

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent and The Nativity of the Lord

Our Parish Family Welcomes You!

the
EVANGELIST
SAINT JOHN *the* EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



“Allow This Christmas to Thrust You into the Life of Jesus...” – Fr. John

December 25th, 2017

Dear Friends,

Let me take this opportunity to send my prayers and blessings to you and your loved ones as you celebrate the wonderful Feast of Christmas. Each and every year, we recall the sacred moment in history when God took on flesh to live among us. This took place in a nondescript location and in the humblest circumstances. The Nativity of Jesus was the light shining in the darkness. It was revealed to shepherds and kings, and involved a humble virgin and carpenter. God’s plan involved human beings, just like us, who were asked to participate in this divine drama.

When the original Christmas took place, there was a lot of uncertainty in the world, especially in the land where our Savior was born. Jesus was born in Bethlehem town. His parents were forced to welcome him in a homeless circumstance. At that time, the political climate between the Jews of Israel and the Romans who occupied their Holy Land was quite tense. The power of the Roman dictatorship must have made their world a very dark place. But, this was the world of darkness in which God chose to immerse himself, in human form. As Jesus, entered into the heart of history, God slowly started to take humanity by the hand. Jesus led the poor, the broken hearted, the oppressed, the sinner, the sick, and the unwanted to a place of promise. By his accompanying them, he allowed God to take all these people by the hand and into his heart. The reality of Jesus’ life shows all of us, that it is God sincerest desire to accompany men and women as they make their journey through life, especially in times of struggle.

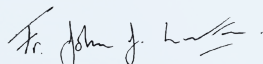
As we celebrate this Christmas, I am sure that many of us feel parts of human experience are still shrouded in darkness. Recent shootings and acts of terror have brought us back to a sense of uncertainty. However, we cannot forget that Christmas brings God’s presence into the eternal now. God is waiting to take us by the hand even when we are anxious about the world around us. As we begin to journey through time, Christ accompanies us on life’s journey. He is to be found waiting to heal us in our moments of loss and in our experiences of suffering. Jesus is to be found in the guise of the poor and in the wandering refugees and immigrants who go into a world of the unknown, looking for a land of light and promise. Jesus, the Light of the World, was with Mary and Joseph as they faced rejection, and as they fled as political refugees to Egypt. Jesus, the Light of the World, continues to accompany those strangers who appear on our T.V. screens who have been rendered as political nuisances in. God’s light is to be discovered in all of us this Christmas, as we make a choice to embrace the prophetic call of our baptism and reach out to those who need us the most.

There are some among us who will be going to church this Christmas for the first time without a spouse or loved one because they have suffered the loss of them this past year. Christ accompanies them through the warmth of our friendship and encouragement. He is waiting to speak words of hope as they listen to His Word, and to nourish them in the breaking of the bread. The doors our churches will be opened this Christmas to the rich and poor alike, both young and old. Our congregations will be made up of people from many different races, languages, and ways of life. This is our opportunity to shine as our Christian hospitality will clearly state that all are welcome no matter where they are on the journey.

My prayer is that you will allow this Christmas to thrust you into the life of Jesus, where you will allow him to take you by the hand, as you reach out to others. Don’t be afraid to reach out to the one who has hurt you by extending the hand of forgiveness. Do not neglect the hands of those reaching out to you in their need. If you look closely enough at such need in faith, you will discover the wounded hands of Jesus reaching out as well. Be mindful of the strangers around you, knowing that they all have names and their own personal story. God has placed them into your path for a reason. Your hands of welcome will allow them to know God’s presence in the dignity afforded them. Just as God chose to accompany the world in the first Christmas, he is now asking you this Christmas to accompany those around you.

May you join in God’s deepest desire as you continue to walk the walk with others and as you endeavor to make sure no one is ever forgotten, this Christmas and in the New Year.

Merry Christmas,



Fr. John



PARISH INFORMATION... OPERATIONAL

PARISH CLERGY



Fr. John J. Ludden, Pastor

Fr. Robert Murphy Associate
Fr. Paul D'Angelo Associate
Deacon Hal Brenner
Deacon Forrest Wallace
Deacon Frank Paniccia Senior Status

Altar Servers:

Jean-Paul Boucher jp@sjecc.com

Arts & Liturgical Environment:

Kay and Andy Sanfelippo
ksanfelippo@comcast.net

Eucharistic Ministry EMMinistry@sjecc.com

Mass

Maureen Reed Maureen@sjecc.com

Homebound

Lisa Godlasky lisa@sjecc.com

Hospital

Mary Ellen Metro maryellen@sjecc.com

Lectors Ministry

L. Philip Baier lectors@sjecc.com

Greeters & Ushers:

Bill Fuller wfuller1@comcast.net

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH*

Sacrament of Baptism. The Diocese requires that parents seeking baptism for their child attend a baptism preparation class. To schedule a baptism class, parents must be registered practicing members of St. John's for a minimum of two months. *Deborah Marsh: deb@sjecc.com*

Sacrament of Matrimony. Those who wish to be married in our parish must complete the Marriage Preparation Program. The Diocese requires a six month notice. *Tricia Schwarz: tricia@sjecc.com*

Anointing of the Sick/Funeral Arrangements. Call the parish office. If the office is closed the answering machine will provide an emergency phone number for you to reach a priest.

*For complete information on the Sacraments, please visit our website: www.sjecc.com

Mass Intentions. We are now accepting 2018 intentions.

Altar Flowers and/or Host & Wine. We have 2017 wine and host and flowers availability. Stop by the parish office to offer the wine and host and/or the altar flowers in memory or in honor of your loved ones.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Business Office is located in the PAC (behind the Church)

All Administrative Staff
239.566.8740

General Manager

Jean-Paul Boucher: jp@sjecc.com

Parish Secretary

Deborah Marsh deb@sjecc.com

Front Office Manager

Tricia Schwarz tricia@sjecc.com

Pastoral Musician and Liturgist

Gary Prettyman gary@sjecc.com

Artistic Director

Jennine Fuentes jennine@sjecc.com

Sacristan & Martha's Guild

Lan Tran lan@sjecc.com

Director of Family Mission

Jean-Paul Boucher jp@sjecc.com

Parish Publications/Bulletin Editor

Kathy Sims kathys@sjecc.com

CYO Social and Spiritual

Coordinator

Kyle VanDuser kyle@sjecc.com

Memorial Garden

Jean-Paul Boucher jp@sjecc.com

Bookkeeper

Karen Beebe karen@sjecc.com

Divine Gift Boutique

Elaine deLaurentis elaine@sjecc.com

Facilities

239.566.8740, dial 0

Education Staff

Director of Religious Education

Natalie Campbell: natalie@sjecc.com

Coordinator, Adult Faith

Formation & RCIA

Jack Kindsvater: jack@sjecc.com

PARISH REGISTRATION

Parish Registration Forms are available on the tables in the church narthex, in the parish office and on the website: www.sjecc.com



Scan this tag with your smartphone to view our mobile website.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

625 111th Avenue North, Naples, FL 34108

Phone: 239.566.8740 • Fax: 239.566.9117

www.sjecc.com

Administrative Office Hours are:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

(until all are heard)

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass:

Monday-Friday: 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evening: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Masses:

3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Contemporary Mass

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, etc. in your family, please notify the front office at 239.566.8740 or email: info@sjecc.com

Thank you!

Choirs:

Gary Prettyman: gary@sjecc.com

Adult Choir of St. John the Evangelist.

Rehearsals Wednesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Residents and seasonals welcome.

Children's Choir of St. John the Evangelist.

Rehearsals Wednesdays, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.
Grades 1-5.

Contemporary Choir of St. John the Evangelist.

Rehearsals Sundays, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Grades 6-12 especially welcome.

Hospitality. Volunteers serve light refreshments for parishioners who gather after the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday Masses for sharing, communicating and extending fellowship. If interested in helping contact *Elida Gil* at 239.566.8740

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

To Know, To Love, and To Serve God in His Church and Our Community.

Mass Times ~ Christmas and New Year

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Mass ~ Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. is Children's Mass, 10:00 p.m. (*Music starts at 9:20 p.m.*)

Monday, December 25, 2017

Christmas Day Mass ~ Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m. (No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

NOTE: There will be no Nursery available for Christmas Masses.

Monday, January 1, 2018

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Not a holy day of obligation)

8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. ~ regular daily Masses

Holiday Office Closings

The Parish Office will be closed in observance of the holidays on the following days:

Thursday, December 21 at Noon;

Friday, December 22;

Monday, December 25;

Tuesday, December 26;

and Monday, January 1.



Faith and Wine

Thursday, January 25, 2018

6:30-8:30 PM (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

featuring

"Top Ten Reasons for Being Catholic"

It is not unusual for people to ask "Why are you Catholic?" If your response is a blank stare or "because that was the way I was raised" or even if you think you have a good answer to this question, we guarantee you will benefit from attending this dynamic event. In his light-hearted and fast-paced presentation, Father Mark will share with us his top 10 reasons for becoming and staying Catholic.

This event is open to both Men and Women.

PLEASE NOTE: Speaker subject to the approval of the Diocese of Venice.

Father Mark Wiesner



Cost: \$25 per person prepaid by January 23, 2018 • NO WALK-INS!
includes the buffet dinner, a glass of wine or another beverage, and the program

Event held at: St. John the Evangelist PLC Ballroom • 625 111th Avenue North, Naples, FL

Become a Sponsor! All sponsors receive one or more tickets for each event (depending upon sponsorship level) and you will never have to worry about deadlines or prepaying! To become a sponsor, please visit our website at www.faithandwine.com and click on "Sponsorship" from the menu bar for more information about levels and benefits and to obtain a Sponsorship pledge form. Please complete the form and mail it with your check to Kathy Millard at 2134 Morning Sun Lane, Naples, FL 34119.

For those who are not sponsors, you can prepay for an event with: (1) a credit or debit card by going to www.saintjohntheevangelist.com and clicking on "Ways to Give"; or (2) a check made payable to "St. John the Evangelist" with "Faith and Wine" in the memo line and either delivered two days or mailed one week prior to the event to the St. John the Evangelist parish office at 625 111th Avenue North, Naples, Florida 34108. Please include a note with your name, the name of each of your guests, if any, and your e-mail address and/or telephone number.

SAVE THE DATES: Mark your calendar now for the remaining Faith and Wine 2018 Dates: February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, September 27, October 25, November 29, and December 14.

For more information, please visit www.FaithandWine.com

MASS INTENTIONS... SPECIAL OBSERVANCES AND READINGS

Mass for Deceased (*) and Special Intentions (SI)

December 23, 2017 Saturday

8:00 AM + Theresa Luongo Steve Saner

Saturday Vigil Masses for Sunday

3:00 PM + Jerome VanderHorst Vicki VanderHorst

5:00 PM + Becky Comeriato Joan Ortlepp

December 24, 2017 Sunday

7:00 AM + "Zoe" Hamel Mary Lou Kanach

9:00 AM + Anthony & Jean DeCesare Kay Reid

11:15 AM For Our Parishioners

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Vigil)

3:00 PM + Ozzie D'Addario Janet D'Addario

5:00 PM + Kevin Joseph Ferreira Ferreira Family

10:00 PM + Anthony & Maria Cipolla Liz & Bob Koplitz

and + Lewis R. Albero Squittieri Family

December 25, 2017 Monday - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

7:00 AM + De Francesca & Val Families Peter DeFrancesca

9:00 AM + Joe Reid Wife Kay Reid

11:15 AM + Patricia Sullivan Dick Sullivan

1:15 PM + Peter Acerbi His Wife

December 26, 2017 Tuesday

8:00 AM + Annamarie deLaurentis Herb & Kathy Swan

9:00 AM + Joseph S. Ryan Joanne Ryan

December 27, 2017 Wednesday

8:00 AM + Peter DeFrancesca Peter

9:00 AM + Daniel Penzo Nick & Ida LaGrasta

6:30 PM + Vito Iovino Nancy & Arthur Goldstein

December 28, 2017 Thursday

8:00 AM + Jack Gaffey Madeline Gaffey

9:00 AM + Maurice Cunningham Wife Peggy & daughter Margaret

December 29, 2017 Friday

8:00 AM + Margaret Kelleher Mr. & Mrs. John Kellerhals

9:00 AM + Jackie Gibson Pat Bernetich

December 30, 2017 Saturday

8:00 AM SI Joshua & Maria Bernardes

Saturday Vigil Masses for Sunday

3:00 PM + Tony Manes John & Sandy Dubberley

5:00 PM + Nicholas Senatore Rosalie & Daughters

December 31, 2017 Sunday

7:00 AM + Mark L. Lukas Ray & Ellen Lee

9:00 AM + Esther & Phil Koplitz Liz & Bob Koplitz

11:15 AM For Our Parishioners

1:15 PM + Jackie Gibson Dolores Kernochan

5:00 PM + Vincenzo Azolino Angelo Pirrone

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 23, 2017

St. John of Kanty

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;

Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;

Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday, December 25, 2017

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17,

22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] During the Night: Is 9:1-6;

Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12;

Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps

98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;

Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

St. John

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday, December 28, 2017

The Holy Innocents

1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday, December 29, 2017

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30, 2017

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps

105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;

Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Sunday, December 31, 2017

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps

105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;

Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

December 24, 2017

“We will never change the world by going to church We will only change the world by being the church.”

— Anonymous



A Capital Campaign for
Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church

The Present That Will Keep Giving: Pulte Family Life Center

Merry Christmas!

Thank you all for being here at Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church for this most joyous of times, Christmas. You may be stepping into our church for the first time, or perhaps you have been here every single week for the past straight 152 weeks of these updates on our Capital Campaign to Build Our Future, Serve Our Past. We have made tremendous strides on both fronts, including the current repair work being accomplished due to Hurricane Irma’s massive impact to our campus, as well as the construction of the Pulte Family Life Center. The

Life Center will be open in 2018 and provide a fun, enlivening space for activities for all ages, including sports, wellness, arts, music, and social programs for our Catholic Youth Organization and Catholic Adult Organization. Every day there will be something fun and engaging for the community happening in the Life Center, so please stay tuned here for more information as we get close to the opening.

As we **Build Our Future, Serve Our Past**, we still need all the gifts, prayers, and support of our Parish Family. If you have any questions, please contact Jean-Paul Boucher, at 239.566.8740 or email: jp@sjecc.com.

Jean-Paul Boucher,
General Manager



#ToLove – A Christmas Letter to Our Parish Family

One of the great joys during the Christmas season that we all have is receiving Christmas Cards from family and friends. All of you who are here with us at Saint John the Evangelist, along with those that may be away for the holiday, are not just a congregation. We are a Parish Family. It does not matter if you are here at St. John for the first time or you have been here for decades. Our family takes care of each other and everyone we come into contact with. We have been through a few trials and tribulations this past year, and not only have we survived, we have thrived. I thought I would deviate from my normal church business mentality for my weekly column for Christmas, and speak a little bit more from the heart.

If you happen to be in church when you are reading this message, please take a moment to look around you. Yes, the church building is battered and even broken from Hurricane Irma. Its roof must be replaced. The ceiling requires extensive repairs. The doors. The walls. Even the pews. They all must be replaced or repaired from this massive storm that caused over \$4 million in damages. But I am not asking you to look around the building. Please take a look at the faces of all the others sitting (or standing or kneeling) with you in our church. Take a moment to smile or wave, or say “hello” and “Merry Christmas”. You can never tell where someone might be on their life’s journey

when they arrive in our pews. They may have had the most breathtaking experience in their life. Their loved one may have proposed to them. They may have seen their family for the first time in years. They could have found out that their cancer is in remission. It could be the most desperate moment they have ever faced. They may be mourning their spouse who passed away last month. They may have lost their job. Or, they could be in the throes of deep personal pain. They may have hurt the person they love and have lost that relationship. They could be struggling with addiction. They could be questioning the very existence of God, and even perhaps themselves.

Guess what I have learned in my time here at St. John about all of those faces around you? I have learned that love is the only thing that every single person needs. Love that grabs hold of your heart and drives you to embrace and laugh or cry with that person as they laugh or cry. Sometimes both happen at once. That is what Christmas means to me. It is a chance to celebrate the love God has for us and that we have for each other. I can

by Jean-Paul Boucher
General Manager
jp@sjecc.com



tell you I did not always know this truth.

I remember a Christmas when I was one of those faces you just glanced at. I remember staring up at the night sky at the thousand stars and screaming out at the dark, caught in my own hatred and anger. The only way I was able to find my way back was because others loved me. They gave me something I was not willing to even give myself, forgiveness and pure love. Their support and encouragement has brought me to where I am now, in service to all of you as the General Manager of this amazing Parish Family.



My wife has been telling the story of the first day after Hurricane Irma and how we arrived here at St. John as soon as we returned to the area. She came with me. She saw the tension throbbing in my neck as we drove through the trees that covered 111th Avenue, power lines snapped and poles bent sideways. She knows just how much I have dedicated and devoted to our church and when we arrived she saw the shock and despair that I felt at the state of the campus and the realization of the magnitude of what occurred. However, because of her love of me, that was only

momentary. It was replaced with determination and purpose. We must take care of the community. So many are suffering; we must help. The love and purpose spread like wildfire. For two weeks straight, our Parish Family came together and set up a donation center that fed, clothed and served hundreds of people all over the area. Perhaps the training I had with FEMA and the military helped organize this tremendous effort. I know I felt the love emanating from all the dozens of volunteers that gave of themselves even when their own homes were damaged and without power. They were here at St. John because they truly cared for those in need. That is real love.

I really do not know if there is a way I could ever express my gratitude for our Parish Family in a way that would come close to what I feel. Please remember that this love, God’s Love, is for all of us and for us to give out freely and completely to everyone. That is the greatest Christmas gift you can give.

Merry Christmas to All!

Marriage Ministry: Together Forever

Enjoy a date night with Catholic fellowship at Saint John the Evangelist as you enrich your marriage with our new enrichment series, entitled **The Choice Wine**. Enjoy appetizers and marriage discussion.

The Choice Wine offers a new topic each evening, so don't worry if you can't make all the dates.

Remaining Dates:

Jan. 20, Feb. 24, March 24, April 28,
May 19, June 30, July 28, Aug. 25

presents

THE CHOICE Wine™

7 STEPS

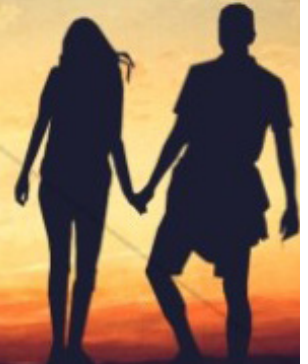
TO A SUPERABUNDANT MARRIAGE

Next session:

January 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm
in the Claussen Family Center

Join us for fellowship, food and marriage enrichment!

Please RSVP to the office at 239.566.8740 and indicate if you need the nursery.



Parishioner Mat Gibson Earns 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Status



(Above) Mat Gibson received his 4th degree exemplification for Knights of Columbus in Orlando on November 25. Mat is pictured with his RCIA sponsor, Michael Mick. (Right) Along with six other Candidates, Mat was baptized, professed the Catholic faith, confirmed with the Holy Spirit and received Holy Communion for the first time at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 15.

Mat Gibson earned double honors in one year. He received his 4th Degree Exemplification for the Knights of Columbus in Orlando on November 25. Mat's RCIA sponsor, Michael Mick was present at each of his 4 advancement ceremonies. Mike is a St. John parishioner and fellow Sir Knight.

Mat was introduced to KoC when the Color Guard attended his Eagle Scout ceremony. They awarded him with a special letter of appreciation for his leadership and community service. He liked the tuxedos, plumage, capes and sabers. "To be recognized by such a prestigious organization was truly an honor. I did not know who the KoC were, but I wanted to find out," said Mat.

Mat's story is unique. He was raised Mormon. Wife Ann is a cradle Catholic. They dated in high school but because of religious convictions realized it would not have worked out. They reconnected 25 years later and were married Thanksgiving day 2012. Thanks to Jack Kindsvater (St. John RCIA Coordinator) for pairing Mike as RCIA sponsor, Mat said, "It was divine intervention ... RCIA helped me reconnect with my Savior, rediscover grace, and find peace of heart."

After being baptized this past Easter, Mat was reconnected with the KofC through Mike and was able to fulfill a childhood dream of becoming a 4th Degree Sir Knight where he can join the Color Guard that originally presented him with that special letter.



*text submitted
by Ann Gibson*

PARISH COUNCILS:

Building and Grounds Council. The scope of the Buildings and Grounds Council is to provide future direction, advice, and insight for the physical plant of Saint John the Evangelist, to include all buildings, the grounds, and all utilities therein. The Council will meet quarterly to evaluate any long-term strategy planning that is required to provide such a large and complex environment with multiple purposes. *Council President: Bill Sjoström: bsjost@yahoo.com or 815.670.3733*

Finance Council. The Finance Council is an integral part of the Stewardship responsibilities of the parish. The council assists the Pastor and General Manager in their deliberation and decision-making process in order to serve the needs of the Parish in the prudent administration of its resources and funds. *Council President: Robert Stiff: rcs0242@gmail.com or 239.989.5149*

Pastoral Stewardship Council. The major responsibilities of St. John's stewardship program falls under the purview of the Pastoral Stewardship Council. The Council's mission is to create awareness of God's gifts of time, talent and treasure and to encourage their use to the best of one's ability for the good of the Parish. The Council has three major subcommittees: Hospitality, Sharing, and Time and Talent. *Council President: Rick Beebe: psc@sjecc.com or 239.597.2086*

MEET OUR MINISTRIES:

Arimatheans. Arimatheans attend funeral Masses and memorial services to provide support and compassion. *Anne Petrillo: gapetrillo41@gmail.com or 239.248.2189*

Companion Driving Ministry. To promote a sense of love and belonging for every member of our Parish Community by offering transportation to church services regardless of age, infirmity, marital or socioeconomic status. To sign up for a ride or to become a volunteer driver: *Beth Lucci: sjeride@gmail.com or 239.877.6254*

Divine Gift Boutique (located across from the restrooms). **Season Hours:** Saturday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. If interested in volunteering, contact *Elaine deLaurentis: elaine@sjecc.com or 239.228.3921*

Divorced and Separated Support Group Our mission is to become the light in the life of separated/divorced Catholics by giving them a sense of inclusion in our parish family and providing support and guidance through our shared spiritual journey. We

meet Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please call for more information *Lhara Echeverria: 239.293.3694 or lhariza@yahoo.com or Beth Lucci: 239.877.6254*

Faith and Wine. Provide interesting and thought provoking speakers monthly with food and fellowship for women in the Diocese. Info: *www.faithandwine@gmail.com, or Nancy Squittieri: faithandwine@gmail.com or 239.272.4257*

Grief Support Ministry. Grief facilitators hold support groups as needed to give support to those suffering a loss. *Leo Gallagher: 239.594.1535*

Jamaica Outreach Program. JOP has been an integral part of Saint John the Evangelist since 1997. Our mission is to help the poor in Jamaica. JOP provides goods, food, medical-vision-dental services, education and basic support to improve the lives of the poor in Jamaica. We welcome new volunteers. For more info: *Jeanne Stamant: 239.248.3248 or info@jamaicaoutreach.org*

Knitting & Crocheting. Knits and crochets to benefit those in need. Make baby hats booties and blankets for babies, lap robes for nursing homes, prayer shawls, baptismal blankets and sweaters for kids. Meets year-round on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. - Noon. No experience necessary. *Vicki Brenner: 239.498.9900*

Ladies of Charity. Volunteer in Immokalee schools, the Guadalupe soup kitchen and clothing bank. The Ladies also visit local nursing homes to assist residents who want to attend Mass. In addition, they are available to provide friendly visits and to perform simple errands for the elderly and homebound. Meets the second Friday of every month. **Homebound:** *Marie Elaina Mullin: 239.273.1702. To join: Carole Mancini: froglady505@gmail.com 239.370.1521*

Marriage Ministry: Together Forever. Enriches the sacrament of marriage. Couples gather: 1) To share and know, 2) To grow and love, 3) To listen and serve and to celebrate our healthy marriages. All married or engaged couples are welcome to join us in celebration of their marriage as we take this journey together. Meets monthly on Saturday evenings at 6:30 p.m. *Rachel Baier: 239.498.4197*

Men's Club and Ladies Auxiliary. Organizes, cooks, orders and serves food and beverages and otherwise provides staff and support for a multitude of parish and parish-related functions. It hosts the Children Easter Egg Hunt, and the men work closely with the Family Ministry at many of their events. Monthly meetings 2:00 p.m. on the second Thursday from October to May. *Men's: Jack Nalipinski: 412.613.3551 and Millie Lucanegro: 239.566.9854; Ladies: besunnyinflorida@gmail.com*

Respect Life. Educates and informs the parish community on all aspects of respect life, which include the unborn, mothers who have had abortions, the elderly, mentally challenged, the physically challenged, the imprisoned, and the terminally ill and the poor and hungry. *Rosemary Erickson: relife@aol.com or 239.250.0432*

Sewing Ministry. Meets to sew for needy children of Collier County on Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from October to May. Meets in the Youth Room of the Claussen Family Center. New members welcome. Accepts fabric, notions, monetary donations. *Phyllis Crivelli: jandpcrivelli@gmail.com or 239.594.1148 or Barbara Arthur: 239.250.4162*

St. Vincent de Paul. To help the poor, specifically people in zip codes 34108, 34109 and 34110. Members work in teams making home visits to those in need. Many times it means helping individuals with rent payment, late electrical or water bills, prescription needs and food. Meets first and third Tuesdays after 8:00 a.m. Mass. *Carl Monticelli: (SVdP Office): 239.775.1667*

Vocations Ministry. Vocations are a calling from God and each of us has one, from single or married life to religious life. Help the Parish Family educate and identify vocations through prayer and activities. *Marty Gautier: marty@naples.net or 239.370.4277*

Women of the Word (WoW). We welcome any woman of any age to study our faith using the Bible and other Catholic writings in a non-judgmental, supportive community. Thursday 9:30 a.m. *Nancy Bouchard: 443.498.8452 or nancybdds@comcast.net*

Knights of Columbus Councils:

Knights of Columbus Arthur J. Corr Assembly 3308. Meets second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Visiting Knights are invited. *S/K Jim McDonald: jmcd708@comcast.net or 239.947.6454*

Knights of Columbus St. John Council 11281. Worldwide Catholic men's fraternal organization founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. St. John's Council provides regular financial support for our seminarians and our parish. Knights also conduct a wide variety of activities to enhance and strengthen family life in the parish. Meets first Monday of the month. Officers at 6:30 p.m.; business meeting at 7:15 p.m. Visiting Knights are welcome. *Grand Knight Ed Phelps: efpep@aol.com or 239.339.3847*

LET US PRAY...

Boy Scout Troop 226 – St. John the Evangelist. Prepare boys to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. scoutmaster@troop-226.com

Cub Scout Pack 226 – Chartered at St. John the Evangelist. Provide families with an opportunity to raise their young boys in the way of Jesus and through the formative values of Scouting. Meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. pack226naples@gmail.com

PRAYER GROUPS

Pray The Rosary & The Chaplet of Divine Mercy *Carol Swank 757.559.4761*

Cenacle of Life Prayer Group
Patricia Bucalo: 239.248.0694

Divine Will Prayer Group
Gorana Saner: 239.293.1765

Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina
Mondays at 5:30 p.m.: *Kathleen Dunne: kadunne61@aol.com, 901.574.2947*

Liturgy of the Hours
Phyllis Gryskiewicz: After 8:00 a.m. Mass. pmgrys@aol.com

THROUGH THE DARKNESS BRING US TO THE LIGHT

Please pray for our loved ones who are serving in the military:

Adam Decker
Nick Detloff
Sp. Douglas Hennessy
Staff Sgt. Brian Holmes
Marine Colonel Brian Howlett
Christian McLaughlin - U.S. Navy Sicily
Sgt. Larry Oldenburg - U.S. Army Iraq
Austin Spagnola
Staff Sgt. Andrew Zecchino -USAF Turkey

Note: In order to place a name on our Military Prayer List, that individual (the individual to be prayed for), must provide us with a signed release (or email-based approval) prior to the inclusion of his/her name in the printed Military Prayer List.

To download the Consent Form visit our website: <http://sjecc.com/forms>

Thank you for your understanding.

OUTREACH & OTHER GROUPS

AA. *Robert: 239.287.2442*

Adult Children of Alcoholics. *Tom Mooney, 239.287.0195*

Al-Anon. *Carol: 804.306.5323 and Juliette: Lysack*

Food Addiction Support Group. *Maryann Scandiffio, 239.784.2682*

Narcotics Anonymous. *888.435.7301*

Cursillistas. *Robyn DeVille: 239.253.6275 or robyndeville@earthlink.net*

Gambler's Anonymous. *1-800-ADMIT-IT*
Habitat for Humanity. *Kouloheras:nick@hfhcollier.com*

Mah Jong. *Space Limited. Lanelle Bishop: 239.352.1860*

Pinochle. *Joseph DeJesus: 239.598.9865*

Recovering Couples Anonymous. *Britta: 239.348.5031 or Roger: 239.250.6888*

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for those on our prayer list below as well as those whose names appear on our online Prayer List at <http://saintjohntheevangelist.com/ministries/prayer-list>.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by PRAYER and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. – Philippians 4:6

Baby Declan Aigner	Krista Leigh Kozowyk	Lisa Sanfelippo
Kaylee B	Rene Lacoste	Shelia Scaduto
Jean Balliro	Jean Lydon	Gary Schutebach
Beagan Family	M.M.	Thomas Sissman
Richard Becker	Diane Maloney	Avery Smithies
Gallen Boardman	Margie Lynch	Nancy Stewart
William M. Boardman	Maria and Family	Edward Sullivan
Lori Breyman	Ron Marlow	Rita Taranto
Caeleigh Brown	Barbara Marsh	William J. Teplica
Connie Cahill	Donna Massee	Isaiah Thompson
Kathy Conley	Kevin McDonagh	Marilyn Thyen
Corinne & Children	J. McG	Helen Thornburg
Lauren Carr	Paul McIntyre	JoAnn Tinevra
Frank Comeriato	Cynthia McLemore	Jim Tucker
Merlyn Comeriato	Carolyn McNichols	Lawrence A. Varone
Tony Corvelo	Eileen Miner	Mike Walsman
Anthony D'Antuono	Mary Ann Morreale	Dan Ward
Mark DaBronzo	Lorrie Morrison	Sandra Welker
Donald Demski	Gary Neidhard	Bernadette White
Florence Demski	Jane Oraziatti	Joni Wilbur
Melissa Diamantini	Emma O'Rourke	Kirsten Wills
George Dillon	Ronald J. Parker	Nancy Wise
Kathy Erickson	Michael Paul	
F.W.	Francesca Pearo	
Jim & Darlene Follese	Anne Perrino	
Tara Follese & Family	Geno Pesce	
Jeff Gatt	Ann Petrillo	
George Gonser Jr.	Irene Pires	
Philip Gorney	Renee Rake	
Jayne Hagg	Ruth Rechtsteiner	
Gerard Heyer	Ellen Roberts	
Rosie Heyer	Lloyd Sample	

Note: In order to place a name on our Prayer List, that individual (the individual to be prayed for), must provide us with a signed release (or email-based approval) prior to the inclusion of his/her name in the printed Prayer List.

To download the Consent Form visit our website: <http://sjecc.com/forms>

Hymns for the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 23 & 24, 2017

Readings: Page 42

Entrance Hymn: **38** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Preparation Hymn: **694** Mary's Song

440 We Will Rise Again

Communion Hymn: **91** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

377 Servant Song

Closing Hymn: **40** People Look East (Verses 1 & 4)

Wedding Banns

*Third announcement
between*

Shauna Withers
and Matthew Klopock



Seven-Week Grief Support Group Begins January 9

A seven-week grief support group will begin at St. John on Tuesday, January 9. The gathering will be from 10:00 -11:30 a.m. each Tuesday and will meet in Room 11 in the Claussen Family Center. Meeting dates are: January 9, January 16, January 23, January 30, February 6, February 13, and February 20.

Anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one is welcome to attend.

There is no fee, but pre-registration is required. To register, please call Geri Poletti at Catholic Charities at 455.2655.

Any parishioner who needs individual grief support or immediate assistance may contact the parish office to set up an appointment with one of our priests.

Catholic Charities Launches 2017 Annual Christmas Appeal

Catholic Charities launches the annual Christmas Appeal during December 2017 and January 2018. The goal is to raise \$560,000 and your gifts are much appreciated! The Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is the agency's largest fundraiser and critical to operating the social service organization. Your donation will benefit Catholic Charities programs and services available throughout Southwest Florida that assist individuals, families, and seniors all year long. Thank you for your giving spirit! To donate please visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or mail a donation to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc., 5824 Bee Ridge Road PMB 409, Sarasota, FL 34233-5065.

Several Safe Environment Training Sessions Have Been Scheduled at Area Parishes

As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and trained in Safe Environment. For further information, visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofvenice.org/safeenvironment.

There are several upcoming Safe Environment Training sessions at nearby parishes starting in January. For more details or to register, call the Parish Office at the location where the class is offered. Please note that no one should attend Safe Environment Training until their fingerprints have cleared. Fingerprints must be updated every five years. If you need to be fingerprinted here at St. John, call the office at 566.8740 for an appointment. No children are permitted to attend these sessions.

Any employees or volunteers who need to renew their background clearance or be fingerprinted should complete the paperwork and call the office at 566.8740 for an appointment.

Thursday, January 4	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	St. Ann Parish, Naples	239.262-4256
Saturday, January 6	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Ann Parish, Naples	239.262-4256
Thursday, February 15	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. Peter the Apostle, Naples	239.775.9576
Saturday, February 17	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Peter the Apostle, Naples	239.775.9576
Saturday, February 17	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Peter the Apostle, Naples	239.775.9576
Thursday, February 22	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. Leo the Great, Bonita Springs	239.992.0901
Saturday, February 24	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Leo the Great, Bonita Springs	239.992.0901
Thursday, March 1	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. Finbarr, Naples	239.417.2084
Saturday, March 3	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Finbarr, Naples	239.417.2084
Thursday, March 8	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Light, Fort Myers	239.267.7088
Thursday, March 10	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Our Lady of Light, Fort Myers	239.267.7088

For the complete list of regional trainings that will be held this winter and spring and for additional updates, please visit <http://dioceseofvenice.org/programs/safe-environment/training-schedule/>

The next trainings will be scheduled in the spring and summer of 2018.

Hymns for the Nativity of the Lord, December 24 & 25, 2017

Prelude Hymn:	92	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Entrance Hymn:	82	O Come, All Ye Faithful
		<i>(Verses 1, 4 - Adeste Fideles, 2 & 3)</i>
Pageant Hymn (5pm):	78	Joy to the World
Preparation Hymns:	77	Away in a Manger
Christmas Eve (5pm)	91	O Come Little Children
	99	O Little Town of Bethlehem
	89	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Communion Hymns:	84	Of the Father's Love Begotten
(Optional Hymn)	90	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
	87	Silent Night
Closing Hymn:	80	Angels We Have Heard on High -or-
	78	Joy to the World

Merry Christmas! From the entire St. John the Evangelist Music Department, we wish you a very Holy and Blessed Christmas Season. Thank you for your support of our music, your kind words, and most of all for lending your voices in worship of the God we all serve. We count ourselves very fortunate to be able to serve our Lord, Jesus and his Church as we offer this wonderful gift of music. May the peace found at the manger be yours in abundance! Now, let's make 2018 an even more praise-filled year!



**Merry
Christmas
from the
Divine Gift Boutique!**

**All Christmas merchandise
in the Divine Gift Boutique is now
HALF PRICE.**

*Stop in, browse, and save on items
for next Christmas!*

Gift Shop Hours: Saturday: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Televised Mass for the Homebound with Bishop Frank J. Dewane as Celebrant

The one hour televised Christmas Day Mass for the Homebound with Bishop Frank J. Dewane as celebrant, will air at 9:30 a.m. for viewers in the northern portions of the Diocese on the CW Network; and in the southern portions of the Diocese, the Mass will air at 8:00 a.m. on WFTX-TV (FOX-4 in Cape Coral). Please check your cable provider for channel listings.

Leaflet missals are available upon request by calling 941.484.9543 or by writing: Diocese of Venice, TV Mass, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285.

For more information contact Gail Ardy at 941.486.4714 or email ardy@dioceseofvenice.org.

“Live, Laugh and Learn Symposium - Life with Parkinson Disease” to be Presented Tuesday, January 9

Every nine minutes someone in our community is diagnosed with Parkinson Disease. The Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida presents “Live, Laugh and Learn Symposium - Life with Parkinson Disease” Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

For more information or to attend please call 239.417.3465.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Year B

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27-29

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

The Word & Life

Humble Servant Says “Yes” to God

It is the tradition of the Church to focus on the person of Mary for the last Sunday of Advent. Over the last 2000 years of Christian history, the Church never worshipped Mary but gave her a place of honor. Mary has a central place in our Church and hearts because she bore the Son of God in her womb and gave birth to the promise of salvation. Have you ever wondered what Mary was doing the day that the angel Gabriel came to her? Was she about her household chores or out taking a walk, pondering life? That we will never know! However, what we do know is that this young virgin, who seemed to be like any other girl of her day, received an extraordinary call and task to which she said yes. Mary’s ‘Yes’ was a response of total abandonment and trust. She did not know how she could conceive without engaging in intimacy. Asking this simple question and listening to the angel’s answer gave her the confidence that anything is possible for God: “May it be done to me according to your word.” The day the angel left Mary was the beginning of her journey which would lead her deeper into the heart of God.

Mary of Nazareth is a model of discipleship for us. She is the greatest of the Saints. Mary is the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. The abandonment, that Mary witnesses to, encourages us to abandon ourselves to what is nonessential and embrace God’s will. Throughout the Scriptures, we see that Mary contemplates the events taking place, holding them sacred to her heart. Likewise, we are asked to prayerfully consider where God is in our lives and acknowledge the sacred gifts that He has set before us. In the midst of the suffering of Jesus who was put to death as a result of Roman capital punishment, she stands by her Son’s executioners and supports him as the life drains from his veins. She returns to the upper room of fears to await his return. All the time she ponders these things in her heart, trusting in God’s mercy.



As we approach Christmas Day, we reflect on our human experiences that make up our individual stories. For many there is a lot to celebrate — memories of the past and joyful events in family life over the last year. For others, sadness comes upon them because loved ones have passed away or because of a family

or work problem. Regardless, in all of these human events, God is with us. Each of us stands on the holy ground of our experiences. No matter how joyful or sorrowful our lives are, each one of our lives is sacred. Like Mary, we are invited to ponder the great gifts that God puts in our path.

Reflection Questions

1. Who was Mary?
2. What relevance does she have for us as Christians?
3. What risks does she take?
4. What characterizes the life of Mary?
5. How am I inspired by her life?
6. What risks shall I take for Christ?
7. How do I understand my life?
8. What role do I play in the economy of salvation?
9. How can my life become an expression of the good news of Christ's presence?

Voices of Faith

Lady of Grace

The simplicity of a maiden girl
Filled with humility and gentleness
Radiates the beauty of God
Vessel of God's grace
She protects the essence of God's love
In the warmth and security of her womb

This lady of grace journeys forth in haste
to Elizabeth, both relative and friend
The olive trees shroud the arid hillside of Judah
Testaments of life amidst barren landscape
Life bursts forth in a land parched with thirst
And in lives hungering for God

Entering into humble abode
Mary is greeted by a woman of faith,
All is possible for God
As the infant within sacred womb
Leaps for joy
For one who was once considered barren

"Blessed are you among women,"
The Spirit-filled cousin did say,
"And blessed is the fruit of your womb."
The sacredness of God's presence is noted
The promise of Israel comes true
The prayers for Messiah are granted

Reflecting on the Sunday Readings with Fr. John J. Ludden, Pastor



Prayer

Mary, we ask you to pray for us. You give witness to us of the joys, trials, and tribulations of life. Pray to our heavenly Father for each one of us. Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Mother and the Mother of the Church — may we be led by her example, so that we can be brought close to your heart. Amen.



Giovanni Battista Salvi da Sassoferrato [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

But how could it happen
That the mother of the Lord comes to one in such lowly estate?
How could it be that a lady of grace, humble though she be
A Blessed believer in Word fulfilled?
For such is the greatness and graciousness of God
To find his promise and dwelling in the humble of heart

God remains also with man
As he makes his way through life
The sacredness of God presence is found within every soul
The great towering cathedrals
And the humblest chapel upon hillside green
Reminders of the eternal promise of Emmanuel

— "Peaceful Moments" by Fr. John J. Ludden

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas): Year B

Vigil Mass

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 89:4-5,
16-17, 27, 29, Acts 13:16-17,
22-25, Matthew 1:1-25

Mass at Night

Isaiah 9:1-6, Psalm 96:1-2,
2-3, 11-12, 13, Titus 2:11-14,
Luke 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn

Isaiah 62:11-12, Psalm 97:1,
6, 11-12, Titus 3:4-7, Luke
2:15-20

Mass During the Day

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98:1,
2-3, 3-4, 5-6, Hebrews 1:1-6,
John 1:1-18

The Word & Life

Christmas – The Birth of Hope



Christmas is a beautiful time of wonderment for children and memories for adults. The passage of time and space becomes transparent in the seamless garment of the swaddling clothes that covered Jesus in the manger at Bethlehem. The scene of the Nativity calls to mind thoughts of Christmases gone by and evokes a sense of security and peace within us. We remember a Savior has been born to us today — Jesus Christ the Lord. The first Christmas witnessed the birth of a shining star, the shepherds' awe and wonder, the choirs of the angels, and the journey of the magi. This Christmas, we remember the great things from years gone by that give our lives meaning and purpose.

The birth of Jesus marks the birth of our destiny. As Jesus was laid in a manger, we also know that our hope made its resting place in a world hungering for God's love. When the shepherds were told, "Do not be afraid", so the world was given the same message of courage. The reality of the child Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes led humanity into an ongoing journey into the heart of God. Hidden in the folds of the swaddling clothes, was the mercy and forgiveness of God waiting to unfold in the life of Jesus. While Jesus' manger was made of the poorest wood, it contained the world's finest treasure worth more than gold — a treasure that would promise paradise.

For some, like the shepherds and the wise men, the journey ended at Bethlehem. However, for us, that is where our journey begins.

The ultimate sign of God's love was for his only Son to be born into a world of poverty and need. Mary and Joseph found themselves without shelter on the day of Jesus' birth. Even so, shepherds came to visit their Savior and wise men came to offer their gifts of



The Adoration of the Shepherds (Wikimedia Commons /Gerard van Honthorst)

gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Extraordinary events surrounded Jesus' humble birth.

Christmas is ultimately good news for us. It is a statement from the Father in heaven. God wants to be close to us. No matter how rich or how poor we are, God's initiative is to make his dwelling among us to change our lives. The gift of the Christ child is God's gift to us — even thousands of years later. The work of redemption and salvation continues today as we journey through the years of our lives. The ordinary lives that we lead may one day be an extraordinary life of someone who has answered God's call to live the truth of the gospel. Each one of us is opened to the reality of God's presence through Christ's birth. Christ came to build a bridge between God and humanity. The experience of the Incarnation initiates a deeper relationship with God. This is the hope that the event of Bethlehem establishes for us.

Voices of Faith

The Christmas Gift

The festival of lights illumine the heavens
Over an ancient land
Where people watch and pray
For the eternal promise
Breaking through the moonlit skies
Appears the comet as a bright shining star
Leading humanity to stable stall
Where Emmanuel is born – God with us

On hillsides shepherds stand and watch
Protecting their sheep from wandering wolves
And suddenly heaven is wedded to earth
As the angelic throngs join together in heavenly chorus
“Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!”
Music to the ears of simple folk
Souls filled with faith and hope

Trembling with fear
The shepherds are asked to fear not
Surrounded by God's glory
Their prayers for a savior now answered
An infant wrapped in swaddling clothes
Lying in a manger
Is the dream of God fulfilled

Reflecting on the Sunday Readings with Fr. John J. Ludden, Pastor



Prayer

*Word made flesh, be with us as we celebrate your birth.
May Christ always live in our hearts and give us the power
to understand who we are called to be. Your Son, Father,
was your gift to us. May our lives become our gift to you.
Amen.*

Reflection Questions

1. What does Christmas mean to me?
2. How does the coming of Christ gift my life?
3. How does the world change with the coming of Christ?
4. How can I become a gift to God?
5. What can I do to offer such homage to this infant king?
6. Do I allow God's Word to become heaven's treasure in my life?
7. How do I permit Christ to enter into my heart?

With no room at the Inn
Mary and Joseph in a manger rest
Delivering salvation's dawning day
Through the eyes of their child
God peers out at the world in wonder
The poverty of stable stall
Beholds a priceless treasure longed for by both prophets and kings

Amidst poverty comes Emmanuel –
God is with us
There is no longer room for fear
Blessed reassurance as God becomes one of us
To show us how to live and love
To show us how to forgive and hope
To show us how to die and to rise again!

— “Peaceful Moments” by Fr. John J. Ludden

Faith Formation

2017-2018 School Year

4th Sunday of Advent



And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the son of God." – Lk 1 :35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970
CCD. © Liturgical Publications Inc

To All of our Faith Formation Families,

We wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas! Thank you for entrusting your children to our care and for all of your support! Our Faith Formation Office will reopen from the Christmas Holiday on Tuesday, January 2. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

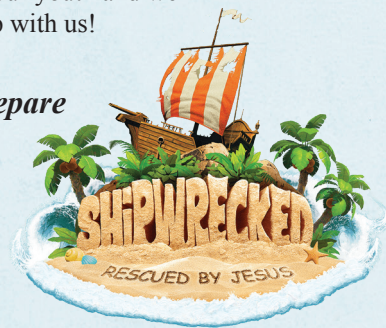
Merry Christmas and Thank you, BRK Pizza!

We would like to say thank you to Randy and Carol Trombino, St. John parishioners, for their support of our youth programs here at St. John. The Trombino family goes out of their way to deliver excellent food at great discounts to our Faith Formation and Youth Group programs. They offer prizes and incentives to our youth and we are blessed to have them teaming up with us!



2018 VBS –Shipwrecked! Prepare to be rescued by Jesus!

2018 looks forward to Vacation Bible School, Shipwrecked! Making land near you – June 4 -8 at Saint John the Evangelist! More information coming soon!



Fr. John and Our Catechists Celebrate Catechetical Sunday and Christmas!

After having Catechetical Sunday postponed due to Hurricane Irma, Fr. John and our team of Catechists got together to celebrate this special day with a blessing in Mass and a Christmas lunch afterwards. Also joining us were our amazing 8 NET Missionaries who are an integral part to our group discussions and leadership among our teens. We were fortunate to have Deacon Forrest bless our delicious food provided by Frisco's Catering! It is always a joy to spend time with our Catechists who devote countless hours to educating and accompanying our youth along their faith journey. Our Faith Formation team is always looking to grow. If you feel like you are being called to serve, please contact Natalie at Natalie@sjecc.com for more information.

Faith Formation Office Hours: Mondays: 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. • Wednesdays: 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. (on the days of Faith Formation classes only) Fridays: 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. Sundays: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. (on the days of Faith Formation classes only)

Natalie Campbell • Director of Religious Education • 239.566.8740, ext. 3909 • email natalie@sjecc.com

Adult Faith Formation & RCIA

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angel is stilled;
When the star in the sky is gone;
When the kings and priests are home;
When the shepherds are back with their flocks. . .
The work of Christmas begins . . .
To find the lost,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

— Howard Thurman



Standing: Deborah Simon, Wayne Hamilton, Susan Hamilton, Nancy Bouchard, Jack Kindsvater. Seated: Dee Schwartz, Christine Reinhard.

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas

The Saint John the Evangelist Adult Faith Formation Team

We look forward to welcoming you to one of the programs in our Adult Faith Formation schedule which kicks off in January. If you have attended in the past, you know that these are informative and interesting programs that help you understand Catholic concepts and history. If you have not experienced Adult Faith Formation at Saint John the Evangelist, decide 2018 is the year you will begin. If not now – when?

This Week's Schedule

There are no Adult Faith Formation Programs Scheduled this week so you can Celebrate Christmas and prepare for a Happy New Year.

Jack Kindsvater, Adult Faith Formation and RCIA Coordinator. Call 239.566.8740, ext. 3918 or email jack@sjecc.com

CYO & CAO Concert Series 2017-2018 Season

continues January 25 with

Philip Borter, Cellist

Philip Lawrence Borter is quickly becoming recognized as one of the most diverse stringed instrumentalist of his generation. Being equally comfortable in traditional as well as non-traditional performance styles, Dr. Borter has prided himself in exploring and sharing an incredibly varied repertory.



***This FREE Concert begins at 7:00 p.m.
in the Saint John the Evangelist Ballroom.***

(Concert will be in the church if Ballroom is not ready.)

REMAINING CONCERT SEASON:

Paradise Coastman Barbershop Quartet ~ February 6, 2018 • Annual Broadway Concert ~ February 24, 2018

Garlic and Gaelic Festival ~ March 3 & 4, 2018 • Dan Heck Quartet Jazz Concert ~ April 12, 2018

For more info on the concert series, email: jennine@sjecc.com

Trappist Preserves and Creamed Honey on Sale in Divine Gift Boutique

If you are looking for Christmas gifts, hostess gifts, or something for yourself, check out our gift shop. The Divine Gift Boutique has stocked up on the renowned Trappist Preserves and Creamed Honey.

The Boutique is selling Red Raspberry, Blackberry, Blueberry, Strawberry, Rhubarb-Strawberry, Mango-Pepper, Ginger, Cranberry Preserves, Seville Orange Marmalade, Sherry Wine Jelly, and Port Wine Jelly for \$6.00 each.

Made by the Roman Catholic priests and brothers of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts, the Preserves are prized for their exceptional richness and taste.

The Trappist Creamed Honeys, from the Trappists of Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, Virginia, are also available in the gift shop.

The gift shop is selling Natural (plain), Almond, Orange, Cinnamon, and Lemon Top Creamed Honey flavors for \$8.00 each.

Don't miss these authentic monk made delicacies!



Merry Christmas to our Parish Family!

The priests and staff at
Saint John the Evangelist
wish all of our parishioners
and their families and friends
a joyous Christmas
and a happy and healthy 2018.



Marriage Struggling? Next Retrouvaille Program February 2

If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it, Retrouvaille can help, as it has helped tens of thousands of others. Our next program will be February 2 - 4 at Hampton Inn & Suites, Tampa Northwest/Oldsmar. For more information, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org, or call 813.816.0711. This is not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in strictest confidence.

Marriage is under attack, and this is high season:

- Divorce filings spike 33% each January.
- Internet searches for “divorce” and related phrases like “family law” and “child custody” jump 50% from December to January.
- People thinking about divorce tend to think more about it during the holidays, and take action as soon as they are over.
- Divorce Attorneys call the first Monday after New Year’s “Divorce Monday”, and hire extra staff in anticipation.



Annual Vocations Dinner Dance Has Been Cancelled

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the annual Vocations Dinner Dance, scheduled for Friday, January 12, 2018 has been cancelled. The ballroom, which has been undergoing extensive repair and renovation due to the damages incurred as a result of hurricane Irma, will not be completed in time for the Vocations Dinner Dance.

Paul Curti will be contacting ticketholders in regards to refunding their money.

We appreciate your support of this annual event, which will return next season. Thank you for your understanding.

Now is the time to mark
your calendars for
**The Valentine's Day
Dinner Dance**
Thursday,
February 15, 2018
*Billy Dean and Dawn
will entertain us again!*

Tickets (\$50 each)
go on sale at all
weekend Masses beginning
Saturday, January 13.

Frisco's Catering

Open Bar

50/50

More details will follow.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus,
Saint John Council #11281

PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION TODAY

Character Education Through Sports
learn more at: playlikeachampion.org

COACH & PARENT WORKSHOPS

for St. John Evangelist CYO at
St. John the Evangelist
625 111th Avenue North
Naples, FL 34108

Saturday
January 27, 2018

Coach Clinic
11:45am - 2:45pm

Coach Commissioning
Mass 3pm

Sport Parent Workshop
4:00pm - 5:15pm

Location:
Rome Room for Coach &
Parent Workshops
Church for the
Commissioning Mass

RSVP to:
kyle@sjecc.com

Play Like a Champion Today provides leadership in a worldwide effort to renew the culture of sport for youth. It does this primarily by educating ethically responsible sport leaders—coaches, parents, students, and athletic administrators—who in turn will reach millions of young people.

COACHING AS MINISTRY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Crafted by leaders in the fields of sports psychology, coaching education, Catholic theology, and moral development, *Play Like a Champion Today* is:

- Centered around the principles of justice, tolerance, respect, and solidarity
- Designed using the best athlete-centered practices supported by research into character development and faith formation through sports
- Originating at the University of Notre Dame and collaborating with concerned faculty and coaches throughout the country

Play Like a Champion Today deals with tough sport issues and supports schools in promoting:

- Athletics as Character-Building for Athletes and Families
- Building Teams as Moral Communities
- Champion-Centered Best Coaching & Parenting Practices
- Sportsmanship
- Responsible Decision Making

Over the course of the clinic, participants will learn about:

- The Spirituality of Sport
- The GROW Approach to Athlete Motivation
- Child and Adolescent Development
- Promoting a Safe Sport Environment
- Strategies for Developing Partnerships Between Coaches & Parents



playlikeachampion.org plactoday@gmail.com



Working with Coaches and Sport Leaders to Shape a Positive Sports Culture for All Young People Since 2006.

BIG BAND DANCE

EVERYONE WELCOME!

First Dance of the Season

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in St. John the Evangelist PLC

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Dance to the Music of the Big Band Era

*Featuring the Live Southwest Florida 16-piece Orchestra
Sounds of Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller & Stan Kenton*

Big Band Dance Schedule:

**Tuesday, January 23 • Tuesday, February 13 • Tuesday, March 20
• Tuesday, March 28 • Tuesday, April 10**



Lite dinner
food
available at
reasonable
prices

**Singles
Tables
Available**

*For Reservations
(table of 8
or 10 only)
CONTACT:
239.821.9395
Prepayment
Required*

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR:
SOCK HOP
JANUARY 26,
2018**

Admission:

\$10.00 cash
only at the door
~ includes snacks

Cash Bar: Water
and Soda ~ \$1.00

- Beer ~ \$2.00
per 12 oz. cup;
\$7.00 per 60 oz.
pitcher

- Wine and
Mixed Drinks
~ \$4.00

Dress: Country
Club Casual
(No shorts
please.)

*Sponsored by
the Men's Club
and Women's
Auxiliary*

**HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP
meets Wednesdays
from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP
meets Sundays
from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Groups meet in the ballroom.**

See more info in future bulletins.

**– Kyle VanDuser,
CYO Social and Spiritual
Coordinator
kyle@sjecc.com**

***Next Magnificat Breakfast Is Saturday, January 13 at
Holiday Inn Airport, Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers***

All women are invited to a breakfast sponsored by Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women. The breakfast will be held Saturday, January 13, from 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Airport, Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers. Amberose Courville, the speaker, is an artist from Sarasota, FL. Amberose was blessed with very supportive Catholic parents, who encouraged her artistic development from the time she could hold a pencil. Several of her high school art pieces won numerous awards and were published in newspapers and magazines. Her art is well known throughout Sarasota County, and one was displayed for a year in the U.S. Capitol. While attending FGCU, her faith was challenged by peers and professors. But, with the guidance of the Blessed Mother and Holy Spirit, Amberose learned to courageously share Jesus' love and mercy through her art. Her paintings became a source of healing for many. Amberose can't wait to share her God-inspired paintings with you.

Please send a \$20 check, payable to Magnificat Fort Myers, to Joanne Tarantino, 7768 Jewel Lane, Unit 102, Naples, FL 34109, 239.200.8592, or Barbara Tay, 20230 Burnside Place #1703, Estero, FL 33928, 646.296.2335. Requests must be postmarked by January 5.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION CANCELLED

It is with great sorrow that we are forced to cancel our New Year's Eve Party on December 31, 2017 due to circumstances beyond our control. As you may know, the ballroom has been undergoing extensive repair and renovation due to the damages incurred as a result of hurricane Irma. It was anticipated that all repairs would be complete for the NYE party, however, the Parish was informed by Collier County that the needed inspections and permitting for occupation cannot be achieved by our party planned window of completion.

Again, we are so sorry for this cancellation and we promise to provide our parishioners and friends in the community great events in 2018.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thanks again for your continued support for our events and charity fundraisers.

*Saint John the Evangelist
CAO and Knights of
Columbus Council 11281*

Bishop Frank J. Dewane to Honor Couples Celebrating Marriage with a Special Mass in February and March

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in two locations: 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 17 at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, and 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 10 at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs. More details will be available in future bulletins.

Mark Your Calendar for the Venetian Charity Ball which will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 3 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort in Bonita Springs. The evening will include a cocktail hour, auctions, a raffle for a car and other exciting items, dinner, and dancing. For information and tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 239.337.4193 or email venetianball@ccslee.org.

Winter 2018 CYO and CAO Arts and Music Classes

We are offering the following classes starting next January. Please register as soon as possible to ensure that your class of interest is offered.

CYO:

- Piano 1 Saturdays at Noon beginning Jan. 13
- Piano 2 Saturdays at 10am beginning Jan. 13
- Strings Tuesdays at 4:30pm beginning Jan. 9
- Singing/Vocal Program Fridays at 4:45pm beginning Jan. 12
- Guitar Saturdays at noon beginning Jan. 13
- Ballroom Dance Wednesday's at 4pm beginning Jan. 10
- Theater and Acting Saturdays at 10am beginning Jan. 13
- Improv Comedy Monday's at 6:45pm beginning Jan. 8
- Art and Painting for Elementary Age students Saturdays at 9am beginning Jan. 9
- Voice Saturdays at 10am beginning Jan. 13
- Art and Painting for Middle/High School Age Students Saturdays at 10:30am beginning Jan. 13



CAO:

- Strings Program Tuesdays at 5pm beginning Jan. 9
- Vocal/Cantor Program Friday's at 5:45pm beginning Jan. 12
- Guitar Saturdays at 1:00pm beginning Jan. 13
- Ballroom Dance Wednesday's at 5pm beginning Jan. 10
- Improv Comedy Monday's at 7:45pm beginning Jan. 8
- Art and Painting Saturdays at noon beginning Jan. 13
- Voice Saturdays at 10am beginning Jan. 13



Register online on our website: www.sjecc.com or at the Parish Office! Don't miss out on these special Winter classes offered just for you!

Email jennine@sjecc.com for more information.