St. John the Evangelist Greece

December 1, 2024

2400 West Ridge Road Rochester, New York 14626

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT As disciples of Jesus Christ serving on the Parish Pastoral Council, we collaborate with the Pastor and Staff inviting the people of St. John the Evangelist Church to joyfully celebrate the Eucharist, faithfully teach Catholic tradition, and fervently form Catholic spirituality, so that together we may go forth in love to serve the Lord and each other.



"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Evening: 4:00 PM **Sunday:** 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM **Holy Days:** As announced in bulletin

Weekdays: Monday-Wednesday & Friday 8:15 AM

CONFESSIONS By Appointment Only. *Please contact the Parish Office 225-8980.*

BAPTISMS For parishioners requesting Baptism for their child, we encourage you to please contact the Parish Office at (585) 225-8980 before the birth of your child to prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism.

MARRIAGE Arrangements for the Sacrament of Marriage must be made at least SIX MONTHS in advance. Call the Parish Office at 225-8980.

PRAYER LINE Jill Finan StJohnPrayerLine@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Peter Enyan-Boadu - 225–8980 Deacons: Elmer Smith - 230-3074

Lon Smith - 489-7255

Director, Music Ministry:

Dawn Chmiel - 225-8980

Director, Liturgical Music: Consuelo De Los Santos 225-8980

www.roccatholicsnorthwest.org

Pastoral Minister:

Tod Simone– 225-8980 **Faith Formation Coordinator:**Cristyn Simone - 261-0831

Secretary:

Marcia Parsons - 225-8980

Business Office:

Joe Spurrier - 225-8980

Finance Director:
Christopher Frontale

225-8980

Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Bob Gotham 227-4638

Parish Office hours: Monday-Wednesday & Friday: 9-Noon and 1:30-5 PM; Thursday: 9-Noon

Fax: 585-723-9825 E-mail: gstjohnt@dor.org

Visit www.StJohnGreece.org Follow us on StJohnGreece
Find us on St John the Evangelist Church of Greece

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday **Tuesday** Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Is 2:1-5/ Is 11:1-10/ Is 25:6-10a/ Is 29:17-24/ Is 30:19-21, 23-26/ Bar 5:1-9/ Is 26:1-6/ Ps 122:1-9/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Ps 23:1-6/ Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/ Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/ Ps 147:1-6/ Ps 126:1-6/ Lk 10:21-24 Mt 8:5-11 Mt 15:29-37 Mt 7:21, 24-27 Mt 9:27-31 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/ Lk 3:1-6

Welcome!

If you are new in the parish, we invite you to become a member of our faith community where we come together to worship the Lord and celebrate the Eucharist. We want to get to know you so please if you can introduce yourself after Mass, we will be grateful. Please know that your prayers, your presence, and support of our beloved St. John's Church are appreciated. Please call or e-mail the Parish Office for registration assistance. You will find contact information on the front cover of the bulletin.

Welcome to Advent: A Time That Reveals Our Lord's Humanity

Yesterday is gone, and tomorrow is yet to come. If we choose to spend today reliving the past and being anxious for the future, we may lose our

opportunity to serve God. Our faith and joy urge us to live today, to work as faithful disciples of the Lord in this time and place. Distractions can keep us from recognizing the presence of God in our daily lives. Rather, we could be showing Christ's presence through the daily work of our hands. Personally, as your pastor, I am very touched by what we do for our parish as parishioners in all the areas that we are called upon to do so.

Today we celebrate the mystery of God's promise of salvation fulfilled in Christ. Christ was a man. Although we may know this, we often forget to consider the reality of it. Christ was a man and He descended from a lineage of fallen, broken humans such as us. We are reminded of this profound reality each Christmas. At Mass on Christmas Eve, we read the genealogy of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew. With each name and generation, we are reminded of the humanity of our Lord, of His beautiful humility, and our own roles in salvation history. Advent is a time of waiting until the salvation promised will be ours when Christ comes again in glory.

After our national elections, Thanksgiving celebrations, and many other personal challenges, good or bad, including loss of family members and relations, we have many things on our minds. As a result, some people look for signs of the end of the world and attribute apocalyptic meaning to everything they see.



For them the message of Sacred Scripture imposes FEAR. On the other hand, many other people are dreamers who are caught up in the world the way they think it should be. They dream but without accepting the reality of today. FOR

WITHOUT GOD, WE ARE NOTHING! Dreams of what the world could be should not keep us from the ministry that is necessary today.

As Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester today, there is joy to share, work to do, blessings to be received, and pain to alleviate. This Advent season we are called to make a difference to God by calling **JESUS**, **COME HEAL US**, and that will make the difference. Today is the day that we must serve God and prepare God's way. We don't know what tomorrow holds for us but we must resist becoming slaves to the past and victims of the future. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation. Jesus understands our human weakness and calls us to himself to receive forgiveness, grace, and strength as we await his coming. Advent is a time of preparation; of getting ready for the Messiah and it demands a response from us. Each of us needs to take the time to pay attention to our spiritual life, and today is a good day to start!

Get closer to God by praying, especially as a family.

Keep Christ in Christmas; He's the Reason for the Season.

Go and make a good Confession in any of our churches.



Jesus, Come Heal Us Advent Blessings, Father Peter

Masses for the Week—December 2—8

MONDAY, December 2 Advent Weekday

8:15 AM + Elvira Vincenzo & Salvatore Ragonese by Bruna Ragonese

TUESDAY, December 3 St Francis Zavier

8:15 AM + Anthony Vieira

by Mr & Mrs Alan A. Vieira

WEDNESDAY, December 4 St John Damascene

8:15 AM + *Bob Barrett*

by Mr & Mrs Alan A. Vieira

THURSDAY, December 5 Advent Weekday

FIRST FRIDAY, December 6 St Nicholas

8:15 AM + *Mike Pino*, *Jr*.

by Wife & Family

10:00 AM Benediction

FIRST SATURDAY, December 7 St Ambrose

8:15 AM + Fr Peter's Intentions

4:00 PM + *Leon Weise*

Mary, the Immaculate Conception

by Daughter, Eileen Zegarelli

SUNDAY, Dec 8 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM + The People of St John's; Living and Deceased

10:00 AM + Anthony Battisto

by Family

Wills/Bequests/Memorials—
Please Remember St. John the Evangelist Parish

Please keep the following ordained in your prayers this week.

Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7
Pope Francis	Michael Costik			Walter Cushing	Vocations & Seminarians	Bishop Salvatore Matano

Feast of the Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 9
Mass Times: 9:00 AM
and 12:05 PM

Because the holy day of December 8 falls on the second

Sunday of Advent, it is transferred to Monday, December 9 and remains a Holy Day of Obligation.

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, December 1 First Sunday of Advent

After all Masses KofC Selling Magnets in Church 9:00 AM OCIA Class in Parish Center 10:00 AM Mass Rite of Acceptance

Monday, December 2

9:00 AM Bible Study in Parish Center5:30 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting in Parish Center7:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council in Parish Center

First Friday, December 6

8:15 AM Mass followed by Adoration and concluding with Benediction at 10:00 AM in Church

First Saturday, December 7

8:15 AM Mass followed by the Rosary in Church 10:00 AM—Noon Prayer Shawl Gathering in Parish Center

2:00–4:00 PM Cookie Drop-Off in Parish Center After 4:00 PM Mass KofC Selling Magnets in Church 7:00 PM Advent Concert with John Dady in Church

Sunday, Dec 8 Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM OCIA Class in Parish Center
After all Masses KofC Selling Magnets in Church
Following 10:00 AM Mass Coffee Hour with Santa
in Parish Center

Advent Day of Recollection for Priests

In addition to your daily prayer for our priests, please say a **special prayer** THIS Wednesday, December 4 for Bishop Matano, Fr. Peter, and all the priests of our diocese as they gather together for their Advent Day of Recollection. We all face challenges of varying degrees but our bishop and priests are challenged in many ways unlike us so it is important that we take a pause and pray for them each day during this holy season of Advent and beyond. This is also a good time to say a prayer for our seminarians and for more vocations to the holy priesthood and diaconate here in the Diocese of Rochester.



Family Coffee Hour with Santa

Sunday, December 8 in the Parish Center following the 10:00 AM Mass hosted by our Music Ministry

- Toddlers to Teenagers can visit Santa and receive a gift
- Lots of Goodies to Eat!
- Come and Enjoy the Fun!
- Donated homemade cookies would be welcome.

Drop off homemade cookies Saturday, December 7 between 2:00 and 4:00 PM in the Parish Center.

Come join in the festivities hosted by our Music Ministry. We look forward to seeing you there!



Something Special this Advent

*This Advent our Parish will be offering the transformational book by Dynamic Catholic, titled "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory – A Spiritual Journey." Life is a pilgrimage. It is a sacred journey toward our eternal home with God. Journey with Mother Teresa, John Paul II, Therese of Lisieux, Maximilian Kolbe, Thomas Aquinas, Sister Faustina, the Children of

Fatima and Mary the Mother of God to experience Jesus in the Eucharist like never before.

As you begin your journey first read the Introduction, pgs. 1-16 and then go to files.dynamiccatholic.com/home/microsites/ise/33-Days-to-Eucharistic-Glory-Feast-Days-10-Year.pdf to select a Feast date in which you would like to finish your 33 day journey and make your Eucharistic Consecration. This table offers a number of Feast dates for 2024, 2025 and future years, along with a corresponding start date. As you journey through each of the 33 days, you can compliment the readings by the daily reflections of Matthew Kelly at

www.dynamiccatholic.com/eucharistic-consecration-program/consecration-with-matthew-kelly.html and/or Father Jonathan Meyer at www.dynamiccatholic.com/eucharistic-consecration-program/consecration-with-fr-jonathan-meyer.html

May this journey forever change the way you spend your time with Jesus in the Eucharist.

*Books will be available NEXT weekend, December 7/8. Due to limited supply, please, 1 book per household.



Boundless Compassion Friday, Dec 13 from 12–2:00 PM

St. John the Evangelist Parish Center Deacon Lon will present an **Advent reflection** based on a retreat developed by Joyce Rupp.

Compassion is a way of life—an inner posture of how to be with suffering, both our own and others, and a desire to move that attitude into action.

Boundless Compassion fosters a transforming way of life. Participants explore compassion as a tender yet powerful inner capacity that helps cultivate well-being and overcome divisions. You will be introduced to the practical skill of compassionate listening. Come and experience this opportunity to deepen and expand the capacity for compassion in your life and that of others.





SOCKTOBER

Thank you for your generous support of Sock-tober! The parish collected 1,665 pairs of socks along with some other assorted clothing to help those in need.

The confirmation class sorted and counted the socks as a service project as they journey towards their final sacrament of initiation.

The socks will be

distributed first to the people of St. John the Evangelist community at our church and in local nursing homes. Right to Life agencies will receive socks from the Knights of Columbus via the Past Grand Knight, Rick Paoletti. Giving Tree recipients will benefit via Patty Hoag, and finally, I will deliver to a couple groups in the city to support the people in recovery of various addictions.

Special thanks to our Confirmation students as well as our catechists, Cristyn Simone and Jessica Wunsch, along with the parents and grandparents of the youth for sorting and preparing for deliveries.

Thank you and God Bless you all for your generosity, Deacon Lon Smith

Reminder on Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) (sometimes referred to as "IRA Charitable Rollovers) as a Way to Donate to St. John's Parish

Under the legislation, donors aged 70½ or older can contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA's directly to qualified charities without having to pay income taxes on the money.

Here is a quick recap of the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution rules. Gifts qualify under the law if:

- The donor is age $70 \frac{1}{2}$ or older on the day of the gift.
- The donor transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to one or more qualified charities. This opportunity applies only to IRA's and no other types of retirement plans.
- The donor does not receive any goods or services in return for the rollover gift in order to qualify for tax-fee treatment.
- The gift/check must be dated on or before Dec., 31, 2024 to qualify this year.
- The gift needs to be sent directly to the charitable organization which also has to be the payee for the gift.
- The official name and address to use for the receiver of the donation is:

 St. John the Evangelist Church
 2400 W Ridge Road
 Rochester, NY 14626

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact your financial advisor. If you have other questions, please call or email Joe Spurrier: Business Office at St. John's, at 585-225-8980, or joseph.spurrier@dor.org

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes—November 4,2024

Opening Prayer: Rick Paoletti

Attendance: Father Peter, Deacon Lon Smith, Bob Gotham, Gary Kern, Pam Tofany-Kern, Rick Paoletti, Wayne Howard, Melissa Ryan, Patty Hoag, Paul Parkman, Alan Christodaro, Nick Verdino, Stephanie Black, Christine Paoletti Absent: Excused: Deacon Elmer, Sharon Miller, Karen Bessette, Tod Simone, Kathy Christodaro, Nick Sassano Visitors:

Motion to approve the agenda: for tonight's Meeting (Emailed October 24, 2024)

Approval: Patty Hoag | Second: Melissa Ryan

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes: from the 10/07/24 Meeting, in the Bulletin on 11/03/2024. Approval: Gary Kern | Second: Nick Verdino

Chairperson's Comments:

CMA UPDATE: Our 2024 campaign has begun.

Our numbers thru 11/01/2024:

- Donor to date: 164
- Commitment to date: \$42.471 • Commitment % to date: 54.45% • Our CMA goal: \$78,000
- Paid To date: \$34,363
- Paid % of Goal: 44.055%
- Average per donor: \$258.97
- \$\$ still needed: \$43,637

We need to Average \$240 per donor in order to reach our goal. This is based on last year's donor numbers.

If funds are not collected from promised commitments, we are still responsible for making the full amount.

Deacon Lon Smith Update:

- Socktober about 2000 pairs of socks were collected
- Dady Concert we will be able to start handing out tickets this weekend, more are allocated to our parish than the other parishes that are invited. It is a thank you to our parishioners and a chance to evangelize to other friends and family that we may invite.

Father Peter's Update:

- No church will close its doors if it has the means to sustain itself.
- The last few weeks our parish collections have been down about \$11k and attendance has been poor. In October we buried 7 of our parishioners
- We all have to put our hands on deck. The efforts of the social ministry and Deacon Lon and his wife are much appreciated. We need to bring people back to the church
- · We recently had Socktober, Greece Food Shelf Food drive and the pie fundraiser
- We will be having our Thanksgiving Day food collection which will benefit the Greece Food Shelf
- · Dady concert is coming to St John's on Saturday, December 7 at 7pm sponsored by Knights of Columbus. Tickets are free but required for entrance. Free will offering will be taken and the tickets will be distributed following Masses November 9/10 and November 16/17
- The 7 Parish Task Force will hold an ALL-PARISHIONER MEETING from the 7 parishes (as they did with Staff, Parish Council and Finances) taking place on Wed, November 20, at St Charles (padded seats!). Choose 1 of 2 sessions (not both): 1:30 'til 3:30 PM or 6:30 'til 8:30 PM. We need council members to spread the word. There will be a bulletin article from the Task Force in the Nov 17 bulletin
- Our traditional boiler fund envelope has been combined with the capital improvement envelope and beginning in

2025 it will be Boiler Maintenance/Capital Improvement At the last task force meeting our parish was very well

represented and that was encouraging to see. At the next meeting, there will be a chance to submit your questions before the meeting to make sure they are addressed. We used to have 325 priests in our diocese now we only have 85 priests.

Coffee Hours: Still looking for ministries to host February and March. Social Ministry, thank you for a great coffee hour/ FALL FESTIVAL. Even Mother Nature couldn't put a damper on this event. GREAT JOB!!!!!

- Winners of Chili Cooking Contest: 1st Melissa Kabasin, 2nd Mike Bessette, 3rd Wayne Howard
- Women's Guild/Nancy Lader will be hosting the November Coffee Hour.

Diocesan - Wide CENSUS: We have handed in all the cards to the diocese and await any questions or results

Social Committee: we are talking about Christmas caroling but due to a rise in Covid, we may not be able to do it at the nursing homes. February may have a pasta dinner or Mardi Gras or game night. We are trying to get them planned out in advance and have a roadmap. The goal is to bring people in and keep them active in the parish.

Pies for the Holidays: From Special Touch Bakery. At least 140 Pies have been ordered. Delivery date: 11/18/2024. Orders are closed now, and we will get a percentage of the sales. This is something new for St. John's - LET' S EMBRACE THIS - full steam ahead.

Arts and Environment: Patty announced Christmas decorating will start with making the angels for the trees on 11/16. Decorating for Advent on 11/29 and Christmas on 12/22. Gifts collected will be sorted on 12/15 and will be picked up on 12/17

Food Collection Days: Pam Tofany-Kern – we collected food items thru the weekend of the 19/20 and delivered on the 21. The Number of Pounds collected in October: 736

Next Collection Date: There is a Thanksgiving drive in November and then we collect March 8/9 and then June and September

Task Force: The task force met with the parish council and finance team members from each of the seven parishes at St. Charles on Tuesday, October 15. St. John's was well represented at this meeting. Notes and responses/feedback from that meeting have been made available by the Task Force and were e-mailed from St. John's to each of our PPC & Finance members today. A printed copy is also provided to each member at this meeting tonight. Fr. Peter asks that each member be sure to read these documents. An allparishioners meeting is coming up on Wednesday, Nov 20 at St. Charles to which ALL parishioners are encouraged to attend so they can be part of the process with the opportunity to offer his/her input which is important.

Certificates of Appreciation: Nick Verdino received the award this past Saturday. He is a member of parish council, finance council, flower ministry, usher, task force committee and fish frys

Continued on page 6.





This Week's Sanctuary Candles burn for

Tabernacle I Jeff Lader

Tabernacle II Homebound Parishioners

Marian I Those Listed in our Book of Remembrance

TMarian II Vocations to the Priesthood

BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL



November 16/17 Week 21 ATTENDANG	CE435
BUDGETED Sunday Offering\$	9,321.00
SUNDAY Offering\$	5,378.02
ONLINE Giving\$	6,624.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering\$	12,002.02
OVERAGE for SUNDAY OFFERING\$	2,681.02

Fiscal Year 2024-25 as of November 17, 2024							
	YEARLY BUDGET\$	494,000.00					
	BUDGETED TO-DATE\$	195,741.00					
	ACTUAL COLLECTED\$	187,911.18					
	SHORTAGE TO DATE(\$	7,829.82)					

With sincere gratitude, Fr. Peter thanks all who continue with their financial assistance in support of the many needs in our parish.

BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL



Due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, our November 23/24 Collection and Mass attendance will be noted in Next Weekend's bulletin.

Pies, Pies, and more Pies

Our Parish Pie Fundraiser wrapped up a few weeks ago and thanks to the support and generosity of so many of you, 150 pies were sold! There were so many delicious varieties to select from and the most popular pie ordered was good old fashioned Apple Crumb pie.

Through these sales, our parish raised \$900.00 which has been deposited into the St. John's general account.

We take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to Social Ministry; namely, Maureen Beattie for bringing this fundraiser idea to St. John's and making it a success. Together with volunteers, Bob & Barb Gotham, Nancy Lader, Carolyn Kerhaert, and Nick & Eileen Verdino, distribution of the pies ran very smoothly. It is our hope that everyone who purchased a pie or two or three will enjoy them whether it be at the holidays or some time in between.

Online Giving

Online

Giving

You can make your weekly, monthly, annual and one-time donations from your checking or savings account, or by using a credit or debit card, electronically, from your own computer. We use a product from a company that we have been with for a long time and has a long history of working with parishes around the country. It is easy, safe and secure! A link to Online Giving can be found at our Parish Home

Page www.stjohngreece.org.

Don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office, 225-8980 for details or assistance with Online Giving.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MTG Continued from page 5.

Knights of Columbus Council 3892 Update: Annual Mass for deceased council members on 11/17. Beginning of Advent they will be selling the car magnets for "Keep Christ in Christmas" and setting up the nativity outside the three parishes. Coordinating the Dady concert with Deacon Lon

Outreach – Social Media/ Communications Committee Update:

RocCatholicNorthwest Website: There is a team that formed a website and there are supposed to be representatives from each parish that can communicate updates and changes to this new committee. It would be more helpful for this new website to link to our personal parish site rather than have to update both websites. St. John's Website: Website Statistics: 916 visitors 2747 page views up 32% over last 30 days. 56% of visitors use their cell phones while 44% use laptops and tablets. Most frequently viewed pages are the home page, bulletins, mass times and calendar Facebook Update: 606 likes and 798 followers

Faith Stories: Paul Parkman – Don't become discouraged or stop fighting. Trust God to bring about the increase. Paul always checking the doors after Mass yesterday and one of the doors opened and there was a woman there who was there to vote. She said she was having an operation on Tuesday, and she asked for a prayer card and Paul gave her a quick run-down of the Catholic Faith and let her light a candle. She said she would be back!

Open Forum/For the Good of the Parish: Nick Verdino: 2 weeks ago there was an infestation of flies, is this being addressed? We spray them and vacuum them Rick Paoletti: 40 days for life ended yesterday and 4 babies were saved this campaign

Closing Prayer: Rick Paoletti
Next Meeting: December 2, 2024

Opening and Closing Prayers: Melissa Ryan



Christmas Poinsettias

During the Christmas season, remember a loved one or honor someone by making a donation for a poinsettia to add to the beauty of our beloved St. John's Church. Please complete the order form at right.

Make checks payable to:

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH *Write Poinsettias in the Memo;* and Send your order form and donation to: St. John the Evangelist Church, 2400 West Ridge Road, Rochester, NY 14626

OR Place your order and donation in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" and drop this into the collection box.

Please print

Print your name as you want it to appear in the bulletin.

Phone Number

Would like to donate poinsettias for the holiday season. in memory/honor of:

Please indicate if living or deceased

Senior Home Communion Service Ministers December 2024

HAMILTON NURSING HOME COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 8, 2024 Steve & Mary Ann Donato

December 22, 2024 Ron LaForce

THE VILLAGE AT UNITY

December 1, 2024 Tom Grieco

December 8, 2024 Bob & Barb Gotham

December 15, 2024 Tom Grieco

December 22, 2024 Bob & Barb Gotham

ELDERWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 1, 2024 Dan & Melissa Kabasin December 8, 2024 Carolyn Kerhaert

December 15, 2024 Chris Hoefler

December 22, 2024 Dan & Melissa Kabasin December 29, 2024 Carolyn Kerhaert