



DECEMBER 6, 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

Phone 217-935-3727
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 EducationSue Neuschwanger
Parish Secretary..... Debbie Askins*
.....* medical leave
Temporary Secretary Susan Hertel
Bulletin Secretary Kathie Summers
Parish Trustees Francis Jackson
Becky Wisher
PPC PresidentBill Spencer

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.



John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." — Mk 1:4, 6-7a

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



Second Week of Advent

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 7th

8:00 am + For the people of St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart Parishes and their benefactors

Tuesday, December 8th, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

5:30 pm + Bob Murphy

Wednesday, December 9th

8:00 am + Marie Riegel

Thursday, December 10th

9:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, December 12th, 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm + For the health of Ray Mercker and repose of the soul of Margy Mercker

Sunday, December 13th, 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 am + Mary Lou Mills

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Liturgical Assignments

Tuesday, December 8th, 4:00 pm Mass

Lector Marilyn Hight

EMHC Donna Hall

Servers TBA

Usher/Greeters TBA

Saturday, December 12th, 4:00 pm Mass

Lector Francis Jackson

EMHC Lyn Corrigan

Servers Greg Toohill, Sofia Calvert

Usher/Greeters Connie Harrold, Tom and Nancy Horsley

Sunday, December 13th 8:30 am Mass

Lector Linda Fields

EMHC Don Schlesinger

Servers Luis and Michelangelo Mendoza

Usher/Greeters Linda Schmid and Susie Alexander

Saturday, November 28th 4:00pm and

Sunday, November 29th 8:30am



Sunday Envelopes.....\$ 1,745.00

Loose\$ 92.00

Total Collection.....\$ 1,837.00



Please remember our Nursing Home patients, Veterans, and those who are less fortunate. Instead of the Angel Tree, this year we have created our own Giving Tree. Working together, we can make the light of Christ shine for someone this Christmas. Below are some suggestions. Place your gifts in the box in the back of Church.

Suggestions

Cash/Check

Mittens

Gloves

Scarf

Hat

Socks

Coat

Personal Care Items

Deodorant

Lotion/Soap

Toothpaste

Microwave Popcorn

Candy bars

Dollar Store Items

CCD K-8 Classes

Classes meet today Sunday, December 6th following the 8:30 am Mass.

Holy Day Mass Schedule for The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 8th

5:30 pm at St. John's Clinton

This is a Day of obligation

Collection Counters this week are **Denny Madix and Pat Sartie.**

Thank you for serving in this way.

In Memoriam

We express our sincere condolences to the Smith family on the death of Stephen R. Smith, who was buried from our parish on November 21, 2020.

Catholic Men's Group Wreath Sale



Staying home for the Holidays? Then its time to purchase a wreath to make Christmas alive and well for your household. These live greens will not only add beauty to your house, but also the great scent of balsam and evergreen. See the people in the back of church after Mass.

Classic Wreath.....\$25.00

Victorian Wreath.....**SOLD OUT**.....\$30.00

Wintergreen Wreath.....\$30.00

Classic Spray.....\$25.00

Victorian Spray.....\$30.00

Centerpiece.....\$30.00

The Man Behind the Story of Saint Nicholas



St. Nicholas was a Bishop who lived in the fourth century, in a place called Myra in Asia Minor (now called Turkey). He was a very rich man because his parents died when he was young and left him a lot of money. He was also a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people who needed it. There are several legends about St. Nicholas.

The most famous story about St. Nicholas tells how the custom of hanging up stockings to put presents in first started! It goes like this:

There was a poor man who had three daughters. The man was so poor that he did not have enough money for a dowry, so his daughters couldn't get married. (A dowry is a sum of money paid to the bridegroom by the bride's parents on the wedding day. This still happens in some countries, even today.) One night, Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of gold down the chimney and into the house (this meant that the oldest daughter was then able to be married). The bag fell into a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry! This was repeated later with the second daughter. Finally, determined to discover the person who had given him the money, the father secretly hid by the fire every evening until he caught Nicholas dropping in a bag of gold. Nicholas begged the man to not tell anyone what he had done, because he did not want to bring attention to himself. But soon the news got out and when anyone received a secret gift, it was thought that maybe it was from Nicholas.

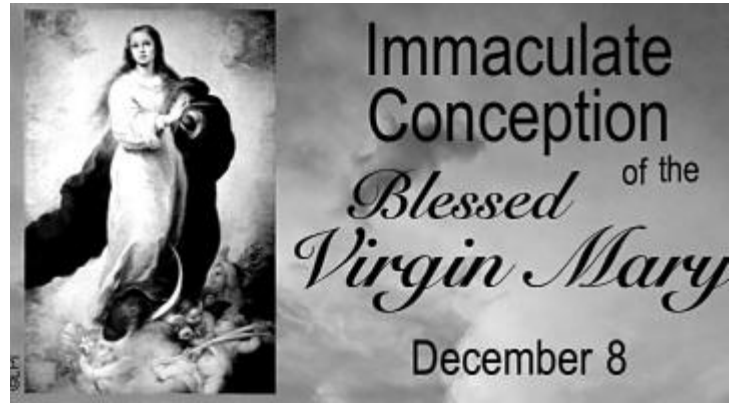
How St. Nicholas Became Santa Claus

In the 16th Century in northern Europe, after the reformation, the stories and traditions about St. Nicholas became unpopular. But someone had to deliver presents to children at Christmas, so in the UK, particularly in England, he became 'Father Christmas' or 'Old Man Christmas', an old character from story plays during the middle ages in the UK and parts of northern Europe. In France, he was then known as 'Père Noël'.

In some countries including parts of Austria and Germany, the present giver became the 'Christkind' a golden-haired baby, with wings, who symbolizes the new born baby Jesus.

In the early USA his name was 'Kris Kringle' (from the Christkind). Later, Dutch settlers in the USA took the old stories of St. Nicholas with them and Kris Kringle and St. Nicholas became 'Sinterklaas' or as we now say 'Santa Claus'!

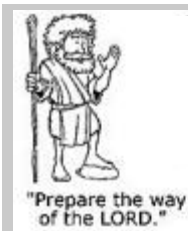
Many countries, especially ones in Europe, celebrate St. Nicholas' Day on 6th December. In The Netherlands and some other European Countries, children leave clogs or shoes out on the 5th December (St. Nicholas Eve) to be filled with presents. They also believe that if they leave some hay and carrots in their shoes for Sinterklaas's horse, they will be left some sweets.



It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people think the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father; but that is the Virgin Birth. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect. The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that's what "immaculate" means: without stain. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). The phrase "full of grace" is a translation of the Greek word *kecharitomene*. It therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary.

The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. *Kecharitomene* is a perfect passive participle of *charitoo*, meaning "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit. In fact, Catholics hold, it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.



John the Baptist's message applies just as much today as it did in the original Advent. God's love for His people is never-ending, and He sent Jesus Christ as a testament to it. All we need to do is prepare ourselves for His coming — in our case, the Second Coming. John's ministry was a call to preparation and formation, to seek repentance through baptism and forgiveness of sins to make ourselves ready for Christ. We can find that highway at all times, but Advent in particular calls us to a special season of preparation, and of joy as well.

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