

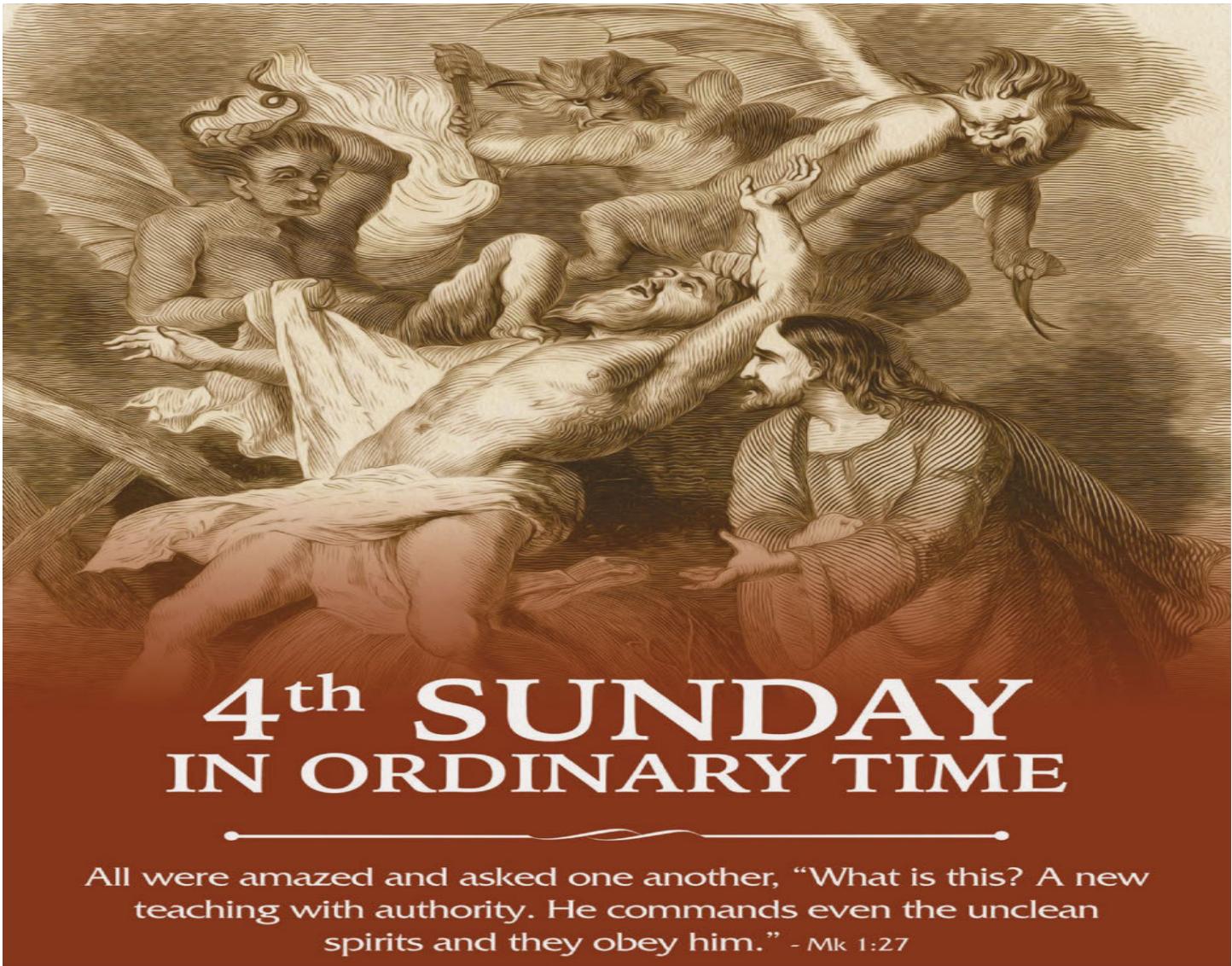
ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

1 Arcade Street • West Seneca, New York 14224
Office Hours: 9:00am - 2:00pm (M-F)
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Rev. Gregory M. Faulhaber, Moderator
Rev. John E. Stanton, Parochial Vicar
Toni Drzewiecki, Executive Assistant
Jennifer Lang, Director of Faith Formation
Bill Morris, Director of Buildings & Grounds
Thomas J. Mudd, Jr., Director of Music



January 28, 2024



All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." - Mk 1:27

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

Welcome to St. John XXIII as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time. I'm glad you are here. I also love today's Gospel because it emphasizes the astonishing authority of Jesus' teaching. The passage is so relatable. Aren't you often amazed at how Jesus' teaching through the Scriptures plays out in your life and those around you? We see it here in a particular way with this unclean spirit. The forces of evil are threatened because Jesus is the Messiah — and it knows so. Jesus specifically helps this man and the unclean spirit cannot prevail. Think about it: we all face temptations and struggles in this world. Imagine the power of God to rid each one of us of these temptations we have in our lives. Our world would be such a better place. The moral of the passage is that in those times of struggle, we need to really turn to Him. May you have the courage to do so.

This week we will have our session on the book Holy Moments. Join in **this Tuesday, January 30th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Arcade Hall** (even if you haven't even started the book yet). You'll enjoy the discussion.

Please don't forget our **Ash Wednesday Fish Fry for February 14th**. It makes a great gift for your friends and family. Fish, sides, bread only \$18/each pre-sale (\$20 at the door). You won't be disappointed so sign up right away.

Ticket sales for the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, Wednesday, February 7th, are moving fast. At \$12, it is a real bargain, and a good way to learn American and Buffalo heritage. I'm hoping you will join in and perhaps become even more patriotic in the process.

I hope to see you in Church for Mass and at all our activities. Stay close to God and you will be blessed.

God's blessings, Fr. John.
frjohn@stjohn23.com

PRAY FOR YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES 2024 Mass Intentions are still available.



FRIENDSHIPS ARE A GIFT...

Friendships are essential for all of us. The Book of Sirach states it well: *"Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure."*

Faithful friends are beyond price, no amount can balance their worth (6:14-15). The same goes with God. St. Teresa of Ávila understood that a deeper union with God meant developing a friendship with Him, that it takes work, and a continuous desire to offer yourself to the God whom you love (especially when you may not feel like it). Yes, it is true that friendships will challenge you spiritually, mentally, emotionally and even physically. We may be stretched when asked to do things we never imagined. However, we also know that friendships with others aid our friendship with God. We are meant to be with others, and they are meant to challenge us. As St. Maximilian Kolbe said, *"In the company of friends, we will find strength to attain our sublime ideal."* Cherish those friends around you.

Stewardship in Faith:

For the week January 21, 2024

Regular: \$6,059.00



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 #2 will clean the Church the week of January 28th. Thanks!



JOIN THE BINGO FUN ... WE'RE READY!!!
SATURDAYS 7:00 PM
Sat. Purple Progressive No. 51 – Guarantee \$ 1,000.
Sat. Black Progressive No. 54 – Starting \$546.



LET HIM GO...

"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" Did the unclean spirit know, when he cried out all those thousands of years ago in Capernaum, that he was giving voice to a question which defined the human condition? They are the words of a demon, yes, but they are also everybody's words. Far, far more often than we care to admit, when God is reaching for us, we look upon His hand with contempt and confusion. When we are grappling with a problem or a sin which overwhelms us, again and again, we forget that we already know the solution. The tragedy of sin is that we have forgotten how to be happy. We look at happiness and we think: *"What do you want with me?" "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts"* (Psalm 95:7).



Income Tax Time

Would you like a statement of your recorded contributions for income tax purposes? Call (823-1090), or write us by depositing a note in the collection. We're happy to help! Most of all, we're very grateful for your support.

We pray through the power of Christ for the healing of ... Stephen Boryszewski, Leo Schiffhaer, Alice Morrisley, Jeanette Watkins, Judy Kelly, Michael Weishaupt, Lynn McKenna, Fred Postolese, Rosalie Diaspara, Patricia Walczak, JoAnne Hahn, Max Wojciechowski, Tony Peters, Christopher Travis, Rick Stoddard, Kaylin Kline, Rick McEvoy, Gladys Roche, Mary Laubenthal, Heidi Sheehan, Beverly Smith, Harry Gray, Sharon Quinn, Hugh & Judy Bondanza, Phyllis Elbers, Alice Kowalewski, Patti Catanzaro, David Smith, Roslyn Hawthorn, Kevin Denecke, Jack Fadeley, Robert Loniewski, Rhonda Strumpf, Heather Gelster, Jim Peters, Joan Hoar, Jennifer Weber, Bill Stutz, Patricia Bieger, Fran Krajewski, Lee Herrmann, Alice Seger, Elizabeth Ruggiero, Angela Stout, Monica & Kevin Zielinski, Margaret McNamara, Susan Loniewski, Troy Blackchief, Janet Shamrock and Mary Lou Carr.

We pray for the faithful departed ...
Marie A. Dominiak, Daniel J. Kosciuch,
Nancy J. Staychock and David H. Weber

"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

Jesus meets a man with an unclean spirit that says to Him: "I know who you are - the Holy One of God." When we meet people in our lives and they tell us, "I know who you are," it usually means they know where we are from, who are parents are (or were), where we have gone to school or worked. It can also mean "I know who you are - a holy one of God." Sometimes recognizing someone's holiness occurs right away. Other times it happens after getting to a person. Be on the lookout for ways for others to know who you are and for you to know who others are - "holy ones of God."

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



Catechetical Corner A Weekly Faith Growing Bulletin Corner

THE PRESENTATION (FEB. 2ND)

According to the Church's Liturgical calendar, the Feast held on February 2nd each year is in honor of the Presentation of the Lord (forty days after Christmas). Some Catholics recall this day as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary because such was the feast day named from the Seventh Century until the 1969 changes in the Church's calendar. According to Luke's Gospel, both the Presentation and Purification took place in the Temple on the same day. In the reforms after Vatican II, the day was given a stronger focus on Jesus (by stressing the Presentation of the Lord), but scripturally in Lk 2:22-36, the events of Purification & Presentation both took place when Jesus was 40 days old. They are thus tied together and commemorated together.



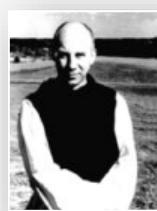
WAY OF LIFE

Take a good look at yourself. Life is strange with its ebbs and flows, the wax and wane as it comes and goes.

The seasons change, we change and grow. It's give and take; we reap and sow. But everything's not black and white, there's many shades and many types and many ways to live this life. **Love who you are, who you are meant to be, and be open to change and accepting the people around you.**



Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" Notice the plural, "us." The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man's identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, "Quiet! Come out of him!" Jesus' word has the power to restore the man's singularity — him — and indeed it does. Unity is the work of God. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places — families, persons, communities, politics — and to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for His word where we need it, and work on unifying as well?



THOMAS MERTON'S PRAYER

"MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust in You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone." Amen. *May this prayer by Thomas Merton be a blessing to you this day ... reminding you that God is leading you and "ever with you." Trusting that God is always working brings you peace and freedom.*

THINK ABOUT IT. Today, Deuteronomy introduces a powerful theme: the prophetic voice that speaks with God's authority. This voice, as promised by God, is one like Moses, who would lead and guide the people in truth. In our own lives, recognizing and embracing this prophetic voice is crucial. It's not just about listening to words; it's about an encounter with the divine truth. Open up your ears and listen to God.



Let Christ MORE Into Your Life.

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; He is a consoling figure, but He is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and His invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!" Be brave and invite Christ's healing power into your life. You won't regret it. I'm sure the demoniac never did.

Understanding Stem Cell Research. For insights on the Church's teaching, visit www.stjohn23.com.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm. Jerry & Gail Steck - *by Charlie*
AND: Michael Barnas - *by Marleah Close*

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am. Joanne Fuchs - *by Robert & Kevin Gavin*
AND: Esther Zimmerman - *by MacDonald Family*
10:30am. Mary Lou & Harold Moebius - *by Daughters*
AND: Gerald Spyche - *by Cheryl Bauer*

Monday, January 29, 2024, Weekday

8:30am. Edward & Patricia Labeledz - *by Gary*
AND: Deceased Labeledz & Nowak Families - *by Gary*

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, Weekday

8:30am. Melissa Piskor - *by Toni & Christopher Drzewiecki*
AND: Allison Norris (40th Birthday) - *by Janet Hughey*

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, St. John Bosco

8:30am. Lillian Zadzilka - *by Joyce*
AND: Susan Mann - *by Family*

Thursday, February 1, 2024, Weekday

8:30am. Terezina Gjergji - *by Albina Ejlli*
AND: Theresa and Nancy (for Healing) - *by Albina Ejlli*

Friday, February 2, 2024, Presentation of the Lord

8:30am. Eva Santiano - *by Oscar & Betty*

Saturday, February 3, 2024, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm. Patricia Vince - *by Cheryl Bauer*

Sunday, February 4, 2024, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am. Bernie Ruda - *by Wife, Mariann*
AND: Tom, Chris, & Greg Bauer - *by Family*
10:30am. Michael L. Wardenski - *by Kenneth & Sharon Schmitt*
AND: Francis Walsh - *by Mary Moebius*



Scriptures for Next Sunday

First Reading: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7

Psalm: 147:1-6

Second Reading: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mk:1:29-39

The Sanctuary Light will shine this week for Melissa Piskor by Family.



St. Thomas Aquinas, O.P. (Jan. 28th)

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), was an Italian philosopher and theologian known as the Angelic Doctor. Born of a wealthy family, he disappointed his family by joining the Order of Preachers. In 1245, he began to study in Paris, France with Alberto Magnus whose favorite pupil he became. His works show him to be a brilliant lector, a clear thinker and an Aristotelian. He was the composer of several memorable religious hymns – *O Salutaris Hostis* and *Pange Lingua* being the most familiar. His extensive writings explored the relationship between the mind of man and God and his synthesis of knowledge relating to this joining of intellect and religious belief, entitled *The Summa Theologica* (1267-1273), earned him a lasting reputation among scholars and religious alike. He continued in the spirit of St. Albert the Great to lay a foundation of legitimacy for the Christian study of natural phenomena that allowed Christian Europe to proceed to the initial stages of the scientific revolution. St. Thomas was canonized by Pope John XXII on July 18, 1323.

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.

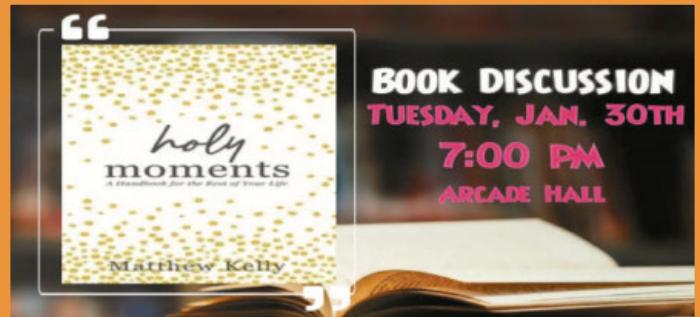
Healthy Living: Fun low-impact exercises while sitting with Kathy Zawadzki. Monday at 9:30 a.m.

Holy Moments Book Discussion. Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Rosary. Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration. Friday at 9:00 a.m.

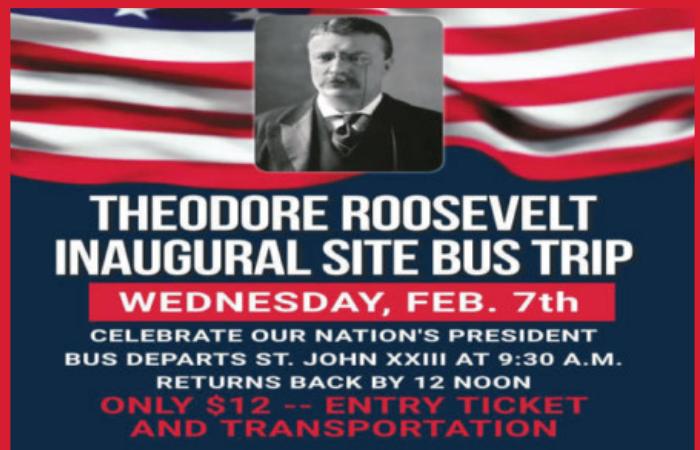
Bingo. Saturday at 7:00 p.m.



Eucharistic Adoration



This Friday, February 2nd
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon





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