

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Leading Souls to Heaven

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Pastor: Very Rev. Christopher Lankford, KHS
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

Saturday, Christmas Eve

3:00 pm

5:00 pm

Sunday, Christmas Day

12:00 am, Midnight

7:30 am

9:30 am

11:30 am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays, 3:30-4:30 pm

(Additional Advent Reconciliation/
Confession times on Page 3)

No Confessions on Christmas Eve

ADORATION

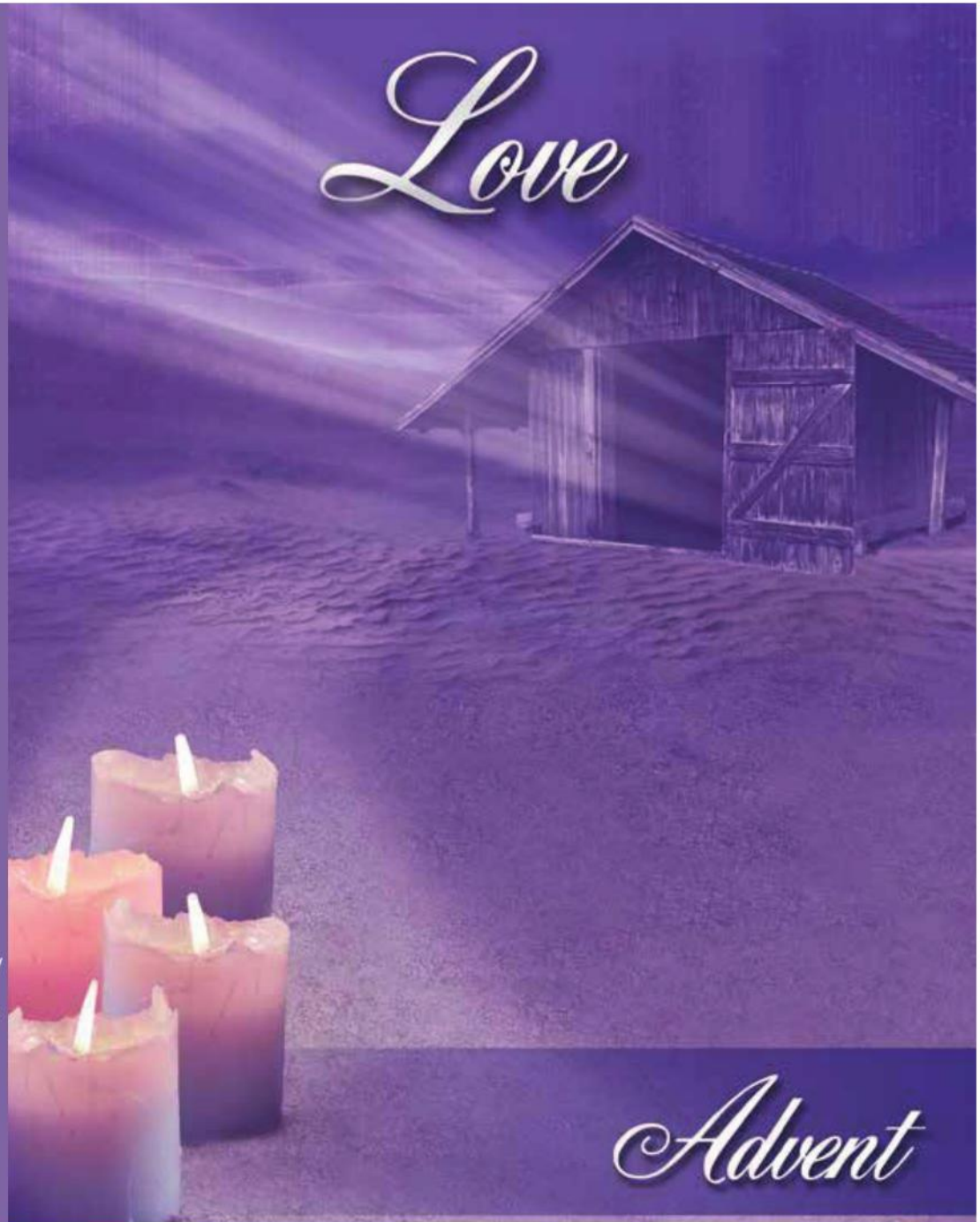
Thursdays Following

8:15 am Mass

& Rosary, to 8:00 pm

(Chapel)

Office Closed 12/23/22
through 1/1/23



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2022

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've done my fair share in cramming for exams. I don't recommend it! Sure, I passed, but how much did I retain? Rather, the more prudent option would have been to study a little bit all along and have the material locked down well before the exam.

Well, the same is true for the spiritual life. Don't cram for the exam! First, we never know when the exam (when we are called home to the Lord) will be. Second, there is so much good we can experience all along the way when we give ourselves to the Lord, even in little bits, each and every day.

That being said, it is one week until Christmas, and if you haven't celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, don't cram for the exam! Don't wait until the last second! Please celebrate that wonderful Sacrament as soon as possible. It truly brings our soul to our Baptism day and helps make sure we are prepared for eternal life.

There is also tremendous spiritual benefit to celebrating Reconciliation sooner than later. It disposes our heart to receive graces from the Sacred Heart of Christ that we may not be able to receive (although He is always pouring them out) due to particular sins on our soul, which are only removable by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Think of a closet not being able to hold any more stuff. We gotta take out the stuff we don't need so new good stuff can go in. The same is true with our soul!

Christmas is so close!! God bless!

In Christ,
Fr. Chris

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve (Christmas Vigils), Saturday,
December 24, 2022

(No Confessions)

3:00 pm-Church

5:00 pm-Church

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2022

12:00 am Midnight

7:30 am

9:30 am

11:30 am

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, The
Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

Saturday, December 31, 2022,

Vigil, Solemnity of Mary

5:00 pm

Sunday, January 1, 2023, Solemnity of Mary

7:30 am

9:30 am

11:30 am

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION TIMES THROUGH END OF YEAR

Saturday, December 17, 2022

3:30 pm-4:30 pm

Monday, December 19, 2022

After 5:30 pm Mass-until 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

After 5:30 pm Mass-until 7:00 pm

Friday, December 23, 2022

After 12:00 pm Mass-until 2:00 pm

(No confessions on Saturday, Christmas Eve, 12/24)

Saturday, December 31, 2022

3:30 pm-4:30 pm



SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Offertory collections for the parish were \$30,275 for the weekend of December 4, 2022. Thank you for your continued support and prayers during these difficult times.

ATTENTION USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

If you would like to serve as an usher at any of the Christmas Eve or Christmas Masses, please sign up on the sheet located on the usher's room door.

Fourth Sunday

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:23



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR CHRISTMAS!

JOIN US IN DECORATING OUR
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HOME
FOR CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, December 18,
after the 11:30 am Mass.

We will be meeting in the
Chapel.

All are welcome.

Questions? Contact Noel
Luchinski at 630-338-2559 or
Noel.Luchinski@yahoo.com

KC Fish Fry...Fridays during Advent



"Dine In or Drive By"

**5 pm to 7 pm
Fridays...
December 2, 9,
& 16**

Besides the Fish Dinners, menu will also include the following:
*Shrimp Dinners, Fish and Shrimp Combo, Fish Tacos,
Spaghetti Dinners, Pizza, Enchiladas and Salads*
Includes all the sides, packaged, hot and ready for YOU!

Prices are:
Adults \$12
Kids \$5
Seniors \$11

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- ◊ CALL SEAN P CONLEY DIRECTLY, 630-835-8225
- ◊ WALK-UP or DINE IN ORDERS welcomed
- ◊ PICK-UP LOCATION: COME INSIDE SEBAHAR HALL OR WE'LL DELIVER YOUR ORDER TO YOUR CAR



Sunday Morning Preschool Celebrates the Annunciation

Recently, our Sunday Morning Preschool celebrated the Annunciation. Sunday Morning Preschool is for 3-5 year olds 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. The fee for the balance of the year will be \$40.

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 17, Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. † Frank Trojanowski (Walter & Therese Martineau)
 † John Pohodich (John Pelican)
 † Doris Morrissey (The Morrissey Family)
 † Fr Arno Dennerlein
 † Rosanne Erdman (Sharon Carrico)
 † Dr. Michael Hussey (The James Russell Family)

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. ♥ † The People of the Parish
 9:30 a.m. † Raymond Thoman (Lou & Mat Vallejo)
 11:30 a.m. † Patti Bentley (Mike Bentley)

Monday, December 19

5:30 p.m. † Gene Connors (Carol Connors)

Tuesday, December 20

8:15 a.m. † The Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, December 21

5:30 p.m. † Peter Ciano (The Ciano Family)

Thursday, December 22

8:15 a.m. † John D. Risch (Dan Conley)

Friday, December 23

12:00 p.m. † James, Rose & Elizabeth Marecek (The Lambert Family)
 † Russell, Stark & Pesavento Families (Marianne & Jim Russell)
 † Fr Arno Dennerlein
 † Gloria & Stan Fortman (Patricia & Werner Welz)
 † Joyce Milder (Clement Milder Family)
 † Dr. Michael Hussey (Sal & Barbara Reda)

Saturday, December 24, Vigil, The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas (Eve)

3:00 p.m. † Fred Dusza (Maryann Dusza)

5:00 p.m. † Beth Hackett (Dan Conley)
 † Don Dolin Jr. (Friend)
 † Jim Lynch (Conley Family)

(Midnight Mass-see below)

Sunday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas

12:00 a.m., Midnight † ♥ Intention of the Priest
 7:30 a.m. † Jeanne Ptak (Al Ptak & Family)
 9:30 a.m. ♥ † The People of St. John's
 11:30 a.m. † Joe Grabowski (Rita Grabowski)

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.

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 whose intentions were recently added:

Baby Luke Hougan
 Madeleine Sobota
 Susan Weber

The entire sick list is on our website, at 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.

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

Please pray for those who defend our nation, those who serve in Active Duty

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

Our Sanctuary Lamps

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

CHAPEL ♥ Health & Intentions, Susan Weber CHURCH † Ron Meyers

*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 five dollars per week.



Welcome to Our Newly Baptized!

December 3 2022

Gia Olivia Cirelli

Child of Jaclyn (Scheithe) & Michael Cirelli

Brinley Rose Lilley

Child of Ashley (Cosmano) & Beau Lilley

KNIGHTS & MEN OF ST. JOHN:

Come pray the Rosary & stay for a
get-together, St. John's Fire Pit, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 28, 2022 Questions?
Sean Conley, 630-835-8225

End of Year Contributions

As a reminder to our parishioners, all
contributions to St. John the Baptist Catholic
Church must be received at the parish office
or be postmarked by December 31 in order for
those contributions to be credited to you on
your 2022 parish contribution statement.

Contributions postmarked or received after
January 1st will be credited to your 2023
statement. If you have any questions or
concerns, please contact me at
630-668-0918, x604.

~Jim Nolan, Director of Finance, Operations &
Facilities



Join Us!

WESHARE ONLINE GIVING

Sign Up to Give Online!

If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Visit
our church website at www.stjohnwinfield.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.



Young at Hearts

PLEASE JOIN US for our Christmas Celebration
on Wednesday, December 21st @ 11:30 a.m.
in Sebahar Hall



Join us this month to celebrate the blessings of the Season!
Feast on delicious Chinese food and enjoy the beautiful
Christmas music and conversation.



Free will donations accepted.
All those 55 and better are welcome 😊

Please call Harriett @ 630-682-1218 with any questions



Sebahar Hall, Thurs., January 12, 2023

Life Line Screening goes beyond regular check-ups to
look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up.
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parish Directory: _____	630-668-0918
Religious Education Office: _____	Ext 613
Director: Maureen Brennan _____	Ext 612
RCIA (Convert Preparation) _____	Ext 600
Parish Secretaries: Jennifer Kurtyka, Rosa Benavides _____	Ext 0 or 600
Secretaria Hispana: _____	Ext 601
Director of Finance, Facilities & Operations: Jim Nolan _____	Ext 604
Music Ministry: Adrienne Rose _____	630-653-1489
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. Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Bishop Hicks' Column

December 2022: 'All are welcome in this place'



I love Jesus! And it is always a source of joy and honor to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass whenever and wherever I am asked to do so. So when I received a request to celebrate a diocesan-wide Mass for individuals with special needs or disabilities and their families and friends, without hesitation, I responded, "Yes!"

On September 18, we gathered as a family of God with our brothers and sisters living with Down syndrome, deafness, amputations and other challenges. The Mass was beautiful. After being nourished by Word and sacrament, I enjoyed a post-Mass gathering with attendees, posing for photographs and engaging in conversation. During these delightful interactions, just about everyone expressed gratitude for the Mass and the fellowship. However, I was also struck by a common theme of their not feeling welcomed – not only in many parts of our society, but also in some of our churches. Participants shared experiences of not being acknowledged or recognized, and even feelings of invisibility.

I was surprised, and probably more accurately, shocked by their comments. Honestly, my heart broke and sank as I reflected on some of their experiences of rejection and isolation. As I drove away from our time together, I wondered, "How is it possible that people with disabilities have experienced exclusion in our Catholic churches, where for decades we have sung an entrance hymn with the lyrics, "All are welcome in this place."

Hopefully, it goes without saying that the Church should be a community in which all people experience an unconditional love that reflects God's love. I am sure that most of us never intentionally intend to be noninclusive. Yet during this month when we celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, let me take this opportunity to challenge all of us to reflect on some of our unintentional attitudes and actions, and look for ways to see, welcome and include all of our sisters and brothers with disabilities or special needs. For we should always strive to be a church that lives the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians 3:26-28: "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

As baptized Christians, we are all constantly called to a personal conversion that reflects the love of Christ. But it does not end with our own individual attitudes and actions. As an institution, we as the Church also need to embrace persons with disabilities or special needs concretely with our ministries, policies and programs. I am proud to highlight that in the Diocese of Joliet, Renata Cichowicz is providing the lead for pastoral outreach for such ministries through the Department of Catechesis and Evangelization. The diocese also acts as an affiliate of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. Additionally, St. Raphael Catholic Church in Naperville and several other parishes intentionally serve these communities with programs like REACH: Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped. REACH provides simplified religious education lessons at a slower pace using a smaller student-to-catechist ratio. This program also prepares students for the sacraments of reconciliation, the Eucharist and confirmation.

I look forward to whenever I have the opportunity to celebrate Mass and gather with our beautiful community of individuals living with deafness, disabilities or special needs. Until then, I enthusiastically echo our Holy Father's words from his 2021 message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities: "I would like to speak to all of you who live with any condition of disability, to tell you the Church loves you and needs each of you for the fulfillment of her mission."

Prayer to Foster Belonging

Creator God, we are your people. We look to the future with optimism and with faith in You, as we pursue our call to provide justice and fullness of life for all people with disabilities.

We pray that every man, woman and child may develop their potential and meet You in themselves and in one another. May we enjoy a totally welcoming community, with You as our center, joined hand in hand with our sisters and brothers. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

From the National Catholic Partnership on Disability and based on the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities.

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

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