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 Deacon: Rev. Mr. Alex Lorang

MASS TIMES

Mondays 5:30 pm

Tuesdays 8:15 am

Wednesdays 5:30 pm

Ash Wednesday February 22

8:15 am Mass with Ashes, 12-1:00 pm Ashes Only, 5:30 pm Mass with Ashes

Thursdays 8:15 am

Fridays 12:00 pm

Saturdays 5:00 pm

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)

Parish Office Closed Feb. 20th for President's Day



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 19, 2023



Bishop Hicks' Column

February 2023: Feeding the hungry through our ministries



People are sometimes surprised to hear that I do my own grocery shopping and cook my own meals. I am not a gourmet chef, but I can hold my own in the kitchen. Frankly, it is not that big of a task since I live alone and frequently eat out at meetings, receptions and events. Therefore, most of my trips to the grocery store are a very quick "in and out."

However, for Christmas day, I invited my family for dinner. Hosting 10 people resulted in a much longer grocery list and time in the store than usual. So as I navigated the aisles filled with a multitude of carts and frantic shoppers on the morning of December 24, it struck me just how much the price of food has gone up. There was a woman standing next to me in the egg section. Suddenly, she blurted out, "Is this really the cost of eggs?!" I turned to her and said. "I think so. It's unbelievable, right?" With an affirming and exaggerated nodding of her head, she added. "Unbelievable, yes! And outrageous. I have sticker shock!"

With the soaring grocery prices across our nation, hunger is also on the rise. As a Church, we are mandated to not turn a blind eye to those in need. One of the many ways that we put our faith into action is by feeding the hungry. Scripture is clear about the obligation to help those who are less fortunate. Once we have adored and worshiped God, being nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, we are mandated to go out and serve the poor, and not just in abstract ways, but tangibly: "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?" (James 2:14)

I am proud that we in the Diocese of Joliet take this mandate to heart. Our Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) supports so many ministries, including outreach to the poor and hungry. It helps support Catholic Charities, whose mobile food pantries at parishes and schools throughout the diocese helped more than 26,000 people last year. Catholic Charities also uses these visits to offer resources to other services participants may need.

Additionally, the ministries of mercy advisor from our Department of Catechesis and Evangelization organized "Christmas Blessing" grants to local parish-based food pantries. The applications submitted by parishes painted a stark yet accurate picture of the struggle to stock pantries in the face of dramatically increasing prices. Yet it was heartening to read of the commitment of parish staff and volunteers to help their faith community and neighbors. Our Catholic schools and religious education programs also contribute to this ministry with donations and service hours. We all work as a family to help our brothers and sisters with a basic need of life.

My aunt and uncle volunteer at their church's food pantry. They, too, have reported that the number of people requesting food has continued to rise exponentially, and sometimes they are surprised by who is asking for food. Recently, they handed a basket of food to a man who has been a longtime parishioner and pillar of their church. Confused, they assumed he was there to volunteer for the distribution of food, but why was he waiting in the line? Sheepishly, he said to them. "I feel so bad. Over the years, I was the one giving out food, and now I need it myself. With prices skyrocketing, I have come to the point of having to choose between my medication or food. I am embarrassed to admit that I now need this assistance myself."

Sometimes, we can be tempted to wonder if everyone in the food pantry lines really needs the food they are receiving from us. There might be some people who take advantage of our generosity. Yet, I would rather err on the side of generosity and love than turn away those who are in need. St. Paul boldly challenges us to be generous to all people, even those we might deem undeserving, such as our enemies: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink." (Romans 12:20)

There are so many ways to feed the hungry and help those in need. Whatever way you choose - the CMAA, donations to your parish or local pantry, volunteerism or prayers - to you I say. "thank you!" For whenever we put our faith into action, we are following what Jesus teaches in the Gospel: Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

BLESSED PALMS

Please bring to Church

This year we will be burning blessed palms to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday which is on February 22nd this year. Burning the blessed palms is the proper way to dispose of them.

Between now and Sunday, Feb. 19th, can you please bring back to Church your blessed palms and place them in the designated baskets outside the east and west Church doorways or outside the parish office? We will burn the Ashes on February 21st after the grade school Mass. Thank you so much!



Offertory collections for the weekend of February 5, 2023 were \$30,628. We thank you for your support and your prayers in helping us meet our weekly goal of \$23,450.





Our seven-week journey runs through March 23rd, 2023, 7:00-8:45pm.

Info and Registration at stjohnwinfield.org/following-christ or use the QR code to the right.

In person and Zoom sessions will be offered! **Questions?** ChristLife@stjohnwinfield.org





LENTEN GUIDELINES

Fast and Abstinence Regulations:

- 1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
- 2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast and to abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- 3. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- 4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.
- 5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year; all, in addition to following the Lenten regulations, are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, serious prayer, and a performance of works of charity and mercy.
- *From the Office of Divine Worship, Diocese of Joliet website, https://www.dioceseofjoliet.org"

2022-2023 Fundraising Campaign

Project

New Therapy Building and Related Rehabilitation Equipment, plus Enhanced Solar Power Capability

Goal

\$170,000 (\$182,700 Raised To-Date)



The new therapy building (left) is now connected to the outpatient clinic (right).



A contractor works on the plastering of the interior walls.



While the interior plaster is drying, preparation of the ceiling continues.





Healing Bodies to Help Save Souls

Dear St. John the Baptist Parishioners,

Thanks be to God for his mercy and generosity!

We are so very grateful for the overwhelming response to our 2022–2023 fundraising campaign in support of Fr. Nestor Mtweve's mission to provide essential rehabilitation services to the children, women and men with disabilities in Tanzania. To date, we have raised \$182,700 in support of his efforts, with our recent Saint John the Baptist giving campaign contributing an amazing \$17,700 to this amount.

Refecting on the results of our recent campaign, Fr. Nestor (shown below with his sister, Sr. Beatrice) commented,

"Coming back to [the western suburbs] was an amazing feeling. It didn't feel like I was gone for almost two years. I am taking this love with me everywhere I go. This love financially supports the mission at INUKA Rehabilitation Hospital. Like last year, together we have reached our goal. My visit was very productive and well planned in terms of the celebration of the Masses and sacraments, the meetings and some time to relax. God bless you all who made this possible.

Thank you Fr. Brad, Fr. Chris, my brother priests at Saints Peter and Paul, the Hope for Tanzania board, the fundraising committee, and the parish communities for all that you do to support this cause and for having me as one of your own."





Thank you all for your generosity in supporting Hope for Tanzania (hopefortanzania.com) and its 2022–2023 projects. Fr. Nestor is truly touched that so many care about the people he serves in Tanzania and is grateful for the outpouring of support from your parish. If you have any questions or comments, you can reach us at HopeforTanzania21@gmail.com. Please consider us in your 2023 giving plans as we work through suggestions and ideas on how best to support Fr. Nestor's efforts going forward!

In the Peace of Christ,

Fr. Brad Baker, Dan Dock, Ed Graham, Kelly Heffron, Tom Lupinacci, Steve Obendorf, Dr. Ken Sanders, and Bob Schuhriemen

Hope for Tanzania Board of Directors

OUR ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Our Annual Appeal, The Children's Fund, was mailed to all parishioners in December. You should have received it by now. You can also make a donation through We Share Online Giving on the parish website or using this link:

https://stjohnwinfield.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/ChildrensAnnualAppeal

Additionally, there is a blue envelope in your contribution packet. This appeal is one of our most important fundraising tools to help offset our operating expenses. Thank you to those who have already responded! Please prayerfully consider making your donation today. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

KC Fish Fry...Fridays during Lent



"Dine In or Drive By"

5 pm to 7 pm Fridays... Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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

Fish & Shrimp Prices: Adults \$12 Kids \$7 Seniors \$11

Spag. Tacos, Enchilada Dinners \$14

YOU CAN ORDER ONLINE! PLACE ONLINE ORDERS BY 6:30 PM ON THE DAY OF THE FRY! www.stjohnwinfield.org

- ORDER BY PHONE-CALL SEBAHAR HALL, 630-668-0918, EXT 651, from 3 PM to 6:45 PM
- 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



"Today you can sign-up for the 40 Days for Life Spring Vigil which will take place at Waterleaf Women's Clinic in Aurora from Ash Wednesday 2/28 through 4/02 between 7am and 7pm every day except Sundays. The Catholics for Life chapter of St. John the Baptist's vigil hours at Waterleaf are every Wednesday between 10am and 12pm. Depending on the weather, we may pray 30 minutes inside and 30 minutes outside. Please join me and sign-up during those hours, or anytime you can come, to pray and witness for life. To sign-up for the Aurora Vigil, please go to: 40daysforlife.com/aurora/il. It would be a great way to start Lent, by praying for God's innocent and their mothers.

The church dedicates February to the Holy Family, the model of virtue for all Christian households."

Are You Interested in Being Part of a Small Group?

Be Formed Season 6:
Life in Christ Part 1
Meets Wednesdays at
9:15-10:15AM
Sodonna Hall, lower level
of the Parish Office

Week #1 Man: The Image of God & Our Vocation to Beatitude

#2 Man's Freedom

#3 Morality of Human Acts

#4 Morality of the Passions

#5 Moral Conscience

#6 Prudence

#7 Fortitude

#8 Justice

#9 Temperance

#10 Faith

#11 Hope

12 Charity and the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit

#13 Sin

Please call Maureen to register: 630-682-4400 X 612

Saturday, February 18, Vigil, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. † Lucille & Albert Vogt (Ronald & Sharon Kammes Family)

† Carmela Hark (Sue Simek)

† Betty Bump (The Clement Milder Family) † Remedios Meren (The Clement Milder Family)

† Peter Gatto (Jill Martorano) † Carol Connors (Barb Zeiler) † Rita Cross (Joe & Dee Bryja)

Sunday, February 19, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. The People of St. John's

9:30 a.m. † James Bartelli (Bernie & Chris Bartelli) 11:30 a.m. † Carol Connors (Fran Hartigan)

Monday, February 20, Presidents' Day

5:30 p.m. † Evelyn Zawislak (Lois & Chuck Kirk)

Tuesday, February 21

8:15 a.m. † Janice Brophy (John & Katherine Pratscher)

Wednesday, February 22-Ash Wednesday

8:15 a.m. † Intention of the Priest - Mass with Ashes

12-1:00 p.m. Continual Ashes Given (Not a Mass. Not a service.)

5:30 p.m. † Intention of the Priest - Mass with Ashes

Thursday, February 23

8:15 a.m.
Thealth & Intentions, Irma McCall

Friday, February 24

12:00 p.m. † Fr. Robert Noesen

† Richard Hitchner (Maureen & Joe Garro) † Frances Estella (Christine & Henry Kare) † Peter Dawes (Chris & Theresa Koener) † Betty Lakeman (The Fuechsl Family)

Saturday, February 25, Vigil, First Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. † Peter Ciancio (The Ciancio Family)

† Michael Fraser (Maureen & Denny Brennan)

† Joann Busch (Barb Zeiler)

† Flavio Vincent Gentile (St. John's)

† Kristine Marie Messitt

† Joyce Milder (The Clement Milder Family)

Sunday, February 26, First Sunday of Lent

7:30 a.m. † Marilyn Koener (Theresa & Chris Koener) 9:30 a.m. † Marilyn Loechl (SJB Adult Choir)

11:30 a.m. the People of St. John's

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 † Amelia Alcazar
CHURCH ♥ Health & Intentions, Irma McCall

*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.

IN SYMPATHY

please pray for Todd Morgan

who passed away on February 5, 2023. Our sympathies are extended to his mother-in-law, Claudine Moscinski, and all his family and 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 person:

John McCue

The entire prayer 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.

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
SRA Francis Beifuss
Lt. Col. John Berg
Sgt Melissa Brooker
Pvt Timothy Conley
Lt. Jr. Gr. Nicholas Daly
Major Daniel Durbin
LCPI Ciro Esquivel, Jr.
Sgt. Nicholas Gedvilas
Pv2 Nicholas Gorman
Sgt Pamela Gray
Lt. Crystal Kotvan
Sgt. David Lawless
SrA Robert Lawless

ABH2 Sean Phillips
Captain Colleen Rezabek
Captain Kevin Rezabek
Cpl Riley Santoyo
Sgt Ian Sarlitto
AN Michael Schieve
2LT Allyson Serbick
PFC Keegan Serbick
A1C Seth Kelley
Major Mike Smolucha
SPC Thomas Stanhope
AFSSgt Zachary Ushman
Lt. Keith Wolfe
W01 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

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CONTACT INFORMATION:	
Parish Directory:	630-668-0918
Religious Education Office:	
Director: Maureen Brennan	Ext 612
RCIA (Convert Preparation)	Ext 600
Office and Parish Secretaries: Jennifer Kurtyka, Rosa Benavides	Ext o 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: Mo	nday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Join the Joliet Diocese on a

Pilgrimage to Lisbon, Portugal WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

July 29 - August 7, 2023

With optional Pre-Tour to Madrid July 25-29, 2023

ALEX'S BLESSING BAGS

"As you know, last year we had a very successful drive and supplied over 500 homeless people 'Blessing Bags' containing hats, gloves, socks, Hot Hands hand-warmers, snacks, and other personal essentials.

We donated these bags to PADS, two veterans' shelters, Hesed House, the Winfield Police Department, the West Chicago Police Department, West Chicago Food Pantry, Wayne Township, Milton Township, and the DuPage County Sheriff. I am asking for any of the above items as a donation to support the 'Alex Project' again this year. I really appreciate all of your support last year.

My mom, dad, and others have been filling bags all winter and are continuing. I would like to beat last year's count of 500 and with everyone's help, we will do it.

Thank you for helping out."
- Alex McCall, SJB Parishioner

Please bring your donations to the Religious Education Office.

The children of our parish will put the items together for Alex to deliver to the groups mentioned above.

PRAYERS & SUPPORT FOR THE SICK & 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. The next Grief Support meeting will on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

Bulletin Articles

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

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

For Baptisms, RCIA 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.

THE KNIGHTS & MEN OF SJB:

Come pray the Rosary & stay for a get-together, St. John's Fire Pit, 7:00 pm Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

Questions? Sean Conley,
630-835-8225

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Estate Planning

(Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorney) **Real Estate Transactions**

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ASK ABOUT PARISHIONER DISCOUNT

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630.668.0027 I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." Jeremiah 31:25



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