

St. John the Evangelist Parish

915 Route 212, Centerville, Saugerties, NY 12477

Phone: 845-246-9581 • Fax: 845-246-9582 • web: www.sjchurch.org

FATHER WILLIAM F. WOODRUFF, PASTOR
MSGR. WILLIAM E. WILLIAMS, PASTOR EMERITUS
DEACON ROBERT CRANSTON



**Handicap
Accessible**

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday- 5:00 PM, Sunday- 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM

Daily: Monday-Thursday & Saturday - 8:30 AM, Morning Prayer 8:15 AM

Holy Days: Please check bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Saturday- 3:30 to 4:30 PM

ALTAR ROSARY:

President: Donna Anderson (246-9719) Meets the first Wednesday of the month

ALTAR SERVERS: Coordinator Joan Jensen (246-9581)

BAPTISM: Baptism upon request. Preparation required.

Leaders in preparation: Patricia & Gary Moore (246-5164)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Coleman Catholic High School (338-2750),

Kingston Catholic School (331-9318) — St. Joseph Catholic School (339-4390)

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP (TEENAGERS): Denise Dudzic (246-2811) &
Gabrielle Baker (247-3454)

COMMUNITY ACTION / FOOD PANTRY: Maria Granda (246-3635)

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: Marilyn Washer (246-5236), Maureen Rothe 246-0305

DEANERY: Frankie Cullen (853-5557)

LAY TRUSTEES: Bill McKenna (246-6065), Bob Howe (246-8510)

LITURGY COMMITTEE: Robert Howe (246-8510)

MARRIAGES: By appointment. Please make arrangements at least six months prior to wedding. Preparation is mandatory.

MINISTRY TO HOMEBOUND AND ELDERLY: Eileen Oswald (246-7042)

MUSIC MINISTRY: Kelly Rea (246-0395)

OPERATIONS: Robert Gauvreau (246-3544)

SPIRIT OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP: Fr. Woodruff (246-9581) Meets Tuesdays 7:00 PM & first Sunday of each month at 12:00 to 1:00 PM (Instructional Prayer Meeting—All are welcome!)

PARISH COUNCIL: President Pat Fitzsimmons (246-4431)

PARISH NURSE: Anne Grunbaum (246-1667)

RCIA: Deacon Robert Cranston (246-3371)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Director Joan Corton (339-4391)

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE: Joseph Defino Sr. (246-6908) , Barbara O'Reilly (246-7810)

SECRETARIES: Joan Jensen (217-7090), Barbara Renner (8:30 AM—8:30 PM Only —246-3424)

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH STORE: Ramona Kemp (845-417-6638) & Elaine Arvidson (246-4468)

VOCATIONS: Pat Fitzsimmons (246-4431)

**Q
A**

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday	8:30	Heather Hawkins (Anniversary Remembrance) - Req. by Anne & Jim Carey
	5:00	Ralph Mayone Sr. (Birthday Remembrance) - Req. by His Wife, Mary
Sunday	8:30	Jack Dunn (7th Anniversary Remembrance) - Req. by Sis Dunn & Family
	10:30	All The People of The Parish
Monday	8:30	Captain Jack Rose (Anniversary Remembrance) - Req. by His Family
Tuesday	8:30	Debra Mastracchio-Legg—Req. by Her Mom, Angela Mastracchio
Wednesday	8:30	For The Deceased Members of My Family—Req. by Nora Drefin
Thursday	8:30	Al Vitale (Birthday Remembrance) - Req. by The Vitale & Houlihan Families
Friday	8:30	Holy Communion Service
Saturday	8:30	Michael Carey—Req. by the Knights of Columbus Saugerties Council
	5:00	Ruth Beiter—Req. by Sherri Mallory
	9:00	The Bruno & Leycum Families (Living) - Req. by Joe & Joan Bilotti
Sunday	8:30	For All Souls in Purgatory—Req. by The Renner Family
	10:30	All The People of The Parish

SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES—

Wed—St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of The Church

Fri—St. John of Kanty, Priest

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24th – 5:00 PM (Vigil) Christmas Mass
9:00 PM Solemn Mass of Christmas

December 25th – 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Masses

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

December 31 – 5:00 PM Mass

January 1st – 8:30 & 10:30 AM Masses

20-WEEK CLUB WINNER- The 9h winner of \$100 in our 20-Week Club was No. 31 Mary Mulligan.



RECONCILIATION MONDAY- Is December 19th from 4 to 8 PM. Every parish in the Archdiocese of NY will have at least one priest hearing confessions during that time period. If that time period is not good for you, Fr. Woodruff is available at any time upon request. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also take place on Saturday, December 17th, from 9:00 until 10:00 A.M. and from 3:00 until 4:30 P.M. in addition to every Saturday otherwise from 3:30 until 4:30 P.M.

MEMORY TREE- The Altar Rosary Society will be sponsoring a Christmas Memorial Tree. Each week stars will be hung that have been purchased at \$1 per name of those close to our hearts. The Memory Tree box and envelopes are located near the tree at the rear of the church. A blessed Advent to all. Proceeds to benefit St. John's Fuel Fund.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION- Will take place this weekend after the 10:30 Mass and continue until after the 8:30 PM Benediction. Evening prayers will be prayed at 5:30 PM. Sign up sheets at the side entrance of the church.

THE WINNER- Of the drawing for \$100 worth of Scratch-Off Lottery Tickets was Ted Anderson. On behalf of the Altar Rosary Society, we thank you for your support and wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Donna Anderson

TOY STORE- Once again this year we will be collecting toys/Christmas gifts for the Toy Store sponsored by The Council of Churches of Saugerties. Recipients are recommended by the school nurses. We will also be collecting toiletries for the Personal Care Pantry at the Centerville Methodist Church. These are much needed services, and are much appreciated. Boxes will be in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST- Will take place at the Knights of Columbus in Barclay Heights on December 18th from 8 to 11 AM. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits, bacon, home fries, milk & coffee! All you can eat! Adults \$8—Children under 8 years of age \$4. A portion of the net profits donated to local charities.

THE JACK ROSE MEMORIAL BEATITUDE SCHOLARSHIP- Mrs. Renner's 4th Grade Religious Education Class is learning about the eight Beatitudes. The Beatitudes teach us to put God first and do good things for other people. Our class is collecting money for this scholarship for one or more of St. John's graduating students. We will be at the church doors at Mass to collect any loose change you can offer. Last year Mrs. Renner's class was able to give out three scholarships in the amount of \$738 each thanks to your offerings. We gratefully appreciate your support and thank you. Jonathan MacNamara

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION- The Advent Program will take place on Monday, Dec. 19th at 6:05 PM. Also there will be "no" Religious Education Classes December 26th and January 2nd.

YOU DID IT FOR ME- If you know of someone who would enjoy a visit, call or card from their fellow parishioners, please call the church office (246-9581) to let us know.

Barbara Coppey—Ferncliff—21 Ferncliff Drive, Rhinebeck

Sally Ann Zollo—21 Ferncliff Drive, Rhinebeck

Janet Curry—The Pines—154 Jefferson Heights, Catskill

Judy Fiero—The Pines—154 Jefferson Heights, Catskill

Fr. Al Pizzuto—The Cardinal Egan Pavilion

5655 Arlington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471-1221

1-718-548-0888 or 1-718-548-0889

Rose Topple, 136 Tejah Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210

315-476-7978

Msgr. Williams—131 Rymrock Road #42, Kingston, NY 12401

845-399-9837

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dearest Brothers and Sisters in the Long Expected Jesus,

RECONCILIATION MONDAY IS THIS MONDAY, DECEMBER 19th, FROM 4:00 UNTIL 8:00 P.M. ALSO, THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVENT PROGRAM HAD TO BE POSTPONED FROM LAST MONDAY, DECEMBER 12th UNTIL THIS MONDAY, DECEMBER 19th, FROM 6:05 UNTIL 7:35 P.M. BECAUSE THE SNOWSTORM CAUSED THE SAUGERTIES SCHOOL SYSTEM TO BE CLOSED THAT DAY AND WE CANCEL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WHEN THE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED. YOURS TRULY WILL BE IN THE CONFESSIONAL ALL DURING THE TIME OF THE ADVENT PROGRAM THAT WILL BE OCCURRING IN THE CHAPEL AND CHURCH HALL. PLEASE, IF YOU ARE GOING TO CONFESSION BETWEEN 6:05 AND 7:35 P.M. THAT EVENING OF DECEMBER 19th, DO NOT BE AFRAID TO COME INTO THE CHURCH DURING THE ADVENT PROGRAM AND GO TO THE CONFESSIONAL. It was suggested to me that I use the Sacristy during that time. However, I don't want to risk seeing a person or people who wish to go anonymously to Confession as I would need to leave the Confessional to go to the Sacristy. Also, folks are more used to going to the Confessional rather than the Sacristy and the Sacristy may possibly be needed for the production of the Religious Education (Faith Formation) Advent Program that the children would be doing. We had a similar situation four years ago and at that time, it seemed to work out well enough to do that plan again this year. I apologize in advance for any inconvenience to anyone wishing to go to Confession during the 6:05 and 7:35 P.M. time period but please be assured that you would not disturb the Advent Program. I want to thank you in advance for your willingness to go to Confession at that time. I also should note that I AM AVAILABLE FOR THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSION, RECONCILIATION) AT ANYTIME UPON REQUEST.

All day Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, from the conclusion of the 10:30 A.M. Holy Mass until 8:30 P.M. Benediction on this Sunday, December 18th, will be available in the Chapel portion of the Church. I want to thank you in advance

for your love of Our Lord in the Exposed Blessed Eucharist; the Good Lord will be most grateful to you for praying to Him in His Real Presence in the Monstrance on the Holy Altar, even if you are only able to stay for a little while.

Please note, however, that since I am composing this letter to you on Tuesday morning, December 13th, the long range forecast may change between the time of this writing and the actual day itself. I may have to make an announcement at the end of each of the three Holy Masses this weekend indicating a change in the time period of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament; please stay tuned; I don't want to put any folk at risk of an accident on slippery roads.

Please be advised that Christmas Day and the Solemnity of Mary (January 1st) both occur on a Sunday this year. The Sunday schedule will be in effect for both weekends with the addition of the Holy Mass at Night on Saturday evening, December 24th, at 9:00 P.M. Also, even though there are two Church support envelopes for each of those two weekends, December 24/25 and December 31/January 1, THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE COLLECTION TAKEN UP EACH OF THOSE WEEKENDS AT EACH HOLY MASS. I wish to extend my gratitude in advance to you for your continued generosity to our parish and I don't want to impose any more second collections than are necessary.

Please remember that there are no Religious Education classes on Monday, December 26th, because of the Saugerties Area School system being on Christmas recess.

May I extend to all of you, in advance, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely, with prayers,
Father Bill Woodruff

P.S.: The Holy Mass in Spanish had ten folks. Our next one is scheduled for Sunday, January 8th, at Noon celebrating the Three Kings. I want to thank the Redemptorist priest, Fr. Tom, for offering the Holy Mass and Deacon Bob for arranging the Holy Mass last Sunday, December 11th; Our Lady of Guadalupe is proud of us.

PRAY THE ROSARY— Take the Prayer Challenge — that is to pray the rosary for the unborn babies—from today, every day until January 22nd — the anniversary date of the infamous Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. On that day, thousands of people will protest at the March for Life to bring an end to abortion. Sign-up sheets will be at both exits of the church today. Free rosaries and instruction pamphlets will also be available.

LOOKING FOR A TRULY SPECIAL GIFT TO GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS? Why not give the gift of Catholic education? A donation in any amount can be made in honor or memory of a loved one to the Kingston Catholic School Scholarship fund. Simply send your donation along with your name and address of the person you wish to honor to: KCS, 159 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401. The school will send a Christmas card and announcement of your gift to the individual you name. For more information, call the school at 331-9318.

ANYONE WHO NEEDS- To report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000 X2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure the our children remain safe and secure.



JOKE— Two lawyers arrive at the pub and ordered a couple of drinks. They then take sandwiches from their briefcases and began to eat. Seeing this, the angry publican approaches them and says, 'Excuse me, but you cannot eat your own sandwiches in here!' The two look at each other, shrug and exchange sandwiches.

DECEMBER 18, 2016



Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:20-21

“Please Pray For All Bishops, Priests, Deacons & Religious!”

STEWARDSHIP CORNER
THE LORD HAS BLESSED US
IN SO MANY WAYS...

Let us return to Him a fair share of

THE MANY GIFTS
He has already given us.

November 2016

Attendance: November 2016 — 1,064

Attendance: November 2015— 1,312

		<u>YTD</u>
Collections:	\$ 10,445.45	\$ 33,088.15
Other Income:	\$ 10,537.40	\$ 22,076.22
Total Income:	\$ 20,982.85	\$ 55,164.37
Expenses:	\$ 18,744.27	\$ 62,299.49
Total:	\$ 2,238.58	\$ (7,135.12)

PARISHIONERS' COMMENT— Most of the things I have, I never asked for and God still gave them to me. I don't think He should have to ask me to share the blessings I would never have had without help.

PASTOR'S COMMENT— Some folks gauge their giving by what others give. Some, moved with zeal for God and His work, lead the way with spontaneous, generous, cheerful giving. Thank God for this kind of people in the church.

“Remember St. John's in Your Will!”

FOOD PANTRY ITEM FOR NEXT WEEK:

CANNED CARROTS



YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Vincent Saturn, Bob Nealon, Judy Fiero, Grace Yund, Janet Curry, Gene Woodruff, Peter Kandora, Liz Parker, Jimmy Paes, John Lynch, Nancy Dwyer, Claire Miller, Aloise Bedell, Irene MacNamara, Bill Swart, Marion Benz, Rose Toppie, Janet Teitter, Judy Phillips, Joe Dengler, Maurice Hinchey, Betty Holden, Margaret Fros, Claudia Toppie, Kellan Ryan, Bernadette Verpent, John Kinzelmann, Jack Lawler, Mary Lynn Ceccotti-Cody, Deborah Locicero, Chris Vitale, Msgr. Charlie Zannotti, Karen Zambrella, Nathan Bouley, Rita Szotyori, Wayne Drefin, Daniel Navatto, Helen & Ed Fuchs, Deryl Loviza, Tara Ryan, Mary Ellen Reynolds, Margaret Hughes, Betty Suter, Mary Bishop, Barry Malmorse, Hunter Patrick, Zenaida Martinez, Danny Donahue, Dorothea Taggart, Dorothy Frankel, and Frankie Cullen.



PRAYER FOR LIFE

Jesus, Mary and Joseph we love you very much.
Help us spiritually adopt and protect all human life
from preborn to natural death.
Amen.

MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

God our Father, through the Gospel and the Eucharist,
You bring us together as Your Church in the
Archdiocese of New York.
Send us Your Holy Spirit, to enlighten our minds and guide our actions
as we plan for the future of parish life in this Archdiocese.
Help us learn new ways to strengthen and revitalize our parish
communities, and to be good stewards of the spiritual and material gifts
that sustain them.
Bless our work, so that our parishes may continue to witness to the truth
of the Gospel, and be a sign of Your love for all people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BEAUTY FOR ASHES



And to provide for those who grieve in Zion--to bestow
on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of
gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of
righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of
his splendor. --Isaiah 61:3

The Christmas ornament was beautiful. Each one of the dozens of indentations on its globed surface acted as a prism, displaying hundreds of tiny rainbows, but overall, it was deeply purple in color. The other ladies from the church and I "oohed and aaahed" as it was held up for the entire group to see. Several women inquired where the item was purchased. The item truly was one-of-a-kind. We were shocked to learn that such a beautiful item had once been ashes, spewed forth during Mt. Saint Helens' most recent eruption.

To turn something as unappealing as volcanic ash into a beautiful Christmas ornament takes a lot of work, and a lot of time. The right amount of ashen debris must be accumulated for the task. The ashes then undergo a great deal of pressure, and are subjected to extremely high temperatures. When the ashes have become a liquid mixture, they are molded into the desired shape. The beautiful colors were there naturally, very similar to the swirling rainbows that can be observed in a thin film of oil on the pavement.

God has the ability to turn the ashes in our lives into something beautiful. Every heartache, every painful loss, every discouraging or devastating situation is an opportunity to let God's work change us into something lovely. In my own life I have collected more than a few handfuls of ashes. My recurring health battles due to cystic fibrosis have a tendency to generate quite a few cinders, yet God is still working to turn them into something that will reflect His glory. Throughout this process, God is teaching me to rely on Him fully, and trust Him to work things out in my life so that others can look at me and see His splendor. I am not yet an oak of righteousness; perhaps I'm only a sapling. As I root my life firmly in Christ, and stand on the promises of eternal hope that He has given me, I become stronger. God's work is far from complete in my life, but every day I'm learning that in order to reflect Him, I'm going to have to endure some pain--if only for awhile.

Like that beautiful ornament, we are all one-of-a-kind. God's plan is unique for each of us, and the circumstances of our lives are too. No matter what hardships or difficulties we face here on earth, God is continually creating beauty from our ashes, and clothing us with a garment of praise.