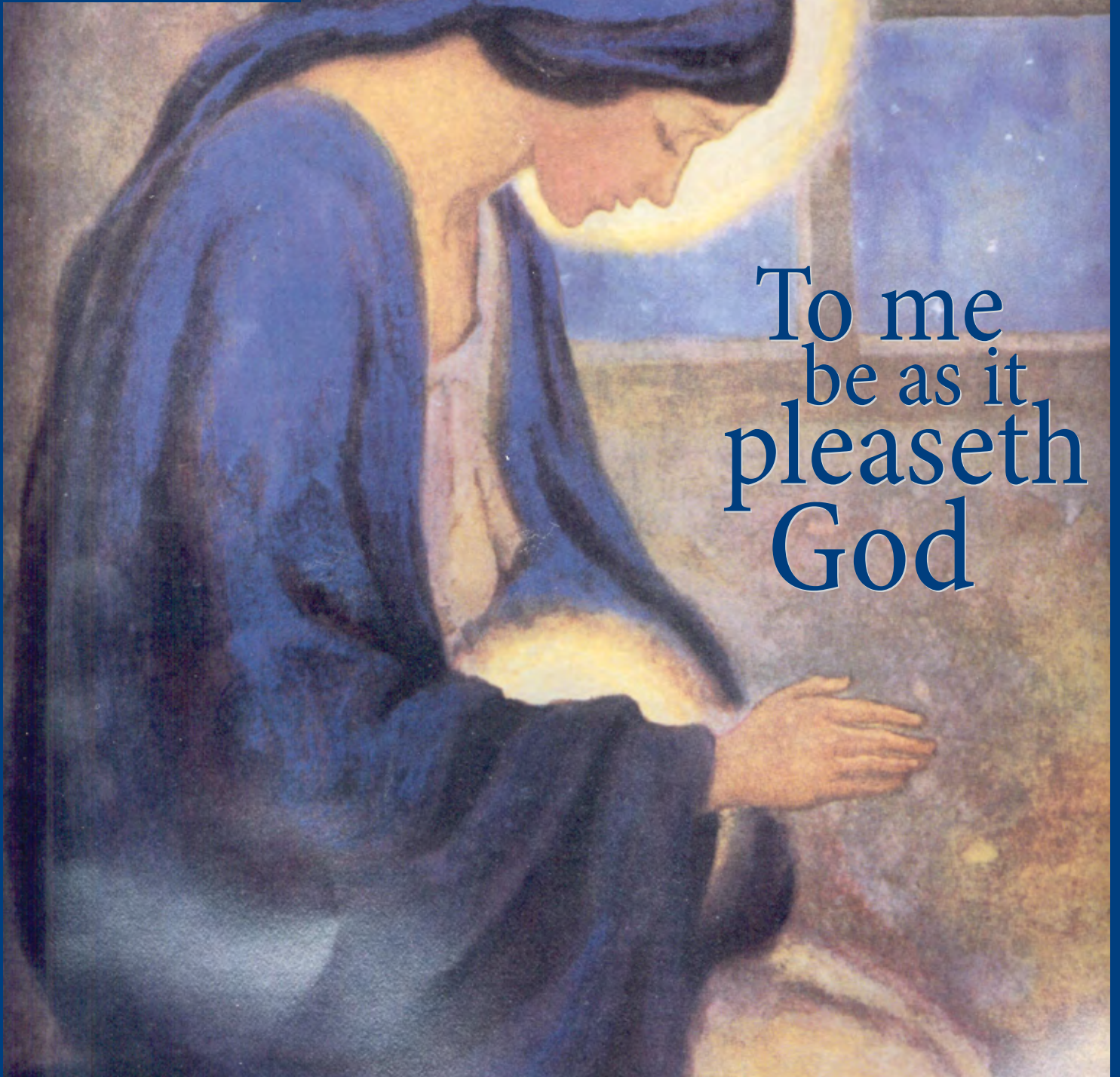


TIDINGS

The Newsletter of
St. John Vianney
Catholic Community
Mentor, OH

Winter 2023



To me
be as it
pleaseth
God

My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name

Welcome to St. John Vianney Parish

We are a vibrant Catholic Community on a Christ-centered journey. Led by the Holy Spirit and nurtured by the Eucharist, we proclaim and live the Gospel message of love of God and love of neighbor.

Church Office—440.255.0600
sjvmentor.org

Pastor: **Rev. Thomas W. Johns, ext. 205**

Parochial Vicar: **Rev. Alex Clark, ext. 204**

Parochial Vicar: **Rev. Ian Kelly, ext. 205**

Pastoral Associate: **Jim Hickey, ext. 207**

Director of Faith Formation: **Mandy Hart, ext. 224**

Director of Evangelization & Communication:
Lydia Ann Donatelli, ext. 203

Music Director: **Katie Schmitt, ext. 214**

Director of Volunteers: **Maureen Kraizel, ext. 208**

Parish Secretary: **Donna Regal, ext. 201**

Interim Business Manager: **Janet Miller, ext. 212**

Social Hall Manager: **Jeff Orosz, 440.255.8043**

Caterer: **Joe Longo's Cater to You**
Catering Company, 440.479.5392

All Saints School of St. John Vianney
440.943.1395
allsaintssjv.org

Principal: **Mrs. Katy Rankin**

PARISH COUNCIL

Phyllis Chabut—Chair
Dan Smith—Vice-Chair
Dave Mutch—Secretary
Greg Fitzgerald
George Hadden
Aaron Kurth
Kathy Kurth
Maureen Modic
Kelly Printz
Jason Stockmaster
Jim Vanek
Rick Welsh

TIDINGS STAFF

Fr. Thomas Johns, Lydia Ann Donatelli,
Dale Bryant, Carolyn & Mike Jablonski,
Chuck Fagan, Photographer
ctfagan25@gmail.com; 440.725.9780

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season.

There is a church in the town of Nazareth named the Basilica of the Annunciation. It was built in the early days of Christianity on the actual spot where the Blessed Mother had lived with her parents, Anne and Joachim. It was here where the angel Gabriel appeared and asked her to be the mother of Jesus and she said "let it be done to me." As you depart from this church you cannot help but notice the beautiful statue of a pregnant Blessed Mother. This is a great image for us as we enter this Advent season and as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth on Christmas Day. You will see a similar image of Mary on the cover of this edition of *Tidings*.

Advent is the season when we wait for the celebration of the birth of a child who will be placed in a manger as our savior—carefully cared for by Mary and Joseph, visited by shepherds and adored by Magi. At the parish we have waited in joyful anticipation for the birth of two babies, Madelyn Susan Schmitt and Lachlan Kolbe Donatelli. Their moms are members of our pastoral staff, Katie and Lydia, and we are so happy to welcome their newborn children into our parish community at this holy time of the year.

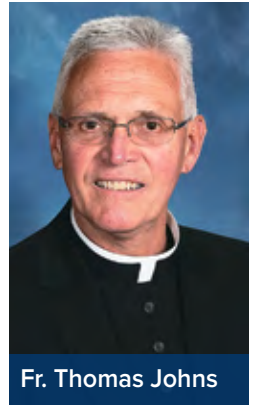
Mary placed Jesus in a manger in a small cave of the little town of Bethlehem. Bethlehem means "the house of bread" and into that manger was placed the child who would one day be for us "the Bread of Life." The coming year is to be for each of us "A Year of Eucharistic Revival." The American bishops have asked us to make time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and to rekindle our belief and appreciation of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

In this post-COVID time and in the coming new year, we invite everyone—who is healthy and able—to return to participation at Sunday Mass in the church. It is good for us to come together to listen to God's word, to eat his body and drink his blood, and to celebrate his presence in our midst as we gather in his name and are eager to go forth and do his work in our daily lives. Christmas Day is on Monday. The previous day is the 4th Sunday of Advent. Between Saturday evening and Monday afternoon, try to attend two Masses (one for Sunday and one for Christmas) and make the resolution to return to weekly Mass in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Fr. Tom Johns

WE BELIEVE IN MARRIAGE—Saturday, Feb. 10, Mass at 4pm;
presentation, dinner and dance at 5pm in the Social Center.

♥♥♥
PRE-CANA DAY for Engaged Couples, Saturday, March 9,
9am to 5pm. Registration begins after the holidays.



Fr. Thomas Johns

Fun, Fellowship Abound in SJV 50+ Club

The 50+ Club began at St. John Vianney Parish in the summer of 2018. Monthly bus trips have taken place since then other than the period when the COVID virus caused us to take a break. Norma and Ron Burford were the original facilitators for the group and Char Valencic and Joyce Ristau currently serve in that role. Along with Fr. Johns, they regularly meet with John Latkovich from JKL Tours to select, plan and schedule the monthly bus trips. In addition to these trips, activities also take place at the Fr. Kline Social Center for members and their friends—activities like Game Night, Movie Night, and Holiday Dinners and Dances. A Christmas Dinner and Dance is scheduled to take place at the Social Center on December 13 at 6pm. Please contact Char at 440.668.7180 or Joyce at 440.339.8249 for reservation information.

In this past year the Club had trips to Historic and Ethnic Cleveland, My Old Kentucky Home, TINA at Playhouse Square, ANYTHING GOES at Rabbit Run, a Summer Day at Put-in-Bay, the Shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Windsor, the Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County, and an Autumn Amish Adventure.

On January 11, 2024, at 6pm in the Social Center, John from JKL Tours will share with us the plans for 2024. So far, we know they will include Playhouse Square, Rabbit Run, Lady Caroline Premiere Dining Cruise, Soaring Eagle Resort Casino and Mackinaw Island, and much more. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information. We currently have over 600 members and anyone 50 years or older is welcome to join us.



Catholic Education—Education, Excellence Reimagined

Catholic education has always been synonymous with academic excellence, faith-based values, and character development. The cost of a private education, however, often poses challenges for many families. In July, the State of Ohio passed new legislation—Universal Choice—that extended the traditional and income-based EdChoice Scholarships to all Ohio families. We are thrilled that the EdChoice Scholarship Program is now available for all families, making All Saints School more affordable than ever.

The introduction of EdChoice Scholarships at All Saints School underscores the commitment to offering an affordable education that prioritizes faith, values, and character alongside academic excellence. Acceptance of the EdChoice Scholarships by the school does not require All Saints to teach subjects that are morally objectionable since the funds are paid to the families for the benefit of the school.

This is the perfect time to explore education at All Saints School given the opportunity offered by the scholarships. This year, for example, all families meeting the full requirements set by the State of Ohio (which is a majority of our families) receive \$6,165 per student in scholarship funds and will be paying only \$85 per student in tuition; other families with a higher income receive lower levels of funding although all receive some amount. With access to other tuition scholarships such as Angel, Fund-a-Dream,

Endowment, and Parish scholarships, we can continue to control the cost of education while expanding educational opportunities.

Catholic education is about more than academics; it's about building strong moral foundations, fostering a sense of community, and igniting a lifelong love for learning. Join with us to educate the next generation of Catholic students and prepare them to be leaders in an ever-changing world. Call the school or the parish for more information.

—Janet Miller

FUND A CATHOLIC EDUCATION AT NO COST TO YOU!

Be an “angel” and support the Angel Scholarship Fund at St. John Vianney Parish. A donation to the Angel Scholarship Fund can reduce your Ohio income tax liability on a dollar-for-dollar basis. That is, money that ordinarily would have been owed by you to the State of Ohio can be “redirected” to fund Catholic education scholarships at our parish school, All Saints. Check out the parish website at sjvmentor.org/angel for more information on how to make this happen or send your questions in an email to angel@sjvmentor.org. Imagine the good you can do!





This year, the Catholic Church is celebrating the Year of Eucharistic Revival on the parish level. Only about 31% of Catholics believe in the True Presence of the Eucharist. On top of that, only 39% of Catholics attend Mass on a weekly basis. Therefore, this year of revival was formed to help more Catholics believe and know the Eucharist. At St. John Vianney, we are truly focusing on the Eucharist this year. See on these two pages what we are doing to help our parishioners fall in love with the Bread of Life!

ST JOHN VIANNEY
Advent Series
:LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY:

Learn more about different forms of prayer, how our priests pray, and join them as they lead in their favorite forms of prayer.

- NOV 27 Fr Alex Clark: The Overview
- DEC 4 Fr Tom Johns: Using Scripture to Pray
- DEC 11 Fr Alex Clark: Contemplative Prayer
- DEC 18 Fr Ian Kelly: Charismatic Prayer

ALL ARE AT 7 PM
IN THE CHURCH

Starting with Monday, November 27, leading into the First Sunday of Advent, we will begin our Advent Series! That night and the following three Mondays we will learn from our priests about a different form of prayer and share in that prayer with them. The Men's Group will meet for these presentations and then discuss them immediately afterwards in the Social Center. We look forward to seeing you!

Monthly Videos

On Facebook and YouTube, we are posting a video of someone on staff giving a witness of how they experience the Eucharist! These videos are posted on the 15th of every month. Look for our next one on December 15.

First Friday Adoration



During this Year of Eucharistic Revival, immediately following the 11 am Mass on the First Friday every month, we will celebrate a Holy Hour with the Eucharist.

See Below for the Next Date:
December 1

On December 20, we will wrap up our Advent Series with an XLT! Come worship the Lord in the Eucharist through music and silent reflection as we enter into the season of Christmas. Fr. Ian will celebrate the evening and our house band, Revelation 4, returns to lead worship. We will also have a “guest”! The Diocese of Cleveland has a “traveling monstrance” blessed by St. Pope John Paul II that we will welcome into our church for the evening.

—Lydia Donatelli

Advent XLT

Come Worship the Bread of Heaven as we await the celebration of His Birth



Celebrant: Fr Ian Kelly

Music: Revelation 4

December 20 at 7 pm



All ages, shapes, and sizes came to Celebrate our Annual Founders Day. Our priests grilled hot dogs and everyone enjoyed the food, rides, and fellowship. It was in 1969 that Fr. Kline along with 200 families started our parish. These dedicated groups of parishioners from Mentor St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and Willoughby Immaculate Conception Parish were asked by the Bishop to leave their parishes and help form a new one. The first Mass in this new parish territory was on Thanksgiving Day in 1969 at the Willo-Beach Club.



The Promise and Joy of Waiting

Reflecting on Mary this season has become especially poignant to two very special young women in our parish as they both awaited and prepared for the birth of their babies. Katie, our Music Director, gave birth to her daughter, Madelyn, on September 20, 2023. Katie, along with her husband, Jason, prepared themselves spiritually even before they knew for certain that Madelyn was coming. They made holy hours together in the Adoration Chapel, in the presence of the Eucharist, asking for God's blessings. Katie has prayed continually that God would give her the grace needed to balance motherhood and work. Lydia and her husband, Luke, have been reciting the Rosary together. Lydia has found herself especially reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries with greater understanding. Both Katie and Lydia were deeply moved by the Rosary Shower held for them by some women in the parish. They are so grateful to everyone who gifted them with prayers for the journey.

Mary spent the earlier months of her pregnancy with her cousin Elizabeth, helping her in her later months and delivery. They must have been such a comfort to each other. Katie and Lydia found the same joy in having an empathic companion. Their offices at the parish are just a few doors apart and every Monday morning, they would share what they called "Mom Check-in." They would discuss their progress and concerns and then share a laugh or two. As Lydia is already the mother of two-year-old Luciano, Katie found a great deal of reassurance in Lydia's experience, advice, and thoughtfulness. They enriched each other's experience.

Mary and Joseph enjoyed their baby's first Christmas in the quiet solitude of a stable, peacefully unaware of just how much their lives, and the world itself, was about to be changed forever. As Katie and Lydia prepare for their babies' first Christmas, they both anticipate joy and excitement, and we pray that their Christmas be a special time of blessings for them.

Excerpts from an Advent Meditation written by *Phyllis Chabut*



How great you are, Gracious God, to give these families and our community these new children of God! Left: Madelyn Schmitt born September 20; Right: Lachlan Kolbe Donatelli, born November 6.

FAITH FORMATION FALL UPDATE

Hello!

Our Parish School of Religion has certainly been busy! We started classes on September 10 and have been meeting each Sunday morning for sessions. We had a wonderful opening Mass in September and students from our seventh and eighth grade classes served as lectors, servers, and gift bearers. It was a great way to start our year and build our PSR community.



Our Kindergarten Program started last year and has grown to over 20 students! We are so excited to offer these classes to help our children learn stories from the Bible and practice their prayers. Each week they are busy creating art projects, learning stories, and visiting the chapel.

Our second-grade students recently made their First Reconciliation on November 6, 2023. They spent the Fall preparing for the sacrament using our Blessed Program and came together fully prepared to celebrate. We had 84 children receive First Reconciliation. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their preparation for First Eucharist in the Spring.

We have 120 eighth and ninth grade students preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring. Moving forward, our eighth-grade students will receive Confirmation each year. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at Masses on June 3 and 4, 2024.

Mandy Hart

Youth Ministry News

This year our youth ministry has been one of firsts. Fr. Kelly has taken over for Fr. Clark as the youth minister at the parish. We are now using Lifeteen's Edge curriculum for the teens of the parish to better know Jesus and the basics of our faith as given in the Catechism. This Fall, we have been looking at the moral quality of virtue and how we need Jesus to help us grow in virtue and turn away from sin. So far, we have had many different students from both All Saints School and our Parish School of Religion attend our Monday Night Sessions. Also new in youth ministry this year is a High School Girls Bible study that meets twice a month on Wednesdays. This group formed from one of our teens approaching Fr. Kelly and asking for a Catholic bible study for girls her age. With the help of the Youth Ministry Core Team this group has been meeting since September. For more information on what is happening in youth ministry and to sign up for our weekly emails, visit sjvmentor.org/yg.

All Saints School—Off to Another Great Start

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

~Mother Teresa

Our school theme for this year is a simple yet profound one: “Do Small Things with Great Love.” These words, inspired by the life and teachings of Mother Teresa, encapsulate the essence of our mission as a Catholic school and guide us in our journey of faith, learning, and service.

In a world that often seems filled with big challenges and grand expectations, it can be easy to overlook the power of small acts of kindness and love. However, it is these small gestures that can have a profound impact on our lives and the lives of those around us. When we embrace the idea of doing small things with great love, we open our hearts to the transformative power of compassion and generosity.

At All Saints School, we believe that each student is a unique and precious gift from God, and it is our responsibility to nurture their growth in faith, knowledge, and character. Our theme challenges us all, students, parents, and educators alike, to look for opportunities to make a difference in the world through acts of love and kindness, no matter how small they

may seem.

Parents play a crucial role in nurturing this spirit of love and service in their children. By modeling compassion and empathy in their own lives, parents provide their children a powerful example to follow. It is important for parents to encourage their children to seek out opportunities to serve others, to be a friend to those in need, and to always approach life with

an open heart.

This school year, we will encourage all of the students, staff, and families of All Saints School to remember that it is not the size of the gesture that matters most, but the love and intention behind it. As a community, we will strive to create an environment where love and kindness are not just words but lived experiences.

The entire All Saints School community came together on September 21 for the opening school Mass. What made this Mass truly special was the dedicated efforts of Miss Prohaska, and the impressive leadership of our 8th grade students.

Our 8th grade students demonstrated their leadership, responsibility, and deep commitment to their faith and school. The Mass set a positive tone for the entire school year, reminding us of the importance of faith, unity, and community.

After mass, the students and staff were blessed with an ice cream treat from

East Coast Custard, thanks to Fr. Johns. Needless to say, it was a pretty incredible day for us all!



Our New Teachers Begin with Enthusiasm

It is with great enthusiasm that we introduce you to the newest members of the All Saints School team!

With a fervor for history and a deep-rooted commitment to empowering young minds, **Mr. Oswald** comes to our school community as a beacon of knowledge and inspiration.

Mr. Oswald's enthusiasm for social studies is contagious, and his dynamic teaching style promises to make history come alive within the classroom.

With a heart full of dedication and a genuine love for teaching, **Mrs. Howald** joins our school community as an invaluable asset to our 2nd grade students. Mrs. Howald brings a wealth of experience and a unique blend

of warmth and enthusiasm to her role. Her passion for guiding young learners shines through her creative teaching methods, fostering a safe and vibrant classroom where every child feels valued and eager to learn.

Miss Kaminiski is set to make a positive

impact on the educational journey of her 5th grade students. She believes in cultivating an inclusive and supportive classroom, where every student's voice is heard and respected. She aims to empower her students to become confident and independent learners.

Mrs. Grcar's passion for fostering a love of learning is evident in her every interaction with her students. With a background in early childhood learning, she brings a wealth of experience that will surely enrich the educational journey of our youngest learners. Her creative teaching methods are designed to captivate young minds and lay the foundation for a lifelong curiosity for knowledge.

We are honored to have all of these teachers on our team!



Kristy Howald, Nicole Grcar, Rebecca Kaminski, Todd Oswald

THE BIRTH OF *Christ*

2023 Christmas Season Schedule

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vigil Mass, Saturday, December 23 at 4pm

Sunday, December 24 at 7:30, 9 & 10:30am

NO 12:15PM MASS ON THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS EVE—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Mass at 4, 6 & 10pm in the Church

NO 4pm CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT LAKE CATHOLIC

CHRISTMAS DAY—MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Mass at 8 & 10am and 12pm in the Church

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Vigil Mass, Saturday, December 30 at 4pm

Holy Family, Sunday, December 31 at 7:30, 9 & 10:30am
and 12:15pm

MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

NO HOLY DAY VIGIL MASS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Monday, January 1, 2024, New Year's Day Mass
at 8 and 11am

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 3 at 7pm

Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Advent Communal
Penance Service

Wednesday,
Dec. 13, 7–8pm

Saturday,
Dec. 16, 2:30–3:45pm

Wednesday,
Dec. 20, 6:30–8:00pm
(during Advent XLT)

**COMING
SOON**

WE GIVE CATHOLIC 2023 TAKES PLACE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

We Give Catholic is 24 hours of fun and fundraising hosted by the Catholic Community Foundation. This is a day dedicated to giving thanks and giving back. If you have been blessed, be a blessing to others through your support of St. John Vianney Parish. Go to the parish website sjvmentor.org on November 28 and click on the link to We Give Catholic. Donate to the parish to give thanks to God for what the parish has made available to you and your loved ones for the past 54 years!

WELCOME BACK FATHER MARTY DOBER!

Fr. Marty Dober, parochial vicar of SJV for 2019–23, will visit the parish on Christmas Eve to celebrate the 6pm Mass in the Church. Fr. Dober is home from Rome for a few days to visit family and friends. He will soon complete his first semester of studies at the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome. He is doing well and is looking forward to the chance to celebrate Mass with us once again.

THE HOOLEY

Sunday, March 3, 3pm in the Fr. Kline Social Center. Ticket sales begin in January.

