

FEBRUARY 26, 2023  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE LORD,  
YOUR *God*

SHALL YOU WORSHIP  
AND HIM ALONE  
SHALL YOU SERVE.

MATTHEW 4:10

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY AT

**ST. JOHN THE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Last **Wednesday**, with traditional distribution of the ashes, we entered the **Holy Season of Lent**. This time I would like to present to you – a spiritual reflection by **St. Vincent Pallotti** entitled: “**The Infinite Love and Mercy of Jesus Christ in the Desert.**”

Enlightened by faith, I must recall that **Our Lord Jesus Christ**, after humbling **Himself** by the **Baptism of Penance**, went to the desert. For forty days and nights He prayed and fasted; He even permitted **Himself** to be tempted **three** times by our common enemy, the devil. But **He** overcame the temptations. He permitted this for all our sake, out of **His** infinite love and mercy, although **He** knew how little we would profit from it, and how much we would abuse it, by acting contrary to **His** will. He nevertheless condescended to teach us **the practice of solitude**, in order to speak alone to **God** about the business of our eternal salvation. He taught us how **to pray** in order to profit efficaciously by this ineffable means of obtaining all graces. He taught us how **to fast** in order to keep our passions and our flesh mortified. Finally, with **His** victory over temptations of the devil, **He** taught us how **to overcome the temptations** of our spiritual enemies, so that we may persevere in the work of sanctifying our souls, living images of **God**. In this way, we will never do anything to destroy our soul. **Jesus** did this not only as an example to us, but also in order to grant us the grace of imitating **Him** in everything. Thus, all the infinite merits of **His** retreat, prayer, fast, and victories over the devil, would be ours.

**My Jesus**, my most loving first-born brother, true **God** and true man, eternal **God**, infinite, immense, incomprehensible, infinite love and mercy. Only **You** with the Father and the **Holy Spirit** can enlighten us, so to that we may know Your infinite love and mercy, manifested in **Your solitude, prayer, and fast**, and **Your victories over the devil** in the desert. You can help us with your grace to profit from it as **You** wish. Not because **You** need this, but because of our great necessity. Allow us, therefore, to perform our duties well, so that we may perfect our soul, a living image of **You**, and thus atone for the excesses of our ingratitude and impiety... **Amen.**

**(St. Vincent Pallotti; God, the Infinite Love)**

**Have a blessed Lenten journey.**

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

**Fr. Andrew**

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

**Marian Lights:** **Joyce Tisone**  
by Carl Tisone

**Blessed Sacrament:** **Joseph M. Gianantonio II**  
by Loving Father

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 26, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Valerie Milano, Nick Sciarretti
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2.:</b>	Andrea Myers, Pat Rossetti
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 5, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Antonio D'Alberto, Nick D'Alberto
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Margaret Panico-Harn, Sharon D'Alberto

## MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

<b>Sunday</b> 2/26	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Karen Mikalonis</b> by Heining Family
<b>Sunday</b> 2/26	<b>11:00 a.m.</b> at SH	<b>+ Joe Pishitelli</b> by Judy & Phillip Pishitelli
<b>Monday</b> 2/27	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Phyllis N. Militello</b> by Angela Capoccia
<b>Tuesday</b> 2/28	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>+ Jim Behal</b> by Linda & Sam McCreary
<b>Sunday</b> 3/05	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Joann Paesano</b> by Mary Ann Thissen
<b>Monday</b> 3/06	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Phyllis N. Militello</b> by Polly Urian & Family
<b>Tuesday</b> 3/07	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Leo Santilli</b> by Judy Pishitelli

## 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 or YouTube channel, Saint John  
the Baptist, Cbus, by visiting  
our website [www.sjitaliana.com](http://www.sjitaliana.com).  
Office Hours: are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Email: [info@sjitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjitaliana.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.**

**The Mass is available on St. John's Facebook page or YouTube  
channel, Saint John the Baptist, Cbus. Go to our website:  
[www.sjitaliana.com](http://www.sjitaliana.com) under Livestream Mass.**

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

**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 937-902-7446 or via email k.koesters32@gmail.com. Leaders for February and March are:

February 26 Gary Bosco  
 March 5 Maureen Iosue  
 March 12 Gary Bosco

**SIMPLE SUPPER**

**St. John the Baptist** – following the 6:00 p.m. Mass every Tuesday through Lent in Marrapese Hall.

**ADORATION and STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Sacred Heart** – Adoration after 6:00 p.m. Mass every Thursday through Lent for 30 minutes after Mass until 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross after 6:00 p.m. Mass every Friday through Lent.

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

2/26 Sunday	<p><b>SJB Mass –Fr. Andrew Kozminski</b>                  9:30 a.m. – SJB Church</p> <p><b>LeDonne Group Meeting</b> – Marrapese Hall                  10:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>SJB Italian Language Class</b> – Marrapese Hall – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>KCC Religious Education</b> – Italian Cultural Room – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim</b> – SJB Church                  12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m. Meeting in Sala Hall</p> <p><b>San Giovanni Dancers</b> – Marrapese Hall                  3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.</p>
2/27 Monday	<p><b>SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski</b>                  9:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Rotary Club Luncheon</b> – Marrapese Hall                  11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</p>
2/28 Tuesday	<p><b>SJB –Mass Fr. Andrew Kozminski</b>                  6:00 p.m. after Mass, Simple Supper                  Marrapese Hall</p>
3/2 Thursday	<p><b>Sacred Heart Young Professionals Meeting</b> –                  Fr. Kozminski 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Italian Cultural Room</p> <p><b>KCC Adoration – Fr. Kim</b>                  8:00 p.m. – SJB Church</p>
3/3 Friday	<p><b>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim</b>                  6:00 p.m. – SJB Church</p>
	<p><b>Altar Guild Reminder</b> – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</p>
	<p><b>Le Donne Group</b> – Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall.</p>

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S**  
 February 19, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 929

Reg. Env:	\$ 296.00
Loose:	\$ 1,365.00
Total	\$ 1,661.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ <u>-(99.66)</u>
	\$ 1,561.34
<b>Votives</b>	<b>\$ 45.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 45.00</b>

? \$ ? \$ ? **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	\$1,661.00	-\$1,224.00	-42%
FYTD:	\$98,090.00	\$92,808.27	-\$5,281.73	-5%

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, February 27, 2023**

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, March 6, 2023**

Darlene Rauch and Aggie Howard

**FESTA DI SAN GUISEPPE/ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATION**

**BREAKFAST:** This year's Festa di San Guiseppe Breakfast will be Sunday, March 19, 2023, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The Altar Guild is sponsoring this the event and will be selling tickets after Mass each Sunday. Tickets are \$12.00/person (children 6 and under are free). All tickets **MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE!** The menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, fresh fruit, juice, coffee and of course St. Joseph's Table. Please bring a tray of cookies to share and be blessed as part of this year's St. Joseph's Table.

**Applications available for the Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program – deadline Monday, April 3, 2023:**

St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church announces the 2023 Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program. If you are a high school senior student of Italian descent, attending a central Ohio high school and accepted to an accredited two or four-year college or university in the U.S. for the 2023-2024 academic years, you are encouraged to apply for this scholarship opportunity. Application information has been posted on Saint John's website at [www.info@sjbitaliana.com](http://www.info@sjbitaliana.com) and has also been sent to central Ohio high school guidance counseling offices. All application materials (application form, activity listing, personal recommendation letter, school recommendation, transcript and personal essay) must be received at St. John's no later than **2:00 p.m., Monday, April 3, 2023.** For information, call St. John the Baptist Catholic Italian Church at 614-294-5319.

**Greetings from The Church-Budget Envelope and Mailing Company:**

To get back to expected levels of timely deliveries, we are forced to suspend the production of the remaining supply of your February envelopes. The offering envelopes will resume and be delivered by the first Sunday in March. Quarterly supply will restart in April. Never in our company's history have we had to skip scheduled mailings and we are doing all we can to make sure this never happens again. We deeply apologize for this necessary course of action and the inconveniences this has caused you and your church family. **In the meantime, please put your envelope number on a regular envelope and put in the collection. If you don't know your envelope number, contact the parish office at 614-294-5319. We appreciate your understanding.** The Church – Budget Envelope and Mailing Company Management Team

Smile Break

**Q:** Why did the magazine company go out of business?  
**A:** Too many issues.  
*Proverbs 15:15: "For the despondent, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast."*

**LENTON SIMPLE SUPPERS** are returning to **St. John's** this year! The **Altar Guild** is organizing the **Simple Suppers** during **Lent**. A donation of **\$10.00/person includes Soup, Salad, Rolls & Butter**. All proceeds will go directly to the **Pallotine Missionary Foundation Salvatti helping Ukraine**. The following **five Tuesdays** through **Lent, Mass** will be at **6:00 p.m.** and **Simple Supper** will immediately follow in **Marrapese Hall**. There will be no **Simple Supper** during **Holy Week**.

The sponsoring groups and dates for the **Simple Suppers**:  
**Tuesday, February 28 – Le Donne**  
**Tuesday, March 7 – The Piave Club**  
**Tuesday, March 14 – St. John's Altar Guild**  
**Tuesday, March 21 – Sacred Heart**  
**Tuesday, March 28 – The Abruzzi Club**

### AROUND US

**The Holy Father's Intention for the Month of February 2023:**  
**For Parishes: *We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.***


**Liturgical Calendar:** The month of **February** is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. The special devotion, which proposes the **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph** as the model of virtue of all **Christian** households, began in the **17th century**. The **first 3/12 weeks of February** fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** which is represented by the liturgical color green. The remaining days of **February** are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to violet or purple.

**CRS Rice Bowl** is a **Lenten** faith formation program for use in parishes, schools, religious education programs and by families and individuals in the home. **CRS Rice Bowl** serves the poorest among us through **Catholic Relief Services'** work in over 100 countries. During this pandemic year, over **\$120,000.00** was used to support diocesan local hunger programs. This year's **CRS Rice Bowl** donations are critical for these grants to continue as the fund's account is nearly depleted. Please support **CRS Rice Bowl** during **Lent**. **Bowls are located on the tables at the entrance to the Church.**

**Dispensation for Saint Patrick's Day:** The obligation to abstain from meat on the **Fridays of Lent** is an important element of the **Church's** observance of the penitential nature of this holy season. This year, **March 17, the Friday of the Third Week of Lent**, corresponds with **Saint Patrick's Day**, traditionally an occasion for joy-filled celebrations in this diocese, especially among those of **Irish** heritage. **Bishop Fernandes**, taking into consideration both past practice and present circumstances, has granted to the faithful of the **Diocese of Columbus**, as well as to any visitors or travelers who may be physically present within the territory of this diocese, a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence from meat on **March 17, 2023**, provided that the member of the faithful taking advantage of this dispensation, undertakes one of the following works: 1) makes a pilgrimage or visit to any church in the **Diocese of Columbus** named in honor of **St. Patrick (Columbus, London, Junction City)**; 2) assists at **Mass** at any church, chapel, or oratory on **March 17**; 3) prays the "**Breastplate of St. Patrick**," attributed to **St. Patrick**; 4) engages in some pious devotion such as the **Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, or Eucharistic Adoration**; or 5) performs an act of comparable penance (such as abstinence from meat) on some other occasion during the **Third Week of Lent**.

**Spring Clean Up: St. Joseph, Resurrection, Holy Cross, and Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemeteries** will begin removing wintertime decorations beginning **March 1st**, weather permitting. Families are advised to remove any personal keepsakes they wish to retain as soon as possible.

**Church Regulations Regarding Fasting and Abstinence during Lent:** Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all **Catholics** fourteen years and older on **Ash Wednesday** and on all **Fridays of Lent**. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat. The law of fasting on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** applies to all **Catholics from age 18 through age 59**. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Those who are ill or pregnant may be dispensed from their obligation.



**It's Fish Fry Time:** One of the great parts of Lent is the return of that wonderful Catholic institution, the Friday Fish Fry. The Fish Fry is a chance to not only make a personal sacrifice, but also strengthen your bond with your spiritual community by joining other Catholics at these weekly gatherings. Please go to [columbuscatholic.org](http://columbuscatholic.org) for a complete schedule of the Fish Fries being offered throughout the Columbus area during Lent.

**Today's Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11:** The **Gospel** is from **St. Matthew 4:1-11**. This incident in our **Lord's** life, His forty days and nights of fasting followed by temptations, has been chosen as a reading for this first **Sunday of Lent** for our edification and encouragement. **Lent** is a period of preparation for the central **Christian** events of **Good Friday** and **Easter Sunday**. **Christ**, the **Son of God** in human nature, died the excruciating death of crucifixion on **Good Friday**, because of the sins of the human race. By this supreme act of obedience to his heavenly Father, He made atonement for all our disobediences and set us free from the slavery of **Satan** and of sin. In His resurrection, His human nature was glorified by **God the Father**, and in that glorification, we are all offered a share and given the right to an eternal life of glory, if we follow Christ faithfully in this life. -Excerpted from **The Sunday Readings** by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

**"Social justice demands that we fight against the causes of poverty: inequality and the lack of labour, land, and lodging; against those who deny social and labour rights; and against the culture that leads to taking away the dignity of others.." @Pontifex**

### Prayer



**Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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, Feb 26, 2023****God's messengers**

Have you thought much about your guardian angel since you prayed at bedtime when you were a kid? If not, maybe it's time to catch up with the one that's been assigned to help you. The word *angelos* means "messenger" in Greek, and since angels "always behold the face" of God in heaven (Matthew 18:10), they're well-positioned to intercede for you. Appreciate the watchful care that surrounds you and protects you from spiritual and perhaps physical dangers. Their constant attention indicates how precious you are to God and how active God wishes to be in your life.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11 (22). *"He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you."*

**Monday, Feb 27, 2023****A book for your nightstand, next to your Bible**

Grigor Narekatsi, born near the turn of the first millennium, was an Armenian mystical and lyrical poet, monk, and theologian. He has the distinction of being venerated as a saint in the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Churches and was declared a doctor of the church by Pope Francis in 2015. The prayer book of Gregory of Narek is a fixture in religious Armenian homes, second only to the Bible, and is considered a masterpiece of Christian spiritual literature. It has been translated into 30 languages, including English. Given the rave reviews, consider this writer-saint for your next read!

MEMORIAL OF GREGORY OF NAREK, ABBOT, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46 (224). *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*

**Tuesday, Feb 28, 2023****United in prayer**

Pope Benedict XVI, may he rest in peace, wrote beautifully on prayer and the Our Father: "In praying our heart is opened. Not only do we enter into communion with God but actually with all the children of God, because we are one body. When we address the Father in our inner room in silence and in recollection we are never alone. Those who speak to God are not alone. We are within the great prayer of the Church, we are part of a great symphony that the Christian community in all the parts of the earth and in all epochs, raises to God." Pray the Our Father slowly and consciously today, with everyone.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). *"This is how you are to pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."*

**Wednesday, Mar 01, 2023****Get on board for justice**

Today marks the 98th death anniversary of Homer Plessy, the man who attempted to end segregation with his legendary ride on a whites-only streetcar in New Orleans in 1892. His efforts were unsuccessful, and the following seven decades of U.S. jurisprudence included segregation as a bedrock feature. Plessy, however, is much less heralded for the fact that he was a man of faith, a black Catholic whose famous ride was organized by an interracial activist group known as the Comité des Citoyens (Citizens' Committee). Their holy disobedience was one of the first Catholic-led efforts against the

developing hierarchy of racism in the formerly French and Spanish regions of the Deep South. May the courage of Plessy and his allies be of use to us today as we continue the march toward justice.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). *"Man and beast shall be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; every man shall turn from his evil way and from the violence he has in hand."*

**Thursday, Mar 02, 2023****Read it and reap**

Welcome to Read Across America Day, established in 1998 by the National Education Association to encourage this most central, enjoyable, and enriching of activities. Popular among teachers, students, and librarians, today can also be a day for Catholics to explore and support organizations such as the Catholic Media Association, whose members inform, inspire, and educate readers, keeping them connected to their faith, and telling the story of the church. Check a list of Catholic newspapers and magazines to find one you can support with a subscription. You in turn will be supported in your faith.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). *"Everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."*

**Friday, Mar 03, 2023****Store up treasure in heaven**

Saint Katharine Drexel was born in Philadelphia in 1858 to a wealthy family. The Drexels had a reputation for generosity, reportedly opening their home several days a week to feed and care for people in need. They also made time every day to pray together. During a trip to Europe as a young woman, Katharine was able to have an audience with Pope Leo XIII. She asked the Holy Father to send missionaries to Wyoming. He answered, "Why don't you go?" Not long after, Katharine stunned society by leaving behind her privileged life to dedicate herself to religious life. She worked to improve living conditions and educational opportunities for African Americans and Native Americans. She left a legacy far greater than her family fortune.

MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). *"Go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*

**Saturday, Mar 04, 2023****Short but sweet sainthood**

Lenten inspiration can come from anywhere—from scripture to Instagram, from saints to young people. While not a Bible figure or social media influencer, 15th-century Casimir of Poland happens to fit the categories of both saint and young person. Saint Casimir was a prince who was under intense pressure from his family and country to take a leading role in government and politics. But Casimir felt called to focus on prayer, study, and care for people in need. Although he had to contend with some very disappointed people, he stood firm in his decision to follow his calling. Disease cut short his life at the tender age of 25, but his example can inspire us to live out our calling and thus help fulfill his.

MEMORIAL OF CASIMIR, PRINCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). *"This day the LORD, your God, commands you to observe these statutes and decrees. . . . with all your heart and with all your soul."*

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



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