

# 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 Zannetti, Parochial Vicar  
Fr. Robert Gorman, Parochial Vicar  
Deacons Joseph Ragucci, Thomas Michnewicz & Vincent Brigante  
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

*"For this time  
of 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



*Fourth Sunday*  
of ADVENT

*Love*

**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 – 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**SATURDAY, December 23, 2023 – St. John of Kanty**  
8:00 AM In Celebration of Catalina Palomino's Birthday, r/o RoseMarie DiStefano  
5:00 PM Irene & Stanley Michnewicz, r/o Janice & Tom Michnewicz

**SUNDAY, December 24, 2023 – Christmas Eve**

8:00 AM Francisco Matos, r/o Wife  
10:00 AM For the People of the Parish Living/Deceased  
12:00 PM Bill Tatler, r/o Ann Conlin  
4:00 PM Frank Jazikoff, r/o Wife, Claire  
6:00 PM Michael Rojek, r/o Wife & Kids  
12:00Mid. Felicity Reid, r/o Eunice Reid

**MONDAY, December 25, 2023 – Christmas Day**

8:00 AM Lorello & Picerno Families, r/o Joanne & James Lorello  
10:00 AM Michael Hanley, r/o Barbara & Michael Hanley  
12:00 PM Herron & Yankowski Families, r/o Herron Family

**TUESDAY, December 26, 2023 – St. Stephen**

7:00 AM Marie Atkins, r/o Eunice Reid  
8:30 AM All Deacons Who Served This Parish

**WEDNESDAY, December 27, 2023 – St. John**

7:00 AM Jacobi & DelGuidice Family, r/o Family  
8:30 AM Joan Napiorski, r/o Egger & Maureen Lugo

**THURSDAY, December 28, 2023**

7:00 AM Annie Louise Panaccione, r/o Mario & Lisa Ciccarella & Family  
8:30 AM Alfred Tramutola & Frances Tennaro, r/o Family

**FRIDAY, December 29, 2023 – St. Thomas Becket**

7:00 AM Antonio Scala, r/o Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Sanchez & Family  
8:30 AM Dominick Cavallero, r/o Marie Cavallero

**SATURDAY, December 30, 2023**

8:00 AM In Celebration of Lucas Palomino's Birthday, r/o RoseMarie DiStefano  
5:00 PM Robert Zdanowski, r/o Wife, Gert & Family

**SUNDAY, December 31, 2023 – New Year's Eve**

8:00 AM For the People of the Parish Living/Deceased  
10:00 AM Ruth Hawke, r/o Patricia Berry  
12:00 PM John Ciani, r/o Toni & Terry Feeney



The Bread & Wine have been offered in loving memory of Francisco Matos from Family, and also for Edith Magaletta from Family.



The Sanctuary Light has been offered in loving memory of Laura Megna from Elaine Capiello.

## The Prayer Corner

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

### A TIME TO BAPTIZE

### TO WED

### TO HEAL

Mary & Anthony Virrazzi, Claire Jazikoff, 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 Iannacone, 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

Louis Saporito & Gladys Pavese

### A TIME OF WAR & PEACE

S. Sgt. Keith D. Lee (Air National Guard), Major Brian McCartin (Army), John Bridges (Navy), 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

*Weekday readings can be found on the parish website.*

### December 24, 2023

### 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent

*"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" LUKE 1:28*

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

### Reflection

This fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath. The last purple candle is the Angel's candle and symbolizes Peace. As we enter this fourth week of Advent, we begin our final preparations for Christ's coming on Christmas day. One of the most important things we must do these last few days of Advent is to ask ourselves, 'What do I truly believe?' The Christmas season is filled with so much hope, love, joy, and peace but also the craziness of shopping, baking, planning, decorating – it's so easy to lose sight of the true meaning of why we are celebrating in the first place. Especially during the chaos that can come with Christmas, time seems to fly by, and you are probably finding yourself searching for some peace and quiet. I encourage you to take time out of your busy schedule to look, listen and ponder the fact that Jesus, our one true Messiah, is the foundation for this celebration. When we light each candle on the Advent wreath, we are acknowledging that Christ is the light that enables us to share and celebrate the love and compassion of God. Although things can get overwhelming this time of year, it is so important to slow down, lean on Christ and share in the true meaning of this Christmas season. The Messiah is near, He is only a few days away. These last few days of Advent I encourage you to use the gifts God has blessed you with to share the light and peace of God with others.



Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

December 30 <sup>TH</sup>	5:00pm	Fr. Bob
December 31 <sup>ST</sup>	8:00am	Fr. Jay
	10:00am	Fr. John
	12:00pm	Fr. Greg



Dear Parishioners,

Let us pray together, ask Jesus to help us prepare our hearts for Him and guide us how to share our gift of joy with our family, friends and parish community during this Advent season, in His name, Amen!

A few updates about our Youth Group:

- Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Youth Group Christmas party last Friday!
- Lastly, High school Youth Group sign up sheets are available in the rectory office. Please feel free to contact Sr. Luciana D'Cruze, M.P.F

God bless,  
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	Tim Miller	athletics@sjvs.net
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-Cana	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	sruciana@sjvs.net

**Saint of the Week:****St. Stephen**

St. Stephen is the first named among the seven deacons appointed by the apostles to minister to Greek-speaking Christians in Jerusalem. He was accused of blasphemy for his devout faith in God and was stoned to death by an angry

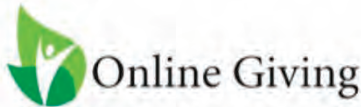
mob. In Acts 7:55-60b, it details St. Stephen's last moments where he saw the heavens and called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit! Lord, do not hold this sin against them." St. Stephen is now known as the patron saint of deacons. May we be inspired by his devout faith and follow his example to seek forgiveness and forgive those who have wronged us.



**DECEMBER 17, 2023 OFFERTORY:**

*\*\*Collection info. not yet available due to Holiday bulletin printing deadline\*\**

*Thank you for your generosity from last week's Holy Day & Retired Religious Collections, as well as our regular collection!*



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](mailto: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.



*We would like to wish all of our Parish community a very safe, blessed and Merry Christmas!! We hope you enjoy time with loved ones and feel the peace of Christ this Christmas. May God bless you always!*

**Fr. John, Fr. Jay, Fr. Bob, Fr. Greg, Deacons  
& Staff of St. John Vianney**

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday, December 24th**

4:00pm (children's Christmas pageant starts 15 mins. beforehand), 6:00pm, and 12 Midnight

**Monday, December 25th**

8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm

### RECTORY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S

December 25 <sup>TH</sup>	Rectory Closed
December 26 <sup>TH</sup>	Rectory Closed
January 1 <sup>ST</sup>	Rectory Closed

### This Week At A Glance 12/25 – 12/31

Monday	Christmas Day! Rectory Closed
Tuesday	Rectory Closed
Wednesday	Adult Choir – CH 7:30-10pm
Thursday	Legion of Mary – UBR 7-8pm
Sunday	New Year's Eve!

### Upcoming Second Collections

January 1st	Solemnity of Mary
January 7th	Together in Charity
January 21st	Catholic Education

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2024-2025 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2024. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

### 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](http://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



### St. John Vianney School News

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

**Winter Break starts with an early dismissal at 11:30am on 12/22 and we return to school on 1/3.**

So many great ideas and suggestions have come in! Continue to email us at [sjvhsa@sjvs.net](mailto: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!

### Thoughts From God's Garden Sr. Gabriela of the Incarnation, O.C.D. "Tell Him a Welcome"

Carmelites love Christmas! We love Easter, of course, and we thrill at the thought of the Resurrection, but Christmas has a special place in our hearts. We are utterly delighted that God was born as a baby, that He became human because it is our humanity that He took, and He will have it forevermore! Jesus is God and now He is also made of the same stuff as we are: He has a human soul and body, and He can never ever separate Himself from us!

We love that we share humanity with Him, and though Carmel is an austere place, with a plain building and simple fare, at Christmas we decorate for all we are worth! We hang decorations on anything that will hold them, we sing Christmas carols as part of our prayer time, we have a posada procession throughout the whole monastery, and we have about six different nativity sets besides the crib set up in our chapel.

The Infant in the crib is a special delight for us, and there is a story that St. John of the Cross, who is often portrayed as a solemn killjoy of a saint, once picked up the Infant from the crib and danced around the room with him. We all want to do that every day of our life: to dance through time holding God in our arms and in our hearts!

Visit our Monastery at [www.flemingtoncarmel.org](http://www.flemingtoncarmel.org)

### 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](mailto:jhoynes.wilson@yahoo.com).



### Bus Trip

Join us for a bus trip to Wind Creek, PA on Monday, January 15th. 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*

***The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller***  
Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts. but when they caught in one of their antics. Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.

***Christmas | Sacred Art***  
Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.

***The 12 Days of Christmas***  
We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.





## *Pastor's Column December 23 – 24, 2023*

I want to begin my words this week by wishing each of every one of you a very merry and blessed Christmas. The birth of our Savior reminds us of just how much God loves the world – and every person in it. The Good News of Christmas is that God loves the world so much that He was willing to come down from Heaven and be born into our human family. In the person of Jesus Christ, God the Son came from Heaven to earth, so that He could lead us from earth to Heaven. That is what we celebrate during this most joyful season – with all of our lights and decorations and family Christmas traditions.

Over the years my celebration of Christmas has changed in some ways – and stayed the same in others. As a child, I used to wake my younger sisters early in the morning, before dawn. We would race to see what Santa had brought and were never disappointed. My exhausted parents, who probably hadn't been in bed very long, would come down to join us as we opened presents and played with new toys.

We would go to Mass that morning (remember, the only Christmas Eve Mass back then was Midnight Mass). After that we'd have an early dinner – my mother always made something delicious! Then we'd head to New York to visit my grandparents. Somehow, Santa would stop there, too, and leave some presents. We would see all our aunts and uncles and cousins, and often stop at the homes of some great aunts and uncles too. It was a long day – filled with family, friends, and, of course, faith.

Today my Christmas is filled with celebrations of Holy Mass. This is my 37th Christmas as a priest, and I am still awed to offer Holy Mass – especially on days like Christmas. It's a gift I wouldn't trade for all the world. My excitement these days comes from seeing all of you at Holy Mass, and from praying and celebrating with you. The Solemn Mass at Midnight has become the very center of my Christmas celebration!

After all the Masses are over on Christmas Day, I visit my family. That's one thing that hasn't changed! Instead of visiting grandparents, I usually wind up at the home of my sister Christine on Christmas. My mom is always there, enjoying her family the way her parents enjoyed their family years ago. After a wonderful meal I will head back to rectory, filled with the joy of another Christmas.

I hope your Christmas is filled with family, friends, and the joy that Christ's birth once brought to Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds! Let's pray for each other on Christmas and always!

The schedule for Masses on Christmas Eve and Day is elsewhere in this bulletin. Please be sure to attend Holy Mass for Christmas – as well as for this Sunday! The extra Mass we attend this weekend will be a great source of grace to us, and a witness to our love for Jesus!

Remember that we will have a Holy Hour on New Year's Eve, from 11 PM – midnight. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for prayer, and priests will hear Confessions for anyone who wishes to go. Most of all, we will thank God for the blessings of the old year and ask His continued grace and blessing upon us in the year to come.

Please remember to pray that Hail Mary for me each day – and be assured of my prayers for you. Let's also pray for peace, and for the sick and all in need. May the joy of Christ's birth give hope to all those who are suffering in any way – and may the generosity of God, Who gave us His own Son on that very first Christmas, inspire us to be generous to all.

Merry Christmas!  
Fr. John

### **The Giving Tree Thank You!**

The generosity and kindness of the SJV parish is as abundant as ever...We were able to help friends and neighbors with almost 600 gifts/gift cards distributed to those in need within our community. We cannot thank you each enough for your overwhelming compassion and kindness. Special thanks to our 7th and 8th graders who helped. May God bless you for your spirit of community and giving!

### **Update from the Religious Education Program**

A few things about Christmas...

First, when you come to Mass this weekend (December 23/24) the church will be decorated for Christmas – BUT it is not Christmas! It is still Advent. With Christmas on Monday, the only day to decorate for Christmas was Friday.

The Advent wreath in the front near the Baptismal font, the purple altar cloth and purple vestments the priest wears, remind us that we are still in Advent. We celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent this weekend.

Christmas is too big for one day- Christmas is a whole season that begins with the vigil Mass on December 24th and continues until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus on January 8th. During this time, we celebrate some special feasts:

- ☐ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph;
- ☐ The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God;
- ☐ The Epiphany of the Lord; and
- ☐ The Baptism of the Lord.

Lastly, the Nativity scene will remain in the front of the Church during the entire Christmas Season. The Nativity figures we have at St. John Vianney Parish are very special – they were hand-carved, from olive wood, in the Holy Land. The manger is also made from olive wood from the Holy Land. Please be sure to come up to the Nativity scene to pray to Jesus during the Christmas season.

Classes resume Our Monday evening religious education classes will have a recess on December 25th and January 1st. Classes will resume on Monday January 8th – the Feast of the Baptism.

May you be richly blessed this Christmas season!  
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

Fourth Sunday of Advent | Luke 1:26-38

**BE AWARE, PREPARE, REJOICE, SEE THE LIGHT!**

The Angel Gabriel came to Mary with good news. She would give birth to Jesus, and her cousin Elizabeth would give birth to John the Baptist, for nothing is impossible with God.

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## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

**1<sup>ST</sup> Day of Winter** even in the short daylight hours

### We See the Light!

4 bright candles — Jesus is coming soon...

### WEEK 4, evening lighting prayer

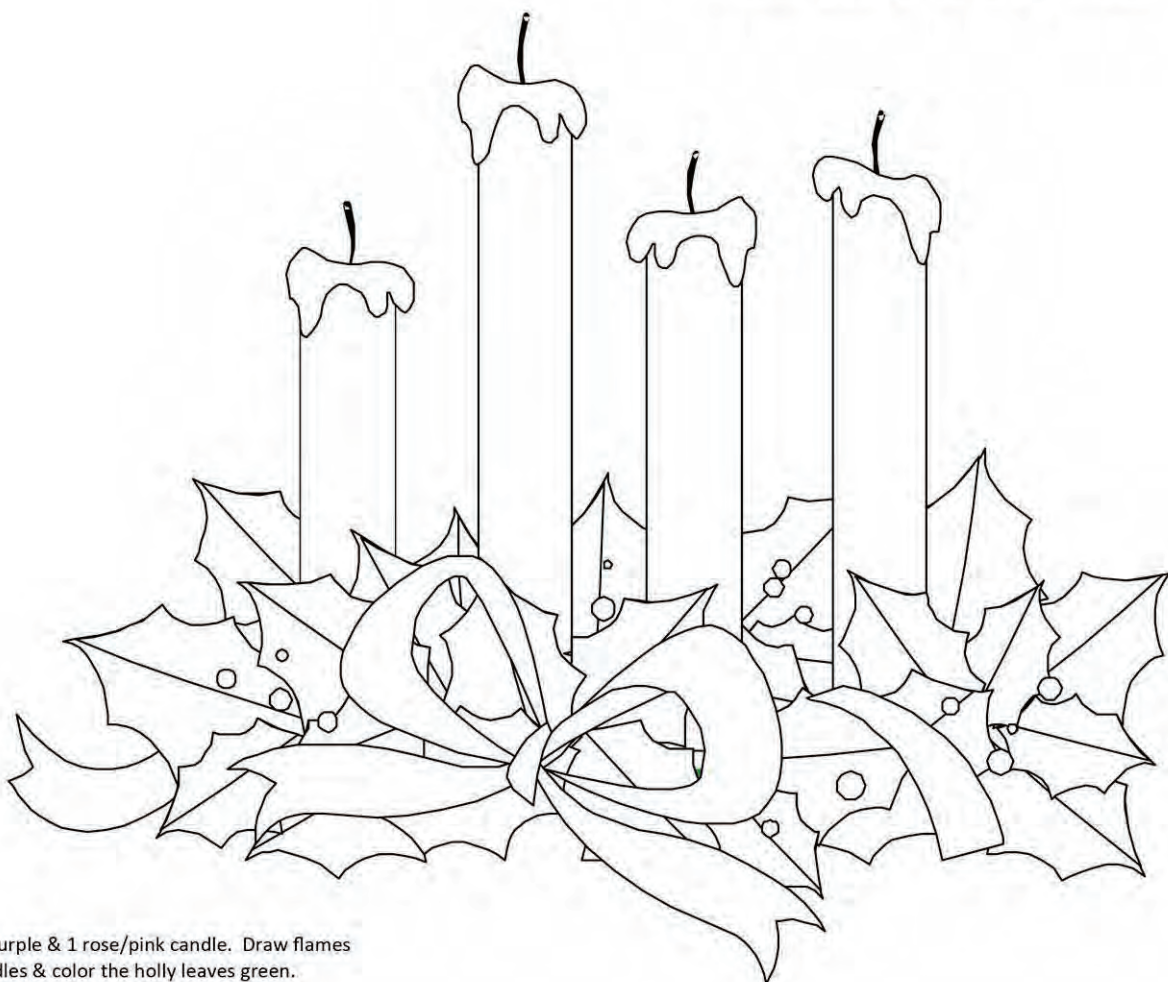
*Prayer said by Father or head of household*

"O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy Grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Father or head of household lights all the candles.

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