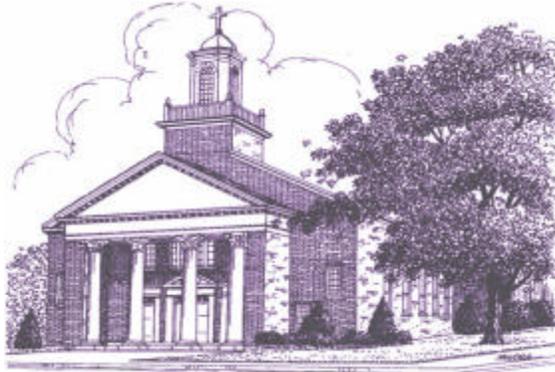


December 20, 2020

# St. John the Baptist

A Respect Life Parish

1085 Englewood Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14223



**Shrine of St. John Neumann**  
Founding Pastor, 1836

**Parish Website**  
[www.stjohnskenmore.org](http://www.stjohnskenmore.org)

**Rectory**  
873-1122 · Fax 873-3305

**Outreach**  
873-2933

**School**  
877-6401

**Msgr. Charles A. Klauder**  
Parish Center  
873-1122

**Pastor**  
Rev. Michael J. Parker

**Pastoral Assistant**  
Sister Jolene Ellis, OSF

**School Principal**  
Mrs. Jenny Bainbridge

**School Website**  
[www.stjohnskenmore.com](http://www.stjohnskenmore.com)

**Faith Formation**  
873-1122  
[stjohnskenmorefaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenmorefaithformation@gmail.com)

**Director of Youth**  
Nora Deakin

**Director of Music**  
Ms. Cheryl Brinker

## Masses

**Saturdays:** 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

**Sundays:** 8:00, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

**Weekdays & Holy Days:** Schedule inside Bulletin.

## Confessions

**Tuesdays:** 4:00 p.m. Any time by appointment.

## Novena

To Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. John Neumann, after 12:00 noon Mass, Wednesdays, Church.

## Holy Hour for Life

Friday, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Chapel.

## Eucharistic Adoration

Monday through Friday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Chapel.

## Parish Office Hours

Available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Evening: By appointment only.

## New Parishioners

We warmly welcome you to our Parish Community. Please contact the Rectory as soon as possible.

## Baptisms

Sunday at 1:15 p.m. Parents must attend the Baptism Preparation Program held each month, in advance of scheduling the Baptism. Please call the Rectory office for schedule and further information.

## Weddings

Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

## Hearing Impaired

This church has the latest in hearing assistance. Small, portable devices are available in the sacristy for individual use.

All are encouraged to sacrificial giving of time, talent and treasure.

*Please remember the parish in your will.*



## MISSION STATEMENT

*"St. John the Baptist is a Roman Catholic parish founded by St. John Neumann where God is loved and present in the liturgy, the sacraments and the community, faith is enriched, faith grows through our teaching and experiencing the gospel, all are welcomed in the spirit of openness and generosity, and charity is extended through our ministry to all."*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### *Living the Paschal Mystery*

Every Advent we are challenged to have the attentiveness of Mary to the flutter of Christ-life that stirs in the womb of our complacency. So often our world seems starved of stars; and so often we watch or participate in rituals of mourning for acts of terrorism, natural disaster, the local tragedies of road deaths, or other dark events. Usually these rituals involve some type of candles that will burn out but not before they convey light and expel the darkness.

This is the message of our Advent wreath as we light the last of its four candles. The candles will burn out, but it is up to us, disciples of the Light of the World, to catch fire from Christ's mystery and bring something of this light and fire into our own lives and into the lives of those in darkness. The fire we catch from Christ, is the flame of loving service we bring to others this Advent/Christmas season.

Luke 1:26-38

### *Masses for the Week*

#### **Monday, December 21** - Late Advent Weekday

8:00 Sister Ann of the Trinity, OCD by Jim & Sharon Murphy

12:00 James J. Burns by family

#### **Tuesday, December 22** - Late Advent Weekday

8:00 Evan & Evie McDonald by Mary Lou Cappellini

12:00 Joseph Venezia by family

#### **Wednesday, December 23** - Late Advent Weekday

8:00 John Feiling by family

12:00 People of the Parish

#### **Thursday, December 24** - Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 C. Gayle Varisco by Sara & Natalie Bialy

2:00 Deceased Parishioners of St. John's

4:00 (Church) Gimbrone, Lomanto, & Grisanti families by family

4:00 (Klauder Hall) Charles Milazzo by family

7:00 Benefactors of St. John's

10:00 People of the Parish

12:00 Living & deceased Priests & Sisters who served at St. John's

#### **Friday, December 25** - The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 Ralpa "Rae" DiNatale by family

10:00 Mary Lou Christiano by Jerry & Ann Coleman & family & John Bedaska

12:00 Frederick Caughill by family

#### **Saturday, December 26** - St. Stephen

8:30 Lena Ruggiero by family

#### **Vigil of The Holy Family**

4:00 Jacquee Comella by family

7:00 Frank Bialy by Linda Ahl



#### **Sunday, December 27** - The Holy Family

8:00 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Vetrano by Tony & Susie Vetrano

10:00 Peter J. Blenk, Sr. by Rita Wells

12:00 Jayne DeMarie by brother

## St. John the Baptist RC Church

### *This Week at St. John's*

#### **Monday, December 21**

- BS104 Troop mtg., gym/PR, 6:30-9pm

- Carissime Women's Prayer, chapel, 7:30-9pm

#### **Tuesday, December 22**

- Confessions, church, 4-5pm

- Cub104 Den mtg., PR/26, 6:30-9pm

#### **Wednesday, December 23**

#### **Thursday, December 24**

#### **Friday, December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

#### **Saturday, December 26**

- BS104 Rec/basketball, gym, 2-4pm

#### **Sunday, December 27**



### *Baptismal Preparation*

We welcome families who wish to have their child baptized here at St. John's.

Please call the rectory office at 873.1122 to find out details of preparation.

### *We Remember in our Prayers...*

*Those who are ill; and those who have died;* Thomas Sheehan. **May they rest in peace.**

**We pray for** all impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic and the current unrest in our country, that our hearts will be open to God's healing, peace and justice.

### *Prayer Basket*

St. John's gives its parishioners the opportunity to offer prayers and intentions to God through the prayer basket located to the left of Blessed Mother's altar. We invite you to write your intention/s on the form found in church and place it in the basket - intentions are remembered at every Eucharist. (the basket is emptied monthly)

### *Public Celebration of Masses*

Weekday and weekend Masses are in the church  
**M-F: 8am & 12pm Sat.: 4 & 7pm Sun.: 8, 10am & noon**

**Dispensation from Mass attendance is still in effect.**

For your safety and the safety of all who are present:

**Face covering/mask is required**

**Social distancing is required**

**Communion only in the hand**

**Ushers/escorts will seat you**

Church is open for private prayer daily

Mon. - Thurs. 8am-4pm Fri. 8am-2:30pm

Sat. 8am-8-m Sun. 8am-2pm

### **OUR OFFERING TO GOD**

### **Weekly Support Offering**

12/6/2020

**Regular Collection.....\$14,380.99**

*(Online giving included)*

**This week last year.....\$14,724.17**

## FROM FATHER MICHAEL'S DESK

As Christmas tidings fill our hearts and homes much different during this year of the pandemic, we continue to share in the hope that is given to us in the birth of Jesus. The reason God sent his son into the world is that we may have the presence of His very self, "God-with-us" accompanying us in all our need.

This year we remember all those who assist the sick and needy during these challenging times and the kindness offered by all who manifest God's presence through their care and concern.

In whatever way we mark the celebration of Christmas this year we are constantly renewed and strengthened in the hope that is ours in Jesus. In a very humble way as the shepherds, or, seeking as the magi, may we all be attentive to the spirit of God in our lives once again.

May Christ come to you and your loved ones with the gift of love, the blessing of hope, and the promise of peace to those on whom His favor rests.

-Fr. Michael, Sr. Jolene & Staff

### **Christmas Blessing**

*God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love:  
when our need for a Savior was great  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy and love.*

*Lord, bless us as we recall the humble birth of Jesus and raise  
up our thoughts to him,  
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,  
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*



### **Religious Education**

There are no classes, for all grades, in December  
**Merry Christmas & a blessed & safe New Year!**

Any questions, call Cheryl at the rectory, 873-1122 x213

### **Annual Novena for Life**

The annual Novena for Life held in the St. John Neumann chapel every January is cancelled due to the Covid virus however we encourage everyone to continue to pray a rosary for the unborn for nine days starting January 14th through January 22nd. Pray to end abortion.

### **Diaper Drive for St. Gianna Outreach**

The Respect Life Committee will hold a diaper drive during the month of January for the St. Gianna pregnancy outreach center. They have helped over 1500 mothers and their babies and are so thankful for your past generosity. The items needed: Diapers—newborn to size 3. Baby clothes newborn to size 3 year, also baby toiletries, blankets, bottles, and gently used clothing is welcome. There will be a bin outside of the Community Room to place your donation. If you are in a difficult pregnancy please call St. Gianna outreach—(716) 842-BABY (2229) or 847-2205.

### **Adoration in the Chapel**

The Chapel is open for Eucharistic Adoration Monday thru Friday from 2 to 4 pm. As we await the birth of the Christ child, come away from the hustle and bustle of the season and spend some quiet time with Jesus.

O come let us adore Him.

### **Giving Tree 2020**

Many phone calls and inquiries have come in regarding the annual Giving Tree. After discussion and sharing of ideas, it was decided to avoid any possibility of contact by inviting anyone interested in reaching out to the five area charities to mail a monetary donation to their choice. Each charity has been contacted. Mailing information is as follows:

#### **Roswell Park Pediatrics**

Roswell Park Alliance  
Elm & Carlton St., Bflo NY 14263  
Attn: Carly Fund

#### **Little Portion Friary**

1305 Main St., Bflo NY 14209  
Attn: Joanne Ruh, Treasurer

#### **Friends of Night People**

394 Hudson St., Bflo NY 14201  
Check memo: Giving Tree/St. John's

#### **Our Lady of Hope RC Church**

248 Lafayette Ave., Bflo NY 14213  
Check memo: Giving Tree/St. John's

This is a time of difficulty for everyone. Please respond to this annual project in whatever way is best for your family.

*May we recognize God's love in our lives  
and share that love with those in need.*



### **Low Gluten Hosts Available**

We have low gluten hosts available at every Mass. Simply let the priest know by going to the sacristy before Mass.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Christmas Vacation – No School

There will be NO SCHOOL starting **Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** for Christmas Vacation.

Enjoy this time to rest and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year when school resumes on **Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**!

## Stocking Stuffer Idea for Your Family

St. John’s face-masks and gaiters are still available for purchase and can make a great stocking stuffer for Christmas.

**MASKS:** are adjustable to fit youth or adults and are \$5.00 each.

**GAITERS:** are youth size and are also \$5.00 each.

Both items are available by contacting: Michelle Salemi at: [msalemi@stjohnskenmore.com](mailto:msalemi@stjohnskenmore.com) or 877-6401.

## A Special Message from Our Principal



Merry Christmas from the St. John the Baptist family to your family! While the holiday season looks different this year than any year in the past, it brings me so much joy to still be able to experience this special time of year through the eyes of our children.

Through the hard work and dedication of so many of our St. John’s family, especially our faculty and staff, we are so glad to be teaching our children in-person and doing so safely! The COVID-19 health and safety protocols that we have put in place have kept our school community healthy and thriving.

Our school theme this year is “With God, We Can Do This!” God has served as inspiration, comfort, and support to us during these trying times. God has bestowed upon St. John the Baptist School countless blessings. In turn, our precious children are blessed each and every day.

We thank our parents for their dedication to their child’s Catholic education here at St. John’s. We are also extremely grateful to you, the parishioners and alumni of St. John’s, for your continued support of our parish school. Without your support, we would not be able to do what we do each and every day. Even behind their masks, the smiles and joy of the children radiates throughout our classrooms and hallways, and we have you to thank for that!

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas!  
Mrs. Bainbridge, Principal

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the  
Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you and I desire to receive  
You into my soul.  
Since I cannot receive You sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my heart.**

**Jesus you’re the one I love;  
you’re the one I know.  
You’re the one who makes me strong,  
Spirit in my soul.**

**Symbol of your love from the grain so tall.  
Bread, blessed and broken for us all,  
bread of life you give to us,  
bread of life for all. Amen.**



## Parish Food Pantry is OPEN

*Health safety precautions are in place  
for volunteers and guests.*

Some current needs are:

Jello, pudding, cereal (non-sugar), tuna fish, peanut butter, mashed potatoes, Regular coffee (1 lb.)

***During this pandemic and always, we thank you!***



## A Huge Thank You

Many thanks to the Ellwood Fire Co. for their generous donation of \$750 to St. John’s Food Pantry. In lieu of their annual collection of food due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a check was given to help assist St. John’s pantry with their food distribution during the holidays and into the New Year. They give new meaning to *being a good neighbor*.

## The Tatiana Moore Memorial Scholarship

The Class of 1981 is establishing a scholarship that has a heartfelt and personal connection to them. One of their classmates, Lori Salvatore, lost her 22 year-old daughter, Tatiana, to COVID-19. Tatiana was a brave and spirited young lady who fought hard, but tragically was one of the earliest victims of the pandemic in our area.

*The Tatiana Moore Memorial Scholarship* will be offered to current St. John’s students. We look forward to sharing further details in the coming months.

Donations to the scholarship fund are still being accepted. To make a contribution, please contact Michelle Salemi, Director of Advancement at: (716) 877-6401 or [msalemi@stjohnskenmore.com](mailto:msalemi@stjohnskenmore.com)

*(St. John’s School offers a number of named scholarships. They can be funded and awarded, in memory or in honor of loved ones. Scholarships are distributed on an annual or on a one-time basis and have various eligibility criteria).*

## Holy Name News



The Holy Name Society is again sponsoring a Super Bowl Pool. Squares are \$25.00 each and may be **RESERVED/PURCHASED** from Ray Metzger @ 873-9406 or from any HNS Board Member. **Currently the pool is at 50% sold or reserved.** This is a fundraiser to benefit the St. John's Outreach Pantry. Don't wait to reserve your squares to avoid being disappointed! Remember, the squares do not have to be paid for until two weeks before the game (1/24/21).

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

**Donut Sunday Socials cancelled until further notice.**

**Holy Name Society general meetings are cancelled until further notice.**

*Please watch the bulletin for updates.*

## Need a Good Laugh?

The Priest was wired for sound with a lapel microphone, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mic cord as he went.

Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripped, before jerking it again.

After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned in toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"



## Vocations

"The angel Gabriel from Heaven came..." When God's plan was made clear to Mary, she had some questions but ultimately answered with a confident YES. If you have questions about how God is calling you to serve His Church, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org)

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK in re The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y. Case No. 20-10322 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT,** On February 28, 2020 The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y. ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the Bankruptcy Code). **The Bankruptcy Court has established August 14, 2021 at 11:59 pm. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "Bar Date"). If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date.** Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/dioceseofbuffalo> or call 855-292-7696 for more information on how to file your proof of claim. **IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.**

## Daily Reflection Books



Essential Teaching of Mother Teresa, "Do Something Beautiful for God" books are available outside of the Community Room for your New Year daily reflection.

A gift of these daily thoughts to our parishioners from the parish with gratitude.

## Holy Honey!

Looking for a last minute gift? Check out Fr. Ryszard's 100% Natural Holy honey!



There are 2 sizes available in the rectory, 1 lb. jars (Light or Dark) \$8. 1/2 lb. bear jars for \$4.50. Fr. Ryszard thanks you!

**Blessed Prayer Shawls are available in the rectory for your needs.**

## Area News

### International Nativity Display:

Fr. Roy Herberger will display 300 Nativities in Fatima Hall whenever the Lights are on with the exception of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve & New Year's Day. For more info. contact Fr. Roy at 716.852.2076 or [royhope@aol.com](mailto:royhope@aol.com).



## Volunteers Needed!

Hearts and Hands is a "neighbor helping neighbor" organization.

- Live out the spirit of giving by sharing your time and talents with your senior neighbors.
- Transportation - In Home Support - Caregiver Respite.
- Select assignments that fit your schedule and interests, volunteering is flexible!
- Mileage reimbursement and supplemental insurance coverage provided.

Help a neighbor in need and make a difference in your community.



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