St. John's Church
December 11, 2021

Masses:
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM
Mon - Fri: 8:00 AM

Parish Office Hours:
Mon - Fri 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Confessions: Saturdays -
1:30 - 2:30 PM

Baptisms - Parents requesting an infant Baptism please call the church office.

Marriages - Arrangements by the couple need to be made 6 months in advance, by making an appointment.

Parish Staff
Fr. John Adams - Pastor
frjohn@sjteolean.org
716-372-4841 ext 112

Fr. Peter Bassey
Parochial Vicar
frpeter@sjteolean.org
716-372-5313 ext. 111

Deacon Matthew Wenke
deaconmattwenke@gmail.com

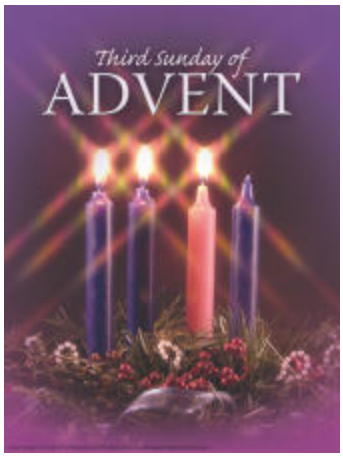
Ann Sorokes, Faith Formation
asorokes@sjteolean.org
Katie Barber,
Executive Assistant
kbarber@sjteolean.org
716-372-5313

Mark Lang Maintenance
mlang@sjteolean.org

Parish Trustees:
Dan Butler and Carol Stitt

Parish Finance Council:
Paul Abdo, Paul Bzdak, and Steve Pachla

Parish Council: Ryan Alberts
Donna Brestensky,
Kathy Brewer, Pat O'Malley,
Larry Pavlock,
Dennis Pezzimenti, Anita Schmidt, Jay Sorokes & Antonia Smith



Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete : modestia vestra nota sit omnibus hominibus: Dominus prope est.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
Philippians 4:4-5

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. As seen above, Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is highlighted again in our Mass celebration as it is also echoed in today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. This Sunday is marked by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on our Advent wreaths in church and in many of our homes. The vestments that are worn by the priest are rose colored rather than purple. It is a reminder that Advent is a time of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Rejoice IN THE LORD always; again, I say Rejoice! For Our God is near! As we heard in the words of the prophet Zephaniah the people of Israel are told that "the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!" When Our Lord comes, all is transformed.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "the Lord is coming," but as we experience the 3rd week of Advent, the focus shifts to "the Lord is near." The mood becomes light and one of more joyous anticipation as we ready ourselves to welcome Him more fully into our lives and celebrate the renewal that Jesus' birth brings to us and our families as we *rejoice in Emmanuel* – God with us!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society's mission is to fulfill the two great Commandments – ***love of God and love of neighbor***.

They give 100 % profit back to the community

The Society seeks out God's children in need, both materially and spiritually, and helps where and when they can. Sometimes they can do little more than just listen and comfort. Sometimes they are able to help with a bag of donated food goods, or by assisting with the necessities of life.

Our St, John's Ministry of the St. Vincent de Paul does not just help during the Christmas Season, but all year long they are there to help, share and love when others may be lacking.

This Christmas Season maybe you know of someone or you yourself are in need, please do not hesitate to call on St. Vincent de Paul, that is what they are there for and what they want to do. They provide clothing, food, household items, bedding, coats, hats, mittens and anything else that you may need they will help assist and help provide you what you need in a loving kind manner

If you are in need or would like to voleteer or donate please call the St. Vincent de Paul Society at 716-373-0815 located at 441 N. Union Street, Olean, NY 14760

Pro & Respect Life Ministry

We are Pro Life from Conception to Natural Death

WORD OF LIFE:

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

We pray for those in the state of oppression and suffering enslavement especially in our contemporary human trafficking.

For more information about the Pro & Respect Life Ministry or how you can get involved, please contact Jennifer Forney, jenforney@yahoo.com

Annual Genesis House Luminaries Fundraiser

December 21 is the shortest day and longest night of the year. Genesis House will hold our Annual Luminary Fundraiser to help "light the night" on the longest and coldest evening of the year, December 21st from 5:30-7:30pm.

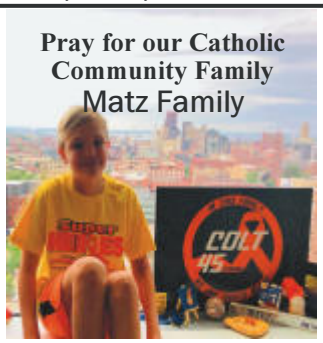
Those facing homelessness struggle with enormous obstacles due to the added darkness and frigid temperatures. Support the 2021 Genesis House Luminary Fundraiser! Choose from a Luminary to be lit in your honor at Lincoln Park, a lantern to hang from your window on December 21st, or a Genesis House Tree Ornament. https://www.genesishouseofolean.org/luminary-fundraiser-2021

This fundraiser allows the community to show their support with a $10 donation and a choice from one of these three:
1. A Luminary lit in a person's honor at Lincoln Park
2. A lantern that you can pick up and hang in your window on the evening of December 21st
3. A tree ornament displaying the Genesis House's name

Please note that the lantern and ornament can be picked up at the Genesis House or mailed for an additional $3.00.

** Notice **

Per diocesan guidelines, please be mindful to wear a mask when entering and exiting church, and lining up for Communion. With high COVID cases in our area and low vaccination rates, let us do our part to maintain safety in our parish. Thank you for your concern and cooperation.



Pray for Colt Matz who is fighting leukemia and for his younger brother Jack who has donated bone marrow to his brother!

Send prayers and cards to:
Oishei Children's Hospital
Colt - OCH Room 1206
818 Ellicott Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

St. Vincent de Paul Society

is an international charitable organization that helps the poor. Each year our parishioners assist those who are poor in material goods. This includes running an annual collection and distribution of Christmas gifts to the needy families and visiting area nursing homes. Would you like to learn more about St. Vincent de Paul Society? Contact Ron and Mary Mater at 716-373-3327

The **Genesis House** offers temporary shelter to those in need of a home. We strive to create an atmosphere of love, dignity and belonging while residents explore life-giving options for their future. Through continued collaboration with other community organizations and services, the staff and volunteers at the shelter help individuals and families provide the necessities of everyday life, as well as build a foundation for a bright future centered on independence. We exist because of our community's continued support.

Pat O'Malley
Genesis House Board Member/Volunteer/St. John's Contact
johnpat2omalley@gmail.com

Olean Council #338

Attention Catholic Men! Looking for new members! **Knights of Columbus** meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday @ 7 pm at the Parish Life Center next to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. Call Fran Tripodi at 307-0428.

Good Neighbor Ministry - Do you know a vulnerable individual who may need help during these trying times? Maybe you are aware of an elderly person or a shut-in who needs a visit? Would you like to volunteer? Call the Parish Office 372-5313 or e-mail kbarber@sjteolean.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 11 -
- 9:30 am

† **Chuck Kwiatkowski -**
Chuck & Joan Corson
† **Uncle Edward Matin**
Niece, Elena Batesky

Sunday, December 12 -
- 9:30 am 3rd Sunday of Advent

† **Sara Neeson - BR -** *family*
† **Arnold McHone Sr. -** *wife, Yvonne*

Monday, December 13 -
- 8:00 am St. Lucy

† **Chuck Clarke –** *Dave & Marge Drake*

Tuesday, December 14 -
- 8:00 am St. John of the Cross

† **Margaret Bush - BR -** *son, John*

Wednesday, December 15 -
- 8:00 am

† **Susie Noonan -** *Dave & Marge Drake*

Thursday, December 16 -
- 9:00 am

† **Chuck Kwiatkowski -**
Son & Nancy Schifley

Friday, December 17 -
- 8:00 am

† **Donald Budzinski** - *Mary Ann Loskey*
†**Bobby Gill -** *Gattiglio & Aielo Families*

Saturday, December 18 -
- 4:30 pm

† **Bud & Mary Pezzimenti/CR -**
Family
† **Marie Anastasia/CR -** *son, David*

Sunday, December 19 -
- 9:30 am 4th Sunday of Advent

† **Paul & Mary Ramire and**
Floyd "Week" & Frances Rogers/CR
Dee & Paula Rogers and Family

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Sandy Aiello Frey
Ralph Aloi
Shawn Anastasia
Christopher Baker
Kathy Baker
Beverly Blakeslee
Daniel Brogan
Mike Chizewick
Linda Colletti
Mary Jill Coon
Gail Crowley
Carmen DeGiglio
Jeff Dembowski
Dave Fidurko
David Frey
David Hettrick
Sr. Dana Hollis
Mary Lou Irons
Thomas Jonak
Janet Jones
Carol Kielar
Rev. John Mack
Alyssa Magro
Kathleen Martinelli
Colt Matz
Paul Mountain
Jean Nolan
Richard Peterson
Gene Robak Jr.
Ann Rogozinski
Jennifer Sauter
Judy Shelton
Jan Schichtel
Colleen Spencer
Rose Spots
David Tominez
Rob Umbenhour
Jeff Veno
Tracy Veno

All the Hospice, Nursing Home and Hospice Patients and their caregivers.

Our parish extends its condolences to the Tri-Catholic community families of

William Quinlan, Kathy Bess, Joseph Stayer, Jackie Attard, Mary Ann Sirianni, Francis Wiley, Paul Cashimere, and Phillip Balcerzak

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

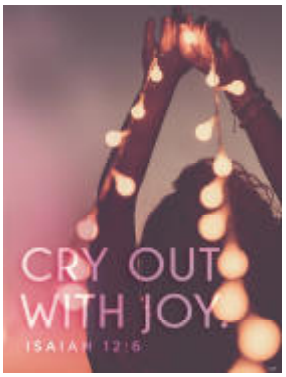
We life up in prayer each day those who are serving our country, especially those in harms way and who cannot be with their families this Christmas Season

Our Lady of Perpetual Help burns Dec. 1-15 for the glory of God and in honor of
James Keenen - Anv/CR
By: The Zeznick Family

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns **December 1-15** for the glory of God in the Remembrance of
H.E. Yazak - Anv.
By: The Zeznick Family

Reflection for Third Sunday of Advent: Dec. 12, 2021

(Zeph 3:14-18a): In this triumphant passage, the people of Zion/ Israel/Jerusalem are called to rejoicing; in that we have been freed from captivity by the debt of our sins as well as from physical/ political captors, who treated God's people, cruelly, abusively and with great injustice. The author proclaims our need to exult and celebrate our Lord's Presence in our midst. Given God's power over all, we have nothing to fear. We can be assured of and confident in God's protection and boundless mercy and love! We have every reason to rejoice and to allow ourselves to cast off our "garments" or outlook of mourning, despair and helplessness. We have entered a new era of hope, faith, and especially, love! It's especially compelling that our God is rejoicing over us as well as rejoicing with us.



(Isaiah 12: "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel."): This psalm further elucidates our theme of rejoicing and renewal of hope. The psalm starts with expressions of firm faith and confidence in our God as Savior and Redeemer. The author analogizes God as a wellspring or source of courage and strength and of salvation, itself. Next, we're called to give thanks and gratitude to God, Himself, via our prayers of thanksgiving and adoration. Coupled with this, we are called to proclaim all that God has done for us; to evangelize others around us, as well as the whole world. Let's not make a secret of the wonders and miracles of God's love. Let's proclaim them from the rooftops!

(Phil 4:4-7): St. Paul begins this passage by telling us, twice, to "rejoice in the Lord, ***always."*** Paul's telling us this twice emphasizes that we must rejoice in the Lord, despite our situation; rich or poor, healthy or ill; burdened or free of worries. Upon first reflecting on this, it may sound impossible to do, but really think about it. We could be having a really bad day. We may have lost our job. We or one we love may be gravely and critically ill. Our life may seem to be in shambles, but we can still rejoice in the Lord. We can still rejoice in God's Presence… in the Eucharist, in Scripture, in the holy witness of the lives of so many others around us. Despite our temporal situations, we can still rejoice in the eternal consolation that God is! God's Presence and His nearness doesn't change; despite what situations we may be in at any moment. God is always near. That's something to always rejoice over!

(Luke 3:10-18): This is a remarkably straightforward and direct passage. Disciples ask John the Baptist what they should do. He tells the people to share their extra clothing, food and resources with others. John tells us to be generous and to practice charity. John tells tax collectors not to cheat others. John calls us to be honest and to practice justice and fairness. John tells us to be satisfied with our wages. John is telling us to strive to cultivate an attitude of contentment and appreciation and to avoid jealously comparing what we have, with what others have.

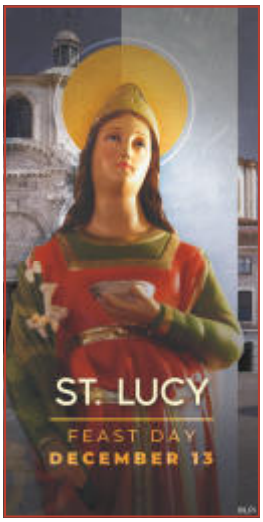
Because of John's godly message of charity, justice, honesty and living with integrity and detachment from possessions, John's disciples wonder if he is the Christ; the coming Messiah. John then prophecies the imminent coming of Jesus. The message for those people and for us is to prepare ourselves. Let's straighten out or lives to prepare for Jesus' coming! **He's here! Rejoice!**

Deacon Matt

Lector Ministry December 18 & 19
4:30 PM - Mary Anne Power and Don Scholla
9:30 AM - Peggy Reitz

Ministers of the Holy Eucharist December 18 & 19
4:30 PM - Carol Moses
9:30 AM - Peggy Reitz

Greeter Schedule December 18 & 19
4:30 PM - Theresa Shaffer
9:30 AM - Kathy Brewer and Dan/Cindy Hinz



St. Lucy | Feast Day December 13

A name that means "light," St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (at crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

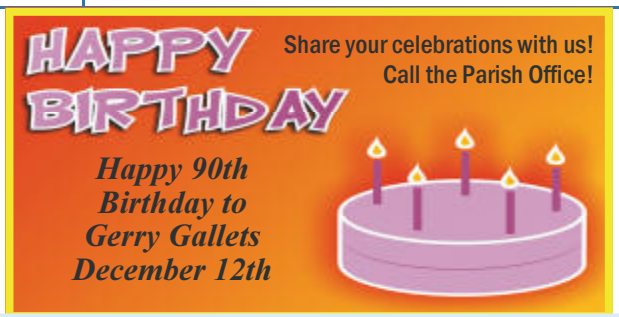
Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the "bearer" of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.

AT OUR PARISH and SMA

LIVE Stream

angelcam LIVE St. John's Parish

Sat. Dec. 11	**SJTE - Confession & Adoration - 1:30 - 2:30 pm** Olean Catholic Youth—LifeTeen/HS - 6:30-8:30pm - PLC @ SMA
Sun Dec. 12	Olean Catholic Youth—LifeTeen/HS - 6:30-8:30pm - PLC @ SMA
Wed, Dec. 15	SMA - Confession & Adoration 4:30 - 5:30 pm
Sat Dec. 18	Vicariate Penance Service - 10 - 11:30 am - St. Bonaventure Parish - Group Service & Individual Confessions **SJTE - Confession & Adoration - 1:30 - 2:30 pm**
Sun Dec. 19	**Special Christmas Concert - 2pm - SMA**



Road to Renewal: You may have seen the article prepared from a press release by the Diocese of Buffalo highlighted in the *Olean Times Herald* about the plan for renewal. You have been hearing about the Road to Renewal several months now. It has been determined that we are to be in Phase Two of implementation of our family of parishes in this part of the Southern Tier Vicariate. As you are aware, our "family" includes St. John the Evangelist, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and St. Bonaventure. The Administrative Team for this initiative has decided that our date for implementation of the family plan is October, 2023. Please stay tuned for additional information in the New Year about our Spirit-led movement of Renewal.

Christmas Dinner at St. Mary's

Christmas Dinner orders for take-out or delivery are now being accepted.
There will be **no** in-person dining.
They are in need of volunteers:
—Two shifts of food prep Dec. 23 at 9 am & 1:30 pm
—Drivers to deliver meals on Christmas Day at 10am
—Call the Parish Office Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm at 372-4841 ext. 125 or online Smaolean.org

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021*

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE and CONFESSIONS

Vicariate Penance Service | *Group Service and Individual Confessions*
Saturday, Dec. 18 | 10:00-11:30 a.m. | St. Bonaventure Church

Individual Confessions *with Eucharistic Adoration*
Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Basilica (No confessions Dec. 29)
Saturdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. | St. John's (No confessions Dec. 25, Jan.1)

SPECIAL BASILICA CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Faith Formation Christmas Pageant,
Sunday, Dec. 19, 9:30 a.m. | Basilica
Christmas Concert, Dec. 19, 2:00 p.m. | Basilica

MASS SCHEDULE — LINKED PARISHES

Christmas Vigil Mass | Friday, December 24

1:30 p.m.	Christmas Prelude | Basilica
2:00 p.m.	Family Mass with St. Nick | Basilica
3:30 p.m.	Christmas Prelude
4:00 p.m.	Basilica
4:30 p.m.	St. John's **
8:15 p.m.	Christmas Prelude | Basilica
9:00 p.m.	Basilica
10:00 p.m.	St. John's **

Christmas Day Mass | Saturday, December 25

8:00 a.m.	Basilica
9:00 a.m.	St. John's**
11:00 a.m.	Oratory of the Sacred Heart, Portville

Feast of the Holy Family Mass | Sunday, December 26

8:00 a.m.	Basilica
9:30 a.m.	St. John's**
11:00 a.m.	Basilica

New Year's Day Mass | Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Vigil Mass Saturday, January 1

11:00 a.m.	Oratory of the Sacred Heart Portville (Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, not a Holy Day of Obligation)
4:00 p.m.	Basilica (Vigil Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord)
4:30 p.m.	St. John's ** (Vigil Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord)

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Mass | Sun., Jan. 2

8:00 a.m.	Basilica
9:30 a.m.	St. John's **
11:00 a.m.	Basilica

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