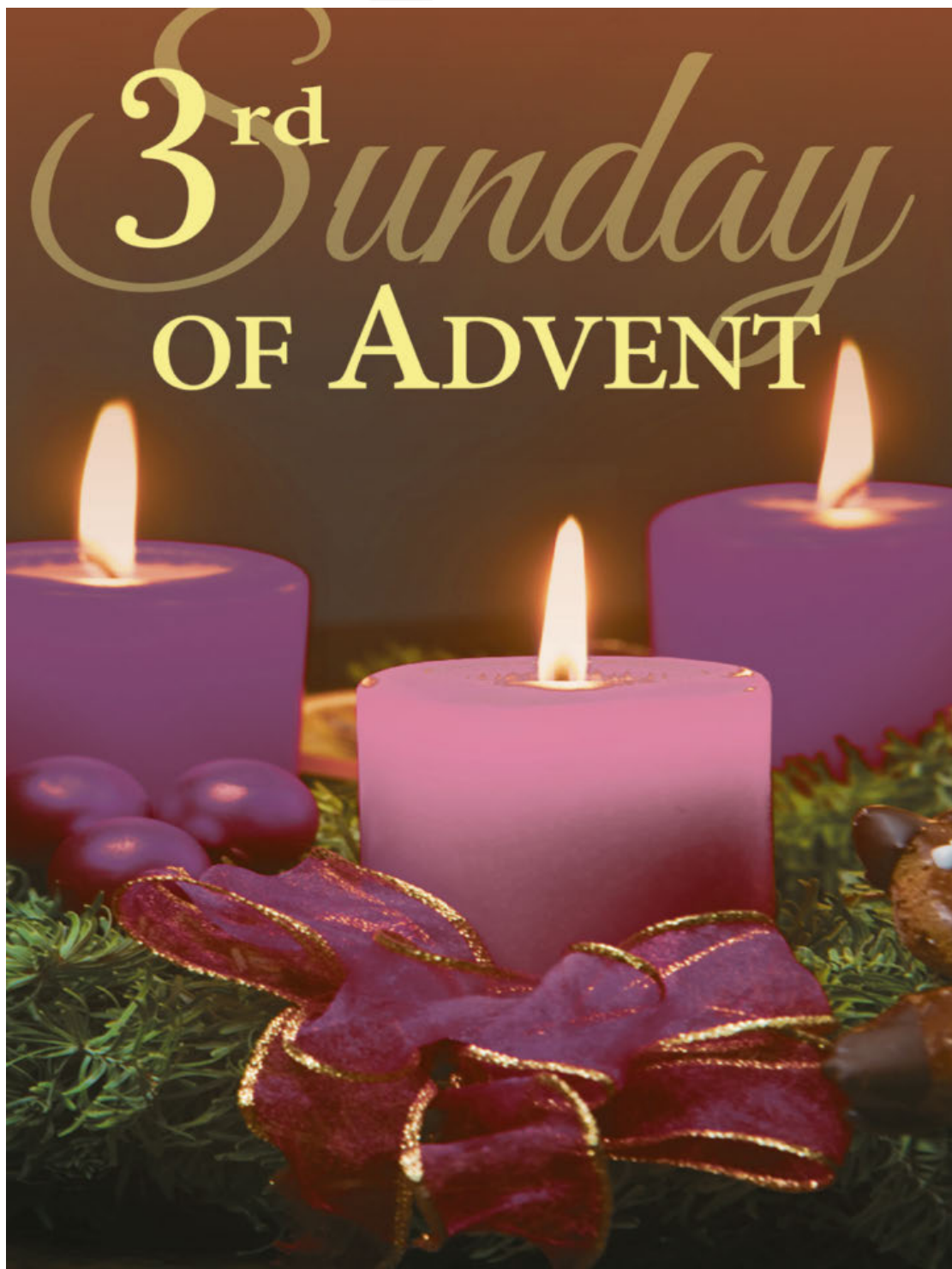




**St. John**  
*the Beloved*  
*Disciple*  
**Parish**



*A Roman Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri*

4614 Blue Springs Drive, Imperial, MO 63052

[saintjohnimperial.org](http://saintjohnimperial.org) | 636-296-8061

## St. John the Beloved Disciple Parish

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm  
phone: 636-296-8061 | fax: 636-296-8067

### CLERGY

Rev. Daniel G. Shaughnessy, <i>Pastor</i>	frs@sjiparish.org 636-464-1013 x104
Rev. Jonathan R. Ruzicka, <i>Associate Pastor</i>	jruzicka@sjiparish.org 636-464-1013 x116
Msgr. Gregory R. Mikesch, <i>In Residence</i>	
Rev. Mr. Larry Nava, <i>Permanent Deacon</i>	Retired

### PARISH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Carol DuBuque, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	office@stjohnimperial.org 636-296-8061, x4
Teresa Zwiener, <i>PSR Director</i>	tdmini50@gmail.com 314-277-2601
Gary Boyer, <i>Facilities</i>	
Judy Kauzlarich, <i>Music Ministry</i>	314-808-1186
Larry Buechel, <i>Music Ministry</i>	
Greg Thompson, <i>Worship Team</i>	GregT84@hotmail.com 314-620-3255
Stan Gross, <i>Parish Cemetery</i>	314-809-0407

### COUNCILS

Gary Dierks, <i>Parish Council</i>	314-401-0549
Mike Hess, <i>Finance Council</i>	

### OTHER MINISTRIES

St. Vincent de Paul Society Helpline	314-289-6101 ext.3332
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## St. Joseph Parish

Parish Office Hours: M-F: 7:30 am—3:30 pm | 636-464-1013

### PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kathy Larson, <i>Communications Director</i>	klarson@sjiparish.org   x112
Karla Owensby, <i>Business Manager</i>	kowensby@sjiparish.org   x103
Rachel Schoenberger, <i>Administrative Asst.</i>	rschoenberger@sjiparish.org   x102
Heather Selsor, <i>Corpus Christi Center Manager</i>	hselsor@sjiparish.org   x111

For a complete listing, please visit <https://www.sjiparish.org/staff>

### MASS TIMES

Sat.: 4:00 pm, Sun.: 9:00 am  
Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
Wednesday, Thursday: 8:00 am

### SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Tuesday: 5:30—6:15 pm  
Saturday: 3:00 pm—3:45 pm

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday: 8:30 am—4:00 pm

### SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Attendance at a Baptismal preparation class is required. Classes are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at St. Joseph Parish; please call the office to schedule. Baptisms will be scheduled following Sunday Masses.

### SACRAMENT of ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anyone who is seriously sick and would like a visit from one of the priests may call the parish office to request one.

### SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE

Contact one of the priests to begin your preparation at least nine months before the anticipated wedding date.

### SACRAMENT of HOLY ORDERS AND VOWED RELIGIOUS LIFE

If you are interested in learning about a religious vocation, please contact one of the priests or the Archdiocesan Vocations Office at [stlvocations.org](http://stlvocations.org) or 314-792-6460.

### HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Parishioners who are homebound and wish to receive Holy Communion may call the parish office to make arrangements.



## Raffle and Booster Winners!

For listings of the winners of raffles and other fundraisers, please consult the bulletin board in the lobby.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	Dec. 23 4:00 pm	Dec. 24 9:00 am
Lector 1	M. Stephens	K. Brandon
Lector 2	T. Schrader	J. Crutchley

MASS INTENTIONS	
Tuesday	December 19, 2023
6:30 pm	Bob Healy
Wednesday	December 20, 2023
8:00 am	Mary Riebold
Thursday	December 21, 2023
8:00 am	Pat Jordan
Saturday	December 23, 2023
4:00 pm	Al Swaller
Sunday	December 24, 2023
9:00 am	Bob & Marian Konersmann
4:00 pm	Keith Boyer



### Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to our parishioners who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week.

12/17: None this week

### Birthdays this week

12/17: Kevin Arnold, Kim Bacon, Cindy Schnable, Gregory Thompson

12/18: Lawrence Bottchen, Kiera Malone

12/19: Nathan Crutchley, Alberta Dekold, Paul Heilich, Lawrence Lehr, Karl Perry

12/20: Kristine Davis

12/21: Gage Bader, Hailey Bullington

12/23: Kayla Mudra, Phyllis Wahlig

*God's blessings be yours on your special day!*

### EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please take note: from 11/5 into the first week of January, every weekend but one has an early bulletin deadline.

Bulletin Date	Due to bulletin@sjiparish.org by noon on:
11/12/2023	(deadline has passed)
11/19/2023	<del>Wednesday, November 8</del>
11/26/2023	<del>Tuesday, November 14</del>
12/3/2023	<del>Wednesday, November 22</del>
12/10/2023	<del>Wednesday, November 29</del>
12/17/2023	Tuesday, December 5
<del>12/24/2023</del>	<del>Tuesday, December 12</del>
12/31/2023	Tuesday, December 19
1/7/2024	Wednesday, December 20

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP 11/20/2023 - 11/26/2023

	Current	Fiscal YTD
OFFERTORY		
Total collected	\$6,028.00	\$146,539.46
Amount budgeted	\$7,522.64	\$165,498.09
Surplus or shortage	\$1,494.64	\$18,958.63
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS		
St. Vincent dePaul	\$175.00	
Archdiocesan	\$150.00	



Sign up at <https://www.osvhub.com/saintjohnimperial>

Please stop by, call, or email the parish office to schedule Mass Intentions. Mass cards for special intentions or in memory are available; they may be picked up in the parish office. The stipend per Mass is \$10.





## FROM THE DESK *of* FR. DAN SHAUGHNESSY, PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I received an email recently from Natural Family Planning (NFP) and More. Their website link is as follows: <https://www.nfpandmore.org/>. They send email blasts occasionally and I found the one below really interesting. Many Catholics know what the Church teaches about artificial means of contraception but they don't necessarily know why. And if they do know why, they might ridicule what the Church teaches as being out of touch with reality. That said, in the times in which we live where personal health and wellness is lauded as the "the highest good" by many, I think the Church's teaching is the right one for many reasons, namely the ones listed below:

1. Contraceptive behaviors are morally wrong because they contradict God's plan for love, marriage and sexuality. God has a plan for love, marriage and sexuality. In that plan, the marriage act is meant to be exclusively a marriage act. That means that such an action outside of marriage is intrinsically dishonest, pretending to be what it cannot be. In God's plan, the marriage act within marriage is intended to be a renewal of the marriage covenant the couple freely entered. It ought to affirm and renew the self-giving love and the for-better-and-for-worse commitment of the marriage vows. But the body language of contraceptive behaviors says, "I take you for better but positively not for the imagined 'worse' of possible pregnancy." They (contraceptive behaviors) contradict the marriage covenant and are thus dishonest and violate the Natural Law.

2. Some forms of birth control contradict God's plan for taking care of our health. Good health is a great gift from God, and we are

obliged to take reasonable efforts to take care of it. Some women use the birth control pill which significantly increases a woman's risks of suffering breast cancer. Compared to women who never use the Pill, a woman who uses the Pill increases her risk of breast cancer by 44% if she ever uses it, and she increases her risks by 52% if she uses it for four or more years before her first full-term pregnancy. (C. Kahlenborn, FM Modugno, and others, "Oral contraceptive use as a risk factor for premenopausal breast cancer: a meta-analysis," Mayo Clinic Proceedings, 2006;81(10):1290-1302.) The WHO has labeled the birth control chemicals as a Group 1 carcinogen—the most dangerous classification. Who is anti-woman—the people who want to foist this carcinogen on unsuspecting teenagers or the Church which teaches its people not to contracept?

3. Contraception contradicts what Jesus teaches us about marriage. Jesus clearly teaches us in Scripture and in his Church that God has created the state of marriage. When questioned about divorce, Jesus put it very simply: "What God has put together, let no one take apart." That also applies to the marriage act. Who put together the procreative and the unitive aspects of the marriage act? Every believer has to say, "God Himself put together these two aspects in the marriage act." What is contraception except the effort to take apart what God Himself has joined in the marriage act? There's no getting around it—that's what contraception is all about.

4. What is the moral and healthy and effective alternative? Natural family planning. Systematic NFP refers to the regular observation of the physical signs of fertility and infertility, frequently called fertility awareness.

It can be used at the 99% level of effectiveness for postponing pregnancy. Among less-fertile couples it can be very helpful for achieving pregnancy.

The data listed above is really powerful. If we look at society and ask ourselves what is wrong, so to speak, we need to ask ourselves a few questions.

a) When did fertility and pregnancy and children come to be viewed as something other than a great gift? Our culture often treats fertility and pregnancy as something to be avoided, rather than celebrated. (Naturally, we understand sexuality and pregnancy as something to be celebrated within the covenant of marriage). We know that not all pregnancies happen within marriage and we welcome all those lives with joy as gifts from God; no doubt. That said, we understand that God's gift of children ideally comes through the marriage of a man and a woman joined in marriage.

b) The family unit is foundational to society, the bedrock of society, if you will.

c) Personally, I come from a family of seven children. Openness to life is a good thing. In all of my 52 years on this earth, I have never had anyone say to me, "I wish we had had fewer children." Without hesitation, I can say that people say to me all the time, "I wish we had had more children." Children are a gift from God. Like St. Mother Teresa, "There is no such thing as too many children. That's like saying there are too many flowers in a garden."

May we celebrate the gifts of marriage and children. Might we support all those in our families and communities who are open to the gift of life!

May God bless you all. May we all celebrate marriages and families.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan Shaughnessy



### FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

Join us on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to celebrate the Patron Feast Day of St. John the Beloved Disciple.

A celebratory reception will be held following Mass in the office lobby.

Please come and celebrate with our parish family!

Note: There will be no 8 am Mass on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>.



Parishioners are invited to contribute, in memory of a loved one, toward our Christmas poinsettias and decorations.

The suggested donation is \$10.

Please put your donation, along with the name of your loved one, in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office.

We will have a special acknowledgment for each memorial in the bulletin the second weekend in January.

All submissions are due by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!



*Kings House* at the  
NATIONAL SHRINE of  
OUR LADY of the SNOWS

The Way of Lights Display depicts the journey of Mary & Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem using over 1.5 million beautiful lights.

This year, we have added colored lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for young and old alike!

When: From November 17 through December 31, 2023, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Indoor activities closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Cost: No charge for display, donations accepted and additional charges for some activities.

For more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at <https://snows.org/wayoflights>



### Items needed for St. John's SVdP Food Pantry:

Cake Mixes  
Canned Fruit  
Canned Potatoes  
Canned Ravioli  
Canned Tomato Sauce

*Our SVDP conference is blessed to  
have consistent and generous support  
from our parishioners.*

*Your generosity makes it possible to  
assist the needy in our neighborhood.*



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

*Please pray for the sick and suffering...*

Donald & Jimilie Agnew, Rachel Allen, Kenny Allgeyer, Angela & Ashley Alt, Bea Arnold, Ross Augustin, Abby Bader, Barbara Bader, Joey Bader, Olivia Baese, Ben Barton, Judy Barton, Gary Battles, Millie Baumann, Barbara Bequette, Mary Bequette, Teresa Biehler, Guy-la Bills, Shirley Blecha, Noreen Boyer, Wayne Brewer, Barb & Ron Buchheit, Alvera Byrne, Rich Byrne, Cathy Castro, Manny Contre-ras, Ryan Cross, Linda Dickens, Erika Downey, Linda Eagle, Jason Eastman, Marvin Eaton, Agnes Farrar, Thomas Finn, Mike Fowler, Tina Gearon, Ed & Marjorie Gordan, Geri Gossett, Toby Gossett, Cheryl Greener, Betty Gunter, Mary Jane Heilich, Cory Hicks, Austin Hill, Catherine Hornsey, Paula Hynik, Ruth Jensen, Ron Jordan, Jr., Ron Jordan, Sr., Tim Jordan, Joyce Keller, Colleen Khoury, Stephanie Kohler, Rose Korando, Patsy Lange, Ava Laposha, Ellie Laposha, Kim Lawrence, Larry Lehr, Evenly Martin, Jeanne Ma-son, Francine McGraw, Robert Miller, Judy Nanna, Michael Nichols, Theresa Needles, Mary Odenhal, Joan & Sheldon O'Rourke, Chris Peters, Roger Pleis, Bill Ragsdale, Anna Redmond, Lance Reilmann, Brenda Reppell, Bob Ruoff, Dominic Santone, Elaine Schmidt, Bill Schneider, Kathleen Schneider, Diana Schwalbert, Jean Schwartz, Rosie Seiler, Art Seyer, Kelly Shanks, Billie Smith, Debbie Sorocko, Donna Spencer, Joe Stabile, Ruth Stabile, Carrie Steiber, Megan Taylor, Mark Travers, Margie Thomas, Addie Wade, Edward Wade, Zoe Wade, Elizabeth Ward, Therese Weidinger, Claudia Weiler, and nursing care residents.

*Please pray for those in the military...*

Andrew Bornholdt, Jack Dawson, Chris Degenhardt, Richard Frisch III, Nick Luaders, Justin Moffitt, Mathew Rigden, Andrew Roussin, Daniel Roussin, Matthew Roussin, Blake Sikes, Brett Vennemann, Aaron Vogt, Joshua Vogt

### **PATRIOTIC ROSARY**

Come join us for the Patriotic Rosary on Monday evenings as we pray for the Presidency, Supreme Court, Senate, House of Representatives, Governors, County and Municipal Offices of the USA and each of our 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Our starting time has changed to 5:00 pm. Our Patriotic Rosary also includes five patriotic readings by our founding fathers and five patriotic songs.

All are welcome to attend.

### **Eucharistic Adorers needed:**

After the 8:00 a.m. Mass and Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions through Closing and Benediction at 4:00 pm

**Extra coverage needed during the morning  
especially between 10 and 11:30.**

Visitors and drop-ins are always welcome.

Questions: Contact Joe Scalise, Worship Team,  
314-922-4634.





# **HOLIDAY** *Mass Schedule* ©LPi

## ***Christmas Vigil:***

4:00 pm (SJBD)

4:00 pm (SJP) 4:15 pm (SJP CCC), 5:30 pm (SJP)

## ***Midnight Mass*** (SJP)

## ***Christmas Day:***

9:00 am (SJBD)

8:00 am (SJP) & 10:00 am (SJP)

The parish offices of SJBD & SJP will be closed from  
December 25<sup>th</sup> - January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.



We will be decorating the church after 9 am  
Mass on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The more the mer-  
rier! Help us make the church beautiful for  
Christmas!



## **Texas Roadhouse Benefit**

Our next benefit night at Texas Roadhouse  
will be ***Thursday, Dec. 28***. Coupons for this  
benefit night are available after Mass and in  
the Parish Office during the week.



## **GOSPEL MEDITATION**

December 17, 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church?  
Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen  
him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume).  
Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels  
or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and  
secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if  
we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to  
us this week might surprise us: we believe because  
of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear:  
"There was a man sent from God, his name was John.  
He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light,  
that all might believe through him." The Baptist pow-  
erfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it  
is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old cov-  
enant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And  
yet he prophetically opens the door to something  
entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment  
of God's promises. In every generation, and in every  
human life, God continues to do this. He has done  
it through people named Augustine, Francis, Cath-  
erine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the  
Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric,  
Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least  
three people through whom God has announced the  
coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God  
for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to  
listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again  
this week so that we might more strongly believe in  
the light.

— Father John Muir

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