

St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church

546 St. John's Place Riverhead, NY 11901 (631) 727-2030 Fax: (631) 369-5228

Email: stjohnriverhead@aol.com Website: www.saintjohnriverhead.org

Parish Social Media: sjpsocialmedia@aol.com Instagram: @stjohnriverhead Facebook: John Church

Twitter: [stjohnriverhead](https://twitter.com/stjohnriverhead) You Tube: [stjohnriverhead](https://www.youtube.com/stjohnriverhead) Snapchat: [stjohnriverhead](https://www.snapchat.com/stjohnriverhead)

Welcome to our Parish Family!

We joyfully welcome all who have joined our community for worship and praise to God. We are grateful to our faithful parishioners who pray with us every week and ask you to consider officially registering to be a part of the parish as well. You, our neighbors and guests are always welcome; and, we hope you find a peaceful home here with us when visiting the area.

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. Larry Duncklee

Associate: Fr. Thomas Tuite

Visitors: Msgr. John Cervini; Rev. William Brisotti

Deacons:

Peter Schultz Dan Waloski William Austin

Parish Office: 631-727-2030

Office hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Saturday: by appointment

Office is closed for lunch from 12:30PM to 1:00 PM

Religious Formation: 631-727-6774

MaryAnn O'Connor, DRE and Liz Perez Cardenas

Rita Dlug, Assistant DRE and Adult Formation

Ashlee Bolland, Youth Minister

Email: stjohnreformation@gmail.com

Social Ministry & North Fork Spanish Apostolate

Sr. Margaret Smyth OP, 631-369-4601

Monday – Friday 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

Music Ministry/Social Media: Renée Stakey

Social Media: sjpsocialmedia@aol.com

Cemetery Office:

Managed by the Diocese of RVC

(631) 732-3460 / Email: info@CCLongisland.org



The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2022

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

– Luke 2:7



MASS SCHEDULE - EUCHARIST

Saturday: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM;
6:00 PM in Spanish

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 8:00 AM

Tuesday & Friday 12:10 PM

Holy Days of Obligation: Please check bulletin

DEVOTIONAL LIFE:

Eucharistic Adoration: First Friday: 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday 8:30AM

Rosary: After Weekday Masses in the Church

Spanish Charismatic Service: Thursday at 7:30 PM

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The parish rejoices with you in the birth of your child! Baptisms are celebrated on scheduled Sundays at 12:30 PM. Parents planning to have their child baptized are asked to contact the rectory to arrange an interview.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Tuesdays at 12:35 PM. Saturday: 3:45 – 4:15 PM. *Anytime by appointment.*

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Congratulations! Please make arrangements at the parish approximately 6 months – 1 year before the desired date so we can work with you to prepare for your marriage.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Every Second Friday of the month after the 12:10 PM Mass. *Anytime in an emergency, by calling the rectory.*

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS If interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation, please call the Rectory Office.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS
December 26 – January 1, 2023

All Mass intentions this week are for those remembered in our Christmas Flower Novena

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:00 AM
Tuesday and Friday: 12:10 PM
Saturday: (December 31)

4:30 PM – Joseph Smith

Sunday: (January 1) Mary, the Mother of God
7:00 AM – People of St. John’s Parish
9:00 AM – Joseph Gandiello
11:00 AM – Joseph Kudla
6:00 PM - Misa en Español

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21



The Bread and Wine for the week are offered for **Theodore Settani & Joseph Kudla**
Donated by: Vita Settani



The Christmas Flowers have been donated by our parishioners and arranged by parish volunteers Thank you.

The Parish office will be closed on December 24th - Christmas Eve and will reopen on Tuesday, December 27th.



We ask your prayers for those of our community who have gone before us into the fullness of life and also those they have left behind.

We ask your prayers for the health and wholeness of all the sick and all who give them care, Andrew Wargo, Baby Liam Edler, Harry Carver, Martin Lennon, Josephine Garvey, Emily Eastwood, Jim DeRosa, Angel Penaranda, Walter Blanck, Peter Cybulski, Joseph Flesch, Joseph Rossini, Kristy West, Megan Kieser, Elizabeth Zaleski, Patricia Tucker, Gregory Burns, Ed Mottl, Susan Gendron, Sam Camarda and also their families and those who care for them. We also ask you to continue praying for peace in the world- especially for the situation in the Ukraine – and especially for those serving in our uniformed services throughout the country and the world during the Christmas season. **Names of the sick for the bulletin remain for four weeks unless the Rectory is notified for an extension. Please note that requests should come from the family and the person must give permission to be listed.**



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Stewardship Thought for the Week:

Merry Christmas! Throughout all the days of Christmas, share God’s love with all those you meet. Spread Christmas joy and Christian love to everyone!

Living Stewardship:

We thank God for his providential care and express our gratitude to you for your support for the work of the parish.

Due to printing deadlines the Christmas collection and the following week will be in the January 8th bulletin.

CONSIDER THIS!

Always Open for Business

Going-out-of-business signs spell good sales for the consumer and sad days for the seller. Businesses close when they can no longer turn a profit. Unemployment and poverty bring sadness to the families of workers. If several businesses close in one region, it disturbs the whole community. No one likes to go out of business. No one likes feeling empty and forsaken.

On Christmas, by the mouth of Isaiah, God promises that the chosen people will not go out of business. They shall be called, "Frequented," a nickname that would make any store proud. God proclaims this message not just to ancient Israel, but to the ends of the earth. At Christmas we reflect on our blessings but we are also disturbed by our losses. God enters these days with joy, to keep us from brooding over sorrow.

In the past year, have you ever felt that God abandoned you? Then Isaiah's message is for you. This message goes to the whole world, including you. You are a city that is not forsaken. You are called Frequented. God comes to be with you and rejoice in you. Yes indeed, God rejoices **In you!**

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WHAT'S UP!



The Bread and Wine for the week (\$30) and/or Flowers for the main altar (\$60) may be donated in memory of a deceased family member or in honor of an anniversary. Please visit or call the rectory to make arrangements for this.

Altar Servers... Anyone from grade 3 to adult who wishes to become an altar server, please call Mrs. June Cybulski at 631-727-8523 for training or further information.



RESPECT LIFE ...

"The right to life is the first among human rights. To abort a child is to kill someone who cannot defend himself." *Pope Francis*

El derecho a la vida es el primero de los derechos humanos. Abortar un bebe es matar a alguien que no puede defenderse a si mismo. *Papa Francisco*

FORMED.Org

Like Netflix or You Tube for Catholics our parish has a subscription to FORMED. As a parishioner, you may go online and register to view books and videos or simply listen to audio presentations. This is a free service for our parishioners.

How do you do this?

1. Go to <https://formed.org/signup>
2. Find our parish by entering the zip code 11901; St. John's Riverhead will pop up, click on it
- 3.. Enter name and email address and submit
- 4.. You will then be asked to go to your email to confirm, then you're in !

NOTE: You only need to register once. When done, no need to "sign out", just "x" out of your browser. The next time you watch simply "sign in" with your email and "start watching".

If you have any problems registering for FORMED, you may contact stjohnreformation@gmail.com or call 631-727-6774

FORMED.Org: *Es posible que desee ver algunas películas Catolicas,libros,videos para adultos,niños y adolescentes. Tenemos una suscripción parroquial en FORMED que es como Netflix o You Tube para Católicos. Como feligres puede conectarse y registrarse en línea para ver libros y videos o simplemente escuchar presentaciones de audio. Como haces esto?*

<https://leaders.formed.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/MK-Letter-size-Instructivo-formed.org-Rev-10-2-20.pdf>

Si tiene algún problema para registrarse en FORMED, puede contactar Mrs. Rita y Mrs. Liz, 631-727-6774 o stjohnreformation@gmail.com.

You can get our **bulletin** automatically emailed directly to you each week by contacting our bulletin publisher: www.jspaluch.com/subscribe or you may find it on our parish website.



Faith Formation

There will be no Faith formation classes on Tuesday, December 27th and Wednesday, December 28th.

For the first week of January there will be no classes on Tuesday, January 3rd and Wednesday, January 4th. On behalf Liz Perez Cardenas, Rita Dlug, Ashlee Bolland and Mary Ann O'Connor we wish all of our families a holy and blessed Christmas.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

As we joyfully celebrate this Christmas Day, prayers are prayed for you. May you experience hope, peace, joy and love. Peace be with you and all those you love. *Thanks be to God his indescribable gift!* (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Christmas Reflection: Before this day unfolds with its busyness and noise OR later tonight when all is quiet, may you have a moment for the following: Use your imagination to picture Mary and her joy as she gazes on the adorable face of her newborn son, Jesus. Imagine Joseph as he gazes on both of them, in awe of what has taken place. Imagine the scene as others join them to celebrate the Newborn King. Think of the sights, sounds, smells, and atmosphere. Hosanna in the Highest! Find some time to be alone today or this evening. Find a quiet place. Slow down. Settle your heart. Close your eyes and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you as you pray. Imagine the scene in Bethlehem. Be *in* the scene. Be *with* Mary and Joseph on the very first Christmas day.

We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a safe journey if you plan to do any traveling over the next two weeks. God bless you and have a blessed New Year.

Small faith sharing groups

Our faith sharing groups are taking a break at this time. *We welcome new members when we meet again the week of January 9th.* We study the lives of the saints and prepare for the upcoming Sunday Readings and Gospel; Monday, 11am Room 1* Thursday, 10am Room 1* * *Please note change of meeting place. We will gather in Room 1.*

NEXT Prayer group

A prayer group meets the first Monday of each month at 7pm. Our gathering has been a blessed time of quiet and reflection. You are welcome to join us at our next gathering, Monday, January 2nd, 7pm. Room 1. There is music, silence, prayer and meditation. What a great way to start the New Year! Bring a friend! (Don't like to travel at night? Please contact Rita Dlug if you would like to gather for a morning prayer group, 631-727-6774.)

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry group will meet in the cafeteria on **January 6th at 6:45 PM** for a service night .

Have a safe and happy New Year!



The Tax Man, He Cometh!

Anyone wishing to receive a contribution letter for taxes, please fill out this tear-off sheet and either place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Rectory, **before January 16, 2023.** *Letters will not be sent out automatically, you must request the letter in writing.*

Please do not call the Rectory.

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Yes, please send me my Charitable Donations Tax Statement for the year 2022.

Name: _____

Envelope # _____

Address _____



**May you
Enjoy a very
Merry Christmas!**

In this most sacred celebration of the birth of our Savior, May the peace, love and joy of the Holy Family fill your heart and home this Christmas and throughout the New Year. May God always watch over you with perfect love.

Feliz Navidad!

En este tiempo muy sagrado, Que el amor, la paz y la alegría de la sagrada familia llene su corazon y hogar en Navidad y Año Nuevo. Que Dios te guarde siempre con perfectas bendiciones.

During the Christmas Season, if you are free this week, why not join us at daily Mass (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8:00am and Tuesday and Friday at 12:10pm.) to celebrate the Octave of Christmas and some very major feast days.

Why is this “*season of joy*” so often filled with stress? Instead of assuming that the joy of the Christmas ‘Spirit’ will fill our hearts, *perhaps we can be dispensers of joy*. Try each day to brighten someone’s life. Small acts of kindness such as giving up a parking spot, holding a door, visiting a shut-in might not change the world, but it could change you. And it offers a way to “**serve the Lord with gladness.**”

*Thank
You*

Many thanks to the *McLaughlin Heppner Funeral Home* and also to the *Tuthill-Mangano Funeral Home* for providing our parish with the 2023 calendars featuring religious artwork. They may be picked up in the Church or in the rectory office.



**Grieving and Getting
Through the Holidays**

- 1) Begin each day with prayer – maybe Mass.
- 2) Take time for yourself – but include time for friends, family and others.
- 3) REST! Schedule time to simply unwind -- walk in the park or sit staring at the ocean.
- 4) Allow tears whenever and wherever.
- 5) Don’t be hard on yourself.
- 6) Call, speak with someone if overwhelmed.



**Bereavement
Support Group**

Our parish has a **Bereavement Support Group** for anyone over the age of 18 who may be having difficulty dealing with the loss of a loved one. Bring a friend or family member with you if you need the support or if you want to help someone who is afraid to ask for help. Our Next meeting date:

Tuesday, January 20th at 7:15pm.

No fee. No requirements.

Please . RSVP to: Lduck77@aol.com

Or call 631-284-9909 to leave a message.

**SOMETHING TO CONSIDER DURING
THIS WEEK**



When all is quiet, if that is possible during this school break and obligations of visiting, spend some moments asking Jesus to be the perfect gift for you. Pray for him to fulfill everything you desire, that is, a desire for what really is important. Watch what will happen.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Sing joyfully to the LORD...; serve the LORD with gladness. - Psalm 100: 1-2
Why is this “season of joy” so often filled with stress? Instead of assuming that the joy of the Christmas ‘Spirit’ will fill our hearts, *perhaps we can be dispensers of joy.* Try each day to brighten someone’s life. Small acts of kindness such as giving up a parking spot, holding a door, visiting a shut-in might not change the world, but it could change you. And it offers a way to “serve the Lord with gladness.”



December 27th is the Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist, who is our Patron Saint. Why not take some time to read a part of the Gospel of John that day and/or join us at Mass. The **Gospel of John** uses the beautiful images and symbolism of light, water, bread, truth, and most importantly **the WORD** throughout the entire gospel. “*The Word of God became flesh to dwell among us.*” is one of the phrases that highlights the Christmas season. Please take some time to enjoy reading and praying with the Gospel of John this week.



Christmas does not end until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 9th this coming year. (*Traditionalist stop celebrating Christmas on February 2nd, The Presentation of the Lord.*) Please leave your decorations up until then. Maybe you can send out a ‘Christmas Card’ during the Christmas Season. Why not join us at daily Mass (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8:00am and Tuesday and Friday at 12:10pm). Come and celebrate the Octave of Christmas.



We wish to congratulate those who have celebrated the **Sacrament of Matrimony** and assure them of our prayers:

Elizabeth Kelly & Christopher Galano



We wish to welcome into our midst all who have joined the family of God

through the waters of baptism and ask your prayers for them and their families: **Dylan Fuentes Castro, Karen Perez Estrada, Yeimi Perez Estrada, Axel Martinez Castro, Matthew Puluc**

FREE from the Augustine Institute

PRAYER + MEDITATION app for your smart phone. Download free from the app store.

Includes: Prayers, Meditations, Daily Readings, FORMED Daily Reflections, Opening the Word for Sunday readings, and Chris Stefanik’s Minute Meditations. Share with everyone you know.



Tribute for Bishop Wcela

We found the original parchment from Rome declaring Bishop Emil Wcela to be a bishop. We had it framed and made a box for it. You may see it on the wall by the Priest’s sacristy.

Please send a Christmas Card or a New Year Card with a prayer in it for a recovering Soldier (man or woman) to: Recovering American Soldier / c/o Walter Reed Military Medical Center / 8901 Rockville Pike / Bethesda, MD 20889-5600

Christmas 2022

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:
Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In union with our Holy Father Pope Francis, and in a non-judgmental spirit of mercy, humility and charity, I invite everyone who will be present at our Christmas Masses, or watching our Christmas Masses via the Catholic Faith Network or CBS, or not present at all: If your life has been far from the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist, I invite you with Pope Francis to return. I invite you to experience the power and liberation of Christ's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and to cross the bridge into the full practice of your Catholic Faith through a radical fidelity to the Sunday Mass and an ever-deepening love for the Holy Eucharist. Perhaps you are not a Catholic and yet have some mysterious attraction to the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist.

You are not alone! Many saints-I think of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the pioneering American Catholic educator and convert - had the same experience and were drawn to enter the Church through their intuitive experience of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist in our parish churches! Be open to the Eucharistic movement of the Holy Spirit in your life!

Our celebration of Christmas 2022 occurs this year as every Catholic diocese, every Catholic parish, every Catholic hospital, university, and institution in the United States is engaged in an evangelizing ***Eucharistic Revival***.

What do we mean by the phrase "Eucharistic Revival" and why is it so important for our celebration of Christmas? What does a love for the Eucharist and an openness to being a 21st Century Eucharistic missionary have to do with our celebration of Christmas 2022?

Pope Francis points out the relationship between the Birth of Christ and the Holy Eucharist and the Mass. The very word Bethlehem means "house of Bread."

Pope Francis states: "Bethlehem is the turning point that alters the course of history. There God, in the *house of bread*, is born in a *manger*. It is as if he wanted to say: 'Here I am, as your food.' He does not take, but gives us to eat; he does not give us a mere thing, but his very self. In Bethlehem, we discover that God does not take life, but gives it. To us, who from birth are used to taking and eating, Jesus begins to say: 'Take and eat. This is my body.' (Matthew 26:26) The tiny body of the Child of Bethlehem speaks to us of a new way to live our lives: not by devouring and hoarding, but by sharing and giving. God makes himself small so that he can be our food. By feeding on him, the bread of life,

We can be *reborn in love*, and break the spiral of grasping and greed. From the 'house of bread,' Jesus brings us back home, so that we can become God's family, brothers and sisters to our neighbors. Standing before the manger, we understand that the food of life is not material riches but love, not gluttony but charity, not ostentation but simplicity. The Lord knows that we need to be fed daily. That is why he offered himself to us every day of his life: from the manger in Bethlehem to the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Today too, on the altar, he becomes bread broken for us; he knocks at our door, to enter and eat with us (cf. Revelation 3:20). At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life."

Eucharistic Revival, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, is a rediscovery of "Eucharistic Amazement" and Eucharistic Devotion.

Eucharistic Revival means that we understand deeply that every Mass has a cosmic significance, and every Mass is celebrated on the Altar of the world - the Altar of Ukraine and every war torn and injustice-ridden area of our world. Eucharistic Revival is an effective catechesis of the theology and spirituality of the Catholic Mass that moves the hearts, minds, souls and imaginations of the People of God.

Eucharistic Revival in our Catholic schools means the cultivation of a radical fidelity to the Sunday Catholic Mass on the part of our teachers, our staff and our families.

Eucharistic Revival is a rekindling of Pope Benedict XVI's insight that every period of Church reform and effective Catholic evangelization and mission throughout history can be traced to a rediscovery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ and his rebirth in our hearts and families at Christmas, we pray for a renewal of our faith in Christ's Eucharistic presence.

We pray that each of us could be Divine Mercy instruments of bringing many, many people back to a full fidelity to the Eucharist and the Catholic Mass.

As we celebrate Christmas, we are being called to be intentional, compassionate, understanding and listening Eucharistic missionaries.

Merry Christmas to you and your families! May the love of the Christ child and the love of the Holy Family light your remaining steps on earth and light your path to Heaven and Eternal Life.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop John Barres

Bishop of Rockville Centre