



DECEMBER 20, 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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(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.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father." — Lk 1:30-32

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

Fourth Week of Advent

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.





Monday, December 21st

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

Tuesday, December 22nd

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, December 23rd

8:00 am + Nelson Bowers

Thursday, December 24th

5:00 pm + Sally Waite
10:00 pm + Nancy Askins

Friday, December 25th, The Nativity of the Lord

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, December 26th, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

4:00 pm ++ Bob, Rita and David Gaddy

Sunday, December 27th, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 am + Bill Weitekamp
 10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes
 Millie Frese, Sue Thompson

Prayers for the Sick

Kay Bailey, Connie Brown, Evan Calvert, Susan Cooper, Phyllis Fehr, Cornelia Harpenau, Beverly Hartsock, Roy Harrold, Mary Hirsch, Steve Kimler, Steve Lighthall, Tina Mannix, Jon Menter, Joni Mollet, Melissa Nagy, Bill Sargent, Sharon Stephenson, Angie Walden, Cale Wayne, Rita Williams, Brett Willits, Charles M. Yeagle.

Liturgical Assignments

Saturday, December 26th, 4:00 pm Mass

Lector Francis Jackson
EMHC Sue Murphy
Servers Greg Toohill
Usher/Greeters Bruce Askins, Angie and Marilyn Hight

Sunday, December 27th 8:30 am Mass

Lector TBA
EMHC Don Schlesinger
Servers Davis Howell and Diana Naxi
Usher/Greeters Linda Schmid and Susie Alexander

Church Cleaning for Christmas

St John's Cleaning Crew will be giving the church a good cleaning this Monday, December 21st after the 8:30 am Mass in preparation for the Christmas season and to welcome our many visitors. Anyone who would like to lend a helping hand is more than welcome. Feel free to bring along a friend. All cleaning supplies will be provided.

Collection Counters this week are **Nancy Stokowski and Donna Hall.** Thank you for serving in this way.



And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Pictured left is a statue of Elizabeth greeting Mary at the Church of the Visitation in Israel. It depicts in a beautiful way the encounter of a very 'heavy with child' Elizabeth who welcomes a newly pregnant Mary. This statue helps us to see how in very real ways, God works with and through our human nature.

In Today's Scripture, Mary who has had no relations with a man is told she will become a mother. Mary, is not ignorant. She knows that a man is needed to conceive a child. How is this to happen? It makes no sense. Only through the power of God can the impossible happen. With the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit new life is conceived. The new life is the Son of God.

Nothing is impossible with God. These are the Advent words of encouragement for us. We need to learn from Sacred Scripture that God works in our lives and in our world. God has demonstrated in unique ways His intervention in the lives of the human person. God can and will continue to make known to us that He still cares for us. Just as surely as God intervened in the life of Mary and Elizabeth, so God can and will make His presence known to us.



Saturday, December 12th 4:00pm and Sunday, December 13th 8:30am

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$2,498.00
Loose.....	\$ 166.00
Total Collection.....	\$2,664.00
Outreach Collection	\$1,390.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 580.00



Tuesday, December 22 at 7 p.m. This is not a communal celebration. Because of COVID 19, only individual confessions will be heard. The location for confessions will be in the library room and server's sacristy. Father Paul Langevin of Holy Family Parish in Peoria will be present to assist with confessions. Fr. Jim and Fr. Paul will be socially distanced and you will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament either face-to-face or behind a screen. Because of the necessary distance, please make sure there is plenty of privacy for the person speaking with the priest.



Saint John the Baptist

Christmas Eve *

5:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Sacred Heart, Farmer City

Christmas Day *

10:30 am

Saturday, December 26

St. John's - 4 pm

Sunday, December 27

St. John's - 8:30 am

Sacred Heart - 10:30 am

* No Reservation Required



"May it be done to me according to your word"

In Luke we read that Gabriel "came to her" but we have no other information as to how that transpired. Did Gabriel suddenly appear, did he drop out of the skies, did he come waving his wings and stirring up a cloud of dust? He was God's messenger, did he have a loud trumpet fanfare or did he approach with reserve, quietly so as to soften the shock?

In the Bible, most angels seem to have looked human when they appeared. Is it possible that Gabriel looked a lot like every other man in Nazareth or did he indeed appear as a holy and triumphant messenger in heavenly splendor? We simply do not know.

What we do know is the setting is the most unlikely of places. Nazareth --- where nothing good can come from --- (at least it was thought of that way at the time). Such an occurrence would be enough to frighten anyone but this young woman believed to be somewhere between 12 and 15 years of age asks the logical question --- How can that be, I'm still a virgin ---? After Gabriel's assurances that the Holy Spirit will come upon her, she is totally obedient --- "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" ---. One has difficulty imagining what emotions would have raced through her, what inner turmoil she might have felt.

In the story of The Annunciation is the calmness and complete obedience with which Mary accepts the responsibility. Think about that for a moment. This young woman accepts God's will for her, she says yes to this amazing idea that God the Son would be born into the world and she would be his mother! And, as amazing as that sounds, add the fact that the consequences of her acceptance would almost certainly have included stoning. Faced with a truly incredulous proposition accompanied by the virtual certainty of the most severe physical punishment, she accepts in full and complete obedience.

"Here am I" . This is one of the most profound scriptural statements about holding the course when things get rough, standing with God even in the face of great fear and uncertainty. Mary allows herself to submit to God's will, becoming God's servant - true conversion of life - . How open are we to true and ongoing conversion of our lives? Can we truly say those words God so longs to hear; "let it be with me according to your word?" or do we add a mental list of caveats and exceptions? Do we start out truly wanting to accept God's desires for us and later, when the going gets tough, do we falter? We probably do.

If we truly want to be obedient to God's call and reflect the obedience shown by Mary then we must start by being open to that call, acknowledging that call and, whether we like what we hear or not, saying simply, "Here am I; let it be with me according to your word" .

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Join us in building Church through fund-raising activities and fun outings. Membership is open to all men of our area 18 years and older. See inside bulletin for meeting times and dates.



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