

WHO WE ARE



Rev. Thomas Kennell, Pastor



Dcn. Timothy Warner



Don. Earl Mirus



Sr. Grace Ford, Er. Dio - Principal

Mass Schedule Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil | 4:30pm Sunday | 8:15am & 10:45am

Daily Mass

Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 8:15am Tuesday, Thursday | 5:30pm First Saturdays | 9:00 Latin *Novus Ordo*

Adoration

First Fridays | 9am-5pm

Confession

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 4:30-5:20pm Saturdays | 3:00-4:15pm Second Sundays | After Each Mass To schedule a confession, email

To schedule a confession, email confession@saintjohnpc.org. Emails are confidential and go directly to Fr. Kennell

Flocknote Text STJ to 84576

Receive text message or email announcements

Parish Council

Christine Macejka Diane Skoriak Steve Shea Olivia Clemons Marilyn Percy Rob Griffith John Maceluch Jr. Lonn Blankenship Register as a Member Visit the parish office

To register as a parishioner, contact the parish office for a registration card

Parish Staff
Parish Office - 850-763-1821
saintjohnpc@saintjohnpc.org
Open Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm

Grace Griffith | Secretary
Lynn Sokoloski | Facilities Manager
Heather Hanna | Event Coordinator
Jera Blanchard-Towns | Family & Children's Catechesis
Dot Wagner | Coordinator of Youth Formation
Nick Labrie | Director of Mission Operations
Me-Gan Vu | Director of Sacred Music

Bulletin Requests: Please email bulletin@saintjohnpc.org. Submissions are due by noon on Mondays.
Bulletin Ad Requests: To publish an ad in the back of our bulletin, contact Mary Frericks at 404-771-2564 or MFrericks@Diocesan.com

Finance Council

Chris Brooks | Finance Council Chair
Jackie Fowler Dcn. Earl Mirus Sean McNeil
Tim Wheeler Sr. Grace Ford Donna Couchigian

SACRAMENTAL QUESTIONS?

Children | Through 5th Grade
Jera Blanchard-Towns | Children's Catechesis
jera.blanchard-towns@saintjohnpc.org

Contact for questions regarding Baptism, First Communion, First Reconciliation, & Living Liturgically (formation program for grades K-5)

Youth | Grades 6-12 Dot Wagner | Youth Formation youth@saintjohnpc.org

Contact for Confirmation and questions regarding Catholic Student Ministries (CSM)

Adults | 18+
Fr. Thomas Kennell | Pastor
catholicism@saintjohnpc.org

Contact for questions regarding Adult Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion

Visiting the Sick/Homebound - please call the parish office to set up a visit with a priest or lay person to bring communion or check on a homebound person

Anointing of the Sick - call the parish office at any time

Holy Matrimony - contact the parish office six months prior to your anticipated wedding date

*The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee encourages anyone who may have been abused by any clergy person, employee, or volunteer in ministry with the Church, or who knows of such abuse, to contact local law enforcement or the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873) and Shannon D. Mullen, Ph.D. CSAT at 229-233-8009. Español - Dcn. Santiago Molina, 850-222-6482

ABIDE & GROW

Stewardship Campaign Report

Thank you to all who have participated so generously in our Abide & Grow Stewardship Campaign. We are grateful to report that over 30 percent of our parish households have responded, resulting in more than ninety thousand dollars in new or increased offertory commitments. Thank you! Your generosity strengthens our ability to respond to the parish's growth and supports the continued financial health of our community.

For those who have not yet had the chance to participate, a final letter with a personalized Commitment Card will be mailed to you soon. We warmly invite every household to take part, as our goal is full parish participation. Cards may be returned by mail, brought to Mass, or completed electronically online. Please return all cards by Sunday, January 18.

Electronic giving is a simple and secure way to support. You can set up recurring gifts or make a one-time donation directly through our website.

Thank you again for your generosity and for helping our parish respond to the growth God is bringing here.



Rediscovering Latin in Our Advent Worship

You have likely noticed that, as we did in Lent, we have been singing the ordinary Mass parts in Latin this Advent. The ordinary parts of the Mass are the prayers that remain the same each week: the *Kyrie*, *Gloria* (which is omitted in Advent & Lent), *Sanctus*, and *Agnus Dei*. They are called "ordinary" because, unlike much of the Mass, these prayers do not change week to week and thus are especially fitting for a common language that all Catholics can learn and sing together. For generations the Church has encouraged the use of Latin for these stable parts of the liturgy so that the faithful can participate with a shared voice no matter where they worship.

Latin has a special place in our Catholic faith. It is a sacred language used in our worship for centuries, a language that has shaped the prayer life of countless saints. Even though the Mass is most commonly celebrated today in our local languages, the Church has never intended for Latin to fade from our liturgical life. Its steady, reverent character helps remind us that the liturgy connects us with Catholics throughout the world and throughout history.

This is why the Second Vatican Council, in *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, stated that that "the use of the Latin language is to be preserved" and that the faithful should be able to "say or sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them." The Council fathers desired that Catholics remain familiar with these basic liturgical prayers in Latin so that no matter where we find ourselves, be it Rome, Africa, Asia, or another parish down the road, we can join in the Church's universal prayer with ease.

Advent and Lent are especially good moments to lean into this tradition. Both are seasons of preparation and quiet reflection, times when the Church invites us to step back from our usual routines and focus more intentionally on prayer. Singing the Mass parts in Latin gently signals that these seasons are meant to be different and that we are being invited into deeper silence and expectation.

By using Latin for the ordinary parts of the Mass, we are joining our voices to the wider Church and allowing this shared language to enrich our prayer. May this practice during Advent, and again during Lent, help us enter more fully into the mysteries we celebrate and draw us closer to Christ in a spirit of reverence, unity, and hope.

Nick Labrie Director of Mission Operations

ON THE COVER

The Annunciation, Attributed to Ciro Ferri, 17th Century

The Annunciation is one of the most profound moments in the story of our salvation: the moment when God enters human history in the womb of the Virgin Mary. In the cover painting attributed to the 17th-century Baroque artist Ciro Ferri, we are invited to contemplate this mystery not simply as an event of the past, but as a living truth that forms the heart of Christian faith. The Incarnation, Jesus taking flesh, is the hinge of salvation history, the moment when divine love becomes visible, vulnerable, and near.

In Ferri's rendering, the angel Gabriel approaches Mary with dynamic motion characteristic of the Baroque period. A beam of light, representing the Holy Spirit, often descends toward Mary, reminding us that the Incarnation is God's initiative, pure gift. Mary, usually shown kneeling or pausing from her reading, receives this heavenly message with a mixture of humility and openness. Her simple domestic setting highlights an essential Christian truth: God enters the ordinary and transforms it from within.

The painting also communicates theology through symbolic details. Mary is traditionally clothed in blue, signifying heavenly grace, and red, pointing toward Christ's future suffering. A lily represents her purity, while an open book suggests her meditation on Scripture, the very Word that is about to become flesh. The interplay of light and shadow emphasizes the breakthrough of divine grace into a world waiting for redemption. Through composition, gesture, and color, the artwork teaches that the Incarnation is both a divine miracle and a profoundly human encounter.

For Catholics, the Annunciation is more than an inspiring moment; it is the foundation of sacramental life. Because God became flesh, Christ shares our humanity and offers us his divinity. In the Eucharist, we receive the Body that first took shape in Mary's womb. Ferri's painting gently directs our hearts toward this connection, from the quiet room in Nazareth to the altar of every parish church, where Emmanuel, God-with-us, continues to dwell among his people.

As we reflect on this painting, we are invited to imitate Mary's response to God. Her fiat, "Let it be done to me," is a model for our own discipleship. In our homes, workplaces, and parish life, God still speaks, still invites, still enters the ordinary. May our hearts, like Mary's, be open to receive Christ, and may the mystery of the Annunciation renew our gratitude for a God who loved us enough to take on our flesh and walk among us.









UPCOMING & NOTEWORTHY

Help Decorate the Church Volunteers Needed Today

If you would like to assist with decorating the Church for Christmas following the 10:45am Mass today, Dec 21, please call Heather at (520) 289-9846.

Community Christmas Dinner Serving Those in Need | Today, 3pm

St. John is hosting a Christmas dinner for needy persons and families on Dec. 21, at 3pm in the Parish Hall. To volunteer or make a donation supporting this event, please contact Susan McNiel at (404) 825-8648, or by email at sshehans1@gmail.com.

Holiday Early Bulletin Deadlines Next Deadline | Dec 22

If your ministry group needs an announcement placed in the bulletin, please note that we have received early deadlines from the publisher surrounding the holidays. For the bulletin of January 4, please notify the Parish Office of your request by 12/22. Thank you!

Blessing of the Wine Dec 27 | After 4:30pm Mass

Join us in the parish hall after the Vigil Mass on Saturday, Dec 27, for the blessing of the wine in honor of the feast day of our patron, St. John. Fr. Kennell will bless any wine parishioners bring. The Council of Catholic Women will provide wine and light h'ors doerves.

January Women's Social Jan 3 | 10am-12pm

Join us for our next Women's Social on the first Saturday of January at 10am in the parish hall! Our event will be a dance lesson, led by Amanda from PC Kicks. Wear comfy clothing as we learn to dance. All experience levels welcome!

2026 Jubilee Mass Dates Celebrate with Bishop Wack

Sacramentally married couples celebrating their 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or any year beyond 50, are invited to a special liturgy with the Bishop. Register below:





Tallahassee Pensacola

Events this Week

Sunday, December 21

9:30-10:30am - OCIA Class in parish officeCoffee & Donuts - In parish hall after both Masses3:00pm - Christmas dinner for those in need in parish hall

Tuesday, December 23

6:15pm - Catholic in Recovery in parish office

**Encounter on break until January

Wednesday, December 24 - Office Closed

No Daily Mass the morning of Christmas Eve

4:00pm - Christmas Vigil Mass

6:30pm - Christmas Vigil Mass

12:00am - Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25 - Office Closed

10:00am - Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 27

9:00am - Mass, Feast of St. John the Evangelist

5:30pm - Blessing of the Wine in parish hall

Sunday, December 28

**No OCIA Class today in parish office

Coffee & Donuts - In parish hall after both Masses

First Communion Preparation Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist

Our First Communion program is for all families with a (baptized) child in grades 2-5. The program includes date nights for parents, family time, community events and a day retreat. To register or learn more, contact Jera at jera.blanchard-towns@saintjohnpc.org.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults Sundays 9:30-10:30am | Parish Office

Considering becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith? Contact Deacon Tim Warner at (850) 596-2974 to learn more!

Note: There will be no OCIA class held on December 28.

Choir InterestMusic Ministry

Christmas rehearsals start soon! You can participate in choir for special holy seasons, or around the year. For

minors (17 & under), please contact music@saintjohnpc.org directly before scheduling an audition. Please scan the codes below:



Music Ministry and Choir Interest Form https://forms.gle/g3gM rLkwPJese9jp8



Open (Informal) Choir Auditions Sign-Up https://calendly.com/musicsaintjohnpc/choir-auditions

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study Fall 2025

In the Parish Office

Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Contact Warren Phillips at (850) 896-0801. We are on break for the holidays after December 10th. 2026 schedule coming soon!

Women's Bible Study Fall 2025

Starting Again January 7th | Parish Office

Contemplate the Life of Jesus through our study based around "The Chosen". Join us to watch, discuss, and grow closer to the Lord! Contact Kathy Kidd: (850) 814-7747, or Martha Cordell: (850) 814-4619 for more info! Join us when we meet again after the holidays on January 7th.

Men's Coffee & Bible Study in PCB

Mondays | 7-7:50am

Starbucks on US-98 & R. Jackson

Join the men of St. John for fellowship and Bible Study before the workday starts! For more information, contact Curt Simmons at (615) 617-9119. We continue to meet during the holidays.

EXPERIENCED PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCED PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCED PRESCHOOL TEACHER Do you have a heart for children and a gift for teaching? We're looking for an experienced preschool teacher to join our community. Share your skills, creativity, and love of learning while helping little ones grow in knowledge and faith. Preschool/early childhood teaching experience required Passion for nurturing children in a faith-filled environment Strong communication and classroom management skills Apply today by scanning the QR code below or emailing to employment@sjseagles.org.

Join us in Prayer

To add anyone to the prayer list, please visit saintjohnpc.org/prayer-request. Prayer requests will be in the bulletin for a month/as requested.

Healing

Cora Smith, Louis Sexton, Kathleen McDermott

Mass Intentions

To request a Mass for a loved one, please call or visit the parish office

Saturday, December 20, 2025

4:30pm......Fr. Kennell & Diocesan Clergy by CCW

Sunday, December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15am.....†Helen Sabo by the Turner Family

10:45am.....People of the Parish

Monday, December 22, 2025 8:15am.....†Doug Stringer by the Family

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

5:30pm.....The Skoriak Family by Diane Skoriak

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00pm......†Larry Keller

by Chuck & Charlotte Dickey

6:30pm.....†John Soares by Joyce Soares

12:00am.....People of the Parish

Thursday, December 25, 2025

10:00am.....†Jimmie Carroll

Friday, December 26, 2025

8:15am.....†Jimmie Carroll by Connie Bane

Saturday, December 27, 2025

9:00am.....†Zoe Fidelis Labrie

4:30pm.....People of the Parish

Sunday, December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:15am.....Ken & Anita Thomas

-Happy Anniversary!

10:45am....Lucy Rodriguez & Steven Rodriguez by their mother, Lucy Rodriguez

Scripture Readings, Week of Dec 21, 2025

Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7;

Mt 1:18-24

Mon 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;

Lk 1:46-56

Tues Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14;

Lk 1:57-66

Wed 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;

Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79

Thur The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3,

11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-

4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Fri Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,

16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22

Sat Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Sun The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

Adoration (St. Dominic)

St. Dom Parish Office....850-785-4574 St. Dominic's has a perpetual adoration chapel. Contact their parish office for the door code or to sign-up for a weekly hour

Association of St. Jude

Don Rauscher.....850-271-3365

Carmelites

Angie Cirabisi.....317-526-8614

Catholic in Recovery

Diane......850-541-3326 Wayne......850-532-0421 Open for all who are in recovery from any

form of unhealthy attachment

Council of Catholic Women

Susie Prather......281-844-0844

Fishers of Men (St. Dominic)

Stephen Butler..............850-832-6434 Twice monthly breakfast on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 8:30-10:30am at St. Dominic's MC3 building. Breakfasts will resume in January.

Knights of Columbus

Mike Tierney......850-319-1945

Lending Library

Located in the parish office (M-Th 9-3)

Men's Club

Lee Fry......850-867-3916

Men's Bible Study

Warren Phillips......850-896-0801

Ministry to the Sick

Contact the parish office to arrange for the Eucharist to be brought to anyone who is sick or homebound

Mission 850

850mission@gmail.com

Provides disaster relief services and hosts service projects every 2nd Saturday of the month

Morning Rosary

Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 7:30-8am (before Mass)

Music Ministry

Me-Gan Vu.....music@saintjohnpc.org

Scan the code to fill out the interest form for joining the choir/music team. Email Me-Gan directly for minors interested in joining.



Rachel's Vineyard

904-221-3232......rachelsvineyard.org Retreats for women and men looking to renew hearts broken by abortion

The Third Option

A program for couples & individuals to help their relationships flourish. Fall schedule coming soon.

Women's Morning Bible Study

Women's Socials

heather.hanna@saintjohnpc.org
Typically on the first Saturday of the
month, from 10am-noon in the parish hall.
The next social will be January 3rd.

Young Professional Fellowship

Scan the QR code to join the GroupMe to stay up-to-date on bible studies & gatherings





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"When Caring Counts" Greg Brudnicki - Parishioner

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