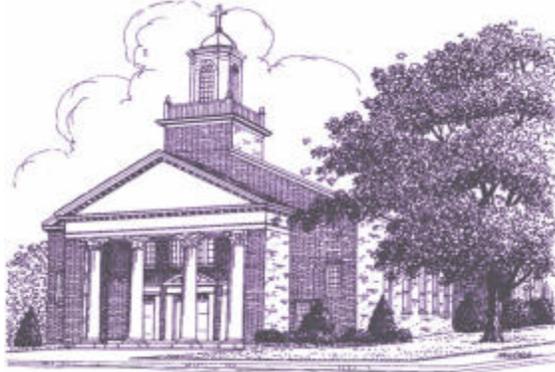


December 5, 2021

# 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  
[saintjohnsrec@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnsrec@gmail.com)

**Outreach**  
873-2933

**School**  
877-6401

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

**Pastor**  
Rev. Michael J. Parker

**Parochial Vicar**  
Rev. Mariusz Sierhart

**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.

Sunday Holy Hour, 3:00pm, 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."*

## Second Sunday of Advent

St. John the Baptist RC Church

### Living the Paschal Mystery

Earlier in the Gospel of Luke we hear of John the Baptist's childhood in which "the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel." This desert time is important for John's formation as the preacher we hear in the gospel today. In the desert one must listen. John proclaims the words of the prophet Isaiah to the people, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" These words were addressed originally to the Israelites in exile in Babylon. The way being prepared was the way the Lord would lead them out of exile and restore them to their homeland. Now John invites his listeners to undertake an interior way of repentance. -Luke 3:1-6

### Masses for the Week

- Monday, December 6**— Advent Weekday  
 8:00 Special intention of Nancy McKeown by McKeown family  
 12:00 Norbert Kirchgessner by wife Marie
- Tuesday, December 7**— Saint Ambrose  
 8:00 James McKeown by McKeown family  
 12:00 Edward Fisch, Sr. by family
- Wednesday, December 8**— The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 8:00 Anthony & Michael Caruana by Louise Caruana  
 9:00 School Mass  
 12:00 Cynthia O'Malley by Rizzo, Russo, Humiston, & McCourt families  
 7:00 Special intention Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti by Frances Menno
- Thursday, December 9**— Advent Weekday  
 8:00 Michael Mendola by Mike & Phyllis Fasanello  
 12:00 Dorothy Waldron by Marie Kirchgessner
- Friday, December 10**— Advent Weekday  
 8:00 Robert Logal by Barbara & Frank Battaglia  
 12:00 Dorothy Rupp by Nowakowski family
- Saturday, December 11**— Advent Weekday  
 8:30 Joseph Kratzer by Maureen Borczuch
- Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent**  
 4:00 Deceased members of the Winkle & Piotrowski families by family  
 7:00 People of the Parish  
*Religious Retirement Appeal*
- Sunday, December 12**— Third Sunday of Advent  
 8:00 Christopher Surra by Lois Ringle, Saranne Pace, Maggie Cammarata  
 10:00 Dominic J. Crane by Mary Lou & Bob Mueller  
 12:00 Sally A. Macaluso by Kathryn Benfanti  
*Religious Retirement Appeal*

### St. John's Welcomes New Parishioners

If you are looking for a parish to make your own, we would love to have you join our faith community here at St. John's. Daily Masses are 8am & 12pm. Weekend liturgies are Sat. 4 & 7pm/Sun. 8, 10am & 12pm. Call the rectory at 716-873-1122 for more information.



### This Week at St. John's

#### Monday, December 6

- REL ED Gr. 9 &10, RCR, 6-8pm
- BS104 Troop mtg, gym, 6:30-9pm
- Womens Prayer Group mtg, chapel, 7:30-9pm



#### Tuesday, December 7

- Ladies of Charity, RCR, 9:30am-12pm
- Confessions, church, 4-5pm
- REL ED 1,2,3,8, SJS, 6:15-7:30
- Grief support group, RCR, 7pm
- Cub104 Den mtg., PR/26, 6:30-9pm
- SJPA, gym, 9-11pm

#### Wednesday, December 8

- Prayer shawl, RCR, 6:30pm

#### Thursday, December 9

- BASE, gym, 6-7:30pm
- Contemplative Prayer Group, chapel/convent, 7-9pm

#### Friday, December 10

#### Saturday, December 11

- BS104 Basketball, gym, 2-4pm

#### Sunday, December 12

- HNS Donut Sunday

### We Remember in our Prayers...

**Those who are ill, and those who have died;** Roger Baldinger, Nancy Penders, Roy Henseler. **May they know God's love and peace.**

**Welcome those baptized;** Grace Kathryn Rutkowsky

### 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 inquire. details of preparation.



### Adoration in the Chapel

The Saint John Neumann Shrine is open for Eucharistic Adoration Monday through Friday from 2 to 4 pm. Also Holy Hour on Sunday at 3pm.

### ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS

"Advent is a time to anticipate the whole. It brings together centuries of expectation and longing and invites us to imagine the world anew. Waiting in Joyful Hope **Advent & Christmas daily reflection booklets** are available in church and located by the altar of the Blessed Mother.

### OUR OFFERING TO GOD

#### Weekly Support Offering

11/21/2021

Regular Collection.....	\$10,762.
(Online giving included)	
This week last year .....	\$11,622.

**Second Sunday of Advent Reflection:  
A Mother's Comfort**

I had never experienced the desert until the first time I visited the Holy Land. Having grown up in Michigan, surrounded by the Great Lakes and greenery, I could only imagine what the wilderness might be like. When I finally did experience it, its stark beauty took my breath away. The silence and the vastness of the rolling sand hills helped me understand why God would want to lure Israel into the desert and there speak tenderly to her heart, as the prophet Hosea said (2:14).

With no other distractions or noise, the desert is a splendid place for lovers to revel in one another. But the desert also holds its terrors. You can die if you haven't brought enough water. And there are the dramatic temperature changes—intense heat during the day and bone-chilling cold at night. You have to have proper protection for both.

And then there are nocturnal animals. As we camped out in the open, I worried that a scorpion could find a warm bed in my hiking shoes. Or worse, that a camel would trample us if it came in search of a granola bar we had forgotten to store in our bus. Then there is the danger of flash flooding when a little bit of rain can become a rushing torrent in a wadi that turns a dry riverbed into a death trap.

Many of us now find ourselves in a kind of desert space from the isolation, fear, and grief we are experiencing during the deadly COVID pandemic. If you are an introvert like me, you may have welcomed at first the emptier calendar and the quiet space. But now, what might have started as a honeymoon has deteriorated into a terrifying place that we desperately seek to leave.

In today's first reading, a voice cries out in the desert, bringing hope and comfort to the shattered exiles. Some of them thought the exile was a punishment from God for their sins. But when Isaiah speaks of the "strong arm" of the Holy One, it is not raised to inflict punishment, but is one that has the strength to gather up all the lost lambs, to hold them close to God's breast, and gently lead them home. When many of us have been touch deprived in these last months, unable even to hold the hand of a sick or dying loved one, Isaiah's image of God holding us to her breast, does, indeed, bring comfort.

In the gospel for today, John the Baptist echoes the cry of Isaiah, announcing that there is a new way out of emptiness and misery. God picks us up and wraps us round with love that comes through letting divine forgiveness wash over us and then follow Jesus.

At the end of this week, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who gives us another assurance of God's tender care for the most vulnerable and deserted. Let her wrap you in her rose-filled cloak and bring with you anyone you know who feels deserted and let her speak words of comfort to you as she did to Juan Diego: "Let not your heart be disturbed. Are you not under my protection?"

—Sister Barbara E. Reid, O.P.



**ONLINE GIVING TO PARISH COMMITTEES  
& SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Did you know that you can **donate online to the parish organizations** of your choice (*Outreach, Prayer Shawl, Neumann Guild, etc.*) and to annual **special church collections**, (Religious Retirement Appeal, Christmas flowers, etc.)? Go to our parish website at [www.stjohnskenmore.org](http://www.stjohnskenmore.org) and look for the **DONATE NOW** link to sign up. Any questions feel free to call the rectory.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS  
Dec 11-12**

Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's **Retirement Fund for Religious** collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

Despite a joyful time for many, we know the holidays can bring out feelings of sadness, grief and anxiety. If you experience any of these emotions and think talking to someone could help, please turn to Catholic Charities. We are a beacon of HOPE. Our agency offers several types of counseling including: comprehensive assessment and counseling for children, adults and families, marriage counseling, substance use treatment, diocesan counseling for church ministers. To get connected, call our Helpline at 716-218-1419. For more information on Catholic Charities and other services and programs we provide, visit [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org). Join us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

**Giving Tree 2021**



The Social Justice committee members are ready to collect and distribute your generous gifts. Ornaments may be found on a Christmas tree located near the shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary in church. On it will be *STARS* for children at Our Lady of Hope Parish (mittens/gloves & hats); *BELLS* for men at Little Portion Friary (hoodies); *TREES* for Friends of Night People (unisex sweatshirts); *ORNAMENTS* for Roswell Pediatric Unit (toys or books). All these items are important and make special gifts to their recipients.

**The tree is up and gifts will be distributed on Tuesday, December 14.**

**ALL gifts should NOT be wrapped.** If you wish, your gift may be placed in a gift BAG. Please attach the paper ornament to your donation. Sorting and distribution are easier if gifts are easily identified.

Each gift brings great joy to homeless men and women, children of refugees or children who are ill. Thank you for spreading the spirit of Christmas giving.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## The Advent Calendar



**We pray that God's love fills our hearts and homes on this Second Sunday of Advent!**

Students are hard at work learning about the Advent tradition of counting down the days to Christmas with an Advent Calendar.

In STREAM class, some grades are even working on their engineering skills and making their very own Advent Calendars!

During this season of waiting and anticipation, we pray that God may bless our school community with open, and loving hearts to welcome the Christ Child at the manger.

## Now Hiring Substitutes



St. John's School is now hiring for our daily substitute list.

Flexible hours and positions, including substitutes for classroom and special area teachers and aides are available.

We welcome all with any experience teaching or working with children to apply. Thank you for your support of our school!

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please contact Mary Makar at: [mmakar@stjohnskenmore.com](mailto:mmakar@stjohnskenmore.com) or call the school office at 877-6401. Thank you!

## GIFT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Our school is selling gift certificates once again for the Christmas season. The order forms are at the entrances of the church. Please note that these orders need to be returned no later than Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in order to receive your gift cards by Christmas. You can drop them in the collection basket, at the Rectory or at the school. The school drop box is located inside the school building, use the flagpole door located on Belmont. Contact the school at 716-877-6401 for more information.

## OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

This week we can use any of the following:

Jello, pudding, jelly, tissues, Brownie mix, crackers, macaroni and cheese, crushed tomatoes, rice, tuna, coffee, hot chocolate, baked beans, broth, chicken noodle soup



**PLEASE DO NOT GIVE THE FOOD PANTRY FRESH FRUITS OR VEGETABLES.**

*Thank you for supporting our community!*

## Holy Honey makes a great Christmas gift & stocking stuffer!



Fr. Ryszard's 100% Natural Holy honey is available in the parish office. There are 2 sizes in the rectory, 1 lb. jars for \$8. Also 1/2 lb. bear jars for \$4.50. Thank you from Fr. Ryszard!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

Please note the **Prayer Shawl meeting** previously scheduled for December 9th will now be on **Wednesday, December 8th** at 6:30pm in Reina Community Room. Come and visit us! Blessed prayer shawls are ALWAYS available in the rectory and after all monthly anointing Masses. Pray for our recipients.

## HOLY NAME SOCIETY DONUT SUNDAY



St. John's Holy Name will host Donut Sunday on December 12th after the 10am Mass in the Reina Community Room. All are welcome to join our parish community in fellowship.

## Football Pool Winners Week #11



<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b> 3168 IUY	\$150	123pts
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b> 3070 INY	\$100	119pts
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Place</b> 3066 INU 4123 NUJ	(\$75+\$50=\$125/2) = \$62.50 /ea	118pts
<b>Low score</b> 3919 MQX	\$35	19pts

**RESPECT LIFE**  
**National Night of Prayer for Life**



The annual National Night of Prayer will be held at Blessed Sacrament Church on Thursday, December 8th with the rosary and adoration. Adoration begins at 9pm and concludes at 1am with Benediction. Everyone is welcome. St. Amelia's also will be holding the Night of Prayer from 9pm to 1am. All are welcome.

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP**

**St. John's Contemplative Prayer Group is celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary** on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and they are inviting you to join them for a concelebrated Mass with Fr. Michael Parker serving as the main celebrant and homilist. Mass will begin at 7 PM in the Chapel and will be followed by a light reception in the Convent. If you are able to attend, please contact Judy McFadden. She can be reached at 716-873-2862 or [judithamcfadden@yahoo.com](mailto:judithamcfadden@yahoo.com).

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

*In every age, O God, you have called us  
to be your people, to be your Church.*

*In this time, we begin anew to discern  
the pathways that will lead us, your people,  
closer to you.*

*Continually Bless our journey as we proclaim  
your Good News, celebrate your saving  
presence among us, serve others with charity  
and justice, and steward the world you have  
entrusted to our care.*

*Send your Spirit to lead and guide our  
Emmaus journey as we commit ourselves to  
the renewal of our Church.*

*This we ask through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*



**Prayer Network**

***"Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart." Colossians 4:2***

Remembrance in prayer uplifts the one being prayed for, and gives the one requesting the prayer a sense of being part of the person's life. Prayer changes things! Prayer unites hearts and raises souls to God. If you would like to add a loved one's name to our Prayer Network, simply fill out the form in church and drop it in the prayer basket to the left of the Blessed Mother's altar or send to the rectory and it will be placed in the basket. Intentions are remembered at every Eucharist.

**GRIEF SUPPORT SESSION AT ST. JOHN'S**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7**

**Hope After Heartache – Tools for Living with Loss.** Buffalo Catholic Cemeteries offers a comprehensive grief support program for those who have lost a loved one which includes three locations and four meeting choices per month, including a widow and widowers group. This program is presented as part of the **Grief Support Program** of the Buffalo Catholic Cemeteries, Diocese of Buffalo.

Open to the community; no charge. Call Marianne Hubert, Director of Grief Support at 716-873-6500 to register for a brochure of times and locations as well as other activities, or to request more information, you can email her at [mhubert@buffalocatholiccemeteries.org](mailto:mhubert@buffalocatholiccemeteries.org).

**AREA NEWS**

**Holiday Craft and Vendor Show** on Saturday, December 11 from 9 am-2 pm at Cardinal O'Hara High School, 39 O'Hara Rd., Tonawanda. All proceeds will support the senior class prom. Registration fee for vendors/crafters includes one eight-foot table; electricity available for an additional cost. For more information or an application, email [rhoffman@cardinalohara.com](mailto:rhoffman@cardinalohara.com) or call Rena Hoffman at 716-695-2600, ext. 353.

**March for Life** on Thursday, January 20, 2022 a pilgrimage to Washington, DC. Bus departs 4am St. Brendan (Newfane), 4:30 am Our Lady Help of Christians (Cheektowaga). Double \$260, Single \$360, cost includes bus, hotel, and breakfast. Deadline December 10th. For more information contact Fr. Jozef Dudzik at [ksdudzik@gmail.com](mailto:ksdudzik@gmail.com) 716-276-9288 or Christie Mombrea at [christie@mombrea.com](mailto:christie@mombrea.com) 716-531-0451.

**31st Annual Festival of Lights from November 20-January 2 at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine**, 1023 Swann Rd., Youngstown with a modified schedule this season due to Covid 19. Lights will be on 5-9 pm November 20-28, December 3-5, December 10-12 and December 17-January 2. See 15 acres of spectacular Christmas lights, including a 9-foot tall outdoor illuminated Nativity scene and a life-size Fontanini Nativity scene in the Basilica. Climb to the top of the Basilica and get an angel's eye view of the Avenue of Saints and the Spirit of Christmas. Fr. Roy Herberger will have an exhibit of over 300 International Nativity Sets on display in Fatima Hall when the lights are on (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day). Admission and parking are free. Groups welcome; reservations appreciated. For scheduled hours of the office, gift shop and cafeteria, call 716-754-7489 or email [office@fatimashrine.com](mailto:office@fatimashrine.com).

**It's that time again! 365 of Fr. Roy Herberger's collection of International Nativity Sets** from 59 countries will be on display at the Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd., Youngstown during their Festival of Lights. You may visit from 5-9 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting on November 20 until January 2 (with the exception of November 25-26, December 24- 25 and December 31). If you have any questions, please call Father Roy at 716-852-2076.



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