

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

Parochial Vicar: Rev. John Abulag

MASS TIMES

CHAPEL

Mondays, Wednesdays

5:30 pm

Tuesday, Thursday

8:15 am

Fridays

12:00 pm

Sundays

7:30 am

CHURCH

Saturdays

5:00 pm

Sundays

9:30 am

No 11:30 am on 12/24

CONFESSIONS

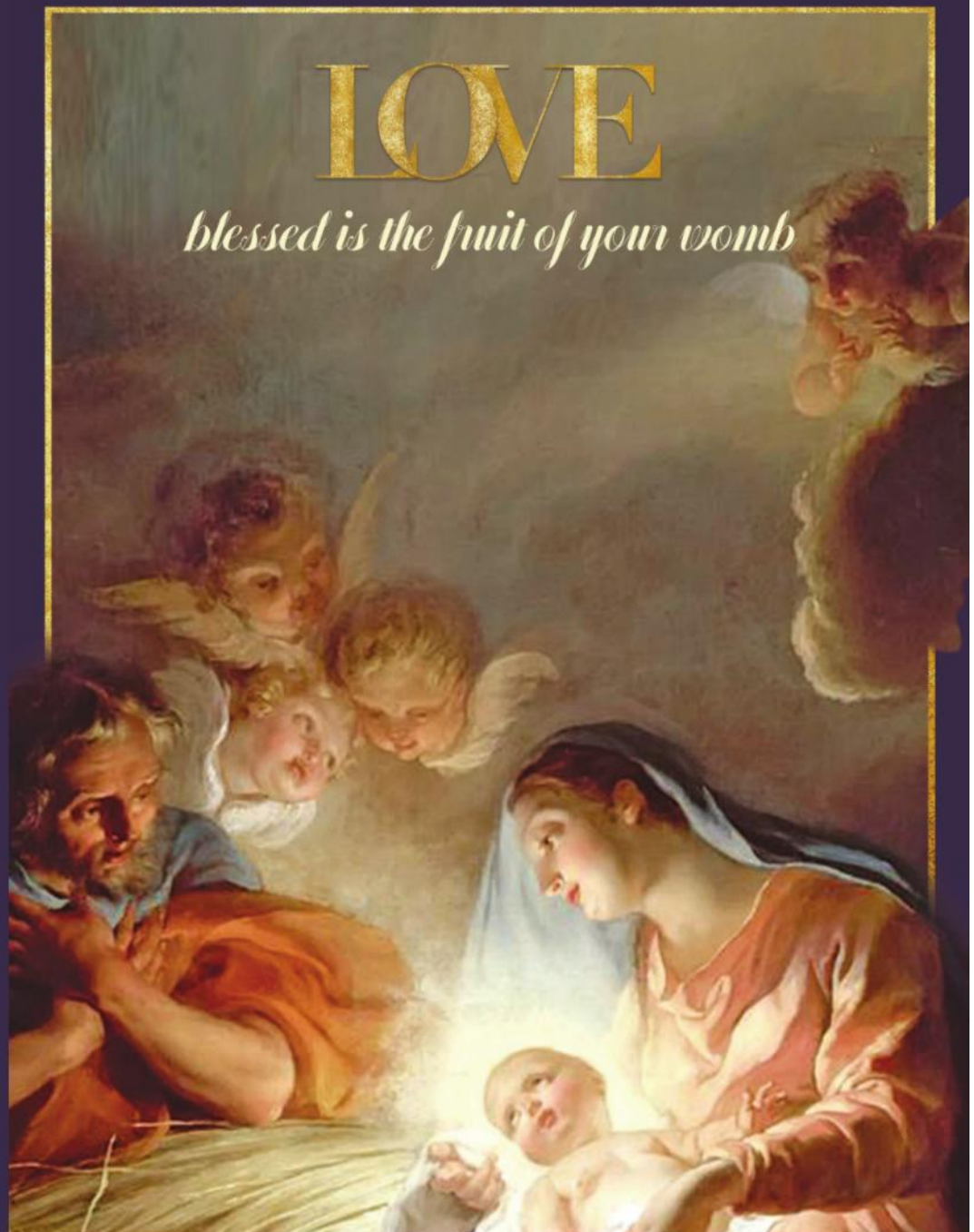
Saturdays

3:30-4:30 pm (Church)

ADORATION

Thursdays

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Friends in Christ,
Happy Advent!!

Wait...

Merry Christmas!!

Wait....

Which one is it?!

We are Catholic, so it's BOTH / AND !

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!! This is an unusual year in that the 4th Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. We continue our preparations for His birth in the morning, and a few hours later, He's here!

On behalf of Fr. John, Seminarian Sam, and the entire St. John the Baptist staff, I want to take the opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas! I personally hope this is your best Christmas yet, and that the Light of Christ's birth shines upon each of you and your family and friends.

May the Light of Christ also shine on our parish family so brightly that we may continue to Lead Souls to Heaven!

Be assured of my prayers for you and please pray for me!

In Christ,

Fr. Chris



CHRISTMAS *Blessings*

A blessed Christmas to you and your families from
the parish family of St. John the Baptist Parish.



Christmas Eve Masses:

Sunday, December 24th

Masses 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm
and Midnight(12:00 am)

Christmas Day Masses:

Monday, December 25th

Masses 7:30 am, 9:30 am
& 11:30 am

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Holy day of Obligation

Monday, January 1, 2024

Mass 9:00 am and 11:00 am

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

As a reminder to our parishioners, ALL contributions to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church must be received or be postmarked by **December 31, 2023** for those contributions to be credited to your 2023 parish contribution statement.

Contributions postmarked or received after January 1st will be credited to your 2024 statement.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the finance office at 630-668-0918, x 604



Sacrificial Giving

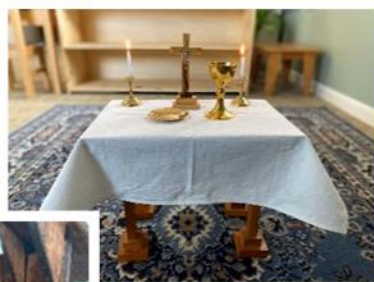
Offertory collections for the weekend of **December 10, 2023**, were **\$26,389**. We thank you for your support and prayers in helping us meet our weekly goal of \$24,600.

An Introduction to Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Part 2: “The Atrium”



The Globe and Map of Israel

The Model Altar



The Visit of the Magi Figurines

Our new religious formation program for children 3-6 years old called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd happens twice a week in a special room called the *Atrium*. What is an “atrium” anyway?

In early Christian times, the word “atrium” referred to the place in the ancient basilicas where the catechumens were prepared for Baptism. In 1922, Dr. Maria Montessori the world-renowned educator used this word “atrium” to refer to the room she created in one of her schools for the religious formation of the child.

Everything in the atrium has been specially prepared for the child to touch, to hold, and to use. The materials are child-sized and beautiful. There are small clay figurines and 3D models depicting the life of Jesus, a sandpaper globe and raised-surface map of the Land of Israel. There is a small wooden sacristy cabinet that holds miniature replicas of the articles of the Mass, such as the chalice, paten, and crucifix, and so much more! These items spark interest and speak to the child about God even without words. They help lead the child in a tactile way, through their senses, to come to know Jesus in their heart.

We are excited to host a Tour of the Atrium on Sunday, January 28th after the Sunday Masses for any parishioners interested to come and see and who want to learn more about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

All are welcome! Save the date and stay tuned for details.

St. John the Baptist School celebrated the season with a Light of the Season Christmas Program followed by donuts on St. Lucia Day!



Bishop Hicks' Column

December 2023

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL AND SYNODALITY, TOGETHER



ARE YOU A CUBS FAN? OR ARE YOU A WHITE SOX FAN? If you have any roots in Chicagoland, you instinctively understand that you must declare one or the other. It is common practice to choose one team — one is never a fan of both!

During these past two years, throughout our country and within the Catholic Church, that same principle seems to have been applied to the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. As you know, the Eucharistic Revival is a three-year initiative of the Church to enkindle a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist. The Synod on Synodality is an international, multiyear undertaking during which Catholics give feedback and deeply listen to each other — so, as a Church, we can all discern together where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Curiously, many people seem to be taking sides; they are in favor of one, but not the other.

The week before Thanksgiving, I joined over 250 bishops in Baltimore for a week of meetings hosted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We began the meetings with prayer, adoration, benediction, and Mass. The first address to the assembly was given by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio. When it comes to the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod, he encouraged us to move away from an “either/or” approach, and to instead embrace and promote both. The special connections between the Eucharistic Revival and the Synod prevailed through our week of meetings.

At one point, Cardinal Pierre beautifully reflected on the road to Emmaus story from the Gospel of Luke (24: 13–35). Along their journey, the disciples debated their theological points of view while Jesus listened to them. “Listening, corresponds to the humble style of God,” said the cardinal, quoting Pope Francis. “God loves humanity: that is why he addresses his word to them, and why he ‘inclines his ear’ to listen to them.”

You see, *listening* is essential for a synodal Church because it is a dimension of love. Through this Emmaus moment, Jesus accompanies, listens, and discerns with His disciples. Then, their hearts were set on fire because they recognized His true presence in the Eucharist. After this Eucharistic encounter, they go

back to the other disciples and proclaim that Jesus is alive and — with missionary zeal — are committed to sharing the risen Christ with the world.

Cardinal Pierre concluded his presentation with these moving insights: “Our people need us to be adventurers for the Lord. They need us to be united with one another. They need to see how our diversity, harmonized, displays the beauty of the Church and of the Catholic faith. They need to be reminded that salvation comes not from one idea or another, but through a shared encounter with the living person of Jesus, who is love.”

Most of us can agree we are a stronger Church when we both listen *and* keep the Eucharist as our source and summit. Let’s look for ways to stay united with each other and with Christ.

From the onset, I announced that the Diocese of Joliet was going to participate in both the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Walking in numerous Eucharistic processions and attending many talks about the Eucharist, I am proud of how robustly our clergy and parishioners have promoted and embraced this Eucharistic Revival. I look forward to participating in our continued celebrations of the Eucharist in the Diocese of Joliet, and will joyfully attend the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July 2024. That event will launch us into the next phase of the revival by enthusiastically taking the Eucharistic Lord into the world and putting our faith into action as missionary disciples.

At the same time, I am also proud of how we have participated in the Synod on Synodality. For over six months, groups gathered throughout every deanery of our diocese to listen intently to each other. The themes from these listening sessions were gathered and compiled into a report sent to Rome. The first half of the synod concluded in the Vatican this October. With faithful hope, we await the next steps for the second half next October.

As a baseball fan, I am fiercely loyal to my team, while politely ignoring the other. Gratefully, that’s not what our Church does when it comes to the National Eucharistic Revival and the Synod on Synodality. Like you, I love Jesus so much — especially in the Eucharist — *and* at the same time — through Him, with Him, and in Him — I desire a *listening* Church that calls us to be on mission! With faith and trust in God, I look forward to walking on this all-connected journey with you ahead.

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 23, Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. † Jeanne Ptak (*Al Ptak*)
 † Fred Dusza (*Maryann Dusza*)
 † Bill Banta (*The Banta Family*)
 † The Russell & Stark Families (*Marianne & Jim Russell*)
 † Denise & Al Harvey
 † Edward Meyer, Sr. (*Edward "Skip" Meyer*)

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. ♥† The People of the Parish

9:30 a.m. † William Burlein III (*Sarah Reznicek*)

Sunday, December 24, Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

3:00 p.m. ♥† The People of the Parish

5:00 p.m. Intention of the Priest

Monday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

Midnight † Maria Garza (*Rosa Benavides & Family*)

7:30 a.m. ♥† The People of the Parish

9:30 a.m. † Maria Garza

11:30 a.m. † Joseph Grabowski

Tuesday, December 26

8:15 a.m. † The Russell & Stark Families (*Marianne & Jim Russell*)

Wednesday, December 27

5:30 p.m. † Pete Daly (*Kathie & Jim Brewer*)

Thursday, December 28

8:15 a.m. † William Lutzenkirchen (*Dan & Helen Lutzenkirchen*)

Friday, December 29

12:00 p.m. † Marilyn Loechl (*The SJB Adult Choir*)

† Mary "Mickey" Meyer (*Edward "Skip" Meyer*)

† Robert Lutzenkirchen (*Dan & Helen Lutzenkirchen*)

† Dan Sorenson (*Dan Conley*)

† John Moscinski (*Jean Christoffer*)

† Rosela Mendoza (*Maria Theresa So & Family*)

Mass Intentions: The donation for a Mass Intention is \$10.00; the 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass and 12:00 pm Friday Mass are free-will donations. Please note: the 2024 Mass book is open.

THE KNIGHTS & MEN OF SJB:

Come pray the rosary &
 stay for a get-together.

St. John's Fire Pit,

7:00 pm Wednesday,

January 3, 2024

Questions?

Sean Conley, 630-835-8225

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



Our Sanctuary Lamps

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

CHAPEL † *Jeanne Ptak*
 CHURCH ♥ *The Rudolph-Wilkes
 Families*

**If you would like to request a sanctuary lamp to burn in memory of/in honor of a loved*

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
 James Oliver
 Mike Berger

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



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



Our prayers and
 sympathy are
 extended to the
 family & friends
 of

Maria Cortez

who passed away December 10, 2023

Jeffrey Scherr

who passed away October 5, 2023

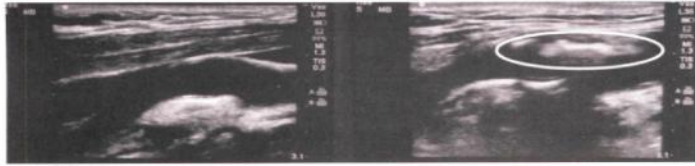
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Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to provide a more thorough look at your health.

Be Smart: Do More For Your Cardiovascular Health

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Plaque Buildup



Advanced ultrasound technology looks inside your arteries for signs of plaque buildup. That's why **9 out of 10 cardiovascular doctors** support preventive screenings for those with key risk factors.¹

Adults age 50+ and those 40 and older with one or more risk factors for cardiovascular disease should be screened.
*Key Risk Factors include: *High blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, smoking, family history.

We are coming to your neighborhood.

Where: Winfield - St John the Baptist Catholic Parish

When: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

To register for your appointment and to receive the special discount, please call **1-800-640-6307** or visit **LLSA.SOCIAL/HC**



LLSA.SOCIAL/HC



Let's Be Healthy Together!



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Enjoy Christmas Eve
Enjoy Christmas Morning
Enjoy all your presents,
Especially the greatest present
We all receive from God
His son, our Savior, Baby Jesus!

We wish you and all your family a Blessed, Holy,
Peaceful, Happy Christmas.

Join St John's Book Club at our next monthly meeting, **Wednesday, January 17th at 7 pm** at the home of Mary Ann Kratochvil. We will discuss the swap books that we received at our December meeting or any good book that you have read recently. Please inquire for directions or with any questions and RSVP Jean at tjdaniell@att.net.



The parish office will be CLOSED
December 22nd—January 1st
Blessed Christmas and New Year to all!

Donate Tax Free From Your IRA

Did you know you can give from your IRA to St. John the Baptist without having to pay income taxes on the money? This is called an IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution (QCD), which you can begin to make when you turn 70 ½ years old. And, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) if you turn 73 in 2023. (In 2019, this trigger was set at the age of 72). Gifts of any value of \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit. For married couples, each spouse can donate up to \$100,000. And, you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference in your parish. Contact your retirement provider to get started. Please call the parish office, (630)668-0918 to schedule an appointment to discuss any questions you may have.

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 HIPPA 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 **January 4, 2023, 7:00 pm**.

Bulletin Articles

Interested in submitting a bulletin article? Email SJBBulletin@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 pm 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: Sarah Reznicek	Ext 612
Interim Director of Facilities: Aaron Simpson	Ext 603
Interim Director of Finance: Ed Ryko	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 - 3 pm; Friday: Closed

McGrath & Sheehan Law Group, LLP

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(Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorney)

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