

Youth Group



St John's Parish, Riverstone Youth Group
 We look forward to Youth Group in 2024!
 Dates to be advised early 2024.

Indoor Soccer

St John's Eagles Round Robin Soccer Gala Day
 Unfortunately, there will be no Gala Day in January.
 The next Soccer Gala Day will be on
 Wed 17th April 2024 9:30am—2:30pm.
 All school-aged children are invited.

Collection Plates

The First Church Collections plus donations from Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals goes directly towards supporting the various ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta, including the priest salary funds.

The Second Church Collection goes directly into our Parish Account. This account is used for administrative expenses, repairs & maintenance, insurance, church supplies, wages, sacrament supplies, SRE resources, telephone and electricity.

Thank you for supporting our parish & the Catholic Church

Foreign Coins - Please respect the request of no foreign coins to be placed on the collection plates. Our Parish cannot bank these coins. Please check your coins before placing them in the collection plates. Thank you.

Church Roster December 2023

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 23 rd 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		A Jaszczyszyn S Nieves	M Sultana	P Mansweto	Paul Sultana	C Messa S Corben
Sun 24 th 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		C Wickman M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee JB
Sun 24 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	J Bugeja S Yapa	Rondalla & Co	Annie MO
Sun 24 th 10:30am	M Satorre	H Greedy	J Padernia		N D'Souza R D'Souza	D Gorkic	A Delara V Sultana	Raymond & Co	
Sat 6 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family		M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	None	Paul Sultana	C Messa S Corben
Sun 7 th 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee JB
Sun 7 th 9am	Sullivan Family	R Brown		J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	None		Annie MO
Sun 7 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		H Greedy	F Dcruz A Dcruz	C Mascarenhas	None	Jenchris & Co	

Parish Funds

Your support, as always, is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account, these are the details:

Account Name: St John's Catholic Church Riverstone
 BSB: 067950
 Account No: 00000172

Message: (First & Surname of Parishioner)

Please write your full name & the word donation in the message section when using internet banking)

OR

Weekly Envelopes OR Tap & Go OR

Credit Card Donations OR Collection Plates at Mass

QR Code for payments directly to the Riverstone Parish - please enter your name & payment description.



Piety Store

Piety Store - Opening Hours

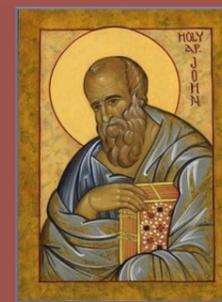
Sundays 10am - 12pm Tuesdays 10am - 11am

Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

Friday Prayer Group

Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group
 Prayer meeting held every Friday 10am in the classroom building. For further information, please contact:
 Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987.
 Prayer Group will resume on Friday 12/1/2024.

Counters- J Shipley & A Hoare



St John The Evangelist Catholic Church Riverstone

A spiritual home for the community offering hope and help for all in need



Parish Priest: Fr Zakaria Gayed
Deacon: Rev. Dr. Michael Tan
Parish Secretary: Melissa Spence
Parish Manager: Tony Brooker
Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm
Phone: 9627-1176
Email: stjohs10@bigpond.com
Website: www.stjohnsriverstone.org.au
Address: 164 Garfield Rd East,
 Riverstone NSW 2765

St Johns Primary School: 9854-3200

Principal: Mrs Jane Misek

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm
 Sunday Morning 7am, 9am & 10:30am

Weekday & Morning Mass Times

Tuesday-Saturday 8:30am
 First Friday 8:30am & 7:30pm

Anointing Mass

First Saturday of each month at 8:30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations

Tuesday after 8:30am Mass

Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help

Wednesday after 8:30am Mass

Mass, Benediction & Rosary

Friday 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

Saturday 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Prayer Group

Friday 10am

Marriage

Please give 6 months notice

Baptism -

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 12pm

Baptism Information Night

First Tuesday of each month at 7pm

Marriage & Baptism

By arrangement during office hours

31 December 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R. vv. 7.8

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works!

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Colossians 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Luke 2:22. 39-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



 **Our Parish would like to thank Fr Andrew, Fr John and Deacon Dr Michael Tan for assisting with Masses during the Christmas Season**

Masses & Feasts

New Years Day Mass

Monday 1/1/2024 8:30am & 7:30pm

2 Jan St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen

Prayer to St John the Evangelist

Oh God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of your Word, grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvellously brought to our ears. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Parish Notices

Please Remember - The Importance of Getting to Mass On Time -

The Mass offers Catholics (and everyone else!) a unique opportunity to encounter God that is not available in any other place. Please arrive before the Mass begins.

St John's Parish Christmas Raffle—thank you to all parishioners who supported our Parish.

St John's Parish Christmas Craft Items - thank you to all of our parishioners who supported our Parish by purchasing items from our stall.

Vinnies—Christmas

Thank you for supporting Vinnies this year. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make this festive season extra special for families in need this Christmas.

Piety Store - For Sale

God Word 2024 Book \$22 each

(Calendar includes list of Saints & Feast Days)

The Parish Office will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped with various jobs in the Parish Office in 2023.

Thank you for your time and effort helping in the office.

Tea & Coffee After Mass - Everyone is welcome, after 9am and 10:30am Masses on Sunday mornings, at the Parish Centre side of the verandah.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who wish to receive Holy Communion. To arrange, please contact the parish office the week before.

2024

The Parish and St John's Primary are looking forward to our 2024 St John's Community Christmas Carols – 6th December at 6:30pm.

Diocese of Parramatta

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

Prayers for our Community

 **Deceased Mass Offerings -**

All Souls, All Souls in Purgatory, John & Rosy Attard, Philip Azzopardi, Br Joe Byrne, Anthony Buttigieg, Sam Bugeja, Alex Calleja, John Cannata, John Grima, Alan Hoare, Maureen Muccillo, Peter Shipley, Chris, John, Maryann Sultana & Sultana family, John, Michael, Angelo & Clementina Sultana and Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, Joseph Jack Sultana, Michael Agius, Theresa & Victor Sultana, Cresencia Fernando, Lise Sardes, Harriot Perera, Fred Baskerville, Mary Calleja and Mary Polgar.

For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros, Francis Saliba, John Padernia, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Jeff Meilak and those in our parish community.



Fr Zakaria and the Parish Team would like to wish all our parishioners a Happy and Safe New Year!

We offer sincere thanks for the many expressions of kindness and the many good wishes received. You are all assured of fond remembrance in our masses and prayers.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers during the Christmas Season. We appreciate all of your help through out the many jobs within our Parish.

We would like to thank the choirs, altar servers, acolytes, lap top preparers and operators and the liturgy helpers who helped to create wonderful Masses.

We would like to thank all of the parishioners who continue to make our grounds and maintenance of the Parish over Christmas and throughout the year.

Our Parish would like to thank Fr Andrew, Fr John and Deacon Dr Michael Tan for assisting with Masses during the Christmas Season.

Sacraments



Sacrament of Baptism

There will be **NO** class in January 2024.

The next Baptism Class: Tues 6 Feb 2024 7pm in the Church Hall.