



MARCH 22, 2020

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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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)

*Night is coming when no one can work.
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
When he had said this, he spat on the ground
and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him,
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” –which means Sent–.
So he went and washed, and came back able to see.*





March 13, 2020

To Priests, Deacons, and Faithful of the Diocese of Peoria,

I had hoped to wait a week for events to further unfold before taking the dramatic step of suspending public Divine Worship. Upon wider consultation, however, I have decided that our Local Church will act in unison with other dioceses in Illinois and elsewhere and suspend all public Masses beginning this Saturday, at the Vigil Mass, on March the 14th. Those funeral Masses already scheduled in parish churches may take place. At this time, outside committal services may continue. Memorial Masses should be scheduled at a later date. Marriage ceremonies in parish churches scheduled for this Saturday may take place, and there will be further guidelines from the Office of the Vicar General for the future. Baptisms should continue but with only the parents and godparents present. Using great prudence and where it is possible, the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Viaticum may also be administered. Masses and other liturgies in formed religious houses may continue but must not be open to the public.

Dear friends in Christ, these are perilous days but certainly not unprecedented in human history. I urge you to be patient and faith filled. Cling more closely to the Lord, and be sure to pray together at home among your family and friends. For the present, we need to break the chain of transmission of the contagion, but I know that in the future we will much more appreciate and never again take for granted the great gift of our parish communities.

May God bless and protect you.

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

Fr. Jim's Private Mass Intentions

Monday, March 23rd

**For the People of St. John the Baptist
and Sacred Heart Parishes and
Their Benefactors**

Wednesday, March 25th

+ **Merribeth Koyak**

Saturday, March 28th, Fifth Sunday of Lent

+ **Terrance Lang**

Sunday, March 29th, Fifth Sunday of Lent

+ **Tony & Karen Hable**

Laetare

The day's theme comes from the entrance antiphon reflecting on Isaiah

66:10-11: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast."

Laetare is the first word — meaning "rejoice" — in the Latin text. On *Laetare* Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent's *Gaudete* Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. Call it pink — or, more fittingly, rose — this change in color indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the somber days of Passiontide.

The joy of Easter being around the corner is symbolized in a few other interesting liturgical possibilities. During Lent, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal forbids flowers adorning the altar. But on *Laetare* Sunday (as well as solemnities and feasts within the season), there's a temporary halt to these penitential observations! I remember well decking out the altar with pink roses on that day when I was once a parish liturgy director.

At one time, marriages were generally forbidden during Lent, but *Laetare* Sunday was often associated as a day when marriages could be celebrated during the penitential season. While marriages are now only forbidden on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, *Laetare* Sunday is still a fitting day for those wishing to be married before Eastertide.

Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savor and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

Being aware of traditions and customs assists us in celebrating the beauty of our faith. As you can see, there is much associated with even a nondescript day like the Fourth Sunday of Lent — not to mention the rest of the season, or the 50 days of Easter and beyond. Take advantage of the richness of our Catholic traditions.



CCD K-7 Classes

CCD Classes are cancelled until further notice.

RCIA - Class will meet this Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30pm in the Library.

Lenten Adult Ed Class - Class has been cancelled.

Choir Practice - Lent/Easter Choir practice meets on Thursdays in the Church. Sunday music at 6:30pm; Easter music at 7:15pm. It's not too late to join us!

Liturgical Ministers Training Sessions

Extraordinary Minister and Lector training sessions have been postponed. Watch the bulletin for news on when they will be re-scheduled.



Let There Be Light

Imagine yourself being blind, you see nothing except darkness then suddenly you are able to see. How would you feel about it? Of course you would feel inde-

scribable joy because you're now able to appreciate the beauty of your surroundings.

This was how the blind man must have felt when his blindness was cured by Jesus. He felt an overwhelming joy that he never felt before in his entire life. Aside from the physical blindness the man was also healed from his spiritual blindness.

But why did Jesus heal the blind man in the first place? This is for the reason that Jesus found faith and humility in this blind man. Jesus would have not healed him if he did not have faith and humility.

Jesus saw something that is not visible through the naked eye. Jesus saw that in the heart of this blind man lies the two golden virtues which are faith and humility. This is what is oftentimes lacking within us. That is why we don't receive what we pray for.

Does this mean that this blind man had been praying for healing long before Jesus saw him? Yes! He had been praying so that he would be cured of his blindness, praying with faith and praying with humility.

Do you have faith in the Lord Jesus? Faith that is very much willing to abandon yourself upon the mercy and goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you have humility? Humility to follow without question what the Lord tells you?

Let us pray for healing regarding our lack of faith and let us pray for healing regarding our lack of humility.

Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes
Millie Frese, Don Jackson, Marie Riegel.

Prayers for the Sick

Janet Ashby, Kay Bailey, Connie Brown, Phyllis Fehr, Cornelia Harpenau, Roy Harrold, Mary Hirsch, Steve Lighthall, Tina Mannix, Jon Menter, Joni Mollet, Melissa Nagy, Bill Sargent, Steven R. Smith, Angie Walden, Rita Williams, Brett Willits, Guy Wisegarver.

Please note: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Mass at the Nursing Home is not allowed. Also, Communion to the homebound is discouraged. Please continue to support the above named brothers and sisters in prayer.



DeWitt-Piatt
Bi-County Health Department

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March 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to powers granted to the Governor in Sections 7(1), 7(8), and 7(12) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act found in Section 20 Illinois Compiled Statutes Subsection 3305, on Sunday March 15, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order that requires the temporary suspension of dine-in service for all bars and restaurants located in the State of Illinois between the dates of March 17th and March 30th with the possibility of an extension dependent upon the nature of the virus at the time of expiration. Similar to the Executive Order issued at the end of last week requiring the temporary cancellation of all public and private schools, this Order is an attempt to limit the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus through social distancing measures. This is an unfortunate circumstance and the DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department will continue to cooperate and offer guidance to all food service establishments within our jurisdiction in an attempt to ensure limited food and profit loss resulting from this mandate.

As previously mentioned, this Executive Order applies to dine-in services only and does not require most businesses to cease full operations at the time it becomes effective. Beginning on the March 17th, it is permissible for food service establishments to distribute food in the following manner:

- 1) Delivery Service
- 2) Curbside Service
- 3) Drive-Thru Service

If a facility provides only dine-in service or in-house drink service, it will be required to cease full operation until the expiration of this mandate. Depending upon feasibility, the health department is willing to offer guidance to those seeking alternate forms of food service operations.

During this time, it is important that you continue to exercise leniency in absenteeism for employees who report illness or exhibit flu-like symptoms.

Once again, we are aware that this is an unfortunate circumstance and we are willing to provide any clarification or assistance to ensure the continued success of small businesses within our communities. Nevertheless, we must enforce the Governor's Executive Order and mandate closure of all restaurants and bars to DINE IN customers. We will work with our local State's Attorneys offices to ensure these orders are enforced with all permitted establishments.

I encourage you to follow our agency on Facebook for updates regarding this requirement.

Sincerely,

Michael Schroeder, LEHP
Environmental Health Coordinator
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator



**Saturday, March 14th 4:00pm
and
Sunday, March 15th 8:30am**

NOTE: There were no public Masses this past weekend, therefore no collections were taken.
NO public Masses until further notice.

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