## 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: Rev. Christopher Lankford Deacon: Rev. Mr. Alex Lorang

#### **MASS TIMES**

**Mondays** 5:30 pm

**Tuesdays** 8:15 am

Wednesdays 5:30 pm

**Thursdays** 8:15 am

**Fridays** 12:00 pm

Saturdays 5:00 pm (Sunday Vigil)

**Sundays** 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am

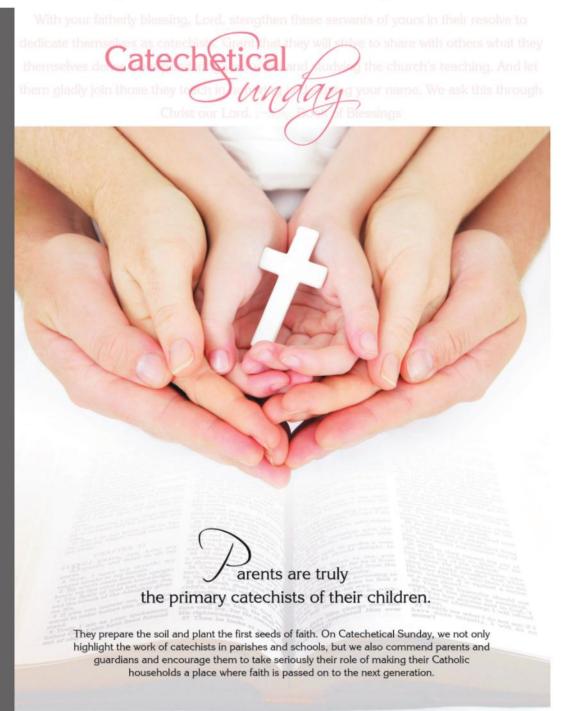
#### **CONFESSIONS**

**Saturdays** 3:30-4:30 pm (Church)

#### ADORATION

**Thursdays** 

following 8:15 am Mass & Rosary, to 8:00 pm (Chapel)



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 18, 2022

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends in Christ.

I wanted to take an opportunity to say thank you for all who have helped with our 2022 Pardon Our Dust initiative the past weeks and months.

We have done so much recently at St. John's:

- We totally renovated our preschool rooms (which will be completed, God willing, over the Christmas break when a drop ceiling vendor can install our new ceiling to complete the room).
- -We removed asbestos from a number of classrooms, our principal's office, two major hallways, and the link of the grade school.
  - -We replaced all the floors in the above-mentioned areas where asbestos was removed.
  - -We resurfaced our gym floor, which was desperately overdue.
- -We crack-filled, seal-coated, and put fresh stripes down on our parking lot which was also desperately overdue.
- -We ordered a new boiler for our chapel which totally broke right before the summer began, and is set to be installed.
- -We engaged in a major cleaning project and filled over six dumpsters by clearing out old storage areas with things from before I was born.
- -We were blessed to have our Eagle Scout Connor Smylie and his Scout friends totally renovate the shed for our parish fire pit.

And these are just the highlights!

We also installed a Shrine to the Sacred Heart in our Grade School and many other projects in the works and on the mind.

I'm so grateful for my maintenance team led by Jim Nolan, our parish Director of Operations, and Brian Schwarting and Tony Zagotta, our parish maintenance men. Also a shout out to Daniel Obendorf who assisted us as a summer helper with some of these and other projects.

And a major thank you to all of you, the parishioners of St. John's! Thank you for your financial support in these projects, thank you for your prayers, and thank you for your trust in me as your pastor with taking care of our campus. None of this would be possible without you.

As the school year starts, the amount of projects we will be able to do will slow down as other responsibilities take over, but I give my word to keep you informed of any major upgrades or updates as they happen. Great work, SJB!!

In Christ,

Fr. Chris



#### MASS MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in participating at Sunday Mass through music? There are several ways. The Cantor program consists of Song Leaders and/or Cantors who lead congregational singing at Sunday Mass & Holy Days of Obligation. Cantors practice weekly. Adult Choir practices weekly on Wednesday at 8:00 pm. You do not have to be a professional singer. If you sing in the shower, please come and let us hear you! Finally, the Handbell Choir is welcoming beginning ringers, with rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Please leave your name & phone number w/ the parish office, 630-668-0918, ext. o.

## Attention: 5th Graders & Above ALTAR SERVING TRAINING

September 26 <u>OR</u> September 28 **6:30 pm-7:30 pm, Church** 

Questions? Contact the parish office, 630-668-0918, ext. o

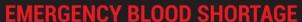
#### SACRIFICIAL GIVING

We are ever grateful for your loving generosity  $\mathcal{E}$  sharing in the Ministries of serving the Lord at St. John the Baptist Parish.

Please help us meet our weekly needs of \$22,941. Thank you for your generosity and support!

August 28...\$18,189

September 4... \$27,947.25





RESERVE OCTOBER 3rd TO GIVE BLOOD IN SEBAHAR
HALL FROM 3-7PM WITH THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS. CALL ALAN KALITZKYAT 630-240-5301
TO RESERVE TO A TIME. THANK YOU!

Priesthood Sunday, September 25, 2022 is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. Please pray for our pastor, Fr. Chris Lankford, along with Fr Jim Olofson in Rome, Bishop Hicks, and all our priests in our diocese, and around the world.

Parish Directory:	630-668-0918
Religious Education Office:	
Director: Maureen Brennan	Ext 612
RCIA (Convert Preparation)	
Parish Secretaries: Jennifer Kurtyka, Rosa Benavides	Ext o or 600
Secretaria Hispana:	
Director of Finance, Facilities & Operations: Jim Nolan	
Music Ministry: Adrienne Rose	
Grade School Office:	Ext 618
Principal, Joanne Policht	
Phone 630-668-0918 Press 2	Fax: 630-668-1074
St Vincent de Paul Society:	Ext 692
Church: www.stjohnwinfield.org School: www.sjbwinfield.org	
For information on joining St. John's, please see our website or call the parish office. Offic	e Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 h.

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, September 17, Vigil, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. † Phil Wengren (John Dusza & Family) † Stephanie Morey (The Dusza Family)

† John Pohodich (The Bartko Family) † Abe Rundell (Monica Rundell) † Lorrie Bernard (Debbie Moore)

† Bengt & Dorothea Persson (Monika Kostecka)

Sunday, September 18, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. The People of the Parish

9:30 a.m. † Virginia Żelasko (Bernie & Chris Bartelli) 11:30 a.m. † William Zapletal, Deceased (Larry Zengri)

Monday, September 19

5:30 p.m. Health & Intentions, Violet Garro (Maureen & Joe Garro)

Tuesday, September 20

8:15 a.m. † Barbara Paskewic (Marilyn Petersen)

Wednesday, September 21

5:30 p.m. † Joseph & Florence Bryja (Joe & Dee Bryja)

Thursday, September 22

8:15 a.m. † Shirley Stachniak (The Stachniak Family)

Friday, September 23

12:00 p.m. † Fr Arno Dennerlein

Health & Intentions, Autumn Bodi (Maureen Garro)

† Barbara Svidron (Maryann Dusza) † Toni Kawolski (Ellen & Mike McGrath) † Ben Sikorski (The Sikorski Family) † Corey Enders (Bruce Enders)

Saturday, September 24, Vigil, Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. † Wally Dusza (The Dusza Family)

† Shirley Stachniak (The Stachniak Family)

† Lucille Vogt (Ronald & Sharon Kammes Family) † Gloria & Stan Fortman (Patricia & Werner Welz)

† John Grabisic (Dan Conley)

† Jongrang "Jong" Tenjum (The Tenjum Family)

Sunday, September 25, Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. • † The People of the Parish

9:30 a.m. † Mike Vallaro

11:30 a.m. † John Pohodich (John Pelican)

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 2023 Mass book is open.



#### **Our Sanctuary Lamps**

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

CHAPEL † Richard Eugene Kohl CHURCH † Fr. Robert Noesen

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



## please pray for The Reverend Michael A. Valente

Born: June 13, 1931 Ordained to the Priesthood: June 7, 1958 Born to Eternal Life: July 21, 2022

Funeral Mass was held on July 28, 2022 at St. Anthony Church, Joliet.
Our prayers are extended to all of Fr Valente's family & friends.

#### please pray for Ioan Cleary

who passed away on August 17, 2022.
Our sympathies are extended to her daughter, MaryBeth Cleary, and to all of her family & friends.

#### 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. The entire sick list will be featured on our website, www.stjohnwinfield.org.

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 at 630-668-0918, ext. 0

James Adduci

Alisa Allen

Sandy Anderson

Jack Aylward

Joseph Balek

Dave Balseqiz

Ada Bantola

Hanns Bell

Ella Bitterman

Jennifer Bitterman

Brian Burke

Allison Lamberts Burns

Jim Cabrera, Sr.

Lawrence Campbell

Cyndi Casanova

Maria Elena Castro

Karen Cervenka

Lisa Cicero

Al Cieslik

Patricia Clifford

Kathy Connor

Georgene Cook

Julio Correa

Rita Cross

Mary Elaine Cruz

Linda Dameron

Anetta Derango

Larry Zengri

Please keep in your prayers our Deacon and Seminarian who are preparing for the Priesthood:

Rev. Mr. Alex Lorang Seminarian Sam Bergmann

Please pray for all the Deacons and Seminarians who are studying in the Diocese of Joliet

#### SVDP GROCERY NEEDS

While you are out shopping, consider picking up any of the items listed on the St. Vincent de Paul grocery list included here.

You can bring the item to Mass and place it in the barrel at each Church entrance inside the doors or drop off at the parish office vestibule.

Questions? 630-668-0918, ext. 692.

Thank you!

Cooking Oil	Dish Soap
Peanut Butter	Crackers
Jelly	Beef Soup
Rice	Shampoo
Pasta	Mouthwash
Paper Towels	Spaghetti Sauc
Laundry Detergent	Canned Chili



## SUNDAY MORNING PRESCHOOL NEWS WELCOME BACK!

Sunday Morning Preschool sessions begin again on Sunday, September 18th in Sebahar Hall at 9:30 am, while Mass is going on in Church. We share stories, games, videos, and science experiments, all with the goal of teaching your little one(s) about God. In addition to class, we share enhancement materials with you via email immediately after each session. It is a way to extend the lesson through the week.

To get you to TRY it, we will do this as a drop in for the months of September and October. Beginning in November we will ask for you to formally register. The fee for the balance of the year will be \$40.

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating, please contact me at sundaymorningpreschool@yahoo.com or my cell (630) 926-7864. ~Jeanne Hess

## FALL BAZAAR OCTOBER 8-9, 2022 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.

Please do not donate religious items you receive in the mail for free.

Donations can be dropped in the vestibule of the parish office.

Volunteers are needed at the weekend sale and Thurs-Fri, Oct.6-7 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: Venessa Lopatka venessalopatka@gmail.com or 630-336-5414

#### BLESSINGS ON OUR CATECHISTS!

Today is Catechetical Sunday, a day the Vatican asks us to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists. Who is a catechist? Anyone who echoes the Word of God...religious education and school teachers, MOPS leaders, RCIA facilitators, baptism and marriage preparation teams.

The word catechist is from the Greek word meaning "to echo, or resound." In other words, a catechist brings the Church teachings to the world and one who teaches in the name of the Church. By virtue of their baptism, they are handing on the faith and are witnesses to the Gospel.

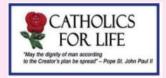
How are parents, the primary catechists of their children, and who prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith, recognized on Catechetical Sunday? On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. This is why the Rite of Blessing of Catechists used on Catechetical Sunday includes a blessing of parents and guardians.

Catechists, please know you are appreciated beyond measure for all you do to bring God's love and word to our youth and our parishioners. Please come to the 9:30a Mass on Sunday, 9/18, to receive a blessing at the end of Mass. And, parishioners, please pray for our catechists as they commit themselves to a wonderful new year of sharing their faith.

After Mass, everyone is invited to Sebahar Hall for coffee, donuts and conversation!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

~Maureen Brennan, Director of Religious Education



The 40 Days for Life Fall Vigil will take place at Waterleaf in Aurora from 9/28 through 11/6 between 7am and 7pm every day except Sundays. St. John's hours are every Monday between 10 and noon. Please join me and sign up during those hours, or for any other time you can come, to pray and witness for Life. Please sign up for the Aurora Vigil at 40daysforlife.com/aurora/il.

We're planning a Baby Shower to assist Birthright in Joliet on 10/1 and 10/2. This is Right to Life Sunday and the annual Life Chain will be held between 2:30 and 3:30 pm at 1186 Roosevelt Rd. in Glen Ellyn, and 520 E. Roosevelt Rd. in Wheaton in the Compass Church Parking lot. Please choose either location to come and silently pray for one hour as a witness for Life.





Join St. John's Book Club at our next monthly meeting, Wed., Sept 21, 7:00 pm, Karen Tsaparis' home. We will discuss the book, *Princess Daisy* by Judith Krantz.

Please inquire for directions or with any questions & RSVP Jean at tjdaniell@att.net. Upcoming dates and title: Oct 19th *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir; Nov 16th TBA

## SAVE THE DATES:

Life Line Screening at St. John's on Wednesday, October 5, 2022. To register & to receive the special discount, call 877-754-9648 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HS

8th Annual St. John's School Tailgate for Education, Sunday, October 2, 9:00 am SJB School Parking Lot, Bears vs NY Giants at 12:00 pm. More info to follow...

Summer Will Soon Be Over, So How About
Diving into Scripture Instead of a Pool!
BE FORMED - An Adult Education Small Group Experience

- Want to be a part of a small group who wants to learn more about our faith?
- Want to see daily videos by Fr. Burke Masters explaining the Gospel for the day and then reflect on them?
- Want to see a weekly presentation on a topic of our faith by one of our diocesan priests?
- Want to recognize and share your graced moments?
- How about choosing a prayer partner?

The above are some of the great ways you can deepen your faith on a Wednesday Morning at 9-10AM in Sodonna Hall, lower level of the parish offices! This may sound a bit daunting, but it really is an opportunity to "dive into topics" that maybe you have not had the opportunity to explore before, or maybe it has been a while and you want a refresher. And if your life spins out of control, not to worry about any suggested assignments; as adults, we can just show up and take part in the session without guilt. The topics for fall of 2022 are The Sacraments and The Church Fathers If you would like more information on Be Formed, go to the Diocese of Joliet website; click on offices, drop down to Christian Formation, the Adult Education, it will bring you to the BE FORMED page to see an introduction by Fr. Burke. And check out what other options you can do during our time together.



## **Bishop Hicks' Column**

# September 2022 | Memories of St. Oscar Romero arise from today's Nicaragua



In 2005, I began an extraordinary assignment in my priesthood, working and living for five years in the country of El Salvador. This small Central American country embodies and emanates the spirit of St. Oscar Romero. When I first arrived to begin my missionary work, I started learning about this martyred archbishop. Needless to say, he quickly became one of my heroes and eventually one of my favorite saints.

During the 1980s, El Salvador had plummeted into a polarized and violent civil war. When the government began killing priests, nuns and laity, Archbishop Romero began to speak against the oppression with a loud and courageous voice. He became known as the "voice of the voiceless."

Officials with this brutal government began to threaten this dauntless shepherd and told him bluntly that if he continued to preach against their regime in favor of peace and justice for all people, he would be silenced by imprisonment or even death.

Regardless of these threats, the archbishop continued to use his voice against the corruption, hatred and killings of innocent people. Then, on March 24, 1980, while Romero was celebrating Mass in a Carmelite chapel, a lone gunman opened fire on him and killed him.

After Romero's assassination, a bloody civil war continued to rage in El Salvador, in which the poor, the Catholic Church and the people were cruelly persecuted. Finally, after more than 12 years, the war formally ended in 1992 with the signing of the Chapultepec Peace Accords.

Over the years, I have taken family, friends and visitors to see the "holy sites" of St. Oscar Romero in San Salvador, including the chapel where he was martyred and his tomb. I have always thought we were visiting "historical" sites, thinking to myself, "That all happened in the past, and thank God things like that no longer happen here and in our modern world."

That overly innocent idea of mine was recently shattered, as we have been following the current persecution of the Church in Nicaragua. The secretary-general of the United Nations has indicated he is "very concerned" about the Nicaraguan government's actions against democracy, civil society organizations and the Catholic Church. A few weeks ago, the Nicaraguan police conducted an overnight raid on the main offices of the Diocese of Matagalpa.

They forcibly took and arrested several people that night, including Bishop Rolando Álvarez, who had been under house arrest. Leaders around the world have called these actions by the Nicaraguan government a systematic persecution and harassment against the Catholic Church. As I write this, Álvarez is reportedly being held under yet another house arrest, at his parents' home in the capital city of Managua.

One might wonder: Why is this government targeting and repressing the Catholic Church and its leaders? Part of the reason is the Church continues to follow the example of St. Oscar Romero by being the voice of the voiceless, especially by speaking out against human rights violations throughout the country. During his house arrest at diocesan headquarters, Bishop Álvarez posted a message on social media: "We have to respond to hate with love, despair with hope, and fear with the strength and courage given to us by the glorious and resurrected Christ."

On August 19, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops conveyed our support of the Church and people of Nicaragua through a statement from Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, who serves as the chairman of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace: "I express our continued steadfast solidarity with our brothers in the Nicaraguan episcopate, along with their priests and foreign missionaries, in their calling to freely proclaim the Gospel and live the faith. The faith of the Nicaraguan people, who stand in solidarity with their bishops and priests, is an inspiration for us all."

Because we are a church that embraces the ideals of justice, peace and human dignity, please join me in solidarity with our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters. Let us also work and pray for an end to persecution against the Church, as well as for the protection of religious freedom – not only in Nicaragua, but throughout the world.

Jesus stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the passage where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4: 17-19)

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