



*All-powerful Father, Christ your Son became man for us and was presented in the temple. May he free our hearts from sin and bring us into your presence. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## 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

PRESENTATION  
OF THE LORD

**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 – Presentation of the Lord****SATURDAY, February 3, 2024 – St. Blaise**

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

**SUNDAY, February 4, 2024 – Scout Sunday**

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

**MONDAY, February 5, 2024 – St. Agatha**

7:00 AM	Paul Chelak, r/o Karen Dolan
8:30 AM	Mary Danatzko, r/o Elena Bexiga

**TUESDAY, February 6, 2024 – St. Paul Miki & Co.**

7:00 AM	Enza Pagano, r/o Children & Grandchildren
8:30 AM	Mary O'Donnell on 20th Anniversary

**WEDNESDAY, February 7, 2024**

7:00 AM	Vasilios Kales, r/o Tiffany Vitollo
8:30 AM	Rose & Filipe Gambotto, r/o Gambotto Family

**THURSDAY, February 8, 2024 – St. Jerome Emiliani**

7:00 AM	Hedy Moskwa, r/o Tony Moskwa
8:30 AM	John & Gertrude Gearity, r/o Gertrude Karabin

**FRIDAY, February 9, 2024**

7:00 AM	Healing of A.J. Papanero, r/o Ann Louise Bongiovi
8:30 AM	Marcel Bartels, r/o Faqmily

**SATURDAY, February 10, 2024 – St. Scholastica**

8:00 AM	In Celebration of Lorena Laverde's Birthday, r/o RoseMarie DeStefano
10:00 AM	<i>Memorial Mass for Gladys Schmidt</i>
5:00 PM	Horning/Kordelski Family, r/o Family

**SUNDAY, February 11, 2024**

8:00 AM	For the People of the Parish Living/Deceased
10:00 AM	Giovanna & Vito Fabiano, r/o daughter Maddalena
12:00 PM	Patrick Tanzola Sr., r/o Elena & Jose Alves

**Please join us after the 10am Mass this Sunday for a Parish Breakfast in the cafeteria, hosted by our Scout Troop 523 for Scout Sunday!**

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

February 10 <sup>TH</sup>	5:00pm	Fr. John
February 11 <sup>TH</sup>	8:00am	Fr. Greg
	10:00am	Fr. Jay
	12:00pm	Fr. Bob

**Memorial Mass for Miss Gladys Schmidt****Saturday, February 10th at 10 AM**

Please join us in praying for the blessed and happy repose of the soul of Miss Schmidt, long time teacher at St. John Vianney School. All are welcome.

## The Prayer Corner

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

### A TIME TO BAPTIZE

Maxine Dahlia Ferrer Donati & Mia Grace Marione

### TO WED

### TO HEAL

Declan Hegarty, 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

Marie Hark, Mary Heruska, Kenneth Varga & Marilyn Maier

### 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), 1LT Ryan Feeney (National Guard)

### Weekend Readings

Job 7:1-4, 6-7  
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23  
Mark 1:29-39

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

### February 4, 2024

#### Presentation of the Lord

*"Rising very early before dawn, He left and went off to a deserted place, where He prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'"*

– MARK 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes – healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus takes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we are given the graces needed to do what He wishes us to do. Praying before acting is a great habit to develop.

### A Winter Prayer

Lord,

In the midst of winter, when the days are cold, and the wind can pierce remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of winter, when the days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.

In the midst of winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us with the power of your resurrection so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul.

Amen.







Hello St. John Vianney Parish community!

Today's Gospel reading from Mark 1:29-39 is one of my favorite Bible stories. I can read this passage multiple times over and still come out with a different insight each time. Here, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law and others. She was sick with an intense fever that would not break. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her to sit up. Immediately, the fever left her, and she waited on them. After this, once the sun had set and evening had arrived, the disciples brought to Him all who were ill or possessed by demons. Soon, the entire town was gathered at the door. He cured those who were sick with various diseases. He drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew Him. The next morning, Jesus rose very early before dawn and went off alone to pray in a deserted place. Simon and the others pursued Him. Upon finding Jesus, they said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose, have I come." Thus, Christ went into their synagogues, preaching and exorcising demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

As I reflect on this story today, I'm going to focus on three things that Jesus did: He always prayed before engaging with and performing his vital ministry; He was always moving onto the next location to advance and further his saving ministry; He was always concerned about and looking after His peoples' needs. Christ showed that he genuinely cared. My dear parishioners, here are my questions for you: Shouldn't you be trying to do the same three things as a follower of Jesus? He may be calling on you now to help a neighbor in need. Do you have time for those in need? Please take a few moments to rest in the heart of Jesus and reflect on these questions.

My last request is to encourage the high school students and young people of our church to join our parish youth group. Information is available on the parish website, the youth group's facebook page, and in-person and by phone at the parish office. February 9th there will be a Youth Group Holy Hour in Church from 7-8:30pm.

God Bless,  
Sr. Luciana D'Cruze, MPF  
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	Dave Anfora	dave_anfora@yahoo.com
Eucharistic Ministers	Ellen DeRosa	ederosa@sjvs.net
Fair Coordinator	Joe Noto	sjv_fair @sjvs.net
Finance Council	Jeanette Wilmanski	<a href="mailto:jwilmanski@gmail.com">jwilmanski@gmail.com</a>
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-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	<a href="mailto:jwilmanski@gmail.com">jwilmanski@gmail.com</a>
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. Jerome Emiliani



St. Jerome was a soldier for the Venetian army and didn't care much for God and religion. He was captured and imprisoned while serving, which is when his spiritual epiphany happened. Once St. Jerome escaped, he devoted his life to the priesthood and educating and caring for orphans and abandoned children. He founded 3 orphanages, a shelter for abused women, and a hospital. He unfortunately died from a plague while caring for the sick. St. Jerome is now the patron saint of orphans and abandoned children. May we be inspired by St. Jerome's devotion to those who are abandoned in our society, especially when they are children.

**JANUARY 28, 2024 OFFERTORY:**

Collection:	\$ 9,266.25
On-line giving:	\$ 4,560.50
	<u>\$ 13,826.75</u>

*The 2023 Christmas Collection total was \$39,197. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of St. John Vianney parish!*



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](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.

### This Week At A Glance 2/5 – 2/11

Monday	Basketball – GYM 4:30-9pm CCD 6:15pm CubScouts – LBR 7-8pm
Tuesday	RCIA – EMR 11am Cheer – GYM 4:30-7:30pm Al-Anon – 7pm Classroom CubScouts – CAF 6:30-8pm Boy Scouts – GYM 7:30-9:30pm
Wednesday	SJV Seniors – CAF 2:30-4:30pm Basketball – GYM 4:30-9pm Middle School YG - UBR 7pm Finance Council – REC 7pm
Thursday	Basketball – GYM 3-4:30pm Cheer – GYM 4:30-7:30pm Legion of Mary UBR 7pm Basketball – GYM 8-9pm
Friday	Basketball – GYM 5-9pm YG Holy Hour – CH 7pm
Saturday	Basketball – GYM 8am-4pm YG Parents Day of Prayer – UBR 9am-3pm Memorial Mass for Ms. Gladys Schmidt w/light reception to follow – CH 10am
Sunday	Legion of Mary – CAF 12:30-4pm Franciscans – UBR 1-3pm Bible study UBR 6:30pm

### Upcoming Second Collections

February 14th	Ash Wednesday
February 18th	Catholic Spirit

### 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal *Stay With Us, Lord: Renew our Hearts and Send Us on a Mission*

By giving to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we are opening our hearts to those living on the fringes of society and help to attend to their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. The basic necessities of food and shelter provided by Catholic Charities, as well as the counseling services the agency offers to those struggling with addictions and other hardships of life can only continue with your help. Please prayerfully consider a gift today.

### 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](https://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/>

Please join us as we celebrate the life of Ms. Gladys Schmidt with a Memorial Mass on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the church. The Memorial Mass will be followed by a light reception where we will share fellowship and memories of Ms. Schmidt.

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!

### 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).



### ATTENTION

***Anyone wishing for a record of their Church contributions for the year 2023 is asked to send in a stamped self-addressed envelope with their envelope number to the Rectory or drop it into the collection basket.***

### SJV Seniors

The next meeting of the SJV Seniors will be on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:30pm in the school cafeteria. Frank Lieberman, keyboard player and singer, will be our entertainer. Please place your donation to the St. James Food Pantry in the library conference room in the Church.  
Bob Nilan, President



### It's "Souper" Bowl Time!

***Update: we have now exceeded our goal of 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*

#### ***Sts. Benedict and Scholastica | Littlest Saints***

A pair of holy twins, a cave, and a group of naughty monks... this is the story of Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica. Visit their website here:

[www.littlestsaints.com](http://www.littlestsaints.com)

#### ***St. Scholastica | Holy Women You Never Heard Of | Episode 3***

Dive into the lives of Holy Women You've Never Heard Of with Dr. Elizabeth Klein and Dr. Jessica Murdoch. St. Scholastica is the sister of St. Benedict. Holy siblings and holy families change the world!

#### ***Bakhita: From Slave to Saint***

Bakhita: From Slave to Saint tells the incredible story of St. Josephine Bakhita. Originally born in Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped by slavers and was eventually sold to a merchant in Italy. By the grace of God, she lived a heroic life of forgiveness and mercy which led her to become a saint.

### 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 : February 3 - 4, 2024*

This Saturday our parish was blessed to have about 65 children celebrate the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. I want to congratulate each of them on this milestone in their journey of faith. May it be the first of many experiences of God's loving mercy for them.

I also want to thank their teachers – both in our parish school and CCD program – for helping these great children prepare for their First Confession. Thanks also to their parents, who first planted the seed of faith in them. Please pray for these children and their families as they continue to get ready for First Holy Communion this spring.

That same day, one of our high school parishioners was being honored by our Bishop at St. Francis Cathedral. Evan Chin, whom many of you know and most of you would recognize if you saw him, received the Saint Timothy Award from Bishop Checchio. The Saint Timothy Award is given to a high school senior or junior who not only lives his or her faith, but also leads others in doing so.

If there is such a thing as the perfect candidate for this award, it is our Evan Chin. Many of you know him from playing the guitar and singing with the Youth Choir at Mass. He also serves Mass – extremely well – and has taught others how to do so. I am personally thankful to Evan for his willingness to assist younger servers and serve things like the Solemn Mass at midnight on Christmas. He handles incense better than me!

Evan's faith and leadership has been recognized by his high school as well. He serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at the Masses at St. Joe's High School and has led retreats for other students. For all these reasons, he is a deserving recipient of the St. Timothy Award.

Writing about Evan and our first penitents reminds me how blessed our parish is to have so many wonderful young people. Another example is the growing Youth Ministry program under Sr. Luciana's inspired leadership. These wonderful young people are a testimony to their families – and a source of great vitality for our parish. Please support them with your prayers – and thank them when you see them.

Please also thank our good religious sisters when you see them. This weekend is dedicated in a special way to appreciating and praying for those in 'consecrated life' – religious sisters and brothers. Our parish is blessed to have religious sisters again for the first time in several years – something for which we should be truly grateful.

Many of you have told me how nice it is to have sisters in our parish again, and I wholeheartedly agree. They began making a difference as soon as they arrived – as sisters usually do! They teach in both our school and CCD program, run the youth ministry, and are a wonderful witness to the Gospel in our midst. What a blessing they are for our whole parish family.

As I was writing this article, someone called to ask me if I wanted them to purchase gift cards – as they had supposedly received a message from me to do so. As I said before, NEVER believe such scams! Any fundraising efforts for our parish will come from me officially, on parish stationery, after having been announced in the bulletin and from the pulpit at Mass. It will NEVER come via text or email – which is far too insecure. Please be careful! (Sorry to have to end this upbeat letter with this – but it's the world we live in!).

Finally, please pray for me – at least one Hail Mary a day. Let's also pray for our young parishioners, for peace, and for all those suffering from illness at this time.

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](mailto: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

### **Day of Prayer for the Sick**

Next Saturday is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. This is due to its proximity to the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Blessed Mother's appearance at Lourdes, France, in 1858 occasioned many physical and spiritual healings. Even today, pilgrims go to Lourdes by the tens of thousands to pray and seek healing. For this reason, we will have Prayers for the Sick after the 5 PM Mass next Saturday. As part of this service, the Anointing of the Sick will be offered to those who are disposed to receive it. Everyone is welcome – especially those who are sick or suffering from chronic ailments – to join us at this brief service.

### **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.

### **IGNATIAN 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](mailto:jaymaur@aol.com).

### **40 cans for 40 days**

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"*  
- Matthew 25:35

The Knights of Columbus council 6571 will again sponsor 40 cans for 40 days to benefit our local food pantries from Ash Wednesday till Easter Sunday. This lent Give something, rather than give something up- one food item for each of the 40 days of Lent. Baskets will be in the gathering area. Thank you for your generosity.



# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 1:29-39

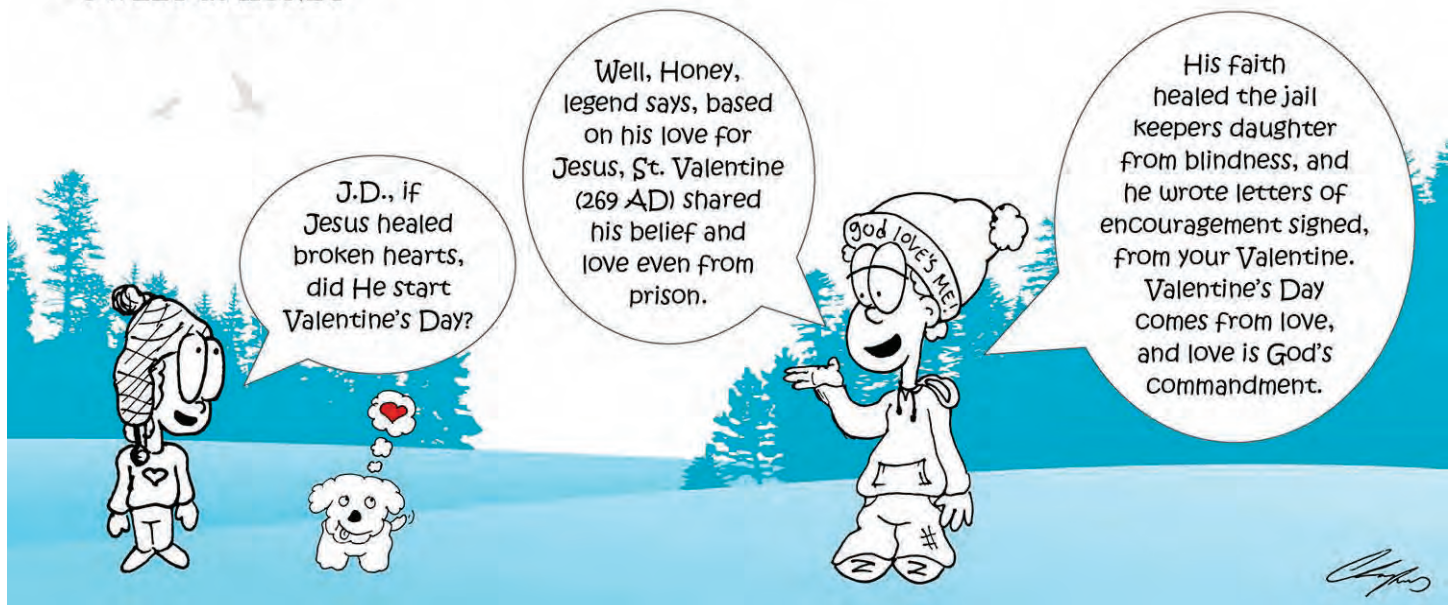
Jesus healed many people as He and His disciples moved from town to town.

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