Over that time, **Newsies** have clothed **500,000** children. On **Saturday, December 10.** **Three hundred Newsies** will take to the streets and sell a special edition of the **Dispatch** for "whatever your heart tells you to give" with **100%** going to clothe children.

Visit with St. Nicholas: **St. Nicholas** will be visiting the **Maria Stein Shrine** to entertain kids with crafts, games, activities, cookies and hot cocoa on **Sunday, December 4** from **1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.!** Register online at mariasteinshrine.org, cost is **\$10.00** per child.

2022 K of C 11207 Book Sale: **St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Street, Columbus, Ohio.** **Catholic Books** and **Religious** items. Over **two thousand** books and items priced to sell. **Saturday, December 3, 4:00-7:00 p.m. and Sunday, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** Annual book sale for the **Seminarians at the Josephinum.**



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, 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.**

Today's Gospel: The **Gospel** is from the **Gospel of Matthew 3:1-12,** an angel announced to **Zechariah,** a priest of the temple, that he would have a son. This son was destined to be the **Precursor** who would announce the arrival of the long-expected **Messiah.** **John,** the name given him by the angel even before his conception, spent his youth and early manhood as a hermit in the desert of **Judea,** preparing himself for his exalted office. When **God** revealed to him that the **Messiah** was soon to begin his public life, **John** set out for the bank of the **Jordan,** where he began to preach repentance, to prepare the people for "**him who was to come.**" In this holy season of **Advent,** as we prepare to welcome **Christ** at **Christmas. John the Baptist** has words of advice and warnings for each one of us. He advises us to "**prepare the way of the Lord,**" by true repentance of our past sins and a firm resolution to not deviate from the true **Christian** way of life in the future.

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



Prayer

My humble Lord, You call all people to repentance with great humility and sincerity. Please help me to see my sin and to never shy away from facing it, so that You can free me from that filth and set me more firmly on the path to holiness. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen

Sunday, Dec 04, 2022**Peace to all who enter here**

The holiday season can be full of exciting plans and activities. It can also be stressful, as social demands increase. Shopping and seasonal food preparation take time—a thing always in limited supply. And as families and communities gather, opportunities for harmony or conflict arise. Francis de Sales offers advice for the harried: "Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset." Commit to Isaiah's peaceable kingdom, where calf and lion share the field and childhood innocence leads the way.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (4). *"The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them."*

Monday, Dec 05, 2022**Feed my flock**

"Mandela Day" is an annual international day in honor of South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela celebrated on his birthday in July as a call to action to every individual to change the world with acts of service. Today is the anniversary of Mandela's death and also International Volunteer Day, another reminder for each person to make a positive difference in the lives of others. In 2022, the Nelson Mandela Foundation focused on the intersection of food security and climate change—also themes of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. How can you and your parish help provide nutritious food to all in your community in ways that are sustainable? For suggestions, visit mandeladay.com.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

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

Tuesday, Dec 06, 2022**Secret Santa**

The anonymous generosity of Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra in the 300s, is legendary. So as not to attract praise from others, Nicholas performed charitable deeds on the sly—like the time he saved three poor maidens from destitution because they had no dowry for marriage. Under cover of night, Saint Nick secretly dropped three bags of gold down their chimney to ease their plight. The size, shape, and color of these bags of gold gave rise to the "Christmas orange" traditionally placed in Christmas stockings. Consider an anonymous act of charity today—and maybe treat yourself to an orange, too!

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). *"It is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."*

Wednesday, Dec 07, 2022**Firm stance, gentle hand**

Saint Ambrose of Milan, the esteemed early church theologian and pastor, was consecrated bishop of Milan on this day in 374, during a trip to the city to quell a succession crisis for the contentious church post. Known for his conciliatory demeanor, Ambrose was a staunch defender of orthodox beliefs about the divinity of Jesus, but he was also respected by those who believed Jesus not to be God, because of his willingness to listen to them. Among his countless contributions to the church, he converted Saint

Augustine of Hippo with his preaching and baptized the wayward son before his own journey to theological greatness. In this season of charity, may we all emulate Ambrose's devotion to peace and unity on his holy feast.

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."*

Thursday, Dec 08, 2022**Holiness is about more than clean living**

Older Catholics might smile as they recall the imagery for sin that they learned in the mid-20th century. Sin-free meant a clean soul. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary as free from "all stain of original sin." Rather than emphasize Mary's clean soul, today many contemporary theologians choose to emphasize Mary's active faithfulness over a lifetime. That's something each one of us can aspire to.

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

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

Friday, Dec 09, 2022**Don't lose sight of Mary**

After providing a mantle of roses with the image of Mary miraculously impressed upon it as proof to the archbishop of Mexico City of her appearance to him, Juan Diego spent his days living as a hermit and guide to pilgrims near a shrine built in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a title Mary reportedly chose for herself. The Mexican bishops define the "Guadalupe Event" as the "beginning of evangelization with a vitality that surpassed all expectations." The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe now holds the honor of being the most visited Catholic shrine in the world. As with any Marian apparition, spiritual transformation is Mary's primary purpose—all in the hope of leading a new generation to Christ. Draw on the presence of Mary today, as Saint Juan Diego did centuries ago, to help orient you toward God's boundless love.

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). *"Wisdom is vindicated by her works."*

Saturday, Dec 10, 2022**Let your spirit soar!**

The title of Our Lady of Loreto is owed more to a building and a statue than to a person. The building is the Basilica of the Holy House (Basilica della Santa Casa) in Loreto, Italy. A tradition arose that the Holy House was the actual house where the Virgin Mary lived in Nazareth, which had later miraculously been transported by angels to Loreto. (Crusaders returning from the Holy Land may have more plausibly transported it with them, stone by stone.) The statue is a Madonna and Child image, called Our Lady of Loreto, carved in Cedar of Lebanon and enshrined in the basilica. Whatever you might make of the miraculous story about Our Lady of Loreto, the next time you embark on a long journey or relocation, it might not hurt to ask for her protection.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *"Elijah has already come."*

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



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