

St. John Vianney Church

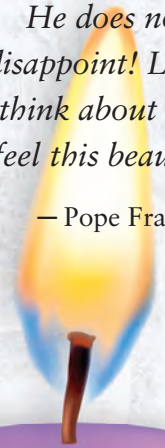
420 Inman Avenue – Colonia, New Jersey 07067
(732)574-0150 – <https://parish.sjvianney.com>
Rectory Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm



Fr. John J. Barbella, Pastor
Rev. John C. Gloss & Msgr. Edward M. O'Neill, Pastor Emeriti
Very Rev. Jay Toborowsky, V.G. in Residence
Fr. Greg Zanetti, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Robert Gorman, Parochial Vicar
Deacons Joseph Ragucci, Thomas Michnewicz & Vincent Brigande
Ellen DeRosa, Director of Religious Education
Nancy Tannucilli, Principal of St. John Vianney School
Jessica Hicks, Vice Principal of St. John Vianney School
Jamie Frame, Director of Sacred Music

"The season of Advent, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty."

— Pope Francis



First Sunday
of ADVENT

Hope

Mission Statement

In the spirit of St. John Vianney's zeal and concern for people, we are a community proclaiming the Gospel in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. The community of St. John Vianney strives to utilize the gifts and talents of each parishioner to create a vibrant welcoming parish. Through our liturgies, ministries, and organizations, we encounter Christ and are empowered to bring Him to the world.

Parish Staff

Parish Administrative Assistant	Stephanie Noto
School Administrative Assistant	Sandy Gambotto
School Office Assistant	Laura Gruenling
Parish/School Bookkeeper	Karen Dudas
Maintenance Supervisor	Poncho Julius

Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday	7am – 8:30am
Saturday	8am - 5pm
Sunday	8am - 10am - 12pm

Holy Days will be announced at the beginning of mass and in the bulletin.

Sacramental Schedule

Confessions: Saturdays 11am-12pm, 4:15-4:45pm
Anytime in the rectory – call ahead

Baptism: most Sundays at 1:30pm.

Babies should be Baptized as soon as possible. Please call the Parish office to make arrangements. We will be happy to help you schedule your baby's Baptism.

Last Rites/Anointing of the Sick: anyone who is ill and or would like to receive Communion is asked to call the rectory.

Marriage: Couples should call the Parish office as soon as possible to schedule a wedding. Our priests and deacons will help you through the preparation process.

Parish Membership

All new families who live within our boundaries are welcome to the parish. They are requested to register at the rectory.

Parish Gift Shop

Please note that the Parish Gift Shop is now open! The gift shop hours of operation are before and after the 8:00am, 10:00am and 12pm Mass on Sunday's each weekend.

Mass Intentions – 1ST Sunday of Advent**SATURDAY, December 2, 2023**

8:00 AM	May Hill, r/o Family
5:00 PM	Anthony & Emily Kopacz, r/o Vicidomini & Kopacz Families

SUNDAY, December 3, 2023

8:00 AM	For the People of the Parish Living/Deceased
10:00 AM	Laura Mendonca, r/o Daughter
12:00 PM	Timothy Rokose, r/o Joyce & Tony Da Silva

MONDAY, December 4, 2023 – St. John Damascene

7:00 AM	Dolores Sisk, r/o Mario & Lisa Ciccarelli & Family
8:30 AM	Angela Lazenby, r/o Attracta Lyndon

TUESDAY, December 5, 2023

7:00 AM	Joseph Feeney, r/o Toni & Terry Feeney
8:30 AM	Fred & Frieda Jacob, r/o Jacob Family

WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2023 – St. Nicholas

7:00 AM	Robert Botti, r/o Pam Botti
8:30 AM	Jimmy Quintong, r/o Muhi Family

THURSDAY, December 7, 2023 – St. Ambrose

7:00 AM	Ann Colangelo
8:30 AM	Lucia Cruz, r/o Ana Paz
7:00 PM	Cosimo Germinario, r/o LisaJoy Marinello & Children

FRIDAY, December 8, 2023 – Immaculate Conception

7:00 AM	Robert M. Saraco, r/o Rose Marie
8:30 AM	Michael Keker, r/o Wife & Family
4:00 PM	
7:00 PM	Bill Tatler, r/o Ann Conlin

SATURDAY, December 9, 2023 – St. Juan Diego

8:00 AM	Claire Konopka, r/o Ann & Don Sobocienski
5:00 PM	Geraldine & Thomas Russinelli, r/o Janice & Tom Michnewicz

SUNDAY, December 10, 2023

8:00 AM	Purgatorial Society
10:00 AM	Michael DePaola, r/o Marge Morrison & Family
12:00 PM	For the People of the Parish Living/Deceased



The Sanctuary Light has been offered in loving memory of William Baker from the Polt family.

The Bread & Wine have been offered in loving memory of Joseph Feeney from Kelly & Kim Feeney, and also for Anna Terranova.

**Upcoming Second Collections**

December 8th	Immaculate Conception
December 10th	Retired Religious

The Prayer Corner

"There is a season and a time for every purpose..."

A TIME TO BAPTIZE

TO WED

TO HEAL

John Farawell, Cezary Olszewski, Agnes Chisvetti, Eileen O'Donnell Ammon, Michael Baron, Alicia Deborgia, Bill Houston, Carol Oberdick, Frances Alencewicz, Robert Kilsby, Stanley Koberski, Justin Chiera, Bruce Horning, Caroline Stauffer, Mariola Warzyniak, Msgr. O'Neill, Gladys Schmidt, Henry & Joanne Sokoloski, Robert Jardines, Kathy Leary, Margaret Anne Kerr, Douglas Castner, Maureen Horning, Trevor Horning, Bill Riley, Theresa Szablowski, Cody Brown, Dolores DiGangi, Harold Carney, Sue Zafian, Leslie Johnson, Rita Weissenburger, Alberta Clark, Therese Clark, Angelo Gallo, Heidi Egan, Carol Kolator, Rita Scarpone, Macario and Linda Yap, Michelle Gargiulo, Sonia Stefan, Maria Famiglietti, Connor Feeney, Doug Christie, Donna Sandklev, John & Maryanne Delutis, Joshua & Amelia Ford, Marie Novak, Jo Ann West, Denise Stanislawczyk, Catherine Buettel, Rose Campanelli, Kyle Brown, Collin Sciahetano, Giovanni Caccamo, Mark & Victoria, Nancy Genna, Sherry Canavale, Domenic Canavale, Michael Canavale, Rose Currie, Nina Laico, Tommy Birkner, Ronald Harvey, Artie Schapiro, Tina Deliaquila, Robert Feeney, Debi Leiter, Jane Fitzgerald, Wayne Bartlett, Julia Skrya, Mary Charniga, Brenda & Dolores Tourtellot, Mary Jantas, Kathleen Baumann, Giuliana DeAngelias, Dennis Costante, Gene Moore, Joel Leiter, Jerry Hill, Susan Sepedy, Geri Lazarowitz, Aymee Iannaccone, Jean Nych, Gregory Kolaranda, Johanna Esposito, Mary Shegas, Nina Stefanelli, Nikoloz, Clare Weber, Vincent Dellaquila, Joe Vitello, Arlon Roth, Edward O'Brien, June Laub, Nick Troiano, Carl Walker, Dan Weiss, Arthur Shipiro, Christine Camping, Catherine Donahue, Marie Negri, Christiano Bianco.

FOR THOSE WHO RECENTLY DIED

A TIME OF WAR & PEACE

S. Sgt. Keith D. Lee (Air National Guard), Major Brian McCartin (Army), John Bridges (Navy), 2nd Lieutenant Phillip G. Faccone Jr. (Marines), Bryan Alexander Perez (Army), Brandon Haynes (Army), Jared Endler (National Guard), LTJG Liam Keenan (Navy), Mas. Sgt. Michael Primavera (Air Force), John O'Donnell (Marines).

Weekend Readings

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

Weekday readings can be found on the parish website.

December 3, 2023

1ST Sunday of Advent

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." – MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Reflection

This first Sunday of Advent, we light the first purple candle on the Advent Wreath. The first purple candle is the Prophecy candle and signifies Hope. This first candle is meant to signify the Prophecy that God was sending the earth His one true Son to save all of us and that He is coming soon. The color purple is often associated with prayer and penance, which is perfectly fitting since Advent is a time of reflection and waiting. With waiting for Jesus' first coming, we are filled with Hope that the Prophecy will be fulfilled. Lighting this first Advent candle is a symbol of Hope that we are casting a light in the darkness of our lives, no matter what we may be going through. For me, my light in the darkness is Jesus, who is also referred to as "The Light of the World." This Advent season I encourage you all to use this month of December as a time of reflection. What did this last year offer you? Are you content with what the year has given you? What are some ways you can slow down, enjoy living in the moment, and be fully present? Reflect on what ways you are going to use the blessings and gifts you have been given to better your life, and the lives around you in the coming year. It's never too late to find your inner light or to help others see the light inside of them.



First Sunday in Advent

Weekend Mass Schedule

December 9 TH	5:00pm	Fr. John
December 10 TH	8:00am	Fr. Bob
	10:00am	Fr. Greg
	12:00pm	Fr. Jay



Please join Sr. Luciana D'Cruze this Sunday, December 3rd, after the 12pm Mass ! The meeting will take place in the Youth Group rooms in the rectory office from 1pm-2pm. We are always welcoming new members! For more information, please call Sr. Luciana D'Cruze at the rectory at 732-574-0150.

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Holiday Season! Before it gets too late, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you from our SJV Youth Group to our Youth Group family members, and some of our Parish families for attending our Thanksgiving Prayer Service & Potluck Dinner on Nov 17th. Please know that your presence and participation helped to make it a memorable and engaging experience. I hope that you found the event informative and enjoyable, and that you were able to connect with others in our parish community. I value your support and your generous contribution to the success of our event. Especially, thank you so much for the delicious homemade food, and donation money for our SJV Youth Group. I look forward to seeing you again at our future events!

Lastly, I would like to share wonderful news with you all. From next year, I am planning to have two separate Youth Groups for our Parish community. We already have a successful Youth Group grade 6th - 8th (age 11-13) in our parish. So, now I am planning to start grades 9th - 12th (age 14 - 17) Youth Group. I hope & pray each one of you will help me to encourage our young people, especially High school kids, to join our Youth Group. Let us work together as a parish family to flourish our SJV Youth Group. For more information, please contact Sr. Luciana D'Cruze, M.P.F phone # 732-574-0150 & email srluciana@sjvs.net.

May God bless you all
Sr. Luciana D'Cruze, M.P.F
Youth Minister

PARISH MINISTRIES & CONTACTS

Organization	Contact	Phone/Email
Altar Rosary Society	Jane Bianco	732-382-1512
Altar Servers	Deacon Vinny	vbrigande@sjvs.net
Basketball	Joe Marinello	908-347-9269
Bible Study	Deacon Joe & Rose Ragucci	732-548-3880
Cheerleading	Jennifer Grasso	732-943-2409
Communion/ Homebound	Joanne Streck	732-382-4147
Cub/Boy Scouts	Sandra Franczak	732-754-5613
Eucharistic Ministers		
Fair Coordinator	Joe Noto	sjv_fair @sjvs.net
Finance Council	Mike Kaplonski	732-735-0184
	Jeanette Wilmanski	jwilmanski@gmail.com
HSA	Jaclyn Falzarano	sjvhsa@sjvs.net
	Lydia Guerrier	
Knights of Columbus	Bob Luban	732-382-6939
Lazarus Ministry	Ann Ruth	732-381-6815
Lectors	Deacon Tom Michnewicz	732-574-1651
Legion of Mary	Joan Wilson	732-548-3359
Music Ministry	Jamie Frame	908-331-0471
Parish Life Comm.	Egger Lugo	732-801-6705
Pastoral Council	Suzanne MacIntyre	732-283-0731
Pre-Can	Deacon Tom & Janice Michnewicz	732-574-1651
Pro-Life	Carolyn Glodek	973-349-4626
R.C.I.A.	Deacon Joe Ragucci	732-548-3880
SAC	Jeanette Wilmanski	jwilmanski@gmail.com
Secular Franciscans	Rev. J. Kubiak	732-494-3399
	Anna Zielski	732-325-7779
SJV Seniors	Bob & Mary Nilan	732-574-3427
St. Isidore's Garden	Maureen Jorgensen	732-778-8471
St. Vincent de Paul	Jim Leathem	732-388-5512
Track	Amanda Miller	732-549-2356
Ushers	Ray Morgan	732-815-1037
Youth Minister	Sr. Luciana D'Cruze	srluciana@sjvs.net

Saint of the Week: St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas became bishop in a southwest region of Turkey. He is famously known for his pastoral care and his charitable deeds. There are many

legendary tales of his charity and generosity, and he later became known as the figure of Santa Claus. May we be inspired by his love of children, his care for the poor, and his spirit of giving. Especially as we enter this Christmas season, let us follow St. Nicholas' example of generosity, love, and care for all people.

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 OFFERTORY:

Collection:	\$ 10,188.25
On-line giving:	\$ 4,618.50
	<u>\$ 14,806.75</u>

*"No one has ever become poor
by giving."
- Anne Frank*



Online Giving

A Secure & Convenient Way to Give to St. John Vianney Church

Donate Now!

No cash or check? No problem! Our parish offers a convenient, safe, and automatic way to contribute to our parish directly from your bank or using a credit card. Online Giving is a web-based application that allows you to start, stop and change your contributions at any time. You will still receive offering envelopes to present during offertory at Mass to indicate "I've given online". Online Giving is very easy to use and requires no special knowledge. If you haven't already signed up, then go to our parish website at "sjvianney.com" and select Online Giving. It's easy and safe!



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The food supply for the St. James and St. Cecelia's Food pantries has fallen to critical levels. At one time the pantries had approximately one month's supply of food, now they have less than one week's supply. Rising food prices and demand for necessary food have caused this problem. Please donate one extra food item each week and the pantries can get some relief.

Needed items are: tuna, cereal, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter, coffee, tea, all canned vegetables and all personal hygiene products. Remember if you need it they need it. Thank you.

The SVdP Society would like to thank you for your generosity to the local food pantries. The need continues for increased food donations.



Have You Heard?

**WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A
NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL!**

The Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.



eucharisticrevival.org

Adult Faith Formation

In this year of the Eucharistic Revival, St. John Vianney Parish will offer a seven-part series "Jesus and the Eucharist." It is comprised of videos and group discussion to enhance our love and appreciation of this most important sacrament. Join Father Zannetti and the Legion of Mary on seven consecutive Sundays at 6:30 to 8:00 pm starting January 21, 2024 in the upper room. To attend please register with Steve LaBruto by text, 732-713-4844 or email slabruto@yahoo.com.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. John Vianney

We are looking for people to commit to spending a scheduled hour a week in the Blessed Sacrament at Adoration. Come adore the Lord for one hour or more in Eucharistic Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament will be on the altar of St. John Vianney Church each Saturday from 8:30am – 9:30am. We must have at least two people present during each hour as the Most Blessed Sacrament may not be left alone while exposed. Please prayerfully consider giving Jesus an hour of your week in Adoration. If you are interested, please call Jo Ann Worosila at 908-420-5083 or Joanne Streck at 732-382-4147.

Eucharistic Adoration is a silent mediation in the presence of the exposed Host. One hour a week with Jesus, to recite your favorite prayers, read the bible, contemplate acts of faith, hope and charity, thanksgiving, reparation, pray a rosary or do whatever prayerful devotion that suits you before Our Lord. You can just sit and say nothing simply keeping Him company, just as you would with a dear friend.



The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is back; by counting our blessings and sharing with those less fortunate, we are continuing to help those in need. **Please return gifts/cards no later than the weekend of December 9/10.** St. Vincent DePaul, SJV ProLife, Catholic Charities, and SJV families in need will be the recipients of your generous gifts. Thank you in advance for your sharing the spirit of Christmas.
Barbara Morrissey- 732-501-2195
Donna Worosila -732-713-3107

Advent Confessions

Every Saturday 11AM – 12PM and 4:15 – 4:30PM
(December 2, December 9th, December 16, and December 23)
Thursday, December 14 from 6:30 – 8 PM.

You may also call the rectory to make an appointment with one of our priests for Confession.

Holy Day of Obligation – December 8th *Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception*



Holy Masses:
Thurs. December
7th: 7 PM
Fri. December 8th:
7AM, 8:30AM, 4PM &
7PM

Let's be sure to honor our Blessed Mother on her Feast Day!

SJV Seniors

The next meeting of the St John Vianney Seniors will be on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 2:30 PM in the school cafeteria. We will be having a Bingo Vino with our Bingo Caller, Barbara Devine. Please remember to bring a donation for the St James Food Pantry that should be dropped off at the library conference room off the narthex. Looking ahead, our January 3, 2024, meeting will be held at the Evergreen Center at 12:30 PM when we will be entertained by the Colonia HS Choir under the direction of Mrs. Alaine Pakla Bolton. Please be sure to bring a donation for the We Feed Woodbridge Program.
Bob Nilan, President

The Pro-Life Corner

If you are a man or woman affected by abortion, please check this website for information that may help you:
<http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/>



Unplanned Pregnancy?

Find help at one of these centers:

Life Choices Resource Center, Metuchen, NJ
Phone: 732-516-911

First Choice Women & Resource Center,
New Brunswick, NJ
Phone: 908-561-0079

Life Choices Inc., Phillipsburg, NJ
Phone: 908-454-2066

Inspire Women's Resource Center, Warren, NJ
Phone: 908-615-9008

Bridge Women's Center, Old Bridge
Phone: 732-588-0999

Or go to optionline.org (Pregnancy help online) to search for a location near you.

Please refer to this link from the Diocese of Metuchen: <https://diometuchen.org/pregnancy-help>

SAFE HAVEN INFANT PROTECTION

An unwanted baby?
You can safely and anonymously give it away.
No shame, No blame
Call SAFE HAVEN HOTLINE:
1-877-839-2339

This Week At A Glance 12/4 – 12/10

Monday	CCD 6:15-7:15pm Basketball – GYM 4:30-9pm
Tuesday	Christmas Choir – MR 2:30-4:30pm Cheer – GYM 4-7:30pm Family Advent Night – CAF 6-8pm CubScouts – 5 Classrooms & CAF 6:30-8pm BoyScouts – GYM 7:30-9:30pm Al-Anon – Classroom 7-8pm Pro-Life – LBR 6:30pm
Wednesday	Seniors Mtg. – CAF 2:30-4:30pm Basketball – GYM 4:30-9pm Adult Choir – CH 7:30-10pm
Thursday	Pre-K Christmas Concert – CAF 9am Storytime with Santa – CAF 6-8pm Legion of Mary – UBR 7-8pm
Friday	The Immaculate Conception School & Rectory closed for Holy Day
Saturday	Basketball – GYM 8am-4pm
Sunday	Scouts Pancake Breakfast – CAF 7am-1pm RCIA – UBR 11:15-11:45am Altar Rosary Christmas Sale after 10am & 12pm Masses Youth Group – 1-2pm Youth Ministry Office in Rectory Franciscans – UBR 1-3pm



St. John Vianney School News

732-388-1662 <https://school.sjvianney.com/>

We have so many exciting events coming up this holiday season including: Story Time with Santa on 12/7 at 6pm, and the 2nd grade Christmas Pageant on 12/21 at 7pm.

So many great ideas and suggestions have come in! Continue to email us at sjvhsa@sjvs.net and someone will respond to your email within 24-48 hours. Don't forget to visit our school website and follow us on Facebook!

Ready to fully live your Catholic Faith? Join the Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary will be meeting in the upper room of the Church every Thursday at 7 pm. To Jesus through Mary. For information call Joan Wilson at (732) 548-3359 or email at jhoynes.wilson@yahoo.com.



Bus Trip

Join us for a bus trip to Wind Creek, PA on Monday, December 18th. The bus will be leaving the SJV parking lot at 10am and will return at 6:30pm. Cost is \$45 and get back \$35. For more information and to sign up please call Mary Lou at 732-710-3201.

This Week on FORMED : *the link for FORMED is on the parish website*

What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

St. Nicholas Day | Catholic All Year at Home with Kendra Tierney

Kendra shares her favorite recipes and traditions for celebrating the feast of St. Nicholas (a.k.a. Santa!). Learn how to make mulled wine and cider, speculaas cookies, and deep-fried Dutch meatballs.

Shalom/Peace | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible

Project "Peace" is a very common word in English, that means different things to different people. It's also a very important word in the Bible that refers not only to the absence of conflict but also to the presence of something else.

Oplatki, also known as Christmas Wafers, are available for purchase in the rectory and parish gift shop in the Church.



Pastor's Column December 2 – 3, 2023

I hope your Thanksgiving was as nice as mine. My sister Natalie and brother-in-law, Phil, hosted much of my family for a wonderful feast. I don't know how they cooked for so many people – 23 of us. But they did a great job.

With Thanksgiving behind us, we begin Advent today. While it's easy to think of Advent as a time to prepare for Christmas, it's really much more than that. The word Advent means 'coming' – and Advent is indeed a time to get ready for the coming of Christ.

As Catholics, Advent makes us think about not just one – but two – of Christ's comings. While we are certainly getting ready to celebrate His first coming at Christmas, Advent also reminds us to get ready for His Second coming on Judgement Day. Indeed, it is that Second Coming that is the main focus of today's readings. In the Gospel Jesus' tells us to be ready for His Second Coming. He reminds us that we don't know when it will be – so we should be ready for it all the time.

We do this by living by His teachings each day. Praying and worshipping Him, practicing honesty and purity in relationships are just a few ways we get ready for Jesus' return. Another is being good to the poor – as so many of you did with Adopt a Turkey and the Giving Tree. Your generosity is a true witness to your Faith.

One of the most important ways to get ready for Jesus' coming is by seeking His forgiveness for our sins – especially in Confession. Remember that Confessions will be heard in our Church every Saturday from 11 AM – 12 Noon and from 4:15 – 4:45 PM this Advent. We will do our best to have two priests hearing Confessions at those times.

Confessions will also be heard on Thursday, December 14th, from 6:30 – 8 PM. Several visiting priests will also be available to hear Confession that evening. The Blessed Sacrament will also be exposed during that time for prayer and adoration. This will be a good time to not only make a good Confession, but also spend some time in prayer and adoration preparing for the Coming of Christ.

To help everyone prepare for Christmas, booklets called Beautiful Eucharist are on the tables in the narthex of the Church. Every family is invited to take one. It is a collection of people's accounts of how Jesus touched them through the Eucharist – fitting for this year of Eucharistic Renewal. Please take one and use it this Advent. Finally, you can find all kinds of good Catholic resources at FORMED – a kind of Netflix for Catholics. Information about how to use it can be found elsewhere in the bulletin, and on the big poster in the narthex of our Church. They have some nice family activities for Advent.

Please remember that this Friday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that we Catholics have a serious obligation to attend Holy Mass that day. Mass will be offered on Thursday evening at 7 PM and Friday at 7 and 8:30 AM and 4 and 7 PM. Please be sure to take time to honor our Blessed Mother by attending Mass on her special day.

Please pray for me – at least one Hail Mary a day. You are always in my daily prayers – especially my Daily Mass and Rosary. Please remember to pray for those who have strayed from the Faith – may this Advent and Christmas inspire them to come home. Finally, let's add a daily prayer for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and throughout our troubled world.

Have a great week!
Fr. John

Update from the Religious Education Program

Missionary Childhood Association

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is a world-wide organization made up of Catholic youth: from baptism to teen years. Called by Baptism to share the gospel with others, MCA serves the Church world-wide through a distinct focus entirely on children. Dedicated to the idea of & children helping children, & an awareness of the universality of the Church and the call to witness our faith is enhanced through global education, prayer and support from children to children across the continents. Participants in MCA:

Pray for Each Other

The Missionary Childhood Association is a Pontifical Mission Society, which means it is missionary work under the direction of the Pope and his bishops. This is an institution of the Church and so is led by the Holy Spirit. MCA members will be encouraged to pray daily and develop a strong relationship with God. They will learn the importance of praying for our brothers and sisters in countries all over the world. We are one family in mission!

Learn About Children

The work of the MCA supports MISSION churches in dioceses located in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Oceania and the Americas. Each year MCA members will have a chance to learn about the lives of children just like them in a different part of the world in many fun ways. How do children in Kenya celebrate Christmas? What kind of prayers do Haitian children say? What are the struggles of children in India?

Understand How the Church Serves

Missionaries serve the Church all over the world. MCA members will learn more about the work of missionaries sharing the love of God. They also will learn how they too, as baptized members of the Church, can serve as missionaries! No matter where we live, we can find many ways to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Make Sacrifices for Other Children

MCA members are given the opportunity year-round to offer sacrifices for other MCA members.

Schools and parishes may offer their children collection boxes to be used during special times of the year. Institutions and individuals can hold creative fundraisers to collect money. Students might decide to give up a certain luxury so that the money can be shared. MCA members are encouraged to be creative with the way they support children in mission dioceses.

The St. John Vianney Religious Education Program will focus on supporting children in mission dioceses during Advent. (The children support Operation Rice Bowl during Lent.) The boxes the children can use during Advent were distributed on November 27 since Advent begins this weekend, December 3rd. They should be returned in January when classes resume after the Christmas recess.

Contacting Me

The best way to reach me is by email at ederosa@sjvs.net. If you would like to speak with me, please send an email with your phone number.

Have a blessed week!
Ellen DeRosa

Parish Advisory Council

This council is a group of dedicated parishioners who meet with the pastor several times a year. The purpose of the group is to provide a forum for communication between various groups in the parish, to discuss issues or questions proposed by the pastor or brought to him or members of the group by parishioners.

While the council has met irregularly for some time, we will now meet on a regular basis. At our November 8th meeting we set a schedule to meet five times a year - generally every other month with a break in the summer. In the interest of communication with our fellow parishioners, we will keep a space in the bulletin going forward. Please watch this space for updates from the council. And please feel free to approach the members of the council with thoughts you might like them to bring to their meetings.

Our next meeting will be on January 10th.

Current Members: Fr. John Barbella, Fr. Greg Zannetti, Deacon Joe Ragucci, Deacon Tom Michnewicz, Deacon Vinny Brigande, Nancy Tannucilli, Andrew Cianfano, Ellen DeRosa, Jamie Frame, Debbie Kalanta, Lisa Pagano Kennedy, Jim Leathem, Egger Lugo, Maureen Lugo, Suzanne MacIntyre, Joe Noto, Pam Noto, Rose Ragucci, and Greg Worosila.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

First Sunday of Advent | Mark 13:33-37

BE AWARE & KEEP WATCH!

Always be ready for the day and hour when God comes again. No one knows when, not even Jesus or the Angels in Heaven.

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FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

WEEK 1, evening lighting prayer

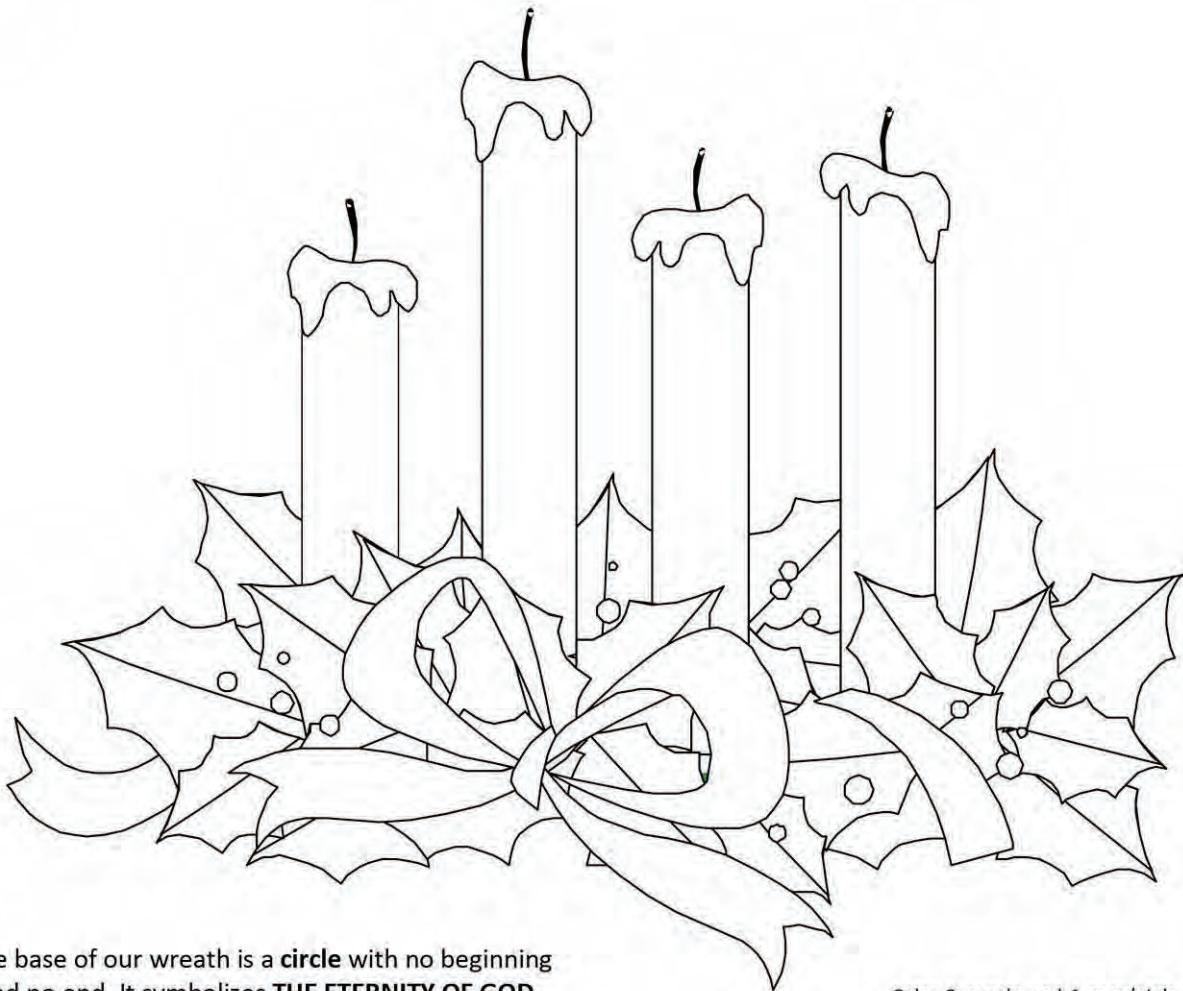
Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord, Amen". Youngest child lights 1 purple candle.

BLESS THIS WREATH

Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessings upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."



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Color 3 purple and 1 rose/pink candle. Draw a flame on 1 purple candle and color the holly leaves green.

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