



DECEMBER 13, 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 Education Sue Neuschwanger
Parish Secretary Debbie Askins*
..... * medical leave
Temporary Secretary Susan Hertel
Bulletin Secretary Kathie Summers
Parish Trustees Francis Jackson
Becky Wisher
PPC President Bill Spencer

Parish Office Hours

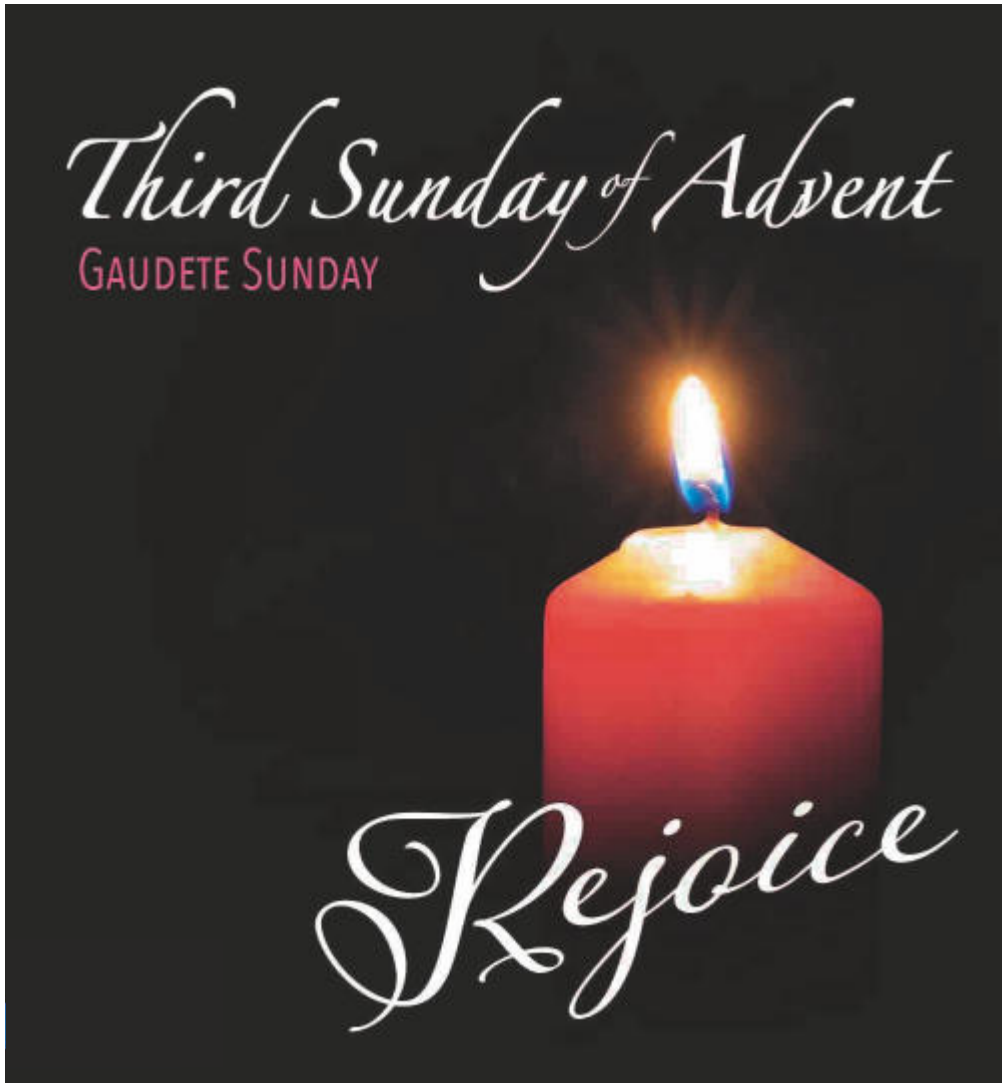
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Outreach Ministry Hours

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

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 pm or by appointment.



Third Week of Advent

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord.



MASS Intentions

Monday, December 14th

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

Tuesday, December 15th

8:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, December 16th

8:00 am + Nancy Michel

Thursday, December 17th

9:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, December 19th, 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm + James Tomes

Sunday, December 20th, 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 am ++ Steve and Sonny Buraglio

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Liturgical Assignments

Saturday, December 19th, 4:00 pm Mass

Lector Francis Jackson
EMHC Lyn Corrigan
Servers Greg Toohill
Usher/Greeters Paul Nothnagel, Mike and Lyn Corrigan

Sunday, December 20th 8:30 am Mass

Lector TBA
EMHC Don Schlesinger
Servers Brock and Brennan Wolfe
Usher/Greeters Linda Schmid and Susie Alexander

Collection Counters this week are
Mary Lou Barnett and Troy Vanover.
Thank you for serving in this way.



Saturday, December 5th 4:00pm and Sunday, December 6th 8:30am

Sunday Envelopes.....\$1,820.00
Loose\$ 134.00
Total Collection.....\$1,954.00

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

December 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Most of us can probably recall some religious priest, brother, or sister who has made a positive impact on our lives. We have experienced their consecration, their witness, and their service in so many different facets of our parish and of our own particular lives. It is once again, our assistance that they call for as we undertake the Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Over the years, you have generously responded to this important collection for the retired religious. The generosity that you have provided is still not enough to offset the multi-billion dollar unfunded liability that faces our elderly religious priests, brothers, and sisters.

As they have provided us with a lifetime of service, we want to return their offering with a moment of thanks. By your continued generosity, we hope to continue to provide for their many needs.

I want to thank you once again for your continued generosity to this Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Please know of my continued prayers, thanks, and best wishes.

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

CCD K-8 Classes

Classes will NOT resume until January 10, 2021. A letter will be sent out prior to that date.

Pastor's Note: Recently I was asked to loan out 50 chairs from the Parish Hall. In normal circumstances I would have said yes, with restrictions. Because of our current health crisis, we are asked not to have large gatherings. The current statewide guidelines recommend gatherings of no more than **10 people**. Where the 10-person limit cannot be followed **in places of worship**, these guidelines are recommended: *Set a capacity limit for the place of worship that allows for extensive social distancing (6 feet or more) between congregants.* Because of these restrictions, I felt in conscience that I could not enable this "risky" behavior of such a large gathering. As noted above and a recent Supreme Court Ruling, places of worship and the reason for attending church fall under a different set of guidelines. We continue to pray for an end to the virus that so restricts our lives.

John the Baptist made his appearance in the desert announcing the coming of the Messiah. John came to testify, not to himself, but to the Messiah who was coming into the world. John declared that he was not worthy to untie the straps of the Messiah's shoes, the menial work of slaves. A deputation of religious leaders came to interview John asking him who he was. But John declared who he was not. John was not the Messiah, but one who bore witness on his behalf. Neither was John the prophet Elijah, who was expected to precede the coming of the Lord (Mal 3:23). Nor did John claim to be a prophet like Moses (Deut 18:15). John explained who he was by saying that he was simply a voice crying out: "Make ready the way of the Lord" (Is 40:3). The religious leaders then asked John what gave him the right to baptize? (Jews baptized proselytes from other faiths). John answered that he was only baptizing with water; however there was one among them who they did not recognize. John's function was to prepare the way for the one who would baptize with the fire of the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:11).



Today, the third Sunday of Advent, the Church celebrates Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete comes from the Latin word "gaudeo" which means to rejoice or simply "joy". The candle we light on the advent wreath is a special pink colour when compared with the other three somber purple candles. This is a sign that our period of waiting and preparation is coming to a close – our Lord is coming closer to us. All of our readings today speak of joy and hope. The same joy and hope brought to us by our Lord through His promise of salvation to everlasting life.

The first reading, from the prophet Isaiah, gives us a new and remarkable year of joy – a time of forgiveness of debts, liberty to captives, consolation to the broken-hearted along with a rest for the whole of creation. This is the heart of Jesus mission on earth. Today's Psalm is very familiar to those who pray the evening prayer from the divine office. It is known as the Magnificat. This is our Lady's song of praise to our Lord. The Psalm refrain – "My soul shall exalt in my God." is an absolutely beautiful song of praise from a loving servant – Mary, the mother of God.

Finally the Gospel from John tells us that he is not the Messiah or a prophet. He states that he comes to lead the way for the one who is coming after – Jesus. Using John as a model, we can point to Christ and direct others to Christ without calling attention to ourselves or elevate our own importance. There are many models of this kind of behaviour in our lives. These are the people who show selfless love in the midst of the "often-overwhelming" evils of this world. These people light up our world just as the Christmas lights and flowers brighten everything around us.

We can all appreciate some of the joy that we experience with any of these or other important events in our lives. Most of us have been on the receiving end of a joyful experience. These are times of hope and joy! These are times when we can offer hope and joy to others through our attitude and our generosity. We can be a true witness to Jesus in our lives.

Catholic Men's Group Wreath Sale

"Clean-Up weekend for the wreaths. We still have centerpieces, Victorian wreaths, Classic Swags and Classic and Wintergreen wreaths.

Classic Wreath.....	\$25.00
Victorian Wreath.....	\$30.00
Wintergreen Wreath.....	\$30.00
Classic Spray.....	\$25.00
Victorian Spray.....	\$30.00
Centerpiece.....	\$30.00



Your donations for the Parish Giving Tree and Christmas Cards for Veterans and those in the Nursing Home will be accepted through next Sunday. Blank cards are available for you to use. Simply sign and place in appropriate box.



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5:00 pm and 10:00 pm

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18 years and older. See inside bulletin for
meeting times and dates.



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