

December 12, 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

Rectory
873-1122 · Fax 873-3305
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

Faith Formation
873-1122
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."

Third Sunday of Advent

Living the Paschal Mystery

After hearing John's preaching, the people who gathered around him are inspired to take action in their own lives. Three times we hear the question repeated in this gospel passage, "What should we do?" The crowds, then the tax collectors, and finally the soldiers ask. And three times John replies to this question. He tells the crowds to share their excess with those who have nothing. He instructs the tax collectors and soldiers to practice fairness and prudence in their professions. John's good news requires action and sows seeds for the kingdom of God of which Jesus will preach.

-Luke 3:10-18

Masses for the Week

Monday, December 13— Saint Lucy

8:00 Lucy McCarthy by Mary & John Gregor
12:00 Bill Ringle by Lois Ringle

Tuesday, December 14— Saint John of the Cross

8:00 Anthony & Michael Caruana by Marie Tringali
12:00 Jerry Porter by Mary Porter

Wednesday, December 15— Advent Weekday

8:00 Salvatore Scolla by Josephine Cipolla Castiglia
12:00 Kathryn & Albert Vertino by Norman family

Thursday, December 16— Advent Weekday

8:00 Dorothy Rupp by Ron & Edna Fill
11:00 Confessions in church
12:00 Vincent Caito by Phil & Mary Gramaglia

Friday, December 17— Late Advent Weekday

8:00 Frank Cuomo by Helen Avarello
12:00 Gael Dohany by Leonard cousins

Saturday, December 18— Late Advent Weekday

8:30 Toni Verso Burt by Jim & Kathy Verso

Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 Edwin & Virginia Emser by family
7:00 People of the Parish

Sunday, December 19— Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 Richard & Rosalia Kirwan by Mary Kirwan & family
10:00 Phelps & Prem families by Joan Prem
12:00 John Borczuch by family



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.

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.



St. John the Baptist RC Church

This Week at St. John's

Monday, December 13

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

Tuesday, December 14

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

Wednesday, December 15

- Pastoral Council Meeting, RCR, 6:30-8:30pm

Thursday, December 16

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

Friday, December 17

Saturday, December 18

- BS104 Basketball, gym, 2-4pm
- Fair trade Coffee sale, RCR, after all masses

Sunday, December 19

- Fair trade Coffee sale, RCR, after all masses



We Remember in our Prayers...

Those who are ill, and those who have died; Edward Spillman, Jr. Margaret Tracey, Donna Lama. *May they know God's love and peace.*

Welcome those baptized; Mackenzie Rose Packard.

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.

Blessed Prayer Shawls are available in the parish office for your needs. They are blessed by Fr. Parker, steamed, and bagged for your safety. Please remember prayer shawl recipients in your prayers, thank you!

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

Weekly Support Offering

11/28/2021

Regular Collection.....\$10,689.

(Online giving included)

This week last year\$12,381.

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER MICHAEL

Priest in Residence

Fr. Lawrence Milby a retired priest of our diocese is in residence here at St. John's. Fr. Larry has returned from London where he has worked for twelve years since his retirement in Buffalo. Formally teaching at Christ the King Seminary, pastorate at St. Joseph, Gowanda and Nativity of Our Lord, Orchard Park. He is awaiting a permanent residence at one of our priest retirement homes. In the meantime we welcome his presence among us!

Thank you

Many thanks to those individuals who were willing to assist in my *Ministry Review* as I completed my second term as pastor. Your time, insights, and comments are a source of growth and encouragement to me in my ministry. Know of my appreciation to all who had received a packet from the Priest Personnel Board, coordinated by our trustee, Jim Mertz. May the Lord Bless us as we go forward in our call to spread the Good News of the Gospel and engage in our Diocesan Renewal.

Third Sunday of Advent Reflection: Rejoice in God-with-us

It was my fifth night in the ICU after being hospitalized for severe internal bleeding this fall. My night nurse, Antonio, engaged me in conversation as he inserted fresh IV ports in my arms that carried my medications and transfusions. He told me how he came to New York City from his native country, the Philippines, several years ago. He shared deeply moving stories of the trials of the spring and early summer when the hospital struggled with the massive influx of patients because of the COVID pandemic. He talked about the fear that gripped him and his fellow nurses as they worked to heal so many of a disease they hardly understood. He shared how he lived away from his family for weeks out of fear of bringing the disease home to his loved ones. He spoke of how some of his coworkers got severely sick and his secret terror that he could be next.

Months later, his stories stay with me. I'm deeply moved by how he was still present to the sick despite the hardships he endured. During this extraordinary time he tended to the most vulnerable and infirm as if it was the most ordinary thing to do.

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday," from the Latin imperative verb for "**rejoice.**" This exhortation resounds in the reading from Isaiah: "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." The reading from Saint Paul also tells us to "rejoice always" and to give thanks "in all circumstances." The summons to rejoice now anticipates the fuller joy to come at Christmas. But this call to rejoice seems incongruous given what many of us have endured this year. Disruption marks most of our school and work routines. Families and friends gather at a "social distance." Shuttered businesses reveal the financial uncertainty that haunts many.

We live with a constant hum of fear, anxious that an unexpected cough or sneeze might mean a serious illness. So many grieve the loss of loved ones whose lives have been cut short. These days talk of rejoicing sounds unreal, naive, or even delusional. But Isaiah's message gives a more nuanced understanding of joy. Far from denying harsh realities and bitter experiences, the prophet speaks of rejoicing only after social divisions and wounds have been healed. It is only after the prophet puts on "a mantle of justice," engages the needs of the marginalized, and heals broken souls that the community finds joy and rejoicing happens.

Joy comes not through a denial of brokenness and pain. Joy is possible because among us there are those moved by the Spirit of God to comfort and heal. People like Antonio and his fellow nurses and health care providers. People like the EMTs who gave me lifesaving care and ferried me to the hospital. They show us that in the dark days in which we live, there are bearers of light and hope. Joy arises from realizing there are many among us who notice the brokenhearted and afflicted. And then go the proverbial extra mile to alleviate their distress. These are God's agents of justice and hope. They are **Emmanuel, God-with-us.**

The poet, Theodore Roethke, writes: "In a dark time, the eye begins to see." Perhaps this difficult time reveals the deeper meanings of our Advent prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus." We would not plead for God to come into our lives if we weren't in dire need and trusted that God would respond. That trust is the reason for our joy—a joy possible even in this difficult time of trial.

*Father Bryan Massingale is a professor of theological and social ethics at Fordham University in New York. He is the author of *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church (Orbis, 2010)*.*

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

This weekend

Help aging religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

CONFESSIONS



We have scheduled additional time this Advent for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Church) in preparation for the holy season of Christmas. They are as follows:

Tuesday, December 14th from 4-5pm
Thursday, December 16th from 11am-12pm
Tuesday, December 21st from 4-5pm and 7-8pm
Wednesday, December 22nd from 7-8pm

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.*



Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4 pm Church
4 pm Klauder Hall
10 pm Church

Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day

8 am Church
10 am Church
12 pm Church

Friday, December 31, New Year's Eve

8 am Church
12 pm Church
4 pm Church

Saturday, January 1, 2022, New Year's Day

8:30am Church
4 pm Church
7 pm Church



Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal App!

The USCCB approved *Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal* app offers an exciting new way to participate in the liturgy. With instant access to songs, readings and the Order of Mass, parishioners can remain connected to their faith community through song and prayer from the convenience of their smartphone or tablet.

Access music and readings for the upcoming liturgical year with the new *Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal* app. Learn more about the app at <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/faqs>.



SCHOOL NEWS

We pray that God's joy
fills our hearts and homes on this
Third Sunday of Advent!

Christmas Songs Will Fill Our Halls



We look forward to welcoming the O'Hara High School Choir and the St. Joseph Collegiate Institute Swing Choir later this week to perform for our students.

We are extremely grateful for our partnerships with the local area Catholic high schools and are excited to hear their performances throughout the week here at school.

We are especially looking forward to seeing some of the St. John's alumni who perform in these groups back here at their alma mater!

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 or call the school office at 877-6401. Thank you!

GIFT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Don't forget to get your holiday gift certificate order in for those on your Christmas list! The order forms are at the entrances of the church. Please note that these orders need to be returned no later than this Monday, December 13th 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.

**Football Pool Winners
Week #12**



1st, 2nd & 3rd Place

(\$150+\$100+\$75=\$325/3) = \$108.34 / each 115pts
1033 CGR
1057 CHR
1250 CRZ

4th Place (\$50/3) = \$16.67 / each 113pts
1023 CGH
1041 CGZ
1065 CHZ

Low score (\$35/2) = \$17.50 / each 23pts
3507 KNU
3601 KUS

Contemplative Prayer Group



The **Contemplative Prayer group** encourages spiritual enrichment through the contemplative practices of lectio divina. One of our main purposes is to encourage a widespread renewal of the Contemplative Dimension of the Gospel.

Join us in the Chapel this Thursday at 7pm for the next gathering of the Contemplative Prayer Group.

A VOCATION VIEW

John the Baptist exclaimed "The kingdom of heaven is at hand!" How does Jesus want you to help extend the reign of His Kingdom? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847- 5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

If you or someone you know is struggling with an alcohol or drug addiction, this is your sign to receive help. Catholic Charities Dependency Treatment Program has immediate openings and is ready to help you begin a path of hope and healing. Our outpatient program is NY State OASAS licensed and aims to treat addiction with a combination of therapy and medicine. More information can be found at www.ccnny.org/addiction. To begin the referral process, call Central Intake at 716- 895-1033. For more information on other services and programs we provide, visit www.ccnny.org.

Holy Honey makes a great Christmas gift!

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!

OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

This week we can use any of the following:

Brownie mix, jelly, broth, crackers, rice, chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, vegetable soup, baked beans, coffee



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

Thank you for supporting our community!

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SALE OF FAIRLY TRADED
DECEMBER 18 & 19**



Look for the sale of **Fairly Traded coffee, tea, nuts and chocolate** next weekend after all Masses in the Reina Community Room! Do you still have people on your gift list that you're not sure what to get? You can't go wrong with a pound of coffee, delicious chocolate bars or nuts and you're helping the small farmers sustain themselves. Try the delicious teas, perfect remedy for this time of year. Interested in joining the Social Justice Committee? Contact the rectory for more information.

AREA NEWS

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 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.

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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