



WE ARE A PROUD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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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 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

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

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 – 4TH Sunday in Ordinary Time**SATURDAY, January 27, 2024 – St. Fabian & St. Sebastian**

8:00 AM	Jesus Cruz, death anniversary r/o Ana Paz
5:00 PM	Matthew & Genevieve Cyrana r/o Family

SUNDAY, January 28, 2024

8:00 AM	William Mills r/o Felicia Mills
10:00 AM	Nicolina & Rocco Famiglietti r/o son Gerardo
12:00 PM	James Noto r/o Noto Family

MONDAY, January 29, 2024

7:00 AM	Deceased Mount Priests
8:30 AM	Kathleen Finn, r/o Bob & Phyllis Hamel

TUESDAY, January 30, 2024

7:00 AM	Samuel Pecora, r/o Donald, Jessica & Stephen Boyle
8:30 AM	German Hernandez, r/o the Muhi Family

WEDNESDAY, January 31, 2024 – St. John Bosco

7:00 AM	For the Healing of A.J. Papanero, r/o Ann Louise Bongiovi
8:30 AM	Anne (Nancy) Darvalics, r/o Peggy Therriault

THURSDAY, February 1, 2024

7:00 AM	Dolores Parisi, r/o Colonia Natural Pharmacy
8:30 AM	Eileen Fabricatore, r/o Lisa & Lena Peigelbeck

FRIDAY, February 2, 2024

7:00 AM	Ruth Hayes, r/o Christine Goros
8:30 AM	Gail Zusi, r/o Gibby

SATURDAY, February 3, 2024 – St. Blaise

8:00 AM	Maryann Robson, r/o Roy & Donna Sandklev
9:30 AM	First Penance in the Church
5:00 PM	Karen Foerschl, r/o Nisky Family

SUNDAY, February 4, 2024

8:00 AM	John Sedlak, r/o David & Jackie
10:00 AM	For the People of the Parish Living/Deceased
12:00 PM	Kathleen Reichert, r/o Nisky Family



The Bread and Wine
have been offered
in loving memory of
Delia Meyer
from Mary Swiderski.

Weekend Mass Schedule

February 3 RD	5:00pm	Fr. Greg
February 4 TH	8:00am	Fr. Bob
	10:00am	Fr. John
	12:00pm	Fr. Jay

The Prayer Corner

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

A TIME TO BAPTIZE

Gemma Perona & Ryder Nolan McGhee

TO WED

TO HEAL

Bob Nilan, Ruth Kopec, Kelly Yeo, Maria Villacreses, Barbara Monaco, Florence Peragallo, Patricia LaBruto, 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, 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, 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, Susan Sepedy, Aymee Iannacone, Jean Nych, Gregory Kolaranda, Johanna Esposito, 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

Geraldine Lazarowicz, Margaret Therriault

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), 1LT Ryan Feeney (National Guard)

Weekend Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

Weekday readings can be found on the parish website.

January 28, 2024

4TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties." – 1 CORINTHIANS 7:32

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word "pray" instead of the word "worry" in the future. Then spend your time praying instead of worrying.

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Did you ever feel foolish or ashamed
For actions or words that escaped?

Uncertainty confused you,
Or your hopes were dashed,
So you acted out like a child.

Anger? Resentment? Withdrawal? Blame?
What was your reaction?

Stop then. Be still.
Sit in the silence of the Lord.
Present yourself to Him. Fragile, human.
Let it shatter and fall to pieces.
May it all gather upon His grace.

And when you have nothing left,
No more strength or pride of your own,
Then God will begin working wonders.

He will not limit your possibilities.
Any part of you can change.
Nothing is set in stone.

If a man was raised from the dead,
And sits upon a heavenly throne,
Then all things are possible.

Believe in the Resurrection,
Ask, and be made new again.



Hello St. John Vianney Parish community!

Hope you are all staying nice and warm during these cold winter days. As for the social aspect, Happy National Catholic Schools Week everyone! National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Catholic Schools Week has traditionally been held the last week in January. This whole week the Catholic School and Churches will have so many activities. We cannot wait to celebrate with our students, Staff & Faculty members, families and community. So many fun things are on the horizon at SJV! Schools typically observe the week with Masses, assemblies, and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members to celebrate. Hope you can join us and encourage others to join us too. Especially our Young People!

As a matter of fact, I have something to share with our young women. Some may feel interested to do something different before Lent begins. Our Religious Teachers Filippini sisters are having a Discernment Retreat for the Young Women ages 16 – 30 on Feb 2nd - 4th at Villa Walsh, Morristown, NJ. This is a perfect retreat for our young women who need help to discern their future Vocation/Ministry. Please "Don't Be Afraid" to sign up for this retreat. Our Religious Teachers Filippini sisters are willing to guide young women to find their real CALLING! Please check out the Retreat flyer in the bulletin. Also, we sisters have a beautiful St. Lucy Filippini Vocation Statue in our convent. The purpose of the Vocation Statue is to encourage families to pray and promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. If you are interested in taking this Vocation Statue into your home for a week, please contact me, Sr. Luciana D'Cruze, MPF, phone number is (732) 574-0150 and email address is srluciana@sjvs.net.

Lastly, I am still looking forward to having more High School youth members join our Youth Group. Please share our information with young people in our Parish community. Information is also available on our Parish website, Youth Group Facebook page, and at the Parish office.

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	Ellen DeRosa	ederosa@sjvs.net
Fair Coordinator	Joe Noto	sjv_fair@sjvs.net
Finance Council	Jeanette Wilmanski	jwilmanski@gmail.com
HSA	Mike Kaplonski	732-735-0184
	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-Caná	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. Francis de Sales



St. Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste, Armenia and was well known for his good work to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Persecution was prevalent during this time, and he was forced to flee and wound-up living as a hermit where he made friends with the animals. It is said that when officials caught St. Blaise, he was immersed in prayer with wild animals surrounding him. He is most well-known for curing on command a young boy who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. This led to St. Blaise becoming the patron saint for throat ailments. Today, we honor him by blessing throats on his feast day. May we follow the example of St. Blaise, to willingly reach out to help those who are in need of healing.

JANUARY 21, 2024 OFFERTORY:

Collection:	\$ 10,324.25
On-line giving:	\$ 4,627.50
	<u>\$ 14,951.75</u>



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****URGENT UPDATE**

The food supply for the St. James and St. Cecelia's Food pantries has fallen to critical levels. The demand for food has continued to increase. Fortunately, your generosity has continued to increase. If you could continue to donate one extra food item per week, the supply would meet the demand. Rising food prices and demand for necessary food have caused this problem.

Needed item update: peanut butter, jelly, coffee, tea, cake mixes, tuna, SPAM, canned chicken, rice (1 or 2 lb. bags), personal hygiene products are always needed. 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 meditation 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.

***Blessing of Throats for the
Feast of Saint Blase
Saturday, February 3rd at 8 AM Mass
and following the 5 PM Mass.***

This Week At A Glance
1/29 – 2/4

Monday	Basketball – GYM 4:30-9pm CCD 6:15pm CubScouts – LBR 7-8pm
Tuesday	RCIA – EMR 11am Cheer – GYM 4:30-7:30pm HAS Meeting – CAF 7-8pm Al-Anon – 7pm Classroom Boy Scouts – GYM 7:30-9:30pm
Wednesday	Basketball – GYM 4:30-9pm High School YG - UBR 7pm
Thursday	Basketball – GYM 3-4:30pm Cheer – GYM 4:30-7:30pm Legion of Mary UBR 7pm Basketball – GYM 8-9pm
Friday	Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service – CH 9:30am School Early Dismissal 12:15pm Basketball – GYM 5-9pm YG Parent Meeting – REC. 7pm
Saturday	First Penance – CH 9:30am Pop Culture & Sports Trivia Night (18+) – CAF 6:30-9:30pm
Sunday	Scout Sunday Mass 10am Parish Breakfast - CAF 11am Polar Plunge – Sea Bright, NJ 12:30pm Baptism CH 1:30pm Bible study UBR 6:30 pm

Upcoming Second Collections

February 14th	Ash Wednesday
February 18th	Catholic Spirit

IGNATIUS SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

St. Ignatius Loyola developed the Spiritual Exercises to help people enhance their prayer life and deepen their relationship with God. Learn and experience this wonderful form of prayer in a special 8-week program at our parish. The Spiritual Exercises will be held on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm, beginning February 15, 2024. For more information, or to sign up for the Exercises, contact Jay Jorgensen at jaymaur@aol.com.

**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:



**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>**

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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/>

Please join us at St. John Vianney School for our Open House as we kick off Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 28, 2024, following the Parish Breakfast after the 10am Mass. Come see all we have to offer from 11:30am – 2:00pm!

We have many exciting events coming up in the new year including our 18+ Pop Culture & Sports Trivia Night Fundraiser on Saturday, February 3rd. Please see the school website for more details!

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.



ATTENTION

Anyone wishing for a record of their Church contributions for the year 2022 is asked to send in a stamped self-addressed envelope with their envelope number to the Rectory or drop it into the collection basket.



It's "Souper" Bowl Time!

Update: we are now at 80% of our goal with 500 cans. Thank you!

Please team up with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to tackle hunger. Each day residents of Woodbridge Township go to bed hungry. You can help by donating cans of soup to help those in need. This year our goal is 500 cans of soup. With your help we can make this a reality. Your food donations will help the food pantries at St. James and St. Cecelia's Churches. Thank you for your generosity.

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

A Bible Study on the Joyful Mysteries: The Presentation

What is the importance of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple? Join Dr. James Protho and Dr. Ben Akers as they unpack this great mystery and how it can apply to your spiritual life.

Exorcisms: What Catholics Need to Know | Chris Stefanick Show

Scripture says, "Be sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in your faith." In other words, the Christian life involves spiritual combat. But a lot of Catholics aren't really familiar with this idea. So to start unpacking it, we're talking to Fr. Chad Ripperger, an exorcist priest.

Saint John Bosco: Mission to Love Flavio

Insinna gives a winning performance as John Bosco, the great priest and educator of youth. Beautifully filmed in Italy, this epic movie dramatizes the many challenges that he had to overcome from his childhood all the way to founding his religious order.

Bus Trip

Join us for a bus trip to Wind Creek, PA on Monday, February 19th. 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.

Pastor's Column : January 27 - 28, 2024

When I was first asked to become a pastor back in 1996, I was very hesitant to do so. I had been a priest for about 9 years and loved being a priest. But I was afraid that becoming a pastor – and taking on all the administrative and managerial tasks that are part of running a parish – would give me less time for more spiritual parts of the priesthood that I enjoyed so very much.

Bishop Edward Hughes, of blessed memory, gave me some very good advice. He told me that the best way to avoid that was to make sure I kept doing the things I loved about being a priest. I knew that he meant what he said, because even when he was our bishop, he used to teach 8th grade religion at the cathedral's parish school.

Since, like Bishop Hughes, I always loved to teach about the Faith, I decided that – no matter how much else I had to do as a pastor – I would always make time to teach in my parish school and CCD Program. As many of you know, I currently enjoy teaching 8th grade religion in our parish school each week, and various CCD classes throughout the year.

Today we begin Catholic Schools Week in our country. It is a time to think about the role our Catholic Schools play in teaching the faith and many other things. The following facts come from Notre Dame University, which does a lot of excellent research about and support work for parish schools like our own:

□ Catholic Schools in America educate about 2 million students – making them the largest non - public school system in the country. By educating that many children, Catholic Schools collectively save U. S. taxpayers about \$20 billion – yes, billion, - annually.

□ Catholic Schools do this with a low teacher to student ratio – currently 1:12, and with an emphasis not only on religion, but on strong academics, too. For this reason, about 99% of Catholic School students finish and graduate high school, with nearly 90% going on to four - year colleges. That they are schooled to be concerned and active about the world in which they live is demonstrated by the fact the several surveys show that graduates of Catholic Schools are much more likely than others to vote in elections when they reach adulthood!

□ Most importantly, Catholic School students not only learn about our Faith in religion classes but spend each school day in an environment permeated by the Gospel. After every school Mass, students in our own parish school spend time in quiet thanksgiving in Church – learning the beautiful art of silent prayer. They go to Confession regularly, pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent, and will attend Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament this Friday. Doing all this allows them to experience the culture of Catholicism – reinforcing and greatly deepening the Faith their parents first shared with them at home.

Another contribution that our schools make to our society is subtle, but no less important. The existence of our Catholic Schools gives people an alternative choice for their children's education. History has shown us, time and again, that having a variety of good educational options is a great guardian of democracy and freedom, since it prevents any one person or group from having a monopoly on the formation of the next generation.

You can find more information about Catholic Schools Week elsewhere in this bulletin, and on the parish and school website. You can also speak with Mrs. Nancy Tannucilli, our wonderful principal about visiting and touring our school. I know I'm looking forward to enjoying this week with our students, their dedicated teachers, and the hardworking administrators and school support staff. To them we all owe great debt of thanks.

Please say a Hail Mary for me today, and every day. Let's all be sure to add a prayer for peace.

Have a great week!
Fr. John

Religious Education Updates

Respect Life Contest

Students in all grades have the opportunity to participate in the Respect Life Contest. Please encourage your children to participate! The due date for entries is February 5, 2024. Holy Childhood Association

We hope the students remembered to use the mite boxes they were given at the beginning of Advent to save some money for the Holy Childhood Association. Mite boxes should be returned during January. Some have already been returned. I will wait until the end of January before sending the donations.

Mass Replaces Class

This weekend, January 27/28, 2024 is one of the option weekends for Mass Replaces Class. Children who check-in for Mass this weekend will not have to come to class on Monday the 29th. Remember, each child can select one of the option weekends. Thus, children who used the option in December are not eligible for this option in January.

First Penance

Over 70 children (both religious education students and school students) will be coming to Church next Saturday, February 3 at 9:30 to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. Please keep them in your prayers as they take this step in their preparation for First Communion in May.

Feedback Forms

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete and return the feedback forms.

Absences

Please remember to send an email if your child will be absent from a Monday evening religious education class. The email should include the name of the child, the grade, and the reason for the absence. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

Lenten Book Study with Fr. John

Fr. John will lead a book study on the following Fridays of Lent following the 3 PM Stations of the Cross: March 1st, 8th, and 15th. It is not necessary to register, nor is there any cost – but please call the rectory or see Fr. John for a copy of the book. The book is called: Real Presence: What does it mean and why does it matter? Father will consider offering this book study in the evening as well, if there is sufficient requests for that.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 1:21-28

Jesus teaches and heals with authority in the synagogue.

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J _____

_____ e _____ and

_____ s

with _____ u _____

in the s _____ .

Fill in the blanks with the underlined words from above.

Just like the people in Jesus' community, we still ask Jesus to help and heal us through daily prayer and attending mass.

- ➔ Where can we hear the Good News?
- ➔ How can praying help us in our daily lives?
- ➔ Who in our community can help us keep our bodies healthy?



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