Saint John The Evangelist Catholic Church
The Epiphany of the Lord | January 4, 2026
1008 Fortune Ave, Panama City, FL 32401
The Adoration of the Magi, Francisco Herrera the Elder, 1653

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

ON THE COVER

The Adoration of the Magi, Francisco Herrera the Elder, 1609

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see:
heaven on earth, earth in heaven,
man in God, God in man,
one whom the whole universe cannot contain
now enclosed in a tiny body.
- St. Peter Chrysologus

Francisco Herrera the Elder's *The Adoration of the Magi* invites the viewer into the mystery of the Epiphany: Christ revealed as Savior of all nations. Painted in 17th-century Seville, this work reflects the deep Catholic spirituality of Spain's Golden Age, when artists were encouraged to teach the faith through vivid, emotionally compelling images that spoke to the viewers heart.

Theologically, the painting centers on the Child Jesus as the true king and light of the world. Herrera places the Christ Child as the visual and spiritual focal point, emphasized by light falling upon Him, while the surrounding figures are arranged in reverent motion toward Him. The Magi, representing the nations of the world, embody the Church's teaching that salvation is universal. The varied ages, features, and attire of those adoring Christ subtly echo the belief that all peoples are called to know Him.

Mary is portrayed not as a passive observer but as the living throne of God, presenting her Son to the world. Her calm dignity contrasts with the movement and intensity we see around her. St. Joseph is positioned slightly in the background, reflecting his humble guardianship and quiet obedience, an artistic reminder of his vital, though understated, role in salvation history.

Artistically, Herrera the Elder is known for his bold brushwork and dramatic use of light and shadow, a style influenced by Caravaggio but distinctly Spanish. In *The Adoration of the Magi*, the strong contrasts draw the eye toward the central mystery, while the earthy realism of faces, fabrics, and gestures makes the sacred scene feel immediate and tangible. This realism serves a catechetical purpose: the Incarnation is not abstract. God has truly entered human history.

For us today, Herrera's *The Adoration of the Magi* becomes more than a historical artwork; it is a mirror of our own discipleship. Like the Magi, we are invited to seek Christ with perseverance, to recognize Him even when He comes in humility, and to lay before Him the gifts of our lives. As the light in the painting leads all eyes to the Child, so the feast of the Epiphany calls us to be led, and then to lead others, to Christ, making His presence known not only in our daily witness of faith, charity, and hope.

UPCOMING & NOTEWORTHY

Joseph Elmore at St. John

Visiting over Christmas

Our parish's seminarian, Mr. Joseph Elmore, is joining us over Christmas. Welcome back, Joseph! Our parish is praying for you!

CCW Monthly Meeting

Parish Hall | Jan 5

The Council of Catholic Women next meeting is Monday, January 5th, at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

Piece Makers Crafting Group

First Meeting | Jan 10

A new group will be meeting on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month in the parish hall from 10am-1pm. All crafters (age 18+) are welcome! Woodworking, ceramics, sewing, all other needle crafts, paper crafts, wreath making, painting, art...the list goes on! Come and join us! Contact: Susie Prather at (281) 844-0844.

First Communion Class Meeting

Parish Office | Jan 18

First Communion preparation class (children only) will be held on Sunday, Jan 18, from 9:30-10:30am. Your child may be brought to the parish office to attend. Contact Jera at jera.blanchard-towns@saintjohnpc.org for details!

Men's Fraternal Gathering

Craft Beer EmPOURium | Jan 27

All men 21+ of the parish are invited to join for an informal gathering at Craft Beer Empourium in downtown Panama City for fellowship over a drink and/or game of pool from 7:30-9pm. No RSVP required. Feel free to bring a friend.

Liturgical Ministries

Serve the Lord at Mass

If you are interested in sharing your time as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Usher, Altar Server, or Audio-Visual volunteer, please contact the parish office at (850) 763-1821 or saintjohnpc@saintjohnpc.org to learn more or for next steps!

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, January 4

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

Coffee & Donuts - In parish hall after both Masses

Monday, January 5

6:00pm - CCW monthly meeting in parish hall

Tuesday, January 6

6:15pm - Catholic in Recovery in parish office

6:15pm - Encounter in the church

Wednesday, January 7

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

Saturday, January 10

10:00am - Piece Makers craft group in parish hall

Sunday, January 11

Second Chance Sunday - Confessions after Masses

9:30-10:30am - OCIA In parish office

Coffee & Donuts - In parish hall after both Masses

Catholic Charities Food Pantry

Your generosity helps local families!

Thank you to all who have donated! Food items may be placed in the wagon in the church entryway. To make a gift or learn more about food assistance, please scan the code, or visit ccnwfl.org/food-assistance

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

Interested in participating in parish life through our choir? Please scan the codes below! For minors (17 & under), please contact music@saintjohnpc.org directly before scheduling an audition.

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

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

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 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.

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.

Repose of the Soul

†Robert Garcia, †Paul Schmidt

Healing

Louis Sexton, Kathleen McDermott, Robert Bazemore, Richard LeFils

Mass Intentions

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

Saturday, January 3, 2026
9:00am....†Amber Catalano Smith by Martha Cordell
4:30pm....†Bill Cordell by Martha Cordell
Sunday, January 4, 2026
The Epiphany of the Lord
8:15am.....Clint Mayo by Theresa & James Garcia
10:45am...People of the Parish
Monday, January 5, 2026
8:15am....†Al Bilelo by James & Laura McManus
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
5:30pm....†Al Kidd by James & Laura McManus
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
8:15am....†Ginnie Maceluch
Thursday, January 8, 2026
5:30pm....Pope Leo XIV
Friday, January 9, 2026
8:15am....†William Cammack
Saturday, January 10, 2026
4:30pm....†Bill Cordell by Martha Cordell
Sunday, January 11, 2026
The Baptism of the Lord
8:15am.....People of the Parish
10:45am...†James McCarthy

The altar flowers of December 27-28 were placed in honor of Ken and Anita Thomas - Happy Anniversary!

Scripture Readings, Week of Jan 4, 2026

Sun **The Epiphany of the Lord**
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 2:1-12

Mon **Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop**
1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a;
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tues 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wed 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13;
Mk 6:45-52

Thur 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17;
Lk 4:14-22

Fri 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20;
Lk 5:12-16

Sat 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b;
Jn 3:22-30

Sun **The Baptism of the Lord**
Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or
1 Jn 5:1-9;
Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6;
Mt 3:13-17

January 4, 2026

EAGLE NEWS

"St. John Catholic Academy prepares and educates students for academic success and forms disciples of Christ for life."

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

We look forward to welcoming our K-8 students back to campus on Tuesday, January 6th, as we continue celebrating the liturgical season of Christmas. The celebration of Christmas extends through Sunday, January 11th, when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

CO-ED SOCCER CONTINUES

Practice continues this week on Tuesday and Thursday! First game is on Monday, January 12th:

K-2nd Grade: 3:30pm
3rd - 5th Grade: 4:15pm

RAISED IN Grace

OUR NEXT PARENT MEETING IS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH AT 1:45PM IN THE CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM

Parents are still welcome to jump in and join us!
If interested, please email office@sjseagles.org.
Meeting for the spring seemester will take place on the second Mondays of every month at 1:45pm

The virtue of Respect

DEFINITION OF RESPECT:
Speaking and acting according to our own and others' rights, status, and circumstances

PRAYER FOR RESPECT:
Dear Jesus, help me to show reverence to people who are in authority over me as I would to You. And help me give all persons the honor they deserve as Your unique creations.

RESPECT LOOKS LIKE:
Only saying nice things about your siblings and classmates

RESPECT SOUNDS LIKE:
He is really good at...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 5th -	Preschool students return / VPK Instructional Day Teacher workday

On Monday, January 5th only, all VPK students should be dropped off and picked up at the preschool door. Regular carline procedures will resume on Tuesday for VPK.

Tuesday, January 6th -	K-8 Students return Soccer practice 3-4pm
Wednesday, January 7th -	Students wear chapel wear for mass
Thursday,January 8th -	Soccer practice 3pm - 4pm
Friday, January 9th -	2nd Quarter Report Cards available on PowerSchool
Monday, January 12th -	26-27 Early Registration begins for current students
Monday, January 19th -	Martin Luther King's Birthday Preschool Closed and K-8th Grade Academy Closed

2026-2027 RE-REGISTRATION FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

Plan Ahead and Save $100:
Early Registration Opens January 12th

Early registration for the 2026–2027 school year will be open from January 12th through January 30th. Families who register during this period will receive $100 off the $250 registration fee for the 2026–2027 school year.

Hors d'Oeuvres

MANNER OF THE WEEK

Don't double dip chips or toothpicks. Choose one thing to hold in your left hand and keep your right one free for handshakes.

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. 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
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

Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.

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mark.gusmus@cpagroup.com ▪ www.cpagroup.com

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myParish
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Russell Smith

Mr. Tax Systems
210 West 11th St.
850-785-9871
Joe Franco

CLUBBS REAL ESTATE GROUP
Ross Ticknor - 850-359-3534
Realtor © & Parishioner
RTicknor@ClubbsRealEstate.com
1103 Fortune Ave - Across from St John!

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PANAMA CITY Animal Hospital
850.784.6914
Robyn Y. Focke, D.V.M.
4307 Hwy 231 • Panama City, FL 32404

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Judy Giannetto

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will
For further information, please call the parish office.

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Dr. Haley Lewis
Dermatologist
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PANAMA CITY & PANAMA CITY BEACH

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