

MARCH 24, 2019

Saint John *the* Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH

502 NORTH MONROE • CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727

THIRD WEEK OF LENT



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

Deacons
Patrick Comfort
Scott Whitehouse

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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)

And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'" — Lk 13:6-7

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass 03001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, March 25th

8:00 am + Merribeth Koyak

Tuesday, March 26th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, March 27th

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

Thursday, March 28th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, March 30th, Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm + Bill Smith

Sunday, March 31st, Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 am + Allen Cooper

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC



CCD K-7 Classes

CCD Classes meet today, March 24th following the 8:30am Mass.

Confirmation Class - Confirmation Class this week is Youth Rally on Saturday, March 23rd. Saint papers are due March 31st.

RCIA - Class meets this Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30pm in the Library.


Choir Practice - Lent/Easter Choir practices are now underway. Sunday music at 6:30pm; Easter music at 7:15pm. We need choir members from all 3 parishes.

Birthright Annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Baby Bottles and donations are due today, March 24th. Thank you to all who remembered to return their Birthright Baby Bottle today. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! If you forgot to bring your baby bottle today, you can still drop it off at the Parish Office this week.

A Letter of Thanks

*St. John's Catholic Church,
Words can't express my thankfulness to you, Father Jim, and the members of St. John's Church. For so many years I have been blessed to know that I can count on St. John's help clothing and comforting the impoverished in our community. My heart fills with pride to know that despite our church being small, St. John's has always been the greatest contributor to the Dewitt County Samaritan Room/Angel Tree efforts! Please know I am eternally grateful to you and St. John's family for the love and kindness you have given to needy families in our county.* Sue Calvert



Lenten Fish Frys


Join us on all Fridays of Lent (except Good Friday) in the Parish Hall. Serving begins at 5:00pm. Meal includes choice of fish or shrimp, two sides, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$9 for shrimp meal; \$8 for fish meal.

Stations of the Cross Fridays of Lent

St. Patrick, Wapella	5:00pm
St. John, Clinton	5:30pm
Sacred Heart, Farmer City	6:00pm

First Communion Gallery From the Past

DON'T FORGET! Stop by the table in back of church and complete a form and see how many you can guess. And please pray for our second graders, RCIC young adults and RCIA adults as they prepare to receive Jesus for the first time at their First Holy Communion.



**Saturday, March 16th 4:00pm
and
Sunday, March 17th 8:30am**

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$2,168.50
Loose.....	\$169.00
Total Collection.....	\$2,337.50

Collection Counters this week are

Denny Madix and Pat Sartie.

Thank you for serving in this way.

St. John's Altar & Rosary Game Night

Reminder—The Altar & Rosary Game Night will be held on **Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00pm** at the Parish Hall. We are asking for donations of \$10 value gifts for our door prize drawings. We will have a sign up sheet later for snacks and kitchen help. Call Donna Hall at (217) 870-8981 for more tickets or questions.



+ ALLEN RAY COOPER

Allen was born August 2, 1944 in Danville, the son of H. "Cloyd" and Eleanor Cooper. He married Susan Paczynski on August 22, 1970 in Westville.

Al was an active and vital member of the St. John's Parish Family. He was a fixture at many of our Parish fundraising activities. In addition to holding several jobs, he and Sue also operated a lawn service business through which they continued to serve the Parish by manicuring the lawns. He will be greatly missed.

May God reward him and grant him heaven. May he have eternal rest.



The RCIA Scrutinies

First Scrutiny - The Woman at the Well

(This Gospel will only be proclaimed at the 8:30 am Mass)

In this first Scrutiny, the Church invites its Catechumens and Candidates to reflect on the waters of Baptism. Jesus

will offer life-giving water to a woman who does not believe. She is not a Jew, still Jesus offers to this unknown woman the water of rebirth. If she understands and accepts, she will have the new life that one can only receive through the waters of Baptism.

The Gospel says that it was the sixth hour, the same time of day at which Jesus would eventually be crucified. This indicates that the sixth hour becomes the hour of salvation. When Scripture says sixth hour, it does not mean 6:00 am but rather twelve noon. We will learn that Jesus hung on the cross from the sixth hour until the ninth hour. These hours refer to how the Romans observed time in biblical times.

Nobody would be surprised to hear that the account of the Samaritan woman at the well is called a conversion story. Some will compare her to the woman caught in adultery or other famous women in Scripture. In reality there are many similarities among them all, but they don't necessarily lead to traditional themes of repentance and penance.

As the exchange progressed there was great theological discussion about living water, Jacob's importance, correct worship, prophets and the coming Messiah. But what really counted was that Jesus revealed himself to the woman and revealed her to herself. We don't know the extent of their dialogue, we only know that she came to believe he had come from God and proclaimed, "He told me everything I have done."

What's interesting about this in the context of Lent is that we have a conversion story that doesn't focus at all on sinfulness or even traditional repentance but rather on being known and accepted. When the conversation about husbands began, the woman said she had none, and Jesus replied that she had known at least five. But there is no follow-up on the topic. No talk about straightening out her life, no discussion about laws concerning divorce and remarriage, nor about whether she could commune with him in her current state.

The church offers us this story in this third week of Lent and invites us to meditate on the woman and her transformation. It reminds us that our faith is based on a personal encounter with Christ, the one whose effect on us is like cascading water. Water filling us and bubbling over into joyful expressions of being so loved just as we are, that we are impelled to continue the relationship and share it. The conversion revealed here is about focusing on Jesus and God's love, nothing more and nothing less.



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

March 2019

To the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocese of Peoria, Soon, our diocese will take up *The Catholic Relief Services Collection*. Your support of this collection serves **Jesus in disguise** in some of the most marginalized communities in our world. In rural communities in Afghanistan, for example, children have limited access to education because of distance and the danger of commuting to public schools. In a remote village in Ghor, one of the poorest provinces of the country an estimated 80% of adults are illiterate, and the illiteracy rate is even higher for women. Most villagers are farmers who never attended school. The closest school was too far and the road too dangerous for young children to attend.

But you helped bring a community-based classroom to this remote village. Your generosity made it possible for the children to attend school and has offered them a more hopeful and secure future. Such program have been implemented across Afghanistan, and indeed, the world depend on your support to go to school and have bright futures.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year. To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Support the collection, and answer the knock of **Jesus in disguise**.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.
BISHOP OF PEORIA

Give, and
it will be
given you

ADA 2019 Coming Soon

In two weeks our parish will be participating in the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) for the Diocese of Peoria. As followers of Christ, we are called to respond to God's grace in our lives and to serve one another. The Annual Diocesan Appeal is an opportunity to respond to His grace by sharing our gifts and so transform lives throughout the diocese. Please give generously as God has given to you.

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