



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)
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Phone: 518-465-0482
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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

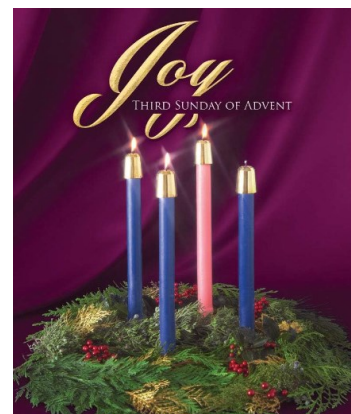
Call the Parish Office of the Church you wish to have your child baptized or visit their website for some additional information.

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 **Third Sunday of Advent in 2023** is on Sunday, December 17th. There is so much comfort to be found in the practice of pausing to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the Advent season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. The third Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare in our hearts a sense of holy anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus as well as for His promised second coming. We can study the Scriptures as a reminder of the ways God has been faithful to us through the fulfillment of prophecy—and find hope in the promises of God that are laid out in His Word.

The Third Sunday of Advent we are invited to reflect on the *joy* we have access to because of our faith in Jesus. One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their *joyful demeanor*. Let us not allow the struggles of this year steal from the *great joy* we have because of Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-5 says, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." Over this Advent, would you pray that the *joy of the Lord* would be evident in your heart and home? May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we joyfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

Third 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 Third Sunday of Advent includes lighting a third sometimes pink candle that is a symbol of *joy*. This Third Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the joy that 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. The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called **Gaudete Sunday**. Gaudete is the Latin word for *rejoice*, and this Sunday is the time for us to rejoice because Jesus came and died so that we may live forever with Him!

A Prayer for Faith on the Third Sunday of Advent

Psalm 51:12 says, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit." Lord, would you restore the joy of our salvation? Help us to be willing to follow you with all we have. As we read the Scriptures that remind us of who you are and the ways you love us, ignite in us a sense of joy that overflows out of our hearts! Let this holy joy be contagious and spill over onto the lives of those around us. May your peace that surpasses all understanding be upon us...especially as we are wrapping up a year that has felt very scary and uncertain. Encourage our hearts with the knowledge that with *you* we can live in your perfect peace, no matter our circumstances. We thank you for the joy and peace you give! Amen.

May this third week of Advent bring you joy,
Fr. Tom

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	INTENTION
Sat	12/16	4:00 ^{PM}	<i>SJESJ</i>	+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}	<i>CSM</i>	+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 +CATHERINE REKEMEYER, Birthday Remembrance, by her loving Family
		9:30 ^{AM}	<i>SJESJ</i>	+FRANK FORCINELLA, 9 th Anniv., by Barbara Forcinella and Family
		11:00 ^{AM}	<i>CSM</i>	+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
Mon	12/18			<i>No Mass</i>
Tue	12/19	12:00 ^{PM}	<i>SJESJ</i>	FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN/ST. JOSEPH - LIVING AND DECEASED
Wed	12/20	8:30 ^{AM}	<i>CSM</i>	+REVEREND JAMES B. LONERGAN
Thu	12/21			<i>No Mass</i>
Fri	12/22			<i>No Mass</i>
Sat	12/23	4:00 ^{PM}	<i>SJESJ</i>	FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN/ST. JOSEPH - LIVING AND DECEASED
Sun	12/24	8:00 ^{AM}	<i>CSM</i>	+FRANK MOORE, by Ann Marie and Ron Pepin +DONALD RASMUSSEN, 24 th Anniv., by his wife, Marlene
		9:30 ^{AM}	<i>SJESJ</i>	<i>+No Mass</i>
		11:00 ^{AM}	<i>CSM</i>	<i>+No Mass</i>
CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES				
Sun	12/24	4:00 ^{PM}	<i>SJESJ</i>	FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN/ST. JOSEPH - LIVING AND DECEASED
Sun	12/24	4:00 ^{PM}	<i>CSM</i>	+ROSE ROURKE, Birthday Remembrance, by Diane Cleveland +DONALD YETMAN, by Ann Yetman
Sun	12/24	8:00 ^{PM}	<i>CSM</i>	+FRANCES & ROBERT SHAW, by Geraldine Rock
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS				
Mon	12/25	10:00 ^{AM}	<i>SJESJ</i>	FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN/ST. JOSEPH - LIVING AND DECEASED

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

Rosemary Vogt & Lillian "Pat" Erkkila

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

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

2023/2024 Formation Year

THERE WILL BE NO SESSIONS THE WEEKS DECEMBER 24 & 31

Elementary Program (Grades - K-5)

- 12th Session, Sunday, 01/07/24; 9:30am - 10:45am
- 13th Session, Sunday, 01/21/24; 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)

- 6th Session, Monday, 01/08/24 ; 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- 7th Session, Monday, 01/29/24; 7:00pm - 8:30pm



FAITH FORMATION

DECEMBER 6, 2023 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Young children and their parents celebrated the Feast of St. Nicholas on Wednesday, December 6th, at CSM in the Church. They heard the story of St. Nicholas told by St. Nicholas himself. All received a gift and shared in some goodies.



CONSERNS-U

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT TO CoNSERNS-U. Their pantry needs this week are: toilet paper and toiletries. 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.**



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 today, so that we can make sure that their families receive these Christmas wishes.

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 not be meeting again in December. The next meetings are: Monday, January 8th and Monday, January 22nd. Group meets at 1:00pm in the Parish Office.

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. 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.

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 18th - Chapel
- December 25th - Church
- January 1st - 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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT FOR: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 9TH AND DECEMBER 10TH, 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:</i> <i>"St. Mary's Church, Clinton Heights, NY"</i> <i>or "The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/ St. Joseph"</i>
Offertory received from Regular Collection	\$2,905.50	\$5,198.00	
Offertory received from E-Giving	\$682.46	\$2,260.00	
Total Offertory received from last week	\$3,587.96	\$7,458.00	
Budgeted Weekly Need from Offertory	\$5,245.00	\$6,635.00	
Last Week's Difference ("- is shortfall; + is overage)	-\$1,657.04	+\$823.00	
Year to Date Actual Offertory	\$84,298.70	\$162,278.00	
Year to Date Budgeted Offertory	\$125,880.00	\$169,240.00	
Year to Date Difference ("- is shortfall; + is overage)	-\$41,581.30	-\$6,962.00	

REVERENCE OF LIFE MINISTRY



Christmas Giving

We had a wonderful response to the gift card collection for CoNSERNS-U! We collected: 56 Target gift cards, 22 Walmart gift cards, 20 Regal gift cards, 1 Amazon gift card, 1 Visa gift card, 1 Mastercard gift card, and 2 Food and Fun gift cards for teens. SJESJ collected a total of 28 gift cards totaling \$725.

Thank you for sharing hope, peace, love, and joy during this Christmas season!

ADVENT EVENTS

Today - The Third Sunday of Advent - December 16th & 17th - Blessing of Baminelli (Christ Child). Father will be blessing all the Baminelli's at the end of 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 **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.

PARISH OFFICES



Our parish offices will be closed starting **Monday, December 25th** and will reopen on **Tuesday, January 2nd at 8:30am**. There will be no weekday masses or reconciliation at either Parishes. If this is an emergency, please call Terry Kois at 518-588-0103.

Father Tom will be away the week of January 1st. There will be no weekday masses on January 2nd or January 3rd, 2024. There will also be no reconciliation on Thursday, January 4, 2024

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

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

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		
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.**

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At the request of the Parish
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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

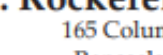
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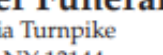
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