



The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist

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

September 10, 2017 Twenty-Third 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

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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: Let's turn our attention to the sanctuary windows. Those above the high altar present the three central historical events of our salvation: the Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection. These events of Jesus, who is God-among-us, define who we are as men and women touched by the grace of God because God entered into human history. These events will lead us to the very presence of God for all eternity.

We begin with the far left sanctuary window above the high altar: the Incarnation which is the Christmas window. In the rose window above the Christmas window can be seen the beautiful Star of Bethlehem in the center of an imaginary celestial flower, surrounded by five smaller stars against a light blue heaven. The star was prophesied by the Balaam in the Book of Numbers [24:17], which the Gospel of Matthew mentions [2:1-2]. In the center of the window sits Our Lady enthroned with the infant Jesus on her lap. They sit on a sumptuous throne of whimsical Victorian Gothic design, with arches, columns and exuberant floral carvings, backed by a rich tapestry of geometric patterns and textured glass. The Blessed Virgin gently supports her child as she presents Him to the Three Kings, just arriving on the scene. The Infant Jesus holds up his right hand blessing the Kings, all the while eyeing one of their impressive gifts. Two of the Kings kneel, one directly in front of the Mother and Child, holding a large golden vessel. Behind him is a small elegantly appareled page boy holding the king's heavy ermine trimmed, blood red cape. The second King kneels to the right, having placed his costly gift box on the ground. He is, likewise, richly appareled in darker earth tones with a full ermine shoulder cape and heavy golden chain of office around his neck. The third King stands at the center right, eye-level with Our Lady. Vested in a deep green toga with golden breastplate and blood red cape, he wears a golden crown and offers another elegant gift to the Child. He appears to have just alighted from an impressive camel, which stands behind the King. The camel is wonderfully, imperiously sneering down at all of us, as his attendant tries to bring to heel with a bright red tether and bridle. Behind the throne to the left stands an elderly Saint Joseph, white-haired and supporting himself on a staff. Northern European Christian artists always portrayed Saint Joseph as past his prime, even elderly, to underscore the fact the Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit, not by the agency of Saint Joseph.

All around are symbols of the future for the Holy Family: behind the camel can be seen a stormy sky along with a pyramid, pointing to the Holy Family's Flight to Egypt soon to be made in response to the plots of Herod to kill the Child, in fulfillment of prophet Hosea: "Out of Egypt have I called my son" [Hosea 11.1; Matt 2]. On the top left of the window, behind Saint Joseph, is another attendant bearing a banner—of the Resurrection, the ultimate triumph of God over the power of Satan by the Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, by which he offers us eternity of the whole person—body and soul. At the base of the window are flowers, symbolically identifying those persons pictured above and what will happen as Jesus matures, moving towards his sacrificial death and Resurrection: Daisies—signs of the innocence of the Christ Child; Dandelions—a bitter herb, suggestive of the bitter suffering of Mother and Child; Poppy—the red color alludes to Jesus' future Passion; Violets—symbols of the humility of God who became a creature for us so we could share His Divine Life, and a symbol of the humility of Mary, who gave her private life as an offering in obedience to do the will of the Eternal Father so that both God and humankind contributed to our salvation; Red Anemones—referring to the blood shed by Our Lord on the Cross, and the sorrow of both Mary and Jesus. An ancient legend stated that anemones sprouted at the foot of the Cross at the Crucifixion; White Jasmine—whose sweet fragrance symbolized for early Christians the beauty of the Virgin Mary's life, dedicated to God.

The three sanctuary windows were donated to honor the three pastors of Saint John's whose efforts had raised the present church: Father John Fagan [1868-1873], who purchased the property upon which the church is built, who died very young; Father Michael Tierney [1874-76] who completed the basement church, and went on to become the Bishop of Hartford; and Father William Rogers [1876-1900], who completed the upper church. Next week: the central sanctuary window.

—**Monsignor DiGiovanni**

Please pray for the sick: Paula 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, Eilish Collins Main, Antonietta Cerone, William Byrnes, Jonathan Victor, Sophia Petrafesa, Lyn Geikie-Rice, Elaine Shoztic.

Please pray for those who have recently died: 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.

Special Annual Collection . . .The second collection today will be the **Special Annual Collection** for the parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

Banns of Marriage: *II Banns: Franco Joseph Vonella and Alesandra Rose Fedele*

HURRICANE RELIEF COLLECTION: We have the opportunity to assist the millions of Texans who are suffering devastating losses resulting from Hurricane Harvey. On the weekend of **September 16-17** we will hold a second special collection to assist victims of the hurricane. All monies collected will be sent with donations from around our diocese to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Please be generous.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

September 21, 22, 23: Triduum of Prayer in honor of St. Padre Pio:

September 21: 7:30 pm: Triduum of Prayer & Eucharistic Benediction

September 22: 5:30 pm: Solemn Arrival of the Relics of St. Padre Pio.

7:30 pm: Triduum of Prayer, Benediction, veneration of the Relics until 10:00 pm.

September 23: 6:30 am-5:30pm: Veneration of the relics in Msgr. Nagle Hall.

6:00pm-10:00pm: Veneration of the relics in the Basilica.

7:30 pm: Solemn Mass, Triduum of Prayer, procession and Veneration of relics.

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

Religious Education: To register, please contact Fr. Vill directly at 203-324-1553 x130.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH.

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Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Join us for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Classes start 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.

Weekly Sunday collection:

Sunday	September 3, 2017	\$ 15,182.65
Sunday	September 4, 2016	<u>\$ 15,946.41</u>

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

September 17th, Sunday Readings: Sir 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35.

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.

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.

The Upper Room: For adults between 30 and 95 years of age resumes on September 25th at 7:30pm in The Upper Room at Columbus Park Trattoria on Main Street in Stamford. Our speaker: Fr. Leszek Szymazek, Pastor of Saint Paul's Church in Greenwich. His topic: The Church and Immigration. All are welcome: in fact, bring a friend.

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.

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.

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.

Latin Low Mass: In the Extraordinary Form each Friday at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

Job Seekers: Led by Melanie Szlucha whose company, Red Inc., is a leader in helping find jobs. Job-seeker'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, September 27th. THERE IS NO CHARGE, this is free job coaching. Call Melanie Szlucha at 203-866-1606, or melanie@redinllc.com.

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 beginning on September 26th. Childcare is available. **Registration is now open!**

Register at: tinyurl.com/WWPTBSJ2017. Information contact Rosa Federici at: wwptbsj@gmail.com or 203-536-5480

The Face of Prayer Pilgrimage: Join Bishop Caggiano on September 23, 2017 for a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. for the dedication of an outdoor shrine. The shrine is dedicated to young people and continues our celebration of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance to the children of Fatima. Details about the pilgrimage can be found at www.thefaceofprayer.com or by emailing institute@diobpt.org or calling 203-416-1670.

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. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Fanny Moran: 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.

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

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 catholicyastamford@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.

Malta House: a Fairfield County home for homeless mothers and their children – will be hosting a concert at the Palace Theater in Stamford on September 30th featuring the Midtown Men. This sensational production reunites four stars from the Original Broadway Cast of Jersey Boys in a one-of-a-kind concert experience celebrating the music that defined the '60s. . General admission is \$30 to \$80 and VIP tickets (includes pre-concert reception) are \$150. If you are interested please purchase tickets at www.maltahouse.org or call 203-857-0088.

Employment: Malta House in Norwalk began helping pregnant mothers and babies in 1998. It 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. We are located at: 5 Prowitt Street, Norwalk, CT. 06855.

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.**

Mass Intentions

+ Denotes Deceased

Saturday, September 9, 2017

4:00 +Ed Cody - 24th Anniversary req. Cody Family

Sunday, September 10, 2017

7:30 Souls In Purgatory req. John and Jennifer Marciano

10:00 +Maurice and Regina Tchassem req. Heloise Nana

12:00 +Cecilia and Chester Hylenski req. Daughter Chris and Family

5:00 +Tony and Nel Moore

Monday, September 11, 2017

8:00 +Joan Bombardó Alemany req. Nino Family

12:10 +Louise Wilk req. Sue Kremheller

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

8:00 +Patrick Timon req. Tom Timon

12:10 In Honor of the Holy Name of Mary req. Ferry G.

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

8:00 Anne Marie Carpanzano

12:10 +Mauril Lauture req. Nadine Alteus

Thursday, September 14, 2017

8:00 +Mary Ellen and Joseph Santoro req. Marie Carr

12:10 Mrs. Eugene Augustin req. Ferry

Friday, September 15, 2017

8:00 Deceased members of the Taricani Family req. Leon Taricani

12:10 Forgotten Souls in Purgatory req. Ferry G.

Saturday, September 16, 2017

8:00 +Hope and Joseph McAleer req. McAleer Family

12:10 +Dr. Vincent and Theresa Kung req. 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, 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:
130 YEARS AGO, OR SO:***

September 16, 1887: "St. Joseph's Total *Abstinence Society* are preparing to give a grand fair in the Town Hall in November. From what we hear of the preparations we can predict for them an interesting display of attractions and probably a financial success."

115 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

September 12, 1901: **FAIR OPEN TONIGHT.** "The annual fair of St. John's R.C. Church opens in the Town Hall this evening. Carpenters and decorators were busy in the hall today, preparing for the opening. There will be six booths in the hall, one of which will be a refreshment booth. The booths will be those of St. Augustine Council, K of C; Children of Mary, and St. Ann's Society, in charge of Rev. Eugene Sullivan, and Sacred Heart and Women's C.B.L., in charge of Rev. James Q. Dolan. One of the features of the fair promises to be in a contest among four baseball nines, the prize for which will be some valuable baseball paraphernalia. The nine voted the most popular will receive the prize. After this evening there will be an entertainment each night, and dancing."

110 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

September 16, 1909: **Rally for Parochial School.** "The Sisters of St. John's School are anxious for all their friends to favor the school with their votes. The school started with 500, at the New York Provision Co. This is by no means the only votes this school will develop. These schools, the High School and St. John's, bid fair to make the hardest contestants look to their laurels, and they both would put the books to splendid use."

100 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

September 16, 1918: **CHURCH SOCIETIES.** "The Holy Name Society of St. John's Catholic parish is being recruited. It is the desire of the pastor and his curates to have every man in the parish join the organization. The response thus far made to their appeal indicates that the desire will be gratified. The two most important of its aims is to have its members receive Holy Communion at least four times a year, in a body, and to do all in their power to refrain from the use of blasphemous and obscene language. There has been a branch of the society in St. John's for a number of years but no determined effort has ever before been made to get all the male members of the parish to join in."

85 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

September 16, 1930: **EAGLE SCOUT BADGE PRESENTED TO RAY FARRELL.** "Scout Raymond Farrell, Troop 22, sponsored by St. John's R. C. Church, was presented with the Eagle Badge by Deputy Commissioner Clinton E. Sherwood at the recent Court of Honor session of the Stamford Council, Boy Scouts of America, at Headquarters."

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, 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)