

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

833 Main Street
Agawam, MA 01001

www.stjohnagawam.com

sje.information@gmail.com

Office Phone: 413-786-8105 | Fax: 413-455-3100



Welcome!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,
No matter what your family or marital situation,
No matter what your past or present religious affiliation,
No matter what your personal history, background, race or other,
No matter what your own self-image or esteem,
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at St. John's.

EUCCHARIST:

Lord's Day Mass: *Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Ordinary Form) & 1:30 pm (Extraordinary Form)*
Weekday Mass: Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday at 8:00 am & Wednesday at 6:00 pm | Adoration: Wed. 12:00 - 6:00 pm

CONFESSION: Saturday 2:45 to 3:45 pm, Wednesday 4:30 to 5:30 pm, or by Appointment.

BAPTISM: Please call Deacon Dave Picard through the parish office to schedule.

MARRIAGE: To be arranged at least one year in advance. Please call the office.

ANOIDTING OF THE SICK: Is available in the Confessional every Saturday or see Father after Mass. If you or a loved one needs Father to come to you, please call the parish office.

CONFIRMATION: Takes place in 11th Grade, please contact the Director of Religious Education to enroll in classes. If you are an adult and need to make your Confirmation, please contact the same office and ask about the RCIA program.

HOLY ORDERS: Are you thinking about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life? Please call Fr. Pierz at the parish office, or call the Office of Vocations at (413) 452-0811.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: *We are a Roman Catholic community inspired by the Holy Spirit to follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by sharing, growing and spreading God the Father's love through our parish ministries, and by coming together as a community in meaningful prayer and worship to celebrate that love.*

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 13, 2020

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As the Lord is kind and merciful, so should we be forgiving toward one another. Our forgiveness is to be without limit and so reflect Christ's eternal love. He alone is Lord.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday - Closed

Pastor: Fr. Michael Pierz
sje.priest@gmail.com

Curate: Fr. Barrent Pease
sje.curate@gmail.com

Deacon: Deacon Dave Picard
sje.deacon@gmail.com

Priest in Residence: Fr. Sinh Trinh

Priest in Retirement: Fr. John Lis

Office Manager: Andreana Perkins
sje.operationsmanager@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Sandy Ross
sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com

Reception Volunteer: Mary Talarico

Pastoral Ministry to Sick & Homebound:
Francesca Brandt
sje.homebound@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Claire Riberdy
sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry: Isabella Manning
sje.musicdirector@gmail.com

Maintenance Supervisor: Anthony Fernandes
sje.maintenance@gmail.com

Child Advocate: Mary Beth Swindell
Private Line: (860) 386-6009

Finance Council:

Alfred Casella (Chair)	Charles Calisti
Ted Muszynski	David Ross
Joseph Searles	Mary Socha

Pastoral Council:

Judy Cross-Donahue (Chair)	Ben Auld
Craig Bourque	Dale Marie Breault
Mikie Cook	Leo Marinak
James Perkins	Sarah Ross
Jane Seaver	Debbie Whitehead

Bulletin Submissions are due 9 days prior to print
Email: sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

With great joy I share with you the happy news that our parish has received all necessary permissions to offer our Pre-School ministry, operating in the Pastoral Center, accepting and enrolling participants this month!

We had a constructive visit from our town's building inspector as well as facilities professionals. Now our Pre-School teams will complete the final steps of logistics, curricula, and communications, and the doors of the gym will be open for a daily program throughout the week offering an enriching encounter for our families and children. As soon as our Pre-School teams have tightened up the loose ends, hopefully within the next week or so, we'll announce the opening day!

I enjoyed my visit with our Faith Formation study group on the Holy Mass with Bishop Robert Barron led by Mikie Cook. It has been great to see the Pastoral Center coming to life with these edifying, faith-based programs. Thank you to all those who are taking part in it and building up this parish in faith, study, and action. God be praised!

You are invited to spend time in these activities or to simply rest in the Lord with our time of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. At the moment, the church is open for prayer and reflection with our Eucharistic Lord every Wednesday from 12 to 6:00. If we can fill more hours with dedicated adorers, it would be exciting to offer Adoration more throughout the week. Please let our Adoration Coordinator and Parish Office know if you'd like to take part!

I'm also encouraged by some of our altar servers who were recently promoted to Junior Sacristans in preparing for Adoration, Sunday Mass, weddings and funerals. While we cannot yet have Altar Servers assisting in the sanctuary, there is a lot of preparation and behind-the-scenes work that goes into the liturgies every week. Thank you to our Head Sacristans, Pat and Rose, our Environmental Sacristans, Shirley, Judy, Karen, and Diane, our Sacristans Rachel and Stanley, and congratulations to these Junior Sacristans, Adam, Aidan, and Ernie!

Finally, congratulations are raised joyfully and eagerly for James and Isabella Manning, married from the parish last week! Bella serves as our Director of Music Ministry, and this time, the bells and music were ringing for her and her husband as they received this great Sacrament of Marriage. Ad Multos Annos!

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, September 12th

4:00 pm Josephine L. Ricco †

Requested by Her Family

Sunday, September 13th

8:00 am Anna Cecelia Sullivan †

Requested by Her Niece Barbara

10:30 am Edna Lavoie-38th Anniversary †

Requested by Her Daughter Annette

1:30 pm (EF) For the People

Monday, September 14th-The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 am John Seo †

Requested by His Family

Tuesday, September 15th-Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 am The Donahue Family †

Requested by Family

Wednesday, September 16th-Sts. Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

6:00 pm Laura Roy †

Requested by Her Daughter Marialyse

Thursday, September 17th-St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Paul Kennedy-23rd Anniversary †

Requested by Elaine

Friday, September 18th

8:00 am Eligio Adamski †

Requested by Helene & Little Ed Szewczyk

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, September 19th

4:00 pm Rocco & Angela Giuggio †

Requested by Their Family

Sunday, September 20th

8:00 am Robert Komosa-20th Anniversary †

Requested by His Family

10:30 am Rosa Touchette †

Requested by Her Husband

1:30 pm (EF) For the People

SANCTUARY LAMP

SEPTEMBER 13TH —SEPTEMBER 19TH

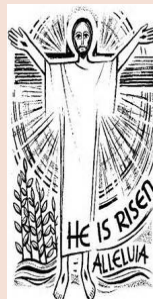
WILL BE LIT IN MEMORY OF

ROSA TOUCHETTE

REQUESTED BY HER HUSBAND

If you would like to request the Sanctuary Candle to be lit in honor of or in memory of someone, please contact the parish office.

Please remember in your prayers: Please pray



for the sick and dying of our parish. Remember all who are in hospitals, nursing homes and homebound. Pray for the hungry, the unemployed and under-employed. Pray for an end to abortion and a true respect for all life, from conception to natural death.

Pray for peace. In a concrete way we pray for all those who have died and all the deceased members of the parish.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

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

Note: If you would like to include someone who has recently passed away, please call the parish office or email: sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com.

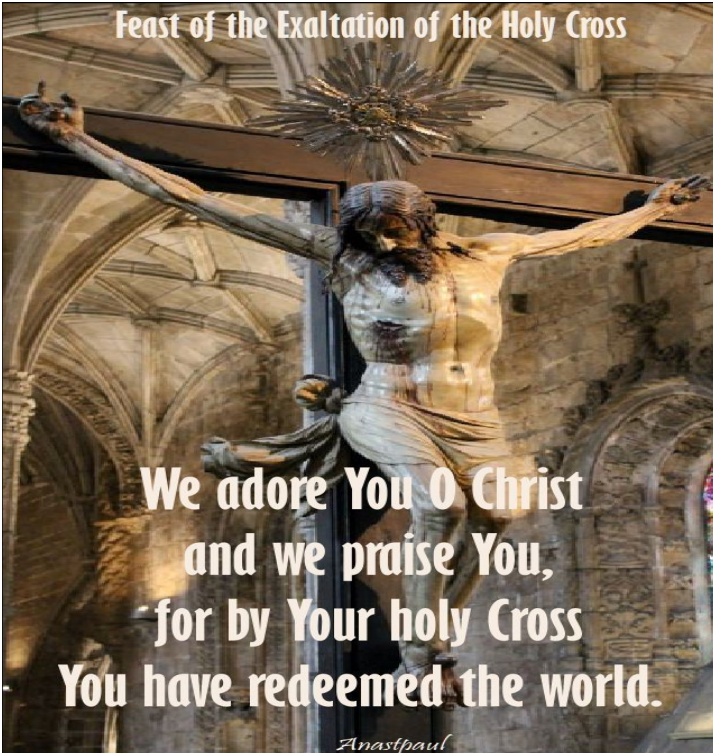
IN MY MOTHER'S ARMS PRAYER LINE:

If you have a serious intention that you need prayers for: surgery, sufferings, medical, illness, cancer treatment, a sick child, or anything like that, please give Pat (786-3023) or Mary (786-9671) a call and you will have countless rosaries and prayers.



If anyone else is interested in being a prayer partner, please call Pat or Mary.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



We adore You O Christ
and we praise You,
for by Your holy Cross
You have redeemed the world.

Anastpaul



**THE CATHOLIC LIFE CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCES OCT 11-17
AT HOME CONFERENCE**

This day is for YOU—and it is now online and free! The Catholic Life Conference, originally scheduled for March 21, 2020, has been rescheduled and reshaped--and is ready to be delivered in a format just for you! Hear our exciting speakers, participate in a live Q&A, receive your Conference To Go Bag, and best of all, come together with other Catholics in our diocese, asking together, “Why Are YOU Catholic?”

You can still register! It's free! Go to catholiclifeconference.org to 1) register for the first time, 2) request a refund or use your already paid fee for a Conference To Go Bag with great options for extras, and 3) join our Catholic family from your home or parish— all the talks and extras will be a click away. The conference will also be available on DVD, CD, and in Spanish.

Ministry to Sick & Homebound
413-786-8105 ext. 105

PASTORAL MINISTRY HOURS:
Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm.

Please leave your name and phone number, including area code, with a brief message if non-urgent. I will return your call as soon as I am able. ALL other calls requiring a priest, speak with our Parish Secretary, Sandy. Blessings and thank you for your patience.

FOOD GIFT CARDS: Your generosity of free will giving is gratefully appreciated by these families in their time of need. Thank you all for who you are and what you do in the name of Jesus Our Lord.

PRAYER SHAWLS: If you have a family member, friend, or know a person who is in need of extra comforting care, please feel free to contact our Prayer Shawl Ministry under Ministry to Sick & Homebound. Call Francesca at 413-786-8105 ext. 105. Leave a message and I will get back to you. Only requirement is that the Shawl must be picked up by the person requesting same, and delivered to the person in need of this comfort. There will be a Prayer Card placed with shawl of the knitter who crafted this shawl of prayerful love.

BEREAVEMENT: If you have experienced any loss and are in need of Spiritual consoling, please call the Parish Office at 786-8105 ext. 105 for direct line to Pastoral Minister, Francesca. Please leave your name, phone number, including area code, with a message for a return call. All calls are confidential. Blessings.

HERITAGE WOODS: No participation at this time.

HERITAGE HALLS: No participation at this time at all campuses.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: If someone is at home and unable to have their own hands on experience with Our Lord Jesus because of illness or decline in movements because of restrictions, please, if you feel this will help, call me, so that I can reach out to the person and until I can once again visit in person. I will make a personal phone call where we can get to know each other, share our fears, hopes and spiritual likes, if any, and pray together. I will read the Gospel of the day to the infirmed.

HOSPITAL VISITS: HIPAA Medical Law restrict access to patient admittance information. Please call the Parish Office if you have a family member admitted to a local hospital in need of a visit by Father Pierz. Follow up in-house visits will be provided per Francesca.

Congratulations to Isabella Moser & James Manning on your recent wedding here at St. John the Evangelist!

Bella Moser, our very own Music Director here, was married at St. John's on Saturday, September 5th, 2020 to James Manning, a fellow parishioner. We wish them love, health, holiness, and happiness as they begin their new life together as husband and wife in the bond of matrimony.



*"The communion of love between God and people, a fundamental part of the Revelation and faith experience of Israel, finds a meaningful expression in the marriage covenant which is established between a man and a woman ... Spouses are therefore the permanent reminder to the Church of what happened on the Cross; they are for one another and for the children witnesses to the salvation in which the sacrament makes them sharers. Of this salvation event marriage, like every sacrament, is a memorial, actuation and prophecy: "As a memorial, the sacrament gives them the grace and duty of commemorating the great works of God and of bearing witness to them before their children. As actuation, it gives them the grace and duty of putting into practice in the present, towards each other and their children, the demands of a love which forgives and redeems. As prophecy, it gives them the grace and duty of living and bearing witness to the hope of the future encounter with Christ." - Pope St. John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio* 12-13.)*



*"The Eucharist is the very source of Christian marriage. The Eucharistic Sacrifice, in fact, represents Christ's covenant of love with the Church, sealed with His blood on the Cross. [In this sacrifice of the New and Eternal Covenant, Christian spouses encounter the source from which their own marriage covenant flows, is interiorly structured and continuously renewed. As a representation of Christ's sacrifice of love for the Church, the Eucharist is a fountain of charity. In the Eucharistic gift of charity the Christian family finds the foundation and soul of its "communion" and its "mission": by partaking in the Eucharistic bread, the different members of the Christian family become one body, which reveals and shares in the wider unity of the Church. Their sharing in the Body of Christ that is "given up" and in His Blood that is "shed" becomes a never-ending source of missionary and apostolic dynamism for the Christian family." - Pope St. John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, 57.)*



NEWLY ORDAINED RESIDENT PRIEST FR. SINH TRINH OFFERS FIRST BLESSINGS AFTER MASS



We are pleased to welcome Fr. Sinh Trinh as a newly ordained priest! He is stationed at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Springfield, with residence at St. John the Evangelist.

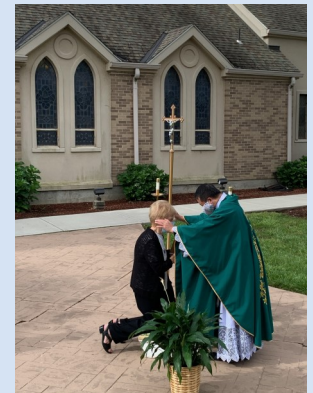
How blessed we are to host him!

He celebrated the 8am Mass with us on Sunday, August 27th, and offered First Blessings after the Mass.

"Thanks to the people here in this parish — because of their prayers I am here today."

- Fr. Sinh Trinh

BE SURE TO GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME WHEN YOU SEE HIM AROUND CAMPUS!



2021 Mass Book & Sanctuary Lamp Intentions



The 2021 Mass Book & Sanctuary Lamp Intentions will open on Thursday, October 1st, this year.

In order for everyone to be able to schedule Masses for their intentions and loved ones, only one weekend and two weekday Masses can be booked for the first three weeks the Mass Book is open. More details in the Bulletin to follow.



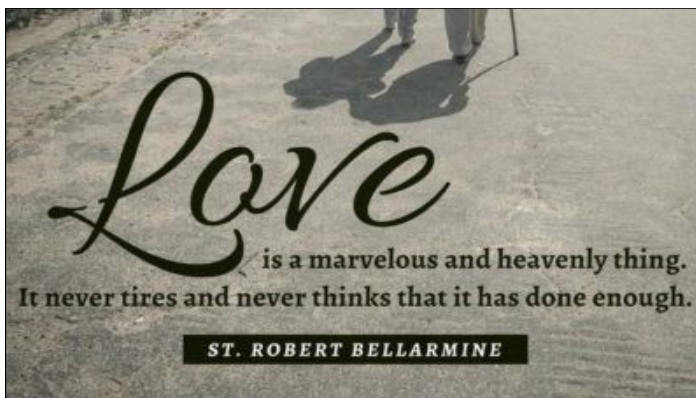
A Brief Catechism for Catholic Voters

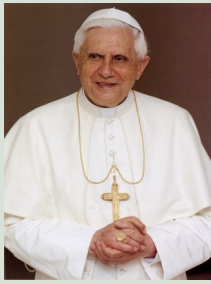
A six-week series of Questions and Answers to Prepare the Catholic Voter

IS IT MORALLY PERMISSIBLE TO VOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES OF A SINGLE PARTY?

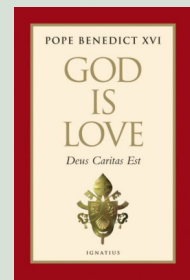
This would depend on the positions held by the candidates of a single party. If any one or more of them held positions that were opposed to the natural moral law, then it would not be morally permissible to vote for all candidates of this one party. Your correctly informed conscience transcends the bounds of any one political party.

(Fr. Stephen F. Torraco, **A Brief Catechism for Catholic Voters**, 2. EWTN, <https://www.ewtn.com/vote/brief-catechism.asp>)





ENCYCLICAL LETTER
DEUS CARITAS EST
OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF
BENEDICT XVI
TO THE BISHOPS
PRIESTS AND DEACONS
MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS
AND ALL THE LAY FAITHFUL
ON CHRISTIAN LOVE



Love of God and love of neighbour

18. Love of neighbour is thus shown to be possible in the way proclaimed by the Bible, by Jesus. It consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God, an encounter which has become a communion of will, even affecting my feelings. Then I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend. Going beyond exterior appearances, I perceive in others an interior desire for a sign of love, of concern. This I can offer them not only through the organizations intended for such purposes, accepting it perhaps as a political necessity. Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave. Here we see the necessary interplay between love of God and love of neighbour which the *First Letter of John* speaks of with such insistence. If I have no contact whatsoever with God in my life, then I cannot see in the other anything more than the other, and I am incapable of seeing in him the image of God. But if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be “devout” and to perform my “religious duties”, then my relationship with God will also grow arid. It becomes merely “proper”, but loveless. Only my readiness to encounter my neighbour and to show him love makes me sensitive to God as well. Only if I serve my neighbour can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me. The saints—consider the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta—constantly renewed their capacity for love of neighbour from their encounter with the Eucharistic Lord, and conversely this encounter acquired its real-ism and depth in their service to others. Love of God and love of neighbour are thus inseparable, they form a single commandment. But both live from the love of God who has loved us first. No longer is it a question, then, of a “commandment” imposed from without and calling for the impossible, but rather of a freely-bestowed experience of love from within, a love which by its very nature must then be shared with others. Love grows through love. Love is “divine” because it comes from God and unites us to God; through this unifying process it makes us a “we” which transcends our divisions and makes us one, until in the end God is “all in all” (*1 Cor 15:28*).

PART II
THE PRACTICE OF LOVE
BY THE CHURCH
AS A “COMMUNITY OF LOVE”

The Church's charitable activity as a manifestation of Trinitarian love

19. “If you see charity, you see the Trinity”, wrote Saint Augustine. In the foregoing reflections, we have been able to focus our attention on the Pierced one (cf. *Jn 19:37, Zech 12:10*), recognizing the plan of the Father who, moved by love (cf. *Jn 3:16*), sent his only-begotten Son into the world to redeem man. By dying on the Cross—as Saint John tells us—Jesus “gave up his Spirit” (*Jn 19:30*), anticipating the gift of the Holy Spirit that he would make after his Resurrection (cf. *Jn 20:22*). This was to fulfil the promise of “rivers of living water” that would flow out of the hearts of believers, through the outpouring of the Spirit (cf. *Jn 7:38-39*). The Spirit, in fact, is that interior power which harmonizes their hearts with Christ's heart and moves them to love their brethren as Christ loved them, when he bent down to wash the feet of the disciples (cf. *Jn 13:1-13*) and above all when he gave his life for us (cf. *Jn 13:1, 15:13*).

The Spirit is also the energy which transforms the heart of the ecclesial community, so that it becomes a witness before the world to the love of the Father, who wishes to make humanity a single family in his Son. The entire activity of the Church is an expression of a love that seeks the integral good of man: it seeks his evangelization through Word and Sacrament, an undertaking that is often heroic in the way it is acted out in history; and it seeks to promote man in the various arenas of life and human activity. Love is therefore the service that the Church carries out in order to attend constantly to man's sufferings and his needs, including material needs. And this is the aspect, this *service of charity*, on which I want to focus in the second part of the Encyclical.

(Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, vatican.va, December 25, 2005, 18-19)



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

IN THE BEGINNING

PRESCHOOL
BORN OF GOD

Now Accepting Enrollment!

Opening Fall 2020

Parents, we are aware of your
childcare needs and have moved
Heaven and Earth to make this
preschool available to you.

7:30AM - 5:00PM for ages 3 - 4.

**Call for tuition and additional details:
Claire Riberdy, Interim Preschool Director
413.786.8105**

O, COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Every Wednesday
12:00pm — 5:45pm

with *Confessions* at 4:30-
5:30pm,
and *Holy Mass* at 6:00pm

You are invited to sign up
for an hour of adoration
of the Blessed
Sacrament!



We are in need of people to cover all hours,
especially 3pm-4pm.

For more information, please contact Trish at 413-
237-2662. Your time is so appreciated!

FRAUD ALERT—BE VIGILANT

We again have reports of an attempt to trick parishioners into sending money via gift cards under the guise of responding to a fake request from their parish priest. People will pose as the parish priest, and they are able to trick folks into sending them funds usually electronically. The scammers ask parishioners to buy and then send them the gift card number and pin, which is all that is needed to cash them in, leaving the unsuspected parishioner out of luck. In almost all cases the money is unrecoverable.

We as a parish will NEVER solicit funds via text messages or emails that involve gift card numbers. If you receive any type of communication that seems suspicious, please report it to the local police and the parish office.

Please bring or mail any donations directly to the Parish Office, or use our online giving page:

<https://stjohnagawam.churchgiving.com/>



WITH MATTHEW KELLY

We, the parishes of Our Lady of the Lake Parish and Sacred Heart Parish, were planning on a Dynamic Catholic event with Matthew Kelly for around October, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic all their events have been canceled which now pushes us to a late 2022.

Please see below for a wonderful opportunity to hear Matthew Kelly virtually in your own home. I think we can all agree that our world needs some hope and encouragement right now and we know this event has the power to do just that!

Date & Time: Thursday, November 5 at 8PM

Ticket Price: \$39 per ticket (which includes an event packet shipped to your door containing Matthew Kelly's event exclusive book and additional items)

Unique Opportunities During Event: Matthew Kelly will lead a live coaching Dream Session and Q&A - plus fantastic talks as well!

Visit DynamicCatholic.com/AMP for all of the details.

Weekend of September 6th

"Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father"

Weekly: \$5,036.00

Maintenance: \$1,116.00

Fuel: \$367.00

Loose: \$519.25

Online Giving: \$1,700.33

Loan Repayment: \$719.00

Total: \$9,457.58

"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church."

ST. JOHN'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

YOU'RE INVITED !
TO AN INTRODUCTORY MEETING ON

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21,
2020 AT 6:00PM**



Here we will begin to make plans for the upcoming *75th Anniversary of our parish* — next year, 2021! We have some plans in the works, but welcome any and all ideas, help, and/or historic memorabilia you would be willing to share and celebrate our 75 years! We hope to see you there in the Fr. Joyce Room!



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH
**IN THE
BEGINNING**
PRESCHOOL
BORN OF GOD

Give a Gift Receive a Gift

Support St. John's preschool, and receive a useful, memorable gift...

Watch Mary and Claire in a special video as they showcase products you can enjoy with a donation towards the "In The Beginning" preschool:

Facebook.com/FriendsofStJohntheEvangelist

YouTube: search "St John Agawam"



Friends of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish -
Agawam, MA

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YOUTUBE.COM

**Check out our St. John's Fundraising Gifts and support
our Parish & Pre-School!**

These items will be available after each Mass on Saturday, September 12th, and Sunday, September 13th. Thank you for supporting our parish and preschool by your evangelization!

CAR WASH

\$8.00



*All proceeds will go to
Jackson Schlosser's
Eagle Project,
which is a flower garden
behind the Rectory at St.
John's*

**Saturday,
September 26th
9AM - 1PM**

**St. John the
Evangelist Church
833 Main St, Agawam,
MA 01001**

Donations Appreciated