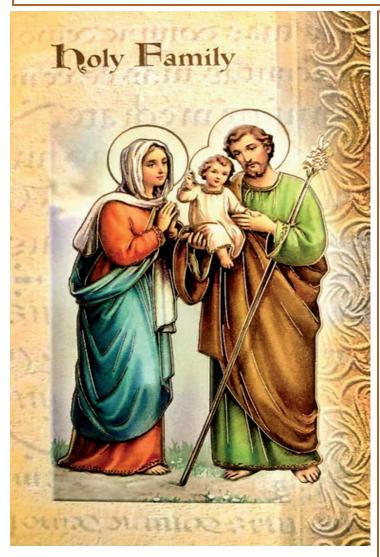
MISSION STATEMENT

We The people of the Whiting/Robertsdale Cluster, are a Catholic Faith Community, ethnically rich, culturally diverse, and one in Faith. Inspired by the unity of The Holy Trinity, we endeavor to share our Faith as disciples of Jesus.



RECTORY HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE
Closed January 1st., 2024

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 31st., 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Jan., 1~ MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

St. John: Mass 10:00 a.m.



The devotion to the Holy Family became popular in the late 16th century and was originally celebrated on the third Sunday after the Epiphany. The celebration date was changed in 1920, following WWI at a time when families needed encouragement and support. Today the theme of family, and this feast dedicated to it, is of special importance, considering our present family challenges.

Today's Gospel presents a portrait of the Holy Family, as they observe the ancient custom of offering the gift of their newborn child to God. The striking presence of two elders, who speak of the importance of this "extraordinary child", peaks our interest. We are amazed to learn that Simeon had been reassured by God; he would not see death before he had seen the Christ.

- Recall a time when the Holy Spirit prompted you to do something.
- ♦ Did you accept the Holy Spirit's "nudge" as Simeon did?

Simeon was indeed rewarded for following the Holy Spirit's prompting and coming to the Temple that day. Had Simeon complained or failed to heed his instincts, he would have missed seeing and holding this amazing child, the promised Messiah!

The remarkable scene also introduces the prophetess, Anna, as she comes forward, thanking God for the privilege of witnessing "the promised one, who would redeem Israel". Reread <u>Luke 2:22-38</u> in order to appreciate the wisdom that is shared by the devout Simeon and by Anna, a prayerful woman of God.

- How will I witness to the marvelous things God has done for me?
- Together with my family, I will thank God for sharing his "Holy Family", thus inspiring our family to grow in holiness.

Come Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and we shall be recreated. And you shall renew the face of the earth!

M.S.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

Whiting / Robertsdale Faith Community
St. Adalbert & St. John the Baptist
1849 Lincoln Ave. Whiting, IN 46394

Weekday Confessions after 7:00 a.m. Mass Saturdays 3:00–3:30 p.m. in the SJB Centennial Room, Also by appointment.

Sacraments: Please Call: St. John Church Office: 219-659-0023

MAIN RECTORY NUMBER......(219) 659-0023
RECTORY FAX NUMBER.....(219) 473-7551
E-Mail: churchparishoffice@stjohnbap.org
WEBSITE: www.stjohnbap.org

RECTORY STAFF

PASTOR	Rev. Mark Peres, C.PP.S. Ext. 116
DEACONS	Leo Barron & Joseph Manchak
BULLETIN EDITOR/SEC	CRETARYNora Perez Ext. 105
FAITH ENRICHMENT/	Adult Margaret Saliga (219) 659-4138
FAITH & SACRAMENT	AL FORMATION/YOUTH MINISTRY
	Jamie Sandona Evt 100

	Jamie Sandona Ext. 106
MARRIAGE PREPARATION	(219) 659-0023
OFFICE MANAGER	Becky Flores Ext. 100
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	(219) 659-1073
Banquet and Hall Rental	Cathy Bryan 219–617-5920

ST. JOHN SCHOOL

Main Number	(219) 659-3042
PRINCIPAL	
SCHOOL SECRETARY	Ashley Roldan Ext. 301

BULLETIN ARTICLES: nperez@stjohnbap.org

Articles deadline: Thursdays @10:00 a.m.

WEBSITE INFORMATION: jsandona@stjohnbap.org

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

12-17-23 St. John: \$7,470.18 St. Adalbert: \$1,353.00

Online Giving: \$1,615.00 Online Giving: \$10.00 St. Adalbert total cost of roof repairs: \$157,144.50 Fund raised as of 12-15-23 \$80,770.56

For Online Giving stjohnbap.org and follow directions:



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL CAMPAIGN FOR 2023

	GOAL	PLEDGES	PAID	Balance Due
SA	\$ 8,805.000	\$6,166.00	\$6,166.00	\$2,639.00
SJB	\$47,537.00	\$28,007.00	\$25,847.00	\$21,690.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS Saturday Jan. 6 ~ St. Adalbert: 4:30 p.m.

Altar Servers: Lector: L. Wright

Eucharistic M: G. Cusson, C. Mareta, R. Ciesla

Sunday, Jan. 7 ~ St. John: 8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Lector: A. Bucher

Eucharistic M: M. Tonkovich, S. Adam, K. Behrens, D. Huizenga

T. Adam, M. Jakubielski

10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: Lector: K. Puhek

Eucharistic M: J. Kaminsky, E. Igras, N. Perez, L. Elizalde,

S. Tabernacki, L. Chocholek.

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

IN LOVING MEMORY

Dec. 31: Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 8:00 a.m. WHITING/ROBERTSDALE FAITH COMMUNITY

10:30 a.m. † Rose Gacsko by Debbie Gazda

Jan. 1: Monday ~ HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 a.m. \dagger WHITING/ROBERTSDALE FAITH COMMUNITY

Jan. 2:Tuesday ~ Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,

Bishops & Doctors

7:00 a.m. † George Baran 8:30 a.m. † NO MASS

Jan. 3: Wednesday ~ The Most Holy Name of Jesus

7:00 a.m. † Jo Ann Saliga by St. John Rosary Society Jan. 4: Thursday ~ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:00 a.m. † Mary Tolin by Banik Family

Jan. 5: Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop

7:00 a.m. † Edward "Butch" Vanek by Lorraine Vanek

Jan. 6: Saturday: St. Andre Bessette, Religious

SA: 4:30 p.m. † Living & Deceased Family of Andrew & Susan Hruskoci

Jan. 7: Sunday:

8:00 a.m. WHITING/ROBERTSDALE FAITH COMMUNITY 10:30 a.m. † Deceased member of the Igras Family

REST IN PEACE Jeremy Boyer & Lillian E. Wierzbicki

"If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." (Romans 6:8)

Fr. Mark, Fr. Tim McFarland, Msgr. Joseph Semancik & Deacons Leo Barron & Joseph Manchak and staff wish our entire Whiting/Robertsdale Catholic Faith Community a blessed, healthy and peaceful New Year!



n 3



Alpha creates a comfortable space for friends to:

- enjoy a meal,
- explore Jesus present in our lives,
- engage in conversation, and
- be transformed by the power of God's Spirit.

This is exactly what our world needs now.

Participation is free BUT Registration is necessary and begins next week after the Masses in the Centennial Room or on-line: www.stjohnbap.org/alpha



NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

The Whiting Knights of Columbus 8th annual Pierogi Drop returns this year on New Year's Eve. The evening includes Live Entertainment inside K of C Hall, Food available for purchase, and an indoor/outdoor beer garden. A countdown clock, accompanied by music and a

spectacular fireworks display will escort a 10-foot illuminated Pierogi dropping 50 feet at Midnight! ABC 7 Countdown Chicago 2024 will be broadcasting live! The event begins at 8:00 PM on December 31st at the intersection of 119th and Atchison Avenue.

THANK YOU to the St. John Rosary Society for helping with the sale of the Oplatki every Sunday.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Come away from outside noise and hubbub to the quiet, candle lit space of St. john Church, a place to be still and know God's ever-present love and mercy. Allow Jesus to speak to your heart, assuring you of his love and forgiveness. Rest in Jesus' embrace and know his abiding presence. He is on the altar, longing for you to be with him.

Come as you are, stay as long as you are able on **Friday**, **January 5**, **2:00-6:00 p.m**.

Be refreshed in this time of solitude with the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the Savior of the world. All are welcome.



ST. ADALBERT CHURCH QPON BOOKS

St. Adalbert Church will be selling Qpon Books after the 4:30pm Mass. These books are filled with coupons from various restaurants and entertainment locations in NWI. The cost is \$20

and all proceeds made will go to our roof fund. The **Qpon Books** will also be available at St. John's rectory.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Children who are in Sacrament years have a Form that was due on December 1st. Please send this form in asap. Without the form completed and submitted your child will not be included on the list for sacrament preparation. If you need a new form, please email me.

If your children have not yet been baptized and you would like for them to prepare to receive that sacrament this year. Please call my office and I will share the RCIC Baptism Information with you.

Upcoming Virtus- Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions. This is a free awareness program for all adults who are interested in learning more about how to help keep our children safe in an ever changing world. In addition, any adult who volunteers or works around children within our Faith or School community must participate in the Session. Sessions are 3 hours in length. Please visit www.virtusonline.org. We are in the Diocese of Gary and affiliated with St John the Baptist Church.

Saturday 1/6 -9:30am ~ Wednesday 1/10-6pm Tuesday 1/16-11am

Calendar of upcoming events

Classes Resume on 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28 (tentative)

1/10- Living Stations of the Cross Call out meeting- 2:15-3:30-School Lower Level. Children in 5th grade and older are able to participate, younger children with parents approval. Parents are welcome to participate and help as well!

1/11- 1st Reconciliation Formation Session- 6:00pm

1/14-Family day at Faith Formation and Family Mass- Donuts and Coffee to follow

1/18- Confirmation 1st Year Student Formation Session- 6pm Cafeteria

1/25- Confirmation 2nd Year Student and Sponsor Formation Session-6pm Cafeteria

Our Parish Fish Fry's will begin on February 16th. If interested in helping with this renewed endeavor, please reach out to the rectory to add your name to the list! An official sign-up form and a link will be included in an upcoming bulletin as well as on the parish website.



INSPIRATION from St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"St. Joseph knew, when Mary became pregnant, that this child was not his child. He saw that Mary was pregnant but didn't know how. If he had gone to the high priest, she would have been stoned to death. Do you see the charity and thoughtfulness of St. Joseph?

"If we have the same kind of charity and thoughtfulness toward each other, our families will become the abode of the Most

High. How beautiful our families will become where there is total thoughtfulness for others."

(Do something Beautiful for God, The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa)

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL NEWS

January 26-28—2024 WINTER FESTIVAL Wizard of Oz Winter Fest "There's no place like home"

The Winter Festival started in 1976 to celebrate the bi-centennial of our county. The festival is a time for parents to meet other parents, for students to have fun with their classmates, and for the parish to come together and visit. Our hope is that the community know there is 'no place like home' at St. John!



This Photo by Unknown

Each week, a specialty booth of the annual Winter Festival will be highlighted.

These articles are to inform the parish community of what goes into putting the booth together, the supplies needed, and the specific donations needed to make each booth a success.

Feel free to reach out with questions to the festival committee reps.

Sabrina Dafnis <u>Sdafnis1@gmail.com</u> Candi Gard <u>candi.gard@gmail.com</u>

Karly Tabernacki ktabernacki@stjohnbap.org

PARISH RAFFLE

Watch your mailbox for the annual parish raffle tickets that will be delivered in the next couple of weeks. All parishioners and students will receive their tickets to sell to friends & family. 1st Place = \$5.000!

The grand prize drawing on Sunday, January 28, 2024! Tickets can be purchased by calling the school office, 659-3042.

SILENT AUCTION

A **HIGHLIGHT** of the Festival. The silent auction brings in +\$10,000. This year, we'd like to exceed this amount. St. John's traditional items include classroom themed art projects, Day with the Principal, sporting event tickets, hotel stays, and artwork, to name a few.

As always, the silent auction is looking for those experiences to auction off. Do you have a condo in Florida that you'd like to donate a week vacation rental? Do you have season Cub's/Sox's/Bear's tickets that you'd like to donate a game for?

If you are interested in helping or would like additional information on how to donate, please reach out to Karly Tabernacki ktabernacki@stjohnbap.org

WISHLIST

By now, you may have noticed the QR code & link for our online Wishlist through Amazon.

This was developed to help streamline the donation process. As always, we will accept any donation that is not listed online. We

know the parish helps provide so many items to make this event a success.

Cases of water and soda are always appreciated at any time and can be left at the rectory or at school from 7:30a-3:00pm.

https://tinyurl.com/2p98cdtf



!!! CHILDREN'S PICK-a-PRIZE !!!

The Children's Pick-a-Prize is the HIGHLIGHT of the children's game! Children pick a number, which corresponds to a prize. This booth is VERY popular with the children, as they are guaranteed a win every time! This is where we need YOUR help. The Children's Pick-a-Prize is in need of 100 Girl Items & Do Boy items. These can be toys, electronics, (gaming systems), games, bicycles, etc.

A highlight of the Pick-a-Prize booth is the Gift Card Tree. This tree has an assortment of gift cards to restaurants, stores, and online games. Apple iTunes gift cards & Damp; Amazon are very popular. Any amount is gratefully appreciated!

Winter Fest Raffle

Tickets are still available for the Grand Prize drawing on Sunday, January 28. Grand Prize - \$5,000, Tickets can be purchased by calling the school office: 659-3042.

TIP BOOTH/GAMES OF CHANCE

The Tip Booth is an adult favorite! Take your chance at winning one of the 100 fantastic prizes we have to offer. Throughout the three days of the festival, large items are tipped out, such as patio chairs, grills, coolers, electronics, etc. If you would like to donate an item or support an item, please reach out TLDR: Donations are needed: Alcoholic beverages, gift cards, scratch off tickets, household items.

Festival Donations

Donations of all kinds are needed for a successful festival fundraiser. We will gladly accept any kind of donation. Soda, water, paper products, produce, meat, etc. Reach out to the school office if you're interested in donating, 659-3042. The main goal of the Winter Festival is to help raise funds for the children of St. John School. Proceeds collected during the three-day event go directly to the school.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

<u>A:</u> Mary Jane Adams, Marie Anderson, Frank Angotti, Saul Arambula

B: Arlene B., Rita Bais, Mary Lou Barcevac, Donna Bewley, Carol Bibat, Eleanor Biel, Jennifer Bitterman, Steve B., Bob Bonchik, Lisa Vrabel Breitweiser, Thomas Brooks, Ruth Bzibziak, Wendy Bannerman C: Michael C., Ben Cassoday, Jim Campbell, Maximiliano Chavez, Abigail Coates, Rebbeca Coates, Marlene Cooney, Geraldine Cox, Olivia Crinion, Gloria Cruz, Bernadine Cusson, Larry Culp, Jeannine Cusson, Richard Cusson, Sharon Cusson <u>D:</u> Dave M., Jeff Delinck, Mary Ann Delinck, Ernie Demeter, Peggy Demeter, Kevin Dexter, Norb Dudzik F: Jeanine Faulkner, Thomas Federenko, Bernice Fesko, Ma-

G: Andrea Gaynor,
H: H. Haas, Shery & Jim H.,
Sophie Hatczel, Mariah Hayes,
Debra Henderson, Kingston M.
Hensley, Betty Hunt, Bruce
Hunt, Nellie Hunt, Dennis and
Peggy Hyde
J: Sheila J.

lia Fortunak, Dianna Fritz,

K:Gerry Kasarda, Don
Kasperan, Ryan Keelan,
Bernadine Kontrik, Barbara J.
Korba, Patti Koopmans, Corky
Kuipers, Joan Kurczek, Kathy
Kustka

<u>L:</u> Lenore Lazur, Nancy Legg, Donna Lewandowski, Carol Lukasik M: Maria M, Mary Madejewski, Kristi Matalik, Sebastian Mendoza, Ann Matusik, Delaney McGinnis, Steve Mihalso, Jerilyn Miller, Larry & Toni Milkowski N: Ann Novotney, Linda N., Chloe N. Fr. Bill Nordenbrock, C.PP.S.

O: Bob Oliver,
Selma O'Drobinak
P: Patton Donna, Willie Parlor,
Eric Pieters Jr., Virginia Piljac,
Pammela Puhek, Mary Puplava
Q: Leonardo Quiroz, Richard
Kuinn

R: Lucretia R., Kathleen Radloff, David Reyes, Delia M. Reyes, Celeste Richardson, Sylvia Richardson, Joel Rivera, Cris Rzonca, Dannielle Roszkowski, Ed Roszkowski, Eileen Ross, Holly Russell, Randy & Luke Rycerz, Joyce Rybicki S: Arthur Salinas Jr., Armando

Sanchez, S. Scivinsky, Robert & Phyllis Samano, Deanna Stolarz, K. Smith, R. Smith, Sandi Smith, M. Stimac, Sandi Smith, Jack Strisko, Judy Strisko, Renee Suma, Michael J.Swentko, Suzanne M. Swentko, Ann Swiatkowski

<u>T:</u> Nancy Teles, Geraldine Tumidalsky **V:** Pauline V.

W: Gina W., Evelyn White Terry W., Tucker W., Sadie Watson, Captoria Weems, Phil Wetnight

Z: Janel Zubeck

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

<u>B:</u> Matt Barbetta, <u>C:</u> Christina Campra, <u>E:</u> <u>F:</u> Victoria Franco, <u>G:</u> Larry Gazafy, Matthew Geffert, John Gervais, Gerardo Gonzalez, James Grunhard Jr., <u>H:</u> Alex Gonzalo Hernan-

dez, Elliot Hlavaty, Matthew Hlavaty, J.: Justin Jansky, K.: Thomas M. Kaminsky, Keith Kennedy, Jeff Klobucar, Jason Koscielski, Jeffery Koval, Mark Koval, M.: Walter Malenki, Randall McAllister, Mike McCay, Hugh A. McNinch, Philip Mlynarski, Derek Monks, N.: David Novotney, O.: Zack O'Drobinak, Nicholas Okamura, Justus Oliver, Mark Opachan, P.: Kenneth Petkunas, Thomas Puplava Jr., R.: Robert Rodriguez, S.: Eric Schaufele, Elliott Schultz, Natalie Serna, John Starzyk Jr, Alex Supergan, Jason Sutton, Szewczyk, T.: Stephen Taylor, Jeffrey Thormeyer, Christopher Trojnar, V.: Samuel Valdyke, W.: Ray Walsh.

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds.

Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

(Psalm 105:1-2)

Whiting Knights of Columbus 1696 Free Throw Championship

ALL boys and girls **ages 9 to 14** (as of January 1) in the Whiting/ Robertsdale area are invited to participate in the local council level competition for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. *The contest is FREE. There are no fees!*

Date: Saturday January 13, 2024

Time: Doors Open for Registration at 12:30pm

Contest Starts at 1pm

Location: St. John the Baptist School Gym

Who: Boys and Girls (compete separately)

Ages 9 to 14 (as of January 1)

What: Bring a COPY of Birth Certificate

Wear Sneakers / Tennis Shoes

Contact Brian Biel (219) 616-0632 for additional information.

- Winners will advance to the K of C Indiana District 6 Championship in early February (site & date to be deter mined).
- Indiana State Free Throw Final Date in early March to be determined.
- Boys and Girls Ages 9-11 use a women's regulation size basketball and shoot from a 12 foot foul line.
- Girls ages 12-14 use a women's regulation size basketball and shoot from the regulation 15 foot foul line
- * Boys ages 12-14 use a men's regulation size basketball and shoot from the regulation 15 foot foul line.
- * At the council level event, each contestant receives 3 warm-up tosses followed by 15 consecutive free throw attempts at the appropriate age-designated foul line.
- For each boy and girl age group, the most total baskets made is the winner and advances to the next level contest.

SJB CIRCLE OF PRAYER

If you have an immediate need for prayer support, please consider calling Margaret at 219-659-4138. She will pray with you on the phone and then send your request to the volunteers in our circle of faith who will pray specifically for your intentions. Please know that we will maintain your privacy with use of first names only. If you would like to join this steadfast community of prayer, please call the SJB rectory to add your name to the circle so that you too can pray for those who are in need of spiritual support.

BLESSING OF THE WATERS

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, in cooperation with the Hammond Port Authority, will bless Lake Michigan to commemorate the Our Lord's Baptism, January 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. After the service, the Hammond Marina will host holiday refreshments in the clipper room. 701 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, IN 46320. This is a remarkable chance for the Church to fulfill its mission to be an instrument of blessing for our earth and for our world. You won't look at Lake Michigan the same way. For more information, email stmarywhiting@parma.org or visit stmarywhiting.org.



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