

From the Desk of the Pastor



Rev. John Britto Antony, C.S.C.

SAINT JOHN
THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 2026 PARISH UPDATE

Dear friends,

Think October, think Rosary! The connection between October and the Rosary is especially associated with the **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary celebrated on October 7**. The feast grew out of the Church's gratitude for Mary's intercession and the power of the Rosary. Pope St. Pius V established an earlier form of this feast in thanksgiving for the Christian victory at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, attributed to Mary's intercession through the prayer of the Rosary.

The Rosary itself is a Gospel prayer. As we pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, we meditate upon the mysteries of Christ's life — His Incarnation, ministry, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and the glory He shares with Mary and all the saints. **In honor of our Blessed Mother, we will pray the Rosary every evening throughout October at 6:00 p.m. at the Grotto.** Please remember: The family that prays together stays together!

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the **Blessing of Animals** will be held on **Saturday, October 3, at 12 noon** at the covered drop-off area of the church. Please bring your beloved pets as we ask God's blessings upon them and give thanks for the gift of creation.

I am also very happy to introduce a new ministry, **Rosary in Motion**. We tried this ministry earlier in the year, and it was a wonderful experience for both body and soul. Janet Fovargue, the coordinator, does a wonderful job helping those who participate to move with ease and grace according to their own abilities. As participants pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries, the sessions incorporate warm-up movements, low-impact exercises, prayerful meditation,

and cool-down stretches. No one is required to perform or master the exercises — you are always welcome simply to join us in prayer. Even those with walkers and in wheelchairs can participate while seated. All you need to bring is a mat if you would like to do the stretches. Rosary in Motion will meet every Tuesday from 6:00–7:00 p.m. beginning October 6. Thank you, Janet, for leading this beautiful ministry as we praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus, together with Mary, our Mother. This ministry is open to all men and women 16 years of age and older as well as children ages 8+ with an accompanying adult.

The **Welcome Back! ministry** also returns this fall with a six-week series beginning Saturday, October 17, at 10:30 a.m. This ministry offers returning and non-practicing Catholics a welcoming place where they can be heard, understood, and supported. Each session explores a different topic through open conversation, learning, and reflection. Together, these sessions provide a path toward healing, rebuilding trust, strengthening faith, and reconnecting with the Mass and the Real Presence of Jesus. I am grateful to Shamir Patel for leading this ministry, along with some very devoted and committed parishioners who know firsthand what it means to find their way back to the faith. If you know someone who has been away from the Church, please invite them to our parish and encourage them to participate in these sessions. Sometimes a simple invitation can become the first step on the journey home.

Remember Me is another new ministry born from prayer and pastoral concern. Alzheimer's disease and dementia are serious challenges faced by many families in our parish community, and very often it is the caregivers who carry an enormous burden. Under the leadership of Kathleen Rufino and her core team, we have spent many hours praying, listening, and brainstorming about how our parish might respond. We have chosen the name Remember Me because it speaks so beautifully to both the experience of those whose memories are fading and the experience of those who care for them. Scripture reminds us of God's unfailing love: "Can a mother forget her infant ...? Even should she forget, I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15). And from the cross, the good thief prayed, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42).

Our mission can be expressed simply: "When memory fades, love remains. When our memory fails, God never forgets." Through prayer, fellowship, support, and compassionate presence, we hope to accompany individuals living with dementia and the family members and caregivers who walk beside them. We also entrust this ministry to the intercession of St. Dymphna, patron saint of those affected by mental and neurological illnesses. Our first meeting will be Thursday, October 15, at 10:00 a.m. in Rooms 1 & 2.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

On **Thursday, October 22, at 10:00 a.m.** Eastern Standard Time, Holy Cross Family Ministry will host the **Global Rosary for Peace**. Let us come together as a parish family and storm heaven with our prayers for peace in our world, our families, and our communities. We invite all who are able to please join us in the church. As Venerable Patrick Peyton so beautifully reminded us, "If families give Our Lady fifteen minutes a day by reciting the Rosary, I assure them that their homes will become, by God's grace, peaceful places."

Finally, get ready for some family fun with our **Trunk or Treat!** This year, we will celebrate on **Friday, October 23**. Many thanks to Justin and Amanda Libak for leading this event. Please bring your decorated trunks and invite your families, friends, and neighbors. Let us fill our parking lot with creativity, laughter, and joy, and let us remember that Halloween is the eve of the Solemnity of All Saints. We look forward to welcoming lots of little saints!

There will also be several bonus Masses during the month of October in celebration of special feast days. Among them are:

October 2 – Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels at 12:05 p.m.

October 7 – Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary: Procession begins at 6pm with Mass following in the Grotto

October 22 – Memorial of St. John Paul II at 2:30 p.m., followed by a Holy Hour

October 28 – Feast of Saints Simon and Jude at 12:05 p.m.

October 31 – End of the month of October Mass at 8 a.m. at the Grotto

Please make time for these opportunities to draw closer to Christ.

In the midst of our busy schedules, these additional Masses give us sacred opportunities to pause, pray, and encounter the Lord in the Eucharist. October will be a beautiful month of prayer, movement, healing, welcome, family, and community. May Mary, our Lady of the Rosary, lead us ever closer to her Son, Jesus, and may our parish continue to be a place where every person knows that they are remembered, welcomed, loved, and never forgotten.

God bless you all, and happy October!

With love,

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2026

Thursday, October 1

6:00 pm: Daily Rosary at the Grotto for the month of October begins

Friday, October 2

12:05 pm: Mass for Guardian Angels (Church)

3:00 pm: First Friday Devotion (Church)

Saturday, October 3

10:00 am: Blessed Brunch (Rooms 3 & 4)

12:00 pm: Blessing of the Animals (Outside Church)

Sunday, October 4

1:00 pm: Tamil Mass (Church & Hall)

2:00 pm: Pro-Life Chain (Pineda Cswy & N. Wickham Rd.)

Monday, October 5

2:30 pm: Mass for St. Faustina Kowalska & Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)

Tuesday, October 6

6:00 pm: Rosary in Motion begins weekly (Fr. Patrick Peyton Rm)

Wednesday, October 7

5:30 pm: Set up for Our Lady of the Rosary Procession (Hall)

6:00 pm: Our Lady of the Rosary Procession begins from the Parish Hall followed by Mass at the Grotto

Saturday, October 10

9:30 am: Medicare Workshop (Rooms 3 & 4)

Sunday, October 11

National Clergy Appreciation Day

1:00 pm: Altar Server Training & Lunch (Church & Hall)

Thursday, October 15

10:00 am: Remember Me Ministry first meeting (Rooms 1 & 2)

Saturday, October 17

10:30 am: Welcome Back Sessions Resume (Fr. Patrick Peyton Rm)

5:30 pm: Welcome Dinner for Newcomers (Hall & Kitchen)

Sunday, October 18

1:00 pm: Sensory Friendly Mass (Hall)

Monday, October 19

6:00 pm: Gratia Plena Event (Hall & Kitchen)

Wednesday, October 21

11:00 am: CCW General Meeting (Hall)

Thursday, October 22

10:00 am: Global Rosary for Peace (Church)

3:00 pm: Adoration for JP II (Church)

Friday, October 23

6:00 pm: Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 24

11:30 am: Tour of the Grotto / Welcome Back

Wednesday, October 28

7:00 pm: Behold the Lamb of God Eucharistic Adoration (Church)

Saturday, October 31

8:00 am: Mass at the Grotto — Closing of the Month of the Holy Rosary