

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Leading Souls to Heaven

oS233 Church Street; Winfield, Illinois 60190 | stjohnwinfield.org | Ph: 630.668.0918 | Fax: 630.668.1074

Pastor: Very Rev. Christopher Lankford, KHS

Priesthood Sunday

MASS TIMES

CHAPEL

Mondays, Wednesdays

5:30 pm

Tuesdays, Thursdays

8:15 am

Fridays

12:00 pm

CHURCH

Saturdays

5:00 pm

Sundays

7:30 am

9:30 am

11:30 am

CONFESSIONS

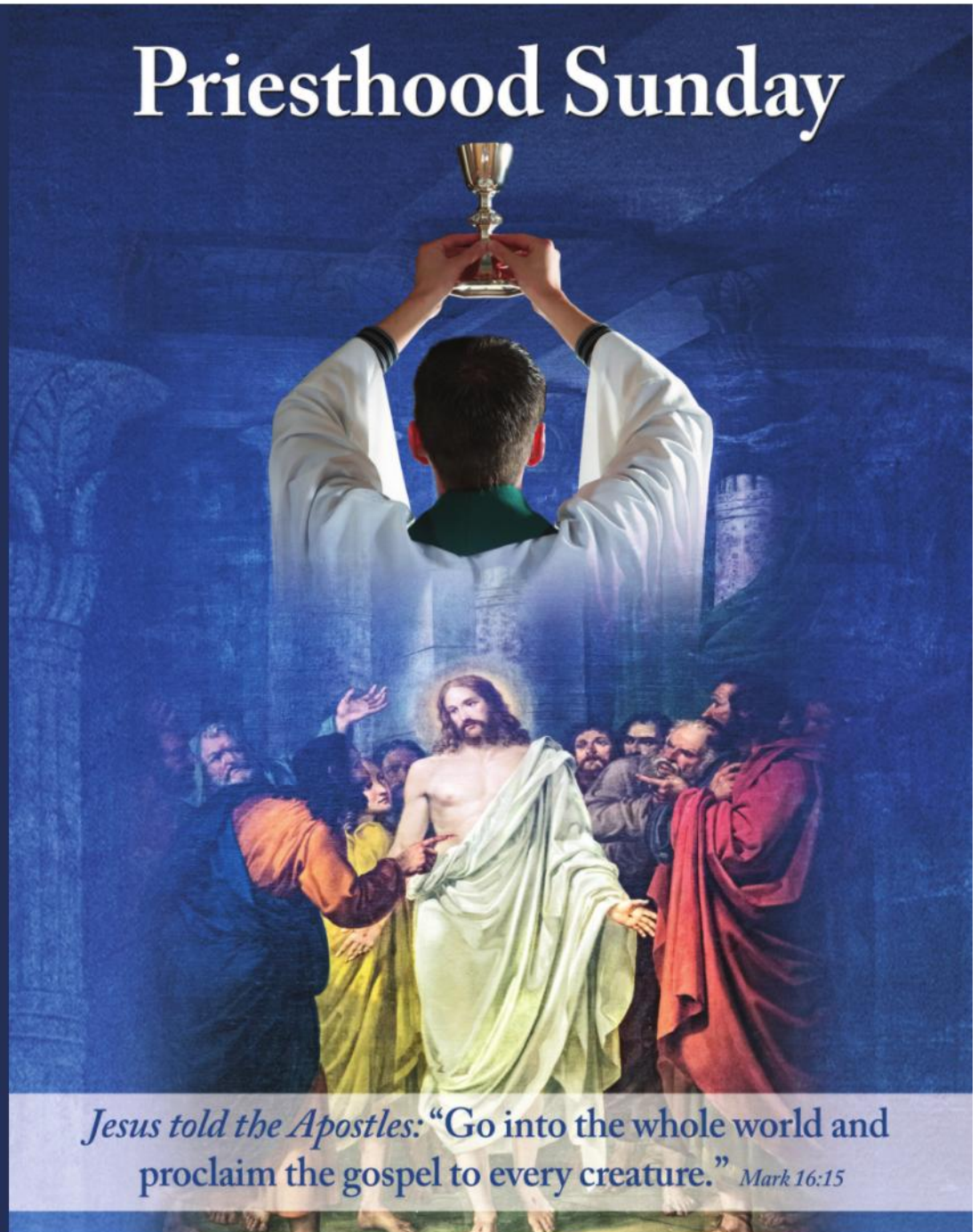
Saturdays

3:30-4:30 pm (Church)

ADORATION

Thursdays

9:00 am to 8:00 pm
(Chapel)



Jesus told the Apostles: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 24, 2023

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**St. John the
Baptist Catholic
*Church & School***



Dear Friends In Christ,

This past week was our annual priest's convocation. It's hard to step away from such an active parish, and I really don't like canceling Masses at all. That being said, this is a really productive period of time for me, and I trust for most priests. We get to separate from our normal surroundings and pray, share ideas, including decisions that were successful and those that were less so, and even share a meal or two together. Overall, it is an energizing and supportive event. The other thing that I like about it is that there are priests of all ages and walks of life in attendance, and that diversity is very exciting and beneficial.

It is also fitting that this was coordinated during the week preceding Priesthood Sunday. While Jesus truly calls on all of us to be disciples who should spread the Gospel, priests are a unique and dedicated set of individuals trying to fulfill the Lord's mission. I know that many of you keep me in your prayers every week, as I do you in mine. This week I ask that you keep all priests, and those pursuing the priesthood in your prayers.

Have a blessed week, and be safe.
Thanks be to God.

In Christ,
Fr. Chris



*Prayers for the SJB faithful at
the convocation chapel*

HELP WANTED...DESPERATELY

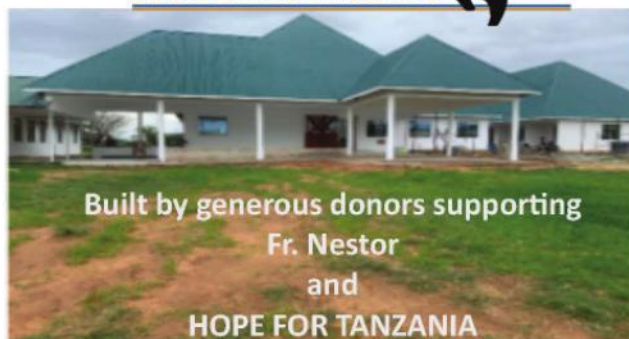


**"Please help me build
an operating room at INUKA to provide
surgery for disabled children like these."**

-Fr. Nestor Mtweve, Managing Director
INUKA Rehabilitation Hospital,
South Highlands, Tanzania



INUKA
REHABILITATION HOSPITAL



Built by generous donors supporting
Fr. Nestor
and
HOPE FOR TANZANIA



**"Living with Fr. Nestor I learned he was a holy priest.
The work he is now doing is an awesome example of
what leading souls to heaven really means "**

-Fr. Chris Lankford

INUKA IS THE ONLY REHABILITATION HOSPITAL IN TANZANIA

It is heart breaking that INUKA cannot provide surgery for many patients. Some families spend their last pennies traveling days, 100's of miles to get to INUKA only to learn they must travel to another hospital for surgery before they can receive therapy at INUKA for their deformities.

Fr. Nestor Mtweve will preach at 5:30p Mass

Wednesday September 27, 2023

**Fr. Nestor will present how people live in Tanzania and the work he is doing with
the poorest of the poor.**

Join us for refreshments in Sebehar Hall after Mass.

Fr. Nestor needs \$275,000 to build and furnish an operating room

Building and furnishing simple apartments for medical mission staff and a chapel at INUKA

Your generous donation will transform lives.

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for Tanzania
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Fr. Nestor and INUKA REHABILITATION HOSPITAL



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Bishop Hicks' Column

September 2023

1,000 DAYS



RECENTLY, SOME FRIENDS AND I WERE DEBATING if “milleversary” is a real word. I’d never heard of it, but some insisted it is a legitimate word that means 1,000-day anniversary. Some cleverly invented alternatives like “kiloversary,” or “k-day.”

This summer I celebrated my “milleversary” here in the Diocese of Joliet. September 29 will mark three years since I was installed as your bishop. I still remember my installation Mass as if it were yesterday. It was in the midst of the pandemic. Even though my heart raced with joy and excitement as I walked down the aisle and looked around, I thought to myself, *what strange days these are with the pews only 20 percent filled with masked people.*

After the installation, I spent my first year in deliberate listening mode. I strived to get to know the diocese, the history of the parishes, the nature of the schools, the experiences of the priests and deacons, the presence of the religious men and women, the involvement of the laity, the breadth of ministries, the status of our finances and the source of our donations and resources. Like assembling pieces of a puzzle, I began to form a clearer picture of our diocese that included both the good and the bad.

I quickly realized the expanse of our diocese. With 125 parishes and missions contained in 4,218 square miles within seven counties, our footprint is enormous. Before arriving in Joliet—during my six years as Vicar General in the archdiocese of Chicago—I walked each day to my office in the pastoral center. As a result, I averaged only about 6,000 miles per year using my car. Comparatively, I now drive about 22,000 miles per year.

But I’m certainly not complaining. I am truly most happy when I get out from behind my desk and am out “in the vineyard” with you, the people of God, celebrating our faith and salvation in the Lord Jesus. Though each parish has a unique “personality,” they all share the common trait of gracious hospitality.

I am deeply moved when I witness the pastoral leadership of our priests, deacons and staff members. I am touched by how much our parishioners love the Lord, the Blessed Mother, your communities of faith and your families.

Naturally, when I first arrived, I had to come to grips with some of the challenges facing our diocese, many of which were caused by the pandemic. These issues included budgetary concerns caused by decreasing attendance and contributions. With ever-shifting demographics, I was made aware of how some parishes and schools are experiencing great growth, while others are in substantial decline.

Two years ago, when I launched our Targeted Restructuring process, my first goal was to reorganize the diocesan offices while embracing a diocesan vision of Catechesis, Evangelization and Faith into Action. Since then, we also have turned our attention to consolidating or closing some specific parishes and schools, so that our diocese will continue to thrive vibrantly and meet the needs of all those we serve.

Through it all, I have emphasized the need to pass our beautiful faith and tradition on to the next generation—as we move from maintenance to mission. I want us to intentionally look for every opportunity to bring more people into the Catholic faith—especially young people—as we continue to encourage them to consider a vocation to the priesthood, religious life and the various ministries in the Church. While doing this at the local level, we also have embraced national movements such as the National Eucharistic Revival, as well as the international Synod on Synodality.

As I reflect on these past 1,000+ days and look forward to my fourth year as your bishop, I am anticipating our launch of the year-long commemoration of our diocese’s 75th Anniversary. This celebration will give us the opportunity to remember our past, celebrate our present and look forward with hope.

Your presence, prayers and gifts make this a strong and healthy diocese. Thank YOU for making it so easy for me to say constantly, *I feel happy, blessed and grateful here.*

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



Sacrificial Giving

Offertory collections for the weekend of September 10, 2023, were \$20,122. We thank you for your support and prayers in helping us meet our weekly goal of \$24,600.

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THE
GAME



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THE
DATE



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ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



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If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Visit our church website at www.st-johnwinfield.org and click

Give Online

Select the collection or event of your choice.
Set up your donation or payment. *That's it!*

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. *It's that easy!*

Questions?

Contact Jim Nolan, 630-668-0918, ext. 604.



Fall Bazaar October 14-15, 2023 Sebahar Hall

Annual Event sponsored by Council of Catholic Women

We need donations of handmade crafts and needlework, gently used items in good condition such as housewares, decorative accessories, paintings, jewelry, religious items, toys and books are greatly appreciated. We cannot accept furniture, clothing or electronics.

Please leave donations in the vestibule
of the parish office.

Volunteers are needed at the weekend sale and Thurs-Fri, Oct.12-13 with setting up and pricing. All women of the parish are considered CCW members. This event is a great way to become involved.

Questions? Please contact:

Cecily Langellier 630-665-5946 or

Venessa Lopatka venessalopatka@gmail.com or 630-336-5414



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, September 23, Vigil, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 5:00 p.m. † Joseph & Florence (*Joe & Dee Bryja*)
 † Lima Higgins (*Margaret Pieczynski*)
 † Wally Dusza (*Maryann Dusza*)
 † Patti Bentley (*Mike Bentley*)
 ♥ Violet Catherine Garro, Health & Intentions (*Maureen & Joe Garro*)
 ♥ Autumn Bodi, Health & Intentions (*Maureen & Joe Garro*)

Sunday, September 24, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 a.m. † Atilano Contreas, Jr. (*The Challenger Family*)
 9:30 a.m. ♥ John & Mary Karwoski, 74th Wedding anniversary
 11:30 a.m. ♥† The People of the Parish

Monday, September 25

- 5:30 p.m. † Nancy Enzweiler (*Maureen Smyth Gyure*)

Tuesday, September 26

- 8:15 a.m. ♥† Members and Benefactors of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

Wednesday, September 27

- 5:30 p.m. † Dick Larson (*Anne & Dave Larson*)

Thursday, September 28

- 8:15 a.m. † John Crossman (*The McGrath Family*)

Friday, September 29

- 12:00 p.m. † Dr. Michael I Hussey (*The Hussey Family*)
 ♥ John Novotny (*The Nivotny Family*)
 ♥ Charles Michael Garro, Health & Intentions (*Maureen & Joe Garro*)
 † Michael Fraser (*The Fraser Family*)
 † Scott Weber (*The Fraser Family*)
 † William Lutzenkirchen (*Dan & Helen Lutzenkirchen*)

Mass Intentions: The donation for a Mass Intention is \$10; the 5:00 pm Sat. Vigil Mass and 12:00 pm Friday Mass are free-will donations. Please note: the 2024 Mass book is open.

Our Sanctuary Lamps

This week, our Sanctuary Lamps* burn in Memory of (†) /Honor of (♥):



CHAPEL † *Shirley Stachniak*
 CHURCH ♥ *The Rohr Family, Health*

*If you would like to request a sanctuary lamp to burn in memory of/in honor of a loved one, please contact the parish office. The cost is ten dollars per week.



**CATHOLICS
FOR LIFE**

"May the dignity of man according
to the Creator's plan be spread" – Pope St. John Paul II

RIGHT TO LIFE SUNDAY, RIGHT TO LIFE MONTH, RIGHT TO LIFE BABY BOTTLES WEEKEND

They all begin next weekend! Saturday September 30th & Sunday October 1st we'll be passing out baby bottles for you to take home, put out where it can be seen, and fill it up with donations to Waterleaf. You help them to help the mom's that may have no other place else to turn. They can make the difference between the mom keeping the baby or having an abortion. We'll collect the bottles on the weekend of October 21/22.

Sunday October 1st - Chain of Life peaceful hour of prayer at St. Isadore on the corner of Army Trail & Gary Avenue between 2 and 3 pm.

Saturday Oct. 7th - Chain of Life peaceful and silent event originating at 520 E. Roosevelt Rd. from 10:45 am to noon.

Please pray for our sick

Praying for our sick is one of the most important things we can do as a parish community. Please pray for the following people:

Baby Luke Hougan

The entire prayer list is on our website, at www.stjohnwinfield.org. Click on the heading, "Prayer Request," then scroll right underneath Prayer Request banner to: PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR CURRENT PRAY FOR OUR SICK LIST

If you or someone in your family is sick & would like to be included in this list or prayed for by our confidential Prayer Line, please contact the parish office.

Please keep in your prayers all Deacons and Seminarians who are studying in the Diocese of Joliet including our own
Seminarian Sam Bergmann

Please pray for all first responders and for those in Active Duty, including our own:

Pvt James Luigi Akin	CMDCM (SW/SS/AW)
SRA Francis Beifuss	Timothy A. Newell
Lt. Col. John Berg	ABH2 Sean Phillips
Sgt. Tyler Bowling, US Army	Captain Colleen Rezabek
Sgt Melissa Brooker	Captain Kevin Rezabek
Pvt Timothy Conley	A1C Alejandro Luis Sanchez
Lt. Jr. Gr. Nicholas Daly	Cpl Riley Santoyo
Major Daniel Durbin	Sgt Ian Sarlitto
Lt. Col. Tony Eschliman	AN Michael Schieve
LCPI Ciro Esquivel, Jr.	2LT Allyson Serbick
Sgt. Nicholas Gedvilas	PFC Keegan Serbick
Pv2 Nicholas Gorman	Lt. Colonel James
Sgt Pamela Gray	Smolucha
Colonel Eric Hass, US Army	Major Mike Smolucha
Colonel Erica Haas, USAF	SPC Thomas Stanhope
A1C Seth Kelley	AFSSgt Zachary Ushman
Airman Nicholas Kostecka	Lt. Keith Wolfe
Lt. Crystal Kotvan	
Sgt Major Carrie Kwiatkowski	
Sgt. David Lawless	
SrA Robert Lawless	
Captain Matthew Luff	
WO1 Jake Miller	



THE KNIGHTS & MEN OF SJB:

Come pray the Rosary
 & stay for a get-together,
 St. John's Fire Pit,

7:00 pm Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

Questions? Sean Conley, 630-835-8225



Reboot! is the fun, inspiring and practical experience for all ages (12+) of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life.

Join Chris Stefanick, an internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and TV host, for a life-changing evening. Hear the Good News that the Lord has for ALL of us, and learn how to live out this JOY in your everyday life.

Whether you're a lifelong Church goer, just rediscovering your faith, or have never heard of Jesus before, this is THE event for you!

Make the commitment to have more JOY in your life today.

Grab a ticket for yourself, your friends, your family.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 9/27th @ 7pm!



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Life is a Journey.
Where are You
Headed?



Life can be overwhelming. Too many worries, too many places to be, too many items on the to-do list. Do you ever wish for some way—any way—to slow down and really consider what it's all about?

Where do you currently find your meaning?

Where do you want to find meaning?

Is it possible to be fulfilled?

These are questions worth asking.

Discovering Christ is for anyone who is curious. Enjoy a delicious dinner and listen to a thought-provoking talk that is designed to explore the meaning and purpose of your life. After the talk, you can share your thoughts in a small group (and talk as much or as little as you wish). It's all done in a warm, friendly, and judgement-free environment.

Discovering Christ is fun, relaxed, and free.

Thursdays, September 28 – November 9, 6:30-8:30pm. Register at stjohnwinfield.org/discovering-christ

ENCOUNTER → GROW → GO!



FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE FALL VIGIL

begins Wednesday September 27th and ends Sunday, November 5th. As we have done in previous years, St. John's has signed up for praying at Waterleaf in front of Planned Parenthood, 3055 E New York St. in Aurora, every Wednesday from 10 am to noon.

If we cannot have the sign-up, please email Linda LeBreux at rvlinda@comcast.net, or call or text her at 331-218-9637 to sign up to pray at Waterleaf. Information will also be available on the bulletin board and posters.



Cursillo Corner

Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ!

Upcoming Weekends

Women's Weekend: October 5-8, 2023

Are you interested in being sponsored for a Cursillo Weekend?

Please contact our **Parish Coordinator, Amy Serritella** at:

amythe1@att.net. Additional information can be found by visiting our website at: www.jolietcursillo.org

PRAYERS & THOSE IN NEED

Having Surgery?

Give one of our priests a call PRIOR to your surgery, so that anointing can be given at a time when you are less stressed.

Hospital Visits

To receive communion while in the hospital, please make the request to a hospital chaplain. Because of HIPAA laws, the hospital does not notify churches when parishioners are there. Please notify the St. John's parish office when a loved one is in the hospital so prayers can be offered. We want to do our best to minister to all who are hospitalized.

Homebound

Parishioners who are homebound and wish to receive communion should call the parish office and we will pass your name to the coordinator for Homebound Ministry.

Grief Support Group

Our Grief Support Group offers emotional support for those grieving a loss whether by death, divorce, or other significant event in their lives. Support is based on confidentiality, trust, and safety. Our next meeting is October 5, 2023, 7:00 pm.

Bulletin Articles

Interested in submitting a bulletin article? Email CommunicationsGroup@stjohnwinfield.org

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

For Baptisms, Funerals and Wedding information, please contact the parish office.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting:

AA is meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Sodonna Hall, the basement of the parish office.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parish Main: _____ 630-668-0918 Ext 0

Parish Administrative Assistants:

Tammy Miller _____ Ext 600

Rosa Benavides _____ Ext 601

Secretaria Hispana: _____ Ext 601

Religious Education Office _____ Ext 613

Director of Faith Formation & RCIA: _____ Ext 612

Director of Finance, Facilities & Operations: Jim Nolan _____ Ext 604

Director of Liturgical Life: Michael Berger _____ Ext 607

Grade School Office:

Principal: Joanne Policht _____ 630-668-0918 Press 2

Fax: _____ 630-668-1074

St Vincent de Paul Society: _____ Ext 692

For information on joining St. John's, please see our website or call the parish office.
Office Hours: Mon., Tues. and Thurs.: 9 am-3 pm; Wed.: 12 pm-3pm; Friday: Closed

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I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." Jeremiah 31:25

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