

St. John the Evangelist Greece

January 26, 2025

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.



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.
- Lk 4:18

God Wants Us to Become Confident

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

Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee of the World of Communications.....3

Volunteer . Membership Opportunities

Please Consider Lending a Hand or Joining.....4

Disposing of Your Old Palms

Sacrilegious to Throw a Holy Item in the Garbage...4

Parish Pastoral Council

December 6 Meeting Minutes5

2024 End of Year Tax Statement

Coming Soon!.....6

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.rocceatholicsnorthwest.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](https://twitter.com/StJohnGreece)

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday

Heb 9:15, 24-28/
Ps 98:1-6/
Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday

Heb 10:1-10/
Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11/
Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday

Heb 10:11-18/
Ps 110:1-4/
Mk 4:1-20

Thursday

Heb 10:19-25/
Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6/
Mk 4:21-25

Friday

Heb 10:32-39/
Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40/
Mk 4:26-34

Saturday

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/
Lk 1:69-75/
Mk 16:15-18

Sunday

Mal 3:1-4/
Heb 2:14-18/
Ps 24:7-10/
Lk 2:22-40

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.

God Wants Us to Become Confident

As Christians we are enriched in every way by the grace of God. God wants us to become confident in the vast resources we have inherited in Christ! Jesus is more than eager to provide us with every spiritual gift we need. Imagine: wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, faith and fortitude are ours in abundance. On top of that, mercy, forgiveness, comfort, compassion and love are constantly flowing from the throne of our heavenly Creator. They are all offered to enrich our lives and the lives of everyone around us.

So how do we receive these gifts? Well, when we pray, we need to be specific—and honest—about the needs we have. Being clear with ourselves and with God about what we are seeking and then taking time to rest quietly in God's presence will help open our eyes to the miracles God is pouring into us. At times, his answer will come in some unfolding event in our lives; or perhaps it will be a still, small voice in the quiet of our hearts or



minds. Sometimes the understanding or fortitude or love we need will simply materialize at the right time.

However these gifts come, one thing is sure: God, who calls us to be holy, is faithful. Life does not have to be too hard. Peace and hope are not beyond our grasp. They are not meant only for a chosen few; they are for every one of us regardless of our age, natural talents or station in life. It is not a matter of our efforts. Jesus is always there with us to help us, to keep us constant in this life and to make us ready to greet him when he comes again. Someone once said: "time is too slow for those who wait; too swift for those who fear; too long for those who grieve; too short for those who rejoice. But for those who love, time is eternity." So we should capture the moments of our faith wherever we are and whoever we are. None of us is here forever but the love of Christ endures forever.



Peace and May God bless us all.
Father Peter

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

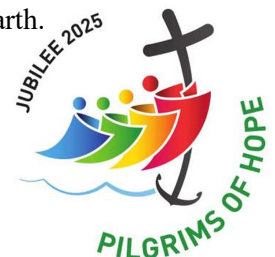
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus



Masses for the Week—Jan 27—Feb 2

MONDAY, January 27 *St Angela Merici*
 8:15 AM + *Deceased Members of the Rivera Family*
 by Naty Smith
 2:30 PM Mass at The Village at Unity

TUESDAY, January 28 *St Thomas Aquinas*
 8:15 AM + *LaVerne Schmitt-Becker*
 by Fr Peter

WEDNESDAY, January 29 *Weekday*
 8:15 AM + *Deceased Members of the McArdle Family*
 by Jim & Delia Keane

THURSDAY, January 30 *Weekday*

FRIDAY, January 31 *St John Bosco*
 8:15 AM *(Living) Intention for Colton Jacobs*
 by Rich & Katie Jacobs

SATURDAY, February 1 *Weekday*
 8:15 AM Fr Peter's Intention
 4:00 PM + *Deceased Members of the Jweid & Kabasin Families*
 by Dan & Melissa Kabasin

SUNDAY, February 2 *Presentation of the Lord*
 8:00 AM + *Bob Schenkel*
 by Pat Proud & Family
 10:00 AM + *The People of St John's; Living and Deceased*

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

Please keep the following ordained in your prayers this week.

Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1
Robert Kreckel	Gerard Krieg	Scott Kubinski	William Laird	Steven Lape	All Missionaries	Bishop Salvatore Matano

Jubilee 2025 invites you to be a pilgrim of hope. For Christians, hope is anchored in the encounter with Jesus whose life, death, and resurrection reveals God's transforming love. Our hope in God is renewed constantly in the gift of the Holy Spirit, the love of the Father and the Son, who is given, even now, to the community of believers.

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Universal Church. This weekend, January 25/26, the Church celebrates the Jubilee of the World of Communications.

Pope Francis said: "We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters." This month, use your social media, hand-



written mail, or email to be a "balm to wounds." Choose a way to communicate God's love and light to the world!

Here at our beloved St. John the Evangelist Church, we find it fitting, on this weekend of recognition, to take the opportunity to recognize those who over see the various communications that help spread God's love. **Special thanks to**

- Gary Kern** – Parish Website & Facebook
- Maureen Baran** – Assists with Parish Website
- Jill Finan** – Prayer Line & Posts on X
- Paul Parkman** – Provides Content for X
- Christine Paoletti** – Facebook & PPC Minutes
- Jerry Dominik** – Livestreaming & Audio Communication
- Jenny Ertel** – Parish Bulletin
- Tod Simone & Rick Paoletti**—Parish Liaisons/ ROC Catholics Northwest

We appreciate all you do for our parish!

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, January 26
 9:00 AM OCIA Class in Meeting Room
 11:00 AM Confirmation Class—Years 1 and 2 in Parish Center

Monday, January 27
 9:00 AM Bible Study in Parish Center
 2:30 PM Mass at The Village at Unity

Wednesday, January 29
 10:30 AM *Journey through Grief* Bereavement Group in Parish Center

Thursday, January 30
 4:30 PM Cursillo Men's Group Mtg in Meeting Room

First Saturday, February 1
 8:15 AM First Saturday Mass in Church
 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry in Parish Center
 4:00 PM Mass Blessing of Throats in Church

Sunday, February 2
 8:00 & 10:00 AM Mass Blessing of Throats in Church
 9:00 AM OCIA Class in Meeting Room



**St Blaise
 Blessing of Throats at all Masses
 next weekend, February 1/2**

NEXT Sunday, February 2 is the feast day of St. Blaise, a physician who was a fourth century bishop in Armenia in what is now Turkey. While in prison for refusing to renounce his faith, he saved a man who was choking on a fish bone. Later he was tortured in prison and beheaded, becoming a martyr for his Christian faith. Seventeen centuries after his death, he is venerated as the patron of those who suffer from throat diseases.



2024-2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Extending Christ's Mission through the Catholic Ministries Appeal



297 households have pledged \$83,048.02 taking us 106.47% of our goal.

A very special **THANK YOU** to those of you who supported this year's CMA campaign—*Extending Christ's Mission*.

As an important reminder: While we have successfully reached our goal on paper, we can sing *Alleluia* once we officially reach our goal by way of fully paid commitments from those who opted to make monthly payments by the end of May, 2025 (or sooner).

The following is the most recent donor since our last posting in the January 19 bulletin.

Mr./Mrs. Mark Gionta Mr./Mrs. Michael Gendron
Mr./Mrs. Gregory Hauck



Social Conversations Prior to Mass

It has been brought to our attention by a few parishioners that prior to the start of Mass, many social conversations take place within the church. Some of these conversations are loud and are very distracting to those who are praying. We ask you to please be aware that people are praying to the Lord, and we should all try to avoid distracting their concentration. If possible, please hold these conversations after Mass is completed and when you need to have a conversation before Mass begins, please lower the volume.



Volunteer/Membership Opportunities

There is always a need for volunteers for the different Ministries and activities. Please consider joining one of the ministries. Volunteering even a small amount of time helps out so much and

lightens the load on our current volunteers.

Ministry Volunteers Needed: Please call the Rectory 225-8980

Mass Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, Funeral Altar Servers, Choir Ministry, Eucharistic Ministers, Lenten Fish Fry, Flower Garden Ministry

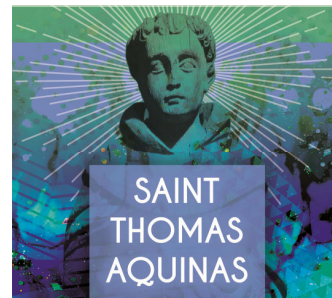
Membership Openings: Please call the Rectory 225-8980

Knights of Columbus, Bible Study, Woman's Guild, Fatima Prayer Ministry



Disposing of Your Old Palms

For those who have old palms at home, we offer you the opportunity to bring them to church for proper disposal. Because the palms have been blessed by a priest and, therefore, are holy objects, the palm branches used for Catholic Church services, especially those used on Palm Sunday, should not be disposed of in the regular fashion. Once an object is blessed, it is considered to be in the service of God and should be treated with respect. It is, therefore, considered sacrilegious to throw a holy item in the garbage where it would end up in a landfill. We will collect the palms and burn them to be used for ashes on Ash Wednesday. Please deposit your palms (no bags please) on or before Wednesday, February 26 in the labeled containers in the narthex. We kindly ask that you do not leave any palms after February 26.



St. Thomas Aquinas January 28

One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known by many for his theological work, "*The Summa Theologiae*." Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and

had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes—December 6, 2025

Opening Prayer: Pam Kern

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

Motion to approve the agenda for tonight's Meeting (Emailed January 3, 2025)

Approval: Patty Hoag | Second: Nick Verdino

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes from the 12/2/24 Meeting, in the Bulletin on December 29, 2024.

Approval: Karen Bessette | Second: Wayne Howard

Chairperson's Comments:

CMA UPDATE: Our 2024 campaign has reached its goal. Our numbers thru 1/3/2025:

- Donor to date: 291
- Commitment to date: \$80,578.02
- Commitment % to date: 103.305%
- Paid To date: \$73,794.38
- Paid % of Goal: 94.608%
- Avg per donor: \$276.90
- Our CMA goal: \$78,000
- \$\$ still needed: \$4,205.62

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.

Volunteers and members needed: I have submitted a notice for Father's review to place an announcement in the bulletin requesting volunteers for: Mass Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, Funeral Altar Servers, Choir Ministry, Eucharistic Ministers, Lenten Fish Fry and Flower Garden Ministry. Also, membership openings in Fatima Prayer Ministry, Knights of Columbus, Bible Study and Women's Guild.

Church Conversations: I have submitted a request to Father Peter for a Bulletin/Pulpit announcement concerning the social conversations that are happening prior to Mass beginning that are distracting to those parishioners that are praying. A few suggestions that I have received are: Place signs on the interior doors that state "Please speak softly, People are praying", Ushers have their conversations in the Narthax, much like the Section that is set up for the Rosary – have a section set aside to private prayers, or after the Rosary and organist warmup, softly play recorded hymn through our sound system.

Deacon Lon Smith Update

Dady Concert 2025? I spoke with Carol Dady and she said they would like to do this concert next year. We discussed an afternoon session. Thank you Kof C! Without 3892, this would not have been possible.

Bereavement Program: I would tentatively like to start these six (6) week Bereavement Program sessions (with exact dates and time of sessions TBD). I am thinking the sessions would be as follows:

- 1st offering the week of January 19 - February 23.
- OPEN: Lent: Ash Wednesday March 5th – past Easter April 20th.
- 2nd offering the week of May 18 – June 22
- OPEN: Summer
- 3rd Offering from September 21 – October 26

- November we may offer a holiday session to fit in with All Souls Day.

Lenten Retreat: The last time we met Fr. Peter suggested we need to grow in our spirituality. Gary suggested the possibility of recording some sessions to share "spirituality" with the parish. Since then, I have given a brief (2-hour) workshop on Boundless Compassion that seemed to have good responses. Father Peter seemed pleased and may consider a Lenten Retreat, I have given Fr. Peter and Tod Simone, a couple of options for sessions to consider. In addition, we may want to consider recording these sessions to share on our website. Another issue to consider is the needs/wants of the 7-parish task force and what they will be doing for Lent. We need to consider how do we dovetail into this schedule if it is an issue.

Maybe we have a 30-second invitation to our various ministries before each session as a way of inviting people into the ministry and/or advertise Fish Dinners.

Other Items to consider:

1. Pasta Dinner with Pastor, Deacons (and wives) as well as Staff, PC, new parish members, and Award Winners late February but before Lent!
2. Fund Raiser. We need some fresh faces.
3. Parish Picnic. Need a committee to make this happen with people other than the usual folks.
4. Rochester Cursillo Movement: "Short courses of Christianity" an apostolic movement to train Christian lay-leaders.

Upcoming Events:

- Women's Weekend February 20-23, 2025
- Men's Weekend May 29 - June 1, 2025
- Need to advertise and recruit leaders of SJE to attend in January.

Father Peter's Update:

- We will address the issues brought up in this meeting prayerfully and respectfully
- For holy day Masses during the summer, the late Mass will be at 6 PM and during the winter it will be at 4 PM.
- Thank you in the bulletin from Bishop Matano regarding our parish CMA goal being reached.
- CMA goal "Honor your commitment"
- Once a month, in one of the Novus Ordo weekend Masses, we may start singing some of the Mass parts in Latin; i.e. Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Agnus Dei

Coffee Hours: Coffee hour with Santa was great. The Collection counters are hosting the January coffee Hour. And we have the Prayer Shawl ministry volunteering to host the February coffee hour.

Social Committee: Christmas Caroling, took place on December 21 after the 4:00 PM Mass. We had 20 volunteers the night of fun and Trotto's was generous in donating pizza and the social ministry donated cookies.

- We are looking into the idea of a sock-hop with a DJ playing music from the 50s and 60s
- Easter egg hunt will be held in April
- The Christmas pageant was held with 13 kids. Melissa Kabisan has taken leadership of this event. 425 attended this Mass

Arts and Environment: 240 angels were handed out and all, but 3 gifts were returned. *Continued on Page 6*



Toni Becker Fr Peter's "American Mom"



This Week's Sanctuary Candles burn for

- ✚ Tabernacle I **Peace in the Middle East**
- ✚ Tabernacle II **Hostages; living & deceased**
- ✚ Marian I **Those at risk of Abortion**
- ✚ Marian II **Families in California & North Carolina**

BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL



Due to the Dr Martin Luther Kings, Jr holiday, our January 25/26 Collection and Mass attendance will be noted in Next Weekend's bulletin.

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



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.

NOTE: If not already received, you will soon be receiving your 2024 End of Year Tax Statement in the mail from the Parish Office. A very special THANK YOU to each of you who has provided contributions to help sustain our parish financially—everyone's support is vital in this effort. If you are not currently contributing, please reach out to me or to the Parish Office to find out more on how you can do so. Again, we look for support from all parishioners.

God bless,
Fr. Peter

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES *Continued from Page 5*

There were a lot of volunteers and new faces that participated. Next year we may change and use the symbols from the Jesse Tree instead of the angel theme. The organizations were very grateful for the gifts. We will start taking down decorations on January 7th.

Task Force: Gathering on January 7th to put in the final recommendations to the bishop.

Certificates of Appreciation: Sharon – no nominations pending

Knights of Columbus Council 3892 Update: Next month there are no activities that affect parishioners. The next events will be the Fish Frys in Lent. They are behind in their recruitment goal, but they are happy to welcome new members.

Outreach – Pastoral Ministry/Homebound

Update: The 7 parishes want to do a Lenten flyer of activities; we will be doing the Fish Frys and the St. Joseph's Table.

Is there a way we can coordinate the parish spaces in a more organized fashion so that everyone who needs to use it for rehearsals, meetings, activities, etc. would not overlap?

St. John's Website: - Website Statistics
Website usage during December 2024.

1,138 visitor and 2964 page views up 60% over previous November 2024

Website usage during 2024.

10,111 visitor and 29,551 page views up 261% over 2023

Most frequently view pages by % of page views

Home 79%	Mass Times 13%
Bulletins 25%	Calendar 6%
Other Pages 15%	Lector & Minister Schedule 4%
About Our Faith 14%	Desk of Fr, Peter 3%
(Mass, Our Parish, Staff, Contact Us, Welcome, Faith, OCIA, Sacraments)	Prayer Request 3%
	Events and Activities 2%

Website Access by Device Website Global Access -

Phone 58%	US 95%
Computer 38%	Canada 1%
Tablet 4%	48 Other Countries 4%

Facebook Update: 612 likes and 809 followers

Faith Stories: Paul Parkman – today's patron saint is St. Andre Bessette. He lived in Canada from 1845-1937 and was canonized in 2010. He had a great devotion to St. Joseph

Closing Prayer: Pam Kern **Next Mtg:** Feb 3, 2025

Opening and Closing Prayers: Patti Hoag

**PRAYER TO
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.**

**May God rebuke him we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host,
by the power of God, cast into hell Satan
and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.**

Amen.



Senior Home Communion Service Ministers January/February 2025

HAMILTON NURSING HOME COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 2, 2025 Steve & Mary Ann Donato
February 16, 2025 Ron LaForce

THE VILLAGE AT UNITY

January 26, 2025 Bob & Barb Gotham
February 2, 2025 Tom Grieco + Blessing of Throats
February 9, 2025 Bob & Barb Gotham
February 16, 2025 Tom Grieco
February 23, 2025 Bob & Barb Gotham

ELDERWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 26, 2025 Chris Hoefler
February 2, 2025 Dan & Melissa Kabasin
February 9, 2025 Carolyn Kerhaert
February 16, 2025 Chris Hoefler
February 23, 2025 Dan & Melissa Kabasin