

DECEMBER 27, 2020

# Saint John *the* Baptist

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

502 NORTH MONROE  
CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727



*Anna and Simeon*

### 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 ..... stjohsclinton@yahoo.com  
Bulletin ..... stjohsbulletin@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

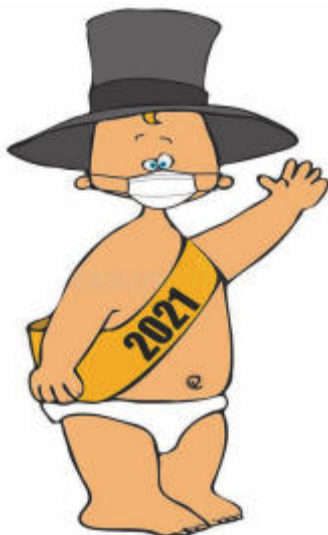
Monday and Wednesday  
9:30 am to 2:30 pm



*“For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel.”*

— Lk 2:30-32

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





# Mass Intentions

## Monday, December 28th

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

## Tuesday, December 29th

**8:30 am** Mass at Sacred Heart FC

## Wednesday, December 30th

**8:00 am** + Jerry Ryan

## Thursday, December 31st

**8:30 am** Mass at Sacred Heart FC

## Friday, January 1st, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

**8:30 am** + Rick Negrete

**10:30 am** Mass at Sacred Heart FC

## Saturday, January 2nd, Epiphany of the Lord

**4:00 pm** + Bill Stephenson

## Sunday, January 3rd, Epiphany of the Lord

**8:30 am** ++ Tony and Karen Hable

**10:30 am** Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Collection Counters this week are **Mary Lou Barnett and Nancy Wikoff.** Thank you for serving in this way.

## Liturgical Assignments

### Friday, January 1st, 8:30 am Mass

**Lector** Marilyn Hight  
**EMHC** Denny Madix  
**Servers** TBA  
**Usher/Greeters** TBA

### Saturday, January 2nd, 4:00 pm Mass

**Lector** Marilyn Hight  
**EMHC** Lyn Corrigan  
**Servers** Greg Toohill  
**Usher/Greeters** Connie Harrold, Jim and Mary Lou Barnett

### Sunday, January 3rd 8:30 am Mass

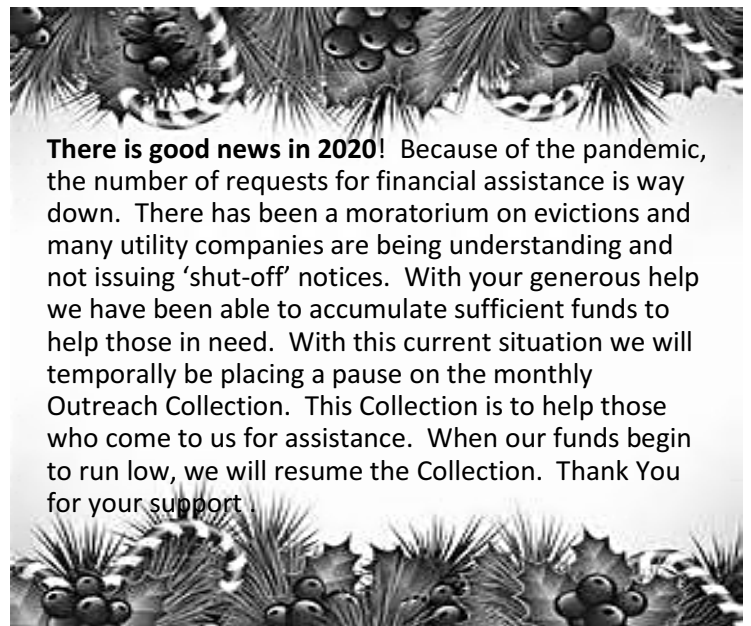
**Lector** Sylvia Comfort  
**EMHC** Denny Madix  
**Servers** Olivia and Aiden Peterson  
**Usher/Greeters** TBA

## 2021 Church Calendars

are now available on the tables at the doors of the Church. The calendars are provided courtesy of Calvert-Belangee-Bruce Funeral home, Farmer City, free of charge, so please take one home today!



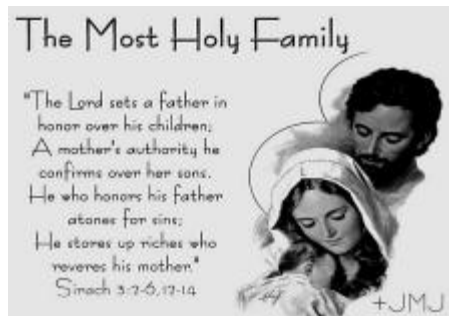
Meet Mike and Betty Priami. Mike and Betty were Father Jim's first employers over 50 years ago. Mike and Betty supported Fr. Jim through donations to our Parish. Although they live in a Chicago Suburb, they chose to assist our Parish here in Central Illinois. Often times masses were celebrated for the *Health of Mike and Betty Priami*. Mike and Betty were married for 72 years. We learned recently that Betty died at age 92. We thank Mike and Betty for their generosity to our Parish and pray that God will bless and reward Betty for her charity to us and pray for condolences to Mike. May she rest in peace.



**There is good news in 2020!** Because of the pandemic, the number of requests for financial assistance is way down. There has been a moratorium on evictions and many utility companies are being understanding and not issuing 'shut-off' notices. With your generous help we have been able to accumulate sufficient funds to help those in need. With this current situation we will temporarily be placing a pause on the monthly Outreach Collection. This Collection is to help those who come to us for assistance. When our funds begin to run low, we will resume the Collection. Thank You for your support.

On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.



The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life.

Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly "just man." Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love.

But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way.

This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue.

THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE CAN BE LINKED WITH THE OFFERING OF THE SACRIFICE OF CALVARY THAT THE MASS MAKES PRESENT IN ALL TIMES AND PLACES.

The Church discovers a deeper meaning in today's Gospel passage. In first place, the fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi: *The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight (Mal 3:1)* Mary understood that Jesus had to be brought to the Temple, not to be redeemed like other first-born children, but to be offered to God as a true sacrifice. To some extent, Jesus' Presentation in the Temple can be linked with the Offering of the Sacrifice of Calvary that the Mass makes present in all times and places. In the preparation of this sacrifice, as later in its accomplishment on the summit of Golgotha, a special place was reserved for the Mother of Jesus. From the very first moments of his earthly life, Jesus united Mary to the redeeming sacrifice that he had come to fulfill.

The encounter between our Lady and Simeon would have taken place in front of the Gate of Nicanor that led into the court of the Jews. That was the place where one of the priests received the women who came to offer the sacrifice for themselves and their children. Mary, accompanied by Joseph, stood in the line. While our Lady waited her turn, something happened that caused the on-lookers to be amazed. An old man approached the line. His face was glowing with joy.

*Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed" (Lk 2:34-35).* Anna as well, a woman over 80 years old, joined in Simeon's announcement.

From St. Luke's Gospel we know that our Lady presented the Child Jesus only after listening to the prophecy. She offered a *pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons*, the



offering of the poor, instead of the lamb prescribed by the Law of Moses. Nonetheless, in light of Simeon's words, she understood that Jesus was the true Lamb of God who would redeem men from their sins. And that she, as Mother, in a way she did not yet fully grasp, would be closely united to her Son's fate.

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**Catholic Men's Group**

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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