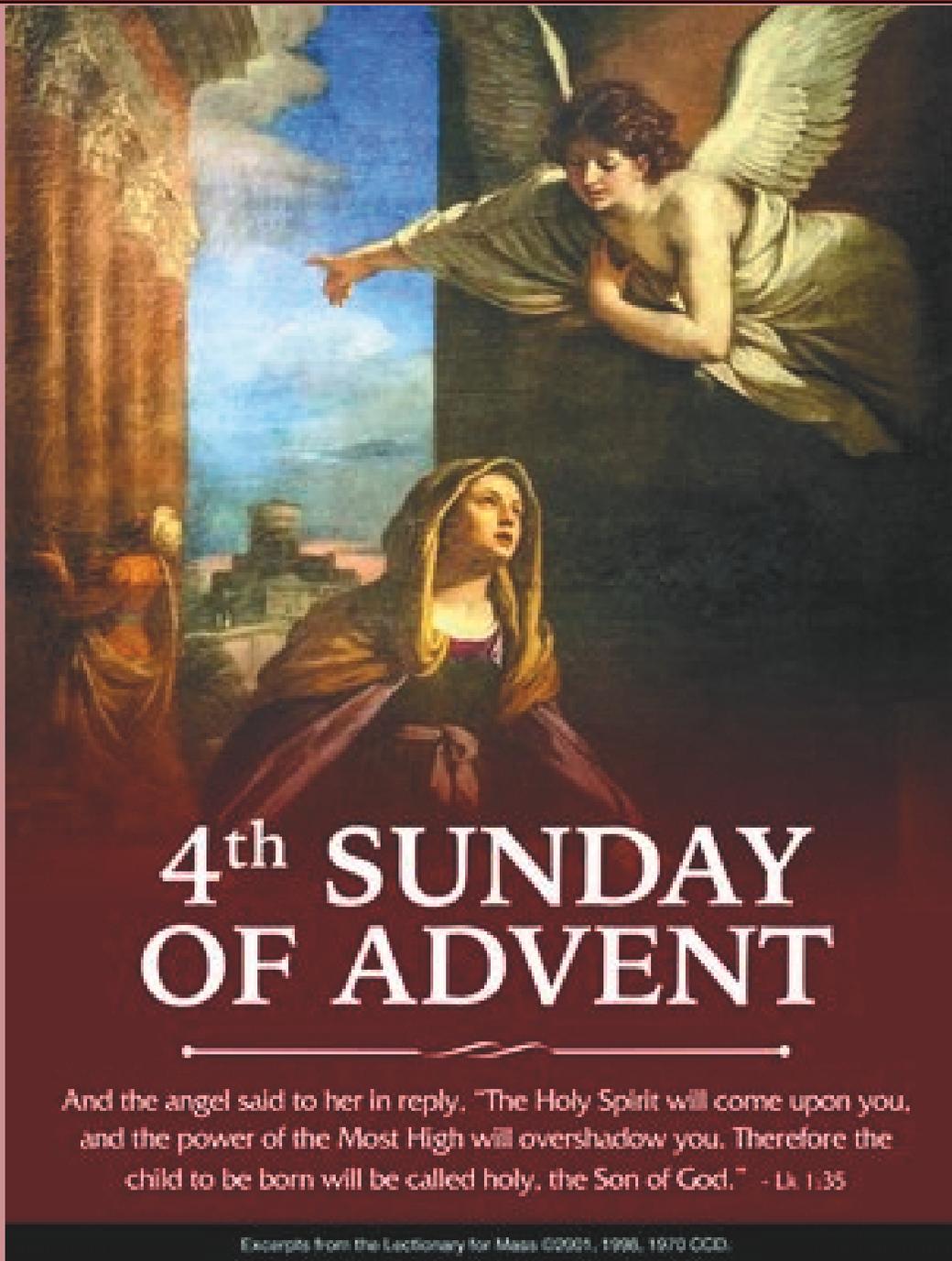


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT † December 20, 2020



Co-Cathedral of
St. John *the* Evangelist

A Welcoming Catholic Community in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester

11 4th Ave. SW • Rochester, MN 55902 • www.sj.org

CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Welcome to
Co-Cathedral of
St. John the Evangelist

Our parishioners, the parish staff and I, as rector, hope that your visit to our church will be a prayerful time while at the Mayo Clinic or while you are visiting our city for any other reason. We encourage you to consider Co-Cathedral of the St. John the Evangelist as your church away from home. If we may serve you with any of your needs please do not hesitate to contact us at the Parish Center.

The Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Community is committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ as we partner with the city and our neighbor, the Mayo Clinic. If you have recently moved to our city and desire to join the parish community, please find a form on our web page and register as a member. Together we pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us in being a welcoming Catholic community.

Fr. Jerry Mahon
Rector

'You're always welcome at church'. I always smile when I hear this line from our family's favorite Christmas movie *Home Alone*. Old man Marley is sitting with Kevin in church, and they are discussing reconciling with loved ones. The choir is singing, the church is decorated, and we hear Kevin talk about the importance of love and forgiveness, of the essential and unbreakable bond between family members. The scene is powerful and encapsulates two things many of us are missing this Advent season, Mass in person and time with our loved ones.

I never could have imagined all the very real and difficult challenges that 2020 has brought to our collective society. Yet, as 2020 winds to a close and we continue on our Advent journey, I honestly find myself feeling very hopeful. I feel blessed to have had this opportunity to slow down, to connect more with my wife Karen and our four wonderful children Ava, Finn, Liam, and Declan. To focus on the simple yet profoundly important moments of life, of being in relationship. We have been forced by circumstance to adapt and overcome the challenges of our new reality and find new ways to maintain our spiritual life. That may be the biggest blessing of all, the time provided with those who matter most to us.

Our St. John's family has always been so very essential to the rhythm of our lives, and we deeply miss receiving the Blessed Sacrament, as well as seeing our fellow parishioners at Mass. Instead of our normal Sunday tradition of attending the 9:30 Mass in the pews of St. John's, we find ourselves watching Mass surrounded by LEGOs and children's books. Our family cat Indy tends to lay in front of the TV and watch as well, as I sometimes struggle to get the Facebook feed to load on my phone to connect to our Apple TV to screen share to my TV. Despite the challenges, my children have impressed me with their resolve and ability to adapt. I must admit I feel so blessed when I see them following along and hear them reciting the prayers.

I have found that it is during times of crisis when we realize our true character, and what matters most to us. It is also in these times when we can truly grow as a person or as a family. This reminds me of another favorite Christmas season film, *The Grinch*. While the Grinch's heart may have grown 3 sizes, I honestly feel in many ways our collective family faith has grown over these many months of attending Mass livestream. We have come to realize that nothing can truly take us away from Christ's Church or the Trinity, that in the end we will always be connected no matter the circumstance. We have all found great peace, and spiritual comfort, by attending the livestream Mass each Sunday morning.

As I close this 'Witness of Belonging' reflection I am reminded of one last Christmas movie favorite, *Elf*. Buddy at one point says, 'the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear'. As we do our best to spread Christmas cheer each Sunday morning, praying and singing, we feel blessed and hopeful for the day when we are all back together at Mass, with all of those we consider family, surrounded by the love of Christ Jesus.

Advent blessings to you all!

The Eckerman Family (Michael, Karen, Ava, Finn, Liam and Declan)



CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Reservations Required.

Our capacity is limited and we must follow the CDC guidelines to keep our community as safe as possible. We will be live-streaming both the 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm Masses on Christmas Eve and the recordings will be posted for you to tune in at your convenience.

- 4:00 pm Mass (live streamed)
- 9:00 pm Mass with a Virtual Choir (live streamed)
- 10:30 AM Mass Christmas Day

Make a reservation to attend at <https://tinyurl.com/SJE-Christmas>
Live facebook stream can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/cocathedralofstjohn/> or on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/sjeyoutube>.

Individual Reconciliation at the
Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
Tuesday, December 22 at 5:30-6:30 pm
Wednesday, December 23 at 6:00-7:00 pm

11 4th Ave. SW - Rochester, MN 55902

507-288-7372 Parish Center
507-288-7373 Fax

www.sj.org StJohn@sj.org

Most Reverend John M. Quinn
Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester

The Chapel is open for private prayer from 8:00am-5:30pm Monday thru Friday. Please wear a mask and follow the guidelines set by the CDC for social distancing and hand washing. Go to sj.org/announcement/Co-Cathedral-weekly-updates for public Mass schedules. (Registration recommended.)

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome and invite all new parishioners. Pick up a registration form from the Parish Center or fill one out on our web page www.sj.org.

PARISH STAFF

Rector, Rev. Msgr. Gerald A. Mahon
Ext. 4504 - Email: gMahon@sj.org

Deacons, Rev. Mr. Gerald Freetly
Rev. Mr. Randy Horlocker

Administrator, Margaret Kelsey
Ext. 4506 - Email: mKelsey@sj.org

Social Action, Mary Vlazny
Ext. 4511 - Email: mVlazny@sj.org

Accounting, Debbie Thompson
Ext. 4502 - Email: dThompson@sj.org

RCIA, Adults, Philip Lomneth
Ext. 4503 - Email: plomneth@sj.org

Faith Formation/Confirmation/Baptism,
Megan Rodriguez
Ext. 4518 - Email: mRodriguez@sj.org

Faith Formation K-8 Sharie Furst
Ext. 4510 Email: sFurst@sj.org

Liturgy & Music, Sebastian Modarelli,
Ext. 4508 - Email: sModarelli@sj.org

Bulletin Editor, Marriage Prep, Cindy Paz
Ext. 4505 - Email: cpaz@sj.org

Facility Manager, Mike Gehring
Ext. 4509 - Email: mGehring@sj.org

Receptionists, Susie Foley, Kim Beery
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Trustees, George Libera and Mary Kos
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Calvary Cemetery.(507) 273-0140



PRAYING THROUGH ADVENT WITH THE ADVENT WREATH

(Jesus is the light of the world and as we grow closer to Him we are filled with more of His light. Each week, we light a new candle slowly losing more and more of the darkness as we draw closer to the coming of Christ at Christmas. Join us in praying around your Advent wreath each week.)

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20

Leader: Light all 3 purples candles and the rose candle.

>Once again, as you light each candle in order, sing the verses from the previous weeks and add a verse with the word peace: *Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace, Christ brings light to everyone, He comes, He comes.*

All: Sign of the Cross +

Leader: Lord Jesus, we approach that holy moment when Your coming as man is renewed in our hearts. Give us peace and allow us to celebrate Your presence with joy, that we may someday share Your glory. We ask this of You, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, as One God, now and forever.

All: Amen. +



CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Bishop Quinn has suspended the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holydays until further notice.

PUBLIC MASS SCHEDULE—

We have public Masses on Saturdays at 4:30pm and on Sundays at 9:30am. We have daily Masses at 12:10pm on Monday thru Thursday. Reservations are recommended for all Masses. **Sign up to attend Mass** at: <https://sj.org/announcement/mass-sign-up/> where you will also find a **tutorial video** with instructions for attending Mass and receiving Communion at Mass. All Masses will be in the Church and all attendees must check in before Mass in the Gathering Space. Masks are required for Mass attendance.

On Fridays there is a Word/Communion Service at 12:10 pm offered by Deacon Randy Horlocker. Sign-up to register for this service at <https://sj.org/announcement/mass-sign-up/>.

SUNDAY LIVE STREAMED MASS FROM THE CO-CATHEDRAL

Join us for Sunday Mass at 9:30am through a live stream on either facebook or YouTube. The facebook stream can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/cocathedralofstjohn/>. The YouTube live stream (which can also be accessed to watch the Mass later) can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/sjeyoutube>.

When we are unable to receive Holy Communion physically, the Church urges us to consider a “spiritual communion.” Inviting Jesus into our heart and soul is part of our tradition. We look forward to “seeing” you on Sunday!

[TV Mass from the Diocese of Winona-Rochester can be found on Channel 3 KIMT Sunday at 7:30am and Channel 3.2 MyTV at 9:00am.]

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

RECONCILIATION—THIS WEEK ONLY

Tuesday, December 22 at 5:30-6:30 pm and Wednesday, December 23 at 6:00 pm. Enter doors to Gathering Space in the corner of the church parking lot.

ONLINE PRAYER REQUESTS

On our website you can enter prayer requests and we would be happy to hold you in prayer. Visit www.sj.org/submit-prayer-requests/

CHURCH HOLIDAY HOURS—The Parish Center office will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Chapel will be open for private prayer from 8am-5:30pm Monday through Wednesday this week, and from Noon-3:30pm on Saturday and from 11am-1:00pm on Sunday. Enter the Chapel directly from 4th Avenue entrances and please wear masks and follow guidelines for social distancing. The Church space will no longer be open for private prayer and reflection to allow for cleaning, sanitization, and set up of the space for Masses.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES OR ELECTRONIC GIVING

To keep the much-needed donation consistency for the operation of our Church, please consider mailing in your weekly envelopes or signing up for the convenience of Electronic Giving. It's easy and it's free. Simply go to our website, sj.org and click on Contribute. From there you will create a sign in and password. At this time, the funds that are available for electronic donation are: General Fund, Building Fund, St. John Charity Fund, St. John Outreach Fund, and St. Vincent DePaul Fund. Donations can be accepted from a checking/savings account or a major credit card. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Debbie Thompson at (507) 288-7372 x4502 or dthompson@sj.org.

*CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST***QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:**

Adults: When have you followed the example of Mary and said, "Let it be done to me as you say?"

Children: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

FAITH FORMATION PROJECT SHARING

Calling all Faith Formation families! We would love to see and have you share how you are journeying through this Advent season with the different projects you have worked on and the ways you have set up your Advent wreaths in your homes. Please feel free to post pictures to our Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Facebook page or e-mail them to Sharie Furst (sfurst@sj.org). We know our community loves to see the amazing things our families and youth are working on!

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE REMINDER**

Your 2021 Stewardship Pledge form is due December 21st. If you have already submitted your pledge, thank you! Your support is greatly appreciated. If this is still on your "to do" list, please pick up a pledge form in the Parish Office or find one on <https://sj.org/contribute/> today. We need to hear from you in order to budget our resources responsibly for the next fiscal year.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions for the 2020 calendar year must be postmarked or received no later than Thursday, December 31, 2020. Contributions received or postmarked after that date must be credited in the 2021 calendar year. Thank you for bringing your pledges for 2020 up to date. We are sincerely grateful for your financial support.

CHRISTMAS FLORAL MEMORIALS

You are invited to remember or honor a loved one with a Christmas Floral Memorial by making an offering toward the beautiful plants and flowers that will help to enhance the Christmas season. Envelopes are available at the sign-in desk in the Gathering space, in the Parish Center, and on-line at : <https://sj.org/advent-christmas-flower-offering/>.

They may be dropped in the collection basket or left at the Parish Center. Memorials will be included in a bulletin insert on the weekend of January 9, 2021. Thank you for helping to create a beautiful environment for prayer and worship.

*Readings for the week of December 20, 2020***Sunday, December 20**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday, December 21

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday, December 24

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Friday, December 25

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday, December 26

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/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, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Next Sunday, December 27

Is 52:7-10/Ps 97/1 Jn1:1-4; Jn 20:1a and 2-8.

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*Mass Intentions***Saturday, December 19**

4:30 Mass Alisa Becker-Dunn

Sunday, December 20

9:30 Mass

People of the Parish

Eunice Moore †

Malita Raymond †

Monday, December 21

12:10 Mass In reparation for our sins

Tuesday, December 22

12:10 Mass Vince McCoy †

Wednesday, December 23

12:10 Mass Lois Smith †

Thursday, December 24

4:00pm Mass Michael McCoy †

Kerry Loeffelman †

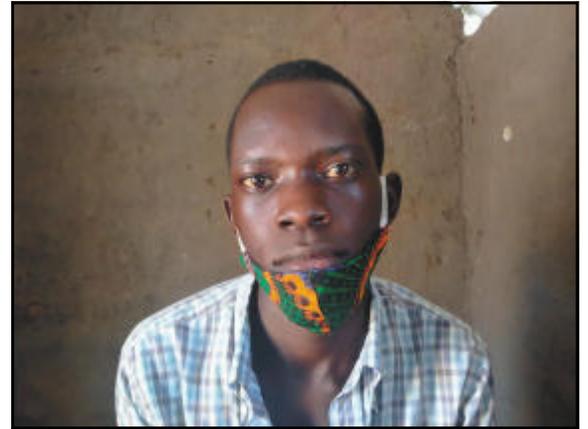
9:00pm Mass Marv Miller †

Friday, December 25

10:30 am Mass Scott Mault †

SEEDS OF WISDOM STORIES

We would like to introduce you to Victor Denis Ayan. He is a 16 year old candidate who will be sitting for Secondary School Entrance Exam March of 2021. Victor started attending camp school about one year later than his peers. He really struggled at the beginning and had a very difficult time with the work that was given to him by his teachers. His teachers did a fabulous job of keeping a close eye on him and encouraging him to continue to try and work hard. Victor wanted to do well so he met with his teachers in his free time to get the help in areas that he found challenging. At the end of last year, his efforts really paid off. He emerged as one of the smartest students and is highly regarded as one of the most hopeful students from a refugee school to pass the Primary Leaving Examination in March of



2021. When Victor finishes school, he wants to be a leader (politician) to help the communities of South Sudan. Thank you Victor for being a leader and your hope of becoming a political leader in South Sudan. As we draw closer to Christmas and light the fourth candle representing 'peace', join us in praying for young upcoming leaders like Victor, that they may help bring peace to the people of South Sudan.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

As any harried parent or excited child can tell you, there are just five days left until the celebration of Christmas begins. As Christian stewards, let's live these last days of Advent well.

Our First Reading, from 2 Samuel, features King David, who has resolved to do God a favor by building Him a house in which to dwell. But God reminds David who is truly in charge. "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went and I have destroyed your enemies before you." What is true of David's position before God is true for all of us. Our God is mighty, all-powerful and Love itself. The only proper response is to worship Him and live our lives as a grateful gift for all His goodness to us.

How can we possibly live up to this task? Only by relying on God, as St. Paul tells us in the Second Reading, from his letter to the Romans. Paul instructs us to go to "him who can strengthen you... Jesus Christ." The truth is, once we recognize that all we have is gift from God, the next step is to acknowledge that we need God's strength and wisdom to guide us in the best use of those gifts for the building of His Kingdom. Hopefully, we are making time during Advent to go to God in prayer and through the sacraments to obtain the strength we need to live as His disciples and the guidance to know we are indeed following His will with the gifts He has entrusted to us.

In fact, our aim should be to make the words of our Blessed Mother our own. We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of her "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward.

After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She trusted in her Heavenly Father to guide her at each step, and He did. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example as disciples today.

This Christmas, let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One who has given us everything. It is the work of a lifetime. But He will give us all the help and strength we need to do it.



Rochester Catholic is an initiative of the Rochester parishes seeking to connect young adults to Christ and His Church. Find out about all kinds of opportunities to connect at <https://www.rochestercatholicmn.org/> If you're looking to find a community of peers, plug into a parish, engage the world through outreach and service, and further commit their lives to Christ, this is a place where you can connect, serve and grow. Come join us!

HEALTH OFFICE NURSE

There are two opportunities available for employment in the Rochester Catholic School Health Offices. These positions are both part-time and cover multiple Catholic School Buildings. For more information, please look on the Rochester Public Schools website <https://www.rochesterschools.org/> under Careers.



PRAYER TO END A PANDEMIC

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Pope Francis



CANOPY CANDLES

December 19—December 25, 2020

*In loving memory of
Basil & Fortunata Pintaudi*

For Joe Libera † and Jim Libera

Canopy candles are located above the baptismal font and are lit for one week for an offering of \$25. It is a beautiful way to honor a special person or occasion. Visit www.sj.org for the candle request forms. Gift cards are available in the Parish Center.

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