

# St. John the Evangelist Greece

December 15, 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.*



John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

## Advent is a Time to Listen to God

From the Desk of Father Peter.....2

## Neighborhood Christmas Caroling

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## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:gstjohnt@dor.org)

Visit [www.StJohnGreece.org](http://www.StJohnGreece.org) Follow us on [@StJohnGreece](https://twitter.com/StJohnGreece)

Find us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/StJohntheEvangelistChurchofGreece) St John the Evangelist Church of Greece

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Monday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/  
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9/  
Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday

Gn 49:2, 8-10/  
Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17/  
Mt 1:1-17

### Wednesday

Jer 23:5-8/  
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/  
Mt 1:18-25

### Thursday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/  
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/  
Lk 1:5-25

### Friday

Sg 2:8-14  
Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6/  
Lk 1:26-38

### Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/  
Lk 1:39-45

### Sunday

Mi 5:1-4a/  
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/  
Phil 4:4-7/  
Lk 1:39-45

## 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.

## Jesus Come Heal Us

Amid the turmoil of the world around us or the deserts of indifference and materialism, Christians accept salvation from God and witness with a different way of life. For us Catholic Christians, Advent refers to two moments related to the first and second coming of Jesus; the first is the Incarnation and the second is His coming at the end of time. Let our goal for this Advent Season be the strengthening of the faith of all Catholics leading the world to faith by our example. Here are some important ways to do just that:

- 1. Participate in Mass**—Regular Mass attendance strengthens one's faith through the Scriptures, the Creed, other prayers, sacred music, the homily, receiving Communion and being part of the faith community.
- 2. Go to Confession**—Like going to Mass, Catholics find strength and grow deeper in their faith through participation in the Sacrament of Penance. It forgives the injuries of the past and provides strength for the future.
- 3. Learn about the Lives of the Saints**—The saints are timeless examples of how to live a Christian life, and they provide endless hope. Not only were they sinners who kept trying to grow closer to God, but they also exemplify ways a person can serve God through teaching, missionary work, charity, prayer and simply trying to please God in the ordinary actions and decisions of daily life. I hope you are praying to your saint whom you received at Mass recently.
- 4. Read the Bible Daily**—Scripture offers first-hand access to the Word of God and tells the story of human salvation. Reading the Bible is a must for growth in our faith.



**5. Read the Documents of Vatican II**—The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) ushered in a wonderful renewal for the Church. It impacted how Mass is celebrated, the role of the laity, how the Church understands itself and its relationship with other Christians and non-

Christians. To continue the renewal, Catholics must understand what the Council taught and how it enriches the lives of believers.

**6. Study the Catechism**—The Catechism of the Catholic Church covers the beliefs, moral teaching, prayer and sacraments of the Catholic Church. It's a resource for growing in understanding of the faith.

**7. Volunteer in the Parish**—People are welcome as ministers of hospitality, lectors, and other roles in parish life.

**8. Help Those in Need**—Helping others brings Catholics face-to-face with Christ and creates an example for the rest of the world.

**9. Invite a Friend to Mass**—Focusing on a renewal of faith and evangelization for the whole Church, a personal invitation can make all the difference to someone who has drifted from the faith or feels alienated from the Church. Everyone knows people like this, so everyone can extend a loving welcome. Be an "Advent disciple" to someone.

**10. Incorporate the Beatitudes into Daily Life**—The Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-12 provide a rich blueprint for Christian living. Their wisdom can help all to be humble, patient, just, transparent, loving, forgiving, and free. It's precisely the example of lived faith needed to draw people to the Church in the year ahead.



Happy Advent Season to all!  
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu

**Masses for the Week—Dec 16—22**

**MONDAY, December 16** *Advent Weekday*  
 8:15 AM + *Florence Cally*  
 by Daughter, Barbara

**TUESDAY, December 17** *Late Advent Weekday*  
 8:15 AM + *James Mikel*  
 by Family

**WEDNESDAY, December 18** *Late Advent Weekday*  
 8:15 AM + *Gary Hans*  
 by Sister, Shirley

**THURSDAY, December 19** *Late Advent Weekday*

**FRIDAY, December 20** *Late Advent Weekday*  
 8:15 AM + *Andrew & Rose Oliveri*  
 by Genie, Kathy, & Grace Ann

**SATURDAY, December 21** *St Peter Canisius*  
 4:00 PM + *The People of St John's;*  
*Living and Deceased*

**SUNDAY, Dec 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 AM + *Kenneth & Edward Preston*  
 by Brother, Gene  
 10:00 AM + *Frank Haszlauer*  
 by Rose DiBella

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

**This Week's Schedule**

**Sunday, Dec 15 Third Sunday of Advent**  
 9:00 AM OCIA Class in Parish Center

**Monday, December 16**  
 9:00 AM Bible Study in Parish Center  
 6:30 PM Fatima Women's Prayer Ministry in Church  
 & Parish Center

**Wednesday, December 18**  
 1—6:00 PM Day of Penance at Our Mother of Sorrows

**Saturday, December 21**  
 Following 4:00 PM Mass Neighborhood Caroling with  
 Music and Social Ministries. Meet in Parish Center

**Sunday, Dec 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 NO OCIA Class  
 After 10:00 AM Mass  
 Decorating—Arts & Environment in Church  
 AND Final Pageant Rehearsal



**Please keep the following ordained in your prayers this week.**

Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21
William Donnelly	Thomas Dugan	Christopher Duffy	William Endres	Peter Enyan Boadu	Thomas Erdle	Richard Farrell

**Dear Lord,**  
 Give us boldness as we move through the motions of the holiday season, to reflect and remind those around us of Your deep and abiding love for them. Allow them to encounter Your love, through us.  
 Amen. ©LPI



**Christmas Offering**  
 There is an envelope this month for Wednesday, December 25. This is for your gift to our beloved St. John's for Christmas and can be placed into the collection basket. Thank you for your thoughtful generosity.



**St. John's Neighborhood Christmas Caroling**

**THIS Saturday, December 21, 2024 at the Parish Center after the 4:00 PM Mass**

Dear Music Ministry and Parish Family,

*"Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la la la la!"*

A wonderful way to spread the spirit of Christmas is by going door-to-door singing Christmas carols in our neighborhood!

This year at St. John's, our Social Ministry and Music Ministry invite you to **join us on Saturday, December 21 after the 4:00 PM Mass. We will meet in the Parish Center and be on our way around 5:15 PM.** Our route will begin on Duxbury Rd. We ask that you bring a small flashlight or battery-operated candles. Songbooks will be provided. Please dress for the weather. **We should be heading back to the parish center by 6:30 PM and would like our Carolers to stay for pizza, hot cocoa, hot cider and cookies.**

We look forward to a joyful evening!

Faith and love,  
 Consuelo

*For more information about joining our ministry, please contact Consuelo De Los Santos, Director of Liturgical Music [consuelo.delossantos@dor.org](mailto:consuelo.delossantos@dor.org) or 585-225-8980*

**THANKS  
GIVING****In Thanksgiving**

I take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for your generous support once again for the food and monetary donations collected on Thanksgiving Day for the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Through your generosity we were able to deliver 280lbs of food and there is a monetary donation of \$305. In these challenging times, with so many in need, you found the resources to provide a corporal work of mercy by feeding the hungry. May God bless you abundantly for your goodness and kindness. A special thank you to Tod Simone, Mike Wilson, Joe Waters, and Rick Stein for loading and delivering the food to the Greece Food Shelf.

God bless,

*Fr. Peter*

**Calling All Elves!**

Before long we will begin decorating the church for the Christmas season and for those who would like to help, please stop by—the more the merrier!

We will be gathering in church on **Sunday, December 22 following the 10:00 M Mass**. Please enter through the center doors of church. We will be receiving the Christmas poinsettias that will adorn the altar and tend to the other decorations throughout the church.

Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated. Thank you and we hope to see you there.

**Preparing for the  
Special Welcome of  
Our Newborn King**

Returning this year to our Family Christmas Mass on **Saturday, December 24, 2024, at 4:00 PM** will be our Children's Christmas Pageant. We've rounded up the young folks and they've been busy preparing and practicing their parts. We are grateful for the support and leadership of Melissa Kabasin who is working with the children to keep this St. John's tradition alive. We hope you and your family will join us for this Family Christmas Mass as we prepare for and welcome the birth of Our Newborn King.

**Day of Penance**

**THIS Wednesday December 18, 1:00 - 6 PM;**  
Confessions at Our Mother of Sorrows

**Christmas Eve**

**Tuesday, December 24**

**4:00 PM** Family Mass with Youth Choir  
and Children's Pageant

*Prelude music/carols beginning at 3:45 PM.*

**10:00 PM** Mass with Adult Choir

*Prelude music/carols beginning at 9:30 PM.*

**Christmas Day**

**Wednesday, December 25**

**8:00 AM** Mass with Cantor

**10:00 AM** Mass with Adult Choir

*Prelude music/carols beginning at 9:45 AM.*

**The March for Life  
January 24, 2025**

Webster Committee for Life is now taking reservations for the 2025 "March for Life" Bus Trip to Washington, DC, leaving from The Church of the Holy Spirit (leaves Thursday, January 23 at 9:00 PM). If you would like to attend, please visit our web site at <http://march4life.gmsander.info> and fill out a reservation request form.

The cost this year is \$80 per person.

**For more information, visit the web site, or call Gerry Sander at 585-503-3256 or email us at [webstercommitteeoflife@gmail.com](mailto:webstercommitteeoflife@gmail.com).**

Third Sunday of

**ADVENT**

## 2025 – The Jubilee Year of the Opening of the Holy Door



The Holy Door, also known as the Porta Sancta, is a special door that is typically only opened during Jubilee years in the Catholic Church. A Jubilee is a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon. The first evidence of the rite happening in St. Peter's was in the year 1500

during the papacy of Alexander VI.

Pope Francis has officially dedicated the year 2025 to be a Jubilee Year and to begin this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope" and *Hope* is the central message of Jubilee Year 2025.

During a Jubilee year, pilgrims from around the world come to Rome to pass through the Holy Door as a symbolic gesture of entering into the mercy and forgiveness of God. The act of passing through the Holy Door is seen as a gesture of leaving the past behind and starting anew in one's faith. The most well-known Holy Door is located at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

In his *Bull of Indiction*, of May 9, 2024, entitled 'Spes non confundit' ('Hope does not disappoint'), Pope Francis indicated the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and the other three Papal Basilicas, namely St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls, will be opened as well as the Holy Father's expressed desire to personally open a Holy Door in a prison 'to offer prisoners a concrete sign of closeness'.

Following the Holy Door opening on Christmas Eve, the Pope, two days later, on December 26, will go to Rebibbia

prison on the outskirts of Rome "a symbol of all the prisons dispersed throughout the world, to deliver a tangible sign of the message of hope for people in prisons around the world". On December 29, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome. On this same day, every Cathedral and co-Cathedral throughout the world will have Mass celebrated by the local Bishop to mark the opening of the Jubilee.

On the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, January 1, 2025, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door for the Basilica of St. Mary Major, with the Holy Door for the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls being opened on Sunday, January 5, 2025, the Vigil of Epiphany.

On December 28, 2025, the Jubilee will end in the particular Churches throughout the world, with the Holy Doors of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls being closed on this same date. Finally, the Jubilee Year will formally conclude in Rome on the Solemnity of Epiphany, January 6, 2026.

*(Portions of this article were obtained from Vatican News)*



### Asking the Question By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" that his reply was *not* going to be: "Keep doing exactly what you're doing."

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That's a hard thing to do, and I don't do it enough. Too often, I'm afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms? ***Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question?***



Betty Bauman *Mother of Raymond Bauman*  
 Dylan Gruschow *Cousin of Scott Gruschow*



*This Week's Sanctuary Candles burn for*

- ✚ Tabernacle I **Fallen Away Catholics**
- ✚ Tabernacle II **Confirmation & O.C.I.A. Candidates**
- ✚ Marian I **Expectant Mothers**
- ✚ Marian II **Peace and Unity in Families**

**BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL**



<b>Nov 30/Dec 1</b> Week 23	ATTENDANCE.....	442
BUDGETED Sunday Offering.....	\$	9,321.00
SUNDAY Offering.....	\$	7,854.62
ONLINE Giving.....	\$	1,407.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering.....	\$	9,261.62
SHORTAGE for SUNDAY OFFERING....	(\$	59.38)

**Nov 30/Dec 1, 2024**

Catholic University of America.....	\$	572.75
ONLINE Giving.....	\$	50.00
Catholic University of America.....	\$	622.75

**Fiscal Year 2024-25** as of December 1, 2024

YEARLY BUDGET .....	\$	494,000.00
BUDGETED TO-DATE.....	\$	214,383.00
ACTUAL COLLECTED.....	\$	205,329.61
SHORTAGE TO DATE.....	(\$	9,053.39)

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



2024-2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

# Extending Christ's Mission through the Catholic Ministries Appeal



**The Diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal Continues**

**The goal for St. John's is \$78,000.**  
 As of Friday, December 6, 258 households have pledged \$75,896 taking us to 97.30% of our goal

**Have you turned in your pledge card?**

If not, we encourage you to do so soon. To all of you who are "Extending Christ's Mission" THANK YOU.

*We will resume listing donor names in the December 22 bulletin.*

**BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL**



Due to the upcoming Christmas holiday, our December 7/8 Collection and Mass attendance will be noted in Next Weekend's bulletin.

**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 ½ 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-free 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*

*\* NOTE: When paying by check, be sure to make it payable to CMA and in the memo section of your check please write 039 St. John's, Greece.*

We are required to complete the **pledge** phase of our campaign by year's end. But remember you have until May 31, 2025 to complete payment on your pledge.

**NOTE: If you have made your pledge and do not see your name listed after two consecutive bulletins, please notify the Parish Office at 585-225-8980. Thank you.**



**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 22, 2024 Ron LaForce

**THE VILLAGE AT UNITY**

December 15, 2024 Tom Grieco  
December 22, 2024 Bob & Barb Gotham

**ELDERWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE**

December 15, 2024 Chris Hoefler  
December 22, 2024 Dan & Melissa Kabasin  
December 29, 2024 Carolyn Kerhaert