



PREPARE
the Way

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
WILLISTON PARK NEW YORK

St. Aidan

DECEMBER 17 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—GAUDATE SUNDAY

Respect life. All life is sacred.



WELCOME TO ST. AIDAN

Our parish is a vibrant and active Catholic community located in Nassau County, Long Island, New York. We are a Roman Catholic parish in the Diocese of Rockville Centre serving the communities of Williston Park, East Williston, Albertson, and parts of Mineola, Roslyn Heights, and Searingtown.

ST. AIDAN BULLETIN

The bulletin is published on Wednesday morning. Items for publishing should be emailed to staidanbulletin@gmail.com.

BULLETIN ADVERTISEMENTS

To place an advertisement on the cover contact 'church bulletin,' the publishing company, 631-249-4994. The cost of our bulletin is covered by our sponsors who advertise on the cover.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parish family of the Church of St Aidan, strengthened by the Eucharist and encouraged by the Word of God, welcome all, for we encourage that everyone is a child of God and no one should be excluded. Guided by the Holy Spirit through prayer, we strive as one to build the Body of Christ. We commit ourselves to nurturing lifelong faith formation, fostering lay leadership, promoting social justice, engaging our youth in every aspect of parish life, and offering care and compassionate service to all. We invite everyone to walk with Jesus and experience His healing power and love.

PARISH GROWTH 2023

1. Pastoral Care of Our Youth
2. Hospitality & Social Events
3. Formation & Education in Faith Matters
4. Spiritual Resources & Direction
5. Information about Groups & Activities

THE CHURCH IS OPEN 6 AM TO 6 PM

Daily Mass can be viewed on staidanparish.org, Facebook and Vimeo. The faithful are required to attend Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation Masses. This obligation does not apply to those who are ill, those who are confined to their home, a hospital, or nursing facility, or those

with serious underlying health conditions. For the safety of all, the church doors will be closed when school children attend services during the week.

MEETINGS AT ST. AIDAN

Contact the Rectory for more information.

PARKING AT ST. AIDAN

The number of parking spaces is limited at St. Aidan. The parking lot at the rear of the Upper School and the one on Dover Street are available on weekends and when school is closed. The Lower School has an area that is designated a children's play area. People with disabilities may park in the three reserved parking spaces in front of the rectory on Willis Ave. This special area is needed for church access by people who use wheelchairs and specially-equipped vehicles. Thank you for being parking considerate.

BAPTISM

To arrange a baptism contact the rectory office. Forms need to be completed giving information on the parents, child's date and place of birth, as well as the names and religious affiliation of the sponsors. At least one sponsor must be a practicing Catholic. Baptisms are held on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Sunday at 1:30 PM. To hold a private baptism you must make arrangements with a priest or deacon to perform the baptism. Private baptisms are held on Saturday or Sunday when the church is available. First time parents are required to attend a Baptism Class. Classes are held in the church on the second Sunday of the month after the 12 PM Mass. Parents are asked to gather at St. Joseph's statue to the right of the altar.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First and Third Fridays of the month 1:00-3:00 PM in the church.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion unites us more closely to Jesus, and it is also a sign that we are living in communion with His Church, following the teachings that Jesus has handed down to us. If you know of someone homebound who would

like to receive Communion from a Eucharistic Minister, please contact the Rectory.

CONFESSION

Confessions are available in the church, screen only, on Saturday from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM and 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. You can also make an appointment with a priest by calling the rectory office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick takes place at 1:00 PM on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please wait for the priest at Our Lady's Shrine.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements are to be made at the Rectory office at least 9 months in advance. Pre-Cana and FOCCUS registrations must be arranged. Pre-Cana at St. Aidan consists of a ONE DAY SATURDAY COURSE. The moderator is Deacon Rudy Martin (917) 952-6521. Email: Dcrudy@Staidanparish.org.

Information on the Pre-Cana Course offered by the Diocese of Rockville Center can be found at www.drvc-faith.org or call 678-5800 ext. 223.

SCAM LIKELY

If you receive an email or text from Fr. Adrian or any other member of St. Aidan staff requesting gift cards or donations, delete it immediately and block the caller's number or email. It is not from St. Aidan Church or School.

PARISH EMAIL

To be added to email distributions of the Parish Bulletin please email Bonnie Parente at bparente@verizon.net.

PLANNED GIFTS FOR YOUR PARISH

Consider your Christian responsibility to be a wise steward of the gifts God has given you. How will your gifts (assets) be passed on to those you love and care for when you die? Planning now will help those we love live peacefully in the future. Call Barbara Kilarjian at the Diocese of Rockville Centre at 516-678-5800 ext. 257 to find out how you can pass on your love to your family.

LIVESTREAM DAILY MASS

WEBSITE ST Aidan Parish.ORG
VIMEO ST. AIDAN, WILLISTON PARK
FACEBOOK CHURCH OF SAINT AIDAN WILLISTON PARK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Fr. Solomon 6:30 AM
Fr. Solomon 9:00 AM
2:30—5:00 PM
6:00—7:30 PM
Bishop Andrzej 5:30 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Fr. Jacob 6:30 AM
Fr. Solomon 9:00 AM
Fr. Solomon 5:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Fr. Solomon 6:30 AM
Fr. Jacob 9:00 AM
Fr. Jacob 5:30 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Fr. Jacob 6:30 AM
Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM
Fr. Adrian 5:30 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Fr. Adrian 6:30 AM

Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM
Fr. Jacob 5:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Fr. Jacob 9:00 AM
Fr. Adrian 5:00 PM

Fr. Solomon 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Fr. Jacob 7:30 AM

Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM
Fr. Solomon 10:30 AM
Fr. Jacob 12:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Fr. Adrian Church 4:00 PM
Fr. Solomon Kirwin 4:00 PM
Fr. Jacob 5:30 PM
Fr. Adrian 8:00 PM
Fr. Solomon 12:00 AM

ADVENT WEEK 3

Msgr. John Clark
Charles T. W. Oliver (B'day Rem.)
CONFESSION
CONFESSION
Agnes Willoughby (11th Anniv. Rem.)

ADVENT WEEK 3

Parishioners of St. Aidan
Marla Mehlman (5th Anniv. Rem.)
Tom Stalters (B'day Rem.)

ADVENT WEEK 3

Catherine Ruoff (1st Anniv. Rem.)
William R. Hannan, Sr. (B'day Rem.)
Vincent Persico (9th Anniv. Rem.)
Lillian Giordano (2nd Anniv. Rem.)

ADVENT WEEK 3

Abraham Kunnel
Walter Terlecki (B'day Rem.)
Noel Seno (7th Anniv. Rem.)

ADVENT WEEK 3

RECTORY CLOSED
Paul Patrick Dondiego & Vito Wm Dondiego
& Lvg. & Dcd. Mbrs. of the DeVito & Dondiego
Families
Lvg. Int. for Catherine G. McEnroe (B'day)
Maryann T. Cilia (7th Anniv. Rem.)

ADVENT WEEK 3

RECTORY CLOSED
Deacon Frank Love (Anniv. Rem.)
Peter & Marie Tedesco
Michael Pavlicin
Benidito Occhiogrosso
Mary Silvaggio (Anniv. Rem.)
Margaret Mitchell
Paul Russo
Todd Koehler
Paul Kane

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

RECTORY CLOSED
Loretta & Raymond Modena and
Charlotte & Walter Bailey
Milagros Seno (7th Anniv. Rem.)
Parishioners of St. Aidan
Bernhard Berger (5th Anniv. Rem.)
Dcd. Mbrs of the Fiorillo &
Mahaffey Families
Marion & Michael Sigault
Joseph Wengler
Fernando Alberto Echeverria (1st Anniv. Rem.)
In Loving Memory of Genevieve, James,
& Anne Francis Robinson
AN OINTING OF THE SICK

CHRISTMAS EVE

James Lavery & Terrence J. Sullivan
Cathy Flavin
Lvg. Int. of the Georgeou Family
Dolores Maulion
James O'Connell

505 WILLIS. AVE
WILLISTON PARK NY 11596
516-746-6585 Rectory
516-404-2746 After Hours
516-746-6055 Fax

www.staidanparish.org
Rectory@staidanparish.org
Staidanbulletin@gmail.com

Rectory Office Hours
Monday to Friday
9 AM to 12 PM 1 PM to 4 PM
Saturday & Sunday
9 AM to 12 PM

Pastor
Rev. Fr. Adrian McHugh

Associate Pastors
Rev. Fr. Solomon Odinukwe
Rev. Fr. Jacob Quansah Kyei

Deacons
Rev. Rudy Martin
Rev. Jerry Magaldi
Rev. Salvatore B. Villani

St. Aidan School
ext. 202, 203 Grades Nursery-2
ext. 302, 303 Grades 3-8
Principal Mrs. Julie O'Connell
Assistant Principal
Mrs. Barbara Graham

Faith Formation
Monday—Wednesday 2-7 PM
Thursday appointment.
Closed Friday
ext. 404, 405
Director ext. 406
Mrs. Elaine Smith,

Business Manager ext. 107
Mr. Thomas Flynn

Facilities Manager ext. 136
Mr. Pat Perez

Music Director ext. 130
Mr. Drago Bubalo
drago.bubalo@gmail.com

Social Ministry, Director
ext. 410, 408
Ms. Rosemarie Cavallaro



PREPARE *the Way*



What's Pastor Thinking

It's said that lawyers never ask a question unless they already know the answer. In today's gospel John the Baptist is attempting to answer the questions of the Levites, priests and Pharisees. 'Are you the Christ? Are you Elijah? Are you the prophet?' (Jn 1:21). None of those questions really allow him to say who he is. No one label can ever describe any of us. We are too complex; we fill too many roles; who any of us is cannot be captured in one sentence, let alone one word! And that is no less true of John the Baptist.

What is clear is that John the Baptist serves as an introduction to the story of Jesus. What is also clear is that we are now in the role of John the Baptist today. We are the ones who are to prepare the way of the Lord. We are the ones who can look around and see that Christ is among us even though others may not recognize Him in our midst. We are the ones to keep Christ alive in a world that continues to reject Him.

As we approach Christmas 2023, that role is even more important to fulfill. It is made difficult by a society that has buried the story of Christmas in the activity of shopping and shoppers and insists on wishing you 'Happy Holidays.'

It is made more difficult in a society that raised a generation without church in secular households free

from religious input. And while we all dread another unending world war in the Middle East, these times of uncertainty can be used by God to make us reflect more on our vulnerability and to search for meaning in our lives. Right now people may be more open than ever to hear the story of Jesus. They may be more willing to listen to our testimony of a God who embraced the vulnerability of human life, and although rejected by the world again and again, has not given up on us. And that's where you come in. It's easy to become cynical at this time of the year. It's easy to point out the ways people around us have missed the point of the story. To be disappointed by family members who are indifferent or who say they are Catholic but don't understand what that means. To be put off by some public representatives and church leaders who present a dim version of Catholicism. Our role, like that of John the Baptist, is to look at how we might be able to retell the story to our world today - to our friends and neighbors, to our family and strangers. John came to point toward Jesus as the answer to their questions, the one who could offer them eternal life. When we realize that John the Baptist is merely a witness to Christ, it becomes clear that his role is our role. We have a duty and an obligation to bear witness to the same Christ who lives among us.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

BRIGID O'SULLIVAN
 GEORGINA M. SMITH
 LORETTA M. ALLEN

THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT

In Loving Memory of
 HUMBERTO, EDITH & ELVIRA
 SARMIENTO

FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT

In Loving Memory of
 MARIO AND KATHLEEN DONATO
 Donated by
 DR. LISA DONATO

**THOSE WHO ASKED US TO PRAY
FOR THEM INCLUDE**

Fearghal McHugh
 Christopher Dand
 Eileen Mary Ebert
 Fran Lesser
 Lisa Sorgi
 Alex Grinacoff
 Mason Guadagno
 Colleen Cassidy
 Dianne Karl
 Cindy Albini
 Sr. Mary Ann Ambrose
 Jinny Gallagher
 Joshua Lowenthal
 Mafalda Leddy
 Joseph & Diane LaBianca
 Colleen Edwards
 Rolanda John
 Jean Lopardo
 Gloria Maughn
 Betty Gaffney
 Christine Hogg
 Rosa Barroca
 Doreen Downes
 Tecky Johnides
 Irene McCann
 Paul Duplatre
 Sharon Leonard
 Ryan Latronica
 Bill Aprigliano
 Matthew Huhn
 John Sweeney
 Frank Sbeglia
 William Dwyer
 Stefanie Lowenthal
 Bryan O'Malley

STEWARDSHIP

12/11/22 \$28,635
 12/10/23 \$26,162

ATTENDANCE

12/09/10/2023—1,511

**EXTRA ENVELOPE
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT****ONLINE GIVING**

staidanparish.org.
 Click DONATE.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

Goal \$180,400
 Pledges \$115,025 Donors 347
 Payments \$112,982

*Thank you for supporting St. Aidan.
 Please notify the Rectory Office if
 you have changed your address*

WEDDING BELLS

*If a parishioner is getting married
 in another parish and would like
 their wedding listed here, please call
 the rectory office.*

DECEMBER 16, 2023

3:00 PM
 Ashleigh Orr
 St. Aidan
 Isaac Dwight Bales
 St. Philomena

JANUARY 13, 2024

3:00 PM
 Hailey Evelyn Dorn
 St. Mary
 Paul Paolo Samaritano
 St. Aidan

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

1:00 PM
 Janine Marie Miller
 St. Aidan
 Michael Joseph Dileo
 St. Rocco

ALTAR SERVERS FOR DECEMBER**12/16 ADVENT 3**

5:00 L Lamontagne
 L Moloney
 W Walker
 7:30 W Friedrich
 C Cooke
 J Whalen

12/17 ADVENT 3

7:30 A Godwin
 A Dominguez
 P Dorrian
 9:00 R & L Suero
 A Swenson
 10:30 A Dowdell
 Carter
 M Vitale
 12:00 D & R Syers
 C Reti
 5:00 H O'Sullivan
 J Watkins
 J DiMarzo

12/23 ADVENT 4

5:00 L & S Cloghessy
 J Simoes
 7:30 Cordoba
 N Kolasny
 C Lane

12/24 ADVENT 4

7:30 OPEN
 9:00 T Fortunato
 A Swenson
 L Moloney
 10:30 J & A Boyd
 12:00 M Uttaro
 A & M
 McCarthy

**12/24 CHRISTMAS
EVE**

4:00 C C. Campbell
 T Fortunato
 L Herr
 4:00 K J & A Boyd
 W Walker
 5:30 D & R Syers,
 W Friedrich
 8:00 G C & J Pizzardi
 12:00 M Uttaro
 D & D Lee

**12/25 CHRISTMAS
DAY**

7:30 OPEN
 9:00 R & L Suero
 M Milone
 10:30 A Cifelli
 D Werther
 J Iannotti
 12:00 L Abrusci
 1:30 J Whalen

12/30 HOLY FAMILY

5:00 J G & A
 J Cosgrove
 7:30 L & G Breglio
 C Cooke

12/31 HOLY FAMILY

7:30 G C & J Pizzardi
 9:00 S & A Jennings
 Nishiky
 10:30 M & T Molloy,
 T Fortunato
 12:00 F & C Campbell
 J Wenzel
 5:00 A Bertrand
 R Klein
 K Blenderman



**CHURCH OF ST. AIDAN
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, December 17, 2023
3:00 PM-Church**

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US DECORATE OUR CHURCH



Christmas Flowers

☐ In honor of:

☐ In memory of: _____

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

BULLETIN PUBLISHING DATES

The bulletin is published on Wednesday morning. Items for publishing should be emailed to staidanbulletin@gmail.com. Our bulletin publisher has asked us to note the following:

- The bulletin for 12/24 was sent for publishing Wednesday 12/13
- The bulletin for 12/31 will be published on Wednesday 12/20
- The bulletin for 1/07 will be published on Wednesday 1/03

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION DECEMBER 16TH AND 17TH.

Our continued goal is to provide financial assistance for the challenges that our religious face because of the rising cost of healthcare. This collection helps to fund daily essentials like prescription medications and nursing care. Give in gratitude. A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (\$1.00) AVAILABLE IN THE RECTORY OFFICE

Christmas wafer is a popular, family-centered Christmas tradition enjoyed by families from Eastern Europe. The tradition originated in Poland and is traced to the early centuries of Christianity. This Christmas custom began with a simple white wafer baked from flour and water. Today, Christmas wafers are very thin with a look and

feel not unlike a communion host. Each wafer is rectangular in shape with a Christmas image pressed into them, such as the Nativity, the Star of Bethlehem, or the Holy Family. The tradition is observed by families with a Polish, Slovak or Lithuanian background. The word "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread." The breaking of bread has long been a sign of charity, unity, and friendship in many cultures. The Christmas Wafer reminds us of this symbol of communion common to humanity, as well as in a fuller way the Eucharistic meal that Catholics participate in at each Mass. Just as Christians share in the Eucharist as one family in Christ, the Christmas wafer allows for one's family to come together and share the love they have for one another. Just before the Christmas Eve meal the entire family will gather around the table with the Christmas wafer. Generally the eldest member of the family, usually the father or mother, will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member while giving a blessing. This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year -

whether it be good health, growth in God's grace, or happiness. It can also be a request for forgiveness and a desire for



reconciliation. The Christmas wafer is then passed from person to person around the table until all have had a piece and all have been given blessings. Each person then consumes their piece of the wafer in a special display of love and solidarity between the whole family. The purpose of this act is primarily to celebrate the Christmas spirit: peace, love, joy, and goodwill.

ARE YOU SEARCHING?

Are you searching for a faith to follow? Do you know someone who may be interested in learning more about what the Catholic Church believes and teaches? Were you baptized as an infant but not raised in the faith or raised in another Christian faith? Whatever your situation, wherever you are in your faith journey, OCIA (formally RCIA) is here for YOU. OCIA stands for Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. It is a process by which adults can inquire about the Catholic Church. There is never any pressure put on any inquirer to become a Catholic. If an inquirer or seeker decides to move closer toward becoming a Catholic, he/she receives instruction in a small setting guided by a team of dedicated parishioners. The inquirer decides if he/she wants to move forward one step at a time. The whole parish family supports this process through prayer and witness. Those who choose to become Catholic are welcomed into the Church through the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. If you would like to learn more, please call 516-746-6585 x406 or email esmith@staidanparish.org.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

CONFESSION

Saturday, December 16
12:30 – 1:30 PM
4:00 – 5:00 PM

Monday, December 18
2:30 – 5:00 PM
6:00 – 7:30 PM

Saturday, December 23
12:30 – 1:30 PM
4:00 – 5:00 PM

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17
3:00 PM Church

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, January 7
3:00 PM Church

MASS TIMES

Saturday, December 23
9:00 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
5:00 PM
7:30 PM

Sunday, December 24
FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
7:30 AM
9:00 AM
10:30 AM
12:00 PM

Sunday, December 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 PM Church
4:00 PM Kirwin
5:30 PM Church
8:00 PM Church
Midnight Church

Monday, December 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
7:30 AM
9:00 AM
10:30 AM
12 NOON
1:30 PM
No Evening Mass

Saturday, December 30
9:00 AM
THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND
JOSEPH
5:00 PM
7:30 PM

Sunday, December 31
THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND
JOSEPH
7:30 AM
9:00 AM
10:30 AM
12:00 PM
NEW YEAR'S EVE
5:00 PM

Monday, January 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY
MARY THE MOTHER OF
GOD
6:30 AM
9:00 AM
12:00 PM
5:30 PM



ADULT CONFIRMATION

An adult Confirmation class will begin in late January 2024 for Adult Catholics (18+) who have not been confirmed and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Adult Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, which this year is May 19th. Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 516-746-6585 x406 or esmith@staidanparish.org.

THE COME AND SEE SPIRITUAL GROUP

Invites you to a book discussion on Our One Great Act of Fidelity, Waiting for Christ in the Eucharist By Ronald Rolheiser. We will meet to discuss and reflect on a few chapters every other week, beginning after the Christmas holidays. What a wonderful way to prepare for the Eucharistic Revival that the Church is preparing for later in 2024. The meetings will be on Tuesdays at 10 AM and 7 PM in the convent building on Pembroke St, Williston Park. We will begin on January 16, 2024. In preparation, please read the Preface and Part One. The full schedule will be given out at the first meeting. The book is available on Amazon for about \$10. If you are planning on coming, or if you have any questions, please leave your name and contact information with the Rectory Office at 516 746-6585 Ext 1. Facilitated by Jane Gelderman.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First and Third Fridays of the month 1:00-3:00 PM in the church. January 5 & 19. February 2 & 16.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick takes place at 1:00 PM on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please wait for the priest at Our Lady's Shrine. December 24, January 28, February 25.

FRIDAY CHARISMATIC PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Join us every Friday from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Healing Mass first Friday of the month. January 5, February 2, March 1.

THE HOLY ROSARY.

The Rosary is said immediately after the 6:30 and 9 o'clock Masses daily. Please join to honor Mary, our mother.

THE ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

We are a faith filled group who volunteer, share and pray, all in honor of the Blessed Mother. We welcome and encourage new members.

The Corporate Mass of the Rosary Altar Society will be on Jan 7, 2024 at 9am. This Mass will be offered for the Living and Deceased members of the Rosary Society. There will not be a meeting in January. Please continue to pray every day for world peace.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Please join the parish on the First Saturday devotion to the Blessed Mother. Prayers will begin at 8:45am followed by Mass and the recitation of the Rosary. The next First Saturday is January 6, 2024.

PRAY AS THE BLESSED MOTHER ASKED IN FATIMA

In 1917 Mary appeared to the three children in Fatima six times! On her very first apparition she asked that the Rosary be said everyday for Peace and at that time it was also to convert Russia. At this time in 2023 her requests still stand. Mary is calling us to pray for Peace in this world, for Israel, the Palestinian People and Russia and for all the world to return to God. So come and join the Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Group to pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Come once or every week or just drop in when you can. Wednesdays @ 7 PM in the Convent Yellow Room. We pray for our families, our priests, the church and for peace in the world. To Jesus through Mary. Everyone is welcome! For more info call Gloria, 516-859-6593.

MONDAY NOVENA

Please join us every Monday morning after the 9:00 AM Mass for a Novena to the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Rosary to follow.

LEGION OF MARY CAUSE OF OUR JOY PRAESIDIUM

Meetings in the Convent Ivory Room every Wednesday throughout the year at 7pm or call Lisa at 516.857.7664 for details on getting connected via zoom. All are welcome.

Can't make weekly meetings? Become an auxiliary member. Call Ellen at 516.567.9816 for details.

Home Visitation Program of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The Legion of Mary will bring the Pilgrim Statue to your home if you call Joe at



10:30 FAMILY MASS

A Sunday Mass at St. Aidan for families with children

12/17

St John tells us to prepare the path for Jesus and we should follow Jesus on the path. Put your name on a footprint and tape it to the path of Jesus

917.576.6589. Wouldn't you like to have her statue in your home? Do you know a home bound person who would appreciate a visit or call? Contact Eileen at 516.816.9504 to schedule a convenient time. Follow us online at staidanlom.com

THE UNITED HEARTS OF JESUS & MARY PRAYER GROUP

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and consecration to Jesus and Mary. For more information, please contact Tecky at (516) 655-9755. The next gathering is Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the church on the last Thursday of the month.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS COURT #1577

New members are always welcome! We meet at 7:30pm in Monsignor Kirwin Hall. Please email cdastaidan.1577@gmail.com with any questions! Tuesday, January 9th, Tuesday, February 13th, Tuesday, March 12th, Tuesday, April 9th, Tuesday, May 14th, Tuesday, June 11th

**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

IGNIS ANGELICUS

MOST HEAVENLY CHORUS
SOLOISTS AND ORCHESTRA

EPIPHANY SUNDAY
JANUARY 7, 2024 AT 3PM
CHURCH OF ST. AIDAN
WILLISTON PARK, NEW YORK
DONATION: \$20

ST. AIDAN RESPECT LIFE GROUP

Our group operates under the Diocesan Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics. This office enunciates and promotes the principle that human life, at all stages from conception to natural death, is a gift from God, worthy of respect and protection. This ministry encompasses prayer, education, advocacy, and care & services. More information about the office can be found at the Diocesan web site at www.drvcflife.org. The group is meeting with the purpose of promoting pro-life activities through prayer, educational opportunities, and raising funds for pro-life efforts and new mothers. Please contact Anne Marie Egan if you are interested in joining. elamjoe@aol.com 516-873-8320.

HGL INTERCESSORY PRAYER COMMUNITY

HGL Intercessory Prayer Community meets at 7pm on Monday in the Convent yellow room. All are welcome to journey with us into a deeper relationship with Jesus, interceding for our Church, our clergy, our families and our nation. Learn more about us at HISGLOBALOVE.org.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED ST. AIDAN CHURCH & SCHOOL IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLAN?

Your parish means so much to you, from the friendships you've made to the faith enrichment you've received. As a faithful parishioner you have assisted in the Lord's work by helping to build our faith community. Your stewardship over the years is commendable and much appreciated. Kindly remember St. Aidan in your Will or Estate Plan?

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

"That Christians inspired by the Word of God May Serve the Poor & Suffering!" – Pope Francis.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS!

- Food items needed: COFFEE (REG/DECAF), CANS OF SOUP, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISHWASHING LIQUID, TISSUES, PAPER TOWELS, SHAMPOO AND HONEY. Please bring all non-perishable food/ personal hygiene items to the Parish Social Ministry office or to our new food box which is located near the St. Vincent de Paul clothing box. Please do not leave anything in the food box which requires refrigeration or any frozen food items.
- Sharing Our Treasures . Please return all Christmas gifts (UNWRAPPED) to the social ministry office or

rectory. Any questions, please feel free to contact Rosemarie Cavallaro at: 746-6585, ext. 410.

- Blood Drive – Our winter blood drive will be taking place on Sunday, January 21st from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm in Msgr. Kirwin Hall.. See flyer in bulletin for more information.
- PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 9:45 am in the Dorothy Day room of the Finamore Center to knit or crochet prayer shawls or lap blankets for our sick and homebound parishioners. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving one of these blessed shawls, please contact our office. New members are always welcome. You need not know how to knit or crochet. We have talented parishioners who can teach you. The next meeting will take place on Monday, January 8th. Please use the side entrance to the upper school building located on Dover Street (the entrance is across the street from the Bishop's office. If you have any question please call Parish Social Ministry 746-6585, ext. 410.

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Social Ministry office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:00 pm.

WINTER COAT AND JACKET COLLECTION

Spread the warmth. It is that time again. We are collecting new and gently used coats for men, women, and children. Please donate a coat or a jacket to help the soup kitchen. There is a 'WINTER COAT DRIVE' box on Dover Street, beside the Social Ministry entrance, near the St. Vincent de Paul Box. If you have any questions, please call Tecky at (516) 655-9755. Coats and jackets will be collected until March.

ST. AIDAN'S PRE-CANA PROGRAM

St. Aidan's Foccus & Pre-Cana program consists of a FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory and a ONE DAY parish program that is held on Saturday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. FOCCUS stands for Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding and Study. The FOCCUS and Pre-Cana Class Fee is a total of \$125.00 payable to: Church of St. Aidan

- Winter 2024 Classes. Opening Mass: Sun March 10, 2024 at 12 Noon – 2:15pm. Pre Cana Class: Sat: March 16, 2024 from 8:30am – 4:45pm. Closing Mass: Sat March 16, 2024 at 5:00pm – 6:00pm

- Spring 2024 Classes. Opening Mass: Sun June 2, 2024 at 12 Noon – 2:15pm. Pre Cana Class: Sat: June 8, 2024 from 8:30am – 4:45pm. Closing Mass: Sat June 8, 2024 at 5:00pm – 6:00pm
 - Fall 2024 Classes. Opening Mass: Sun November 3, 2024 at 12 Noon – 2:15pm. Pre Cana Class: Sat: November 9, 2024 from 8:30am – 4:45pm. Closing Mass: Sat November 9, 2024 at 5:00pm – 6:00pm
- To Register call St Aidan Parish Rectory Office (516) 746-6585. The St. Aidan Moderator is Deacon Rudy Martin: Email: Dcrudy@Staidanparish.org. if you cannot make any of these dates you can attend a course facilitated by the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Contact 678-5800 ext. 223 or go on-line to register at www.drvc-faith.org. Click on "Marriage. Scroll down to find Marriage Preparation and FOCCUS on line registration.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

First Sunday of Advent: We are the clay and you are the potter. Be watchful! Be alert! Issiah 64:2-7: "Oh Lord, you are our Father: We are the clay and you are the potter: we are all work of your hands." Let God mold you and make you, so you can give glory to Him and you can follow His will. Love your spouse always. From scripture: "What God has joined together (man & wife), let no one divide." Give your spouse a gift by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. You can find one by looking up WWME.org. Some of the dates to sign up are:

January 26-28, 2024 in Derby Line, VT
February 9-11, 2024 in Huntington, NY
March 15-17, 2024 in Upton, MA

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Kevin & Regina Hickson at 516-554-3835 or <https://wwmenyli.org/>.

WIDOWS / WIDOWERS SOCIAL GROUP

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 PM - 3 PM in St. Joseph's Church, Franklin Ave. & Fifth Street, Garden City. Non-denominational. All are Welcome! REFRESHMENTS SERVED, \$3 PER MEETING.

For additional information, feel free to call Diana (516) 481-9280

DIVORCED OR SEPARATED CATHOLICS OF LONG ISLAND

Including widows, widowers and singles. A social organization for single persons. St. Frances Club, 1869 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793. (Parking in the rear of building). Non-denominational. ALL ARE WELCOME. Bring proof of single status to join. Annual dues \$30. Refreshments following the meeting. Please call also to verify there will be a meeting -Vito 516-516-503-5415 or Janet 516-579-4016

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Do you need to fulfill your Marriage Prep Requirement? Engaged Encounter is an effective PreCana program designed to provide you with the tools for a successful marriage. Visit longisland.Engagedencounter.com for information and registration.

BECAUSE NO MARRIAGE IS BEYOND HOPE...

A marriage-saving program here in the New York/ Metropolitan Area.

- Is your marriage tearing you apart?
 - Do you feel hurt and angry?
 - Does talking make it worse?
 - Thought of leaving or divorce?
 - Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?
- Retrouvaille can help. Our Next Weekend is January 19-21, 2024 at The Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington. To register or for more information: 1-800-470-2230 HelpOurMarriage.org. Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges. It is not a marriage retreat, or counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story. Retrouvaille is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage. Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A CATHOLIC GROUP

The Columbiettes, from Corpus Christi Council 2502, invite you to join our group. We are Catholic women,

18 years and over. We meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 186 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY. RSVP to Ruth Ann at 516-317-6356

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OPERATION SANTA

For Sunday, 12/24 Santas and drivers needed! 1-2 hours of your time starting at 5:30 p.m. Please Contact Village Hall 746-2193

WINTER CONCERT AT THE GAZEBO

December 17th at 4:30pm. Memories of happy events are so important to families, they are part of the threads that make Williston Park "A Great Place to Visit, a Better Place to Live." Our Winter Concert at the Gazebo, our own version of Hallmark, has become a Christmas Tradition! On December 17th at 4:30 pm we'll sing along to music provided by our favorite DJ Steve Griffin. Hot Chocolate will be served along with delicious hot dogs and cookies. This event is being organized by our Beautification Committee and Senior Advisory Committee. Santa may even stop by to say hello!

THE WILLISTON PARK SENIORS

The Williston Park Seniors have openings for a trip to Woodloch Pines on Monday April 29th to Friday May 3, 2024. If interested please contact Rae Caramanica at 516 946-3744 .

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Are you the son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, great grandson or granddaughter of a Veteran who served in the Military or is presently serving? American Legion Auxiliary Unit 144 has scholarship applications available. Applications can be picked up at the Williston Park Library or please contact Dianne Karl. For the website to download the applications. Email dianneli@optimum.net or call 516-778-0006. Please call if you have any questions. Note: Our unit has had scholarship winners for the past 10 years.

FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WWW.CFFOR.ORG

Part 1: The Twelve Rules of Christmas®

Compiled by attorneys for The Rutherford Institute www.rutherford.org and <http://bit.ly/1TNKSQb>

Unfortunately, Christmas has become a time of controversy over what can or cannot be done in terms of celebrating the holiday. To clear up much of the

misunderstanding, the following twelve rules are offered:

1. Public school students' written or spoken personal expressions concerning the religious significance of Christmas (e.g., T-shirts with the slogan, "Jesus Is the Reason for the Season") may not be censored by school officials absent evidence that the speech would cause a substantial disruption.
2. So long as teachers are generally permitted to wear clothing or jewelry or have personal items expressing their views about the holidays, Christian teachers may not be prohibited from similarly expressing their views by wearing Christmas-related clothing or jewelry or carrying Christmas-related personal items.
3. Public schools may teach students about the Christmas holiday, including its religious significance, so long as it is taught objectively for secular purposes such as its historical or cultural importance, and not for the purpose of promoting Christianity.
4. Public school teachers may send Christmas cards to the families of their students so long as they do so on their own time, outside of school hours.
5. Public schools may include Christmas music, including those with religious themes, in their choral programs if the songs are included for a secular purpose such as their musical quality or cultural value or if the songs are part of an overall performance including other holiday songs relating to Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or other similar holidays.
6. Public schools may not require students to sing Christmas songs whose messages conflict with the students' own religious or nonreligious beliefs.

HAPPENING NOW! PER DEC.5, 2023
CONGRESSIONAL REPORT, FBI AGENT IN CHARGE AT RICHMOND, VA FBI OFFICE AND AN FBI WHISTLEBLOWER INDICATE THE FBI IS STILL WORKING TO CONNECT WHAT THE FBI LABELS AS RADICAL TRADITIONALIST CATHOLICS WITH VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS. Read details of the report and investigation at the National Catholic Register, Christian Post and National Review. Read here: <https://bit.ly/489jbhc> <https://bit.ly/4a7VIPp> <https://bit.ly/4aaVUNF>

LITURGY COLUMN

Gregory of Nazianzus (c. 329 – 25 January 390) also known as Gregory Nazianzen, was a 4th-

century Archbishop of Constantinople and theologian. He is widely considered the most accomplished rhetorical writer of the patristic era, the early period of Church history when many of the great tenets of our faith were debated and formalized, and which lasted from the end of the apostolic era to the Council of Nicaea (ca.100 - 451) when many of the beliefs we now learn in early Catechism classes and profess in our prayers were formally agreed upon and set down as doctrine. He is a saint in both the Eastern and Western Churches, and besides being a Doctor of the Western Church, he is revered as one of the Three Holy Hierarchs of the Eastern Church, along with Basil the Great and John Chrysostom.

Gregory's writings had a great impact in the formulation of Trinitarian theology, the now familiar doctrine that God exists as three persons but is one being, having a single divine nature. As he explained, the members of the Trinity are co-equal and co-eternal, one in essence, nature, power, action, and will. The Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, and the Holy Spirit is uncreated, and all three are eternal without beginning. The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are not names for different parts of God, but one name for God because three persons exist in God as one entity. This was a very much disputed concept during the early days of the Church., particularly by the several sects espousing different views usually grouped together as Arianism. As St. Paul tells us, God is beyond our understanding in this life, and the debates around His nature, and the three Persons, divided both the Church and civil authorities, as we saw with St. Cyril, but which will be even more apparent as we look at St. Gregory and later St. Athanasius.

Gregory was the son of a bishop (yes, they could be married then) and was ordained a presbyter by his father's wish, to assist with caring for local Christians. At the time, Emperor Julian rejected the Christian faith and Gregory composed his *Invectives Against Julian* between 362 and 363 in which he stated that Christianity would overcome imperfect rulers such as Julian through love and patience. This did not sit well with the emperor who, fortunately for Gregory, died fighting the Persians and the new emperor, Jovian, supported the Church. This freed up Gregory to join with St. Basil in combating Arianism, which threatened to divide the Church. In a series of debates in

Constantinople, he stressed that Jesus did not cease to be God when He became a man, nor did He lose any of his divine attributes when he took on human nature. He added that Christ was fully human, including having a fully human soul. He also proclaimed the eternal nature of the Holy Spirit, saying He was co-eternal with God. Together, he and St. Basil successfully defended their position and this established both as leaders of the Church. Soon thereafter, Gregory was ordained Bishop of Sasima in 372 by Basil. But later that year he returned to Nazianzus to assist his dying father with the administration of his diocese. In 379, the Antioch synod asked Gregory to go to Constantinople to win over that city to Nicene doctrinal unity, and he gave five powerful defenses on Nicene doctrine, concerning the nature of the Trinity and the unity of the Godhead, refuting the Eunomion denial of the Holy Spirit's divinity. As he explained the facts, "Christ is born, the Holy Spirit is His Forerunner. Christ is baptized, the Spirit bears witness to this ... Christ works miracles, the Spirit accompanies them. Christ ascends, the Spirit takes His place. What great things are there in the idea of God which are not in His power? What titles appertaining to God do not apply also to Him, except for Unbegotten and Begotten? I tremble when I think of such an abundance of titles, and how many Names they blaspheme, those who revolt against the Spirit!"

Apart from his several theological discourses, Gregory was also one of the most important early Christian men of letters, a very accomplished orator, one of the greatest of his time. Gregory was also a very prolific poet who wrote theological, moral, and biographical poems. But it is his defense of the Christian faith in Constantinople and his defense of the Holy Spirit and the Trinitarian doctrine concerning the nature of God, that constitute Gregory's most significant theological contributions to our faith's understanding of the Trinity, especially the Holy Spirit, which makes him a Doctor of the Church. Gregory was the first to use the concept of procession to describe the relationship between the Spirit and the Godhead: "The Holy Spirit is truly Spirit, coming forth from the Father indeed but not after the manner of the Son, for it is not by generation but by procession, since I must coin a word for the sake of clearness." Although he did not fully develop the concept, the idea of procession would shape most later thought about the Holy Spirit.



ONGOING COMMUNICATION: Please visit our webpages at staidanparish.org/ff for updates throughout the school year.

OFFICE HOURS: The office is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 2PM to 7PM, Thursdays by appointment only, and closed on Fridays.

TRANSFERRING FAMILIES: Parents should call the Faith Formation Office at (516) 746-6585 x405 as soon as possible. Baptismal certificates are required for all transferring students. Transfer students grade 2 and up must also submit a Letter of Transfer from the previous Religious Education program attended.

HELP US PASS ON THE FAITH IN 2023-2024: Thank you to all who volunteered to assist in the Faith Formation program. We have a great need for substitute catechists throughout the program. Lesson plans and materials are provided for substitute catechists. Please contact the office for more information at x405. We need your help.

MULTISENSORY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: The Multisensory Program serves children who would benefit from a smaller class setting. This program meets on Thursdays. If you or someone you know has a child who may benefit from this type of program, please contact the Director at (516) 746-6585x406 or esmith@staidanparish.org. We are

always looking for more adult catechists and volunteers.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: The Multisensory program is always looking for a few dedicated high school teens or local college students to make a commitment to assist in the program during the school year. No experience is necessary. If you want to learn more, please call (516) 746-6585 x406 or email esmith@staidanparish.org for more information. Teens must be available on Thursday afternoons. This is a great opportunity for any teen who may be considering a career in Nursing, Teaching, Counseling, Psychology, Social Work, Occupational, Speech, or Physical Therapies. Service documentation, college recommendation letters, and scholarship letters are provided. Please consider joining us for the 2023-2024 school year.

GRADE 5 MASS: On Sunday, January 7th, all grade 5 students and their families are invited to attend the 10:30AM Family Mass. The special topic will be All About the Mass. Please make every effort to join us!

THERE ARE NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES FROM DECEMBER 18TH THROUGH JANUARY 1ST. CLASSES WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2ND. THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 21ST THROUGH DEC. 26TH.

OCIA: If you or someone you know has ever been curious about what the Catholic Church believes and teaches; our parish is here for you! Whether you grew up in a different religion or not raised in any religion, there is a great way to get your curiosity satisfied and your questions answered. Please call (516) 746-6585 x406 or email esmith@staidanparish.org.

ADULT CONFIRMATION: Spread the word! An adult Confirmation class will begin in January 2024 for any Adult Catholics (18+), who have not been confirmed and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Adult Confirmation will be celebrated in May. Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 516-746-6585 x406 or email esmith@staidanparish.org.

SUPPORT FAMILY MASS: Family Mass is looking for more adults to assist in supervising the young people who volunteer each week. It takes very little time and/or training. Supervising adult volunteers can sign up for whatever Sunday dates work best with their schedules. If you can help, please contact esmith@staidanparish.org.

CONNECTING CHURCH AND HOME: Today is the Third Sunday of Advent also known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice, Give thanks, Glad tidings! The priests and deacons have the option to wear rose-colored vestments rather than the violet ones ordinarily worn during Advent. The more cheerful rose color reminds us that we are halfway through the Advent season of preparation for Christmas. The rose candle is lit on the Advent wreath in addition to the two previous violet

candles. Gaudete Sunday is all about joy-filled anticipation of the coming of Christ.

Today's Gospel, (John 1:6-8, 19-28), still focuses our attention on John the Baptist but in a very different way from last week. Rather than emphasizing John's role as the one whose message was completely centered on calling people to a baptism of repentance, John's gospel presents John the Baptist as actively pointing the way to Christ.

Throughout this gospel, John the Baptist answers the questions of the learned skeptics who were trying to figure out exactly who he was and who was this person he was speaking about. Over and over, John the Baptist clearly says who he is not. He describes himself as not any of the characters they were expecting such as a new Moses, or Elijah the famous prophet, or the promised One the Jews were waiting for. Instead, John humbly positions himself as one who was not worthy to even be the servant of the chosen one, sent by God, who was to follow after him.

Today's view of John the Baptist sets a heightened tone of anticipation in us because he understood what we are learning, which is that we should be reflections of the Light of Christ living in a world that contains much darkness. Our role as followers of Jesus is to do our best to walk in His footsteps and to live our lives pointing to Jesus.

Childhood is a time of growth, development, and learning. Parents work toward the goal of caring for their children throughout these developmental years so that their children will grow into responsible, productive, well-rounded adults who will then provide for the next generation of children. Life is ever

changing, and we all must be flexible and open to the changes that are necessary in our lives. Nothing in this life is static. Slowly we each need to be able to identify who we are. This gospel speaks to our understanding of who we are not only in the nitty gritty of everyday routines, tasks, and challenges, but also the spiritual dimension of our lives. When children grow-up in homes where the family's religious values are nurtured and valued, they have a better chance of growing in self-awareness of whom they are and what they are called to do. Like John the Baptist, we need to define who we are and what is God's specific plan for us.

This week, the church prays the O Antiphons, which contain the most beautiful names for the Messiah. These prayers get their name because each one begins with the word, O. Although older children can listen to and pray these prayers, younger children can learn from the description of the titles in each prayer. Some examples are a key, the sun, a crown etc. You can easily download a copy of the O Antiphons and pray one each day from now until Christmas Eve. Call attention to the pink candle in the Advent Wreath and the rose vestments in church. (There is only one other Sunday in the whole church year that rose is worn!) Younger children may also enjoy the following chant: Prepare the way! Prepare the way! Jesus is the Light. Prepare the way! Prepare the way, by

St. Aidan's Family Mass

Children's Worship Materials are in the "Children's Corner" in the Church Lobby. All are welcome! Invite a friend!

Celebrate Advent by attending Sunday Mass and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare for Jesus' birthday!

Coming Up:

Grade Level Mass for Grade 5 on January 7th.



We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please email us at: Faith.Formation@staidanparish.org.



doing what is right. School age children can discuss how they can bring the light of Jesus especially to those who are in need. As a family, be sure to work together to perform a work of charity for the poor such as providing gifts for those in need, adopting a family in need, perhaps providing a Christmas dinner for someone who is lonely or homebound. Imagine that Jesus was coming to speak at our parish and our family has been asked to prepare an introduction for Him. Discuss and record answers to the following questions: What does our family like best about Jesus? What are our favorite gospel stories about Him? How has knowing Jesus made a difference in our family? It is fun to try to act out your family's "introduction."

Reminder: Plan to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation together and have a little special treat or meal afterwards.

Happy Gaudete Sunday! Rejoice!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. AIDAN SCHOOL

Each week in Advent the students join together in reflection during an Advent Prayer Service. Grateful for moments of peace, unity, and shared blessings during this sacred season. Thank you to our Music Teacher, Ms. Stone, for preparing these beautiful prayer services.



TOGETHER IN LEARNING, TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 School Year!

- *Early Childhood Programs*
- *Full Day Nursery-8th Grade*
- *After-School Program*
- *State-of-the-Art Technology*
- *Extracurricular Programs*
- *Enrichment Programs*
- *Middle School Sports*



SAVE THE DATE:
Catholic Schools Week
Open House
Sunday, January 28, 2024
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

What You Can Expect at Our School:

Culture – Our school cultivates a robustly Catholic Culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church.

Supportive Community – Our school provides a safe and supportive community that recognizes the dignity of every student and promotes human flourishing in a familial atmosphere.

Academic Excellence – Our school offers academic excellence, which will foster in your child individual growth and development according to time-tested, faith-based models of teaching and learning.



All registration information can be found on our website at <https://staidanschool.org/registration>

SAINT AIDAN SCHOOL

510/525 Willis Avenue
Williston Park, NY 11596
(516) 746-6585 x202 or x302

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



TOGETHER IN LEARNING, TOGETHER IN CHRIST
Over 70 Years of Excellence In Education

ST. AIDAN PACE

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE



\$10 PER CHANCE

**65" 4K HISENSE SMART
GOOGLE TV**

**WINNER WILL BE PICKED ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

[HTTPS://STAIDANSCHOOL.ORG/PACE-
MONTHLY-RAFFLE](https://staidschool.org/pace-monthly-raffle)



ST. AIDAN'S CYO PRESENTS



Little Stars will present basketball to 2nd grade boys and girls to show them the correct way to play the game. Little Stars will help beginners develop a love for basketball while instilling the fundamentals needed to be a successful player.

**SATURDAYS
JANUARY 20 & 27, FEBRUARY 3, 10 & 17**

ST. AIDAN'S GYM

505 WILLIS AVENUE, WILLISTON PARK, NY

COST: 5 SESSIONS \$100

**PRE REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY
WITH THE QR CODE**

MORE INFORMATION: TO1723@AOL.COM

@RISINGSTARSYOUTHORG @RISINGSTARS_INC @RISINGSTARSYOUTHORG



RISINGSTARSYOUTHFOUNDATION.COM

ST. AIDAN PACE SUPER BOWL 50/50 FUNDRAISER POOL

\$20 PER BOX
**WINNERS FOR Q1, HALF,
Q3, AND FINAL**

EMAIL BILLY HERR
WGHERR@GMAIL.COM

SUPER BOWL LVIII
SUNDAY 2/11/24

PACE ONLINE AUCTION

PACE IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR DONATIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR ONLINE AUCTION THAT WILL TAKE PLACE DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK IN JANUARY.

HIGHLY DESIRED ITEMS LIKE SPORTS OR CONCERT TICKETS, FAMILY EXPERIENCES, VACATION HOME DONATIONS, CAMPS, AND SERVICES WOULD HELP MAKE THIS AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS FOR ST. AIDAN SCHOOL & PARISH.

PLEASE CONTACT KATIE HERR AT
STAIDANPACE@GMAIL.COM
TO DISCUSS DONATIONS.



NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

All types make a strong blood supply

BLOOD DRIVE

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023
8:00AM - 2:00PM

525 Willis Ave., Williston Park ~ Msgr. Kirwin Hall

For more information, please contact 516-746-6585 or rcavallaro@staidanparish.org

To make an appointment please [click here](#),
or scan QR code and type **06333**



Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Mask requirements may change depending on CDC guidelines. Visit nyc.gov/coronavirus for complete COVID-19 safety protocols.



800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org #nybloodcenter

LECTIO DIVINA

- Lectio
- Meditatio
- Oratio
- Contemplatio



Join Bishop Andrzej

For Scripture Reflection Series

on St. JOSEPH - Part IV

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

at 7:30 pm - ZOOM webinar.

Bible Study Verses

JOSEPH

The Man of Loving Justice

Gospel of Matthew 1: 18-25

The Annunciation to Joseph



Registration is Required.

in order to receive the ZOOM link to each session.
Please contact the Western Vicariate office with your
name, parish, email address and phone number.

Send your email to:

westernvicariate@drvc.org

or call Suzanne at 516-744-6850.



Coach of the Willistons is proud
to announce our Annual Coat Drive

We are accepting new and gently used coats
for men, women and children.

All donations will be distributed locally.

Drop off will be in our office, located at
24 Hillside Avenue, Williston Park, NY 11596

To learn more, please contact Rhonda May Crespo at.

516.581.0545

If your home is listed with another broker, this is not intended as solicitation.



"Advent, then, is a time for overturning our perspectives... for letting ourselves be surprised by the greatness of God's mercy,"

-Pope Francis

Pause and Reflect this Advent Season

During the Advent Season we are called to slow down during the frenetic season of shopping, visiting friends and family, baking, wrapping gifts and perhaps even studying for finals.

Are you still struggling to get a unique present for someone special? Consider a gift for all seasons - a donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. It's a special gift that touches the lives of over 600,000 people by supporting programs that allow us to build of community of faith, hope and love in our diocese and beyond.

How does the Catholic Ministries Appeal Care for God's People? It supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs, providing food and nutrition to more than 15,000 people.



Have you tried Text-to-Give to make a donation!
It's fast and secure.

Go to the following link to find your parish's
keyword: bit.ly/3VFrMCE

TEXT your parish's Keyword To:
(516) 271-3338

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org
or call us at **516-678-5800 ext. 296**

Thank You!

: PEOPLE LOOK EAST

People look east
the time is near
Of the crowning of the year
Make your house fair
as you are able
Trim the hearth
and set the table

**People look east and
sing today
Love The guest
is on the way!**

Furrows be glad though
earth is bare
One more seed is
planted there
Give up your strength
the seed to nourish
That in course the
flower may flourish. **R:**



My soul proclaims your mighty deeds.
My spirit sings the greatness of your name. **R:**
Your mercy flows throughout the land
and ev'ry generation knows your love. **R:**
You cast the mighty from their thrones
and raise the poor and lowly to new life. **R:**
You fill the hungry with good things.
With empty hands you send the rich away. **R:**

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come O come Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

O come O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily.
To us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. **R:**

Psalm Luke 1:46-48



THE WHOLE WORLD IS WAITING FOR LOVE

We're waiting for Jesus like Mary,
We're waiting for Jesus the Lord.

**Come down, Lord Jesus!
Come quickly, Lord Jesus!
The whole world is waiting for Love,
The whole world is waiting for Love.**

We're laying a manger for Mary,
A manger for Jesus the Lord. **R:**

We're making it lovely for Mary,
So lovely for Jesus the Lord. **R:**

MY SOUL REJOICES

My soul rejoices in God, my Saviour.
My spirit finds it's joy in God
the living God.

**MUSIC FOR
SUNDAY
MASS**

TOM SHELTON:

**"A SPOTLESS
ROSE"**

REJOICE THE LORD IS KING

Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice! Rejoice,
again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

**DECEMBER 17TH—3RD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

Reading 1 Is 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-48

R. My soul rejoices in my God.
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
R. My soul rejoices in my God.
The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
R. My soul rejoices in my God.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Reading 2 1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Gospel Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with

water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

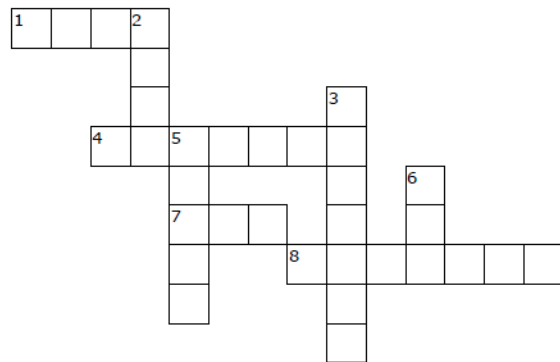
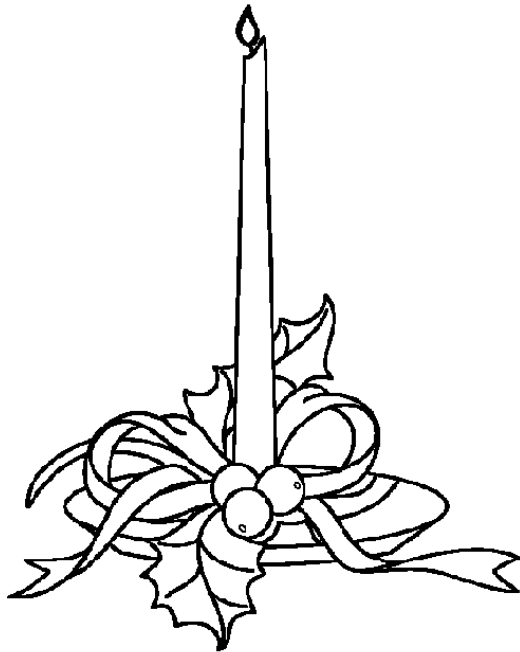
DECEMBER 17TH—3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

G O A F Z A H G S G O D Z L I
W E W D K A A S R A F L Z P J
N O E Z I J E P Z Q H N S G K
U O R S Z N O P K K W Y G F J
P A S L T X Q H K G R M A N G
V E N I D M G C N L I G H T H
M W W M G O M V B J R K C K M
R P G E Z C S V R B Z V M B M
V B Q N F B O Y R N V I K E L
S O G F N J F B Z A E X C L A
R T I R H I H P Y M N R S I N
D R K C T W V B J E B Z E E L
X U N S E T Y A R C A B N V A
R E E J T P R O P H E T T E B
L T M J N R N I P T I X A D T

Jesus Is the Light



GOD	TRUE	PROPHET	WORLD	SENT
MEN	VOICE	JOHN	WITNESS	MAN
LIGHT	BELIEVE	MESSIAH	TESTIFY	NAME



ACROSS

- The man sent from God to tell about Jesus (John 1:6)
- To have confidence that something is true (John 1:7)
- The creator of heaven and earth (John 1:6)
- A person who has personal knowledge of something (John 1:8)

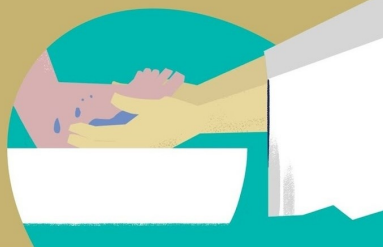
DOWN

- What a person, place, or thing is called (John 1:6)
- To tell others about what you have seen or heard (John 1:7)
- Something such as the sun, a flashlight, or lamp that allows you to see (John 1:8)
- An adult male person (John 1:6)

BELIEVE	MAN	TESTIFY	LIGHT
JOHN	WITNESS	GOD	NAME

Advent Word Study

Agape: "Love"



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The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.

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