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St. John The Evangelist Church

55 Martha St.
Spencerport, NY 14559
585-352-5481
Email: sstjohnnc@dor.org
www.stjohnschurchspencerport.org

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Fridays

December 3, 2017 First Sunday of Advent

"Father, what are you wearing!?"

Often, the first thing someone will notice about me is that I look like I've just stepped out of a time machine from the nineteenth century. People therefore quite reasonably ask, *What's with the robe?*

The traditional full-length priestly garment, called a *cassock*, helps me enormously in the work of evangelization. After seeing me at Mass a few times, you might well recognize me on the street, even if I were to appear in civilian attire. But someone who does not come to Mass would not know who or what I am. By what I wear I always present myself as a priest, so that anyone with any kind of spiritual curiosity is sure to know that I'm someone whom they can talk to about God.

For the first few years after ordination I would usually wear a clerical shirt—a black shirt with a white collar—but I found that many people nowadays do not even recognize that someone dressed in this way is a priest. A priest- friend of mine once went shopping at Best Buy while wearing a clerical shirt, and was asked by a fellow customer, "Excuse me, do you work here?" Imagine that! Many people of my generation never went to church as children, even those whose parents did at least have them baptized. Many people who grew up without any direct experience of religion have not even seen priests depicted in television or film, and so I have found that I need to be blatantly obvious about the fact that I am priest for that message to come across at all. Besides, as the temperatures drop, a priest in a clerical shirt covered by a coat and a scarf is indistinguishable from anyone else!


By wearing the cassock, I have found that no matter where I've gone, people—Catholic or not—have felt free to say "Good morning, Father" or "Afternoon, Pastor," "Evening, Padre," which gives me an easy opportunity to introduce myself as having just moved to St. John's. This often leads to a great conversation about where this person goes to church (or doesn't), and thus I can offer an invitation for them to join us here for Mass. So no matter whether I'm shopping for groceries, or going out for lunch, or making a deposit at the bank, I'm "on duty" and, hopefully, serving as a walking billboard for the Catholic Church! If I may be so bold as to use the words of Saint Paul, the cassock is "a sign not for believers but for unbelievers." I look forward to having many of these initial conversations about faith as I meet the wider Spencerport community at Christmas on the Canal this Sunday afternoon.

Speaking of **Christmas on the Canal**, besides enjoying the singing of our youth choir at 2:05pm and the tolling of the bells at 5:00, I'm especially looking forward to the **Night Prayer service** we'll be having **here in church at 6:30pm** reception will follow. These prayers come from the Liturgy of the Hours. The hours of prayer, sometimes called the Divine Office, form (along with the Mass) part of the official public prayer of the Church. The Second Vatican Council put it this way: "The divine office is the voice of the Church." So, come hear the Church sing her joyful praises to Almighty God! Although I happen to have a great love for this particular form of

The Rev. Peter B. Mottola - Fr. Peter.Mottola@dor.org
Deacon Bill Rabjohn - Parish Deacon & Pastoral Associate
Deacon Tom Uschold - Parish Deacon
Barbara Lake - Pastoral Associate for Youth & Spec. Projects
Kathy Cammilleri - Parish Secretary
Julie Bailey - Coordinator of Religious Education
Jim Pudetti - Director of Finance
Lisa Sachs - Bookkeeper

prayer, I am keen to share it because the Church encourages me to do so. Again, the Second Vatican Council says: "Pastors of souls should see to it that the chief hours, especially Vespers, are celebrated in common in church on Sundays." I know that Fr. John presided over two Vespers (evening prayer) services in 2015, so perhaps some of you are already familiar with this form of praying, but if the Liturgy of the Hours is new to you, please come and experience this beautiful gift that the Church gives to us in order to enable us to enter into prayer united with our fellow Catholics both around the world and throughout all time and eternity!

God bless,
Fr. Peter



**The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**
Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, December 8, 2017
Mass Schedule is as follows
Thursday, December 7th, 6:30 PM
Friday, December 8th, 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM


**Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe
at St. John the Evangelist Church
on Tuesday, Dec. 5th at 7:00pm.**

Please join us as we host members of the Hispanic Migrant Ministry, as they share their devotion to the BVM.
A reception to follow at the parish center. All are welcome.

Weekend Mass Schedule:
Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 7:45, 9:30 & 11:15 am
Weekday Masses & Holy Day Masses: See Bulletin
Confession: Sat. 3:45 to 4:30, Wed. 5:45-6:15 pm or by appointment.
Baptisms: We look forward to the Baptism of your child.
Please call the Parish office to make arrangements.
Sacrament of Marriage: Couples are to meet with the parish deacon at least six months in advance. Pre-Cana attendance is required. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.
Prayer Chain Call 352-5481, **ext.213**, and leave a message.
Wills/Bequests/Memorials—Please remember St. John's Parish.
Pastoral Care: Volunteers are available to supplement family and other resources on a short term basis. Please contact the parish office.
Food Cupboard: 277-4917
Parish Cemetery: General Information: 352-4462 or 352-1287
Columbarium Information: Dave Hodder 352-4462

Mass Schedule - Week of December 4, 2017	
MONDAY 8:00	St. John Damascene David Wright-Sue Lorz
TUESDAY 8:00 1:00 – 3:00	Advent Weekday Ken Gavigan-Jim & Judy Trenholme Exposition
WEDNESDAY 6:30	St. Nicholas James Miller-Don & Ginny Mosher
THURSDAY 8:00 6:30	St. Ambrose Intention of the Celebrant For the People of St. John’s
FRIDAY 8:00 5:30	The Immaculate Conception of the BVM No Latin Mass this week Peter Weber-John Przybycien Ken Gavigan-Eileen Magin
SATURDAY 5:00	St. Juan Diego Georgia Lynch-Bob & Joan Singer
SUNDAY Readings: 7:45 9:30 11:15	Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1-5, Pt 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8 Dick Schweikert-Jane & Family Ken Gavigan-Ralph & Gail Parmelee Helen Magee-Joe & Laura Foley


Memorials: *This week our sanctuary lamp will burn in memory of Millicent Seil.*
Requested by: Fran Maier & Family



Christmas Mass Schedule as Follows
Sunday, December 24, 2017
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM (Midnight)
Monday, December 25, 2017
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM



We welcome to Our Parish Community through the Sacrament of Baptism:
Amaris Bryn Maloto
Bailey Grace Davis

Prayers for the soul of Millicent Seil, Marietta Reynolds, Rose Fazio & Edward DeYager
Our prayers and sympathy to Chester Seil on the death of his wife to Mark & Theresa Seil on the death their mother, to Howard Reynolds on the death of his wife, to Susan Rossi and Steven Reynolds on the death of their mother to Cynthia Voorhees on the death of her mother and to Nancy Rapp on the death of her brother.



GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING
Last Week’s Collection:.....\$6,452.00
Weekly amount needed for budget:.....\$9,313.73
Year To Date Collection:.....\$196,209.21
Year To Date Needed for budget:.....\$204,902.06

Poor Box collections for December will go to St. Joseph’s Neighborhood Center a clinic on South Ave. that provides healthcare services and support for local needy and disadvantaged people.

This Week at St. John's			
Monday, December 4			
6:30	Confirmation Yr. 1	PC Basement	
6:30	GIFT	School	
Tuesday, December 5			
8:45	First Tuesday Breakfast	Union St. Eatery	
11:00	Contemplative Prayer	PC Library	
6:00	Men's Club	School Conf. Rm A	
6:00	Boy Scouts	Scout Rm	
7:00	Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception Following Novena	Church PC Dining	
			
Wednesday, December 6			
9:30	Quilting	PC Dining	
2:00	PEACE Faith Sharing	PC Library	
6:30	RCIA	PC Library	
7:15	Finance Council	PC Upstairs Conf. Rm	
Thursday, December 7			
6:00	Pack 165 Den Meeting	Scout Rm	
Friday, December 8			
7:00	Chris Wilson Concert	Church	
Saturday, December 9			
10:00	Retreat for EMHC	Church	
Sunday, December 10			
8:00-1:00	Breakfast with Santa	School	
10:30-1:30	Christmas Carnival	School	
PC = Parish Center			
December 9/10Ministry Schedule			
5:00 p.m.	7:45 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:15 a.m.
Sacristans			
Altar Servers (Captains in bold)			
J. Dowdell	M. Zajia	M. Zarpentine	J. Bailey
J. DeConinck	D. Morgan	E. Mahoney	L. Bailey
S. Dowdell	R. Morgan	M. Mahoney	B.Tamburello
K. DeConinck		D. Zarpentine	E. Conway
Lectors			
Keery	L. D'Angelo	McKee	Clarke
Bianchi	Frank	Taylor	Daniels
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion			
M. Meyer	Mosher	Bjornholm	Frasca
Diehl	Brown	Gatti	Frasca
R. D'Agostino	Kovaleski	B. Bouvy	L.Tamburello
Kopcienski	Frank	S. Bouvy	

FAITH FORMATION
December Families G.I.F.T. sessions are this week
Sunday, 12/3 from 12:30-2pm, PARENTS STAY
Monday, 12/4 from 6:30-8pm, PARENTS STAY

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL
All families with children in grades PreK– 12th are invited to this **Family Fun Day**
Sunday, December 10th in the School Gym
after the 9:30 and 11:15am Masses.
Bring the WHOLE FAMILY between 10:30am-1:00pm
(Event ends at 1:30pm).

* **Little Ones (preK– 6th grade)** will be learning about ADVENT through hands-on activities, including making a Jesse Tree!

* **Teens (7th - 12th grade)** are needed to run Activity Stations. Please call Julie Bailey at the Parish Office to sign-up for a shift by November 30th.


Admission is free, but please bring a non-perishable food item for the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Night Prayer after Christmas on the Canal
Reception to follow
Sunday, December 3rd, at 6:30 PM
Please plan to join us in formally welcoming Fr. Peter Mottola to St. John’s Parish.

YOUTH NEWS
The Basement of the Parish Center is back in action!
Advent Service Opportunities-Mark Your Calendars!
St. John's Jubilee Ornament sale, Sunday, December 10th in conjunction with **Breakfast with Santa** in the Gym, 10:30am-1:30pm
Teen Day of Service, Wednesday, Dec 27, 1-5 pm
Come prepared to be a part of ministry efforts that speak to **Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Poor** (Dress a Girl project), **Comfort Those Who Mourn**
Sock and Mitten Drive collection—ongoing, bring new items to Parish Center Basement Collection Box (Proceeds are for the Cameron Ministry Clothing project)

This Sunday and Monday...Confirmation programs and Youth Group are now back in the basement! Please use the door outside the basement instead of the main Parish Center door.

Carton for Christmas Project: The setup of Gift bags for the *Cartons for Christmas* project was a great success! Fundraising from Youth Ministry efforts provided Christmas mugs, gift bags, candy canes, chocolates, popcorn and other goodies.



Confirmation candidates hand wrote messages inside Christmas cards for the 40 youth recipients. Thanks to SJS Catholic youth with their faith in Action!




Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) Retreat and Training Update
All EMHCs who serve at Mass and/or bring the Sacrament to the sick and homebound including family members are invited to attend a retreat and training update on Saturday, December 9th, 10 AM to 12 PM in the Church.
If you have not received an e-mail from Deacon Bill regarding this retreat, please contact him for information.
If you cannot attend this retreat and training update, please contact Dcn. Bill at bill.rabjohn@dor.org. A make up session will be planned in the future.


THE MAGNIFICAT ADVENT COMPANION
This rich spiritual companion will accompany you like a beloved friend through the four weeks of advent. Please take a **Free Copy** home with you. Available at the entrances of church.



ST. JOHN’S GIVING TREE!
Please take an ornament and return that gift UNWRAPPED to the church or the Parish Center by December 14th. Members of the Social Ministry Committee will deliver them to the House of Mercy that week. If you would like more information please contact Robin Kepler at 392-5305. Thank you!



Washington D.C. March for Life
Friday, January 19, 2018
Depart Thursday, Evening 1/18 Return Friday, Evening 1/19
If you are interested in attending the March for Life please call the parish office and leave your contact information.
Our plan is to share a bus with another parish.



CHRIS WILSON CONCERT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 7:00 PM ST. JOHN’S CHURCH
Please Join Us in Celebrating Our Parish’s 150th Anniversary Contemporary Christian Music Concert Open to the General Public

Don’t Forget - Men’s Club Meeting
on Tues., Dec.5th, in St. John’s School Conf. Rm. A
6:00 pm - Special Christmas Dinner
6:30 pm - Meeting
Presentation: Continuing with “The Eucharist”

Coffee Hour 2018
Once a month, on the third Sunday of every month, the parish hosts a coffee hour after the 9:30 mass where everyone is welcome to share donuts, coffee, and good fellowship. We are looking for volunteers to join our group in hosting these monthly gatherings. We have two volunteers host per month. If you’d like more information, please contact Chris Kincaid 261-2719 or Pam Cooper 594-5494.

