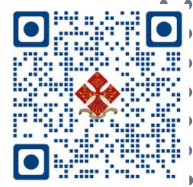


St. John's Announcements

December 14, 2025



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This Sunday is one of our two Rose Sundays in our church year. They are also called Refreshment Sundays. The Rose Sunday in Advent is sometimes called Gaudete Sunday from the Latin introit that begins, "*Gaudete in Domino semper*", or, "Rejoice in the Lord always." We will certainly be doing that on Sunday. We have two baptisms this Sunday. One being an adult. There was a time when adult baptisms were almost unheard of. We lived in what was called "Christendom". Unless you were Jewish, pretty much everyone in the United States was baptized either as an infant, like in the Episcopal Church, or as a teenager for the Baptists. Times are very different now. There are many adults who were not baptized and even more who were not raised in the church. Adult baptisms are very joyful events as we celebrate a new Christian who made the decision to turn her life over to Christ. I look forward to rejoicing over these two baptisms on Sunday with you.

Blessings, *Marc*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

12/17 @ 10:30am
Wednesday Eucharist
St. Mary's Hall

No Wednesday
Eucharist 12/24

The St. Mary's Legacy Fund Committee recently awarded a \$10,000 grant for 2025 to the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI). CIRI president and CEO, Susan Schnitzer, and assistant director of development, Chris Altrock, were elated and grateful to learn of the grant. On Sunday, December 14, Susan and Chris will attend our 10 am service and then speak to us at coffee hour about the vital work that CIRI has been doing for refugees and immigrants in Connecticut since 1918. Please plan to be at coffee hour that morning to welcome Susan and Chris to St. John's and to learn more about CIRI.

For the St. Mary's Legacy Fund Committee

Christmas Schedule

12/28 – Sunday after Christmas – 9am

With a very busy Rose Sunday this year with special guests and two baptisms, we will do the blessing of the *Bambinelli* on Advent IV December 21st. Parishioners are encouraged to follow this beautiful Italian tradition by bringing in the baby Jesus figures from your home nativity scenes. They will be blessed at the end of the Eucharist at both the 8:00am and 10:00am services.

Just as we remember St. Mary's in Manchester every Feast of St. Mary's, we do the same the Sunday before the Feast of St. John's for St. John's in East Hartford. We celebrate these churches who still very much live on in the DNA of our current community. I like the idea of focusing on the feast day of the church, but even I am not so stubborn not to realize the challenges of St. John's feast day being December 27th. We will honor St. John's, East Hartford's life and vibrancy on Advent IV (this year December 21st). On this day, we will show off a few of the artifacts of St. John's and have a special coffee hour.

Medical Equipment Ministry Update – Bill and Diane Gutzmer are now heading up the Medical Equipment Ministry. If you are in need of equipment or would like to donate, please contact Bill and Diane – 860-875-1041, billgutzmer@gmail.com