Sunday Masses 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30am 12 Noon and 5:30pm Saturday Vigil at 5:30pm

Monday thru Friday Masses 7:00 and 8:15am 12:10 and 5:30pm Saturday Masses 8:15am and 12:10pm

Sacrament of Penance Monday thru Friday: 11:30am to 12 Noon 5:00 to 5:25pm Saturday: 11:30am to 12 Noon 4:30 to 5:25pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Every Friday 8:45am to Noon 12:45 to 5:00pm Benediction: 5:00pm

Japanese Mass 1:00pm 2nd Saturday Throughout the Year

**Baptisms and Marriages**By appointment

Visitation of the Sick Upon request

Miraculous Medal Novena Monday: Following the 12:10 and 5:30pm Masses

**Rosary** *Monday and Wednesday:*Following the 5:30pm Mass

Parish House Office Hours Monday thru Friday: 9:00am to 12 Noon 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Music Director
Kathleen Martin
Choir Rehearsal:
Thursday at 7:00pm (September thru June)

Wheelchair Accessible Entrance on 1011 First Avenue

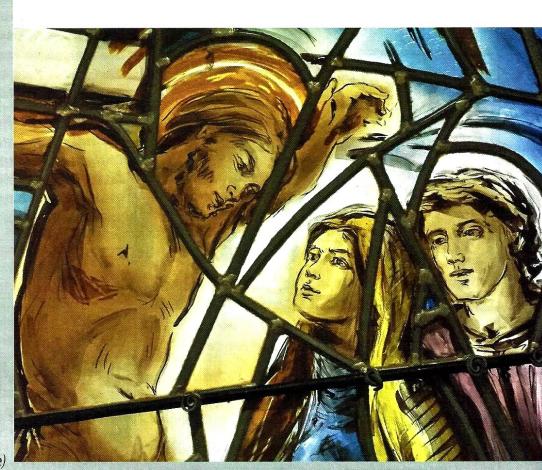


November 19, 2017

# Saint John the EvangelistOur Jady of Peace Catholic Church

On the Corner of East 55th Street and First Avenue

Reverend Monsignor Douglas J. Mathers, JD, JCD, Pastor Reverend Antony R. Alfred, Parochial Vicar Parish House: 348 East 55th Street - New York, New York 10022 1 212 753-8418 1 212 753-8419 Fax 1 212 826-1848 E Mail: churchofstjohn@cs.com



St. John and Our Lady

**NEW PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS WELCOME** 



#### Chanksgiving Holiday Mass Schedule

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> (THANKSGIVING DAY)

MASSES 8:15AM & 12:10PM No 5:30PM MASS



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> (DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING)

MASSES 8:15AM & 12:10PM No 5:30PM Mass

ON BOTH DAYS, THE CHURCH WILL CLOSE AT 2:30PM AND THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED. IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 1.212.753.8418



#### Will be here soon!

During Advent, our Parish sponsors a Giving Tree to benefit Catholic Charities *Adopt-A-Family* Program. Our *Giving Tree is* located in our 55<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance.

- 1. Please <u>SELECT</u> an ornament and <u>ADD</u> that person to your Christmas gift list.
- 2. TAPE the ornament to the gift.
- 3. RETURN it to the Church, UNWRAPPED.

  DEADLINE is Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Take an Ornament—Buy a Gift—Share Your Love!



Tabernacle burns this week
In Loving Memory for

MARY & JOHN JENNERJAHN

## Christmas Flower Fund



On Christmas and throughout the Christmas Season, our altar and Parish Church will be decorated with beautiful Christmas flowers.

Parishioners wishing to remember a living or deceased parent, relative or friend are invited to make a donation to our Parish Christmas Flower Fund. The customary donation is \$15.00.

Our Parish Envelope Company has recently sent Parishioners a special Christmas Flower Offering envelope. Additional envelopes are available on the tables in the back of the Church, and in our pamphlet racks.



### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

y God, take from me all that separates me from You.

My God, give me everything that will bring me closer to You!

My God, protect me from myself and grant that I may belong entirely to You! Amen.

—Saint Nicholas of Flue

#### From the Desk of Monsignor Douglas J. Mathers

My Dear Parishioners,

The first Thanksgiving is thought to have taken place in the fall of 1621 at the Pilgrim Settlement in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Pilgrim settlers and Native Americans had a meal together to celebrate a good harvest. By the 1660's, some New England communities were holding a Thanksgiving feast annually, but it was not until two centuries later that Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November would be a new national holiday, "Thanksgiving Day."

THANKSGIVING DAY is a holiday that is among the finest national traditions in the United States. However, setting a day aside for giving thanks to God is not just a United States phenomenon, many countries worldwide also celebrate harvest festivals that express gratitude to God.

For Catholics, Thanksgiving Day has a special meaning. This is because we know that gratitude lies at the very heart of discipleship. A grateful heart heralds the beginning of discipleship and opens the way to our deepest response, the desire to give back to God for the bounty of our lives.

With this in mind, you should ask yourself, "What do I want to thank my loving God for?" Early American colonists, who gave inspiration to the Thanksgiving Day tradition, were thankful for their very survival. Many of their compatriots were buried in the soil of their new land, far from all that they cherished and was familiar.

It's natural to thank God when things turn out the way you hoped, when disaster is averted or when your life seems filled with abundance. Harder, perhaps, is the ability to thank God for being present with you in times of struggle, failure, illness and death. But, the truth is, your memory of God's presence is both a comfort and a gift to you all its own.

If you take time to reflect on your life, you can often discover that you're most grateful for a gift you struggled to receive.

Often you find that what has come to you in the form of hardship has, in hindsight, revealed itself as gift. This is why each day's struggles and trials can be offered to God with a heartfelt "thank you."

Meister Eckhart, a 14th Century Dominican Mystic, wrote, "If the only prayer you ever say is 'thank you,' that will suffice." At first, this might seem puzzling. What about prayers of praise and petition? But Eckhart knew that the most genuine response, and indeed, the first and most spontaneous response of a heart which discovers God, is "thank you." Gratitude lies at the beginning of true prayer.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving Day, pause to reflect on your personal reasons for thanksgiving. Ask God for the grace to be present to those moments in your life when God's gifts are obvious and also when they're hidden in shadows. Remember to praise God, and remember to be thankful for all of them.

Sincerely in Christ, Monsignor Douglas J. Mathers

## A Prayer for Thanksgiving

O bountiful God, You have blessed me beyond all measure with food and family, friends and freedom.

I thank You for looking upon me with love and for filling all creation with Your loving gifts.

Show Yourself to me in all the surprising ways that You are present in the world, in my life, in my family and friends, and in coworkers and strangers.

Help me to use Your gifts wisely, to share them unselfishly, and to enjoy them immensely. Amen.







#### The Wages of Sin...

You often think of sin as something that displeases God. While this is true, perhaps you forget that it should also incur your own displeasure. Sin inhibits your capacity to do the good of which you are capable and to become the beautiful person that God intended you to be. Sin is an act of

self-harm; in the worst case it becomes selfdestructive. The Bible gives you various images of sin. For example, sin defiles you and sin makes you unclean. Sin is a spiritual illness that undermines our personal well-being and reduces your spiritual vitality. Sin causes you to lose the way to God and to wander around life aimlessly. Sin is a burden that weighs you down and inhibits your capacity to flourish and grow.

St. Paul writes: "The wages of sin is death..." Thanks be to God that there's a remedy for the spiritual death of sin. It's the forgiveness God gives you whenever you ask Him, especially when you go to Confession. God's merciful forgiveness of your sins restores you to life and helps you to be life-giving to others.

—Fr. Michael Casey



#### Mass Intentions

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017

+Lea Encarnacion (Vigil)

#### THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

7:30am +Ann Bassler 9:00am +Mary D'Angelo

10:30am

+Josephine & Gennaro Rosciano

12:00pm Living & Deceased Members of the Aufiero Family

For Our Parishioners 5:30pm

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017

+Marie Louise Andrei 7:00am +John W. Kelliher 8:15am 12:10pm +Patrick Cawley 5:30pm +Nicholas Camilleri

#### THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017

7:00am +Rose & Andrew Gull

+Marie Germaine Theriault 8:15am

12:10pm +Ethel Talabovich 5:30pm +Jane Grech

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017 St. CECILIA

7:00am +Thomas M. Britt, Jr.

8:15am +Mary Russo

+Margo & Douglas Coldwell 12:10pm

5:30pm +George Logan

#### THANKSGIVING DAY—HOLIDAY SCHEDULE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017

7:00am **NO MASS** 8:15am +Ellen Hernon 12:10pm +Gail R. Schipski 5:30pm **NO MASS** 

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2017—HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

7:00am **NO MASS** 

8:15am +Elena & Frances Baldeon

12:10pm Intentions of Rosalie Lucchese, Thanksgiving

5:30pm **NO MASS** 

#### St. Catherine of Alexandria SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2017

+Rose & Andrew Gull 8:15am 12:10pm +Lella & Gaetano Fiumicini 5:30pm +Denis Burns (Vigil for Sunday)

#### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

#### 2017 THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME \$7,650 2016 THIRTIY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME \$8,289

THANK YOU! WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO USE OUR ENVELOPE SYSTEM. LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE OFFERING ENVELOPES THROUGH THE MAIL.

#### Prayer Requests

FOR OUR SICK: SABRINA BERTUCCI, MURIEL BRAIND, ROBERT ELGORT, MARY GOLDSTEIN, RENEE SOMMERS FOR OUR DECEASED: LOUIS KELLER, PAUL LOCHAK, REGINA RICCARDI, MARIE SALVAGGIO

Please call the Parish House to have a Parishioner's name placed on this list. Check to see if someone who is ill consents to having their name published. We only publish the names of recently deceased.