

ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

1 Arcade Street • West Seneca, New York 14224
Office Hours: 9:00am - 2:00pm (M-F)
(716) 823-1090 • www.stjohn23.com

Rev. John E. Stanton, Pastor
Toni Drzewiecki, Executive Assistant
Jennifer Lang, Director of Faith Formation
Bill Morris, Director of Buildings & Grounds
Thomas J. Mudd, Jr., Director of Music



December 26, 2021



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

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

Merry Christmas. Today's Holy Family Feast urges us to see in the "Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph" a true "shining example" for all family life. To me, their example is commendable. They live in mutual love, are patient in times of trial, and submissive to God's will. The Holy Family is a model for us all. Contemporary research shows that families that are committed to Church lead longer lives, live in better harmony, have a greater respect for lives around them, and even exercise and love more. As we celebrate Christmas, ask yourself how you can make your family more holy and faith-filled. God offers this invitation to you.

As you read this letter, it's the day after Christmas Day. Please accept my thanksgiving to all who helped make these last few days beautiful. For everyone that helped in any way — including serving, decorating, singing, cleaning, offering hospitality, and joining in any way — I am grateful and thank you wholeheartedly. You make our Parish shine and poised to grow. If you haven't received our Christmas gift to you, Do Something Beautiful for God, please pick it up with our blessing. They are daily meditations from St. Teresa of Calcutta that will enrich your life. Enjoy them.

Finally, remember that the Christmas Season continues until the Baptism of Our Lord. Make the most of it, and know of my continued prayers for you & your family.

Merry Christmas, Fr. John.
frjohn@stjohn23.com

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



Thank You So Very Much Everyone!

Many thanks for all the cards, gifts and delicious treats given to Fr. John, Toni and our Parish staff. We are so very grateful. You are the best! Thanks again and Merry Christmas!



A Fitting Place For Christ...

What a beautiful Church — thanks all to YOU. Thanks to all who cleaned & decorated our Church for Christmas, and all who donated Christmas flowers.

It looks exquisite and truly worthy of the Lord.



JANUARY FUEL COLLECTION

Please be sure to help with our January Fuel Collection. It greatly helps in paying winter costs. Please use your envelope or a write on a blank envelope "fuel." Thanks for your generosity!

Family Moment. It's "Holy Family" Day. How can you make your family a little more "holy?"

Stewardship in Faith:
For the week December 19, 2021:
Regular: \$ 6,501.26



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 #1 will clean the Church the week of December 26th. Thanks!

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

Sat. Purple Progressive No. 54 – Guarantee \$ 1,000.
Sat. Black Progressive No. 51 – Starting \$ 162.

REMINDER: No Bingo on New Year's Day. Bingo Resumes Saturday, January 8th.



SINGING IS PRAYING TWICE!

Thanks to TJ Mudd, Kate Capriotto, our wonderful String Quartet, Choir and supplemental musicians for absolutely beautiful Christmas Music during a really challenging year of COVID-19. Our String Quartet was generously donated also. Thank you everyone!



We Have A Winner!

We are thrilled to announce that John Dziewa won our Altar & Rosary Sabres' Ticket Raffle.

Congratulations John, and thanks

to all for entering the Sabres' Raffle. We are grateful to Lombardo Funeral Home for generously donating it.



HOLY NAME DECEMBER RAFFLE. Congrats to David Burchalewski who won this 50/50 Raffle.

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 ...
Eugene S. Bracikowski, Michael P. Osborne, Karen M. Zoldos
"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

Merry Christmas! We are all familiar with the readings for this weekend. Yet, they are still very meaningful. In the First Reading, we hear that the child to be born is called Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father Forever, Prince of Peace, but most importantly, His name is Jesus, which means "God Saves." In Psalm 96, it is not only the people that rejoice at the birth of God's son, but the Heavens and the Earth are glad, all the seas and plains and trees as well. Today really is a great day! Let us celebrate well, and pray for all our youth in our Faith Formation Program.

Jennifer Lang, Director of Faith Formation

Email: faithformation@stjohn23.com



Catechetical Corner
A Weekly Faith Growing Bulletin Corner

Holy Innocents (Dec. 28th)

Part of the Christmas Octave, Holy Innocents Day is observed annually on December 28th. The day commemorates the execution of the innocent, male children in Bethlehem as told in Matthew 2:16. Known as the Feast of the Holy Innocents (or Childermas), it involves King Herod's jealousy which fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy. This day is observed in the Western churches on Dec. 28th and Eastern churches on Dec. 29th. These children are considered martyrs, or Saints of God, by the Church. The day serves as a reminder that Jesus came in difficult times for us all.

Be Like A "Duck" In Your Family. Ducks are calm on the surface, but paddling like the dickens underneath. Your family needs YOU, so be a duck!

A Prayer This Holy Family Day!

"God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support. Instill in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other. Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, and for their occasional failures instill forgiveness and peace. May the mutual love and affection of parents set a good example. Instill in children self-respect that they may respect others and grow in mature independence. May the mutual affection and respect of families be a sign of Christian life here and hereafter, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior." Amen.

REMEMBER THE POWER OF CHRIST

"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." – St. Augustine



Smile, It's Christmas! Every day until January 1st is Christmas. Go ahead . . . place a smile on your face and be joyful. Our Savior has arrived!



Tips To Have A Very Merry Christmas

There can be so much more joy in the Christmas Season than you think. Here are 6 specific steps to live a happier, more meaningful Christmas. (1) **Connect To The Deeper Meaning Of The Season.** Deepen your faith life and remember what Christmas is all about. It's about Jesus. (2) **Serve Someone And Be A Secret Santa.** Acts of charity make a difference in your life and those around you. Spread Christmas joy. (3) **Celebrate the Season With Forgiveness.** Just do it. Forgive someone you've struggled with for a long time. It will bring in the magic of Christmas. (4) **Make It Fun And Festive.** Don't be sad and don't be a grinch. Plan something fun to do to celebrate this festive time! Do what you love to do, and know that Christ is with you. (5) **Create A New "Family."** The Body of Christ is everybody. If you struggle with family, make your own. (6) **List All The Wonderful Things In Your Life.** Let your ATTITUDE be GRATITUDE. No laying on the couch. Christ's evangelization calls you to live the Gospel. Make this Christmas the best ever — God's counting on YOU!



Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told for us to model. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair. God is always at work. While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to realize this when we first realize that we are "works in progress" — not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past — but a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love for all of creation. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. You can too.



Christmas Peace. Check out 5 ways to keep peace this Christmas, and every day of your life, at www.stjohn23.com.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

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*

Monday, December 27, 2021, St. John, Apostle

8:30am. Lena Geraldine Paydock - by *Barone Family*

Tuesday, December 28, 2021, The Holy Innocents

8:30am. Tom Jarka - by *Wife, Terry*

AND: Michael P. Santuci - by *Sister, Roberta*

Wednesday, December 29, 2021, 5th Day Octave of Nativity

8:30am. Helen Zawadzki - by *Granddaughter, Kathy*

AND: Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Thursday, December 30, 2021, 6th Day Octave of Nativity

8:30am. All Souls' Intentions

AND Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Friday, December 31, 2021, 7th Day Octave of Nativity

8:30am. All Souls' Intentions

AND: Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Friday, December 31, 2021, New Years' Day (Vigil)

7:00pm. Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Saturday, January 1, 2022, New Years' Day

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

Saturday, January 1, 2022, Epiphany of the Lord

4:00pm. All Souls' Intentions

AND: Parishioners of St. John XXIII Parish

Sunday, January 2, 2022, Epiphany of the Lord

8:30am. Brigid A. O'Leary - by *Family*

AND: Charles & Hazel Cook - by *Charlie & Sheryl*

10:30am. Stella D. Bujnicki - by *Family*

AND: John & Judy Staar - by *George & Toni Lesser*



Scriptures for Next Sunday

First Reading: Is 60:1-6

Psalms: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Second Reading: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

The Sanctuary Light will shine this week for Chad Lomas, by Rose Glodzik.



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST (DEC. 27TH)

The Son of Zebedee, St. John ("John" from the Hebrew meaning, "Yahweh is gracious"), was among the first disciples of Jesus and perhaps the youngest. He was the only one who did not abandon Jesus at the moment of crucifixion, remaining near the cross. Jesus entrusted His mother to him, asking him to take care of her. Toward the end of his life, he wrote his Gospel, narrating the events he had himself had witnessed. Tradition holds that he is also the author of the Book of Revelation, relating to his visions on the islands of Patmos. He is often depicted in art as a youth with an eagle and a book. He may also have a cup with a viper in it. St. John is the patron saint of booksellers, writers, and theologians. May he pray for us.

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.

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.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHEDULE. SEE BELOW.

No Bingo on New Year's Day. Our next Bingo is played on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Next Sunday at St. John's

Choir Rehearsal. Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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

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)**

Next Weekend's Masses

(Traditional Schedule)

**Weekend of Jan. 1st - 2nd, Epiphany
4:00 pm Saturday VIGIL MASS
8:30 am & 10:30 am Sunday MASS**



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AND JOIN
US!**

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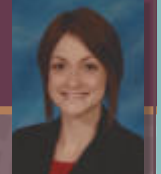
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