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December 19, 2021



4th SUNDAY *of Advent*

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." - Lk 1:43-44

Masses: Sat. 4:00pm (Vigil), Sun. 8:30am & 10:30am
Weekday: 8:30am (M-F) Reconciliation: Sat. 3:00pm



From the Desk of Fr. John

Greetings and welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Advent. By the end of the week, Christmas will be upon us. The Scriptures echo this wonder. In both the First Reading and Gospel, God uses unlikely sources to carry out His divine plans. Here we find God's promises fulfilled in the Gospel through a faithful old woman and a brave new girl. God has great plans for you too. So don't be stressed by final Christmas preparations. Instead, feel the joy of Christ within you. Merry Christmas from all of us.

Altar & Rosary Sabre Game. My thanks to Lombardo Funeral Home which is sponsoring four Club-level tickets to the Buffalo Sabres v. San Jose Sharks Game, January 6, 2022. You'd love them — and they are a terrific Christmas present for yourself or others. Tickets for the Raffle are \$5/each, and 3 for \$10, and the drawing is today after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Help out our Altar & Rosary Society.

We have a variety of music experiences to make your Christmas exquisite. For **Christmas Eve**, we will celebrate a **4:00 p.m. Mass** (with a String Quartet graciously donated by an anonymous donor), and **10:00 p.m. Mass** (with Organ). On **Christmas Day**, we will celebrate an **8:30 a.m. Mass** (with Organ), and **10:30 a.m. Mass** (with a Harp). The full Schedule is on the Bulletin flap. Christmas is a time to be grateful. My thanks to all who made this Advent so special.

In Christ's love, Fr. John.
frjohn@stjohn23.com

Stewardship in Faith:
For the week December 12, 2021:
Regular: \$ 6,847.00



Help Us! Without Sunday Mass for several months last year, our annual collections have been affected. Would you help us? As you know, our collection revenue is down overall, and without regular contributions, we will experience problems with bills. *Please prayerfully consider increasing your contribution if you are able.* Help us help you. God's generosity can't be outdone.



"Dustbusters, Inc." ... Team #6 will clean the Church the week of December 19th. Thanks!

JOIN THE BINGO FUN . . . WE'RE READY!!!
SATURDAYS 7:00 PM

Sat. Purple Progressive No. 53 – Guarantee \$ 1,000.
Sat. Black Progressive No. 50 – Starting \$ -0-

Bingo Update for Upcoming Holidays:
No Bingo on Christmas and New Year's Day.



LIVE-STREAM MASSES & EVENTS:
FACEBOOK.COM/ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

DONATION UPDATE! THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE MAILED OR DROPPED OFF THEIR WEEKLY DONATIONS. WE ARE GRATEFUL. PLEASE HELP US.



Oplatek Now Available — Only \$2.00!

Oplatek (Christmas) Bread is now available. This Polish custom symbolizes forgiveness and unity. "Oplatek" is thought to be derived from Latin *oblatum*, meaning "holy bread."

Try the Oplatek tradition this Christmas!

FROM THE JESUIT FOUNDER...

"Act as if everything depended on you; trust as if everything depended on God."

-St. Ignatius of Loyola

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Many thanks to Parishioner-based Sieck, Mast & Leslie Funeral Home for the absolutely beautiful calendars. Be sure to take one, and thank them for their generosity!



Bring love wherever you go. Shine light wherever it's dark outside. Leave blessings wherever you've been. Be kind wherever you are.

A Christmas Creed. I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the Gospel begun in Bethlehem. *I believe* in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town; and whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world. *I believe* in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today. *I believe* in the One who the rulers of the Earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts. *I believe* in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible. *I believe* in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms; whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth; who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them. Who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God. *I confess* my ever-lasting need of God. The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed; the need of new life for empty souls; the need of love for hearts grown cold. *I believe* in God who gives us the best of Himself. *I believe* in Jesus, the Son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Amen.

We pray through the power of Christ for the healing of ... Robert Rath, Eileen Coughlin, Stephen Boryszewski, Leo Schiffhaer, Alice Morrisley, Jeanette Watkins, Judy Kelly, Michael Weishaupt, Lynn McKenna, Grace Lord, Fred Postolese, James Hogan, Rosalie Diaspara, Marian Spoor, Patricia Walczak, Thomas Lavelle, Marge Dutka, JoAnne Hahn, Max Wojciechowski, Tony Peters, Christopher Travis, Rick Stoddard, Kaylin Kline, Elizabeth Fay, Rick McEvoy, Cheryl Lane, James Ruggiero, Gladys Roche, Norman Dailey, Mary Laubenthal, Heidi Sheehan, Beverly Smith, Harry Gray, Sharon Quinn, Hugh & Judy Bondanza, Andrew Dodges, Phyllis Elbers, Alice Kowalewski, Patti Catanzaro, David Smith, Eleanor Szeffler, Roslyn Hawthorn, Kevin Denecke, Mary Jane Lane, Melissa Piskor, Jack Fadeley, Robert Loniewski & Rhonda Strumpf.

We pray for the faithful departed ...
Anna A. Bellittiere, Patricia Ann Labeledz & Katherine Podraza
"May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen."



From the Desk of Jennifer Lang, Director of Faith Formation

This Weekend's Gospel is one of my favorite Scripture Readings. Whenever I traveled through the hill country of New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Arizona, Texas, I would often reflect on Mary's journey through the hills of Galilee. The expectation of reaching my destination was not as extraordinary and spectacular as the Good News Mary was bringing to others. Nevertheless, the anticipation of what was next was just as real and wondering what God has planned, who will I meet, what will I experience would, in a smaller way, parallel that of Jesus' mother. Merry Christmas!

Jennifer Lang, Director of Faith Formation
Email: faithformation@stjohn23.com



Catechetical Corner
A Weekly Faith Growing Bulletin Corner

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent before Christ's birth. On this fourth Sunday of Advent we meditate on the peace that Jesus brings our hearts and our world. Scripture is the place we can find the promises of God. Let us meditate on these truths and allow them to comfort our hearts this Advent season! 2 Thess. 3:16 says, *"May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."* This week we focus our hearts on the "Lord of peace" who came down from Heaven in the form of a baby. God knows that we are in a constant battle against fear! Don't let it! Fear wants to cripple and push us to react rather than carefully respond. This steals joy. God has given us the gift of peace so we can live joy-filled lives. O Come, O Come Emmanuel. We all need that peace & love.

ALWAYS REMEMBER, CHRISTMAS IS TENDERNESS FOR THE PAST; COURAGE FOR THE PRESENT; & HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

Mary Sustains Our Waiting For God...

Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent Season in expectation of the Lord. Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for Him! - **Pope Francis**



Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. She listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as His mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the Earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is YOU and ME. We are the ones who confess that Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make, and what a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

Making Decisions Are Not So Hard...

You know you have made the right decision when there is peace in your heart and freedom in your soul.

PRAY ABOUT THIS: "CHRISTMAS CAN'T BE BOUGHT FROM A STORE. MAYBE CHRISTMAS MEANS A LITTLE BIT MORE." -Dr. Seuss

The Fourth Candle The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes love. This name comes from the fact that the Angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace and love to all (Luke 2:14).



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"Christ born in a stable is born in me. Christ accepted by Shepherds accepts me. Christ receiving the Wise Men receives me. Christ revealed to the nations be revealed in me. Christ dwelling in Nazareth, dwells in me. Christ grant that people may look at me and see your presence." **AMEN!**



Be Like A Candle. It's the Fourth Sunday of Advent . . . be like a Candle which burns internally and gives light to others.

JESUS' CHRISTMAS LIST. Odds are you've got a Christmas list – gift ideas for everyone. But what's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas? If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts. God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler: all He wants is YOUR whole heart.



Advent Waiting. Meditate on the Seasons of Change during Advent. Visit www.stjohn23.com.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 18, 2021, Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00pm. L. Mike Hartnett - *by Mom, Linda*
AND: Casimir Zawadzki - *by Granddaughter, Kathy*
5:00pm. Anointing of the Sick

Sunday, December 19, 2021, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am. Bernard Ruda - *by Family*
AND: All Souls' Intentions
10:30am. Anthony J. Russo - *by Sr. Patricia Russo, OSF*
AND: Joseph Kowalewski - *by Wife & Family*

Monday, December 20, 2021, Advent Weekday

8:30am. Thomas S. Kubacki - *by Family*
AND: Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Tuesday, December 21, 2021, St. Peter Canisius

8:30am. Wallace S. Piotrowski - *by Marrone Family*
AND: Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Wednesday, December 22, 2021, Advent Weekday

8:30am. Paul Hafner - *by Jeremy Hafner*
AND: Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Thursday, December 23, 2021, St. John of Kanty

8:30am. Jerry & Gail Steck - *by Charlie*
AND: Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Friday, December 24, 2021, Advent Weekday

8:30am. Florence Pajak - *by Kathy Pajak*
AND: Thomas Gavin - *by Gavin Family*

Friday, December 24, 2021, Christmas Eve

4:00pm. Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish
10:00pm. Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Saturday, December 25, 2021, Christmas Day

8:30am. Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish
10:30am. Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Sunday, December 26, 2021, Holy Family

8:30am. Deceased Buczynski & Olejniczak Families
- *by Barbara Olejniczak*
AND: Jack Low, Tom & Pat Jerard - *by Laura & Family*
10:30am. Deceased Lavelle & Lehman Families
- *by Dick & Barbara Lavelle*
AND: O'Neill & Jachlewski Families
- *by Tom & Barbara O'Neill*



Scriptures for Next Sunday

First Reading: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28

Psalm: 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24,

Gospel: Lk 2:41-52

The Sanctuary Light will shine this week for Thomas S. Kubacki, by Family.



ST. DOMINIC OF SILOS (DEC. 20TH)

St. Dominic of Silos (1000-1073), was born in Spain into a peasant family. As a young boy he spent time in the fields, where he welcomed the solitude. He became a Benedictine priest and served in numerous leadership positions. Following a dispute with the King over property, St. Dominic and two other monks were exiled. They established a new Monastery in what at first seemed an unpromising location. Under his leadership, however, it became one of the most famous houses in Spain.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday Mass. We're Open: Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil, Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Also view Mass live on Facebook, YouTube, and at www.stjohn23.com.

Children's Liturgy of the Word. Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Healthy Living: Fun low-impact exercises while sitting with Kathy Zawadzki. Monday at 9:15 a.m.

Rosary. Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Hours: Morning Prayer. Thurs. at 9:00 a.m.

Boy Scouts. Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE. SEE BELOW.

No Bingo on Christmas. Next Bingo is January 8, 2022.

Upcoming Christmas Masses

Friday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve

Vigil Masses:

3:30 pm Prelude with String Quartet

4:00 pm MASS - Cantor & String Quartet

10:00 pm MASS with Organ

Saturday, Dec. 25th, Christmas Day

8:30 am MASS with Organ

10:30 am MASS with Harp

NO 4:00 pm VIGIL MASS

Sunday, Dec. 26th, Holy Family

8:30 am & 10:30 am MASS

Upcoming New Year's Masses

Friday, Dec. 31st, Mary, Mother of God

MASS: 7:00 pm (VIGIL)

Saturday, Jan. 1st, Mary, Mother of God

MASS: 8:30 am (NO 10:30 am MASS)

Weekend of Jan. 1st - 2nd, Epiphany

4:00 pm Saturday VIGIL MASS

8:30 am & 10:30 am Sunday MASS

**Merry
Christmas**



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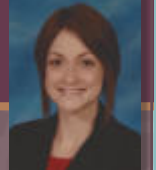
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