



St. Gerard Majella Roman Catholic Church

300 Terryville Road
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
Phone: 631-473-2900 Fax: 631-473-0015
www.stgmajella.org

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Gregory Rannazzisi, Pastor frgreg@stgmajella.org
Rev. Vitus Ezeiruaku, *in residence*
Deacon Frank DellAglio deaconfrank@stgmajella.org
Deacon John Grebe deaconjohn@stgmajella.org
Charles Pramnieks, Music Director chuck@stgmajella.org
Deacon Carlito Roman, Pastoral Associate for Administration
deaconcarlito@stgmajella.org
Bob Paplin, Facilities Manager rpaplin@stgmajella.org
Jennifer Donnellon, Office Manager jennifer@stgmajella.org
Patty Longo, Director of Religious Ed. patty@stgmajella.org
Denise Nienburg, Thrift Shop Manager thrift@stgmajella.org
Jackie Maggiore, Receptionist secretary@stgmajella.org
Joseph Crescitelli and Dominic Fontana, Sacristans

Parish Office Hours

Monday — Thursday: 9:00am-4:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am-1:00pm
Closed Friday and Saturday

Mass & Devotions

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm
Weekdays: 9:00am
Rosary: Monday – Friday: 8:30am
Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Monday - Friday: 9:30 am
First Saturday: 11:00am Mass with the Anointing of the Sick

Penance

The sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated on Saturdays from 3:45pm-4:45pm. You may call the Parish Office to make an appointment with one of the priests.

Baptism

Baptisms are typically held twice a month at 1:30pm. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment to set a date. Selection of godparents should be made after speaking with one of the priests or deacons.

Marriage

Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements for your wedding at least six months in advance. No date can be set until the couple meets with a member of the clergy.

Parish Outreach Hours

Food Pantry

Tuesday: 11:30am-3:00pm
Wednesday: 12:30pm-3:00pm
Thursday: 11:30am-1:30pm & 4:30pm-5:30pm

Thrift Shop/Barn

Monday — Thursday: 10:00am-4:00pm
Friday: 10:00am-2:00pm
Donations accepted Monday-Thursday: 10:00am-3:00pm
and Friday: 10:00am-1:00pm. Please refer to our website for a list of items that can be donated.

Stewardship Supper

The Thursday evening dinner is served between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. All are welcome.



The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me
because the Lord has
annointed me.
He has sent me
to bring glad tidings.

REJOICE, FOR THE LORD IS NEAR!

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

A Message from our Pastor



Dear Friends,

As we come to the home stretch of our Advent Season – obviously an abbreviated one this year – there is still ample time to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. Amid all the things on our “To Do” lists, the internal work of opening our hearts anew to the power of God’s presence is undoubtedly the most essential. This week, we have three wonderful ways to help in this preparation!

On Monday night, we will have **Lessons and Carols** featuring the combined choirs of Infant Jesus and St. Gerard’s. Both parishes have wonderful choirs, so it will be extra special to hear them lead us in this beautiful service of Song and Scripture. It will be held at St. Gerard’s on Monday at 7:30pm. (Just as a sneak preview – during Lent, we’re planning to have another joint choir performance for Tenebrae at Infant Jesus!) If you have never been to Lessons and Carols, I assure you that there are few other ways to get you into the Christmas spirit than by recounting the course of salvation history and how God chose to break into human history through the Incarnation. Please make every effort to join us. You won’t regret it!

Then, on Tuesday evening at 7:00pm at St. Gerard’s, there will be a **Holy Hour Before the Blessed Sacrament**. Prior to Thanksgiving, we had a time of adoration, and it was very powerful. Many of you remarked how moved you were by spending time in Prayer, Silence, and Song. I often say that spending time before our Lord in Holy Communion is like a “*divine radiation treatment*.” When our hearts and minds are racing in a thousand directions with worries and concerns, allowing the Lord to enter that chaos and bring rest to our souls is worth every minute.

Finally, on Wednesday from 5pm-8pm, there will be the opportunity to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Just as our homes are being cleaned up and decorated for parties, meals, and celebrations, so do our souls need to be *cleaned up* by God’s infinite mercy and *decorated* with His grace. No matter how long it has been since your last confession, be confident that there is no sin beyond God’s compassion and forgiveness. In fact, that is the very reason our Savior took on our human flesh – to save us from sin!

May these final Advent days be ones of Grace and Joy for you and your family!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Greg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**P.S. – Be sure to note that, since next Sunday is also Christmas Eve,
we have amended the schedule of Masses on Sunday morning!
See the list of Holy Day Masses in this bulletin!**

HOLY DAYS OF DECEMBER SCHEDULE 2023

ST. GERARD MAJELLA PARISH

Lessons & Carols

Featuring the Joint Choirs of Infant Jesus & St. Gerard Majella
Monday, December 18th – 7:30pm
St. Gerard Majella, 300 Terryville Road

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Wednesday, December 20th
5:00pm – 8:00pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 23rd-5pm

Sunday, December 24th – A holy day of obligation for Catholics to attend Mass

***** Note a different schedule than usual*****

8:00am & 11:00am

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

A holy day of obligation for Catholics to attend Mass

4:00pm

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm

Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, December 16 @ 11:00 – Level 1 Family Advent Retreat

Class Masses

Sunday, January 21	10:00	Level 6
	12:00	Level 2 & Sacrament Prep Group
Sunday, January 28	10:00	Level 8
	12:00	Level 7

Background on this Sunday's Gospel Reading



This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

(Loyola Press)

Parish Outreach Ministry

“Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor, honor them as you would Christ himself.”

Welcome Friends Free Curbside Meal Program

Monday: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Christ Episcopal Church
127 Barnum Avenue, Port Jeff Village

Tuesday: 1:00 – 1:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
390 Patchogue Rd. (Rt. 112), Port Jeff Station

Wednesday: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Main St. and South St., Port Jeff Village

Thursday: 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Doors Open at 4pm Sit Down Only between
4:30pm and 5:30pm

St. Gerard Majella Church

Friday: 3:30 – 5:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Main St. and South St., Port Jeff Village

God sighting

Because of our AMAZING parishioners, our pantry shelves are full again and we have lots of bows, wrapping paper, tape, bags, to give to families in need for Christmas. Thank you to our awesome Knights of Columbus for organizing this drive.



Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Pasta
Canned Chicken
Canned Pasta
Soup
Pasta
Mac n Cheese
Shelf Stable Milk
Canned Chili
Canned Fruit
Tomato Sauce
Raisins
Toilet Paper

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Alcoholics Anonymous 24-Hour Hotline: 631-669-1124
Al-Anon Suffolk County: 631-669-2827
American Red Cross - LI: 516-747-3500
Birthright (Pregnancy Support): 631-821-9727 or 1-800-550-4900
Brighter Tomorrow (Domestic Violence): 631-395-1800
Catholic Charities (Food Stamp Info): 631-789-9546
Child Advocacy Center (CAC) (Child Abuse): 631-439-0480
Fidelis Insurance (Family Health Plus): 1-888-343-3547
Gamblers Anonymous Hotline: 1-855-222-5542
Good Shepherd Hospice: 631-376-3758
Hope House Ministries: 631-473-6030
L.I. Women's Coalition (Domestic Violence): 631-666-8833
Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-SUICIDE
Response Crisis Center: 631-751-7500 (Suicide Hotline)
The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200
Conexión Linea de Crisis (M-F: 5-10 PM) 631-751-7423V
Victims Information Bureau (Advocacy, Counseling): 631-360-3606
Women's Services (Town of Brookhaven): 631-698-2074

Mass Intentions and Presider Schedule for the Week of December 18 – December 24

Monday, December 18

9:00am Salvatore Rizzo

Tuesday, December 19

9:00am James Bridges

Wednesday, December 20

9:00am Pat McGann, Mary Soriano, Garfield Ricketts

Thursday, December 21

9:00am The Intentions of Clifford Morgan

Friday, December 22

9:00am Florence Raffloer

Saturday, December 23

5:00pm Jerry Creta, Nancy DiMaria, Robert Novotny,
Josephine Eichner, Wilner Fequiere,
Dezsi Nemeth, Lorraine Wexler

Sunday, December 24

8:00am Andrew & Josephine Eichner

11:00am The McGowan Family

4:00pm For All Parishioners

Fr. Greg

Fr. Vitus

Fr. Vitus



Stewardship Report

Last Week's Collection - \$9,881.00

Weekly Memorials

Our Bread & Wine and Sanctuary Candle have been lovingly donated in memory of:
Francis J. Donnelly



Prayers for the Sick

All the sick and residents of Atria, St. Joseph's Village Woodhaven Adult Home & Nursing Home & Jefferson's Ferry, Ann Dellow, Luke John Carusillo, Sandy Barrios, Sabrina Glass, LouEllen Klints, Arline Guma, John Schlauraff, Genevieve Eannuzzi, Kellie Menno, Charles Ricottone, Baby Fulton, Ted Claesen, Connie Biscardi, Ronnie Pryor, Vinnie Surwilo, Dolores Andersen, Patrick Wilson, James Mihalik, Erin DeCapua, Maureen Uss, Barbara Klein-Croner, Garrett Duffy, Nicholas Traynor, Hunter Reyes, Ann Gerstein, Mike Napolitano, Maxine Politi, Neisha Alli, Pat Consorte, Marie Auld, Erin Whitehead, Patricia McLaren, Bill Klein, Jr, Theresa Renz, Barbara Forbes, Nicholas Traynor, Claire Reilly, Joan Francavilla, Alba Gosin, Jacob Flag, Anthony Paletto, Madore Roit, Jaclyn Lin, Thomas Hayes, Carole Fackina, Dani Floyd, Janet Kolodziejski, Maureen Valentine, Karen Strahmann, Nancy Mulvihill, Linda Tesone, Alexa Mastando, Lew Yedwab, Michael Bruton, Jack Grob, Gerard Healy, Donna DiBiagio, Denise Shaw, Thomas Foley.

We pray for all recently deceased, remembering
Fr. John McGratty & Anna Rendale
may they find eternal rest and joy.



Please stop by our Prayer Corner near Reception to borrow books and CDs on many Catholic topics to deepen your faith formation and spiritual life.



Online Weekly Giving

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” Luke 6:38 This is a promise from God that He doesn't need a large amount, but will honor our generosity and obedience. Then, He can do a miracle to multiply and pour out blessings that overflow to our lives and others.

Knights of Columbus

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YOU BECOME A KNIGHT!**

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Columbiettes

We are an organization of women from all backgrounds united by our Catholic Faith, the love of family, our country, and our commitment to helping others. If you would like to join, please contact Jennifer at 631-473-2900.

Our Parish Mission Statement: Formed by God's word and nourished at the Eucharist, we strive to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ by handing on the Catholic faith to our families and community and serving those in need.

OCIA Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you an adult thinking of becoming part of the Catholic community and completing your sacraments? Contact Deacon Frank at deaconfrank@stgmajella.org or 631-473-2900.



Facebook.com/stgmajella/



Instagram.com/sgmparish



Facebook.com/SGMthriftshop/



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YouTube Channel-St. Gerard Majella Parish

**SAINT GERARD MAJELLA
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER YOUR FAMILY
WITH OUR PARISH**

Are you new to our parish? Have you been participating in our parish but never registered? Do you need to update your contact information or add a family member?

Both registration or family update forms are available in our church office 631-473-2900 or on our website: www.stgmajella.org



Breaking Open the Word

Reflecting on next Sunday's Gospel before you come to Mass can bring so much more meaning to your experience of the Liturgy. Here's the Gospel for next Sunday. How does this Gospel touch your life?

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reflection Questions

- Who was sent to Mary and with what message? How did Mary respond and what reassurance did Gabriel give Mary?
- What was the name Mary was to give to the promised child and by what other name will he be called? How do these names reflect Jesus's humanity and deity?
- In what surprising or overwhelming circumstances have you experienced God's faithfulness and favor?
- How does remembering that God's word never fails, help you to surrender to God's plan in the surprise twists and turns of life?



Weekly Memorials Available

Would you like to have a loved one remembered? Give thanks for one of God's many Graces? Or offer up a prayer for someone in need? Please consider a Weekly Memorial. These are Memorials that are dedicated for an entire week, running from Monday to Sunday. Memorials are listed each week in the parish bulletin. Please contact our parish office to reserve a memorial for your intention. Memorials are available for:

Bread & Wine (\$30) Sanctuary Candle(\$20)

Did you know our very own Deacon Frank is a published author?!

Check out all of his articles here:

<https://catholicexchange.com/author/deacon-d/>



LECTIO DIVINA

- Lectio
- Meditatio
- Oratio
- Contemplatio



Join Bishop Andrzej

For Scripture Reflection Series

on St. JOSEPH - Part IV

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

at 7:30 pm - ZOOM webinar.



Bible Study Verses

JOSEPH

The Man of Loving Justice

Gospel of Matthew 1: 18-25

The Annunciation to Joseph

Registration is Required,
in order to receive the ZOOM link to each session.
Please contact the Western Vicariate office with your
name, parish, email address and phone number.

Send your email to:
westernvicariate@drvc.org
or call Suzanne at 516-744-6850.



Christmas Festival Thank You!

Thank you all who worked so hard to make the Christmas Festival a success.

We were blessed to have the support of our Pastor, Fr. Greg, Jackie, Jen, and Bob who gave their time and help when needed.

Thank you to Penny Cocchiara who supervised the cooks and food preparation and Roe Hayes who put on a beautiful display of 36 raffles.

Thank you to our crafters, especially Diane Van Wyk and AnnMarie Martano who shared their talents.

I am grateful to all of you who took charge of our beautiful tables and greeted all with a smile.

We had great signs and advertising thanks to Dolores DePasquale and lets not forget all who just came forward to help and go wherever was needed; set up, break down, any table, and offer their time and energy! My upmost thanks to all-you did a great job and God blessed all our efforts.

Love,

Grace Surwilo

Christmas Festival Chair





Thank You

for your generous support over the past year.

When you donate your time, talent & merchandise, or shop at our store, you are supporting the charitable works of St. Gerard Majella Church.

For that we are truly grateful.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas
and a happy, healthy New Year!

We look forward to a prosperous 2024!

**The Thrift Shop & Barn Will Be Closed
Friday, December 22 — Monday, January 1.**

During this time NO DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please do not leave any donations outside of the barn or thrift shop,
or anywhere on the property during our holiday closing.

We will reopen for business on Tuesday, January 2



O, come let us adore

Him,

Christ the Lord!

To prepare for the coming of the Lord at Christmas,
please join us for a

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Tuesday, December 19, at 7pm at St. Gerard Majella Church.

Our time together will include
Sermon by Fr. Greg — Prayerful Meditation
Song — Benediction

Come! Let us gather for this special time of gratitude for our invitation to be in relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist!

*“In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment,
there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host.
It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering.”*
~ Pope Benedict XVI

**Wine, Cheese and
"THE CLASS OF LIFE"
A Theatrical Experience
*Starring Paul Failla***

**Presented By
St. Gerard Majella Columbiettes**

**Friday Evening, February 2nd (Snow Date 2/9/24)
St. Gerard Majella Parish Center
300 Terryville Road
Port Jefferson Station**

**Doors open at 6:00 pm/ Show starts 7:30pm
(Show is approximately 2 hours with one 15-minute intermission)**

**Tickets \$30 per person
Includes Wine, Cheese & Crackers,
Coffee & Dessert
(Outside Food Is Permitted)**

RAFFLES & 50/50

*****Proceeds from this evening will support various charities*****

**For Ticket Information, please contact
Donna Antignano at (631) 948-6124 or Ann Famiano (631) 928-3745**

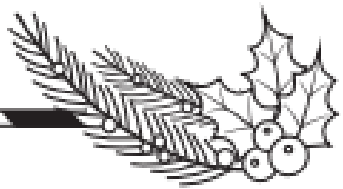
No Later Than January 26th

The Class of Life is a theatrical experience that takes the audience on a journey that highlights one man's life. The story begins on the last day of his distinguished career as a police officer. This day gives way to reminiscing about his motivation to become a police officer, his proud Italian heritage, his upbringing, and his married life. Utilizing a blend of humor, drama, song, dance, and life experience, the actor takes his audience on an emotional roller coaster through stories relating to all. This poignant presentation will surely touch the lives of those who value family, tradition, and comedy.

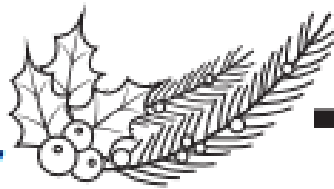
Please visit-www.TheClassOfLife.com

*"It is one of a kind."-PB "It was absolutely fantastic."-CJ
"A must see. Better than any play I have seen in years."-JS*

Tickets will not be sold at the door. You must be 21 and older to attend.



Third week of
Advent



SAINT NICHOLAS DAY



Let's talk about it!

Sunday: Invite Jesus to spend some time with you today.

Monday: How can you be more like Saint Nicholas?

Tuesday: How is God with you in hard times?

Wednesday: What are some of your family's Christmas traditions?

Thursday: Share your difficulties with God in prayer today.

Friday: What do you think about Heaven?

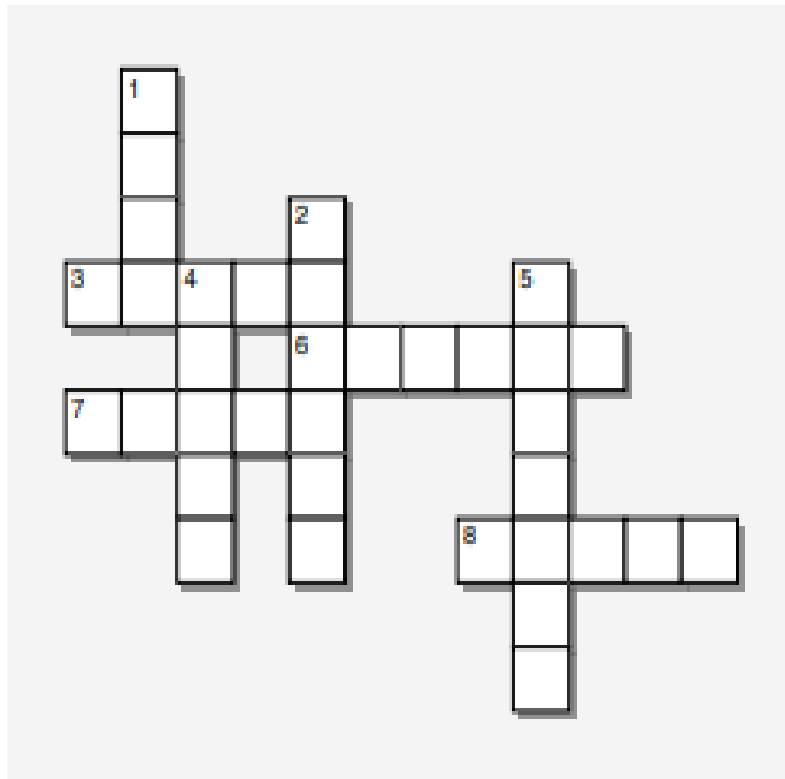
Saturday: Where is your favorite place to go for Christmas?



Sunday Gospel Activities

Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28



Across

3. The opposite of tying shoelaces.
6. This is a kind of shoe we wear today in the summer that was common during Jesus time on earth.
7. When we speak, we use our _____.
8. "He was not the _____, but came to testify to the _____"

Down

1. Today's Gospel is from the Gospel according to _____.
2. Dry land; a land mass with no water.
4. Today is the _____ Sunday of Advent.
5. John the Baptist says, 'I _____ you with water, but the one who is coming after me....' will baptize with the Holy Spirit!

Brought to you by CatholicMom.com and Holy Cross Family Ministries.

THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.



Sunday Gospel Activities

3rd Sunday of Advent, John 1:6-8, 19-28

U P I O R A J O R D A N Z M I S M B Q A
A V L E T C N V G B V A W A T E R X B W
C V N N Q Y W P C Q P H A R I S E E S H
O X H W U D C R S R X S O L P U W R X U
H D W J C H H O D B Y S J D A E M L V R
R U L V V X R P T P D I T T T J A I O L
L K M S O K I H R B K J N R H E S G V Q
D Q X J H Y S E E V M U U G A E B H J N
E K F T Z R T T S D T C N L E I U T E V
B M I Y S C K C E T Y Q A W A Z G Z R Y
A O H C B T W V D R C S E E J R L H G O
P V A J O H N P L E U T N K M L K V T D
T I K Q X M Q G F G X K Y Z E L B K I R
I F S O P E K U X U D C C Q N N O G K E
Z E M N R K U C I O T P A V F B C L J W
E R L I J P K X L O W P U K Z F D A H S
J R G I F K H L O R D G O K S Y A M U N
E M O A J V L Z E I T Z I R O V C Y X A
P A N P G A C L L R G D Y U D T V A I D
U O R O Q V H V O I C E M S D U U A P V

answer

baptize

Christ

crying

desert

Elijah

John

Jordan

light

Lord

Pharisees

prophet

straight

voice

water

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