



Church of St. Mary in Clinton Heights
163 Columbia Turnpike
Rensselaer, NY 12144



The Parish of St. John/St. Joseph
53 Herrick St.
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights
163 Columbia Turnpike
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Phone: 518-449-2232
Fax: 518-449-2234
Email: office@stmaryny.org
Webpage: www.stmaryny.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmaryny

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph
53 Herrick Street (PO Box 256)
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Phone: 518-465-0482
Fax: 518-449-7088
Email: sjesjparish@aol.com
Webpage: www.sjesj.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnstjoseph

PARISH STAFF

Reverend Thomas F. Holmes, Pastor		518-449-2232	frtomholmes@stmaryny.org
Alfred Censullo	Deacon	518-449-2232, Ext. 20	deaconal@stmaryny.org
Maureen Billa	Pastoral Associate for Evangelization, Catechesis, and Administration	518-449-2232, Ext. 12	maureenbilla@stmaryny.org
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Gina Gentile	Administrative Assistant - SJESJ	518-465-0482, Ext. 210	sjesjrecpt@aol.com

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday - 4:00pm @ SJESJ
Sunday - 8:00am @ CSM
Sunday - 9:30am @ SJESJ
Sunday - 11:00am @ CSM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday - 3:30pm - 3:45pm @ SJESJ
Thursday - 5:00pm - 6:00pm @ CSM

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the Parish Office of the Church you wish to have your child baptized or visit their website for some additional information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Call the Parish Office of the Church you wish to be married one year before the wedding date or visit their website for some additional information.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Upon request and communally two (2) times per year.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Parishioners of St. John's/St. Joseph's and St. Mary's,



From Crosswalk.com
Amanda Idleman – Contributing Writer

The Second Sunday of Advent in 2023 is Sunday, December 10th. After a chaotic year, there is comfort to be found when we pause to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the Advent season...a time when believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth.

The Second Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to *prepare our hearts in faithful waiting*, celebrate the birth of Jesus, and ready ourselves for his second coming. It is a beautiful chance to reflect on the ways prophecy has been fulfilled and to ponder what the future (promised to us through prophecies) will bring.

Psalm 46:10-11 says:

..."Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

This week, we pause to remember who God is and what He has done for us. When our lives are hurried, we only have the chance to focus on our to-do lists. Making space in our schedules for prayer and meditation helps us to better see God at work in our lives and in our world.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let us stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, *as we faithfully await* the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

Second Sunday of Advent Meaning and Symbolism

The word "*Advent*" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "*coming*."

Advent in the 4th and 5th century was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers.

Over time, advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally Christians used this term to reference Christ's second coming, but by the Middle Ages, Advent was connected to Christ's first coming that we celebrate at Christmas. Today, we celebrate Advent over the four weeks leading up to Christmas each year. Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off the crazy hustle of the season and the sadness that could accompany the different ways some of us may be choosing to observe the holiday season this year. Even when things feel chaotic, we can find peace in Jesus. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from heaven and took the form of a man *so that we might believe*.

The tradition for the Second Sunday of Advent includes lighting the second purple candle that is a symbol of *Faith*.

This Second Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

A Prayer for Faith on the Second Sunday of Advent

Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose.

As we *wait* for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. We thank you that you are both sovereign and gracious.

Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world. Amen.

God Bless you all on this second week of Advent,
Fr. Tom

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	INTENTION
Sat	12/09	4:00 ^{PM}	SJESJ	+CHESTER MACCI, by his Family +SUSAN GARRIGAN-BROOKS, by the Garrigan Family +ALPHONSO RAUS, by Thomas Concolino +CARMELLA SERVIDONE, by Sheila Millea
Sun	12/10	8:00 ^{AM}	CSM	+BINK & PAUL COLLINS, by their Children +WANDA J. KWIATKOWKI, 3 rd Anniv., by Mark and Susan Carey +FRANK MOORE, by Jack and Carol Spath +BETTY ALVARO, by Theresa Schillinger
		9:30 ^{AM}	SJESJ	+ANGELA DETHOMASIS, by The St. Anthony Society
		11:00 ^{AM}	CSM	+JACK DWYER, 6 th Anniv., by the Family +VIOLA MYERS, by Bob and Myrna Smith +MARY CARPINELLO, by her daughter, Patricia Bruso +JOAN CARPINELLO, by her sister, Patricia Bruso
Mon	12/11			No Mass
Tue	12/12	12:00 ^{PM}	SJESJ	+RITA ZENZEN, by Ann Ryan
Wed	12/13	8:30 ^{AM}	CSM	+JOSEPHINE FARRELL, Birthday Remembrance, by Jim and Terry Kois
Thu	12/14			No Mass
Fri	12/15			No Mass
Sat	12/16	4:00 ^{PM}	SJESJ	+PAUL E. BROWN, by Sheila and Jack Millea +REVEREND DAVID R. LEFORT, by Pauline and Bill Wohlleber +JOAN ADAM, by Jack, Brian, and Sheila Millea +BERNHARDT DEGIULE, by the Degiule Boys
Sun	12/17	8:00 ^{AM}	CSM	+BARBARA VROOM, by Larry and Carole Farrell +MARY WINNE, by Ann Marie and Ron Pepin +VIOLA MYERS, by Seamus and Katherine Gallagher +MICHAEL EVANCHICK, by Ernie and Linda Tubbs
		9:30 ^{AM}	SJESJ	+FRANK FORCINELLA, 9 th Anniv., by Barbara Forcinella and Family
		11:00 ^{AM}	CSM	+ROBERT GAGNAN, by Susan Collandra +MARJIE & JOE COLLANDRA, by Susan Collandra +GINO CELLINI, by Susan Collandra +NICHOLAS A. RIZZO, 1 st Anniv., by his wife, Lorraine and Family +WILLIAM J. THOMPSON, by Judy Pinto +JOAN FILKINS, by her husband, Charles Filkins LIVING 100 TH BIRTHDAY INTENTION FOR HANK RIVET, by his friends at St. Mary's

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT FOR: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2ND AND DECEMBER 3RD, 2023 COLLECTIONS	SJESJ	CSM	<i>Thanks to all who demonstrate such generous care for our parishes! Please remember our parishes in your will...we are: "St. Mary's Church, Clinton Heights, NY" or "The Parish of St, John the Evangelist/ St. Joseph"</i>
Offertory received from Regular Collection	\$3,423.50	\$4,646.00	
Offertory received from E-Giving	\$647.17	\$2,260.00	
Total Offertory received from last week	\$4,070.67	\$6,906.00	
Budgeted Weekly Need from Offertory	\$5,245.00	\$6,635.00	
Last Week's Difference ("-" is shortfall; "+" is overage)	-\$1,174.33	+\$271.00	
Year to Date Actual Offertory	\$80,710.74	\$154,820.00	
Year to Date Budgeted Offertory	\$120,635.00	\$162,605.00	
Year to Date Difference ("-" is shortfall; "+" is overage)	-\$39,924.26	-\$7,785.00	

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

2023/2024 Formation Year

THERE WILL BE NO SESSIONS THE WEEKS DECEMBER 24 & 31

Elementary Program (Grades - K-5)

- 11th Session, Sunday, 12/17/23; 9:30am - 10:45am
- 12th Session, Sunday, 01/07/24; 9:30am - 10:45am

Middle School Program (Grades - 6-8)

- 5th Session, Monday, 12/18/23; 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- 6th Session, Monday, 01/22/24; 7:00pm - 8:30pm

High School Program (Grades - 9-10)

- 5th Session, Monday, 12/11/23; 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- 6th Session, Monday, 01/08/24 ; 7:00pm - 8:30pm



FAITH FORMATION



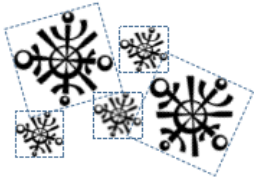
Christmas Workshop

Kids - ages 4-10 (pre-k through 5th grade)
Saturday, December 16th from 2:00 - 5:00pm



Parents, we know how busy this time of year is for you, so we are offering you an afternoon all to yourself. You may drop your children off at the Church of St. Mary for an afternoon of fun, games, crafts, and snacks, hosted by our High School youth. We will have activity stations set up and rotate the children to each station, making sure each child participates at each station.

Please register your child by tomorrow, Monday, December 11th, by contacting the Parish Office at 518-449-2232.



A REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

When school is delayed or closed due to weather conditions, it DOES NOT mean faith formation and youth ministry sessions and activities are cancelled. Sessions cancelled due to inclement weather will be posted on Facebook, Twitter, Church of St. Mary's web page (www.stmaryny.org - check the calendar under up-coming events) and through the School Closing Network, as Church of St. Mary NOT St. Mary's (channels 6, 9, 10 & 13).



Please Note: Weather conditions in the Capital District can vary substantially from one neighborhood to the next. Even though the building may be open or an event has not been cancelled, only you can decide whether conditions in your area will allow for safe travel. Please use your own best judgment regarding travel conditions in your area.

SOLDIERS

During Advent, anyone interested in wishing our soldiers a Merry Christmas, please do so by dropping your cards in the assigned box at the entrance of the church. Our soldiers' names appear in our bulletin. Please return no later than December 17th, so that we can make sure that their families receive these Christmas wishes.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We are pleased to welcome new members to our parish family.

Caileigh River Metzler and Gunnar Blaze Metzler

received the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend.
May the Lord be gracious to them and their family and bless them always.



ADVENT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

We will have an Advent service of Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction at the Church of St. Mary on Friday, December 15th at 6:30pm. Please join us for prayer and quiet time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament this Advent as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

SJESJ NEWS

Honored for the Month of December

Bread and Wine: Carmen & Lois Gentile, Sr.

Sanctuary Light: Carmen & Lois Gentile, Sr.

Prayer Services - Queen of Peace Prayer Group

The Queen of Peace Prayer Group will meet in the Parish Office on **Monday, December 11, 2023** at 1:00pm. Please join us. All are welcome.

Cans & Bottles Still Wanted at SJESJ

SJESJ is still collecting cans and bottles for donation. They may be left on the left side of the carport, in the landing area, near the back door of the Parish Offices. If you can help, please consider dropping them off. If you have any questions please contact the parish office at 518-465-0482.

CoNSERNS-U

In this time of need, please remember those who don't have enough to eat and drop off food for CoNSERNS-U in the back of Church. **There is a dire need for toilet paper and toiletries.** Also, personal care items are always in demand.

First Friday Adoration

Adoration will not take place until the First Friday in January (**January 5, 2024**). It will be at 3:00pm in the Church of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph.

SJESJ Christmas Tradition

Once again, Christmas Trees with ornaments containing the addresses of our elderly parishioners are on the tables in the back of church. Everyone please send out a few Christmas cards letting each person know they have not been forgotten as cherished members of our parish.

INCLEMENT WEATHER



Remember that if East Greenbush Central Schools or Rensselaer Schools are delayed or cancelled on a given day, the Wednesday, 8:30am Mass at CSM and/or the 12:00 Noon Mass at SJESJ will be cancelled.

WE PRAY TO THE LORD

The Parish of The Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights and The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph extend sincere condolences to the families of those who have died, especially

Kathleen M. Haggerty

*"Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ,
a place of refreshment, light and peace."*

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2023

December - For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



CSM NEWS

Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration will be on the Mondays listed below at **6:00pm**.

- December 11th - Chapel
- December 18th - Chapel
- December 25th - Church



Grief Support

The next meeting of the Grief Support Group will be **Tuesday, January 2nd, at 1:00pm**, at CSM in the Raphael Room. Meetings are scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of each month.

REVERENCE OF LIFE MINISTRY



Christmas Giving

This year we will again support the CoNSERNS-U Holiday Store. We will be collecting gift cards for teenagers. **Walmart, Target, and Regal Movie Theatre gift cards up to a \$25 value are requested. The gift cards will be collected today, Sunday, December 10th.** There will be a Christmas decorated box at the entrance of the Church for you to drop your gift cards into. Thank you for sharing hope, peace, love, and joy during this joyous season!

ADVENT EVENTS

Today - Second Sunday of Advent - December 9th & 10th - Blessing of Nativity Straw. Father Tom will be blessing the straw for your crèche at all Masses. All families are invited to take a quantity of straw home.

Third Sunday of Advent - December 16th & 17th - Blessing of Bambinelli (Christ Child). Anyone who would like their figurine blessed, please put an identifying mark on the bottom and place in the basket for Father's blessing during all Masses. You may retrieve your figurine after Mass to take home.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 23rd & 24th - We are again grateful this year for the generosity of our friends at **Wm. J. Rockefeller Funeral Home, Inc.** and for **W.J. Lyons, Jr. Funeral Home, Inc.** for giving us the gift of our yearly parish calendars. Please be sure to express your gratitude if you see them. Calendars will be at the entrance of the Church.

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23 & Sunday, December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, 2023	4:00PM	SJESJ
Sunday, December 24, 2023	8:00AM	CSM

Christmas

Sunday, December 24, 2023	4:00PM	SJESJ
Sunday, December 24, 2023	4:00PM	CSM
Sunday, December 24, 2023	8:00PM	CSM
Monday, December 25, 2023	10:00AM	SJESJ

Saturday, December 30 & Sunday, December 31, 2023 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 30, 2023	4:00PM	SJESJ
Sunday, December 31, 2023	8:00AM	CSM
Sunday, December 31, 2023	9:30AM	SJESJ
Sunday, December 31, 2023	11:00AM	CSM

The Solemnity of Mary

Monday, January 1, 2024	10:00AM	CSM
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There will be no vigil Mass on Sunday, December 31st for the Solemnity of Mary as stated in the Christmas mailing.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Advent Reconciliation will be offered at The Church of St. Mary from 5:00pm - 6:30pm on Thursday, December 14th and December 21st. We will have two priest available.

CONSERNS-U

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT TO CoNSERNS-U. Their pantry needs this week are: mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, vegetable oil, cereal, and canned beans. Thank you so much for your continuous support.

Cans and bottles redeemable in New York can be donated at St. Mary's. Please rinse all containers. Leave caps on to prevent crushed bottles. (Open containers are still accepted.) Keep them in tied bags; nothing loose and place in the **green dumpster** by the **Church garage**. **Thank you for supporting CoNSERNS-U.**



WE PRAY TO THE LORD

For Our Sick

Eric Allen	John Conte	Cheryl Fisher	Erica Kirsch	Michael Mann	Joan Roher	Mark Welcome
John Amedio	Nicholas Conte	Scarlett McLeod Friot	Donald Kolb	Madison Chester Mann	Bev Ryan	Margaret Waterbury
Joseph Bradley	Jeremiah Coonley	Tiffany Gamache	Linda Kolb	Roxanne Nicolla	Mallorey Schaller	Mabel Whitcomb
Tom Brownell	Mary Corvino	Sharon Griffith	Christine Krenzer	Richelle Olm	Gene Schultz	Kathleen White
Patricia Bruso	Tasha D'Alessandro	Randy Grodner	Kassidy Krenzer	Ralph Orciuoli	Marge Secor	Kathy Winner
Denise Buono	Judy Davis	Buddy Gutkaiss	Carol Laderas	Devon Paigo	Myranda Stevens	Harold Wright
Lynn Burdick	Bernadette Dawson	Robert Guynup	Edgar MacGregor	Inga Pepoy	Brady Sullivan	Joanne Zalucki
William Burt	Barbara Farrell	Ray Hannan	Helen Mertz	Peggy Petitmermet	Michael Swahlan	Michael Zenzen
Rosa Camaj	Carole Farrell	Carol Hinkelman	Don Miller	Tommy Raus	Rosemary Vogt	
Mary Beth Centrella	Jack Farrell	Robert Jenkins	Tina Milone	Chip Rausch		

For Our Soldiers

Salvatore Abbamonte	Ryan Johnson	Garrett McDonald	Derek Terry
Mason Albert	Noah Keneston-Colby	Brian Murphy	Arthur Thornton
Andrew Barresi	Keenan Krenzer	Corey Russo	Zaish Sadiq
Connor Danz	Sean Markham		

Please let us know if, or when, we can remove someone's name, or if someone should be added to this list. Call the Parish Office at CSM - (518) 449-2232 or at SJESJ - (518) 465-0482.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Please register as a parishioner! We will automatically get you subscribed to **The Evangelist**, the diocesan newspaper. We will send you offertory envelopes or get you signed-up for e-giving so that you can track your contributions to the parish. You will be on our parish rolls to make things go smoothly when it is time for a wedding, baptism, funeral, or other needs. **You can call either Parish Office to register.**

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph
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At the request of the Parish
and with approval of the Chancery,
Albany Diocesan Cemeteries assumed
responsibility for Holy Sepulchre
Cemetery in Rensselaer on 8/2/21.


Visit www.CapitalDistrictCemeteries.org
for cemetery rules and regulations.

(518) 463-0134
info@ADCemeteries.org

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