

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022 A.D.



Saint John the Evangelist Church

470 Broad Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey 07605

201-947-4545

www.stjohnleonia.org

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sat 12/24 Confessions 8:30am
 Sat 12/24 Christmas Eve Masses 4, 5:30 & 8:00 p.m., Midnight
 Sun 12/25 Christmas Day Masses 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
 Mon 12/26 Miraculous Medal Novena after 9am Mass
 Wed 12/28 St. Jude & Anthony Novena after 9am Mass
 Fri 12/30 AA 8pm LH
 Sat 12/31 Confessions 8:30am & 4:00 p.m.
 Sat 12/31 NA 7pm, LH
 Sun 01/01 New Year's Day Masses 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am, 6:00 pm

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please PRAY in the name of JESUS, the Healer, that the SICK of ST. JOHN PARISH may be restored to health and that those who ASSIST and CARE for the sick will be given the STRENGTH to continue GOD'S GOOD WILL: Christian, Rhyan, Shane, Vahide Atlas, Marilyn Badami, Sue Baniel, Chieko Bernard, Pauline Bernard, Nancy Caldwell, Joe Catarcio, Sheila Conroy, Joseph Corbo, Barbara D'Amato, Harold DelMonte, Mary Ellen Diakakis, Carla Errico, Kathleen Falotico, Nellie Fazio, Linda Gardner, Patsy Harmon, Brendan Horan, Richard Hrbeck, Deena Kaiser, Andrea Korner, Christopher Kuehne, Scott Lyddon, Audrey Maguire, Jean Marrano, Geraldine Mingione, Crystal Molina, Mary Moran, George Mulligan, Mary Netherby, Rita Neugebauer, Alice Palmieri, Mark Patricola, Gloria Petti, Betty Pisarek, Chris Ruskay, Netti Russo, Angelo Shingelo, Maureen Spadora, John Taylor, Maria Uhm, Anne Vaughan, and Adam Villavecchia.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

O Prince of peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion, the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Be their rock, their shield, and their stronghold and let them draw their strength from You. For You are God, for ever and ever.

Sgt. Matt Brady, USMC
 Lt. Col. Christopher Caldwell, O.D., US Army
 Lt. Col. Dennis Castro, USAF
 Maj. Michael A. Franson, US Army
 Sgt. Joseph Gonzales, USAF
 Lt. Robert Luceri, MD USN
 Cmdr. Alexander McMahon, USN
 Cpt. Matt Meagher, US Army

MASS INTENTION

REQUESTED BY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, ST. EUTHYMIUS, MARTYR

9:00 AM Carol Allen.....Mary Rausch
 4:00 PM People of St. John's Parish
 5:30 PM Alicia & George Garcia.....Jazmin Garcia
 8:00 PM Rosaliza Ventura.....Nancy & Ed Ventura
 12:00 AM Dorothy Steffenauer.....Mary Rausch

DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS - THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

7:30 AM People of St. John's Parish
 9:30 AM Natalie Card, Natalie DiPilla & Nataly Mingioni
The Zambrella Family
 11:30 AM People of St. John's Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

9:00 AM Rose Coviello

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

9:00 AM George Papa.....The Papa Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

9:00 AM Ed Aversa.....Teresa Aversa

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, ST. THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR

9:00AM Annette Aviles.....Lisa Cirillo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9:00 AM Josefina Sta. Romana.....Dumlao Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, ST. SYLVESTER, POPE

9:00 AM Bernard DeGersigny.....Joyce Ramos

5:00 PM Carol Ferguson.....The Stancato Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

7:30 AM Eleanore Presing.....Kevin Cahill & Family

9:30 AM Rose Coviello

11:30 AM Maryann Kramer.....Doris & Matthew Vlasaty

6:00 PM Ann Marie Loughlin.....The Doheny Family

Sanctuary Memorials

The Altar Bread & Wine is in memory of

Renee Espenilla

Requested by:

Nancy Ventura

The Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of

Ana Hajjar

Requested by:

Julie & Jim Diemer

The Altar Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM Votive Lamp, and the St. Joseph Votive Lamp, the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church and in the Convent can be dedicated on a weekly basis.



THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Lord, Jesus, every Christmas, I need a quiet moment, just one silent moment. A moment outside of time, a moment without bells. Without carols or cards. A moment away from worrying about presents and parties. Just ONE quiet moment, either in Church or when all have gone to bed. A moment when I can be still and picture myself, one by one, as a shepherd, wise man, Scrooge, inn keeper, Little Drummer Boy, as George Bailey discovering "It's a Wonderful Life," a moment when I can experience You with me as the Christmas Present.

What is the "Christmas Nail"?

It's a little ornament that carries a profound meaning.

Maybe this Christmas, a friend will visit your house. As they admire your Christmas tree decorated with lights, images of the Nativity, perhaps some colorful ribbon and a snowman or two, they'll spy a strange little ornament hanging close to the trunk of the tree. It's almost invisible—hidden behind branches and lights and other decorations.

It's a plain, long nail—much like the nails that pierced the hands and feet of Christ during His Passion. Your guests might wonder why such a nail would be found on a Christmas tree.

You'll explain to them that Jesus was born in Bethlehem so that, thirty-three years later, He could die for our sins on Calvary. The Nail is a reminder of the Passion this little babe would undergo, as innocent at His death as He was at His birth. It reminds us of His sufferings and the incredible love that motivated both His earthly nativity and His death. This Nail decorates a Christmas tree, and the nails of His Passion decorated the Tree of the Cross.

The Nail is not in a place of prominence, but almost hidden away near the trunk. It is not so much a decoration, but a prayerful reminder for the family and for those guests with particularly keen eyes and hearts.

A poem explains the meaning of The Christmas Nail:

This is The Christmas Nail.

It is to be hung on a sturdy branch,
a branch near the trunk,

a branch that will hold such a spike without being noticed
by well-wishers

dropping by to admire one's tinsel tree.

The nail is known only to the home that hangs it.

Understood only by the heart that knows its significance.

It is hung with the thought that the Christmas tree but
foreshadows the Christ-tree

which only He could decorate for us,
ornamented with nails as this.

~from: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed>

HOMEBOUND

If you or some you know is homebound, even for a short duration of time, please contact the parish office so Fr. Bryan or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion can be scheduled to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound.

Faith Formation News

Please note: there will be no Faith Formation classes for the next week (New Year's Day). Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8th , 2023.

Christmas Colors

The liturgical color for Christmas is white, often trimmed in silver and gold, but the 'secular' colors for Christmas are red, white and green. Some say that this is because of how the red and green poinsettia plant and holly of wintertime contrast with the white snow. (Is St. Valentine's Day red, and St. Patrick's Day green, so stores can get rid of all their green and red stuff?) Red symbolizes love (the heart) and reflects our warmth (fire) and love for each other. It is also the color that is considered the greatest excitement. As a religious symbol it stands for fire, blood, and charity. Red vestments are worn twice during the octave of Christmas: 12/26, the feast of the first martyr, St. Stephen, and 12/28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs. Green symbolizes hope, the eternal longing for spring, and all the promises of the future. Green is the symbol for nature, youth, and the hope of eternal life. Since Christmas is a feast of hope, with a newborn child as its central symbol, green plants like holly, pine trees, ivy, and mistletoe are all closely associated with Christmas. White stands for purity and is represented by the crystalline form of water and the snowflake. White is the religious symbol which stands for light, purity, joy and glory. White is seen in the robes of Christmas angels and the clergy, in Santa's beard, in Christmas snow and snow flakes.

ShopRite Cards

When you purchase a \$25, \$50, or \$100 ShopRite card at the church you receive the full value of the card you purchased. ShopRite donates back to St. John's 5% of what we sell. Please note: The cards are good at all ShopRite stores.

amazon smile Donation received for 3rd Quarter



St. John's has been issued a donation in the amount of **\$128.20** from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2022. received a donation from

Amazon Smile for the third quarter of 2022. Thanks to all those who designated St. John's as their charity of choice in the Amazon Smile Program.

If you haven't yet signed up - you can scan the QR code above to do so.

Your selection is saved so every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to St. John's. You can change your charity any time by simply selecting "Change your Charity" in "Your Account."

Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31
5:00 pm

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1
7:30 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am & 6:00 pm



SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"You cannot visit the child without visiting the mother; you cannot, in life, approach the child except through the mother. If we are to think of Christ in this aspect at all, the other idea follows as it is followed in history. We must either leave Christ out of Christmas, or Christmas out of Christ, or we must admit, if only as we admit it in an old picture, that those holy heads are too near together for the haloes not to mingle and cross."

G.K. Chesterton: The Everlasting Man

DID YOU KNOW?

In Ireland, January 6th is also known as Women's Little Christmas Day - an old tradition that is still celebrated by many. After all the holiday preparations - cooking, decorating, cleaning and hosting - the women get together for some relaxation and enjoy their own "Little Christmas" while the men take care of all the chores at home that day.

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Biblical times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is? One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

St. John's Knights of Columbus



All men over the age of 18 are invited to join the St. John's Parish Knights of Columbus, the world's largest men's fraternal organization.

For more info please contact Vito Mazza at 201-446-4072. We are offering free membership in honor of Blessed Michael

McGivney. Use the password: BlessedMcGivney and join for FREE!!

Visit: <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html>

Giving Tree Gifts

Many thanks to all who generously donated to our Giving Tree - every tag was taken!!! We especially thank you for your spirit of sharing during this special season! The gifts have been distributed to many families in need—may God Bless you all!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MON: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and

TUE: 17/Mt 10:17-22

WED: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

THU: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

FRI: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

SAT: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

SUN: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards began in 1843 when a young British civil servant, who had no time to write Christmas letters to all his friends and relatives, asked an artist to design a card for him with the words: "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you." The card showed a family raising their glasses in a toast, which angered English Puritans who declared it promoted drunkenness! But 1,000 cards were sold at a penny a piece, and since the first "cheap" stamp had been introduced in Britain in 1840, a new tradition began! A few years later, an American of German descent, Louis Prang, the "father of American Christmas Cards," designed and printed beautiful, but rather expensive, cards. Eventually, mass-produced, less expensive cards flooded the market; US companies began to make them when German products were "taboo" during WWI and WWII, and a 169 year-old tradition began!

*Those who are hardest to
love need it the most.*

-Socrates

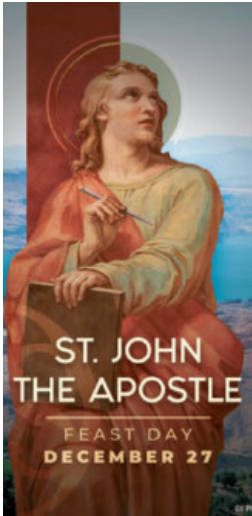
CONVALIDATION

Were you married civilly by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church? See Fr. Bryan for more details and to see if your marriage can be regularized with the Church

KIDS KORNER ANSWERS

1. The Star of Bethlehem.
2. White.
3. Unknown.
4. Germany.
5. January 7.

Saint John the Evangelist - December 27



Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" — they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fifth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the Emperor Trajan.

SANTA CLAUS

Our Santa Claus is really St. Nicholas, who was a bishop in Asia Minor during the 4th Century. St. Nicholas gave many gifts anonymously in his lifetime and became known as the protector of children. The Dutch settlers brought the tradition of St. Nicholas with them to America, where they celebrated his feast day on December 6th, which is near Christmas time. The Dutch version of this Saint was called "Sinterklaas". Santa Claus became an Americanization of that name.

St. John's Altar Society

All women over 18 are invited to join the St. John's Altar Society, a group of women who quietly serve our parish in many different ways—washing altar linens, running bake sales and other types of fundraisers to help support our parish. For more information or to join, call Kathy Stendor at 201-956-7147 or Betsy Trautsch at 201-947-8679.

December 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas! ©LPi

Christmas Prayer

Come Lord Jesus, Our Prince of Peace and Beloved Savior; come into our homes and settle in our hearts this Christmas, filling us with gifts of love and joy. With Mary and Joseph we rejoice and thank God for You. We sing with Angels, "Glory to God in the highest." Dear Emmanuel enable us to follow You faithfully and to share Your Good News of redemption to everyone we meet, not only in this season but always. Amen.

KIDS KORNER

1. What is the star that rose above the stable where Jesus was born traditionally called?
2. What is the color of the Epiphany?
3. How many wise men came to see Jesus?
4. Which country started the Christmas tree tradition?
5. What day do Catholics take down Christmas decorations?



Answers on Page 4



Frank A. Patti

Kenneth Mikatarian

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