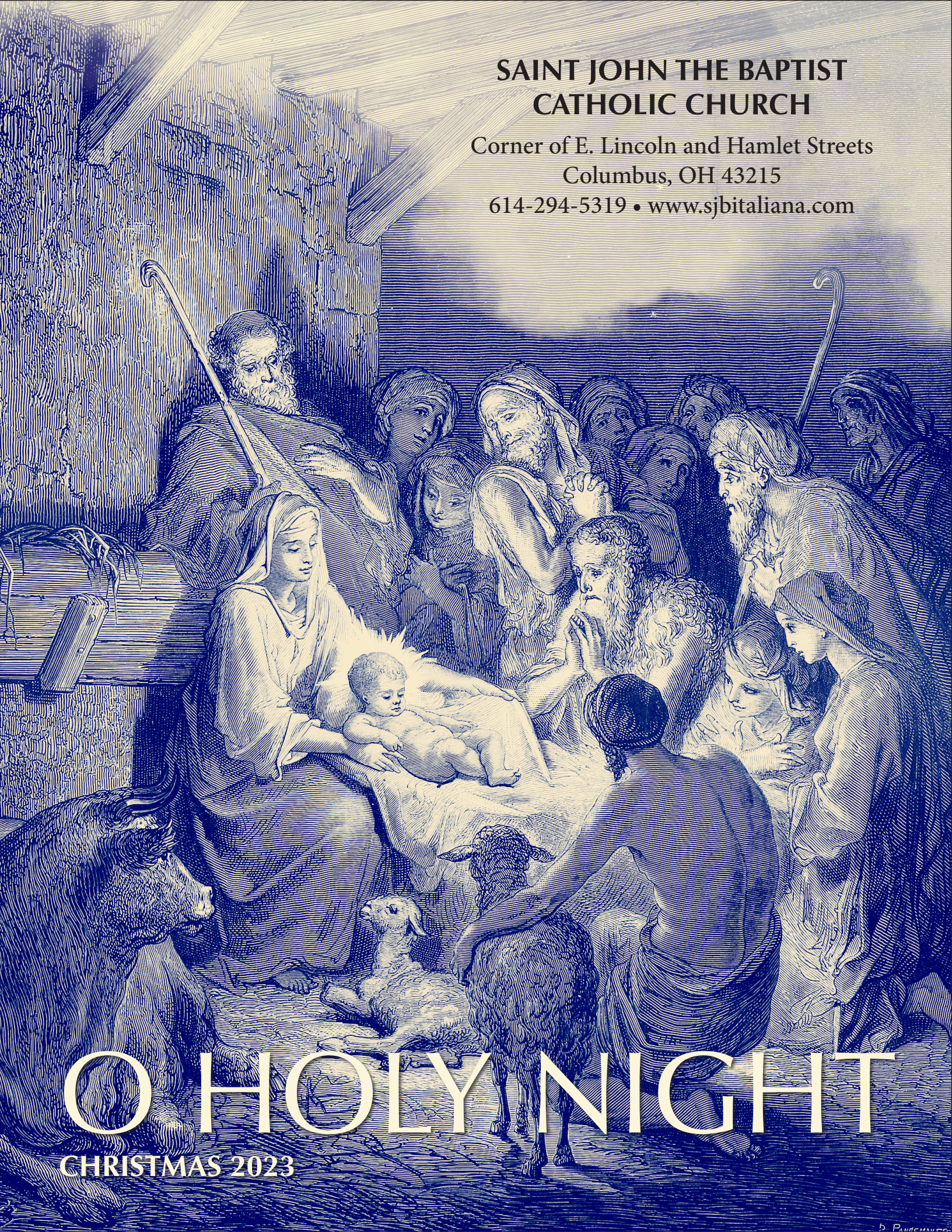


**SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets
Columbus, OH 43215

614-294-5319 • www.sjbitaliana.com



O HOLY NIGHT

CHRISTMAS 2023

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Italian Catholic Church



My prayers this holy season are for all of you and your families. I thank you all for your generous support of St. John the Baptist church throughout the years. May the Incarnate God, Son of Mary, bless you in this holy time and new year. On behalf of my staff Aggie Howard, Victoria Scruggs, Gina Bishop, and John Huffman we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed Happy New Year!

*In Jesus through Mary,
Msgr. Frank Lane*



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

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 12/24	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. Vigil	Living & Deceased Members of St. John + Tony Solazzo by Irene Solazzo & Family
Monday 12/25		NO MASS
Tuesday 12/26	9:00 a.m.	Family of Fr. Matthew Hoover by the McCallum Family
Wednesday 12/27	6:00 p.m.	+ Betty Canty by the McCallum Family
Sunday 12/31	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. @ SH	+ Vincent Catalogna by Friends of St. John the Baptist + Emilio & Maria Cutillo Coccia by Dr. Maria Regina Coccia
Monday 1/1	11:00 a.m.	+ Karen Mikalonis by Heining Family
Tues. 1/2	9:00 a.m.	+ Mary Lou Palma by Her Wonderful Friends
Weds. 1/3	6:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Sister Giovana Carfagna by Michael & Crystal Cockerell

Mass Time Change: Mass times at Sacred Heart are Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and St. John the Baptist are Mondays, Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. followed by RCIA at 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish Library on the second floor.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	Sunday, December 24, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Gretchen Heining, Landa Brunetto
Eucharistic Ministers 1 & 2:	Kurt Heining, Antonio D'Alberto,
Eucharistic Ministers 3, 4, 5:	Al Iosue, Margi Baker, Sharon D'Alberto
Sunday	Sunday, December 24, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Tania Wade, Ed Pagnanelli,
Euch. Min 1 & 2:	Pat Rossetti, Gretchen Heining, Kurt Heining, Andrea Myers, Ed Pagnanelli
Euch. Min 3, 4, 5:	
Sunday	Sunday, December 31, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Nick D'Alberto, Tania Wade
Eucharistic Ministers 1 & 2:	Margaret Panico-Harn, Kurt Heining,
Eucharistic Ministers 3, 4, 5:	Gretchen Heining, Andrea Myers, Antonio D'Alberto

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: Joyce Tisone
by Carl Tisone
Blessed Sacrament: Juliann Gatoo Lewis
by Roger and Andrea 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, and John Contino.

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 December and January are:

December 24 Albert Iosue
December 31 Gary Bosco
January 7 Tania Wade

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Christmas Eve	Church	Mass Time
December 24th	Sacred Heart Christmas Vigil	11:00 a.m. 9:00 p.m.
	St. John Christmas Vigil	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	Church	Mass Time
December 25th	Sacred Heart St. John	10:30 a.m. No Mass
New Year's Eve	Church	Mass Time
December 31st	Sacred Heart St. John	11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.
New Year's Day	Church	Mass Time
January 1 st	Sacred Heart St. John	No Mass 11:00 a.m.

MASS INTENTIONS

Please consider your **Mass Intention** for your loved ones for our weekday **Masses, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays** as **Sunday Mass Intentions** are all booked. **Thank you!**

RCIA: Classes are now being offered for both **Sacred Heart** and **St. John the Baptist** parishes on **Wednesday** evenings right after the **6:00 p.m. Mass** at **St. John**. **RCIA class** starts at **7:00 p.m.** in the parish library located on the **second floor**. This class is required for anyone who wants to enter the **Catholic Church**, for those baptized **Catholic** but did not complete the Initiation **Sacraments**, as well as those who simply desire to deepen their understanding of **Catholicism**. **Questions? Contact Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**, or SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org.

The La Befana Celebration will be **January 7, 2024**, after **9:30 a.m. Mass** in **Marrapese Hall**. Please bring children, grandchildren and enjoy this beautiful Italian tradition. Sponsored by the **Le Donne**.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK	
12/24 Sunday	SJB Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 9:30 a.m. SJB Christmas Vigil – Msgr. Frank Lane – 4:00 p.m. KCC – Use of Kitchen Marrapese – 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – Meeting in Sala Hall after Mass 12:00-3:00 p.m. KCC Christmas Vigil – Fr. Kim 8:00-9:30 p.m.
12/25 Monday	SJB – No Mass KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – Meeting in Sala Hall after Mass 12:00-3:00 p.m. KCC Use of Kitchen – Marrapese 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
12/26 Tuesday	SJB Mass – Msgr. Lane – 9:00 a.m.
12/27 Wednesday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 6:00 p.m. SJB NO RCIA Class
12/29 Friday	KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – 6:00 p.m.
	Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.
	Le Donne Group Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall. 10:45-11:15 a.m. There are no meetings in June or July.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN
December 17, 2023
Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 31

Env:	\$ 3,841.00
Loose:	\$ 245.00
Total	\$ 4,086.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(326.88)
	\$ 3,759.12
Votives	\$ 53.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 105.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 10.00
Total	\$ 188.00

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

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)
This Wk.:	\$ 3,000.04	\$ 4,086.00	\$ 1,085.96
FYTD:	\$75,001.00	\$ 76,210.98	\$ 1,209.98

Income and Expenses from September 1, through September 30, 2023.

Income:	\$ 15,687.80
Expense:	\$ 28,302.87
Difference:	-\$ 12,615.07

DONATE QR CODE AND WEBSITE INFORMATION



Please help St. John the Baptist maintain this beautiful 125-year-old building with a donation by using the QR code to donate. Thank you!



SJB Collection Counters for Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard



Office Hours: Parish Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Office will be closed Christmas Day, December 25th and Tuesday December 26th and will resume on Wednesday, December 27th.

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 at 614-294-5319.



This is a newly formed Italian Club for Young Adults: **la prossima** is a **Young Adult Group** keeping the culture alive through the next generation. A vibrant club for young adults of Italian descent.

Kroger Community Rewards Fundraiser: Did you know that every time you use your **Kroger Plus Card** when purchasing groceries, **Kroger** donates money to our church? All you have to do is register your card at www.kroger.com/communityrewards. It's that easy! Follow the steps below to enroll your **Kroger Card** today!

1. Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards
 2. Scroll to the bottom of the page. Click "Get Started" on the **Link your Shoppers Card** section.
 3. Sign into your online Kroger account (or create an account if you don't have one).
 4. In the **Find an organization** field, search for "St. John the Baptist Italian" or type in our organization's number "YY987" then click "Enroll."
 5. Once you enroll, every time you use your **Kroger Plus** card at **Kroger**, your purchases will earn money for our church!
- Please share this **Fundraising Program** with your friends and family!
For this quarter, the Kroger rewards for SJB were \$57.33.

Altar Guild Pool: Score sheets for the **December 29th Ohio State/ Missouri Cotton bowl game** are now available for all who purchased an entry (see **Gary Bosco** in Sala Hall after Sunday Mass). Squares for the **2024 Super Bowl** pool are on sale now. Entry cost for the **SB** is **\$50.00** a square with a payout of **\$1,000.00** for winning numbers at the end of **Q1, Q2, Q3, and End of Game**. The **SB** pool usually sells out in **4-5 weeks**, so if interested, see **Gary** as soon as possible after any **Sunday Mass**. Once all entries are sold, square numbers will be drawn during a regular **Sunday** post **Mass** coffee & donut gathering (with copies of the scoresheets distributed shortly thereafter). Thanks for helping to support the altar needs of our church and good luck!

AROUND US

You are invited to pray for the Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2023: *We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

Liturgical Calendar: The first two days of **December** fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** and is represented by the liturgical color green. The next **22** days fall during the liturgical season of **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple. 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**.

JOIN Needs Your Help! **JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs)** is often a “stop-gap” for our brothers and sisters who are doing their best to provide and succeed in life. We all come upon unexpected obstacles. For our neighbors who live paycheck to paycheck, that can be something as simple as missing work due to illness or something bigger, like a car repair. Basic supplies like toilet paper, soap, shampoo, conditioner, multi-purpose cleaning solutions, dish soap and laundry soap are items that people request at **JOIN** daily. **Kelsey** is a mom that came to **JOIN** to get assistance with bus passes for a new job she had. When she learned that we also had cleaning supplies and personal care items, especially toilet paper, she was overwhelmed that she could get those items as well. Meeting these most basic needs, when you don't have them, is a relief that is not measurable to a parent. Try to imagine running out of something, with no hope of getting it yourself for another week or so. If you would like to organize a collection or even donate an item or two on your own, it would be a gift to the neighbors we serve at **JOIN**. Feel free to call, **614-241-2530**, or email, lkeita@columbuscatholic.org, me, **Lisa Keita** to get further information or just discuss what all **JOIN** does provide.

Christmas Plenary Indulgence: This **Christmas** season, **Catholics** can receive a **plenary indulgence** by praying in front of a **Nativity Scene** located in a **Franciscan** church. The indulgence will be available from **December 8 through February 2, 2024**. Those wishing to receive the indulgence must pray in front of a **Nativity Scene** at a **Franciscan** church. A **plenary indulgence** is a grace granted by the **Catholic Church** that removes the temporal punishment due to sin. To receive this indulgence, one must receive **the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confession within 20 days of praying in front of a Nativity Scene**. In addition, those attempting to receive the indulgence must pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: This year, **Advent** is very short with **Sunday** being the only day in the fourth week. 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**.”



Christmas: Today, the **Church** celebrates the **Solemnity of the Nativity the Lord, the Birth of Jesus Christ, and the First Day in the Octave of Christmas**. Throughout **Advent**, the **Church** longed ardently for the coming of our **Savior**. Today, she celebrates **His** birth with unrestrained joy. “**The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us**.” The **Son of God** became man to give us a share in that divine life which is eternally **His** in the **Blessed Trinity**. **Christmas** time begins on **December 24** with the first **Vespers** of the feast and ends on the feast of the **Baptism of Christ**. White vestments reappear in our churches as a sign of joy.

Today's Gospel: The **Gospel** is from **Luke 1:26-38**. The moment our **Lady** said: “**be it done to me according to thy word**” the most stupendous event that ever happened, or ever could happen on earth, took place on this planet of ours. The **Son of God** took on human nature in the womb of the **Blessed Virgin**. No man or angel could make us adopted sons of **God** and heirs of **heaven**. It was necessary, in **God's** plan for us, that His divine **Son** should become man, should share our humanity so that we could share His divinity. Today is a suitable occasion to look right into our hearts, to see how we stand with **God**. During the week, we shall be keeping the feast of **Christmas**. The **Baby** in the manger will remind us of what **God** has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Have we shown our gratitude by living as true followers of **Christ**? If our answer is: “no,” this is the time to change our course and return to the right road once more. **God** is asking this of us today. Shall our answer be: “**Behold here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to your word**”?

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

“I invite you to pray, before the creche, that the Nativity of the Lord will bring a ray of peace to children all over the world, especially those forced to live the terrible and dark days of war.”

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Prayer: *O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of His light on earth, may also delight in His gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with You in unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen*



Saint John the Baptist ~ Christmas Flowers ~ 2023

Name:

In Memory/In Honor of:

Mr. Mark Agriesti
Ms. Teresa Agriesti
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bosco

Joe and Petrina Agriesti and the Agriesti Family
Bonnie & Charlie Agriesti and the Agriesti Family
Mr. John Victor Bosco, Mrs. Rosalia Sarah Bosco
Fr. John Gerald Bosco O.S.M., Brother Marion
Lawrence Bosco O.S.B.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cirolì

Colangelo Family, Centofanti Family, Cirolì DiNardo Family,
relatives and friends

The Cirolì Family

Monaco-Colarossi Family

Mr. and Mrs. Derek Elbaor

Mr. and Mrs. John Fabbro

Cerino & Fabbro Family

Rose Ann Graf

James Graf

Mrs. Margaret Harn

Anthony & Carolyn Panico, James Van Horn, Jerry
Harn, Rosa & Guerino Panico

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Albert J. Iosue and Marlene S. Iosue

Pam and Don Kutsick

Tom Rego, Nancy Rego and Helen Rego

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marchio

Antoinette and Sam Marchio, Daniel A. Marchio,

Eileen Petrovia, & Duane & Becky Rausch

Ms. Louise Masdea

Bruno Masdea, Major Don Gentile, Joseph & Margaret
Giantonio, Amanda Mia Masdea Baker & Albanese
Family

Ms. Daniel LaPenna

Daniel LePenna, & Galilei Family

Mr. Louis F. Massenelli

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Myers

Dean Quick & Alexandra Myers

Mr. Keith Pecinovsky

W. J. & Helen Pecinovsky, Ron Rotilett, Chris Miller, &
Dennis Elliotti, & Julie Lettwein

Ms. Judy Pishitelli

Joseph Pishitelli Family

Ms. Carol Ristucci

Danny & Carmela Ristucci, Ristucci & Albanese Family

Mr. Dale Romick

Romick & Caringi Famiglia

Mr. Patrick Rossetti

Mary & Harvey Rossetti & The Coccia Family

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Shook

Roger Shook, Rina (Silvestri) Tiberi, Giuseppe & Flora
(LoStracco) Silvestri, Pasquale & Ida (DelSignore)
Tiberi, Antonio & Ida (Tiberi) Frissora

Ms. Irene Solazzo & Family

The Solazzo, Ventresca Families & Lucy Dellelis

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Susi

Nestor and Rose Susi, Paul, Toy, and Tom Seeger

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Tiberi

Rina Tiberi and Charles Block

Mr. Carl Tisone

Tisone Family, Nicholas Tisone, Catherine Tisone,
Jody, Jennifer & Jeffrey Tisone

Ms. Donna Van Horn

James Van Horn

Ms. Tania Wade

Rina Tiberi, Flora LoStracco, Ida DelSignore, Giuseppe
Silvestri & Pasquale Tiberi

Mr. Brian West

Dominic Trapasso

Ms. Margaret West

Raffele & Caterina Trapasso, Angeline & David Hoke

Sunday, Dec 24, 2023**An embarrassment of riches**

Every so many years, we experience this happy collision of observances: the last Sunday of Advent blossoms into Christmas Eve in a single day. Which means next week, the Feast of the Holy Family will roll into the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God by nightfall. It's a mad scramble for presiders, preachers, choirs, and liturgists to keep up with the whole, holy mess of these occasions. Parishioners too will be obliged to untangle the remarkable Mass schedule this landslide of liturgies creates. Consider it a cheerful reminder that liturgy gathers us into mysteries that are not finite but everlasting.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). *"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."*

Monday, Dec 25, 2023**The wonder of it all**

In the early church, Christmas was actually not a major feast, but over the centuries it grew in importance, and Saint Francis of Assisi catapulted its popularity in 1223 by creating the first nativity scene in a cave with live animals. Christmas Midnight Mass was celebrated there and it was a huge hit with the whole town. The tradition of the Christmas crèche was born. Francis loved Christmas, considering it the "Feast of Feasts," because God chose to take the humble form of a poor baby. Let the wonder of the Incarnation imbue your day.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 (15); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."*

Tuesday, Dec 26, 2023**For the love of Saint Stephen**

On this second day of Christmas, consider words about true love—and Saint Stephen—from Saint Fulgentius, a North African bishop of the sixth century: "Love was Stephen's weapon by which he gained every battle, and so won the crown signified by his name. His love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob; his love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him." Celebrate the Christmas octave with the same steadfast love the first Christian martyr showed his persecutors.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."*

Wednesday, Dec 27, 2023**Through thick and thin**

Beloved! That's what we know about today's saint—John the apostle is the "disciple whom Jesus loved." John was the last apostle to leave Jesus at the cross and one of the first to discover his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. He earned the title of evangelist by writing the fourth gospel (likely with help from his

followers). His account of Jesus' life has a more spiritual and mysterious air than those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But that doesn't mean he's otherworldly—after all, John is the patron saint of loyalty and friendships. Honor him today by visiting with a friend.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us."*

Thursday, Dec 28, 2023**Mortal consequences**

Amid the Christmas festivities, today the church has a somber reminder of the infants in the vicinity of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod in his fruitless effort to destroy Jesus. They were "collateral damage" that paved the way for Christianity, a faith that confesses to protecting the most vulnerable. In honor of the Holy Innocents, we might consider the many innocents who die prematurely because of lack of healthcare, pollution that results in disease, and isolation that leads to early death. Strive to be a force for life.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all."*

Friday, Dec 29, 2023**The Catholic bucket list**

Gift-giving at Christmastime is a common custom. Whether it's at home under a lit tree or at the secret Santa party at work, it's fun to give and receive. "Experience" gifts are becoming more a part of this custom: tickets to see a ballgame, an art class, a hiking trip. Experience gifts can be given any time, and we can even treat ourselves. Since it's the season of Christmas, let's think of Catholic experiences that we'd enjoy and create a kind of "Catholic bucket list." See the pope? Run a food pantry? Visit Assisi? Take a scripture class? Spend the rest of the Christmas season creating your own list.

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"It had been revealed to [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord."*

Saturday, Dec 30, 2023**What is the purpose of life?**

This age-old question has as many answers as there are questioners. For Catholics though, there is one simple answer: love. But when is love ever simple? Deep love can be complicated and even gut-wrenchingly hard. It can bring pain, longing, disquiet, questioning, loneliness, and sacrifice. Yet, "The pain that comes from deep love makes your love ever more fruitful," writes Henri Nouwen. Love is our purpose, and we join with those celebrating Kwanzaa who are reflecting this day on the principle of Nia, that is, purpose.

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"Whoever does the will of God remains forever."*

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



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