

December 21, 2025
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Parish Pastor:

Fr. Vincent Joseph, VC
238-3300 ext. 2 or 573-238-2450
vincentvc@dioscgo.org

Secretary/Bookkeeper:

Cindy Thele 238-3300 ext. 1
cindythele@hotmail.com

Bulletin: Jennifer Rosanna
sjsabulletin@gmail.com

DRE: Holly Hoesli 238-5452
holly.hoesli7@gmail.com

HS Youth Group:

Tannie Smith 309-262-2420

MS Youth Group:

Kyla Langston 573-225-0608

Adult Education/OCIA Coordinator:
Cindy Jansen 573-238-6767

Confirmation Coordinator:

Michael Smith 309-530-1803

Cursillo Parish Contacts:

Bobby & Kristi Jansen
573-208-8271, 573-208-8270

Music Director: Daniel Seiler 208-8997

SJ Cemetery: Ashton James 579-7158

SA Cemetery: Alfred VanGennip 450-6600

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact Pastor at least 6 months in advance. Participation in a Marriage Preparation program is required.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the pastor

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please register. Forms in office.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

sjsabulletin@gmail.com Bulletin submission deadline is Tuesday by noon.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

St. Anthony Gifts

St. John Gifts

Due to early printing deadlines throughout the month of December due to the Christmas season all December collection totals will be inserted into a bulletin in January.

Online giving is now available.

<https://osvhub.com/stjohnchurchleopold/funds>

The Bulletin is Online! Go to the parish website to find the weekly bulletin.

St. John St. Anthony

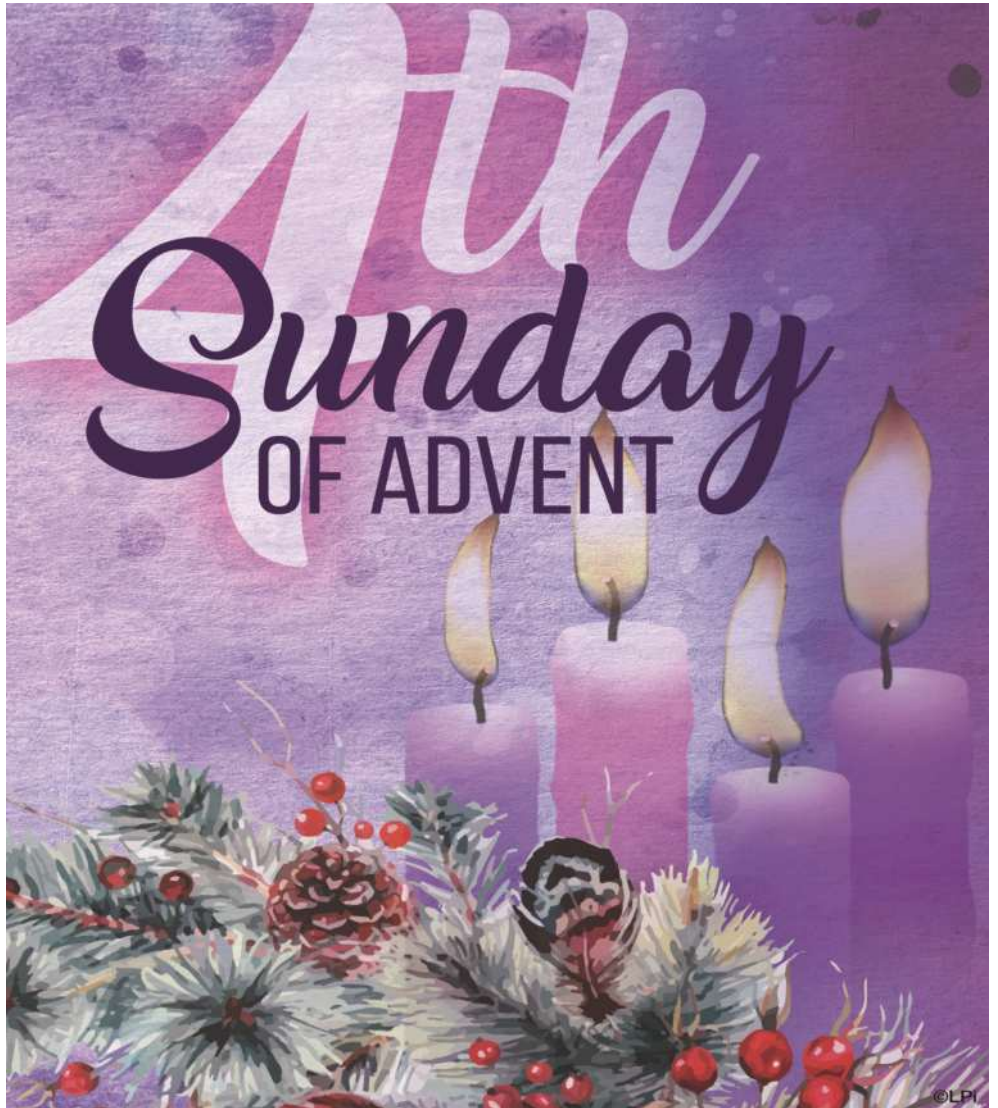
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Parish & Finance Councils

ST. JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cody Harris, Chairperson	
Sarah Deck	Alan Elfrink
Mark Deck	Bonnie Thiele
Kim Vandeven	Matt Beussink
Roberta Jansen	Edna Seiler

ST. ANTHONY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chris Horrell, President (573) 450-4669
Judy Ford, Rents Hall (573) 576-5896
Dorothy VanGennip

ST. JOHN FINANCE MEMBERS

Rene Landewee	Dennis James
Marian Hutchings	Ted Eftink
Bob Clubb	Roger Bucher
Amanda McDonough	

ST. ANTHONY FINANCE MEMBERS

Rhonda Horrell	Chris Horrell
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Welcome! We're so glad you've come to worship with us this weekend. If you are not currently registered with either St. John Church or St. Anthony Church and would like to do so, registration forms in the vestibule of either parish or on the parish website. We would love to have you as a part of our parish family!

For ALL sacramental related inquiries, please contact Fr. Vincent directly at 573-238-2450. You do not have to go through the parish office since Father keeps his own calendar and makes his own appointments.

Liturgical Roles

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 6 PM (SA)

Servers: Audrey & Nellie Langston
Lector: Chandler Jansen
Extraordinary Min.: *Kyla Langston
Ushers: Ben & Kevin Beel
Offertory: Family of Eula VanGennip
Sacristan: volunteer

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 11 PM (SJ)

Servers: Skyler & Avery Hoesli
Lector: Aimee Hampton
Extraordinary Min.: *Daniel Dunn,
Patty Bohnsack, Aimee Hampton
Choir Min.: Darlene Stoverink
Ushers: Steve Seiler, Alan Elfrink
Offertory: Dustin & Holly Hoesli
Family
Sacristan: Anthony & Janet Jansen
Rosary: none

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Thursday, December 25, 9 AM (SJ)

Servers: Sam & Autumn Landewee
Lector: Polly Mungle
Extraordinary Min.: *Daniel Dunn,
Harlan Elfrink, Kim Bunger
Choir Min.: Sheryl Eftink
Ushers: Chuck Forrester, A.J. Eftink
Offertory: Harlan & Julie Elfrink
Sacristan: Polly Mungle, Cassie Engelen
Rosary: volunteer

StoneBridge & Homebound Extraordinary Minister for December 28: Kristi Jansen

Sacrament Schedule and Weekly Schedule

SJ= St. John | SA= St. Anthony

Monday, December 22

8:05-8:25 AM CONFESSIONS (SJ)
8:30 AM MASS - Nettie Surface †/John H. Thele † (SJ)
9:00 AM - 7:00 AM - EUCHARISTIC ADORATION (SJ)

Tuesday, December 23

8:05-8:25AM - CONFESSIONS (SJ)
8:30 AM MASS - Kathy Nanney † (SJ)

Wednesday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 AM - "Waiting Well" with Fr. Mike (church office)
5:30-5:55 PM - CONFESSIONS (SA)
6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - Eula VanGennip † (SA)
11:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS - Parish Families (SJ)

Thursday, December 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8:25-8:55 AM - CONFESSIONS (SJ)
9:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - Seminarians & Retired Religious (SJ)

Friday, December 26, Feast of St. Stephen

8:05-8:25 AM - CONFESSIONS (SJ)
8:30 AM MASS - Tony Beussink † (SJ)

Saturday, December 27, Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

No men's group
8:00 AM - Women's Cursillo (St. Anne's)
4:15-4:45 PM - CONFESSIONS (SA)
5:00 PM MASS - Elmer & Ida Koenig † (SA)
6:00 PM - Fr. Vincent's Ordination Anniversary Celebration (Glennon Hall)

Sunday, December 28

7:20-7:50 AM -and - 9:30-9:50 AM CONFESSIONS (SJ)
8:00 AM MASS - L/D Members of St. John PCCW (SJ)
10:00 AM MASS - Families of St. John & St. Anthony Parishes (SJ)
5:00 PM - OCIA (Parish Office)

Please Note the
church office will
be closed
December 22nd
through
January 4th

Please Note
that Mass
times on
Mondays &
Fridays while
school is out
will be moved
to 8:30 AM

DECEMBER 27 - 28: THE HOLY FAMILY

Sat, December 27, 5 PM (SA)

Servers: Lucianna & Clara Horrell
Lector: Jennifer Rosanna
Extraordinary Min.: *Michael VanGennip
Ushers: Dale Bueter, Mike Bueter
Offertory: Family of Elmer & Ida Koenig
Sacristan: Gina Bueter
Rosary: Gina Bueter

PCCW Sunday

Sunday, December 28, 8 AM (SJ)

Servers: Thad & Nash Bohnsack
Lector: Patty Bohnsack
Extraordinary Min.: *Karen James, Stacy
Halter, Karen Broshuis
Choir Min.: Kristi Jansen
Ushers: Brad Landewee, Bradley Broshuis
Offertory: PCCW-Amanda McDonough,
Melinda Eftink
Sacristan: Cindy (Lindy) Jansen
Rosary: PCCW - Polly Mungle

Sunday, December 28, 10 AM (SJ)

Servers: Emily James, Lauren VanGennip
Lector: Dustin Hoesli
Extraordinary Min.: *Danny James, Ben
Seiler, Matt Michaeltree
Choir Min.: Joann James
Ushers: Doug & Mark Deck
Offertory: Norbert & Marethe VanGennip
Sacristan: Danny & Joann James
Rosary: Gerard Macke

**Come to an Open House for Father Vincent's 40th Anniversary of Ordination at the Glennon Hall.
December 27 after 5:00 Mass.** Asking from A-M to bring a dessert and N-Z to bring finger foods.
Come show your appreciation for his service to God and our parishes.

Notes from Fr. Vincent:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

When asked why and how he could accomplish so much, St. Francis of Assisi replied: "This may be why: I think the Lord looked down from heaven upon the earth and said, "Where can I find the weakest, the littlest, the poorest man on the earth?" Then He saw me and said: "Now I have found him, and will work through him. He won't be proud of it. He will see that I am only using him because of his littleness and insignificance."

In today's Gospel, we enter the quiet drama of Joseph's heart. Matthew tells us not only about the birth of Jesus, but about the trust, obedience, and courage that make that birth possible within God's plan. Joseph discovers that Mary is with child, and although he does not yet understand, he chooses the path of mercy. He resolves to protect her from shame. Even before he knows the full story, Joseph's heart is already aligned with God's compassion.

Joseph teaches us that faith is often lived in the hidden, difficult moments where God invites us to trust more deeply than our understanding. Sometimes the Lord asks us to welcome what is mysterious, uncomfortable, or unexpected. And yet, like Joseph, when we open our hearts, God turns our fears into grace.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us ask for Joseph's virtues: a listening heart, a merciful spirit, and the courage to say "yes" when God speaks. Emmanuel comes to dwell with us—not only in Bethlehem, but in every heart that, like Joseph, chooses trust over fear and obedience over doubt.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, born in humble Bethlehem, be born anew in our hearts today and fill our lives with Your peace and saving love. Amen

St. John the Evangelist and St. Anthony, pray for us and protect us.

Fr. Vincent Joseph VC

Adult Education Notes

Fellow parishioners, we are truly very close to our journey to the crib. Have we traveled with the Holy Family with great joy? Caryll Houselander a 20th century writer wrote this, "During this tender time of Advent, we must carry him (Jesus) in our hearts to wherever he wants to go, and there are many places to which he may never go unless we take him."

Consider these words for a moment. Has your Advent been one of a heart journey? Have you taken Jesus with you throughout your Advent toward Christmas? Have you tried to make these last three weeks a little more holy in your life? You have 4 days left. You can still make room for him or share him with others.

Every year, every Christmas, we are invited to wait with Mary and Joseph for the Messiah to come. When the Angel Gabriel came to Mary, he asked her to be the Mother of God. she said "yes", and then he left. He Just Left...She was 12-14 years old. She had no details, no instructions, no 'more of message to come'. Think about that....TRUST. So she waited. Taking one moment at a time, waiting and trusting in the God she worships. And she hopes.

She examples to us that when life throws unexpected circumstances our way and we have no clue what to do, we trust. God has this. His plan is better than ours but we have to trust in his way and his timing. The O Antiphons we pray these seven days before Christmas are prayers of hope. They introduce each Mass these days reminding us who the Messiah is. Each one opens with a Name of God reminding us Who is coming-Who we are waiting for-Who it is we are anticipating.

Find some time these last few days to be more silent. Look for the nudges of hope. Stay focused on the TRUE meaning of Christmas and the REAL reason WHY Jesus came as Messiah and Savior. It was because we sinned and God sent His Son to live as we do and bring us home to Heaven. What more can He do for us. What true love He brings. The gift of new life. Merry Christmas!



Ministry Notes & Updates

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 5898:

The Council recently lost a Past Grand Knight, Melvin Holzum, who provided religious statues that many of us have in our yard. Condolences to Dianne, Alissa, and members Brian and Kevin.

The Council again distributed over Fifty Christmas Baskets in the community on December 20.

From the Council a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays as we move on from 2025 into the new year.

VOCATION MINISTRY:

"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us". (Matthew 1:23) Mary's trust in God's plan is a model for all vocations. Could God be inviting you to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony, living fully for Him to bring His presence to others? Embrace His call with courage. Talk to Fr. Vincent at 238-3300, ext. 2. **Vocation Crucifix for December: Charles & Eva Dunn** *For those discerning their vocation, that they may embrace God's call to the priesthood, consecrated life, or sacramental marriage with trust and devotion, let us pray to the Lord.*

ST. JOHN PCCW:

Thanks to all who braved the cold and attended The Country Christmas Home Tour. Thanks to those who attended, brought soup and cookies, the organist at the church, and the youth and adults who worked the soup kitchen but a huge thanks to the homeowners who opened their homes and hearts to share their holiday joy.

Thanks also to all who took tags from the trees to brighten someone's Christmas at the nursing home and at their homes.

Please remember to sign up for our Blood Drive at KC Hall on January 7 from 12:30-5:30.

Also this is the season to start saving the fronts of your Christmas cards for St Jude's Children Home and your stamps also. Just place in our basket in back of church.

Merry Christmas from your PCCW.

Diocese & Area Events

Totus Tuus Missionary Applications NOW

OPEN! Every summer, the Office of Youth Ministry sends multiple teams of young-adult (ages 18-25 yrs.) missionaries to visit various parishes and engage in ministry with youth in 1st-12th grade. Registration for Totus Tuus missionaries is now open!

Young adult Catholics with a love for their faith, a willingness to learn, and a desire to participate in ministry will thrive in this PAID role. Missionaries have their meals, travel, and housing provided during the eight weeks of training and ministry. Anyone interested in the role of a Totus Tuus missionary can contact Simon Elfrink, selfrink@dioscrg.org apply online at <https://forms.gle/17QJG8UJ562XYKPD9>.



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diojeffcrg.org/mo-catholic-summit/

Free to attend!

In Gratitude:

Dear Friends of Birthright, Thank you for the huge selection of Christmas gifts for our babies and toddlers. Our Birthright families will be absolutely delighted by your thoughtfulness! God bless you in this holy season.

*Gratefully, Michele Moon
Director, Birthright of Marble Hill*

DECEMBER EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES:

Due to the publishing company closing for Christmas and New Years they are requiring the following early deadlines:

Sunday, December 28 Bulletin Items
are due Sunday, Dec. 21 at noon

Sunday, January 4 Bulletin Items
are due Tuesday, Dec. 23 at noon

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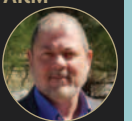
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