

# Saint John the Evangelist Church

470 Broad Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey 07605  
201-947-4545 [www.stjohnleoniam.org](http://www.stjohnleoniam.org)

**Sunday, December 3, 2023 AD**



## WELCOME

To the Parish Family of  
St John's in Leonia  
Founded in 1912

**COME WORSHIP WITH US**

### Mass Schedule

Saturday: .....5:00pm

Sunday:.....7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 6:00pm

Weekdays Mon-Sat:.....9:00am

#### SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

**First Friday:** 7:00pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

**First Saturday:** 9:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

#### Novenas prayed after 9:00 a.m. Mass:

**Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal:** Monday

**St. Jude and St. Anthony:** Wednesday

**Holy Hour:** Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

**St. Peregrine:** First Friday of the month

**Infant of Prague:** 25th of the month\

**Rosary:** Recited Mon - Sat after 9:00 a.m. Mass



**December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holy Day of Obligation**  
**Masses are on Thursday, December 7th at 7pm &**  
**Friday, December 8th at 9:00am, 12Noon & 7pm**

## Upcoming Parish Events

- 12/2 Sat Confessions 4pm
- 12/2 Sat NA 7pm Lower Hall
- 12/4 Mon Miraculous Medal Novena following 9am Mass
- 12/4 Mon Viewing of **The Chosen** 7pm Lower Hall
- 12/5 Tue Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Lower Hall
- 12/6 Wed St. Jude & St. Anthony Novena following 9am Mass
- 12/6 Wed Book Club 10am Lower Hall
- 12/6 Wed Holy Hour with Rosary 7pm
- 12/7 Thu Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass 7pm
- 12/8 Fri Feast of the Immaculate Conception Masses at 9:00am, 12 noon and 7:00pm
- 12/8 Fri AA 8pm Lower Hall
- 12/9 Sat Confessions 4pm
- 12/9 Sat NA 7pm Lower Hall

## 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: Baby Aine, Alex, Gina, Vahide Atlas, Sue Daniel, Chieko & Pauline Bernard, Harold DelMonte, Mary DelMonte, Mary Ellen Diakakis, Carla Errico, Kathleen Falotico, Nellie Fazio, Virginia Fisher, Joseph Garcia, Patty Gowers, Cara Hanson, Estrella Juele, Andrea Korner, Frank Lynam, Audrey Maguire, Jean Marrano, Kay Mazza, Mary Moran, George Mulligan, Mary Netherby, Rita Neugebauer, Elidia Patch, Mark Patricola, Gloria Petti, Dan Reeves, Chris Ruskay, Netti Russo, Fabio Santos, Newman Santos, Angelo Shingelo, Maureen Spadora, Marimel Tolentino, Loidya Valenzuela, Joan Veneman, Adam Villavecchia, Daniel Webb, Susan Wong, & Special Intention.

## PRAYER 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. Dennis Castro, USAF**  
**Maj. Michael A. Franson, US Army**  
**Sgt. Joseph Gonzales, USAF**  
**Cmdr. Alexander McMahon, USN**  
**Cpt. Matt Meagher, US Army**

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God entrusts special gifts to each of us, but they are not gifts to be hoarded and hidden. Let's work each and every day to multiply those gifts in the world. ©LPI

## MASS INTENTION

## REQUESTED BY

**SATURDAY, DEC. 2, ST. BIBIANA, VIRGIN & MARTYR**

9:00 AM JAMES GANLEY ..... JULIE & JIM DIEMER

5:00 PM FANNY KOCH ..... RICH & DIANE KOCH

**SUNDAY, DEC. 3, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

7:30 AM JOHN DIEMER ..... JULIE & JIM DIEMER

9:30 AM McMEEKIN & SALZIG FAMILIES ..... DORIE SALZIG

OSCAR ESCOBAR SR. .... JOHN & MARIE BRAINARD

11:30 AM THE KOSEAK & HOMMI FAMILIES ..... PETRA HAMMID

6:00 PM MICK DUNLEAVY ..... SEAN & MAURA O'NEILL & FAMILY

**MONDAY, DEC. 4, ST. JOHN DAMASCENE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

9:00 AM GEORGETTE DIEMER ..... JULIE & JIM DIEMER

BLANQUI TRUJILLO ..... ANNETTE CIRILLO

**TUESDAY, DEC. 5, ST. SABAS, ABBOT**

9:00 AM MARINO FERNANDEZ ..... YOUR FRIENDS AT AUMM AUMM

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, ST. NICHOLAS, BISHOP**

9:00 AM MONICA KIM (LIVING—BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS) ..... ELIZABETH KIM

**THURSDAY, DEC. 7, ST. AMBROSE, BISHOP**

9:00 AM LABRIOLA & BOGGIANO FAMILIES ..... LENA BOGGIANO

7:00 PM ROSE COVIELLO

**FRIDAY, DEC. 8, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

9:00 AM ANNA DELLA DONNE ..... YOUR FRIENDS

12:00 PM SABINO BASSO, JR. .... ROS & JOHN ASTRAB

7:00 PM SABINO BASSO, JR. .... JULIE & JIM DIEMER

**SATURDAY, DEC. 9, ST. JUAN DIEGO**

9:00 AM BENNY KWIATKOWSKI ..... FR. RICH KWIATKOWSKI

5:00 PM ALBERT BOGGIANO ..... LENA BOGGIANO

**SUNDAY, DEC. 10, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

7:30 AM PATRICK DIAMOND ..... SEAN & MAURA O'NEILL & FAMILY

9:30 AM MARIE CHIARELLO ..... VINCENT CHIARELLO

LJUBICA SAFRAN ..... DUKE FAMILY

11:30 AM MARA VRKIC ..... DINA & MIKE VRKIC

6:00 PM SABINO BASSO, JR. .... MARILYN BADAMI

## SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

The Altar Bread & Wine is in memory of

**The Kelly Family**

requested by

**Peter & Vera Daly**

The Sanctuary Lamp is for

**Special Thanks**

Requested by

**Joseph Lee**

## SANCTUARY OFFERINGS

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

## CHECK OUT THE BOOK RACKS



None of us knows it all; we should all take some time out of our busy lives and learn more about our own faith, so please check out the book racks in the vestibule of church. We have plenty of interesting books, booklets, pamphlets and CDs.



## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### Please Note:

-This Friday, December 8th, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is a Holy Day of Obligation. See you at Mass ...

-Next Sunday is also the last day to drop off gifts for our Annual Faith Formation Toy Drive. We thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Immaculate Conception

### Question:

I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

### Answer:

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "arc" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin! ©LPi

## GOING ON VACATION?

Visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) for the locations of Catholic Churches and a Mass schedule, throughout the USA.

## A Marriage Moment

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls." (Proverbs 31:10) This scripture should probably have a parallel statement about a worthy husband. Why don't each of you write a note to each other about a talent that your beloved brings to your life together.

~ by Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)



## William Paterson University Presents A Winter Concert

**December 3, 2023 3pm**

The William Paterson University Music Department will be having their Winter Concert here at St. John's on Sunday December 3 at 3pm. The concert will feature the Concert and Chamber Choir. Our cantor, Nicole Parente, is a part of the Chamber Choir. This is a free event and the choirs are asking for all those who attend to bring can goods, etc. for the food pantry as a donation.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Mon: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tue: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wed: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thu: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Fri: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

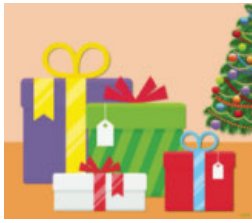
In the Unexpected "What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right. No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected. Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose. This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

## 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.

## Project Toys

We are collecting toys for boys and girls attending schools in the Bronx. The children are between 3 and 21 years old and are in regular and special education programs. Some suggestions: sport balls, girl's purses, gift sets of lotions and colognes.



Please wrap all new items and indicate age and gender of the child.

Gifts can be dropped off at the Collection boxes in the Church at Broad Avenue and Harrison Street entrances at the weekend masses through December 10th. They can also be dropped off at the Faith Formation Office at the Rectory (235 Harrison Street) during the week through December 8th.

## Godparent [Sponsor] Requirements

Canon [Church] law states a godparent [sponsor] must:

- ♦ Be a Baptized and confirmed Roman Catholic who attends weekly Mass and receives Eucharist
- ♦ Be at least 16 years of age
- ♦ Not be one of the parents
- ♦ Lead a moral life in keeping with Church teaching, and be a good Catholic role model.
- ♦ If married, be married according to Church law
- ♦ Be a registered member of their own current parish from which they must obtain an eligibility certificate; we can only give eligibility certificates to those registered in our parish!

Since only one Roman Catholic godparent is required, a baptized member of another Christian church [but not a Roman Catholic] may serve as a Christian Witness. Since godparents renew their baptismal promises during the Rite of Baptism, a non-baptized person cannot serve in this role.

## Homebound???

If you know someone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the Rectory Office at 201-947-4545 or if you prefer, email: [parishoffice@stjohnleonia.org](mailto:parishoffice@stjohnleonia.org) and we will schedule a home visit.

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## 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.

## Congratulations and God's Blessing



Our newly baptized:  
**Terrence George McMahon**

May God Bless Terrence and his parents as we joyously welcome them into our parish family. May we all take a moment to reflect upon and renew our own baptismal promises and celebrate our own life in Christ.

## ADVENT

Advent is about hope, hope in the Lord. The virtue of hope is that undying confidence, that in spite of our success or failure in life, our sanctity or sinfulness, our virtues or unconquered vices, Emmanuel has not left us. Jesus still abides with us and within us. Advent assures us that God, who created everything out of nothing, and before whom we shall be responsible for what we "have done and have failed to do," will sustain us in life. Advent reminds us that God is our only anchor, our only hope.

## GETTING INTO HEAVEN

A CCD teacher was testing the children in the CCD class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven. He asked the children "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" "NO!" the children answered. "If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?" Again, the answer was, "NO!" By now the teacher was overjoyed and starting to smile. Hey, this was fun! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my wife, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked them again. Again, they all answered, "NO!" The teacher was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," I continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?" A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

## PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

Each day after 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass, we pray the Rosary. For those unable to attend, there is also Divine Mercy at 3:00 p.m. followed by the Rosary of the Day. Also, the Chaplet of the Holy Face is prayed daily at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested, download the **Zoom App** (free) to your phone, tablet or computer. Use this link any day you would like to join us in prayer:

<https://us02web-zoom.us/j/.4845188113>

Use passcode: **prayer**

## KIDZ KORNERS ANSWERS

1. Jesus.
2. No.
3. Mary.
4. God.
5. King Herod.



It's time for our  
**GIVING  
TREE!**

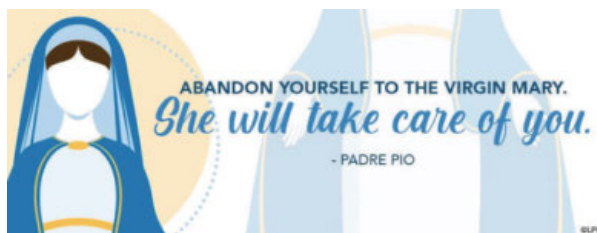


We ask those who took tags from the Giving Tree to please bring the gifts wrapped with the original tag attached, to Mass next weekend of

December 9/10. It is important to have the gifts here on that date so that they can be picked up and delivered on time. Our recipients are Passaic Women's Center, Underserved children in the Bronx and the Food Pantry.

### **When is the best time to get an annulment?**

Although there is no "best" time for starting an annulment, it is important to know that the final annulment decree will not be issued until the divorce is finalized. You are free to begin the annulment proceedings at the same time as the divorce proceedings. Waiting to begin the annulment after obtaining the divorce may mean being revisited by painful memories and feelings. This may move you to not proceed with the annulment. It may prove wise to begin the annulment process at the same time as the divorce process



***"After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity."*** —From *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*

You can't go wrong choosing Our Lady as your role model for living a stewardship way of life. She exhibited all of the characteristics of an Everyday Steward in a profound manner. If we draw closer to her and mold ourselves to be like her, then we draw ourselves closer to Jesus and more closely resemble him.

During this Advent season, pray for her attributes of patience, obedience, graciousness, and generosity to be your attributes. Do not let the pace of the season take control of you. Do not let your generosity be misguided and spend more than you have. May the grace that fills her touch you and enter into your being.



**Christmas Pageant Rehearsal** is every Friday night at 7pm in the Church. Please see Dennis or Nicole after the 9:30am or 11:30am Mass on Sunday to sign up.

**T**was the month before Christmas when all through our land, not a Christian was praying nor taking a stand. Why the PC Police had taken away, the reason for Christmas - no one could say. The children were told by their schools not to sing, about Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things. It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say, December 25th is just a "Holiday". Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit, pushing folks down to the floor just to get it! CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-pod. Something was changing, something quite odd! Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanza in hopes to sell books by Franken and Fonda. As Targets were hanging their trees upside down, at Lowe's the word Christmas - was nowhere to be found. At K-Mart and Staples and Penney's and Sears, you won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears. Inclusive, sensitive, di-ver-si-ty, are words that were used to intimidate me. Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen. On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton! At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter to eliminate Jesus, in all public matter. And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith. Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace, the true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded. The reason for the season, stopped before it started. So as you celebrate "Winter Break" under your "Dream Tree", sipping your Starbucks, listen to me... Choose your words carefully, choose what you say, Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS, not Happy Holiday!"

**Thank You!**

Thanks to all who donated turkeys, and other meats and provisions to our Food Pantry for the Thanksgiving holiday. Your generosity made it possible for many families to enjoy the holiday. How wonderful is that! God Bless you for your continued generosity —*Food Pantry Committee*

### **KIDZ KORNER**

1. Whose birth do we celebrate on December 25th?
2. Did Jesus have any brothers and sisters?
3. Who was Jesus' mother?
4. Who was Jesus' father?
5. Who was King of Israel when Jesus was born?

**Answers on page four**



**Frank A. Patti**

Kenneth Mikatarian

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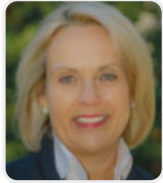
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