



The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist

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

March 11, 2018 The Fourth Sunday of Lent



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

Tel: (203) 324-1553 x 21

Fax: (203) 359-2660

Website: www.stjohnsstamford.com

E-mail Address: stjc@optonline.net

LENTEN NOVENA
For the Healing of Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni
To be prayed every day during the season of Lent

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
During the Holy Season of Lent
You call us to a closer union with Yourself.
Help me to prepare to celebrate
The Paschal Mystery
With mind and heart renewed.
Give me a spirit of loving reverence
For You, our Father,
And of willing service to my neighbor.
As I recall the great events
That gave us new life in Christ,
Bring the image of Your Son
To perfection within my soul.

This great season of grace is Your gift
To Your family to renew us in spirit.
Give me strength to purify my heart,
To control my desires,
And so to serve You in freedom,
Teach me how to live
In this passing world with my heart set
On the world that will never end.

I ask for the grace
To master my sinfulness
And conquer my pride.
I want to show to those in need
Your goodness to me by being kind to all.

Through my observance of Lent,
Help me to correct my faults
And raise my mind to You,
And thus grow in holiness
That I may deserve
The reward of everlasting life.

In Your mercy grant me through the intercession of St. Stephen, St. Michael the Archangel, St. Andrew Avellino and Ignatius Cardinal Kung this special favor:

For the prompt and full recovery of Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni.

The days of the life-giving Death
And glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ,
Your Son, are approaching.
This is the hour
When He triumphed over Satan's pride,
The time when we celebrate
The great event of our Redemption.
The Suffering and Death of Your Son
Brought life to the whole world,
Moving our hearts to praise Your glory.

The power of the Cross reveals
Your judgment on this world
And the kingship of Christ crucified.
Father, through His love for us
And through His Sufferings, Death and Resurrection,
May I gain eternal life with You in heaven. Amen.

Please pray for the sick: Monsignor DiGiovanni, Rose Marie Clarke, Janet Caione, Joseph Kung, Rosemarie Drexel, Loretta Wallace, Michael Scully, Roger Borrelli, Nyal Colies, Dorothy Keyes, Joevil Basulgan Delacruz, Mary Duffy, Pat Farenga, Kenyon Jimmy Valcour, 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, Paula Bennett, Mildred Beirne.

Please pray for those who have recently died: Ann Borkowski, Art Reynolds, Lena Cocchia, Pasquale [Pat] Santagata, Elma Hefferna, Anne Mennona, Emile Maignan, Regina Derrisaint, Joanne Santarsiero, Carmen Colon Diaz, Kathryn Anne Marciano, Marilyn VanAuken, Joyce Patten, Katherine Kimberly, Mary Louise Wakin, David Kochosky, Jonathan Shearman, Debbie Schemmel, Susanne and Suzanne DePreta

American Bishops' Overseas Appeal Collection . . . Please drop your special envelope into the **ONE** basket that will be passed at the Offertory.

Update on Msgr. DiGiovanni: If you would like to send a card, please send it to the rectory and Fr. Vill will give it to him when he brings him daily communion. Please continue to pray the Lenten Novena for Monsignor's healing.

Police: 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 Stamford's EMS and Fire Department and our military women and men who protect our nation.

Virtual Tour of the Basilica: Click on the parish website www.stjohnsstamford.com for a virtual tour of the interior, created and donated by Jonathan Powell of Matterport.

The Lenten rules of fasting and abstinence from eating meat apply on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday:

Fasting refers to the cutting back on the amount of food or soft drinks or coffee, tea, alcohol consumed on certain days, and applies to those aged 14-60 years old, unless ill or suffering from a medical condition.

Fasting means that only one full meal [on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday] is to be taken and NO snacking between meals. **Abstinence** from eating meat means that no meat be eaten on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, or on any Fridays of Lent. This is a simple way to begin doing penance for our sins. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from eating meat for those 14 years and older, unless sickness or medical conditions prevent this. If one is ill, 60 years or older, or suffers from any medical condition, these rules and practices do not apply.

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday during Lent at 4:00 pm in English in the Basilica.

FORMED: Donated by a parishioner, this is a revolutionary online platform provides access to the best Catholic audio talks, movies, e-books, and video-based studies from trusted providers like the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, Catholic Answers, Sophia Institute Press, and St. Paul Center— **right at your fingertips, without cost**. Learn more at app.formed.org/ Access Code WWT2NF.

The Upper Room: For Catholics 39 years and older will next meet on March 15th at 7:00-9:00PM at The Upper Room in Columbus Park Trattoria for "Stump the Priest Night." Bring your questions and a friend. All are welcome.

Lenten Evening of Reflection: Sr. M. Gaudia Skass, OLM : March 12th at 7:30PM at Church of the Holy Spirit in Stamford. Sr. Gaudia Skass will give a reflection titled God's Surprising Remedy to our Sins. More information at <https://dobcalendar.bridgeportdiocese.org/event/lenten-evening-of-reflection-sr-m-gaudia-skass-olm/>

Electronic Giving - Offertory Donations Made Easy... Consider using your credit card to make your weekly or monthly donation to St. John's. Easier for you, and less costly for the parish than the printing and mailing of weekly envelopes, credit card giving automatically sends your weekly offering to the Basilica of St. John's. Call the parish secretary (324-1553, ext. 21).

Weekly Sunday collection:

Sunday	March 3, 2018	\$ 15,509.51
Sunday	March 4, 2017	<u>\$ 16,593.46</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

March 18th Sunday Readings: 2 CHR 36:14-16, 19-23 ; EPH 2:4-10; JN 3:14-21

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.

Lenten Plenary Indulgence: A plenary indulgence is the remission of punishment due for sin, which the Catholic Church has the authority to offer as part of Our Lord’s concession to St. Peter in the power of the keys [Matt. 16:18] to forgive sins. On Fridays during Lent, a plenary indulgence may be obtained if, after having gone to Confession and received Holy Communion, one prays the “Prayer before the Crucifix”—copies can be found at the St. Joseph side altar—and pray one Our Father or one Hail Mary for the pope. Likewise one must be free from attachment to sin.

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. We meet Tuesday mornings in Msgr. Nagle Hall from 9:30am-11:30am. Childcare is available. **Register at: tinyurl.com/WWPTBSJ2017. For more information, contact Rosa Federici at: 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. They are in need of **WINTER maternity clothes** (all sizes). Call 203-348-4355 or www.birthright.org if you can help.

Project Rachel- Are you or someone you know hurting from a past abortion experience? There is help and hope. Project Rachel is offering an Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing on Saturday, July 14, 2018 for women who are suffering from a past abortion. Please contact 203-895-3554 or projectrachel@diobpt.org for more information and confidential registration.

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 helped convince expectant mothers to spare their children. Call Noelle at 857-345-0808 for specialized training as a Sidewalk Counselor.

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. We currently have a new student who needs a tutor in Japanese. For more information or to volunteer and/or tutor, please contact Fanny Moran: **fmo-ran@futurefive.org**

White Mass: Mass for Healthcare Professionals and All who serve the sick celebrated on March 18th at 8:30AM by Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano at Saint Aloysius Church, New Canaan followed by Brunch at Woodway Country Club in Darien. Joseph Dutkowsky, MD KM will address “Healing Beyond Healthcare”. Tickets needed for Brunch, call 203-416-1636.

PASTA DINNER: Trinity Catholic High School is having two Lenten Pasta Dinners on March 9 and March 23 from 5:30-7:30pm in the TCHS Cafeteria. The food is catered by Columbus Park Trattoria, so it's guaranteed to be great! Cost is \$10 per person or \$40 per family. Proceeds support our Summer Mission Trip to serve the poor in Hartford. Come on out and join us for a delicious meal for the whole family!

LAURALTON HALL: will host **Discover Lauralton** on Sunday, April 8 from 1:00-3:30pm for 5th, 6th, and 7th grade girls, and their parents. Visit www.lauraltonhall.org/discover to register by March 28. For further information, please call (203) 877-2786 ext. 115.

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

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: *The Eaglet*, the parish blog on our Basilica website, www.stjohnsstamford.com.

Not Married in the Catholic Church? Please call the parish 203) 324-1553 or Fr. Vill at (ext. 130) to make an appointment, 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.

FLU: During this seriously dangerous flu season, we will dispense with the sign of peace during all Masses.

SilverSource: 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: www.silversource.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 catholicyastamford@gmail.com

Job Seekers: Next meeting: Wednesday, May 2nd! No meetings March and April. Led by Melanie Szlucha whose company, Red Inc., is a leader in helping find jobs. Meetings are held in Monsignor Nagle Hall on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 9PM. Topics include Job Interviewing, Resumes, Networking and Job Search Strategies. THERE IS NO CHARGE, this is free job coaching. Call Melanie Szlucha at 203-866-1606, or melanie@redinllc.com.

Trinity Catholic School: Trinity Catholic High School is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. There will be a “Take A Look” open house on March 18th. Details at: www.trinitycatholic.org/admissions. They will also be hosting a Clothing Drive Saturday, March 24th from 9:00AM-2:00PM.

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.

Regina Caeli Academy Gala Dinner: “You’re invited to Regina Caeli Academy’s 4th Annual Gala Fundraiser on April 6th! Join us for an evening of dinner, dancing and auctions featuring the ever popular Nitro Jive Band (the swingiest little big band ever) as well as surprise performances from talented local priests! St Francis of Assisi Banquet Hall at 35 Norfield Rd in Weston from 6-11pm on April 6, 2018. Come support RCA and learn more about our growing community! We are a homeschool hybrid in the Catholic and classical traditions, providing the best of both homeschooling and traditional classroom-based education to children from Pre-K through high school.”

Mass Intentions

+ Denotes Deceased

Saturday, March 10, 2018

4:00 Joseph and Agnes Kung

Sunday, March 11, 2018

7:30 +Frank DelVecchio req. Glenn and Lynda Nadin

10:00 +Francesco Russo req. Sal and Marissa Docimo

12:00 For the opening of the cause of Ignatius Cardinal Kung

5:00 +Edmond Cherbonnier

Monday, March 12, 2018

8:00 +Pashko Mjeshtri req. Age

12:10 +Anne Hieronymus req. Mary and Paul Giordano

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

8:00 Michael Kravar Birthday req. Fabiola C.

12:10 +Daniel Joseph Murphy req. John and Susan Maguire

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

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

12:10 +Angela Tabone req. Anthony and Carolyn Conte

Thursday, March 15, 2018

8:00 Jef Spetland req. Thomas Cycon

12:10 +John and Valencia Lancaster req. Sue Kremheller

Friday, March 16, 2018

8:00 +Hien Do req. Thang Nguyen

12:10 Healing of Msgr. DiGiovanni

Saturday, March 17, 2018

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

12:10 Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians

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 Keri, (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, Keri, 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: 155 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

March 18, 1864: "Yesterday was St. Patrick's day, and, contrary to the general rule, the weather was fine in the morning. Mass was celebrated and a sermon preached by Rev. Father O'Neil, in the Roman Catholic Church. A full congregation was in attendance."

130 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

March 14, 1890: "Rev. Father Cronan, assistant pastor of St. Mary's R. C. church, Greenwich, is expected to deliver an address next Sunday at 7:30 p.m., in the St. John's R.C. church, Stamford. The sermon will be appropriate to St. Patrick's Eve, and there will also be musical vespers, followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament."

100 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

March 11, 1919: "St. Patrick's Day is to be celebrated by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Final preparations were made last night, by the committee in charge, for an entertainment in St. John's Parochial School Hall, Friday evening, March 14, at 8:30. A program consisting of music and recitations has been arranged. The speaker of the evening will be Jonas McCarthy of New Haven."

50 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

March 13, 1979: **Hibernian fete set Saturday.** "General Philip Sheridan Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians, will honor St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, Saturday with a Mass at St. John's Catholic Church on Atlantic Street and a flag-raising ceremony in Heritage Park behind the Old Town Hall. Brendan Fitzsimons, editor of The Greenwich Times, will be the speaker at the 9:30 program in the park. State House Speaker Ernest Abate will be toastmaster, and Joseph Butler will be chairman of the breakfast. Before the breakfast at the Half Way House, Mass will be concelebrated at St. John's Catholic Church by the division's chaplain, the Rev. William A. Nagle, with three other priests. Following the Mass, the group will gather at Heritage Park, where the tri-color flag of Ireland will be raised at 9:30 a.m. in honor of St. Patrick."

10 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

March 18, 2006: **Relic adds to Irish celebration Irish-Americans honored at St. Patrick's Day Mass.** "The shrill call of bagpipes resounded off the arches and stained glass at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church as a procession of worshippers clad in green headed down the aisle yesterday morning. Near the altar, a small green candle flickered in front of a monstrance containing a tiny bone relic of the 5th century man celebrated as the embodiment of Irish-Catholic pride: St. Patrick himself. Along with St. Patrick, the Mass celebrated two local Irish-Americans: Msgr. William A. Nagle, chaplain emeritus of the Hibernians and Phyllis Doonan, a native of Leitrim, Ireland and a 38 year Stamford resident."

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, Portuguese, Deutsch).

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 religious@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)