

DECEMBER 23, 2018

Saint John *the* Baptist

CATHOLIC CHURCH

502 NORTH MONROE • CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727

Pastor

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

Deacons

Patrick Comfort
Scott Whitehouse

Parish Office

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E-Mail stjohnsclinton@yahoo.com
Bulletin stjohnsbulletin@yahoo.com
(Bulletin Items Due By Monday 9:00am)
Website.....clintonstjohns.org

Parish Staff

Religious EducationSue 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)

Fourth Sunday Of Advent



Picture courtesy of Joris Heise
Outside Church of the Visitation,
Jerusalem.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." — LK 1:41-42

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



Advent

Monday, December 24th, Nativity of the Lord

8:00 am NO Mass
 5:00 pm + Dick Wolfe
 11:00 pm + Bob, Rita and David Gaddy

Tuesday, December 25th, Nativity of the Lord
 10:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, December 26th

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

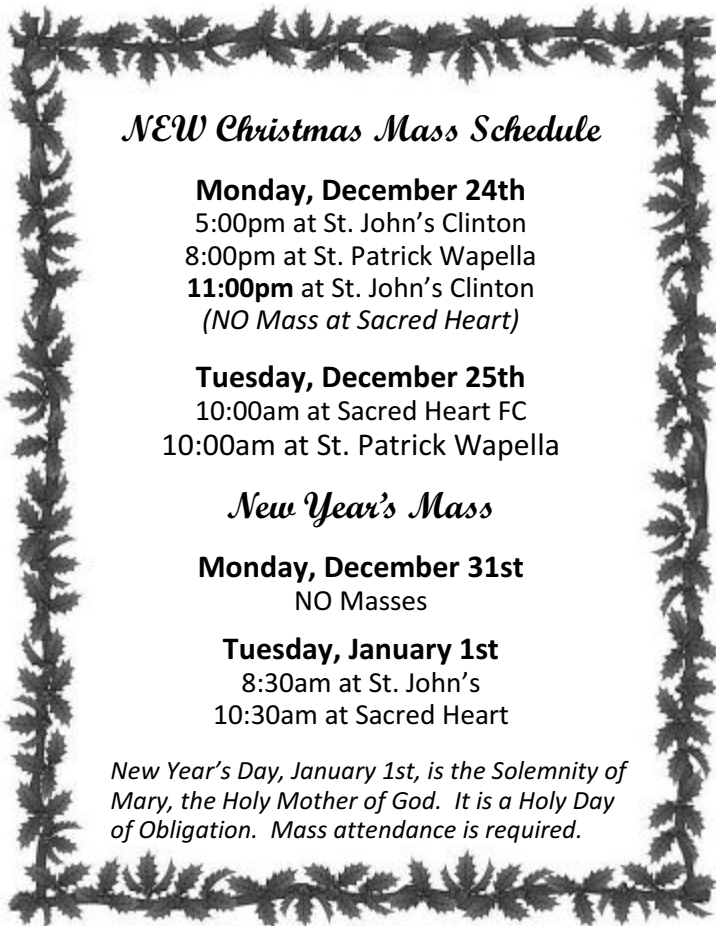
Thursday, December 27th
 8:30 am NO Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, December 29th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 4:00 pm + Bob Murphy

Sunday, December 30th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 8:30 am + Bill Weitekamp
 10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC



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)

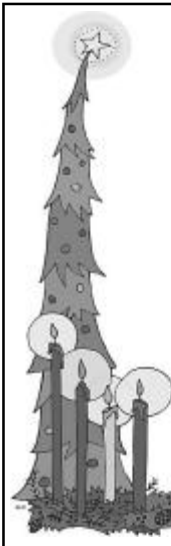
Tuesday, December 25th
 10:00am at Sacred Heart FC
 10:00am at St. Patrick Wapella

New Year's Mass

Monday, December 31st
 NO Masses

Tuesday, January 1st
 8:30am at St. John's
 10:30am at Sacred Heart

New Year's Day, January 1st, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass attendance is required.



CCD K-7 Classes - NO Classes today. Classes will resume Sunday, January 6th following the 8:30am Mass.

Confirmation Class - Confirmation Class does not meet today. Class will resume on Sunday, January 6, 2019. Topic will be "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

RCIA - NO Class this week. Class will resume on Tuesday, January 8th at 6:30pm in the Library.

Choir Practice - Choir does not meet this week. Weekly practice will resume on Thursday, January 10th at 6:30pm in the Church.

Please note that beginning next weekend, our guest presider will be Fr. Paul Schneider, OFM, Conv. Fr. Paul will be at St. John's and Sacred Heart from December 29th thru January 6th. Welcome Fr. Paul!

Christmas Eve Music

Please join us at St. John's before the 11:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve to sing Christmas carols led by St. John's Choir. This has become a very popular tradition in recent years. Carols begin at 10:20pm. Everyone is welcome.

2019 Church Calendars

2019 Church Calendars are now available at the church entrances. The calendars are provided courtesy of Calvert-Belangee-Bruce Funeral Home in Farmer City.

Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes

Gloria Case, Millie Frese, Don Jackson, Dorothy Kuntz, 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.

Collection Counters this week are **Mary Lou Barnett and Pat Sartie.** Thank you for serving in this way.



Saturday, December 15th 4:00pm and Sunday, December 16th 8:30am

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$2,672.00
Loose.....	\$407.00
Total Collection.....	\$3,079.00

Retired Religious Collection	\$1,116.00
Outreach Donations	\$70.00



Bernadine Reynolds
 Born: July 11, 1919
 Died: December 15, 2018

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Bernadine Reynolds** who was buried from our parish this past week. We ask that you keep her family in your prayers.

May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in God's loving peace.

Parish Office Closed

Please make note that St. John's and Sacred Heart Parish Office will close on Monday afternoon, December 24th and will re-open on Wednesday, January 2nd. Thank you for your patience and understanding and Have a Very Blessed Christmas Season and Happy New Year!

Lost and Found

Please check the table in back of church. We have several items that were lost and then found. Some of the items include: a small purse, gloves, sunglasses, baby bottle nipple in case. Please take a look and retrieve your lost items.

The Knights of Columbus Wants You!

We are excited to announce our new Online Membership, making it easy to join our close to two million member Catholic fraternity. Being a member of the Knights of Columbus allows you to deepen your faith with fellow brothers, protect our family through our fraternal benefits, make an impact on the community by serving others, and defend our Catholic values. Join today through www.KofC.org/JoinUs or call Field Agent Eric Batsie at (217) 904-0735 or email at Eric.Batsie@kofc.org or contact General Agent Andy Ehrlich at (217) 212-9055 or email at Andrew.Ehrlich@kofc.org for more information.

A Christmas Prayer

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen. Help us to rise bigger than we are.

Amen.



The story of Bethlehem reminds us that God approaches us through the seemingly most insignificant. Elizabeth's song and blessing of Mary and their parallel pregnancies remind us that we are created for joy and that we will find it to the extent that we join Mary and her son in saying "Behold, I come to do your will."

Elizabeth, who had been called "barren," is going to be a mother. Gabriel, sent by God, had informed Mary of it. Shortly afterwards, Mary *set out in haste for the hill country, to a town of Judah (Lk 1:39)*. She is not motivated by curiosity, nor does she make the journey to discover for herself whether the angel's message is true. Humble, filled with charity—a charity that leads her to be more concerned for her elderly cousin than for herself—Mary goes to the home of Elizabeth because she has discerned in the heavenly message a hidden relationship between Elizabeth's child and the Son she carries within her.

It is a long way—nearly a hundred miles—from Nazareth to Ain Karim, the little town in the hills of Judea where, according to tradition, Zachary and Elizabeth lived. Most likely it was Joseph who arranged the trip, looking for a caravan in which the Blessed Virgin could travel safely. He himself may have accompanied her, at least as far as Jerusalem; some commentators even think he went with Mary right to Ain Karim, which is only five miles from the capital. If so, he would have needed to return immediately to his workshop in Nazareth.

Mary *entered the house of Zachary and greeted Elizabeth (Lk 1:40)*. According to a local tradition, the meeting of the two cousins took place, not in the town, but in a country place where Elizabeth—as the sacred text affirms (*Lk 1:24*)—had secluded herself for five months from the sight of curious relatives and neighbors, to raise up her heart in gratitude to God for such an immense gift.

After the long and tiring trip, Mary greets Elizabeth with an embrace. Mary rejoices with her cousin and promises to stay at her side. With Mary, God's grace enters that house, for he has made her his mediatrix. Her arrival produces a spiritual upheaval. *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, St. Luke recounts, the infant leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:41)*.

Mary remains three months in Elizabeth's home, until the birth of John. And with her presence, she will fill Zachary with grace as well, so that he might sing to the Lord a hymn of praise and repentance, with all the strength of his recovered speech: *Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people (Lk 1:68)*.

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