



St. John the Evangelist

Roman Catholic Community

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Pastor

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Permanent Deacon

Deacon James A. Detura

DeaconJimDetura@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministries

Lisa Oggioni Marciano

Trustees

Mrs. Patricia D. Rickly

Mr. Enrique G. Enriquez

Sunday, December 24, 2023



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Parish Life Center

15 N. Washington Ave., Bergenfield 201-384-3601

Rosemarie Flood ~ roflood@yahoo.com

Director of Religious Education

Eric A. Acosta ~ ericacosta7@msn.com

Youth Minister

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass:
5:30 PM, 7:00 PM (Spanish)

Sunday Masses:
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM
1:15 PM - Spanish

Daily Masses:
Monday—Friday
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 7:30 PM



The Rectory & Religious Education offices will be closed on Dec. 25, Dec. 29 and January 1.

Prayers for the Deceased
Please remember Mary Drake in your prayers.

<p>Saturday 5:30 pm 7:00 pm (Español) Sunday 7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 1:15pm (Español) 4:00pm (Family Mass) 6:30pm 9:00pm (Español) 12 midnight Monday 7:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12 noon Tuesday 7:00 am 9:00 am 7:30 pm Wednesday 7:00 am 9:00 am 7:30 pm Thursday 7:00 am 9:00 am 7:30 pm Friday 7:00 am 9:00 am 7:30 pm Saturday 7:00 am 9:00 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm (Español) Sunday 7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 1:15pm (Español)</p>	<p>December 23 Delmy A. Escobar Jorge Mendoza, Jr. December 24 The People of the Parish Martina Perez Domenic E. Francisco Jeffrey Jose— Birthday Thanksgiving Alejandro Peña CHRISTMAS EVE John, Nora, Mary Reilly and Steven Shine In Thanksgiving-The Tabuzo Family Familia Chavez The Lee & Casper Families December 25—CHRISTMAS DAY The People of the Parish Erlinda Ilano Valentino Tablong Intentions of Joseph Jeen & Ancy George December 26 Laurie A. Knott Luigi Estacio Robert Moran December 27 The Gangemi Family William Magpantay Maria De Leon December 28 Juan Redoblado The Protection of Unborn Babies & Their Families Vere & Eileen Sinnetamby December 29 Edgar Caparas Sp. Int.: The Dalton Family Balbino Mangaoil December 30 Deborah Ilano Honorio De Leon Janet Allen Severino In honor of St. Joseph, Julian Flores, Arielita Mendoza & Shirley Manzano December 31 The People of the Parish Intentions of Mildred Lobaton Helen Acebo—Birthday Thanksgiving The Tom Family & The Anointing Fire Ministry—Thanksgiving Pedro Jose Bourdierd</p>
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Feast of St. John the Evangelist

Dec. 27



Come join us to celebrate the feast day of our parish's patron saint, St. John the Evangelist, this Wednesday. We'll start with a bi-lingual Mass at 6pm, followed by a buffet dinner and celebration at around 7pm. This event has been a tremendous success in past years. There's no fee to attend the dinner, but donations are gladly accepted. (checks, no cash please).

Please make checks payable to St. John the Evangelist Church & include 'St. John's Feast Day' in the memo. No reserved seating.

What happened to the pews?

You may have noticed that some pews have been moved from the nave of the church.

This will allow us to move the Baptismal Font to the center of the church, affording a more dignified celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, with more space and easier participation for families.

Secondly, the new location of the Font will enhance the way we celebrate Funeral Masses. We will now be able to bless the casket and place the pall at the Baptismal Font.

Thirdly, we will be able to add more stations for the distribution of Holy Communion in the center of the church.

Also, moving the Font from its present location creates an appropriate space for the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas.

She can now be placed at the front of the church for all to see, rather than hidden in the entrance lobby.

A Reflection From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters



I want to personally welcome everyone who attends Mass here this Christmas. The world is changed by the presence of a child, a baby, born in Bethlehem. The world is changed not because it magically becomes a better place, but because there is a presence of love which is able to transform, from within, all who receive it.

The child born is Son of God and son of Mary. As Son of God, he shows us that God is with us. As son of Mary, he shows that God is one with us. He has come to our world, the world which he created, and entered into it in

a way that only he could, becoming one with those he loved.

He asks for our love: so, he makes himself a child. God makes himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him, and love him.

We are able to love him precisely because he has loved us in this way. It's difficult to love someone who is strong, someone who we perceive as above us, greater than us, somebody we fear. It's much easier to love someone who is weak, defenseless, in need. Love descends to that person, that place, without effort, spontaneously.

The love which God has for us is a defenseless love. It is a love which will accept to be born in a cold stable. It is a love which will be placed in a wooden manger. It is a love which will, in the end, be beaten, stripped, humiliated. It is a love which will descend to the poorest and lowest experience of humanity. It is a love which, ultimately will allow itself to suffer in place of that humanity, to be crucified and buried in the ground. A love which will rise from the dead, from the ashes, from all hopelessness, and ascend to heaven, offering each one of us the possibility to experience the power which this love has to transform the world we live in.

This love redeems us from all that is not love, this love is able to penetrate the darkest night; but this love is no mere sweet sentimentality on God's part.

To receive it we ourselves are invited to become childlike, to become small. Brother Simeon, a Cistercian monk of St. Joseph's Abbey, puts it this way: "... a paradox is involved here: the greatness of God can be perceived only by babes, or infants, those who have no words of their own.... there is a clear affinity between God and children. This truth is at the center of the mystery of Christmas, when God is revealed in the form of a baby. If he loves the childlike, it is because they are empty enough to receive what he wants to give them."

We have come here to celebrate "Christmas," a word derived from "Christ's Mass." The Mass, our Eucharist, is our act of Thanksgiving in response to the love of God, for us and for all humanity.

This celebration belongs to all of us, and not just today, but every Sunday. You will find a welcoming parish community here, and a place to nourish your faith on a weekly basis. May each of us become child-like enough this Christmas to receive what Christ gives us. May his birth provoke a groundswell of reaction on our part, as we gather around him lying prostrate in the manger, may our lives and our world be transformed by this child born for us.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Sean

Una Reflexión de Nuestro Pastor

Queridos hermanos y hermanas



Quiero dar la bienvenida personalmente a todos los que asisten a la Misa aquí esta Navidad. El mundo ha cambiado por la presencia de un niño, un bebé, nacido en Belén. El mundo ha cambiado no porque se convierta mágicamente en un lugar mejor, sino porque hay una presencia de amor que es capaz de transformar, desde adentro, a todos los que lo reciben.

El niño nacido es Hijo de Dios e hijo de María. Como Hijo de Dios, nos muestra que Dios está con nosotros. Como hijo de María, muestra que Dios es uno con nosotros. Él ha venido a nuestro mundo, el mundo que él creó, y entró en él de una manera que solo él podía, convirtiéndose en uno con los que amaba.

Pide nuestro amor: así, se hace niño. Dios se hace pequeño para que podamos comprenderlo, acogerlo y amarlo.

Somos capaces de amarlo precisamente porque el nos ha amado de esta manera. Es difícil amar a alguien que es fuerte, alguien que percibimos como por encima de nosotros, más grande que nosotros, alguien a quien tememos. Es mucho más fácil amar a alguien débil, indefenso, necesitado. El amor desciende a esa persona, ese lugar, espontáneamente sin esfuerzo.

El amor que Dios tiene por nosotros es un amor indefenso. Es un amor que aceptará nacer en un establo frío. Es un amor que será colocado en un pesebre de madera. Es un amor que, al final, será golpeado, despojado, humillado. Es un amor que descenderá a la experiencia más pobre y más baja de la humanidad. Es un amor que, en última instancia, se permitirá sufrir en lugar de esta humanidad, para ser crucificado y enterrado en la tierra. Un amor que resucitará de entre los muertos, de las cenizas, de toda desesperanza, y ascenderá al cielo, ofreciéndonos a cada uno la posibilidad de experimentar el poder que este amor puede transformar el mundo en que vivimos.

Este amor nos redime de todo lo que no es amor, este amor es capaz de penetrar en la noche más oscura; pero este amor no es un simple y dulce sentimentalismo de parte de Dios.

Para recibirlo nosotros mismos estamos invitados a convertirnos en niños, a ser pequeños. El hermano Simeón, monje cisterciense de la abadía de St. Joseph, lo expresa así: "... una paradoja está involucrada aquí: la grandeza de Dios solo puede ser percibida por bebés, o infantes, aquellos que no tienen palabras propias... hay una clara afinidad entre Dios y los niños. Esta verdad está en el centro del misterio de la Navidad, cuando Dios se revela en forma de un bebé. Si ama a los niños, es porque están lo suficientemente vacíos para recibir lo que quiere darles."

Hemos venido aquí para celebrar la "Navidad", una palabra derivada de la "Misa de Cristo." La Misa, nuestra Eucaristía, es nuestro acto de acción de gracias en respuesta al amor de Dios, por nosotros y por toda la humanidad.

Esta celebración nos pertenece a todos, y no solo hoy, sino todos los domingos. Aquí encontrará una comunidad parroquial acogedora y un lugar para alimentar su fe semanalmente. Que cada uno de nosotros se vuelva lo suficientemente infantil esta Navidad para recibir lo que Cristo nos da. Que su nacimiento provoque una oleada de reacción de nuestra parte, mientras nos reunimos a su alrededor postrados en el pesebre, nuestras vidas y nuestro mundo sean transformados por este niño nacido para nosotros.

Feliz Navidad, *Fr. Sean*

Christmas Eve—Dec. 24

4:00 pm—Vigil Family Mass, 6:30 pm Mass,
9:00 pm Mass (Español), 12 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day—Dec. 25

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, 1:15 pm—Español

O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Please share our Christmas Mass schedule with family and friends. We invite all to come and celebrate the birth of our Savior with us this Christmas!



Christmas Flowers

Please put your Christmas Flower envelope in with the regular collection.

Memorial Fund/Special Intention

Week of December 23-29

Altar Bread & Wine

In loving memory of Jill Verga Tabor
Requested by The Verga Family



*Our priests,
deacon, and
parish staff,
wish you all a very
Merry Christmas!*

The winners of the New Jersey Right to Life raffle chosen on November 17 were:

Volvo: Theresa Petrucci -Bergen County
(St. Therese, Cresskill)

\$1000 SR Gift Card - Lois Jarmicki - Hunterdon County

\$750 SR Gift Card - Curt Muklevicz - Ocean County

\$500 SR Gift Card - Theresa Celli - Burlington County

Thank you to all who participated in this special fundraiser for NJRTL.

March for Life 2024 The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 19. This is a prayerful & peaceful opportunity to join with thousands of people from around the world to help make abortion unthinkable in our lifetime. This year's theme is 'With Every Woman, For Every Child'.

The bus will leave St. John's at 6am & return approximately at 10pm, with brief rest stops along the way. We ask for a donation of \$25 per person to help cover our costs.

Also, the Knights of Columbus welcome all to their annual Right to Life Mass on January 14 at the SMA Fathers (Tenafly). We will gather at 2pm for Adoration and the Rosary, followed by Mass at 3pm.

For more information or to reserve your spot on the bus, contact Gerry Flood: 914-343-5508, gerryflood@gmail.com



Children too are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward."
Ps. 127:3



Come & Pray
Adoration This Week:
Tuesday—12 pm—6:30pm
Wednesday 12pm—5:00pm
Thursday 12pm—6:30pm



Fiesta de San Juan Evangelista

Únase a nosotros para celebrar la fiesta del santo patrón de nuestra parroquia, San Juan Evangelista, **este Miércoles**. Comenzaremos con una Misa bilingüe a las 6pm, seguida de una cena buffet y celebración alrededor de las 7pm. Este evento ha sido un tremendo éxito en los últimos años. No hay tarifa para asistir a la cena es gratis, pero si desea hacer una donación, por favor haga cheque pagado a la parroquia y anotar en el memo que es para *la festividad de San Juan Evangelista*. No hay que hacer reservaciones.



AVISO

Las oficinas de la Rectoría y Educación Religiosa estarán cerradas el 25 de Diciembre, 29 de Diciembre y 1 de Enero por los días festivos.

Ven y Ora

Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento

Horario de esta semana:

martes—12pm—6:30pm

miércoles 12pm—5:00pm

jueves 12pm—6:30pm



¿Qué pasó con los bancos de nuestra iglesia?

Usted puede haber notado que algunos bancos se han movido del centro de la iglesia.

Esto nos permitirá trasladar la Fuente Bautismal al centro de la iglesia, permitiendo una celebración más digna del Sacramento del Bautismo, con más espacio y participación más fácil para las familias.

En segundo lugar, la nueva ubicación de la fuente mejorará la forma en que celebramos las Misas fúnebres. Ahora podremos bendecir el ataúd y colocar el manto en la Fuente Bautismal.

En tercer lugar, podremos añadir más estaciones para la distribución de la Eucaristía en el centro de la iglesia.

Además, el traslado de la Fuente desde su ubicación actual crea un espacio apropiado para la imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de las Américas.

Ahora puede ser colocada en el frente de la iglesia para que todos la vean, en lugar de estar escondida en el vestíbulo de entrada.

Flores de Navidad



Por favor coloque sus sobres para las flores de Navidad con la colecta dominical. Los sobres adicionales están disponibles por las salidas de la iglesia.



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