



# The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist

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

**June 24, 2018    The Nativity of St. John the Baptist**



**Pastor**

Rev. Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni

**Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Andrew A. Vill  
frVill@diobpt.org

**Resident Priest**

Rev. Albert D. Audette, Jr.

**Director of Religious Education**

Anne Marie Carpanzano  
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**Basilica Choir Master & Organist**

David Indyk

**Chairman, Parish Financial Council**

John Regan

**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.** . . A tradition going back to apostolic times recounts that Saints Peter & Paul had their last meeting before martyrdom on the road to Ostia, outside Rome: Soon after, Peter was crucified head downward nearby the present Basilica of Saint Peter, and Paul beheaded near the present Basilica of Saint Paul: these basilicas were built over the tomb of each Apostle. From the very beginning, Christian tradition considered Peter and Paul inseparable in their ministry, even if they each had a different aspect of the same mission to fulfill. Peter was the first to confess his faith in Christ as the Son of God, received the Keys of Heaven from Christ, and was the leader of both the Apostles and of the first Church developing directly from the chosen people; Paul was given a gifted intellect to plumb the profundity of its richness to preach to the non-Jewish world. With different gifts, they worked for a single cause: the building up of the Church Christ began with the Apostles as its foundation, that would be called *Catholic* within 30 years of the Apostles' martyrdom. St. Augustine made this observation: "Only one day is consecrated to the feast of the two apostles [June 29th]. But they were also a single unit. Even if they were martyred on different days, they were one. Peter went ahead, Paul followed... Thus we celebrate this feast day, consecrated for us by the blood of these apostles" (*Disc.* 295, 7-8).

June 29th is the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, celebrated at least since the year 258 A.D. during the Roman persecution of the Church by the Emperor Valerian. For the Church founded by Our Lord on the Apostles, with Saint Peter as her visible head, this solemnity is one of the most important, since it focuses on God's generous desire to remain with us until the end of time through His Catholic Church; and upon man's response, sometimes faltering, yet ultimately manifesting God's power through human weakness.

Pope St. Leo the Great commented about Peter and Paul: "Of their merits and their virtues - which were superior from all accounts - we cannot think of anything contradictory or divisive, because Divine election had made them equal, their efforts similar and their end alike." He continued, addressing the City of Rome: "These are your holy fathers, your true shepherds, who, as much as they were humanly very different from each other, and even if their relationship was not without tensions, Peter and Paul therefore appear as the initiators of a new city, as a concretization of a new and authentic way of being brothers, made possible by the Gospel of Jesus Christ." (*In Natali Apostolorum.*, 69, 6-7)

And so we can say that today the Church in Rome celebrates its birthday, inasmuch as the two Apostles had laid down its foundations by their faith and blood. Moreover, Rome now realizes with greater awareness its mission and its grandeur. In Rome, the link that gave Peter and Paul a common mission has assumed from the first centuries a very specific significance. Like the mythical brothers Romulus and Remus, attributed with the founding of the City of Rome, Peter and Paul are considered founders of the Church in Rome: But Peter and Paul were real men, not myths. The capital of the Roman Empire, which was described in the Book of Revelation as the *Whore of Babylon*, the destroyer of saints and martyrs, is now toppled by two political and social nobodies, Peter and Paul, victims of the Imperial persecutions, themselves, who shed their blood for the true God they loved, in perfect imitation of Christ, and not for any earthly kingdom. "O, *Felix Roma.* . . Oh, Happy Rome, whose stones are consecrated by the blood of the Princes of the Apostles", as an ancient hymn for this feast day proclaims. St. John Chrysostom wrote that "the sky is not as bright when the sun sheds its rays as the city of Rome which radiates the splendor of those burning torches (Peter and Paul) through all the world... This the reason why we love this city... for these two pillars of the Church" (*Comm. a Rom.*, 32).

Both men were martyred in 67 A.D., and Jerusalem fell in 70 A.D., when Temple was destroyed. The New Covenant forged on the Cross between God and humanity, fulfilled and surpassed all other covenants since Abraham; the Temple was no longer of any use. With Christ's resurrection and commission to the Apostles to preach his New Covenant, and apply it throughout the world, God's grace moves out of the Jerusalem and the world of the Old Covenant, and becomes centered in the political and social heart of the Gentile world, with a universal mission to offer salvation to the entire world by means of His Catholic—*Universal*—Church.

Let us say a special prayer for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, the Successor of Saint Peter, this weekend, and also on Friday, the Solemnity itself, that the Lord will continue to bless and protect the Holy Father as he continues the work of Saint Peter in the world. Our statue of Saint Peter is vested in pontifical vestments, red, the color of apostles and martyrs who spent their lives and shed their blood to witness to the reality of Christ, to remind us to pray for our Holy Father. Pray, likewise, for the whole Catholic Church, that she, like Saint Paul, may continue to preach fearlessly the truth of Christ to all. As American Catholics we should be proud that the Church founded by the Apostles Peter and Paul can thrive in a land where freedom of religion and religious liberty is recognized as a God given right, protected by law.

—**Monsignor DiGiovanni**



**Please pray for the sick:** Monsignor DiGiovanni, Elizabeth Caserta, Ruth Coyle, Yolanda Bove, Agnes Ostrowski, 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, Timothy Lyons, Gene Gavin, Richard Ridge, June Roberts, Marie Cassis, Patricia Morgan, Vittorio Faugno, Dionysia Oliveira, 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:** John Mellace, Lucy Hawthorn, 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: I Banns: John Cristal and Danica Ann Wilhowy***

***II Banns: Ryan Miller and Cristine Kavalan***

***II Banns: Guy Phillipe Nazaire and Murielle Nicolas***

**Air Conditioning Collection** . . . The second collection today will be the Air Conditioning 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](http://www.stjohnsstamford.com) for a virtual tour of the interior, created and donated by Jonathan Powell.

**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/](http://app.formed.org/) Access Code WWT2NF.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION:** *The Eaglet*, the parish blog on our Basilica website, [www.stjohnsstamford.com](http://www.stjohnsstamford.com).

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**August 13, September 13, & October 13:** 7:00pm: Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima.

**Attention 8-12 graders! Saturday, August 11th: Fan the Fire:** Fr. Vill will be leading a group of teenagers from the Basilica Parish to Fan the Fire Youth Rally at St. Rose of Lima in Newtown, CT on Saturday August 11th. This is an all day event. The cost is \$45, please register at <https://www.formationreimagined.org/fan-the-fire/>. Be sure to select "The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist" as your parish when registering. Please see the flyers in the basilica for more details.

## Weekly Sunday collection:

Sunday	June 17, 2018	\$ 16,374.53
Sunday	June 18, 2017	<u>\$ 11,808.38</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

**July 1st Sunday Readings:** WIS 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 COR 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35: 13-43

**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 confirming your mass attendance by your use of weekly envelopes.

**Birthright:** seeks volunteers: Support women to bring their babies to term, providing pregnancy tests, connecting women with medical, financial, legal and other resources. Flexible schedules; training provided. Call 203-348-4355 or [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org) 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](mailto: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: Become a Future 5 College Prep Coach:** Future 5's College Prep Program ensures that low-income, motivated high school students receive the preparation needed to transition successfully from high school to college. They offer students a full array of help, including guidance on navigating college and financial aid applications, college visits, scholarship help, and detailed advice on college selection. A coach is matched one-on-one with a student, becoming a partner and mentor for the academic year. Future 5 will provide training in all aspects of the college application process. Time commitment: 2-3 hours per month (includes training and independent meetings with students) For information, please contact Peg Atchue at [patchue@futurefive.org](mailto:patchue@futurefive.org).

**EWTN Radio** is coming to our diocese! Visit [www.veritascatholic.com](http://www.veritascatholic.com) to learn more and to support this apostolate dedicated to bringing faithful, entertaining Catholic programming to our community.

**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.

**Redemptoris Mater Diocesan Missionary Seminary Open House**— Come and meet the seminarians on Saturday, **June 30, 2018** and Sunday, **July 1, 2018** from 10:00AM– 6:00PM at 21 Schuyler Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902. Enjoy a moment of communion with songs and food! Tours through the seminary will begin every 20 Minutes and all are invited to enjoy a delicious barbecue afterwards! Please call to reserve your spot at 203-588-1785 or [seminary@rmbridgeport.org](mailto:seminary@rmbridgeport.org).

**Sisters of Life Retreats** for young ladies, women, and men. Something for everyone! Registration for all retreats opens **July 2, 2018**. Visit [tinyurl.com/SistersofLife](http://tinyurl.com/SistersofLife) to learn more.

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

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

**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](http://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](mailto:catholicystamford@gmail.com)

**Catholic Adventures:** Join Catholic young adults in their 20s and 30s for adventurous activities throughout the year. Connect with us on Facebook (Catholic Adventures) or email us at [CatholicAdventuresStamford@gamil.com](mailto:CatholicAdventuresStamford@gamil.com) for more information.

**Job Seekers:** Next meeting: **Wednesday, June 27th** 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](mailto:melanie@redinllc.com).

**Regina Caeli Academy 2018/2019-** Come join our exciting mission to form the next generation of Catholics! Regina Caeli Academy ([www.rcahybrid.com](http://www.rcahybrid.com)) is a classical, hybrid education in the Catholic tradition. Pre K3- 12th grade students attend Socratic and hands-on classes taught by trained tutors two days a week and are home schooled the remaining days with lesson plans already outlined for in-home education. Location: 254 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT. For more information, a tour of our facility on **July 12** (by appointment only), or information about a fall tour, please contact our admissions representative, Mrs. Katrina Hartsock at [khartsock.aus@rcahybrid.org](mailto:khartsock.aus@rcahybrid.org) or (470)239-0259.

## Mass Intentions

+ Denotes Deceased

### Saturday, June 23, 2018

4:00 +Charles and Josephine Davis req. Joseph Melfi

### Sunday, June 24, 2018

7:30 Fr. Andrew A. Vill req. Millie Terenzio

10:00 +Frances Delaney Birthday Remembrance req. Family

12:00 +Christopher Sabia 1st Anniversary req. Pinto Family

5:00 Needs of Parishioners, especially the sick

### Monday, June 25, 2018

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

12:10 Fr. Andy Vill req. Ferry G.

### Tuesday, June 26, 2018

8:00 Souls in Purgatory req. John and Jennifer Marciano

12:10 +Dario Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos

### Wednesday, June 27, 2018

8:00 Deceased members of the Churley and Kronk Families

12:10 +Joyce Pontbriand req. John Pascale

### Thursday, June 28, 2018

8:00 +John Sebestyan req. Peter Sebastian

12:10 +Felicitas Cody Birthday req. Cody Family

### Friday, June 29, 2018

8:00 +Veronica and John Buckheit req. Leon Taricani

12:10 In Honor of St. Michael req. Josephine Languedoc

### Saturday, June 30, 2018

8:00 +Wladek and Willemina Falek req. daughter

12:10 Joseph Fernando Kravar III Birthday req. Fabiola C.

**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:***

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

June 25, 1850: **Blue Laws.** "From a history of Connecticut, published in 1781, we make the following extracts of a few of those stringent laws, so widely known as the "Blue Laws of Connecticut." They are curious, to say the least: "No one shall be a freeman, or give a vote unless he be converted, and a member in full communion of one of the <Protestant> churches allowed in this Dominion. "No Priest shall abide in this Dominion: he shall be banished, and suffer death on his return. Priests may be seized by any one without a warrant."

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

June 29, 1866: "A measure has been before the Legislature of this State having in view the transfer of the property of the Catholic Church from the custody of the Bishop, to whom it has heretofore belonged, to the different parishes owning such property. An act of incorporation has just been passed by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor, which vests the power heretofore held by the Bishop, in two trustees and the pastor ex-officio. This is a just measure and will obviate the necessity for such collisions between the clergy and laity as has taken place in New York, St. Louis, and other places. Our Catholic friends are under obligations to our representative, John D. Fessendon, Esq., for his advocacy and active support of the measure."

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

June 28, 1872: "Rev. Father Fagan and his congregation desire to return their thanks to Julius D. Candee, Esq., for his courtesy in throwing open his beautiful grounds, that the procession of the Right Rev. Bishop and clergy might more readily pass around the church, on the occasion of laying the corner stone." (EDITOR'S NOTE: the residence of Julius Candee is now St. John's Rectory. The corner stone for the present church was put in place June 23, 1872.)

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

June 28, 1889: "Rev. James B. Lawless, who was ordained last Saturday in Boston, has been spending the week in Stamford, and will officiate at High Mass in St. John's R.C. Church next Sunday morning. Rev. John Downey, formerly of Stamford, is spending a few days here. His is now pastor of a Roman Catholic Church in Danbury." (EDITOR'S NOTE: Both Father Lawless and Father Downey were vocations from St. John's parish.)



REV. JAMES LAWLESS



REV. JOHN DOWNEY

## **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](mailto:religious@stjohnsstamford.com), attention Ms. Anne Marie Carpanzano. 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)