



The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist

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

April 15, 2018

Third Sunday of Easter



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

religious@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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Parochial Vicar's Column:

My, What Lovely Hats!

Being the middle of five children, I am not unsympathetic to the constant battle to get the family to church on time each Sunday. "Time to get up!" Dad would holler up the stairs at 7:00am as he attempted to rally the family to make it to the 8am Mass. We lived only seven minutes from our parish. "We're up!" One of the three boys would lie in order to sleep a little longer. "Let's get going!" Dad would say with a raised voice around 7:30am as he poked his head into our room in order to instill the fear of God in us as we began our Sabbath Day. By around 7:50am we would be on the road still sleepy and traveling with reverent haste trying to get my younger brother Chris into the sacristy before the procession began so that he could serve Mass. On a particular Sunday morning, arriving at the church at 7:57am and everyone stumbling out of the car, my mom cried out, "Christopher!" looking at him in disbelief. "What?" he responded disinterestedly. "Look at your shoes!" She exclaimed pointed towards his feet. Christopher was wearing two different shoes; one black and the other, chestnut brown.

My brother never saw the problem with dressing as he did thinking that function was the only important aspect of fashion. He would grab whatever clothes and shoes he could find at the last minute before leaving the house. More and more nowadays I see people dressing as they please in every setting, whether at the airport, in the university classroom, at restaurants, or even in church. Flying used to be an event that people would dress up for and some still do, but often when I fly I see people dressed essentially in pajamas to travel. I am no slight man so I also understand how uncomfortable air travel can be, but it sometimes seems as though people forget that they are in public.

I read an article recently that talked about the importance of dressing up when going out to eat at a restaurant. The article explained that a restaurant is not only trying to give you food, any vending machine could do that, but trying to give you an experience. Most people would balk at an upscale Italian restaurant which allowed their servers to walk around in ironic tees, shorts, and flip-flops to wait tables. We expect certain decorum from those who serve us. In a similar way, when we go out for a nice meal, we don't dress down and say, "Hey, I'm the one who's paying right? I'll wear what I want," but rather we dress up in order to enter into the experience of the meal. The seriousness of the occasion dictates the type of outfit that we should wear.

When it comes to Sunday Mass I think that we should consider it in a similar way. What we wear helps us to enter into the experience of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. What does it say about the experience I expect to have if I roll out of bed and arrive to Mass dressed in my pajamas? What would you think of the commitment and preparation of the priest if he were to show up with his hair uncombed and his shirt wrinkled and untucked? When we go to Mass and find it boring or bothersome, we need to ask ourselves what we have done to prepare ourselves for the experience. If we arrive to Mass and expect to receive without participation we are left disappointed. When we prepare ourselves well and arrive early to pray, it is much easier to "get something out of Mass."

When we consider what we should wear, the phrase, "dress for the job you want, not for the one you have," comes to mind. There is a little boy who sits towards the front of the church with his family who dresses in a superhero cape. That is someone who know what he wants! We dress up both because of what we expect and because of what is expected of us. The Mass is where people who believe come together to *worship God*. If that is not worth getting dressed up for, what is? When we hear the phrase "Sunday best" does it bring to mind a nice outfit or our most comfortable sweatshirt? The idea of "dressing up for Jesus" isn't a silly idea. When we see nice outfits, we don't ask ourselves why someone would be wearing uncomfortable clothes, but rather we wonder as to what occasion they are dressing up for. On Easter Sunday a family with four girls all showed up with lovely Easter hats on. "My, what lovely hats!" I thought. The effort to pick out these hats and get dressed up indicated that these girls were dressed up for something special. When we come to Mass, we are dressing up for nothing less than encountering the Risen Christ present in the Eucharist!

Don't get me wrong, no one is going to be turned away because of the clothes that they are wearing (though actually *wearing* clothes is a requirement!). Nor do I criticize the families trying to get a gaggle of children into the family van each Sunday morning. But the experience of Mass is enhanced by the preparation we put into it. When we spend the time to be intentional as to what we wear, we remind ourselves before we begin as to the reality into which we are entering. So go ahead and lay out your Sunday best on Saturday night; Men, pick out a nice tie. Ladies, find a nice Easter hat. And for goodness sake, make sure that the shoes that you wear match!

-Fr. Andy Vill

Please pray for the sick: Monsignor DiGiovanni, Marva Mitchell, Michael Cole, Wyanna Burke, Rose Marie Clarke, Janet Caione, Joseph Kung, 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

Banns of Marriage: II Banns: Michael Joseph Altamura and Elizabeth Anne Myers

Monthly Collection . . . The second collection today will be the monthly collection for the parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

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.

Easter Duty: What makes you a Catholic? The fact that you are "IN Communion" with the Successor of Saint Peter, the pope, and an active member of the Body of Christ, the Catholic Church. We share the same Faith, the sign of that is receiving Holy Communion. The bottom line is that you receive Holy Communion: the Body and Blood of the Resurrected Christ—at least once each year. To receive Holy Communion you must be freed from serious, mortal sin, living a life of grace. The means you should also go to Confession at least once each year. That is done at Easter—the Easter Duty. Catholics are obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once between Easter [April 1] and Pentecost Sunday [May 20]. If you haven't been to Confession for a while, you should repent of your sins and confess them as a preparation for receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

Relic of the True Cross: Splinters of the actual Cross upon which Our Lord suffered and died are displayed on the Saint Joseph side altar. Copies of *Prayer before the Crucifix* are provided for your devotion.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, June 23 : The Basilica of St. John's is hosting an all day conference in honor of the 50th anniversary of **Humanae vitae** on June 23rd. Speakers include Mary Eberstadt, Mary FioRito, and George Weigel and a panel of medical experts. The 4PM Vigil Mass will be offered by Bishop Caggiano. Register at <http://stjohnsstamford.com/making-room-for-gods-love-humanae-vitae-at-50/>

Wednesday, May 16 at 7pm - 9pm :Talk & Book Signing by Jennifer Fulwiler in our parish hall. Bring your book "One Beautiful Dream" or buy your book at the talk. For tickets, email lisakotasek@gmail.com.

Weekly Sunday collection:

Sunday	April 8, 2018	\$ 14,042.25
Sunday	April 9, 2017	<u>\$ 14,849.26</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

April 22nd Sunday Readings: ACTS 4:8-12, 1 JN 3:1-2, JN 10:11-18

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.

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: fmoran@futurefive.

Faith on Tap: Join us on Tuesday, April 17th from 7-9PM to hear Sister Maria, C.S. speak on “Who is the Church?” The event is held at Murphy's Townhouse Café for anyone in their 20s or 30s. Bring a friend!

A Day with Mary- A Free Marian Eucharistic Day Retreat with the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate. Saturday, April 28th from 8:45AM- 3:00PM at St. Theresa Church, 5301 Main St. Trumbull, CT. Go to www.daywithmarywest.org for more information.

“The Fr. Myron V. Columbiettes” are sponsoring their annual bus trip to the Mohegan Sun on April 17th 2018. The cost is \$37 per person and includes \$15 meal voucher, two \$10 Big Wheel vouchers, and coach bus with rest rooms and complimentary coffee and driver gratuity. Depart at the Greek Church at 9AM sharp and return departure at 4PM. For reservations and information contact Carol at 203-322-3354.

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.

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 catholicystamford@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.

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.

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.

Trinity Catholic Legacy Gala- The gala will be held Friday, April 27th at 6:30PM at the Waters Edge at Giovanni's. For more information, contact Betsy Mercede at 203.487.8243

Trinity Catholic High School College Fair-Trinity Catholic High School is hosting their Annual Spring College Fair on Thursday, April 26th from 6:30-8:30PM in the school gymnasium.

Mass Intentions

+ Denotes Deceased

Saturday, April 14, 2018

4:00 Stephen and Dianne Talbot req. Barbara Smith

Sunday, April 15, 2018

7:30 +Josephine and Karl Berger req. Family

10:00 +Bill Cody Birthday req. Cody Family

12:00 +Dr. Vincent and Theresa Kung req. family

5:00 +Hope McAleer

Monday, April 16, 2018

8:00 Souls in Purgatory

12:10 +Carol Sargent req. Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Ingram

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

8:00 +Elizabeth Goodchild req. Linda Bastoni

12:10 +Patrick Kane and Family req. Estate of Catherine Kane & Family

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

8:00 +John Maloney req. Mary Maloney

12:10 +Estine Brice-Marie Duvellus, Merone Morice-Davinelle Raymond req. Verna Brice

Thursday, April 19, 2018

8:00 Special Intentions Paul Lenhart req. Family

12:10 +Joseph Marrucco req. Marie Pinto and Family

Friday, April 20, 2018

8:00 +Oscar Contreras req. Fabiola C.

12:10 +Carmela Florio req. Lilian and Alvina Ramos

Saturday, April 21, 2018

8:00 +Daniel Lightbody req. Joan Fitzgerald

12:10 Jane Gannon req. Sharon Gannon

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: 110 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

April 16, 1909: "The largest attendance of the week was at the bazaar in the hall of St. John's parochial school, last night. The entertainment was given by St. Anne's Ladies' Aid Society, and was very attractive. Ten little girls took part in a Virginia reel, doing the dance in an exceedingly cute manner. Miss May McDonnell played piano selections and John Convery and J. C. Heyward sang. Then there was a sketch entitled "The New Waiter," and this provided a great deal of amusement. This evening the entertainment will be given by the third order of St. Francis and promises to be very good. Tomorrow evening the C.W.B.L. will give their euchre which was postponed from Wednesday evening."

100 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

April 16, 1914: "The members of St. Augustine Council, Knights of Columbus, will receive Holy Communion, Sunday, at 7:25 a.m., in St. John's Catholic Church. The members will meet in the new club-rooms on Main Street, in the Gurly Building, at 7 a.m., and be prepared to march in a body at 7:15 from the hall. Each member will wear a white carnation."

95 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

April 16, 1923: MEN'S MISSION AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH. "The mission for women held all last week by the Jesuit Fathers at St. John's R. C. Church, closed yesterday afternoon with an unusually large congregation of women and girls. All the afternoon services during the mission were marked by large attendances. It was estimated that between 1,400 and 1,500 attended the afternoon services each day, with a corresponding number in attendance in the mornings. Upwards of 9,000 women received communion during the week. The children's mission ended Saturday afternoon. The men's mission began last night at the 7:30 service. The instructional class for non-Catholic men and women will be continued through this week, meeting in the vestry as usual at 7 p.m. with the Rev. Thomas Emmett in charge. The class now numbers 25. The men's mission will be held during the mornings at 5, 7 and 9, and in the evenings at 7:30. They will take practically the same course as the women's mission, with instruction, rosary and sermons."

80 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

April 22, 1935: "The committee on the formation of a softball league within the membership of St. John's Holy Name Society will meet in the lower church, Wednesday night, at 8. At that time, the several Holy Name Societies in Stamford are expected to send representatives to discuss the formation of a city-wide Holy Name softball league. Members of St. John's Committee are Leo White, chairman; Leo Gallagher, John P. Reilly and Fergus McOaker. On Thursday night members of the bowling league of St. John's Holy Name Society will hold their first annual bowling banquet."

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, 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)