



The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist

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

October 29, 2017 Thirtieth 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: The Solemnity of All Saints on November 1st and the Memorial of All Souls Day on November 2nd call to mind an aspect about the reality of the Church of which many people are unaware: The Catholic Church isn't merely an institution; it is the living Body of Christ that reaches beyond the here and now: Christ is the Head, we—both the baptized living and the baptized dead—are the members, through which Our Lord works to save everyone.

All Saints Day recalls the innumerable men, women, and children who led lives of heroic virtue and great holiness. They pray for us to Our Lord; they continue to be members of the Church and practice charity from heaven in our regard. All Souls Day on November 2nd calls to mind those innumerable men, women, and children who have died, but whose lives were less than perfectly holy. They, hopefully, are in Purgatory, being purged of the effects of their sins. We remember them in a particular way as our act of charity, praying for them, who continue to be members of the Church. Not everyone is in Heaven; not everyone is in Purgatory; some people, by their own decisions in life, chose Hell. The popular fallacy is that everyone goes to Heaven. Not so, at least not according to Our Lord's revelation in Scripture and the Church's consistent teachings. If we live without Christ in this life, or if we live contrary to Christ, then why should we want or expect to be with Him forever in the next life?

While our society revels in horror stories about the dead during Halloween, the Church turns our attention to the reality of life and death, and beauty of God's mercy and love for us, even if we sin. This week we recall those Saints who loved Christ so much that they based their daily lives on Him. Likewise, we recall those others who desired to live perfect lives, but were less than perfect because of human weakness. This is the Church's annual reflection on what the Catholic Church is: NOT a big religious institution! It is a community of believers, joined to Christ who is the Head of the Body, the Church, united with Him and with each other through the centuries through the seven Sacraments Jesus gave His Church, by which we share His life. These are days of great hope, because God's mercy is stronger than our sins; stronger than the power of Satan and death. As a sign of that, the Church offers special graces for the Souls in Purgatory. By our simple prayers, acts of charity, and proper intention, united with the Church as the Body of Christ, we can gain a Plenary Indulgence for deceased members of our families, and it costs nothing. A Plenary Indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due for sins that had been already forgiven by Confession. Sin has a lasting effect on us, which can be cleansed only through penance. Hopefully, we can do these penances prior to our death; sometimes not. That is where the Church comes in: The Church, established by Our Lord as the minister of Redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies to those in need the treasury of graces earned by Christ and His Saints. One Indulgence can be had each day from November 1st through the 8th, and each can be applied by us to one of the faithful departed per day. All we have to do is this: 1) go to Confession at least once during that week, and receive Holy Communion on the day(s) you wish the Indulgence; 2) visit any cemetery; 3) and pray—one Hail Mary and one Our Father for the intention of the Pope; 4) if you can't visit a cemetery, then visit any Catholic church, fulfilling the requirements 1 and 3, and also recite the Creed. This is Christ's mercy through His Church. We are asked to have faith in the Church established by Christ and to demonstrate our faith in charity by doing these simple spiritual tasks and acts of charity. Let us be mindful of the goodness of Our Lord, pray to the Saints for their intercession, and pray for the faithful departed that they might one day see the God who loves us.

To underscore the important spiritual relationship we have with the Saints—the official term is the “Communion of the Saints”, the parish's relics of saints will remain on display for on the high altar for the next few weeks, for your veneration. Together, with the other Saints, Our Lady and Our Lord, they are part of the Church, all still praying for us, while we pray for the dead: all working in charity and faith for the salvation of all. Happy feast days!

—**Monsignor DiGiovanni**

Please pray for the sick: Joanne Santarsiero, Louise Wakin, Pat Farenga, Kenyon Jimmy Valcour, Maria Izurieta, Jennifer Marciano, John Mellace, Ann Borkowski, Timothy Lyons, Gene Gavin, Richard Ridge, June Roberts, Marie Cassis, Patricia Morgan, Vittorio Faugno, Robert Strada, Dionysia Oliveira, Salvatore Piria, Mary Ellen Callahan, Louise Wiles, Frank Wruk, Isaac Lopez, 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, William Byrnes, Jonathan Victor, Lyn Geikie-Rice, Elaine Shoztic.

Please pray for those who have recently died: Debbie Schemmel, Ralph Dante Puzzuoli, Sr., James Tarzia, Sr., Antonietta Cerone, Mary A. Gaine, Grace Steele, Benita Rebula, Sylvia Iannazzi, Anne Hieronymus, Julia Fabrizio, Msgr. Joseph Kohut, Steven Bates, Catherine Dolan, Cesidro Piselli, John & Joan Kronk.

November 1st . . . The Solemnity of All Saints IS a Holy Day of Obligation, when all Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. The Mass schedule is: Vigil Mass: Tuesday Oct 31st at 5:15 P.M. Masses on Wednesday, November 1st are at 8:00 A.M., 12:10 P.M. and 5:15 P.M.

November 2nd... Masses for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) will be celebrated at 11:00 AM at St. John's Cemetery (Norwalk) and at Gate of Heaven Cemetery (Trumbull). Call Elizabeth Auda at 203-416-1636 for more information.

Banns of Marriage: *III Banns: Elvin Efrain Caban and Odalys Aquino*

Saint Augustine Medal: Each year, the Bishop of Bridgeport bestows the Saint Augustine Medal of service to Catholic lay men and women who have served their parish communities in some way. This year, Bishop Caggiano honors David and Janet Lancaster of our Basilica. For the past 11 years they have faithfully provided refreshments for parishioners after the 10 am Sunday Mass—every week. Their generous donations and their time organizing, setting up and clearing away have provided literally tens of thousands of parishioners with refreshments during these past 11 years. I am very grateful to both Janet and David, and proud that Bishop Caggiano bestowed this medal on them.

Pro-Life Event. The Gospel of Life Society invites you and your family to participate in Stamford's Life Chain, on Sunday, October 29th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in front of Saint John's. Last year, over 1,200 Life Chains were linked across America and Canada, including scores of St. John's parishioners. This is a non-confrontational witness for life: we stand along Atlantic Street in front of the church with signs encouraging greater respect for human life, and we pray. For more info, please call Frank Carpanzano: 203-975-0074.

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.

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 in this life and in the next. We could begin reading the first part of the *Divine Comedy, The Inferno* 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:

Sunday	October 22, 2017	\$ 14,305.22
Sunday	October 23, 2016	\$ 12,867.32

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

November 5th Sunday Readings: Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40.

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.

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.

Let us pray: for the mothers and children of Good Counsel Malta House, who have been wounded from the affects of abortion or any physical, mental or sexual abuse, that they may they seek hope, forgiveness and God's Divine healing.

Job Seekers: Led by Melanie Szlucha whose company, Red Inc., is a leader in helping find jobs. Jobseeker's Group will not be meeting during November and December, but please call or email Melanie Szlucha for a free 30 minute consultation. Meetings will resume in January 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, January 24th. THERE IS NO CHARGE, this is free job coaching. Call Melanie Szlucha at 203-866-1606, or 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 website: silversource.org.

Stamford Catholic/ Trinity Catholic High School: The Annual Memorial Mass for deceased graduates, faculty and staff will be offered on Thursday November 2nd at 7pm in the school auditorium. All are welcome.

Regina Caeli Academy Informational Night: Are you looking for an affordable classical education in the Catholic tradition for your high school student? Come find out more about high school at Regina Caeli Academy at our Information Night on Sunday, Nov. 5th., from 4 pm-5:30 pm at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church (Church Hall), 46 Stone Street, Danbury, CT 06810. Kindly RSVP to mgrunbok.fcc@rachybrid.org or call Mary Grunbok at (203) 701-9154.

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. HW: Monday's reading (10/30) is Part 1:Chapter 4-Man (pages 55-66).

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Catholic Classical School Fundraiser: You're invited to "An Enchanted Autumn Evening," a Fall Gala to benefit Regina Pacis Academy on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at The Water's Edge at Giovanni's in Darien, CT. Please join us for cocktails, dinner, dancing, entertainment, and a silent auction. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.reginapacisacademy.com/fall-gala. Regina Pacis Academy is a small, private, classical Catholic school in Norwalk.

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. We are located at: 5 Prowitt Street, Norwalk, CT. 06855.

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. For more information, contact Rosa Federici at: wwptbsj@gmail.com or 203-536-5480.**

Baptism/Confirmation Sponsorship Certificate: When asked to be a sponsor, a certificate is needed from your home parish. If the priest does not know you personally, or by sight, the only other way of knowing you as a practicing Catholic is by tracking your contributions by check or envelope.

Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form: Is offered every Friday at 2pm on the Saint Joseph Altar.

Mass Intentions

+ Denotes Deceased

Saturday, October 28, 2017

4:00 +John Depoli req. Marion Morris and Family

Sunday, October 29, 2017

7:30 +John Maloney req. Mary Maloney

10:00 +Fernando and Antonia Seixas req. Tom and Olga Kolenberg

12:00 +Delia Truglia req. Marchetti Family

5:00 +Robert and Karen Velline

Monday, October 30, 2017

8:00 For the deceased members of our extended family

12:10 Deceased members of the Churley and Kronk Families

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

8:00 +Carmel Pepin req. Frank and Beth Carpanzano

12:10 +Federico Garcia req. Aurea Garcia

5:15 +Gene Tushaj req. Age

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

8:00 +Wladek and Willemina Falek req. daughter

12:10 +Laura Pascale req. John Pascale

5:15 +Gregoria Gloria and Marcial Gloria req. Angeles Family

Thursday, November 2, 2017

8:00 Deceased Parishioners

12:10 Deceased Parishioners

Friday, November 3, 2017

8:00 In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary req. Ferry G.

12:10 Matthew and John Kanozi Senyonjo req. Andrew Mbabaali

Saturday, November 4, 2017

8:00 Souls in Purgatory req. Pasquale and Ida Carpanzano

12:10 +Al Zach req. Zach 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: The St Monica Latin Reading Group meets on Tuesdays. Please call St John's Rectory, 203 324 1553, ext. 21, for more information.

ST. JOHN'S IN *THE ADVOCATE*: 140 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

Oct. 29, 1875: The Catholic Fair. "The largest attendance of last week was that of Wednesday and Saturday evenings, though on every evening since the fair opened, until its close, the attendance was large, and the interest unabated. On Saturday evening the scene was particularly brilliant, and fully one thousand persons were present. The apartment in which the fair was held is the basement story of the new Catholic church. It is capable of seating twelve hundred persons, and with its numerous graceful iron pillars, its black walnut and ash wainscoting, and the neatness as well as the solidity of its finishing, can hardly be surpassed in any ecclesiastical edifice in city or country. On Saturday night when its sixty globe-covered gas jets threw a flood of brilliant light over the finely dressed and moving throng below, the scene was in a high degree animated and picturesque. Around the walls, at regular intervals, appeared on a shelf, the state coat of arms of each of the states. On the west end of the building appeared the American and Irish flags, and at the east side a platform was erected on which an orchestra of seven pieces discoursed eloquent music at intervals during the evening. This band, under the direction of Mr. B. Lumb, is wholly a Stamford institution, and being composed of enthusiastic and intelligent students of the art, who have had, moreover, the benefit of long practice together, its performance was really excellent. The program heard on Saturday night included many pieces of high musical merit, and they were well performed."

125 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

Oct. 31, 1890: St. John's R. C. Church Matters "On Saturday, Nov. 1, the Feast of All Saints will be celebrated in this church in the morning. Rev. Wm. Kane, from Westminster, MD., has for some time been visiting relatives and friends in Stamford. He officiated at the morning service in St. John's church last Sunday. He was only ordained last June. The tar walk recently made in front of the rectory is a great convenience, and workmen are now engaged on a fine roadway between the church and the rectory. All these improvements will make these sidewalks and roads as good as any in town."

70 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

Oct. 30, 1948: Masses Are Scheduled By Catholic Churches For All Saints Day. "Catholic churches in Stamford will observe All Saints' Day Monday and All Souls' Day Tuesday with Masses on both mornings. Monday, All Saints' Day, a Holy Day of Obligation, at St. John's, Masses will be at 5:30, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11."

35 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

Nov. 3, 1973: Huge Crowd. "Talking about Father Bill Nagle, he recalls the huge crowd that gathered Sunday at St. John's Cemetery in Springdale, where a special Mass was celebrated to observe All Souls Day. More than 500 persons attended the Mass."

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)