

St. John Neumann Parish

December 17, 2023

Gaudete Sunday



"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert." Jn 1:23

MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 pm

Sunday Mass: 7:30 am, 9:00 am** Public & Livestream*
10:30 am, 12:00 pm, 5:15 pm

Monday—Saturday: 8:00 am Public & Livestream* Mass

* www.sjnparish.org/livestream

** **Little Church School** every week; **Children's Liturgy of the Word** 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

CONFESSIONS

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm—in the Gathering Room.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER

Rosary — Daily at 8:30 am

— Mondays at 7:00 pm (in church)

Adoration — Thursdays 8:30 — 9:30 am

Divine Mercy Chaplet —Fridays at 8:30 am

**THE SACRAMENTS— ANOINTING OF THE SICK;
BAPTISM OF CHILDREN; MARRIAGE;
RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)**

Please contact the Parish Office to speak with Msgr. Matz or Deacon Kevin. Baptisms are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1:15pm.

NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

Please contact the Parish Office for an appointment with Msgr. Matz to register and become a member.



Follow us on Facebook

(an account on FB is not needed to visit us!)

CONNECT WITH US!

www.sjnparish.org

Parish Office

mainoffice@sjnparish.org

610-525-3100

380 Highland Lane

Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Saints Colman—John

Neumann Catholic School

www.scjnschool.org

610-525-3266

372 Highland Lane

Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

STAFF

- ◆ **Pastor:** Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Matz
- ◆ **In Residence:** Rev. Robert J. Chapman
- ◆ **Permanent Deacon:** Deacon Kevin Harrington
- ◆ **Parish Services Director:** Ms. Clare Frissora
- ◆ **Sunday Assistance:**
 - Rev. Gerald D. Canavan
 - Rev. Brian Kean
 - Rev. Robert J. Murray, OSA
- ◆ **Business Mgrs:** Mrs. Joy Falcone, Mr. Paul Selvaggi
- ◆ **Administrative Assistants:**
 - Mrs. Norma Guzmán, Mrs. Terri Giangiulio
- ◆ **Safe Environment Coordinator:** Mrs. Kathy Selvaggi
- ◆ **School Principal:** Mrs. Kelly Ciminera
- ◆ **Director of Liturgical Music:** Mr. Andrew Puntel
- ◆ **Director of Religious Education:** Mrs. Katie DiRienzo
- ◆ **Assoc. DRE:** Mrs. Katie Keating

COORDINATORS OF PARISH MINISTRY

www.sjnparish.org visit 'Ministries' to learn more; to email a ministry, click on their name in our digital bulletin:

- ◆ **Adult Group:** Jack McNamara
- ◆ **Adult Faith Formation:** Clare Frissora
- ◆ **Altar Guild:** Nora Saraceni
- ◆ **Bible Study:** Craig Callaghan
- ◆ **'Caring for Friends':** Cheryl Calnan
- ◆ **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Katie Keating
- ◆ **CYO Athletics:** Carrie Tornatela; Robert Lythgoe
- ◆ **Disabilities Partnership:** Sheila Sheaffer
- ◆ **Family Promise/Main Line (IHN):** Mary Beth Wolanin
- ◆ **Garage Sale:** Isabel Momenee
- ◆ **Good Samaritans:** Craig Callaghan
- ◆ **Healing/Communion & H.O.P.E.:** Clare Frissora
- ◆ **Hospitality:** Kim Duska
- ◆ **Lectors:** Jack McNamara
- ◆ **Little Church School:** Janet Baffa
- ◆ **Liturgical Environment:** Jackie Falcone; Nancy Case
- ◆ **Men's Fellowship:** mensfellowship@sjnparish.org
- ◆ **Prayer Line:** prayerline@sjnparish.org
- ◆ **RCIA:** Clare Frissora
- ◆ **Respect Life:** Clare Frissora
- ◆ **Ushers:** Jack McNamara
- ◆ **Walking with Purpose:** Mary Beth Wolanin



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

5:15 pm Alice Coyle Hughes

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:30 am 34th Wedding Anniversary

9:00 am People of SJN Parish

10:30 am John James Sweeney, Sr.

12:00 pm Deceased members of
O'Donnell & Ebbecke Families

5:15 pm No Mass (Christmas Concert)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00 am Matt Simon

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:00 am Barbara M. Kelly

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00 am Virginia Hayden

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

St. Peter Canisius

8:00 am Carl Higgins

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00 am Edward Cyzewski

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

St. John of Kanty

8:00 am Kendra Eager

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

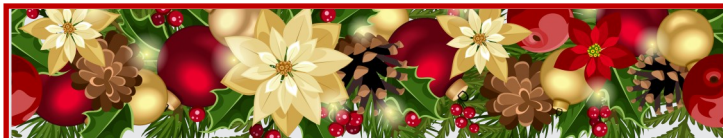
**TUESDAYS IN ADVENT 8:30AM—7:00PM.
VISIT BEFORE/AFTER CONFESSION.**

Join us as we pray the rosary at 6:30 pm
Benediction at 7:00 pm



We request at least one person to be with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day.

Make time to stop by. Visit briefly or longer, and enjoy this time of peace!



Christmas Season Mass Schedule

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- ◆ Vigil, Dec. 23, 5:15 pm
- ◆ Sunday, Dec. 24
7:30 am, 9:00* am; 10:30 am
(No 12:00 pm Mass)

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24

- ◆ 4:00* pm Mass
- ◆ 4:05 pm Mass — in the gym
- ◆ 6:00 pm Mass
(No 5:15 pm Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY — DEC. 25

- ◆ 7:30 am ; 10:30* am; 12:00 pm
(No 9:00 am Mass)

HOLY FAMILY

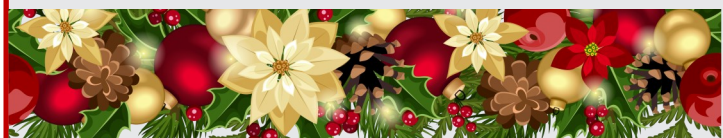
- ◆ Vigil, Dec. 30, 5:15 pm
- ◆ Sunday, Dec. 31
7:30 am; 9:00* am; 10:30 am; 12:00 pm

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

- ◆ Vigil, Dec. 31, 4:00 pm
(No 5:15 pm Mass)
- ◆ New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2024
8:00 am Mass (our only Mass)

⇒ This is not a Holy Day of Obligation as it falls on Monday.

*Livestream



Advent Penance Service



THIS WEEK

TUESDAY DEC. 19, 1:00 PM



A Carmelite nun, Sister Rachel, still living, wrote this a few years ago in one of her books.

“Some may feel that I speak too often of sin, rub

it in too much. Others point out that what we need is encouragement, we are too aware already of our own miseries.

But are we?

Often what we are meaning and what we are confusing with an awareness of sin is being disgusted with ourselves, being disillusioned with ourselves, which every human being suffers from. We have an image in our mind's eye of what we are like, or would want to be like, or think we are really meant to be like, and we fall short of it. We 'lose face' in our own eyes, and perhaps in the eyes of others. What we bewail is largely our human poverty, and this our Lord has no intention of taking away.”

What is this Carmelite nun trying to say to us? That we are more concerned with the image we have of ourselves than with the actual sins we commit. Yet, for Sister Rachel, Ruth Burrows is her pen name, an awareness of seeing where real sin lies is part of the journey toward holiness—because this kind of awareness carries with it the certainty of forgiveness.

And I think this is where we get caught up in the struggle, or the frustration: We want God to make our weaknesses go away so we don't have to struggle with them anymore. But I don't think God is going



to do that. He's not too willing to remove from us the things that humble us. And he doesn't want to do this for a reason: The Lord wants us to see our sinfulness in the light of His mercy. In this lies the core of our growing deeper in our relationship with God through the forgiveness of His Son who went to the cross for our sins.

Another frustration comes from dealing with the question of time. How long do I have to put up with this? How long do I have to struggle with this? When will this suffering come to an end? “The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay”, but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” But God's sense of time and ours is not the same. God's sense of “enough” and ours is not the same.

So, during Advent, in the peace and quiet of the Winter's chill, ask Jesus to help you to stop looking in the mirror wondering why you have fallen short of your own expectation of yourself, and look squarely and honestly and what it is you have done wrong—as painful and humbling as that might be! There's definitely a spiritual good that comes from this.

I'll let Sister Rachel have the final say:

“Come and enlighten us, Sun of holiness. Show us our sloth, our pride, our shirking of the demands of life, our evasions. Reveal to us our sinfulness in the light of your mercy, and then we shall be healed and know perfect joy.”



Sacrament of Baptism

Congratulations,
welcome to God's family!

DECEMBER 10TH ~

Margaret Elyse Kelley

DAUGHTER OF PATRICK AND CAROLYN

Andrew John McNamara

SON OF ALBERT AND KATHLEEN

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED



*Gloria Reiff
Raymond Bratschi*



*May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

thank you!



OFFERINGS:
— Dec. 10: \$ 25,255

Click on image to visit
our online giving site

The History of the "Twelve Days of Christmas"

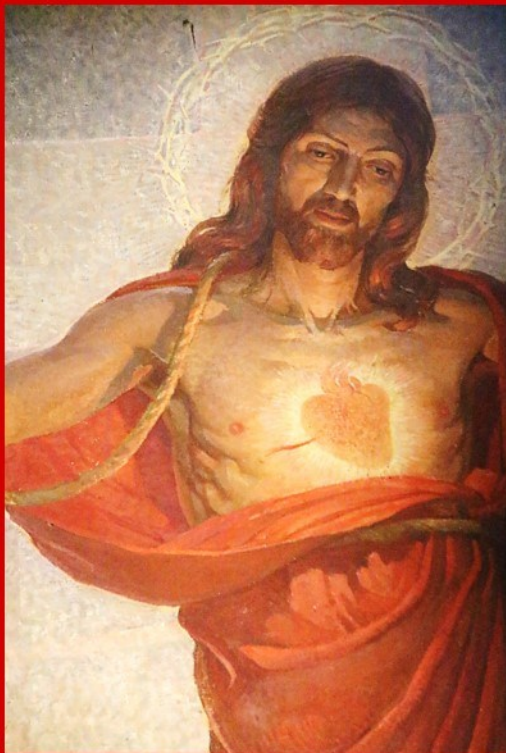
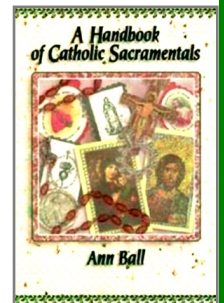


The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Ghost, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the fruit that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost.

According to Ann Ball in her book, *A Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals*:

- ◆ **THE "TRUE LOVE" ONE HEARS IN THE SONG IS NOT A SMITTEN BOY OR GIRLFRIEND BUT JESUS CHRIST, BECAUSE TRULY LOVE WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY. THE PARTRIDGE IN THE PEAR TREE ALSO REPRESENTS HIM BECAUSE THAT BIRD IS WILLING TO SACRIFICE ITS LIFE IF NECESSARY TO PROTECT ITS YOUNG BY FEIGNING INJURY TO DRAW AWAY PREDATORS.**
- ◆ **THE TWO TURTLE DOVES WERE THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS**
- ◆ **THE THREE FRENCH HENS STOOD FOR FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE.**
- ◆ **THE FOUR CALLING BIRDS WERE THE FOUR GOSPELS OF MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN.**
- ◆ **THE FIVE GOLDEN RINGS REREPRESENTED THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, WHICH DESCRIBE MAN'S FALL INTO SIN AND THE GREAT LOVE OF GOD IN SENDING A SAVIOR.**
- ◆ **THE SIX GEESSE A-LAYING STOOD FOR THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION.**
- ◆ **SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING REPRESENTED THE SEVENFOLD GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-----PROPHECY, SERVING, TEACHING, EXHORTATION, CONTRIBUTION, LEADERSHIP, AND MERCY.**
- ◆ **THE EIGHT MAIDS A-MILKING WERE THE EIGHT BEATITUDES.**
- ◆ **NINE LADIES DANCING WERE THE NINE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-----CHARITY, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE [FORBEARANCE], GOODNESS [KINDNESS], MILDNESS, FIDELITY, MODESTY, CONTINENCY [CHASTITY].**
- ◆ **THE TEN LORDS A-LEAPING WERE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.**
- ◆ **THE ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING STOOD FOR THE ELEVEN FAITHFUL APOSTLES.**
- ◆ **THE TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING SYMBOLIZED THE TWELVE POINTS OF BELIEF IN THE APOSTLES' CREED.**

Source: catholicnewsagency.com/resource/55904/the-history-of-the-twelve-days-of-christmas



Love

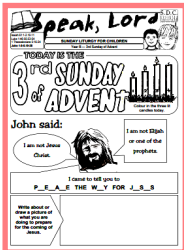
*Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance
in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning if I lack'd anything.
"A guest," I answer'd, "worthy to be here";
Love said, "You shall be he."
"I, the unkind, the ungrateful? ah my dear, I cannot look on thee."
Love took my hand and smiling did reply, "Who made the eyes but I?"
"Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them;
let my shame go where it doth deserve."
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"
"My dear, then I will serve."
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."
So I did sit and eat.*

– George Herbert (1593-1632)

Family Faith



Click on images for activity sheets!



Catholic Mass Scavenger Hunt!

GREAT FOR ADULTS!

Click on links in the online Bulletin or visit our website homepage.

[Why do we extend the Sign of Peace at Mass?](#)

[Last Week: What are the elements of the Eucharistic Prayer?](#)

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Agape/Love | The Bible Project

The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.



Mary of Nazareth



What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.

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O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas is About | Brother Francis

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son!

Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.



Respect Life

One of the 5 organizations we will raise funds for is **Adeodatus -ADROP**

Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor

Founded in 2004 by Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., by bringing leaders, service providers, and volunteers together to assess and respond to the needs of the poor in south Philadelphia. Since that time over 150 volunteers and leaders have affected the lives of over 1,000 families living in south Philly & beyond.

- ◆ **Unity Clinic:** a free, primary care health clinic serving those who do not have access to health insurance.
- ◆ **Educational Enrichment:** educational support programs funded by A.D.R.O.P. for Saint Anthony of Padua School, an inner city school Philadelphia.
- ◆ **Criminal Justice Accompaniment & Reform Program:** supports people incarcerated and returning citizens in a variety of ways, e.g.: **Adeodatus Ministry:** those who have recently left prison and those suffering from addictions can come together in a sense of community Thursday nights at St. Rita of Cascia rectory; **Pen Pal Program** enables correspondence between a person incarcerated and a person on the outside as a strong acknowledgment of the individual's human dignity; **Family Support Groups:** support to cope with a loved one in prison, on trial or about to be

Pray FOR THE SICK

If you would like to add your name or the name of your loved ones to the Prayers List, call the Parish Office

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Stephanie Bialecki | Sebastian Fras | Terry Pennoni |
| Tom Blair | Richard John | Loretta Rebecca |
| Kensy Bowen | Christina Luciano | Eric Rudolph |
| Mary Lou Butler | Frank Macciocca | Coy Saul |
| Mark Ciciretti | Rylee Monahan | Jerome Skochin |
| Joe & Debbie Difelice | | |

Christmas Concert 2023

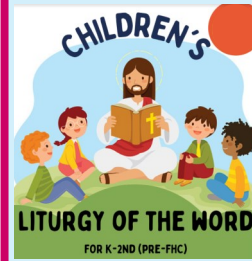
A favorite SJN Tradition!
Great music & song — fun for all!

THIS
SUNDAY



LIVE!
& by livestream

Join the festivities in Church
Sunday, December 17th
5:30 P.M.
There is NO 5:15 pm Mass



LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL
INVITES ALL PRE-FIRST HOLY
COMMUNION STUDENTS TO
THEIR PARTY THIS SUNDAY,
DEC. 17 AT 9AM MASS.

No Little Church School or Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) until next year. Check the bulletin for restart date. All new and returning students are warmly welcomed.



PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US
Mondays at 7:00 pm in the Church

SC
JN

- ◆ St. Nicholas came to visit SCJN School on his feast day! So many smiles and happy kids.
- ◆ We celebrated our second grade students who received the sacrament of First Penance on December 2 with a morning of donuts and hot chocolate. Congratulations!

