

St. John the Evangelist Greece

January 5, 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.



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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday

1 Jn 3:22—4:6/
Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday

1 Jn 4:7-10/
Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday

1 Jn 4:11-18/
Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday

1 Jn 4:19—5:4/
Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday

1 Jn 5:5-13/
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

1 Jn 5:14-21/
Ps 149:1-6a, 9b/
Jn 3:22-30

Sunday

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/
Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30/
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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.

In western Christian tradition, the first Sunday of January is celebrated as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In the Hispanic and Latin cultures, as well as in some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day.

Christmas celebrates a family that could not get a place to stay; a family that was homeless, with no place at the Inn. Mary had to give birth in a stable. The angels came and glorified God. Then the people of the East came and found the Wonder Child that King Herod had sought to eliminate because he felt Jesus was a threat to his parochial sense of kingdom.

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world. As Christians, how can we manifest our faith to others who are less fortunate in our lives? I am happy and thrilled with the outpouring of support we, as a parish, provided the many organizations represented on this year's Advent Giving Tree Project. It was wonderful this year to return to donating actual gifts for *The Margaret Home, Friendship Center, Nazareth Elementary, Daystar Kids, Focus Pregnancy Center, Mary's Place, House of Mercy, St. Michael's*



Woodshop, and Mother Theresa Center at Holy Apostles.

As your Pastor, I realize we have so many good things in us that we just do not talk about or share to let others know our outreach, especially when it comes to church related issues. We each have a hidden talent which we may consider ordinary but which turns out to be

the basis for a new hope, a new lease on life for others. Thanks to all who gave so generously to those in need through our Angel Tree Project. May God richly bless your families and continue to shower you with His blessings.

True joy, the protection of God, and a deepening knowledge that God wants to provide us with every good thing are among the gifts we can also become more aware of at this time of the year. To open our awareness, we may need to pause, to be silent and quietly contemplate our gracious loving God, and feel deeply that the Emmanuel is with us, in whose name we too have shared ourselves with others.

Happy New Year and God bless us all!

Fr. Peter




 HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

~Fr. Steve Kraus~

From all of us at St. John's
 May you be blessed with good health and happiness
 in the year ahead.

You remain in our thoughts and prayers.



Masses for the Week—January 6—12

MON, January 6 *St Andre Bessette*
 8:15 AM + *Rosemary Nassar*
 by George Faris

TUESDAY, January 7 *St Raymond of Penafort*
 8:15 AM *Intention for Andrew Burley (living)*
 by Donna C. Salamone

WEDNESDAY, January 8 *Christmas Weekday*
 8:15 AM + *Nick & Joyce Lipa*
 by Eileen Zegarelli

THURSDAY, January 9 *Christmas Weekday*

FRIDAY, January 10 *Christmas Weekday*
 8:15 AM + *Osei Acheampong*
 by Brother, Father Peter

SATURDAY, January 11 *Christmas Weekday*
 4:00 PM + *Maximiana Pedamonte Opida 1 Yr Annives*
 by The Opida Family

SUNDAY, January 12 **Baptism of the Lord**
 8:00 AM + *Pete Hunt*
 by Wife, Rita & Family
 10:00 AM + *The People of St John's;*
Living and Deceased

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

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, January 5 **Epiphany of the Lord**
 9:00 AM OCIA Class in Meeting Room

Monday, January 6
 9:00 AM Bible Study in Parish Center
 5:30 PM Liturgy Meeting in Parish Center
 7:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Mtg in Parish Center

Sunday, January 12 **Baptism of the Lord**
 9:00 AM OCIA Class in Meeting Room
Following 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses Coffee Hour
 in Parish Center



Celebrating Epiphany

Epiphany (or Theophany, as it is known in the Eastern Rite Catholic Church), also known as Three Kings' Day, is a Christian feast

day that celebrates the revelation of God in His Son as human in Jesus Christ. The word *epiphany* comes from the Greek word meaning “manifestation.” The feast also commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, and thus Jesus’ physical manifestation to the Gentiles. Typically celebrated on January 6, or the closest Sunday to that date (in 2025, it is January 5), the Feast of Epiphany allows us to truly comprehend what it means that God has brought His only Son into our world. The Wise Men – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar – were the first people outside of the stable to come and pay homage to Jesus. These unlikely royal visitors showered Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, herbs typically used for burial, possibly foreshadowing Jesus’ destiny. The Magi were taking a huge risk in following the star to Bethlehem, but they trusted that God was leading them to something far greater than they could know. This is such a powerful example of how we as Christians should live our lives. Trusting that God knows what is best for us and that His plan, no matter how unattainable things might seem on the journey, will lead us to where we need to be. We should also have the strength to see Jesus in our lives in unexpected ways, and when we do, worship and adore Him.

The Epiphany not only signifies the calling of the chosen few, like the Wise Men, but it also is an invitation to anyone and everyone around the world to follow Christ. For the first time, God was physically present for people on Earth through His Son, no longer just a voice in the wilderness.

From The National Shrine of St. Jude

Please keep the following ordained in your prayers this week.

Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11
Pope Francis	John Gagnier	Jeffrey Galens	John Gathenya	Paul Gitau	William Graf	Joseph Hart



Reflection

Pope Francis offers examples of ways to bring Christ and his message of hope to the world during the Jubilee Year: work for peace and an end to conflicts - promote respect for human life and dignity - show amnesty to prisoners - forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay the more affluent nations - abolish the death penalty - share the goods of the earth - the rich must be generous - put an end to hunger - favor development in the most impoverished countries - demonstrate care for adolescents, students, young couples - help exiles, migrants, refugees find a place of dignity – esteem the elderly. Throughout the Jubilee Year our parish Social Ministry Committee will be offering us tangible ways to live Jubilee.

Developed by the Catholic Charities Diocese of Rochester Justice & Peace/Parish Social Ministry Staff



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.

287 households have pledged \$80,208.02 bringing us to 102.83% of our goal.

We have made our goal (on paper) which is fantastic news but we're reminded that until all pledges have been fulfilled (we have until May, 2025 to do so), we cannot sing ALLELUIA! We continue to encourage those who have not yet pledged to please so; all parish households are asked to participate by making whatever pledge amount is suitable for your household.

Please make your check payable to CMA and in the memo section please indicate 039-St. John's Greece

NOTE: If you have made your pledge and have not/do not see your name listed in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office (225-8980). We want to be sure all pledges for St. John's Greece (039) are accounted for.

Also, some have asked why some of the names in the bulletin are in bold type. If a name is in **bold** type, it indicates this is a **new pledge** whereas the non-bolded names are pledges listed in a previous bulletin.

The following is the most recent donor since our last posting in the December 29 bulletin.

Mrs. Pauline Leger

Epiphany

Question: Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

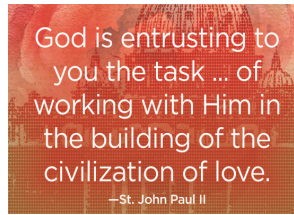
Answer: Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi



from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the

birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and where the Magi find them.



Pastoral Planning Task Force Update

Thank you to those who participated in the 11/20 parishioner meetings! The input received has been compiled and is available on the

Roc Catholics Northwest website:

[ROC Catholics Northwest or https://www.roccatholicsnorthwest.org](https://www.roccatholicsnorthwest.org)

Also on the website are notes from both the afternoon and evening parishioner meetings. Please ask at your parish office for copies if you do not use computers and do not have someone who can help you.

The task force meets again **THIS Tuesday, January 7** to review parishioner input and prepare the final recommendation to be sent to Bishop Matano.



Join Us NEXT Sunday, January 12

Join us NEXT Sunday, January 12 following the 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses. Our hosts this month is our Finance Council & Collection

Counters. This is a good time to catch up with fellow parishioners and hopefully make some new acquaintances. We hope to see you there!

Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

Thank You

Advent Giving Tree Project: This year, our Advent Giving Tree tradition returned to its original concept of gift buying for various organizations and those they serve throughout our community. After collecting monetary donations for the past few years since Covid-19, getting back to gift donations was nice and your response was overwhelming. Thanks to much planning and organizing by **Patty Hoag and Marianne Katz and their team from the Arts & Environment Ministry**, this year's project was a huge success. You responded so generously with MANY gifts from the 240 Angels placed on the Giving Trees.

Advent Reflection: Thank you to **Deacon Lon** for presenting our parish Advent reflection – Boundless Compassion—Compassionate Listening, and thank you to the 22 parishioners and visitors from Holy Cross who took part in this workshop. Everyone *loved* the workshop and took away from it a new appreciation for truly listening.

Advent Reading: Our parish was blessed with kindness and generosity from an **anonymous parishioner** who donated multiple copies of the book, *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory*. This book will offer each of us a good dose of spiritual nourishment so if you haven't picked up your copy yet from the narthex, please do so while they are still available.



Our Families Who Lit the Advent Candles: Thank you to our families who took part in this year's Advent Candle Lighting. We had married couples take part, families with children and a multi-generational family. This is a special time of year for families and we are happy you belong to our St. John's family!

Music Ministry: Our Music Ministry led by **Dawn Chmiel and Consuelo DeLosSantos**, together with our **Adult Choir, Cantors and Youth Choir**, made for BEAUTIFUL Advent and Christmas celebrations. So many hours of rehearsals took place; we remember hearing the Christmas songs back in the summer! Great job one and all.

Children's Pageant: Thank you so much for those who worked to keep the tradition of our Children's Christmas Pageant going for our 4:00 PM Family Mass on Christmas Eve. With the lack of children coming to Mass, the concern was that we may not have enough children to fill the roles needed to present the pageant this year. Together, **Deacon Lon and Karen Bessette** took the lead on recruiting the children and grandchildren of our parishioners to come and take part.



After working with the children on the pageant for many years, **Cristyn Simone** has "passed the torch" to **Melissa**

Kabasin who volunteered to lead the children, **along with her husband, Dan**, in this longstanding tradition here at St. John's. We are grateful for all the time and effort over the years that Cris put into this endeavor. This year she was able to get **Melissa and Dan** jumpstarted allowing this year's pageant to come to fruition. **Melissa and Dan** found joy in working with the children and their parents in preparing for this special event—all for the greater glory of God! A special thank you to **Jill Finan** for narrating this year's pageant and for **Consuelo and those of our Music Ministry** who complimented the pageant with beautiful music!



A Special Thank You to a Special Friend: Now that the Christmas holiday has passed, it's time for our friend **Santa Claus** to take a much needed rest after this busy time of year. With the help of **Ron LaForce** in arranging Santa's visit here, Santa has ALWAYS been so kind and receptive to setting aside time from his busy schedule to come and be here for the children and their families for our Christmas Eve celebration. We are **extremely grateful** to Ron for making Santa's visit possible all these years and now the time has come for another of Santa's friends to help make this possible in the years ahead.

Christmas Caroling: It just wouldn't be Christmas without music in the air. Well, the air was too cold to do the neighborhood caroling we had hoped for, but we made the best of it nonetheless—we sang Christmas carols in Church. **Consuelo and members of the Adult Choir, together with a few parishioners** helped get everyone in the Christmas spirit! Afterward the group enjoyed pizza, Christmas cookies, coffee and hot chocolate in the Parish Center. A very special thank you to **Trotto's Pizza** in Creekside Plaza on Fetzner Road for donating (3) sheet pizzas for this gathering; we are grateful for their neighborly generosity. Next time you need a pizza, call on Trotto's and let them know you're from St. John's and you appreciate their kindness.



Church Decorating: A special thank you goes out to **Marilyn Butler** for the blessing of her God-given talent in making this year's Advent banner—**Jesus Come Heal Us**. Marilyn's work is outstanding and completed in record time! We are grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Continued on page 6

ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE



This Week's Sanctuary Candles burn for

- ✚ Tabernacle I **Walter Eisenberg**
- ✚ Tabernacle II **Sisters of St Joseph**
- ✚ Marian I **Bishop Matano**
- ✚ Marian II **Seminarians**

THANK YOU *Continued from page 5*



Again, our **Arts and Environment Ministry Team** led by **Patty Hoag and Marianne Katz**, did a lot of juggling to bring the beautiful decorating to completion for both Advent and Christmas. It's a busy time of year and many need to use the church for various preparations for *the most wonderful time of the year!* I express

my gratitude for your efforts in working collaboratively to "get the job done". This Team's efforts brought a special display of flowers, trees and, of course, the creche for the very special arrival of Our Newborn King.

Ushers & Security Team: Thank you to our Ushers and our Security Team who do a great job making sure all runs smoothly and safely while parishioners and visitors are in Church. A lot goes on not only "on scene" but also behind the scenes to make this all come together and the dedication of those who serve in these Ministries is greatly appreciated.

Knights of Columbus Council 3892: Enough cannot be said about the immense support our Knights of Columbus Council 3892 provides to Bishop Matano, the priests of our diocese as well as our parish. Our Council is comprised of members not only from St. John's but also from St. Charles Church and Our Mother of Sorrows Church. Throughout the year you will see Knights not only from St. John's but also from the other two parishes working diligently to serve and offer assistance throughout our community and right here at St. John's.

Coffee Hour Hosts: For nine months out of the year, September thru May, various ministries from St. John's are asked to volunteer to host a Coffee Hour. These take place after the 8 am and 10 am Masses on Sunday of Coffee Hour Weekend. We are grateful for the scheduling, planning, serving/preparation, and clean-up that goes into making these Coffee Hours a nice gathering for parishioners and visitors.

Money Counters: Kudos to a special group of parishioners who are responsible for counting our weekly church collection including 2nd collections and holy day collections. These women take time from their busy schedules to volunteer for the good of our parish. They work with attention to detail to get the job done while adhering to proper policies and guidelines. We are truly grateful for ALL they do!

EMoHC & Lectors: A special group of dedicated men and women serving in a special ministry.

Buildings and Grounds Crew: This volunteer group of men, Steve Braya, Bob Gotham, Nick Sassano, and Glenn Smith, are to be commended for the MANY hours they put into maintaining the church grounds with such attention to detail. The parish could never begin to hire a company to surpass your regimented schedule and attention to detail while working in unison. Your dedication and commitment are priceless!

Pastoral Staff: As Pastor of St. John's Church, I am grateful for your assistance as we strive to enhance our ministry in the vineyard of the Lord especially as we enter into this new year. Let us continue to work together for the greater glory of God!

A Final Word of Gratitude: I wish to share with you my humble appreciation for the financial support you have shared during 2024, in support of our beloved St. John's Church; I am especially grateful for your CMA generosity! I hope and pray for your ongoing support into 2025. To each of you who so kindly remembered me, your Pastor, during this season of joy with your cards, words of kindness and the gifts you shared with me, please know I am touched by your thoughtful and caring expressions of love. **GOD BLESS US ONE AND ALL!**

Peace and love,

Fr. Peter

BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL



December 21/22 Week 26	ATTENDANCE.....	407
BUDGETED Sunday Offering.....	\$	9,321.00
SUNDAY Offering.....	\$	4,819.03
ONLINE Giving.....	\$	2,263.00
TOTAL Sunday Offering.....	\$	7,082.03
SHORTAGE for SUNDAY OFFERING....	(\$	2,238.97)

Fiscal Year 2024-25	as of December 22, 2024
YEARLY BUDGET	\$ 494,000.00
BUDGETED TO-DATE.....	\$ 242,346.00
ACTUAL COLLECTED.....	\$ 231,249.76
SHORTAGE TO DATE.....	(\$ 11,096.24)

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

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

Senior Home Communion Service Ministers January 2025

HAMILTON NURSING HOME COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 5, 2025 Steve & Mary Ann Donato
January 19, 2025 Ron LaForce

THE VILLAGE AT UNITY

January 5, 2025 Tom Grieco
January 12, 2025 Bob & Barb Gotham | January 19, 2025 Tom Grieco | January 26, 2025 Bob & Barb Gotham

ELDERWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 5, 2025 Chris Hoefler
January 12, 2025 Dan & Melissa Kabasin
January 19, 2025 Carolyn Kerhaert
January 26, 2025 Chris Hoefler