

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Leading Souls to Heaven

2233 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, Wednesdays
5:30 pm

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

Happy Mother's Day



Her children rise up and
call her blessed.

Proverbs 31:28

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2023

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

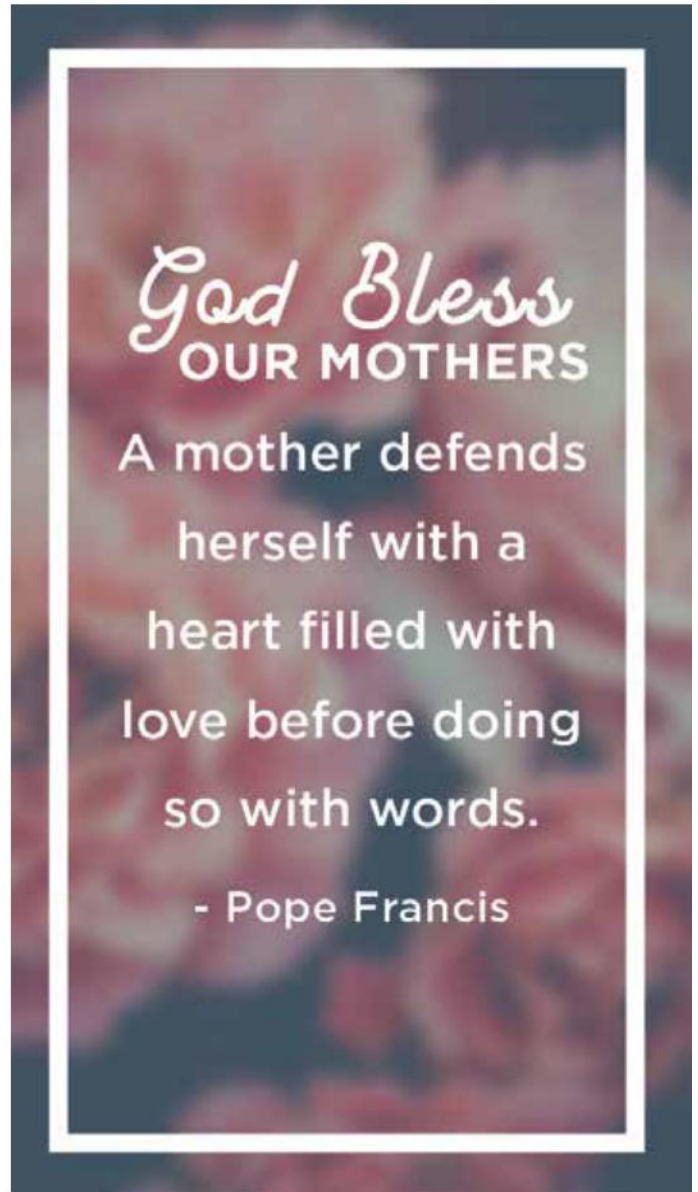
Dear Friends In Christ,

Sometimes the words we have are not enough to convey how deep our feelings are. I find that to be the case on Mother's Day. Moms are so special! It's hard to describe the unfailing love they have for us, and the sacrifices they make for their family members. Where would we truly be without them?

I continue to be very fortunate that my mom is still alive and part of my life. But, for those who have lost their mothers, I truly believe they still look out for us from Heaven. Mothers, including spiritual mothers and mother figures, teach us, love us and set examples for us. And, of course, our greatest role model is our Mother Mary. She trusted in God, and brought us Jesus Christ. Can you imagine the courage that took? The Blessed Mother loves us, hears us and wants to take all of our prayers to our Lord.

Happy Mother's Day!

In Christ,
Fr. Chris



*An Invitation from
Deacon Alex Lorang to his
Ordination to the Priesthood:*

Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:00 AM
Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet

First Mass:

Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 11:00 AM
St. Mary's Parish in Mokena

All are welcome at both.

Please keep our Joliet Diocese Deacons in prayer while they prepare for their ordination to the priesthood on May 20, 2023:

Deacon Jeremy Leganski

Deacon Alexander Lorang

Deacon Frank Pusateri

Deacon Jared Rutnicki

This year, Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Brennan and Mrs. Brewer are announcing Wednesday May 24th as

A DAY OF SERVICE

for the St. John's students!

One of the projects is collecting items for Alex's Bags! Alex's Bags is a project started and run by SJB parishioner Alex McCall, Mrs. Pierscionek's brother. These bags will be filled with the items we collect for the homeless in DuPage and Kane County on May 24th! Please be as generous as possible.

(This is also a great family project – discuss what it might be like to be homeless, not having a bed to sleep in, a bathroom to shower, somewhere to get out of the hot sun, to have to carry all of your possessions, and eat only the food others give you, etc.)

Items needed for Alex's Project Bags

Socks -children's & adult too if possibly
Grab and Go packs-individual coloring books/crayons (Target \$1)
Small note books, pens
Tooth brushes (individual size), tooth paste (travel size) & dental floss
Soap, shampoo (individual size)
Individual snacks – sweet or salty, non-melting candy, gum
Comb, brush, individual Kleenex packs
Suntan lotion, lip balm, mosquito repellent
Hand sanitizer (travel size)
Deodorant male/female
Bottled water

Sacrificial Giving

Offertory collections for the weekend of April 30, 2023 were \$16,945. We thank you for your support and prayers in helping us meet our weekly goal of \$23,450.



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.

THE KNIGHTS & MEN OF SJB:

Come pray the Rosary & stay for a get-together, St. John's Fire Pit, 7:00 pm Wednesday, May 24, 2023.
Questions? Sean Conley, 630-835-8225

THANK YOU!

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

Our recent blood drive on April 24th was a great success! Your caring helped many people in need of blood. A total of 45 people scheduled and/or walked in to donate blood resulting in 42 blood pints being collected. This means up to 126 people in need of blood may benefit. Your Knights of Columbus thank you! Try to reserve time for our next drive on October 23, 2023. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve this effort please send email to Alan agkchief@gmail.com or Mike at dodo60190@hotmail.com



Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Illinois tax credit scholarship program has proven to be a beacon of hope and a guiding force toward a better life for thousands of Illinois students and their families. However, that light may be snuffed out unless the Illinois General Assembly acts to continue the law that provides for this program. Therefore, we are writing to ask you to contact your Illinois state representative and state senator to express your desire to retain the tax credit scholarship program.

Since its inception six years ago, the tax credit scholarship program has generated overwhelmingly positive results. Nearly 40,000 scholarships have been awarded to students attending private schools in the state. These scholarships are funded through contributions from donors who receive a 75% tax credit for their donation on their Illinois state income tax. All of the scholarships are need-based. Without this program, Illinois families may be unable to send their loved ones to the school of their choice. Demand for scholarships is high - for every scholarship granted, three students were turned down due to lack of funds.

Allowing the tax credit scholarship program to sunset would not only be a life altering disservice to the families it is designed to help, but would also create long-term consequences by weakening the state's educational choices and placing additional roadblocks in front of thousands of Illinois students on the path to a brighter future.

Please contact your state representative and state senator to let them know you support extending the tax credit scholarship program in Illinois law. We also encourage you to urge your fellow parishioners to do so also. Our collective voice is needed. To assist in this endeavor, please visit the Catholic Conference of Illinois website at www.ilcatholic.org or call the Springfield office at (217) 528-9200 for further information on how to locate your elected officials, request sample wording for a possible message to send, or for information about how to donate.

+ *Blase J. Cupic*

His Eminence Cardinal Blase J. Cupic
Archbishop of Chicago

+ *Thomas John Paprocki*

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

+ *David J. Malloy*

Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford

+ *Ronald A. Hicks*

Most Reverend Ronald Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

+ *Michael McGovern*

Most Reverend Michael McGovern
Bishop of Belleville

+ *Louis Tylka*

Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

DIOCESE OF JOLIET CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Tax Credit Scholarship



The Illinois' Invest In Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program (ITCSP) is an amazing opportunity to support catholic education, where every dollar you contribute is quadrupled in scholarship funds to SJB. That is 4x!!! to the benefit of SJB. For example, your \$1,000 purchase of Illinois tax credits results in \$4,000 of scholarship funds to SJB. A contribution this year will come back as a tax credit on your 2023 Illinois state income taxes. There is no better way to support a catholic education in the state! In 2022, we supported 63 scholarships and we are aiming to fund 75 this year. You are going to pay 2023 taxes, so why not have them support Catholic scholarships this year at SJB? Help us make a difference in 2023!

In addition, SJB has a generous contributor who is willing to match donations to SJB dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000, when a new donor contributes to the state's program on behalf of SJB. Help us to maximize this opportunity! Make your contribution today!

If you want assistance in how the program works, Fr. Jeff from the diocese helps donors with the donation process for our families. He is available to assist you with making a donation. He has helped so many donors. Fr. Jeff can be reached by email at jputthoff@dioceseofjoliet.org, or you can call him at 347-788-8463.



This past week our Catholic Grade School students participated in the Crowning of Mary. Aaliyah Silva crowned Mary, and was assisted by Tyler Stith.



YOUNG AT HEARTS LUNCHEON

Please join us Wednesday, May 24th at 11:30 a.m. for our Spring luncheon in Sebahar Hall. Don't miss the picnic menu of fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, salad and a variety of delicious desserts. Everyone 55 and over is invited. Come enjoy good food and good company. Free will donations accepted. Please call Harriet at 630-682-1218 with questions.



Join Fr. Raj Kocherla on this inspiring Pilgrimage to
FATIMA, LOURDES, & SHRINES OF SPAIN
13 Days - September 18-30, 2023

For additional details on the Fatima/Lourdes Pilgrimage, you can contact Fr. Raj at
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sunraj@comcast.net

For other Inquiries,
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- Headsets throughout the tour
- Baggage handling and taxes
- Departure Transfers
- All gratuities for drivers and guides
- Hosted by Fr. Raj Kocherla with 30 passengers

Summer Camps

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available for students entering grades 1-12

ATHLETICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball • Basketball • Cheer • Football • Golf • Lacrosse • Running • Soccer • Softball • Strength & Conditioning • Swim • Tennis • Track • Volleyball • Wrestling 	BAND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band • Drumline • Guitar/Ukelele (Beginning) • Instrumental Private Lessons • Jazz Band • Marching Band (Camp) • Marching Band (Wheaton Memorial Day Parade) • Music Ensemble (aka Rock Band) • Orchestra 	ART <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing & Painting • Mixed Media CHOIR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RockAppella • IMEA Choral • Vocal Arts ENGLISH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun with Grammar 	TECHNOLOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spartan Tech Entry Program (STEP) THEATRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Musical • Young Spartan Showcase • Stage Crew
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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! sfhs.8to18.com

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LIFE LINE SCREENING
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SAVE THE DATE!

Life Line Screening is coming to St. John's, Sebahar Hall, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Available screenings include:

- Carotid Artery
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
- Peripheral Arterial Disease
- Atrial Fibrillation

Complimentary and discounted screenings are available. See flyers in the church narthex for more information.

If you wish to register for the screening online go to <https://llsa.social/HSC>, enter zip code 60190.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 13, Vigil, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Happy Mother's Day

- 5:00 p.m. ♥† Mother's Day Intentions
 † Jeanne Ptak (Al Ptak)
 ♥† The Soltis Family (Irene Kolanowski Family)
 † Bud Morey (Maryann Dusza)
 † Eileen Kissane (Breen & Alexander Family)
 † Bridget Aileen Sievers (MaryBeth Cleary)

Sunday, May 14, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Happy Mother's Day

- 7:30 a.m. ♥† Mother's Day Intentions
 9:30 a.m. ♥† The People of St. John's
 11:30 a.m. ♥† Mother's Day Intentions

Monday, May 15

- 5:30 p.m. † Louise Florian (The Florian Family)

Tuesday, May 16

- 8:15 a.m. † Giuliani Capigatti (Andrew Capigatti)

Wednesday, May 17

- 5:30 p.m. † Dr. Michael I. Hussey (The Hussey Family)

Thursday, May 18 - Ascension of Our Lord

- 8:15 a.m. ♥† The People of St. John's

Friday, May 19

- 12:00 p.m. † Souls in Purgatory
 † Florence Hrynko (Irene Sonevitsky)
 † Marilyn Loechl (SJB Adult Choir)
 † Mary Lou Bara
 † Francisco Mateo Santos (The Santos Family)

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 † *Giuliana Capigatti*
 CHURCH † *Jeanne Ptak*

*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.



please pray for Deborah Anne Terry

who passed away on April 23, 2023.
 Our sympathies are extended to her
 husband, Tom, and all family and friends.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

The Diocese of Joliet invites all parishioners with wedding anniversaries in 2023 for 10, 25, and 50 yrs. and above to the 2023 Wedding Anniversary Mass, celebrated by Bishop Ronald Hicks at the Cathedral of St Raymond in Joliet, 2pm, August 27, 2023.

To receive a formal invitation, please contact the parish office with the following information by May 18: name of couple; address, anniversary length.

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
 Mike Klein

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 Seminarians who are studying in the Diocese of Joliet including our own
Seminarian Sam Bergmann

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

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



Join St John's book club at our next monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 17, at 7 pm at the Winfield Public Library.

We will discuss the book, *The English Bookshop* by Janis Wildy.

Please bring suggestions for future books. Please inquire with any questions & RSVP, Jean at tjdaniell@att.net

Upcoming Date/Title: June 21, *The Winter Orphans*.



Bishop Hicks' Column



May 2023:

Calling Joyful Shepherds

This year we will ordain five new priests for the Diocese of Joliet. While this quantity is outstanding, so is their quality. These five men are young, intelligent, faith filled, pastoral and enthusiastic, and they all strive for holiness. They easily could have followed one of many good and exciting career paths offered by the world. Counterculturally, they heard the call of the Lord and responded by choosing to follow the call to the vocation of ordained priesthood.

We are blessed in the Diocese of Joliet to have 23 seminarians studying for the priesthood. However, we cannot rest on our laurels. Encouraging young men to consider the priesthood is the responsibility of the entire people of God.

The question becomes, "How do we invite and encourage others to discern a life to the priesthood or religious life?" Most of us, I hope, feel comfortable praying for vocations and donating to our Seminarian Endowment Fund to help cover the costs of seminarian formation. However, when it comes to proactively inviting others to it, we can become tongue-tied and need help as to what we should say and do.

For that reason, I just recently sent an inspiring little book to all the priests in the Diocese of Joliet called, "*Five Conversations about the Priesthood*," by Father Michael Pratt. Studies show that the local priest is one of the most influential factors for their parishioners discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. This book provides a simple and solid roadmap to intentionally encourage others to discern a priestly vocation.

Father Pratt's book gives five practical ways to talk about the following:

1. Priestly identity.
2. The Eucharist in the priest's life.
3. The Sacrament of Penance.
4. Preaching.
5. Parish priesthood.

While this book is geared to our priests, you might also want to consider reading it. A quick internet search of the title, or a visit to <https://vianneyvocations.com> will provide ordering instructions.

Just about all recently ordained priests throughout the country commonly report one of the reasons they took the

leap of faith to actively discern the priesthood and to enter the seminary is that someone specifically invited them to do so. Just one voice has the power to break through all their doubts, fears and negative messaging about becoming a priest. My hope is that before we approach eternal life, we will be able to name someone specifically that we encouraged to discern the priesthood or religious life.

This may be hard to believe, but there are many parents who explicitly discourage their sons from considering the priesthood. While some parents claim it is because they want grandchildren or because they want their son to pursue a more prestigious profession and make a lot of money, the most common factor for their lack of support is because they think their son will be unhappy as a priest. Most parents' greatest desire is for their children to be happy. If they think that priesthood is the road to unhappiness, then they tend to actively discourage the possibility of it.

Most studies reveal that priests are happy. While there are exceptions to this rule, most of us know many happy and well-adjusted priests. I, for example, empathically declare that as I celebrate 29 years of priesthood, I am happy! I say so without being naïve or sugarcoating the challenges. The priesthood, like all vocations, comes with an experience of suffering. But these moments of the cross also lead us through and to the joy of the resurrection.

In 2010, after completing five-years of living and working in El Salvador, I spoke with Cardinal George in eager anticipation of my next assignment. I clearly remember him saying to me, "Fr. Ron, I am assigning you to Mundelein Seminary to be the Dean of Formation." Quickly brushing off my initial shock, I responded, "Well, thank you for that assignment. You know that I am obedient and will go wherever you send me. However, after spending five years in Central America and becoming fluent in Spanish, why are not sending me to be a pastor in a large, Hispanic parish, and instead sending me to the Major Seminary?" His answer surprised me, "Fr. Ron, you are a joyful priest...and the seminarians need to see your joy."

As we give thanks for our five new priests, please join me in expressing my gratitude to the priests in the Diocese of Joliet. With them, let us all strive to joyfully and intentionally encourage others to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. To learn about priestly vocations and also for ways to encourage them, please go to our website at www.diojoliet.org/vocations or contact our Office of Vocations at 815-221-6171.

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