

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Father Joseph M Arsenault, SSA, Pastor
Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 5, 2021



The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy. Ps 126

Keeping in Touch

My first assignment as a pastor, I also served in the Chancery of that diocese.

Shortly after my appointment, I began to write a weekly column in the bulletin called "Keeping in Touch." This was a way for me to keep parishioners informed as to what was going on. I have decided to do that here as well.

First of all, I have to say that it is a joy for me to be able to serve you as pastor. Not that long ago, we celebrated Thanksgiving and I can say that my heart is full of gratitude for each and every one of you. I would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who sent cards, gifts and greetings for my birthday.

Speaking of gratitude, Archbishop Naumann has just completed his term as the Chairman of the Pro-Life

Committee of the United States Conference of Bishops.

As an expression of our gratitude for

his service in this most important work in the life of our Church, parishes have been asked to have a Holy Hour on Sunday, Dec. 12.

I am happy to inform you that we will have one here in our parishes. Please take note of the announcement for more information.

I hope and pray that many of you from our parishes will be able to attend to spend time adoring the Lord and giving thanks.

Blessings,
Fr. Joseph Arsenault, SSA



Mass Intentions

Throughout December, the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church.

Dec. 2 - 8 a.m. Thursday Mass
Miro Jadric
Ana Skradski
Mary Livojevic

Dec. 4 - 4 p.m. Saturday Mass
Janko Ivicak
Nikola Bert
Miho & Ana Cavlovic
Robert Sullivan

Dec. 5 - 9 a.m. Sunday Mass
St. John's Parishioners

Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
Dec. 7 - 5 p.m.
Vigil Mass at Holy Family

Dec. 8 - 7:45 a.m.
Mass at St. John the Baptist

Dec. 9 - 8 a.m. Thursday Mass
Katherine D. Schaffer
Carol Sestic
George & Nick Kucenic

Dec. 11 - 4 p.m. Saturday Mass
Janko Ivicak
John J. Draskovich
Matt & Ann Modrcin
Robert Sullivan

The Christmas and New Year Mass schedules are not yet available. We will share this information when it becomes available.

Our Parish People

With our sincere sympathies

Matthew Bernard Thomas

Matthew Bernard Thomas died Nov. 26. He was 80 years old.

Matt was proud of the Eagle Scout rank that he earned in 1959 from the Boy Scouts of America - and that his son and grandchildren were following in his footsteps.

After graduation from Bishop Ward High School, he attended Donnelly College and earned his Associates Degree in 1961.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1963 and served honorably. He worked for Southwestern Bell for 39 years until his retirement in 2002.

Matt was creative and always had a project in progress. He love the art of conversation - a stranger was just a friend he had not met.

His interest in music and dance led him to perform with the St. John's Tamburitzans and Hrvatski Obicaj.

St. John's and the Catholic faith were at the heart of Matt's culture, faith and family. He was a lifelong parishioner and belonged to the St. John's Catholic Club, the Seniors and



the Croatian Fraternal Union.

Survivors include his son, Matthew A. Thomas (Jennifer); grandchildren Luke and Faith; sisters Ivana Morris and Genevieve Semet; and brothers Joseph and George.

He was preceded in death by his parents Matthew I. and Victoria J. (Jurcic) Thomas; and his longtime companion Helen Podrebarac.

A funeral Mass was held on Dec. 1 at the church. Interment followed at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Kansas City, KS.

In Appreciation

Walter and Enzina Reynolds and their family extend their sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love and support after the recent death of their beloved daughter, Imma Reynolds Bejan.

They were comforted by the many cards and kind words from their parish family. The donations were sent to the Kidney Foundation which supported Imma during her illness.

"St. John's is a beautiful parish and the people here have always made me feel like it's home," said Enzina.

Altar Society Collections

Don't forget to donate non-perishable food and baby items!

Throughout the month of December, the Altar Society will be collecting canned and boxed items, including peanut butter and tuna.

The food will be given to Catholic Charities to share with hungry families.

The group is also collecting baby items for the Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic. The wish list includes diapers and wipes, onesies and baby toys.

While you are shopping for holiday gifts and baking essentials, please include a few things for those in need.

Bring items to the church basement.

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Web: stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.com

Facebook: St. John the Baptist Croatian Parish

Instagram: OurCroatianParish

Mass Schedule:

9 a.m. Sundays, 8 a.m. Thursdays, *4 p.m. Saturday

Confessions before Saturday Mass

(*Saturday Mass is held at St. John's in August, October, December, February, April & June; it is held at Holy Family in opposite months.)

Prayer Line: (913) 281-4448

Weekly Collections

Nov. 28, 2021

Envelopes:	\$ 2,573
Maintenance:	\$ 830
Candles:	\$ 74
Poor:	\$ 31
Christmas Flowers:	\$ 20
All Saints:	\$ 50
Funeral Donations:	\$ 25

(Imma Reynolds Bejan)

Eucharistic Holy Hour - 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12, St. John the Baptist Church



In Gratitude for the untiring witness to the dignity of the human person and the innate value of human life, and as a sign of recognition for his term of dedicated service as Chairman of the Pro-Life Committee of the United State

Conference of Catholic Bishops, we invite the parish communities of the Archdiocese to join, as possible, in offering a dedicated Eucharistic Holy Hour in their parish churches.

Join us in celebrating

2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Patroness of the Americas, as well as the unborn child.

Thank you for offering this Eucharistic gift in gratitude for all that our Chief Shepherd has done on behalf of the unborn and all those whose lives are vulnerable to harm, and for Bishop William E. Lori as he begins his service as the new Chairman. That God may be glorified.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann

Altar Society Brunch - Dec. 5

Members of the Altar Society will celebrate the season with a brunch.

It will be held after the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass on Dec. 5 in the church basement.

Have a wonderful time - and thank you for your time in planning and volunteering to help our parish.

Seniors Brunch - Dec. 7

St. John's Seniors will gather for the annual Christmas brunch on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m. The catered lunch will be at the Strawberry Hill Museum.

Note that the day is Tuesday rather than the usual Wednesday. This is because of scheduling at the museum.

Pre-reservations are needed for the caterer. Information: Joanne Lally at (913) 281-4448.

Christmas Dance - Dec. 11

Music and dancing. Food and beverages. What could be more Croatian?

Kolograd will host *A Masked Christmas Dance*. It will begin at 5:30 p.m., after the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Dec. 11, in the auditorium.

The cost is \$10 per person for everyone older than 12. The little ones are free. Buy tickets at St. John's Catholic Club or at the door.

Don't worry about dinner - you can purchase it at the dance.

Get ready for an evening of fun.

St. Lucy's Day Wheat Planting

The tradition of planting wheat on the feast of St. Lucy comes from Croatia and other European nations.

Her feast day, Dec. 13, is the shortest day of the year. So Lucy is associated with lengthening days and sunlight.

To honor this saint, we plant wheat grains that will sprout several inches by Christmas. These new green shoots remind us of the new life born in Bethlehem.

You may tie the wheat with a ribbon and place a candle nearby as a symbol of the Light of Christ.

Place the sprouted wheat near the Nativity set. This signifies Christ, the Bread of Life, was born in Bethlehem, whose name means "House of Bread."

This tradition also recalls the Eucharist which is made from wheat.

Our longtime parishioner, Matt Thomas made certain that the St. John the Baptist family would recognize St. Lucy. He ordered the wheat seeds and distributed them at church. Before he died last week, Matt asked his family to take care of this year's distribution in his place. Thank you, friend.

"Lord, may we be good ground to receive the seed of Your word, and may we put that word into practice."

Matthew 13:4-23

Article Source: franciscanpenancelibrary.com

