

THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

ST. ISIDORE R. C. CHURCH

622 PULASKI STREET
RIVERHEAD, NY 11901-3038
PHONE (631) 727-2114 (Emergency: (631) 508-2417)
FAX (631) 369-3566
EMAIL: sisidore@optonline.net
OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.stisidoreriverhead.org

REV. KRZYSZTOF DRYBKA, OSPPE, PASTOR
REV. MIKOLAJ "NICHOLAS" SOCHA, OSPPE, ASSOC.
DEACON MICHAEL A. BONOCORE

REINA BONOCORE, OFFICE
DIANNE MASSIELLO, SPIRITUAL
AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

SECOND & FOURTH SUNDAYS
1:15 PM ENG
2:15 POLISH

Please arrange the date of baptism through the Rectory office after the birth of your child.

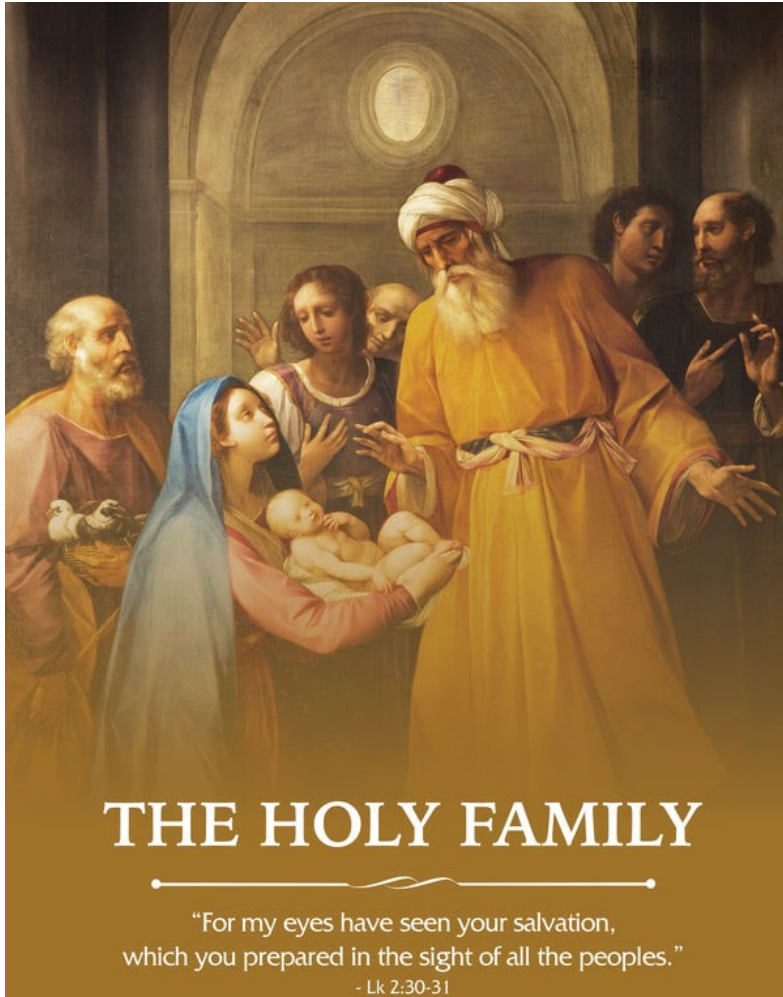
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call the Rectory for an appointment at least six months prior to the desired date.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS
4:00 to 4:45 PM
and
THURSDAYS BEFORE
FIRST FRIDAYS
4:00 to 5:00 PM

Other times by appointment.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

WEEKDAYS
7:00 AM
SATURDAYS
8:00 AM
SATURDAY
EVENINGS
VIGIL MASS 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS
8:00 & 9:15 AM
10:30 AM (Polish)
12:00 Noon

RECTORY HOURS
WEEKDAYS
9 AM to 12 Noon
& 1 PM to 4 PM

EUCHARISTIC
ADORATION
W/ BENEDICTION
Tuesdays
12:00 to 1 PM

MILLIONS
OF MONICAS
Tuesdays 1 to 2 PM

PL PRAYER GROUP
W/ ADORATION
2ND THURSDAYS
7 PM

Our Mission Statement

*Lord, God, all creation is yours, and you call us to serve you by caring for the gifts that surround us. May the example of St. Isidore urge us to share our food with the hungry and to work for the salvation of mankind. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.
Saint Isidore, Pray for Us.*

ST. JOHN PAUL II REGIONAL SCHOOL

631-727-1650
sjp2regional.org
Mrs. Abby Swiatkowski, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

631-727-2114
stisidorefaithformation@gmail.com
Mrs. Adrienne Dillingham

MUSIC MINISTRY

631-727-2114
John Dautzenberg, Anne Dean,
Eileen Benthall, Margaret Kane

THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

5:00 pm + Ed Bilski
+ John B. & Helen Zilnicki
The People of the Parish, Living and Deceased
+ Andrea Weber and Danielowich Family

HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

8:00 am + Frank Columbus (A)
9:15 am Intentions of Massiello and Mader Families
10:30 am + Aldona Krol, Stanislaw & Bronislawa
(PL) Stepniewicz
+ Marianna Swiderek
+ Wieslaw Luniewski
+ Tadeusz Chichy
+ Helena, Antoni i Jozef Cieliczka
12 Noon + Christine Zambryski

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MONDAY, JAN. 1, 2024

9:00 am Birthday Blessings for Richard Janis, Jr.
7:00 pm O Boze Bogoslawnienstwo dla Danuty i Calej
(PL) Rodziny
Health for Jan Stankiewicz

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024

7:00 am + Barbara T. Jaeger (14th A)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

7:00 am Intentions of the Bonocore Family
+ Ann Bonocore

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

7:00 am Blessings for Jadwiga i Alex Radlinski

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024

7:00 am Blessings for Janina Jesiotr

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024

8:00 am Blessings for John Best
Healing for Edward
5:00 pm The People of the Parish, Living and Deceased
+ Mary (A) and Stanley Sydlowski
+ Dennis Gayda (1/3/24 Birthday)
+ Joseph Bobinski
+ Peter Kruszon
+ Virginia Todd

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, JANUARY 7, 2024

8:00 am + Walter J. Danowski (A)
9:15 am + Mary Macari
10:30 am + Zofia and Stanislaw Andrychowski
(PL) + Wieslaw, Helena, Zygmunt i Teresa Luniewski
+ Health and Blessings for Jadwiga Luniewski
O Zdrowie i Bogoslawnienstwo dla Jadwiga
Luniewski i Calej Rodziny
12 Noon + Jean Pace

IN LOVING MEMORY

Missalettes

John B. and Helen Zilnicki

Bread and Wine

Frank L., Bertha M. and Frank L. Jr. Ostroski

Sanctuary Lamp

Vincent A. Doroszka, MD

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, January 1, 2024

Solemnity of Mary

Not a Holy Day of Obligation In the US This Year
Office Closed / Masses at 9 AM and 7 PM (PL)

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Adoration 12 to 1 PM

Millions of Monicas 1 to 2 PM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED



*Frank Prost
Diana Metzger-Balnis
Virginia Todd
Jennie Milowski*

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Corinne Clark * Madeline Galka * Stanislaw Andrzychowski * Grazyna Pawlak * Gillen Family * Christina Donovan * Blythe Fickenwirth * Gilbert Lebron, Sr. * Irene Monahan * Richard, Joseph and Gerard Kane * Jody Breitfeller * Benjamin Gonzalez * Dominique Tirado * Diana Perniciaro * Sammy * Brodie * Bob Rozanski * Dolline Welch * Joe and William Hiskey * Sue Brooks * Cathleen Mickaliger * Joseph Stepnoski * James Kenna * Douglas Clark * Stasia Grabowski * Eleanor Nystrom * Margaret McCarthy * Jan Suchta * Justin * Mike Smithwick * Dakota Harmon * Courtney Altman * Cole Faller * Claire Latour * Halikias Family * Liana Forstein * Rosemary & Daniel Ambrosini * Thomas Ryall * Anne Marie Donlon * Dorothy Sousa * Joan Kielkowski * Anthony Naglieri * Thomas McEnany * Mary Khulman * Denise Babinski * Michael Alperti * Roseanne Murphy * Barbara Kozlowski * James West * Elizabeth Farruggia * Kelly Wine * Mary Van Duesen * Thomas DeGirolamo * William Berenger * Daria Quarlena * Eileen Borchart * Sheila Nolan * Tom Wisniewski III * Jean Reyes Carroll * Jeffrey Clark * James, George and Barbara Jaeger * Ernest and Alex Aponte * Helen Long * Michael Miglionico * Ralph Conforti * The Barauskus Family * Hope & Brittany Williams * John Marion * Emilia Andrychowski * Augie & Georgianna Lucente * Johanna Benthall * Michelle Giaccone * Gloria Keller * Howard Seifert * Ed Kennedy * Kit Z. * Dolores Contino * Agnes Brown * Connie Giordano * Krzysztof Olszowski * Anders Ryden * Kevin C. Cook * Anita Costi * Doriane Bay * David Vallone * Brittany Schacor * Karen and Kim Finocchiaro * Eleanor Koller * Grace Mary Schulteis * Victor Sechyshyn * George Angle * Marta Andreotta * Melissa Alexandra * Christian Vidal * Suzanne Thompson * Anna Grefe * Helen Condzella * Anthony Mannino * Marcella Frisen * The Huntley Family * Theresa Puglia * Brian Darmody * Leigh Anne Brown * Dan Modjeska * Judy Zakorski * Marie Miley * Marcjanna Stolarzewicz * John Shuot * Patrick Murphy * Brian Crowley * Louise Pampinello * Jim DeRosa * Barbara Fenn

Please keep all those serving in the military and their families in your thoughts and prayers especially:

1st Lt. Nicholas Santorelli, Nicholas Pelosi, Christopher Drowns, Jeffrey Heppner, James Fleming, Brendan Fitzgerald, Thomas V. D'Auria, Mateusz Marzec, Andre DeRosa and Garrett Bracht



The Little Way for Every Day



Thoughts from Thérèse of Lisieux

Dec. 31: "There is only one thing to do here below—love Jesus and save souls for Him, so that He may be more loved."



Padre Pio's Spiritual Direction

"I heartily recommend that you take concern to have your heart be more pleasing to our Master day by day. Do things in such a way that the current year will be more fruitful in good works than the last. The years are passing by, and we are approaching eternity, so we need to redouble our courage and lift our souls up to God, serving him with more diligence in everything that our Christian vocation or profession requires of us. This alone can make us pleasing to God. It can free us from the world that is not of him and from all our other enemies. Only this can enable us to arrive at the gate of eternal salvation. Let us then face the present trials to which Divine Providence subjects us, but let us not lose heart or be discouraged. Let us fight hard, and we will carry off the prize that God has stored up for strong souls. Remember, my daughter, the words of the Divine Master to his apostles, which he directs to us today: "Let not your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1) Yes, little daughter, do not let your heart be in turmoil in the hour of trial, because Jesus has promised his assistance to whoever follows Him.

~To Antonietta Vona, January 2, 1918



St. John Paul II Regional School
Serving Grades PreK3 through Grade 8

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 28th
11 am to 1 pm
515 Marcy Ave., Riverhead

For more info, call 631-727-1650
Or visit us at sjp2regional.org

The Eucharist and AI

(The Catholic Thing by: David G Bonagura, Jr.)



Chat GPT and other AI-generative software possess seemingly divine powers: at a mere command, these programs instantaneously produce new images or verbal content. If we want to be entertained, or if we need written or visual material – from invitations to commercials – we give an order and we have what we need immediately. Waiting for production is so last century.

Yet AI’s godlike pretensions short circuit upon closer observation. It generates by quickly “borrowing” from what is available from web-based sources; it cannot work beyond those constraints. Even the imagined AI robot that is said will exceed human capabilities will only be as “smart” as the data from which it can mine. If ever there were a thoroughly secular humanoid bound to what can be measured empirically, the AI robot would be it. Scientism can crown its Frankenstein.

AI’s generative powers are not in the same universe as God’s creative powers. By His own command, God creates whatever He wills from nothing. He does not depend on mathematical calculations to function; He himself constituted the mathematical laws that allow the universe to sustain life, to say nothing of the ability to run computer software. God transcends the limits of space-time and reminds us that the bread on which man really lives is not of this world.

That bread is the Eucharist, God’s most unique and intriguing creation. AI could never generate anything remotely like it, as the Eucharist is the last thing any utility-driven program could, or would, concoct. The contrasts between the Eucharist and AI are so stark, in fact, that the impressive powers of the latter can help us see into the greater mystery of the former.

The two, however, do have the same manner of origin: by command. The Eucharist’s command is Christ’s own: “This is my body. This is the chalice of my blood.” By those words, ordinary bread and wine cease to exist, though their appearance remains unchanged; they have been transformed – transubstantiated, to use the theological term – into Jesus Christ, fully present in His body, blood, soul, and divinity. Before Him in the Eucharist we kneel, since He is God, though His grandeur remains hidden under the veils of bread and wine.

In commanding His apostles, “Do this in memory of me,” Christ transmitted the power of transforming the bread and wine into His body and blood to His apostles, the first bishops, who have, in turn, passed on this same power to every bishop and every priest who has ever lived. At their command, repeated in every Mass, the living and true God becomes present in our midst. The Word dwells among us as He did in Galilee by the power of the sacred words.

AI generates things rapidly for a functional purpose that fills a need. The Eucharist surely fills a need: our hunger for God, for truth, for meaning, for hope beyond this valley of tears. Yet its purpose is anything but functional, and its workings are not rapid, but slow. Here lies a grave difficulty for the modern believer, who expects immediate results from everything he does. In the world of AI, the Eucharist can be misperceived as a mere symbol, a token piece as lively as a marble statue and as relevant as a telegraph.

The Eucharist's purpose is not primarily functional, though it certainly has practical ramifications in the human soul: it heals our brokenness, it removes venial sin, it confers God's grace, it strengthens us to perform God's will. Its primary purpose, though, is existential: it brings us into communion with the source and goal of our lives. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive a foretaste of eternal life, where we will live together in direct, unmediated union with God face to face. This is the promise of the Eucharist.

How do we know this? We can point to the products of AI. God's presence, by contrast, eludes our senses. Yet we know that no truer words have ever been spoken than those of the Son of God: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him." (John 6:56)

Trusting in Christ's words, when we are surrounded by worldly concerns and fears, is never easy. Peter lost his trust while walking on water, the rich young man lost his trust when asked to sacrifice, a group of disciples lost their trust when Jesus insisted that we had to eat His flesh to have eternal life.

AI's power, added to the materialist waves that already were breaking upon us, can make it seem even more likely that the Eucharist is not Christ, that God is not present in the world, that only what we see is what we get.

But then we remember the limits of AI: its inability to transcend the knowledge loaded into it. Which means that AI is incapable of generating that supra-rational power in which all Americans, no matter what they think of God, fully believe: love.

"The Eucharist is the sacrament of love," writes St. Thomas Aquinas. "It signifies love, it produces love." And this love requires no waiting. Rather, it waits for us, in every tabernacle, at every Mass, the world over.

AI is a useful tool. The Eucharist is love itself. The glitter and hype that surround the former may overshadow the Eucharist, but it will never replace it as the source and summit of human life. Because in the end, all we need is love, and love is Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

***Image:** *God the Father* by Guercino (Giovanni Francesco Barbieri), 1646 [Sabauda Gallery, Turin, Italy]

To Our Welcome Visitors:

Welcome to St. Isidore!

May this be a sanctuary of peace and grace for you. If you attend our parish, will you consider registering with us? It is so helpful whenever the need arises for special sacraments, funeral masses and sponsor certificates. It also enables us to keep track of your donations when you use the envelopes we send you.

Please complete the lines below and drop it in a collection basket.

Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Mr. & Mrs. (circle one)

Last Name _____

First Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



MEMORIALIZE YOUR LOVED ONES

The Bread and Wine (\$25) and the Sanctuary Lamp (\$25) may be donated in memory of a deceased family member for the week.

In addition, the Missalettes (\$100) may be donated for a month in memory of a deceased person.

Flowers for the altar may also be donated in a loved one's memory (\$100).

Attn: Mothers, Step Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Confirmation Sponsors, and Aunts:

Has a young adult in your family left the Catholic faith?

Are you hoping and praying for their return?

Would you like to pray together in solidarity with other Catholic women for this intention?

Please join us on Tuesdays from 1 to 2 PM in the Church. Come whenever you can.

To learn more: www.millionsofmonicas.com



OUR CEMETERY

It is important to be mindful of our cemetery's rules and regulations for planting and decorations.

Please note the following reminders:

- **No placed item, whether floral or otherwise,** is considered permanent to the site. The cemetery makes every effort to enforce rules and regulations uniformly and with compassion.
- Because the cemetery is open to the public, the cemetery cannot guarantee plants and decorations from damage, theft or disappearance.
- The cemetery reserves the right to remove and dispose of any decoration/planting when deemed as unsightly, out of season, or otherwise not permitted in accordance with the cemetery's rules and regulations.
- **NOT PERMITTED:**
Creeping plants or vines (English ivy, pachysandra, pumpkins), thorny plants (roses), fruits and vegetables, fences, glass jars, cement pots, flower vases, statues, vigil lights, shells, marble chips, and plantings that exceed 15 inches in height, width or diameter.