

DECEMBER 9, 2018

# Saint John *the* Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH

502 NORTH MONROE • CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."  
- Lk 3:4*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### Pastor

Rev. James P. Henning, O.F.M. Conv.

### Deacons

Patrick Comfort  
Scott Whitehouse

### Parish Office

Phone ..... 217-935-3727  
Fax ..... 217-935-4101  
Emergency Cell ..... 309-838-3661  
E-Mail ..... stjohnsclinton@yahoo.com  
Bulletin ..... stjohnsbulletin@yahoo.com  
(Bulletin Items Due By Monday 9:00am)  
Website..... clintonstjohns.org

### Parish Staff

Religious Education .... Sue Neuschwanger  
Parish Secretary..... Debbie Askins  
Bulletin Secretary ..... Kathie Summers  
Parish Trustees ..... Francis Jackson  
Becky Wisher  
PPC President ..... Tom Horsley

### Parish Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

### Outreach Ministry Hours

Monday and Wednesday  
9:30 am to 2:30 pm

### Confessions

Saturday 3:30 pm or by appointment.

### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:30 am

### Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday 8:00 am  
Wednesday 8:00 am  
Third Friday of the Month 10:00 am  
(At Liberty Village Nursing Home)



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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# Advent

**Monday, December 10th**

**8:00 am For the People of St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart Parishes**

*Tuesday, December 11th*

*8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC*

**Wednesday, December 12th**

**8:00 am + John Merriell**

*Thursday, December 13th*

*8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC*


**Saturday, December 15th, Third Sunday of Advent**

**4:00 pm + Jody Smith**

**Sunday, December 16th, Third Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 am + Carmella Gullone**

*10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC*



**CCD K-7 Classes** - Classes meet today, December 9th following the 8:30am Mass.

**Confirmation Class** - Confirmation Class meets today, December 9th following the 8:30am Mass. Topic will be "How Does God Help When It Hurts?"

**RCIA** - Class meets this Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30pm in the Hall Library.

**Choir Practice** - Choir meets Thursdays in the Church. Sunday music at 6:30pm; Christmas music 7:15-8:30pm.

One great way to prepare for the savior's coming at Christmas is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. An Advent Penance Service will be held on **Thursday, December 20th at 7:00 pm at St. John's Church**. The people of St. John's Clinton, Sacred Heart Farmer City, and St. Patrick's Wapella parishes are all encouraged to join us for this great act of preparation.




**Fourth Annual "Breakfast with Santa"**


**Sponsored by the Catholic Men's Group**

**Today!** Join us from 8:00am to 10:30am today in the Parish Hall for our annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake and Sausage "Breakfast With Santa". The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 5-12. Join us!

**Cleaning the Church for Christmas**


St John's cleaning crew will be giving the church a good cleaning on Wednesday, December 19th at 9:30am in preparation for the Christmas season and to welcome our many visitors. Anyone who would like to lend a helping hand is more than welcome. Feel free to bring along a friend. All cleaning supplies will be provided.

Collection Counters this week are **Mike Rakers and Nancy Horsley**. Thank you for serving in this way.



**Saturday, December 1st 4:00pm and Sunday, December 2nd 8:30am**

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$2,444.00
Loose.....	\$133.00
Total Collection.....	\$2,577.00



**CMG Christmas Wreath Sale**

**Last Chance!** There are still a few wreaths and swags left. The Catholic Men's Group will be selling them again this weekend, December 8th & 9th. They are \$25 each. Support the CMG's fundraising efforts and get yours now!

**Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes**  
Gloria Case, Don Jackson, Dorothy Kuntz, Bernadine Reynolds, Marie Riegel.

**Prayers for the Sick**  
Nancy Askins, Kay Bailey, Connie Brown, Phyllis Fehr, Rick Hardesty, Roy Harrold, Bev Hartsock, Mary Hirsch, Kathy Lockwood, Tina Mannix, Joni Mollet, Mary Ann Ryan, Sally Waite, Angie Walden, Rita Williams, Brett Willits, Guy Wisegarver.



***NEW Christmas Mass Schedule***

**Monday, December 24th**  
5:00pm at St. John's Clinton  
8:00pm at St. Patrick Wapella  
**11:00pm** at St. John's Clinton  
*(NO Mass at Sacred Heart)*

**Tuesday, December 25th**  
10:00am at Sacred Heart FC  
10:00am at St. Patrick Wapella

# Christmas Cantata - 2018



Representing St. John's Church at the Annual Cantata are pictured above: Sue Riegel, Barb Lanier, Jean Buraglio, Lana Ophorst, Vanessa Ophorst, Allen Finger, Case Ophorst, and Chris Kaufman.



Pictured left is Debbie Askins leading the group of singers. Out of camera shot are our musicians: Becky Wisher (keyboard) and Howard Hartsock (guitar)

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Christmas Cantata. For those who were able to join us, they enjoyed the musical talents of the choirs from the Church of the Nazarene, Clinton Presbyterian Church, the United Methodist Church, and St. John the Baptist Church. Since many parables of Jesus were placed at a wedding or banquet, we felt it was important to have a small reception following the Service. Thank You to the women of the Altar and Rosary Society for providing cookies and the teachers and candidates of our Parish Confirmation Program for acting as hosts and hostesses.

Next weekend, December 15th & 16th, our parishes will conduct the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Bishop Jenky reminds us that Pope Francis remarked in his homily on the World Day of Consecrated Life, "Putting Jesus in the midst of his people means taking up and carrying the crosses of our brothers and sisters." Through prayer and ministry, our senior religious did just this. May we all unite in love and thanksgiving for the elderly religious who "put Jesus in our midst."

MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, C.S.C.  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF PEORIA



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
419 N.E. MADISON AVENUE  
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61603

**A second collection will be taken next weekend, December 15th & 16th, for the Retired Religious. Please use the envelopes distributed this weekend and help support the men and women who have served us.**

## John the Baptist



On this Second Sunday of Advent, unless we live in an area such as the Southwest U.S., the desert is probably about as far from our imaginations as a herd of camels. Luke wants us to think about the desert and why John was there instead of protesting around the palace or preaching in the Temple.

The desert was Israel's birthplace. God brought the people out of slavery and then led them on a 40-year desert trek to teach them what it meant to be the people of God. They needed that time to get over their servile identity. They lived those 40 years without the distractions of building homes and businesses; that long experience of being on the move taught them to rely on God alone. When they forgot the lessons of the desert, God sent them into exile for 60 years. In both instances, hardship stripped them of everything so that they could figure out what was essential.

We see something similar in the lives of people who suffer. A cancer diagnosis can force people to clarify the purpose of their life. An unexpected death reminds us that relationships are more important than any activity or achievement. A fire or flood often leaves people with a new sense of the relative value of their belongings. An accident often leaves us thinking about how we might have prevented it. All of the above adjust our vision in ways we probably never would have chosen.

So now in December, while everything in the northern hemisphere jingles with excitement about winter and holidays, the church invites us into the desert with John. The desert is the antithesis of the mall. No matter how much money you have, there is nothing to buy. Far from the city lights whose twinkling grabs our attention, the desert allows us to fix our gaze on the stars, on beauty that is beyond our reach and yet seems to have been created just for our delight. The desert is where our soul finds room to expand, where we can remember what we really thirst for. This is the experience of God's fertile desert. This is the desert we can choose when we want its blessing.

There are other deserts as well, such as the desert of the U.S. southern borderlands where the poor wander, seeking something better as they bet their lives on a chance for peace and safety. There are deserts of loneliness in the midst of bustling cities. The internet allows us to contemplate the desert refugee camps where people spend hours waiting in line for water and years waiting for a welcome to a new homeland.

These are deserts of desperation, the sort that Israel knew in her exile. Today these deserts have been created by the selfishness of human sin and those who suffer in these deserts are not usually the guilty. The promise of today's readings, the promise of Christmas itself, is made for the people in these deserts.

The word of the Lord came to John in the desert and today he tells us to prepare the way of the Lord.

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Join us in building Church through fund-raising activities and fun outings. Membership is open to all men of our area 18 years and older. See inside bulletin for meeting times and dates.

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