

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, 1:30 pm (Extraordinary Form), & 5:00 pm*
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.

ANOINTING 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.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 20, 2020
Nativity of the Lord — December 25, 2020

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT /
NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

David's posterity shall endure forever. His kingship finds its fulfillment in the son of Mary, Jesus the Christ. To him be glory and praise forever.

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: Andreama Perkins
sje.operationsmanager@gmail.com

Reception Volunteer: Mary Talarico

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

Director of "In the Beginning"

Pre-School Ministry: Claire Riberdy (Interim)
sje.religioeducation@gmail.com

Pre-School Teachers: Gabriela Marafuge

Director of Religious Education: Claire Riberdy
sje.religioeducation@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:

Charles Calisti	Cecile Fragoso
Ted Muszynski	David Ross
Joseph Searles	

Pastoral Council:

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

Bulletin Submissions are due 9 days prior to print

Email: sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com

SANCTUARY LAMP

DECEMBER 20-26

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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 19th

4:00 pm The Lipski Family †

Agnes, Stanley Sr., Stanley Jr., and Peter

Requested by David and Paula Raiche

Sunday, December 20th

8:00 am Rosa Touchette †

Requested by Her Husband

10:30 am Edna Lavoie †

Requested by daughter Annette

1:30 pm (EF) For the People

Monday, December 21st

8:00 am Elaine Smith †

Requested by Her Husband

Tuesday, December 22nd

8:00 am Nicola Trolio †

Requested by Family

Wednesday, December 23rd

6:00 pm Leonard, Rita, & Robert Cross,

John Donahue †, Maggie Altomare †

Requested by Family

Thursday, December 24th

3:00 pm God's grace on our Parish

5:00 pm God's grace on our Town

12:00 am (EF) An end to the Pandemic

Friday, December 25th—The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:00 am God's grace on our Diocese

10:30 am God's grace on our Families

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

Saturday, December 26th

4:00 pm Bernice Beck †

Requested by Ted Beck

Sunday, December 27th

8:00 am Terry Flabotte †

Requested by Family

10:30 am For the People

1:30 pm (EF) Denis and Donald Cloutier

Requested by their sister Debbie

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

Merry Christmas!

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!

With great rejoicing, I greet you, your family, and all your loved ones, near and far, as we celebrate together the Nativity of the Lord! Merry and Blessed Christmas!

This year our celebration of Christmas takes on a noticeably different character, as have many traditions and activities throughout 2020. We may be closer to home this year and our caroling may be subdued. Perhaps the dinner table will be set just as festively, but somewhat more sparsely. Our embraces may be less in the vivid color of Christmas sweaters and more in the bright lights of cellphone screens and smartTVs. Nevertheless, the true joy and authentic Tradition of Christ and His Church remains.

The deepest essence of our celebrations endures: Rejoice, for today a Saviour is born for us!

Many of us have special traditions during these days and weeks of Christmas now beginning. We keep them each year as opportunities for us to remember in unique and special ways the love that is born into our midst. Often we will have large family gatherings with laughter and sharing of kindnesses. We may break an *oplatek* and offer best wishes. We may await *La Befana* and enjoy a great *cenone*. There would be pies, there would be puddings. While we may still enjoy many aspects of these traditions yet this year, the wonderful memories they evoke already recall for us the mystery of family love. So it is with God.

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, that is Christmas, invites us to recognize how God entered into our human reality in the tenderness of family love. Intimately hidden for several months in the womb of the Blessed Mother, protected and secure, the Christchild is born into the world facing the challenges of human life that await each one of us. His humble beginnings reflect our own poor nature. Yet the poverty is not merely material, it is the poverty of our condition. Far from God, so often in sin, we are shrouded in obscurity we cannot even perceive. But the light of Christ breaks into our darkness. Our redemption is now at hand! Today a Saviour is born for us!

Perhaps this year has shown us how comfortable we had become with the way things appear with earthly life. All the simple graces, so ready at hand, and all the liberties we so often take for granted, took on a new value. The love of family and friends, the access to the sacraments, the opportunity to draw near, all once readily encountered and easily embraced, became more precious to us. Yet what we know to be the most valuable still remains: God's nearness to us in the One who comes. So through it all, may we recognize the truth of divine revelation and the mystery of incarnate love, the enduring and Sacred Tradition of Christ the Lord, our Newborn King.

Merry Christmas!

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz

Dear friends, thank you for your continuing support of our parish in so many ways. The hours of our volunteers cleaning and disinfecting, welcoming and preparing at Mass, recording and promoting our parish activities, serving our homebound and our poor, encouraging each other in faith and study, teaching our students and children, and so many countless ways are all a testament to the life of this community. Thank you for your generous and continued exceptional giving from which we can do amazing things, especially our "*In the Beginning*" Pre-School Ministry and novel ways of evangelization. Thank you!



"Natività di Gesù" by Pompeo Girolamo Batoni



michaelmorganimages

**Tuesday, December 22
10:00 am** **Help us decorate for
Christmas!** **Join our Environmental Sacristans
in decorating the Sanctuary and
making our church shine bright!**

Plan Ahead for

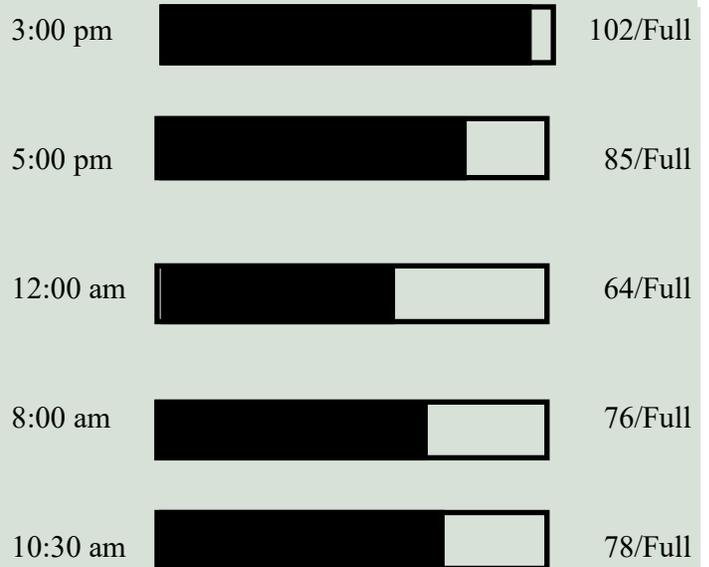
Christmas Mass!

Updated Christmas Mass Capacity

The graph at right shows updated numbers as of this past week.



The forms submitted do not guarantee a seat but are used for your information and planning purposes only.



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

December 24th **3:00 pm** **5:00 pm** **12:00am (EF)***
 December 25th **8:00 am** **10:30 am**

**Please note, a correction to the time of the Midnight Mass. Also, this Mass is celebrated in the Extraordinary Form (EF).*

Christmas Gift for Mom

Stop by Parish Center: Mon-Thu, 9am-2pm



Find these wonderful Pre-School and Parish gifts that make great stocking stuffers!

Support St. John the Evangelist Church, as well as our *In The Beginning* Preschool ministry, and check out our Fundraising gifts including an assortment of colorful mugs, fabric and tote bags, water bottles, T-shirts, hats, and more!



PARISH RENEWAL PRAYER

Father, in the beginning you created heaven and earth and in the fullness of time you restored all things through your son, Jesus Christ.

You formed us and blew into us the Breath of Life. Send your Holy Spirit into our parish of St. John the Evangelist that he may give new life to our community. Soften our hearts.

Draw us deeper into the mystery of faith do as to reflect the light of your love in the hope that others will be drawn into our parish family.

Help us work together with you to foster vocations to Holy Orders, Sacramental Marriage and Consecrated Life.

Grant to the deceased of our parish the joys of love in the Heavenly Kingdom.

This we ask you, Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ your son, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A traditional illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is on the left, kneeling and looking at the infant Jesus who is lying in a manger. Joseph is on the right, looking down at the child. A donkey and an ox are visible in the background. The scene is set in a stable with a dark background and a warm, golden light emanating from the manger.

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Merry Christmas

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purchased a gift for you!**

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WE ARE OPEN!



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

IN THE BEGINNING

PRESCHOOL
BORN OF GOD



There are still a few spots available. Contact us today for an application and to schedule a tour of our preschool here at St. John's in Agawam. We look forward to meeting you and your family!

OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

- 3 yr. olds & 4 yr. olds
- Hours: 7am - 5pm
- Full-time option - Mon.-Fri.
- Part-time options -
-Mon., Wed., Fri.
-Tues., Thurs.

CONTACT US TODAY!

413-786-8105

sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

St. John the Evangelist Parish
833 Main St., Agawam

Weekend of December 13th

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

Totals for last week are unavailable due to early submission of the bulletin.

“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.”

Local Area Weekend Mass Times

(Good to know just in case!)

Saturday Vigil

4:00

Sacred Heart (Feeding Hills)
Our Lady of the Lake (Southwick)
Sacred Heart (Suffield)
St. Thomas (West Springfield)
St. Mary (Longmeadow)

5:30

Our Lady of the Lake (Southwick)
St. Thomas (West Springfield)
St. Mary (Longmeadow)

Sunday

7:15

Sacred Heart (Feeding Hills)

8:00

Sacred Heart (Suffield)
Our Lady of the Lake (Southwick)
St. Thomas (West Springfield)
St. Mary (Longmeadow)

8:30

Sacred Heart (Feeding Hills)

9:30

Sacred Heart (Suffield)
St. Thomas (West Springfield)
St. Mary (Longmeadow)

10:00

Our Lady of the Lake (Southwick)

11:00

Sacred Heart (Feeding Hills)
Sacred Heart (Suffield)
St. Thomas (West Springfield)
St. Mary (Longmeadow)

12:15

St. Thomas (West Springfield)

Travel Tip: Know where local churches and what Mass times are *before* you hit the road! Always be sure to pack your spiritual suitcase too!

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.



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH **CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS**

THIS IS YOUR PARISH FAMILY
PARTICIPATE IN A COMMISSION

Christian Service: Feeding the hungry | Caring for those in need

Evangelization: Bible studies | Catholic resources | Parishioner outreach

Faith Formation: Helping parishioners understand Catholicism | Adult Sacramental Preparation

Family & Human Life: Various clubs | Family events | Dignity of Life activities

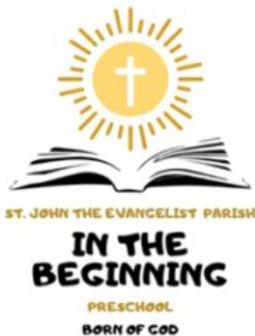
Spiritual Life: Leading people to Christ through prayer and devotions | retreats

Worship: Assisting Liturgical roles such as altar serving, music ministry, etc.

Contact the Parish Office: 413.786.8105 | sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com

♥ GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

In the Beginning Preschool



St. John the Evangelist Parish is proud to announce the opening of their new preschool, In the Beginning Preschool, starting this September 2020. A preschool Program will be offered for children 3-4 year old, either part time or full time. The hours of operations will be 7:00am-5:00pm days. - before school care taking place from 7:00am-9:00am, and after school care taking place from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Our preschool will provide Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a religious formation program which uses Montessori methods to learning the faith. Children will learn through a variety of ways that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loves us deeply and always takes care of His sheep.

Create a Recurring Donation

Select this option to set up a weekly, monthly, or other recurring donation.

Recurring Donation →

Make a One-Time Donation

Select this option to make a one-time donation today.

One-Time Donation →

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

As you consider your end of year giving plans, please consider St. John's Parish as well as the *In the Beginning* Preschool ministry, a great benefit to our local children and families.

www.stjohnagawam.churchgiving.com

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST IS ONLINE!

www.StJohnAgawam.com

**VISIT and
LIKE US
ONLINE!**



Go to *StJohnAgawam.com* and search our website! There you will find....

- Weekly bulletin
- Updates and information about staff and various ministries
- Information about Religious Education
- Instruction and links about how to give online
- And much more!

Popular uploads ▶ PLAY ALL



Preparing for our Return to Church after these weeks of...
462 views • 5 months ago



St John's Online Presence
303 views • 8 months ago



Night Prayer (Sunday)
283 views • 7 months ago



Outdoor Adoration at St John The Evangelist
256 views • 8 months ago



Invitation to Pray the Rosary
255 views • 7 months ago



Check out our St. John's Fundraising Gifts and suppo...
224 views • 2 months ago

SEARCH YOUTUBE "ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH" BE SURE TO CLICK SUBSCRIBE

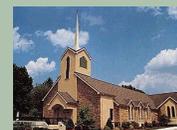
You will find videos such as...

- Weekend & Daily Masses
- Q & A's
- Monthly Reviews
- Night Prayer
- Readings from various saints and authors
- Informational videos about preschool, policies, and loan repayment

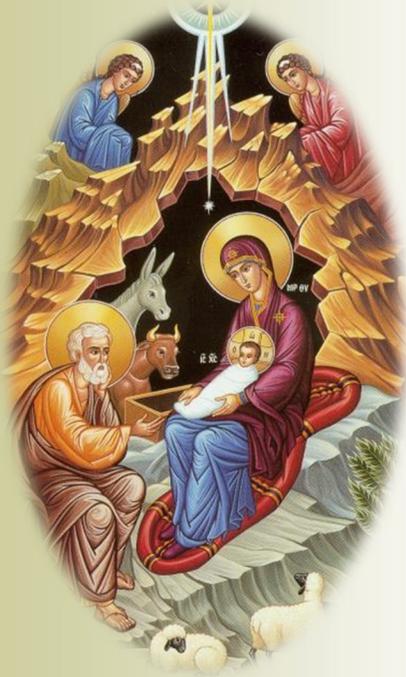


LIKE US ON FACEBOOK "FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH—AGAWAM"

Meet new people in the parish and hear of ongoing activities around the parish and around the diocese!
This page is run by volunteer parishioners.



*Thank you to all of our volunteers and staff who work to keep these pages updated... especially **Claire Riberdy** (website), **Ben Perkins** (YouTube), and **Leo Marinak** (Facebook)*



PRAYER HELPERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD MONTHLY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS IN THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, MA

Good St. Joseph and Mary Immaculate, intercede with the Son of God to prepare the hearts of our priests for the great celebration of the Nativity. Inspire them with awe in the miracle of the Incarnation, and journey with them this Advent so that it may be a prayerful time of deep longing for the Savior's coming among us. When Christmas arrives, may the Divine Child find in each of their souls a welcoming manger of innocence, simplicity, and hopefulness where the Precious Infant can safely rest.

Blessed Virgin Mary and Blessed Joseph, glorious models of perfection, pray for [Name] and all those clergy who have recourse to you. Remind priests that you will tenderly provide for their needs just as you did for Jesus while He was on earth. Most Holy Family, hold all priests close in your loving embrace. Amen.

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Mary, Queen of the Clergy, inspire chosen souls for a life of service in Christ.</i>		1 Rev. Msgr. Ronald Yargeau	2 Rev. Michael Bernier (Healing)	3 Rev. Robert Coonan	4 Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	5 Rev. John McDonagh
6 Rev. Lionel Bonneville	7 Fr. Benedict Fagone, OFM Conv.	8 Rev. James DeVine, MIC	9 Rev. Diego Maximino, MIC	10 Rev. William Cyr	11 Rev. Jose Bermudez	12 Rev. Mark Miller
13 Rev. Alfred Cournoyer	14 Most Rev. William D. Byrne	15 Rev. Paul Bombadier	16 Bishop Emeritus Timothy McDonnell	17 Rev. Allen Alexander, MIC	18 Rev. J. Lessard-Thibodeau, JCL (Healing)	19 Pope Francis
20 Rev. Francis Crombie	21 Rev. Donatus Ironuma	22 Rev. C. Lee Gilbertson	23 Rev. William Hamilton	24 Rev. Adolf Busobozi	25 All Priests	26 Rev. Vitor Oliveira
27 Rev. James Joyce	28 Rev. Charles Kuzmeski	29 Rev. Steven Montesanti	30 Rev. Daniel Pacholec	31 Rev. Francis Reilly	<i>May the joy of the first Christmas and the peace of Christ's presence be with our clergy always.</i>	

**“What tongue, human or angelic,
may ever describe a power
so immeasurable as that exercised
by the simplest priest in Mass?”**

—St. Leonard of Port Maurice



For more copies, contact:
Mrs. Anna Maria Dias, O.P.B.
P.O. Box 346, Ludlow, MA 01056
(413) 530-3198; faithfirst@1791.com

www.prayerhelpersofthepreciousblood.org