

And the  
*Word*

became flesh and  
made his dwelling  
among us, and  
we saw his

*glory.*

John 1:14

CHRISTMAS  
2022

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Natività, Maratta (1655)*

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

This **Sunday**, we celebrate the feast which is called the “**Epiphany of the Lord.**”

The word “**epiphany**” means “**showing**” or “**revealing.**” It commemorates the event that was the first showing of **Christ Jesus** to the nations of the entire world, when the **three Wise Men** from the **East**, directed by the star, came to **Bethlehem** to worship the **Christ Child.**

They took this journey through the mountains, and valleys, rivers, and deserts, never being discouraged by the obstacles on the way.

They saw the sign of the time: “**the Star,**” and decided to walk in the light of **God.**

Through their perseverance, they reached the goal of their journey.

At **Bethlehem** they found the promised **King**, and they worshiped **Him.**

They didn’t arrive to the presence of **Christ** empty-handed. They brought with them mystical gifts of **Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.**

**Gold**, a symbol of royalty.

**Frankincense**, the perfume which was burned each evening on the altar as a symbol of the hope placed in the Messiah.

**Myrrh**, because **God Incarnate – Jesus –** will take upon **Himself** our weakness and be burdened with our sorrows.

My friends, pause for a moment and reflect:

**God** gave us the most precious gift: **His only Begotten Son.**

**Magi** offered **Jesus “special gifts.”**

And we, in response to **God’s** every-day generosity, what will we offer **Him** today, tomorrow, and at any moment of our life?

**Keep smiling, be happy, God loves us!**

**Fr. Andrew**

**A Note of Thanks**

My friends, I hope you had a great Christmas and New Year’s! I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity. I have received so many cards and gifts from you that it has made me incredibly happy, since I am far away from my family, and now you have become my new family. May God reward you and your goodness!

*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.**

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

<b>Sunday</b> <b>1/8</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Nestor &amp; Rose Susi</b> by Michael and Kerree Susi
<b>Sunday</b> <b>1/8</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b> at Sacred Heart	<b>Gerardo Cugini</b> by Cugini Family
<b>Monday</b> <b>1/9</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Phyllis N. Militello</b> by Vince & Gina Romanelli
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>1/10</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Debora Carifa</b> by Claudio Carifa
<b>Sunday</b> <b>1/15</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>James Graf</b> by Kenneth & Maria Lucchin

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 8, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Nick D’Alberto, Antonio D’Alberto
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2.:</b>	Sharon D’Alberto, Andrea Myers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 15, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Ed Pagnanelli, Nick Sciarretti
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Margaret Panico-Harn, Pat Rossetti

**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](http://www.sjbitaliana.com)**

**Office Hours are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday.**

**Office is closed Monday, January 16, 2023, in  
Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and  
will resume Tuesday, January 17, 2023.**

**Email: [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org)**

**Father Andrew Kozminski, SAC – Administrator/Rector**

**Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community**

**Ms. Aggie Howard – Executive Assistant**

**Ms. Victoria Scruggs – 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: James Graf**  
*by Andrea and Roger Myers*

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

January 8	Maureen Iosue
January 15	Gary Bosco
January 22	Please sign up
January 29	Gary Bosco

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help take down Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m. and help prepare for a reception for Bishop Earl Fernandes. The bishop will be celebrating the Mass on Sunday, January 15 at 9:30 a.m. Please reach out to Gina Bishop. Thank you!

**COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED:** We want to welcome Bishop Fernandes to our beautiful church and share with him our Italian heritage! So, if you could please bake your family's favorite Italian cookies to bring and share with the Bishop on Sunday, January 15, it would be greatly appreciated! Please drop cookies off in Marrapese Hall prior to Mass that morning!

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

1/8 Sunday	<b>SJB Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski</b> 9:30 a.m. – SJB Church <b>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim – SJB Church</b> 12:00 Noon-2:30 p.m. – Meeting in Sala Hall <b>LaBefana Celebration – After Mass in Marrapese</b> <b>Altar Guild Meeting – Marrapese</b> 10:45 a.m.
1/9 Monday	<b>Rotary Club Luncheon Meeting – Marrapese</b> 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
1/10 Tuesday	<b>SJB – Mass Fr. Andrew Kozminski</b> 9:00 a.m. – SJB Church
1/12 Thursday	<b>SH Young Professionals Meeting – Fr. Kozminski – Italian Cultural Room</b> 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
1/13 Friday	<b>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim</b> 6:00 p.m. – SJB Church
	<b>Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</b>

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

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S  
December 25, 2022**

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 37

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,485.00
Loose:	\$ 847.00
Holy Day:	\$ 955.00
Total	\$ 3,287.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (197.22)
	\$ 3,089.78
Votives	\$ 43.00
Diocesan Charities	\$ 428.50
Christmas Flowers	\$ 75.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 20.00
Total	\$ 566.50

**?? ?? 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	\$3,287.00	\$402.00	14%
FYTD:	\$75,010.00	\$69,621.61	-\$5,388.39	-7%

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S  
January 1, 2023**

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 42

Reg. Env:	\$ 820.00
Loose:	\$ 1,081.00
Holy Day:	\$ 477.00
December EFT:	\$ 1,728.33
Total	\$ 4,106.33
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (246.38)
	\$ 3,859.95
Votives	\$ 35.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 1.00
Total	\$ 36.00

**?? ?? 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	\$4,106.33	\$1,221.33	42%
FYTD:	\$77,895.00	\$73,727.94	-\$4,167.06	-5%

**50/50 Drawing:** Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Susi, winner of the December 50/50 drawing. Thank you for your support!

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, January 9, 2023**  
Nick Persichetti and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Tuesday, January 17, 2023**  
Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard

**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.

**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.

**Altar Guild:** Sunday, January 8, the Altar Guild will begin selling squares in its final football pool fundraiser for the season. All proceeds raised help support the altar needs of our beloved St. John the Baptist, such as altar cloths, banners, priest/ deacon vestments, tabernacle, etc. This is a fun way to watch the final game of the season, hopefully rooting for an Ohio team, and knowing the fundraiser helps support our church. Squares cost \$50.00 each and winning scores at the end of quarters 1, 2, 3, and end of game payout \$1,000.00. This pool usually sells out in 3-4 weeks so if interested see Gary Bosco in Sala Hall after any Sunday Mass starting January 8. As soon as all squares are sold, pool numbers will be drawn after mass in Sala Hall, and copies of those will be made for all participants.

😊 Smile Break 😊

“People say New York has the best New Year’s Eve celebration. But honestly, it’s overrated – every year they drop the ball.”

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



Thank you to all St. John parishioners who sponsored Christmas Flowers this Christmas Season!

**AROUND US**

**Liturgical Calendar:** The first nine days of January fall during the liturgical season of **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical color white. The remaining days of **January** are the beginning of the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green is a symbol of hope, as it is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

**Museum Membership Opportunities:** Consider becoming a member of the Museum and encouraging your parishioners to do so. Membership includes:

- Admission to the **Museum** for one year.
- **Discounts** for offsite events.
- **VIP** preference for events.
- Three special members-only evening events.

A family membership is \$200.00 a year and includes two adults and their children who are 18 and younger. An individual membership is \$120.00 a year and includes one other unnamed adult.



**The Holy Father’s Intentions for the Month of January 2023:** *We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.*



**January 8:** Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. “The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power.” With these words the Church proclaims that today’s

feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of **Advent**. **Epiphany**, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the **Advent-Christmas** season.

**Today’s Gospel:** The Gospel of today’s feast is from the *Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12*. The **Magi** are the central personages in today’s feast of **Epiphany**. They were pagans who did not know the true **God of the Jews**. Yet, that true **God** revealed to them that the **King** He had promised to the **Jews** had come. The expected **Prince** was born. They came to **Jerusalem** expecting to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead, they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king – a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their history, but indifference. These leaders knew the **Messiah** would be born in **Bethlehem**; they must have realized that the **Magi** were very sure of the truth revealed to them – they would not have made such a long journey on a “fool’s errand.” Despite that, the thought of going to **Bethlehem** with the **Magi** never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to **Christ** and despite His miracles refused to admit His claim that He was not only the promised **Messiah**, but the true **Son of God**. These were men who rejected Him because He had mercy on sinners and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their **Messiah** was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like **Herod**, they ended with murder – the crucifixion of the “**King of the Jews**.” The pagan king was not much worse than the indifferent leaders of **God’s Chosen People**. Let us resolve to make the **Magi** our models, to follow them to **Bethlehem** and offer **Christ** all that we have and are.

*“Life is a gift that the Lord grants us, saying to us: Discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true.”*  
*@Pontifex*



**Prayer:** O God, who on this day revealed Your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in Your mercy that we, who know You already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of Your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

**Sunday, Jan 08, 2023****Bless this mess**

Do a perimeter walk of your home. What do you see? Each room tells a story, every corner contains a chapter about who lives here and what happens between these walls. *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* recommends we bless our homes annually on Epiphany in imitation of the wise ones who once followed the divine presence to a humble dwelling. What sort of blessing might each area need? What requires a blessing: the kitchen table, living room sofa, or home office desk? A child's room or elder's sickbed? Don't forget the front door—the passageway to every other story that involves us.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). *"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

**Monday, Jan 09, 2023****Be a carrier of peace**

Pigeons and doves are different species within the same family of birds. The homing pigeon, also called the mail or carrier pigeon, is a variety bred for its ability to find its way home over extremely long distances of up to 1,000 miles or more. Because of this skill, they were used to carry messages throughout history. The dove, of course, is a symbol of peace and hope, and famously carried an olive branch to Noah on the Ark after the great flood. If you want to send a similar message, you don't have to go nearly as far. Just extend peace and hope across the dinner table or over the neighbor's fence.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 (21). *"He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him."*

**Tuesday, Jan 10, 2023****Give peace every chance**

On this day in 1920, the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. On this same day in 1946—following World War II—the UN General Assembly met for the very first time, gathering on church property at the Methodist Central Hall in London. And on January 10, 1984 the United States and Vatican City re-established full diplomatic relations after 117 years. It's not enough for Christians to worship the Prince of Peace. "We must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and peoples," writes Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). "There is a need to ensure ... tireless recourse to negotiation, mediation, and arbitration." Learn more at Pax Christi USA.

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306). *"The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes."*

**Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023****Measure with mercy**

On this day in 314—or the day before; the history is unclear—Pope Saint Miltiades died after a life of historic twists and turns that would help define the Early Church. Born to North African parents, Miltiades was the second of the Catholic Church's three African popes, having been elected in 311, shortly after the end of the persecutions of Emperor Diocletian. As pope, Miltiades was most famous for rejecting the Donatists, who argued that apostates who

repent needed to be re-baptized (and re-ordained, if priests). In an age of manifestly imperfect priests, may we model Pope Miltiades' mercy and forgiveness for all the fallen—starting with ourselves!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307). *"They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up."*

**Thursday, Jan 12, 2023****Pull back the curtain with contemplative prayer**

Fans of *The Wizard of Oz* relish the moment when a curtain is drawn and the Great and Terrible Oz is shown to be an ordinary man. In a way, the tradition of contemplative prayer is an attempt to pull back the curtain but with reverse results. Instead of seeing the wondrous as ordinary, contemplation is meant to move people to see the depth and intricacy and wonder of the ordinary. In other words, contemplative prayer wants us to see God's face everywhere. Consider the times when God's presence became tangible for you. Build a time into today to seek that presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308). *"Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"*

**Friday, Jan 13, 2023****The word is out**

Saint Hilary, born in Poitiers in southwest France in 315, had a learned education but was not raised Christian. Able to read the biblical languages, however, he was drawn to Christianity by the beauty and power of the prologue of the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18) and spent his life in strong defense of the divinity of Jesus, a controversial subject at the time. Recognition of his tireless efforts eventually earned him the high title of doctor of the church. Perhaps John's prologue has a word to speak to you as well. Why not dip into its powerful language today?

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309) *"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'"*

**Saturday, Jan 14, 2023****Accepted unconditionally**

Levi was an outcast of his people. Because of his position at the Roman customs post, not only he but also his family were held in disdain. His alliance with the Romans was considered treasonous and his wealth ill-gotten. Levi had many character flaws, yet Jesus chose him as a disciple, and he accepted. This is good news for the outcasts of our generation, the people our society and sometimes our church counts as unacceptable. It's good news for all of us, to be honest, as we all fall short in one way or another. Thankfully, Jesus sees past our shortcomings. Imitate Jesus before judging others.

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310). *"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

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



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