**Saint John The Evangelist Catholic Church**
**Second Sunday of Advent** | December 7, 2025
1008 Fortune Ave, Panama City, FL 32401
*The Immaculate Conception*, Juan De Juanes, 1579

# WHO WE ARE

**Rev. Thomas Kennell, Pastor**

**Dcn. Timothy Warner**

**Dcn. 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 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
Olivia Clemons
John Maceluch Jr.
Diane Skoriak
Marilyn Percy
Lonn Blankenship
Steve Shea
Rob Griffith

## 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
Tim Wheeler
Dcn. Earl Mirus
Sr. Grace Ford
Sean McNeil
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

# ADVENT 2025

**Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come To Thee O Israel.**

## Advent Formation Series
**December 12th & 19th | 5-7:30pm**

Join us the first three Fridays of Advent for our parish Advent Formation series. Dinner will be served from 5-6pm with formation for all ages along with free childcare for the little ones from 6-7:30pm.

Dec. 12th The Mystery of the Rosary
Dec. 19th Daily Pillars: The Morning Offering & Ignatian Examen

## Advent Penance Service
**December 16th | 6:30-8pm**

Join us for our parish Advent Penance Service, a graced opportunity to prepare your heart for Christmas. Four priests from around the area will be present to hear confessions and offer God's mercy. Come experience the peace and renewal the Lord longs to give.

St. Dominic will be hosting their penance service on Monday, December 15th from 6-8pm.

## Immaculate Conception
**Holy Day of Obligation**
**Monday, Dec. 8th**

Join us for Mass as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and rejoice in God's saving work revealed in Mary.

Mass will be offered at 8:15am, Noon, and 5:30pm. Note that there is no Vigil Mass as the Solemnity falls on a Monday.

*Discover more Advent and Christmas ministries, events, and service opportunities on the next page.*

## On The Cover | *The Immaculate Conception* by Juan De Juanes

This week's bulletin cover features Juan de Juanes's *The Immaculate Conception*, a luminous 16th-century Spanish masterpiece. Painted during the Counter-Reformation, the work reflects an era when artists sought to teach the truths of the faith with beauty and clarity. Juanes places Mary at the center, radiantly poised, inviting the viewer into contemplation of her unique grace.

The painting is rich with symbolic detail drawn from Scripture and tradition. Mary stands upon the crescent moon, recalling the woman in the Book of Revelation, while her blue and white garments signify purity and heavenly favor. Lilies represent her spotless nature, roses symbolize her spiritual beauty, and the enclosed garden (in the bottom left) references Mary as the *hortus conclusus*, the untouched garden prepared by God. Juanes also includes the Tower of David, the Mirror of Justice, and the Gate of Heaven, reminders that Mary embodies the virtues and hopes of Israel.

This belief, though formally defined in 1854 by Pope Pius IX in *Ineffabilis Deus*, has deep roots in Christian tradition. Early Christians honored Mary's holiness, and by the Middle Ages devotion to her immaculate beginning was widespread, especially in Spain. The theologian Bl. John Duns Scotus helped the Church explain how Mary could be free from original sin while still redeemed by Christ, teaching that God applied the merits of Christ's future sacrifice to her at the moment of her conception — a grace known as "preservative redemption." The dogma thus expresses a truth long held in the Church: that God prepared Mary in a unique and marvelous way for her role in salvation history.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8, likewise has an ancient history, observed in the East from the 7th century and later throughout the West. Because this solemnity celebrates a foundational moment in God's plan, His preparation of the Mother who would freely welcome Christ, the Church designates it as a Holy Day of Obligation. As we gather this week to celebrate this solemnity, we are reminded that Mary's immaculate beginning is not only a truth about her life, but a sign of God's desire to bring His saving work to completion in each of us. May her purity and readiness to receive Christ inspire our own openness to God's grace.

# UPCOMING & NOTEWORTHY

## CCW Holiday Candy Pick Up

**Dec 6 & 7 | After All Masses**

Candy orders will be available for pick-up in the Parish Hall after all Masses on Dec 6 & 7. Thank you to all who participated in the sale! Contact: Susie Prather (281) 844-0844.

## Keep Christ in Christmas

**December 7 | After 8:15 & 10:45 Masses**

Knights of Columbus will be outside the church with Christmas items available for purchase after the morning Masses this Sunday, Dec 7.

## Serve Saturdays

**Hanging Christmas Lights| Dec 13**

Join us as we bring some cheer to our elderly neighbors at 10:00am. If you would like to help, please RSVP to youth@saintjohnpc.org to sign up and for details. If you or someone you know are in need of assistance hanging your lights, please reach out to Dot Wagner ASAP to schedule a team to serve: youth@saintjohnpc.org

## St. Dominic Books & Gifts

**Christmas Sale | Dec 7-13**

Stop in and draw a token for a savings of 10, 15, or 20% off your total purchase. Open Mon-Thurs 10-4, Sat 12- 4, & Sun 9-2.

## Christmas Food Drive

**Association of St. Jude**

Our annual Holiday Food Drive ends with our potluck breakfast and sorting gathering on Dec 13 at 8:30am in the Parish Hall. Please bring nonperishable food to the green wagon in the church entryway. Donations go to the Catholic Charities and the Family Services Agency of Bay County food pantries. All are welcome to attend the donation sorting and potluck breakfast.

## Community Christmas Dinner

**Serving Those in Need | Dec 21st, 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.

## Catholic Charities Food Pantry

**Your generosity helps local families!**

To make a gift or learn more about our Food Assistance Programs, please scan the code, or visit ccnwfl.org/food-assistance

This weekend's altar flowers are placed in honor of John & Jacque Wyatt - Happy Anniversary!

## Events this Week

**Sunday, December 7**

**9:30-10:30am** - OCIA Class in parish office

**9:30am** - Fellowship Breakfast in parish hall

**Monday, December 8 - Holy Day of Obligation**

**8:15am** - Mass, Immaculate Conception

**12:00pm** - Mass, Immaculate Conception

**5:30pm** - Mass, Immaculate Conception

**Tuesday, December 9**

**6:15pm** - Catholic in Recovery in the parish office

**6:15pm** - Encounter School in the church

**Wednesday, December 10**

**9:30am** - Women's Bible Study in parish office

**6:30pm** - Men's Bible Study in parish office

**Friday, December 12**

**5:00pm** - Advent Formation Series in parish hall

**Saturday, December 13**

**8:30am** - St. Jude potluck & sorting in parish hall

**Sunday, December 14**

**Second Chance Sunday** - Confessions after Mass

**9:30-10:30am** - **OCIA Class** in parish office

**9:30am** - **Fellowship Breakfast** in parish hall

## 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!

## Choir Interest

**Music 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/g3gMrLkwPJese9jp8

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

# BIBLE STUDIES

## Men's Bible Study Fall 2025

**In the Parish Office**

Men's Bible Study is starting up again for the Fall. Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Contact Warren Phillips at (850) 896-0801. In December, our meeting will be held on Dec. 10th.

## Women's Bible Study Fall 2025

**9:30 - 11am Wednesdays | 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!

## 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.

## Join us in Prayer

*If you would like to add anyone to the prayer list, please visit saintjohnpc.org/prayer-request. Prayer requests will be in the bulletin for one month unless otherwise requested.*

**Repose of the Soul**

†John Camden

**Healing**

Judy Pluard, Zee Haranek, Matthew Adock, Jill Orr

## Mass Intentions

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

**Saturday, December 6, 2025**
9:00am.....†Bill Cordell
4:30pm.....†Amber Catalano Smith
by Martha Cordell
**Sunday, December 7, 2025**
**Second Sunday of Advent**
8:15am.....†Eleanor Curtis by Col Chet Cavoli
10:45am.....People of the Parish
**Monday, December 8, 2025**
8:15am.....Conversion of Our Country
12:00pm....George Penton
5:30pm.....†Al Kidd by John and Jacque Wyatt
**Tuesday, December 9, 2025**
5:30pm.....†Shannon Warner by Jacque Wyatt
**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**
8:15am.....Pope Leo XIV
**Thursday, December 11, 2025**
5:30pm.....Family of Alex Pollack by Alex Pollack
**Friday, December 12, 2025**
8:15am.....Seminarians by CCW
**Saturday, December 13, 2025**
4:30pm.....†Bernice Macejka & Son, John
by Ann Harnage
**Sunday, December 14, 2025**
**Second Sunday of Advent**
8:15am.....People of the Parish
10:45am....John Wyatt, Happy Birthday!
by Jacque Wyatt

## Scripture Readings
## For the Week of December 7, 2025

**Sun** **Second Sunday of Advent**
Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

**Mon** **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Tues** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

**Wed** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

**Thur** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

**Fri** Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12-1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Sat** **Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Sun** **Third Sunday of Advent**
Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

December 8, 2025

# EAGLE NEWS

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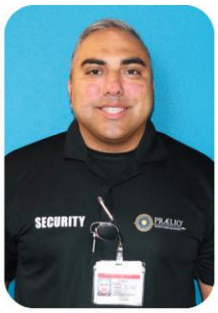
## Christmas Program

**Friday, December 19th**
**10am**

## Class Picture Day

**Wednesday, December 17th**
**Chapel Wear Dress**

## Welcome Officer Diaz!




**Mark A. Diaz is a proud native of Saginaw, Michigan. Mr. Diaz brings 25 years of experience in Air Force Military Police and private security. He was born and raised in the Catholic school system and credits his success to his parents and teachers, who always encouraged him. Mark is a proud graduate of Nouvel Catholic Central.**

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## Manner of the Week

### Eating Basics

Try not to be distracting. Don't talk with your mouth full, and don't chew with your mouth open.

## The virtue of *Humility*

**DEFINITION OF HUMILITY:**
**Awareness that all our gifts come from God and appreciation for the gifts of others**

**PRAYER FOR HUMILITY: Dear Jesus, help me to be honest about my strengths and weaknesses.**

**HUMILITY LOOKS LIKE: Smiling when someone else gets a good grade**

**HUMILITY SOUNDS LIKE: You did a really good job.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**This is week two of Advent:** Peace

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, December 17th - | Class Picture Day PK4-8th Grades |
| Friday, December 19th - | Christmas Program @ 10am<br>End of Second 9 Weeks/ Early Release / No Aftercare |
| Monday, December 22nd - | First Day of Christmas Break Preschool Closed through January 2nd |
| Monday, January 5th - | Preschool students return / Teacher workday |
| Tuesday, January 6th - | K-8 Students return |

Contact Us: 850.763.1775
St. John Catholic Academy
@stjohncatholicacademy
StJohnCatholicAcademy.org
Office@SJSEagles.org

# 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.*

**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**
Kathy Kidd.....850-814-7747
Martha Cordell.....850-814-4619
*Meets in the parish office conference room every Wednesday from 9:30-10:30am, studying "The Chosen"*

**Women's Socials**
heather.hanna@saintjohnpc.org
*Typically on the **first Saturday of the month, from 10am-noon** in the parish hall.*

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


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