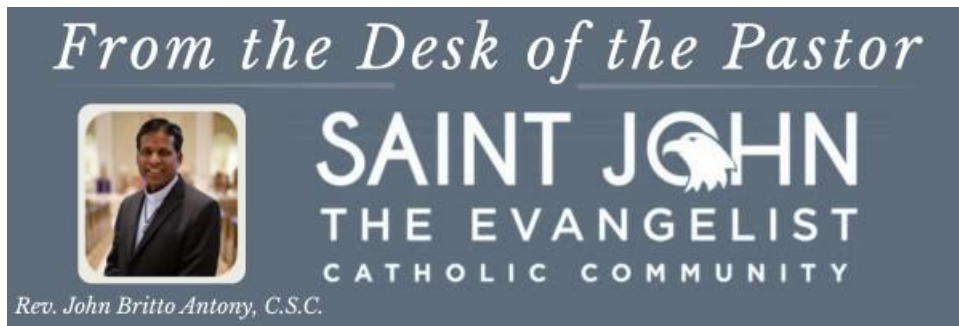




AUGUST 2026 PARISH UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Summer 2026 — where did it go?

At the beginning, some of us may have wondered how we would manage two long months of school vacation, the intense Florida heat, and the constant possibility of rain, thunderstorms, and hurricanes. But for others, summer became a welcome opportunity to slow down, spend time with family and friends, and catch up on the things we have been putting off.

As for me, a change in pace was not to be. Parish life continued at full speed with Vacation Bible School, our special Fourth of July celebration, the Hurricane Preparedness Rally and Senior Fair, and so many other wonderful events. Thanks be to God for the many blessings He has poured out upon our parish!

Soon, our children will be returning to school, and our faith formation programming will begin again. We are especially delighted by the largest ever response to our [Order of Christian Initiation of Adults \(OCIA\) program](#). Classes begin on Monday, August 24. If you or someone you know has been thinking about becoming Catholic or simply want to learn more about the Catholic faith, this is the perfect time. We would love to welcome you into our parish family!

My sincere thanks to our [SJE4Veterans Ministry](#) for coordinating the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" collection after all Masses during the weekend of August 1–2. Your generosity continues to make a difference in the lives of our military personnel and veterans.

This weekend, we extend a warm welcome to Bishop Lumen Monteiro, C.S.C., Bishop of the Diocese of Agartala in northeastern India. As he celebrates the 30th anniversary of his episcopal ordination, we congratulate him with gratitude for his service and thank him for being with us at all the Masses.

August also brings our [Christ Renews His Parish \(CRHP\)](#) weekends for both men and women. I am happy to share that well over 1,000 parishioners have experienced these retreats over the years, and countless lives have been transformed through deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and greater involvement in our parish community. Thank you to our dedicated leadership teams for their months of preparation and attention to every detail. Please keep in your prayers all the men and women who will be attending the retreats this month.

On Friday, August 28, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in Holy Cross Hall, we will host a [Catholic Rethinking Justice workshop](#) in partnership with BRIGHT (Brevard Righteously Igniting Good Hope Today), a coalition of churches throughout Brevard County committed to addressing local social justice issues through Christian values and collaborative action. We are pleased to welcome Fr. Matt Mello and Fr. Chris Hoffman as our guest speakers. More details to follow.

As our parish family continues to grow, we remain committed to ensuring that everyone feels known, welcomed, and cared for. No one should fall through the cracks or feel forgotten. With that goal in mind, we are introducing several new initiatives to help strengthen our sense of community.

One of these is the [Verso l'Alto Mass](#) designed especially for our high school and college-age young adults at the 4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass. We have seen how beautifully our children participate in the 9:00 a.m. Mass by serving as greeters, lectors, musicians, readers of the Prayers of the Faithful, and offertory collectors. We now hope to encourage our young adults to take ownership of the 4:30 p.m. Mass by actively serving in these and other ministries. I am deeply grateful to Jennifer Hera and Diona Cozzolino for leading this exciting new initiative. Verso l'Alto, an Italian phrase meaning "To the Heights," was the lifelong motto of Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, whose joyful pursuit of holiness continues to inspire young people throughout the world.

We are also launching SJE4Seniors, a ministry dedicated to our senior parishioners. Our parish owes an enormous debt of gratitude to those whose faith, generosity, and years of service helped build the vibrant community we enjoy today. This ministry will offer

opportunities to pray together, socialize, build friendships, and care for one another. Thank you to Sue Schmid for generously agreeing to coordinate this ministry. Our first gathering will take place on Friday, August 21, from 2:00–3:30 p.m. in Holy Cross Hall. We hope many of our seniors will join us.

Another ministry we hope to begin is a fellowship and support program for parishioners living with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. Anyone who has cared for a loved one with Alzheimer's understands the physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges involved. We hope this ministry will provide encouragement, companionship, and some much-needed support for caregivers as well. If this disease touches your family, I warmly invite you to an informational meeting on Thursday, August 13, at 6:00 p.m. in Holy Cross Hall. Thank you to Kathleen Rufino for helping us launch this important initiative.

On the Feast of Saint Monica, Thursday, August 27, we will celebrate for the first time a “Mass of Tears” at the grotto at 7:00 p.m. Like St. Monica who persevered in prayer for her son, St. Augustine, we will gather to pray for our loved ones who have drifted away from the practice of the Catholic faith. May our prayers be filled with hope and trust in God's unfailing mercy.

Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all who have joined the St. John's family in recent weeks. We are truly blessed to have you with us. Please know that you belong here, and we look forward to growing in faith together.

As always, our [parish calendar](#) is filled with many wonderful opportunities for prayer, fellowship, learning, and service throughout the month. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities and stay connected with your parish family.

May God bless you and your loved ones with a joyful, peaceful, and grace-filled August!

With love and prayers,

Fr. John

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2026

Saturday, Aug 1 - Sunday, August 2

CRHP Women's Retreat Weekend

Friday, August 7

3:00 pm: First Friday Devotion (Church)

Saturday, Aug 8 - Sunday, August 9

CRHP Men's Retreat Weekend

Sunday, August 9

9:00 am: Back-to-School Blessing @ 9am Mass (Church)

Saturday, August 15

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00 am: Mass for the Assumption (Church)

6:15 pm: Tamil Mass (Church & Hall)

7:30 pm: Rosary at the Grotto

Sunday, August 16

1:00 pm: Children's Mass Ministry Open Training from

1-2:30pm (Church)

6:00 pm: High School faith formation classes resume

Monday, August 17

6:00 pm: Men's Discipleship Evening

Wednesday, August 19

6:00 pm: Anchored in Faith Middle School faith formation classes resume

7:30 pm: Weekly High school Bible study resumes (Room 5)

Thursday, August 20

4:00 pm: Anchored in Faith Middle School faith formation classes resume

7:30 pm: Weekly High school Bible study resumes (Room 5)

Friday, August 21

2:00 pm: SJE4Seniors Kickoff Meeting (Hall)

Sunday, August 23

Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1:00 pm: Sensory Friendly Mass (Church)

6:30 pm: Rosary at the Grotto

Monday, August 24

6:00 pm: OCIA faith formation classes resume (Fr Patrick Peyton Room)

Tuesday, August 25

12:30 pm: GriefShare Meeting (Fr Patrick Peyton Room)

Wednesday, August 26

7:00 pm: Movie screening: "American Martyr: The Stanley Rother Story" (AMC Avenue 16)

Thursday, August 27

Feast of St. Monica

7:00 pm: Mass of Tears at the Grotto

Friday, August 28

6:00 pm: Catholic Rethinking Social Justice workshop (Hall)

Saturday, Aug 29 - Sunday, August 30

Mission Cooperative with Sister Concepta Najjemba, IHMR (Church)

Sunday, August 30

4:00 pm: 5th Sunday Knights of Columbus Rosary (Church)