

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST & HOLY ROSARY

Rev. John B. Jacquell, Pastor

December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. John the Baptist Church

Located at 509 E. 26th Street, Erie, PA 16504

Holy Rosary Church

Located at E. 28th & East Avenue, Erie, PA 16504

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY EVENING MASS 4:00 PM

St. John the Baptist (April to September)

Holy Rosary (October to March)

SUNDAY MORNING MASS

8:00 AM at St. John the Baptist

10:30 AM at Holy Rosary

Reminder: Call the church office to reserve a seat

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Mon & Thurs at Holy Rosary

8:00 AM Wed & Fri at St. John the Baptist

CONFESSIONS: 2:30-3:30 PM Saturday at Holy Rosary
or by appointment

PARTNERED PARISH OFFICE

2701 East Avenue, Erie, PA 16504-2917

St. John the Baptist 814-454-2873
secretary@sjberie.org

Holy Rosary 814-456-4254
parish.secretary@holyroaryerie.org

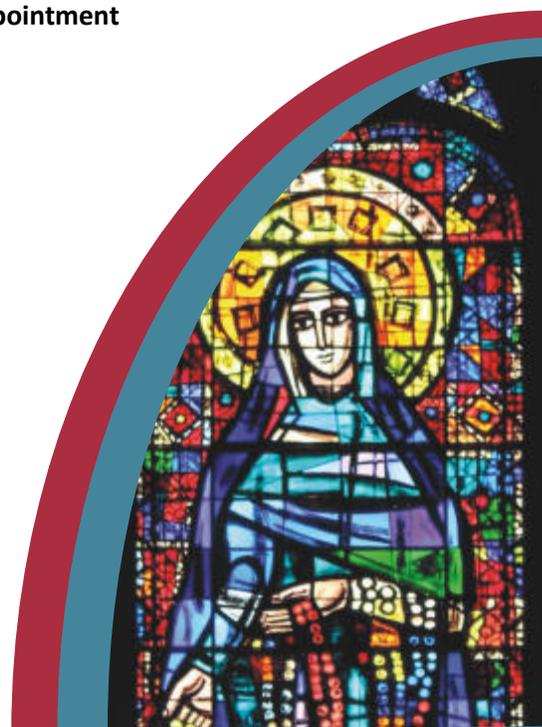
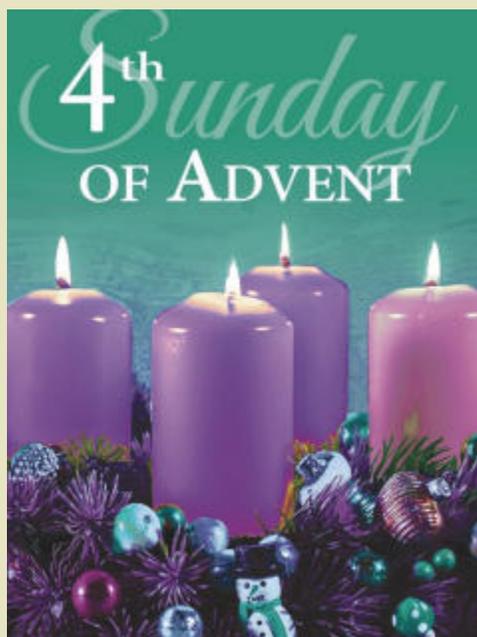
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Office **CLOSED** Fridays

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY:

St. Luke FF Director: Sister Carmen Maldonado, SSC
Adult FF Director: Mary Hickin 920-7525

PARTNERED PARISH WEBSITE: stjohn-holyrosary-erie.org/

PLEASE CHECK THE "ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST / HOLY ROSARY ERIE PA"
YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED LIVESTREAM MASS.
www.youtube.com/channel/UCut5zg6K8S33pN5roPo3cgg





FROM THE PASTOR

Our world was in seriously deep trouble. Not only was the most powerful nation in danger – with internal insurrections and external perils – but disease, climate change, and new threats to the dominant faith community emerged all too frequently. Of course, I'm talking about the land of Palestine in the First Century A.D.

God acted to save – everyone. Not just the “chosen people,” although the Son of God was born among these Jewish folks. But Jesus traveled across boundaries to where non-Jews lived and taught, healed, lived, and worked miracles among them, too, because God’s embrace is bigger than just for one tribe, tongue, or nation.

As Second Isaiah foretold, *“It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”* (49:6)

Well, the ends of the earth are all experiencing a more aggressive outbreak of the coronavirus presently and frankly, we’re all getting mighty tired of it. To everyone this message goes forth, from First Isaiah, *“Strengthen hands that are feeble, make firm knees that are weak, say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; With divine recompense he comes to save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall see, and the ears of the deaf be opened; Then the lame shall leap like a stag, and the mute tongue sing for joy.”* (35:3-6)

Come, Lord Jesus! Come again to strengthen and heal us! Help us remember your First Coming and rejoice in this saving grace!

From all of us here on the staff and ministries of Holy Rosary and Saint John the Baptist Churches, Have a Healthy, Happy, Holy Christmas and New Year!

Fr. John

Simply Celebrating Advent & Christmas

The Faith Formation Office at the Erie Diocese has created a website to help people find simple, creative ways to celebrate Advent and Christmas at home. Go to www.eriecfd.org/christmas.html for everything from Advent wreath ideas to a Christmas week prayer service that can be offered in the home or with loved ones who are far away using technology. In addition, a link to a listing of Christmas Eve and Christmas Masses being offered at parishes across the diocese, both in person and via livestream, is now available on this website.

Christmas - The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve
December 24 4:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist

Christmas Day
December 25 9:30 a.m.
Holy Rosary



Both Masses livestreamed.

If you plan to attend Mass on **December 24 at 4:00 p.m.** or on **December 25 at 9:30 a.m.**, **you must call-in your seat reservation.** Call Marsha in the church office before December 23.

A Year Like No Other

As we continue our look back at 2020, more memorable even remarkable moments are worth a second look. Mission and ministry took on an urgency in some spheres and in others some creative thinking was needed.



On the cover of the June 2020 edition of Faith Magazine—a publication of the Catholic Diocese of Erie, is Jessie Morgan Ochalek. Jessie is a member of Holy Rosary and a nurse at UPMC Hamot.

In early April, Jessie answered a spiritual call to serve in New York/New Jersey at a time when that area of the country was the epicenter of the Coronavirus pandemic. Leaving her husband, Deacon Matthew Ochalek, and their two sons, she embarked on a ten week commitment to care for those in Jersey City in critical condition from COVID-19.

In the Faith Magazine article, Jessie said *“I do well when I’m working, being strong. But when I have time to reflect afterward, I think of how lonely my patients must feel, how they can’t have any visitors and how I can’t really be with them for safety reasons. That’s when I’m really affected emotionally.”*

This mission came together for Jessie on Palm Sunday. *“Pope Francis’ homily on Palm Sunday really go to me. He was encouraging us to serve each other, serving each other is how we have life. His homily really spoke to me and affirmed my decision,”* said Jessie.

- May 8-Erie County enters ‘yellow phase’ allowing some businesses to partially reopen.
- May 11-Bishop Persico announces a gradual approach to restoring public worship.
- May 16-Erie County’s total positive COVID-19 cases: 216.
- June 1-Bishop Persico allows parishes to reopen.
- June 10-Erie County’s total positive COVID-19 cases: 408
- June 14-15 - St. John and Holy Rosary reopen for Mass with safety and social distancing protocols.
- June 26 - Erie County moves from ‘yellow’ to ‘green’ phase.
- June 2020 - Erie County’s unemployment rate 14.6%



Early in the lockdown, Evelyn and John Wedzikowski, (left) began sewing face masks. Both are experienced quilters, they used those talents to help provide dozens of masks for those who needed them.

Several others decided to make masks as well including Lori Follett (right). Lori, admits she’s not really into sewing. But that didn’t stop her from finding a non-sewing pattern online for making masks. She got busy cutting up old T-shirts and soon had dozens to donate.



As the lockdown continued, there was a run at the stores for high demand items including hand sanitizer, antibacterial soap, antibacterial wipes, and of all things—toilet paper.

(Cont’d on page 3)



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 21

8:00 am HR George J. Auer (Estate)

Wednesday, December 23

8:00 am SJB Harry Mikolajewski (Daughter-Terry)

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm SJB Irene Forish (Estate)

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:30 am HR For all Living & Deceased Parishioners

Saturday, December 26

4:00 pm HR William Verdecchia (Children)

Sunday, December 27

8:00 am SJB For all Living & Deceased Parishioners

10:30 am HR Ruth Sins (Ken & Alice Kendziora)

The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of Linda Palombi (Joe & Patti Mattis).

Readings Next Weekend

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

1st Reading: Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3

2nd Reading: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



Family Perspective

Two important lessons in today's gospel speak to anyone who has ever felt afraid or uncertain; stressed or confused. No matter what is happening in your family, remember, "The Lord is with you." The angel reminds us, "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God".



The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

December 31

5:00 p.m. at Holy Rosary

January 1

9:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist
Mass livestreamed from SJB.

Livestream Mass Schedule

December 20	10:30 a.m.	HR
December 24	4:00 p.m.	SJB
December 25	9:30 a.m.	HR
December 27	8:00 a.m.	SJB

Lector Schedule

Thursday, December 24	4:00 p.m.	Denny Deiner
Friday, December 25	9:30 a.m.	Kay Kitch
Saturday, December 26	4:00 p.m.	Lisa DiLuzio
Sunday, December 27	8:00 a.m.	Denny Deiner
Sunday, December 27	10:30 a.m.	Donna Mann

Do you know of anyone in need?

Mercy Center for Women invites those in need this Christmas season to contact Mary Tobin at 814-455-4577 or mtobin@mcwerie.org. Mary and her elves will be happy to put a few gifts together for you to pick up at a scheduled time to help you this holiday season.

A Year Like No Other (Cont'd)

In the same edition of Faith Magazine, the photo at the right was also featured.



Volunteers of the St. John & Holy Rosary Eastside Food Pantry and helpers from the Mercy Center for Women kept up their efforts to provide food for those who are food insecure in our neighborhood. A few adjustments had to be made to meet safety protocols including curbside only pick-up.

Eastside Food Pantry volunteers— Pictured in the foreground - left, Chris Jones—Mercy Center; Marilyn Mead; Jennie Hagerty—Mercy Center; and Jean Burns. In the back, from Left, John Brown, John Wedzikowski and Joe Mattis.

Jean Burns, a food pantry volunteer for ten years, and most recently coordinator said as the pandemic hit "it's been crazy." Before the lockdown, Jean, Marilyn Mead and Deacon Denis Coan submitted a grant application to the Erie Community Foundation for a new freezer. The food pantry was awarded \$4,175. Due to on-going renovations at the former Holy Rosary School, food pantry operations had to be suspended until that work is completed.

For Jean Burns and all the other volunteers at the food pantry, their efforts involved direct ministry to the people. There are other direct ministries including Our Neighbor's Place (see update below) and the Christmas Angel Tree program.

"I like helping people," said Jean. "To me personally it is being the Church."

Even during a pandemic members of St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary continue to be the Church to others during this year like no other.

Written by Marsha MacKinnon

Dear Members of St. John the Baptist & Holy Rosary,

Our Neighbors' Place, the faith-based shelter for the people of our community who are homeless, opened its doors on November 18th and will close on March 17th. St. John the Baptist will be hosting the shelter for 2 sessions....January 6th thru the 20th and March 3rd thru the 17th.

This year, as we all can identify, is different! We will relocate our sessions to the Mental Health Association at 11th & Peach, only bottles of water will be available for guests, no supplies or clothing will be handed out, meals will only be provided in take-out boxes on Saturday, as Emmaus will be providing take-out meals all other days. With all of these changes, fewer volunteers are needed as well. We are thankful to those of you who have signed up to volunteer.

For 7 years we have come to you asking parishioners to embrace the ministry of Our Neighbors' Place and this year is no different. We are reaching out to you for the greatest gift each and every one of your parishioners can give during these times....the gift of prayer. We ask that you pray for the lives of our guests, for the safety and health of each and everyone involved with this ministry.

Please feel free to contact us at anytime, if you have any questions.

God Bless,
Mary Hoffman (814-873-2981) & Mary Ellen Lieb (814-873-1283)

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