



# The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist

*The Mother Church of Stamford*  
279 Atlantic Street · Stamford, Connecticut 06901

**October 1, 2017 Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**Pastor**

Rev. Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni

**Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Andrew A. Vill

**Resident Priest**

Rev. Albert D. Audette, Jr.

**Director of Religious Education**

Rev. Andrew A. Vill

religioused@stjohnsstamford.com

**Basilica Choir Master & Organist**

David Indyk

**Chairman, Parish Financial Council**

John Regan (203) 324-1553 x 117

**Lay Members of the Parish Corporation**

John DeSoye

Annie Schreck

Photo by John Glover

***Rectory, Parish Office and Religious Education***

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**Pastor's Corner:** The two remaining windows are those ornamenting each side chapel; both are about the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in the work of our salvation. Lets' take a look.

The window in the Saint Joseph Chapel reproduces the famous painting of the Immaculate Conception by Murillo. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the ancient Church's teaching that God Himself prepared Our Lady to be the Mother of the Eternal Son from the moment she was conceived in her mother's womb. God, in view of the important role of Mary, applied to her in anticipation the merits that would be had through Her Son's sacrificial death, thereby freeing Mary from Adam's original sin, which all of us are born with. Since she would be the Mother of God, she had to be absolutely free from all sin or stain. How can one possibly represent this preparation of Mary by God? Murillo did a pretty good job, as seen in right side chapel of St. Joseph. In our version of Murillo's painting of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady appears in the center of the window. She walks out from a darkened almond shaped central niche: the darkness refers to the sin of Adam which has affected all humanity. Mary, as the "highest honor of our race", as an ancient hymn describes her, stands as if she has just exited from that darkened humanity, and stands enveloped in a *mandorla* of light. She who has been preserved from Adam's sin by the Eternal Father, is "Our tainted nature's solitary boast", as William Wordsworth wrote in his poem, *The Virgin*. She is dressed in flowing white, pastel green and blue robes.. Her hands are poised in prayer, and her eyes look heavenward, as if in ecstasy. Her hair is natural, in that there is no "styling", which symbolizes both her purity from all moral blemish as well as her perpetual virginity. She is crowned with stars and stands on a crescent moon, which refers to the Book of the Apocalypse, "A vision in the sky of a lady with a crown of twelve stars." [Rev. 11:19] Above her are three cherubs, and at her feet, two angels, one carrying lilies, while the second bears Mary's regal blue train.

The window across the church in Our Lady's Chapel is the Annunciation, which compliments that of the Immaculate Conception window, since the Immaculate Conception was the spiritual preparation for the historical event portrayed in the Annunciation window. Our Lady is dressed in long flowing robes, kneeling at a richly carved *pre-dieu*, with a vase of lilies, symbolic of Mary's purity. The Archangel Gabriel has just arrived, likewise with flowing, rich robes, holding a scepter, a sign of God's kingship, of which Gabriel is the emissary. He announces God's message inviting Mary "full of grace" to cooperate with Him in the salvation of all humankind. "Hail, full of Grace" is the salutation the Angel Gabriel gave to Mary when he announced to her that she had been chosen by God for the incredible honor of giving human flesh, mind, heart and body to the Eternal Son of God in her womb. The angel's words are recalled whenever we pray the "Hail Mary." In our window, the invitation has just been uttered, and Mary kneels in contemplation and prayer, as the Holy Spirit descends, by whose power Mary will conceive in her womb the savior of the world. The room is richly decorated, and through the arched window can be seen a beautiful evening sky—red, with rolling clouds, reminder of the old New England adage, "red sky at night, sailors' delight"—the promise of a better, more beautiful day for mankind through Mary's cooperation in God's work of our salvation in Jesus.

The room in which Gabriel appears is richly appointed with heavily carved wooden furniture, rich encaustic tiled floor and sumptuous green velvet drapery. It is framed in whimsical Flamboyant Gothic architectural motif, the details of which mimic the carved marble decorations, steeples, crockets and arches, of our church's altars. Those who built our church planned everything out quite well, and it all matches and fits together.

The remaining windows are decorative—those small ones way at the top of the walls. They are the original 1886 American stained glass windows, placed simply to give further ornament and light to the interior. There is one other window—also ornamental and rarely noticed—but given with a heart. Turn and face the choir loft and look at the oddly shaped window on the far right of the choir loft: it is formed by five circles of stained glass. There is no decorative subject, just geometric patters. It was given by Fanny Meredith, a widow who supported herself as a washerwoman, who spent hours on her knees scrubbing floors. She donated the money for this window, and insisted it be placed exactly where it is today—so that the rising sun would daily illuminate the side altar dedicated to Our Lady. Our is a great church. Say a prayer for all our fellow parishioners from 132 years ago who donated such beauty to inspire us and to give glory to God.

—**Monsignor DiGiovanni**

**Please pray for the sick:** Pat Farenga, Kenyon Jimmy Valcour, Maria Izurieta, Jennifer Marciano, John Mellace, Ann Borkowski, Timothy Lyons, Gene Gavin, Richard Ridge, Debbie Schemmel, June Roberts, Marie Cassis, Patricia Morgan, Vittorio Faugno, Robert Strada, Dionysia Oliveira, Salvatore Piria, Mary Ellen Callahan, Louise Wiles, Frank Wruk, Erin Wiggin, Isaac Lopez, Richard Ridge, Ron Frasca, Lisa Giugno, Michele Giugno, Helga Pecaric, Maria Trivino, Maria Gabriela Mossa, Diane DiNapoli, Gayle Moore, Paula Bennett, Mildred Beirne, Karen Hsu, Silvana Smith, Harriet Lockhart, Joseph Kung, Jacqueline Domingue, Antonietta Cerone, William Byrnes, Jonathan Victor, Lyn Geikie-Rice, Elaine Shoztic.

**Please pray for those who have recently died:** Grace Steele, Benita Rebula, Sylvia Iannazzi, Anne Hieronymus, Julia Fabrizio, Msgr. Joseph Kohut, Steven Bates, Catherine Dolan, Cesidro Piselli, John & Joan Kronk, Joseph Verrilli, Peter C. Schmitt, Sr., Joseph Prendergast, Msgr. Peter Dora, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, A.J. Barr, Joseph Esperance, Terence Leydon.

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**October 13th:** 7:30 pm: Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima during this centenary year of the apparitions at Fatima, Portugal.

**October 20-28:** Novena in honor of St. Jude after each daily 12:10 Mass.

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**The Upper Room:** For adults between 30 and 95 years of age resumes on **November 8th at 7:30pm** in The Upper Room at Columbus Park Trattoria on Main Street in Stamford. Our speaker: Fr. George Rutler, Pastor of Saint Michael's Church in NYC will be our speaker. His topic: The Church as the Communion of Saints. All are welcome.

**Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic?** Join us for the **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)**. Classes started Monday September 18th and will meet weekly 7pm-8:30pm in the Rectory. Cost is \$25.00 for materials. Open to anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, or adult Catholics wanting to receive 1st Communion or Confirmation. To register, call the office at 203-324-1553 x21 or stop in the parish office between 9am-4:30pm Monday through Friday.

**St. John's Family Picnic on Sunday, October 1st at Cove Island Park!** Food will be served from 12pm-3pm. The event is free; burgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks will be provided, but we are looking for people to bring side salads and desserts. If you would like to help, please contact Judy Defelice at (203) 322-6765. Please note that **parking at the Cove is free, you do not need a parking permit.**

**Children's Choir:** Ages 8-18 who are interested. Please speak with our choir master, David Indyk or leave your contact information in the parish office, 203-324-1553, ext 21.

**Men's Choir:** Men who can even just hum a tune are welcome: contact David Indyk in person, or leave your contact information at the parish office, 203-324-1553, ext 21.

**DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY:** Interested in reading Dante? We could begin during Lent with the *Inferno*, which is not a torture tour many view the work to be. Rather, it is a meditation on God's plan for human happiness by loving Him, and humankind's search for happiness that too often leads away from God to sin, which is real life folly that ends invariably to unhappiness, pain and suffering. We could begin reading the *Divine Comedy* in Lent, then continue if people would like. NO Charge: you'd simply have to purchase the books. Interested? Call Msgr. DiGiovanni, 203-324-1553, ext 11.

**Weekly Sunday collection:**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 24, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 13,920.15</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 25, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 12,577.35</b>

**Please increase your Sunday offering by \$5.00 each weekend. "I ask you one thing: do not tire of giving to God, but do not give your leftovers."---Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

**October 8th, Sunday Readings:** Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43.

**Police:** As policemen and women are under attack throughout the country, we ask that you *Please* remember the members of our Stamford Police Department in your prayers. Likewise, remember in your prayers members of Stamford's EMS and Fire Department, and our military women and men who protect our nation.

**Walking with Purpose:** Reaches out to women who desire to grow in their faith using a Scripture based program that is fresh, relevant, and focused on conversion of heart more than intellectual development. We will meet Tuesday mornings in Msgr. Nagel Hall from 9:30am-11:30am. Childcare is available. **Registration is now open! Register at: [tinyurl.com/WWPTBSJ2017](http://tinyurl.com/WWPTBSJ2017). For more information, contact Rosa Federici at: [wwptbsj@gmail.com](mailto:wwptbsj@gmail.com) or 203-536-5480.**

**Birthright:** seeks volunteers: Support women to bring their babies to term, providing pregnancy tests, connecting women with medical, financial, legal and other resources. Flexible schedules; training provided. Call 203-348-4355 or [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org).

**End Legalized Abortion:** Abortions take place daily at Stamford's Planned Parenthood, 35 Sixth Street. Help us stop this by joining parishioners in front of the facility on Wednesday or Friday mornings, 8am-10:30am, or even just for 30 minutes. We pray and silently bear witness to the sanctity of human life. Our presence has even helped convince expectant mothers to spare their children. To join us, or for specialized training as a Sidewalk Counselor, call Noelle at 857-345-0808.

**Job Seekers:** Led by Melanie Szlucha whose company, Red Inc., is a leader in helping find jobs. Jobseeker's Group in the Monsignor Nagle Hall the 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 9PM. Topics include Job Interviewing, Resumes, Networking and Job Search Strategies. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 25th. THERE IS NO CHARGE, this is free job coaching. Call Melanie Szlucha at 203-866-1606, or [melanie@redinllc.com](mailto:melanie@redinllc.com).

**SilverSource:** Formerly Senior Services of Stamford, SilverSource is available to St. John's parishioners both as a place to volunteer or an important resource to help parishioners as we age. SilverSource is looking for volunteers to help older adults live as independently as possible by reaching out to say "hello", reading and visiting a senior, or running to the market. St. John's parishioners who are seniors and require some help can receive financial assistance for housing stability, for eye glasses and hearing aids, or for transportation to and from doctor's appointments. Call Michael Feighan: 203-324-6584, or check out their website: [silversource.org](http://silversource.org).

**The Catholic Academy of Stamford :** will be hosting a *Pre-Kindergarten* and Kindergarten Open House on Sunday, October 22, 2017, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the lower school campus, 1186 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, CT. You will have an opportunity to meet the Head of School, Ms. Patricia Brady, the Principal of the lower school, Mrs. Natalia Cruz, and the Teachers and their Assistants. This is a wonderful opportunity to see for yourself the great things that are happening in this wonderful community. Please mark your calendar!

**Volunteers:** *FUTURE 5* is a non-profit organization to help motivated low income high school students in Stamford to improve themselves and their future. We need volunteers to do one-on-one student work, such as college coaches, job prep coaches, and teachers. We also need tutors. For more information or to volunteer and/or tutor, please contact Fanny Moran: [fmoran@futurefive.org](mailto:fmoran@futurefive.org)

**New Covenant House of Hospitality:** Saint John's parishioners staff the kitchens once each month to feed the homeless and less fortunate. For information, please call: 203-324-1553, ext 21.

**Natural Family Planning & Fertility Care:** Natural Family Planning / Fertility Care – Are you seeking a family planning method that is natural, effective, and morally sound? The Creighton Model System is based upon a couple's knowledge and understanding of their naturally-occurring phases of fertility and infertility. Engaged couples preparing for marriage, as well as married couples, and couples who are experiencing infertility issues, can all benefit from using this system. The teachers of the Creighton Model System are trained allied health professionals, and specifically-trained physicians have been educated to incorporate the Creighton Model System into their medical practice. For a FREE introductory session, please contact Angela Marchetti at [angelamarchettifcp@gmail.com](mailto:angelamarchettifcp@gmail.com).

**Homeplace Wisdom:** Is a Catholic women's organization promoting friendship and vocational development with monthly speakers and gatherings, play dates, and a daily email list for sharing ideas, prayer requests, parenting or home-place questions, and reading material. To join: [lisakotasek@gmail.com](mailto:lisakotasek@gmail.com)

**Project Rachel Ministry:** Offers free and confidential help to those seeking healing after abortion. Come back to God's love and mercy. Call 203-416-1619 or [projectrachel@diobpt.org](mailto:projectrachel@diobpt.org).

**Catholic Young Adults of Stamford:** We are Catholic young adults in our 20s and 30s, We regularly meet for social events and community service projects. Join us for our monthly Sunday dinner following 5pm Mass. Connect with us on Facebook or Meetup, or email us at [catholicystamford@gmail.com](mailto:catholicystamford@gmail.com).

**Not Married in the Catholic Church? Please call Fr. Vill at (203) 324-1553 ext. 130 to make an appointment.** Meet with Fr. Vill to discuss the Church's teaching on marriage and the possibility of getting married in the Church. This also applies to those who want to learn more about seeking an annulment.

**Employment:** Malta House in Norwalk is a transitional residence to promote the dignity of God-given life by providing a nurturing home environment, support services and independent living skills for pregnant and parenting mothers of all faiths and their children. Looking for a **House Manager**, anyone may apply for this position by forwarding a cover letter/resume to: John Hinshaw: [John\\_Hinshaw@goodcounselhomes.org](mailto:John_Hinshaw@goodcounselhomes.org). We are located at: 5 Prowitt Street, Norwalk, CT. 06855.

**Men's Night of Reflection: @ 7pm, Holy Spirit on Tuesday, Oct 10.** Men, please join us to hear **Msgr. Nick Grieco** present "**Continuing to Make Christ the Center of All**" which will include further guidance on evangelization and the importance of the church community. This Men's Night is brought to you by the Knights of Columbus Fr. Miller Council #5833. Contact Bill Nagle with any questions. M: 203-570-2593, email: [billnagle@hotmail.com](mailto:billnagle@hotmail.com)

## Mass Intentions

+ Denotes Deceased

### Saturday, September 30, 2017

4:00 Sister Daniel Marie McCabe req. Kung Family

### Sunday, October 1, 2017

7:30 +Al Zach req. Zach Family

10:00 +Feroze Aslam req. Abdul and Sarah Aslam

12:00 In Thanksgiving of Favors Received req. Marion Morris

5:00 +Robert and Karen Velline

### Monday, October 2, 2017

8:00 +Angela Marciano req. John and Jennifer Marciano

12:10 In Honor of The Guardian Angels-Our Heavenly Companions req. Marion Morris

### Tuesday, October 3, 2017

8:00 +Patrick Kane and Family req. Estate of Catherine Kane and Family

12:10 +Ben Mondor req. Marc Valois

### Wednesday, October 4, 2017

8:00 +Margaret Timon req. Tom Timon

12:10 +Francesco Godino req. Grace and Joe Violone

### Thursday, October 5, 2017

8:00 +Julie Paul Beauzil req. Eveline Lauture

12:10 +Gjek Camaj req. Age

### Friday, October 6, 2017

8:00 For the well-being of our military, especially our returning soldiers

12:10 People of the Parish

### Saturday, October 7, 2017

8:00 Sister Ellen Mary CSJ Religious Anniversary req. Marie Carr

12:10 +Sue Giovannoni req. Tarleton Family

**Baptisms**: Are celebrated every day of the week, according to the schedule of the parish priests and the families. Baptisms at St. John's are one-family only ceremonies: never groups. For more information, please call Cindy, ([203-324-1553](tel:203-324-1553), ext 21). Baptisms are offered for parishioners only. Baptisms are offered in English, French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

**Weddings**: Couples must contact and begin meeting with one of the parish priests for at least 6 months before a hoped for wedding date at Saint John's. Please call the parish secretary, Cindy, or one of the priests for an initial discussion. Weddings are offered for parishioners only.

**Holy Name Society**: For men of the parish, **meets Fridays in the Rectory, 7-7:50 a.m.** for coffee, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction. All men are welcome. We finish in time for the 8a.m. Mass.

**The Legion of Mary**: **Wednesday Evenings**: 7:30 pm 'till 9:00 pm in the Msgr. Nagle Hall.

**St. Monica Latin Patristic Reading Group**: Tuesdays at 12:45 in the Rectory.



## ***ST. JOHN'S IN THE ADVOCATE:***

### ***125 YEARS AGO, OR SO:***

*Oct. 6, 1892:* . “At the services in St. John’s R. C. Church Sunday morning the Rev. Father Keena read the letters of the Pope and Bishop McMahon, in regard to Columbus Day. Appropriate religious services will be held in the Stamford church. Father Keena made reference to the Stamford anniversary celebration, and heartily encouraged the societies and the people to join in that celebration.”

#### ***Oct. 4, 1889: Who Won the Big Prizes.***

“Notwithstanding that the weather was for the most part unfavorable, the fair of St. John’s R. C. church was a decided success, financially and otherwise, and very gratifying to all concerned, especially to Father Rogers and his assistants, Fathers Keena and Carroll, under whose personal superintendence much of the work was done. The financial net result it is expected will amount to between \$1,700 and \$1,800. James Burns, of West Stamford, was the fortunate winner of the building lot presented by Owen Daly. The elegant gold watch was won by Mrs. John Ennis. Father Carroll, of St. John’s, won the large French plate mirror which was looked upon with pardonable desire by so many. A very fine range, presented by B. D. Lum & Son, was won by P. Rabbit, of Bishop Street.

### ***100 YEARS AGO, OR SO:***

*Oct. 1, 1917: Vesper Service for Soldiers.* “A solemn vesper service in honor of the members of St. John’s Catholic parish who have enlisted or may enlist for the war was held in St. John’s Church last night. Rev. Dr. D. L. Gleason, pastor of St. Mary’s, was the celebrant. Rev. Henry Callahan was deacon and Rev. James C. O’Brien, pastor of St. John’s was sub-deacon.”

### ***60 YEARS AGO, OR SO:***

*Oct. 5, 1958: Bishop to Speak at Catholic Rally.* “Final plans for the Catholic Faith Rally to be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, at Boyle Stadium, under the sponsorship of the combined Holy Name Societies of 14 parishes in the Stamford-Greenwich section of the Bridgeport Diocese, were announced today by general chairman Paul M. Murray. The program will include a demonstration, the Living Rosary, by Holy Name Society members. The services will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the celebrant to be the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Nichola P. Coleman, pastor of St. John’s Church.”

### ***40 YEARS AGO, OR SO:***

*Oct. 1, 1975:* . “On the evening of Saturday, Oct. 18, a concelebrated Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at St. John’s Roman Catholic Church, which will climax the centennial of the dedication of the oldest Catholic church in Stamford.”

## **Daily & Weekend Mass Schedule:**

**Monday through Saturday:** 8:00a.m. & 12:10p.m.

**Saturday (Sunday Vigil):** 4:00p.m. (Hymns)

**Sunday:** 7:30 a.m. (No Music)  
10:00 a.m. Family Mass  
12noon Solemn Mass (Gregorian Chant)  
5:00 p.m. (No Music)

## **Holy Days of Obligation:**

- Vigil Mass (evening before): 5:15p.m.  
- Holy Day: 8:00a.m., 12:10p.m. & 5:15p.m.

## **Confessions:** (*English, Francais, Espanol, Italiano, Portugese*).

Mon-Fri: 11:30-11:50 a.m.

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00-7:25, 9:30-9:55, 11:30-11:55 a.m.

Anytime by appointment in the Rectory.

## **Baptism**

**Parents must be parishioners of St. John’s.** Please call the parish office: 324-1553, ext. 21.

## **First Communion and Confirmation**

For information on Religious Education, please e-mail [religioused@stjohnsstamford.com](mailto:religioused@stjohnsstamford.com), attention Fr. Vill. Confirmation is a two-year program.

**Sacramental Records** call the parish secretary, Mon-Fri: 9am - 4pm.in the rectory, 324-1553, ext. 21.

## **Marriage**

Engaged couples [**bride or groom must be a St. John’s parishioner and attending Sunday Mass regularly**] should contact one of the St. John’s parish priests at least 6 months in advance of the wedding. Marriages are not performed on Sundays at St. John’s.

## **Sick Calls, First Friday Communion Calls, and the Anointing of the Sick:**

Our priests would be happy to bring Communion, hear Confession and administer the Sacrament of the Sick to anyone seriously ill, homebound or in the hospital. Please call the rectory: 324-1553, ext. 21.

## **Devotions**

- Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 12:00 p.m.
- Daily Rosary following the 12:10 Mass: Mon-Sat.

## **The Basilica of St. John Bookstore Hours**

Sunday: 10:45a.m. - 12 Noon.

Thursday: 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. (Closed during Mass)

Friday: 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. (Closed during Mass)