



JANUARY 3, 2021

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 Cell309-838-3661
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 SecretaryDebbie Askins*
..... * medical leave
Bulletin Secretary.....Kathie Summers
Parish Trustees..... Francis Jackson
Becky Wisner
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.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday 8:00 am
Wednesday 8:00 am



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." — Mt 2:1-2

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



WISE MEN
STILL SEEK
HIM



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 4th

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

Tuesday, January 5th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, January 6th

8:00 am + Anna Curcuru

Thursday, January 7th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, January 9th, Baptism of the Lord

4:00 pm + Bill Smith

Sunday, January 10th, Baptism of the Lord

8:30 am ++ Mr. & Mrs. C.T. Schlesinger

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Liturgical Assignments

Saturday, January 9th, 4:00 pm Mass

Lector Sandy Stauffer
EMHC Bruce Askins
Servers Greg Toohill
Usher/Greeters Tom and Nancy Horsley

Sunday, January 10th, 8:30 am Mass

Lector Linda Fields
EMHC Donna Hall
Servers Conley, Mabry, Paisley Schick
Usher/Greeters TBA

Collection Counters this week are **Dennis Madix and Paul Nothnagel**. Thank you for serving in this way.

Saturday, December 26th 4:00pm and Sunday, December 27th 8:30am	
Sunday Envelopes.....	\$2,343.00
Loose.....	\$ 11.00
Total Collection.....	\$2,354.00
Christmas\$1,774.00

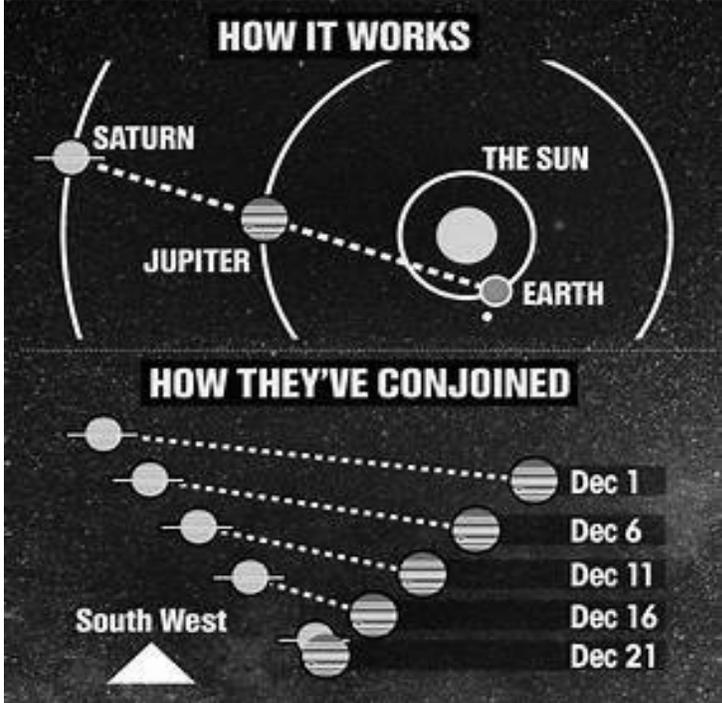
Thank You!

Food Baskets - To everyone who donated canned fruit or money for the annual Christmas Food Basket drive, we wish to express a heartfelt Thank You. We were able to assist almost 400 families with boxes of food both non-perishable and perishable food items. In addition to the canned fruit, St. John's contributed \$500 towards the purchase of needed perishable food items. This could only happen because of your help and assistance. Thank you over and over and over again.

Church Cleaners - to those who gave of their Holiday time to help clean the church, Thank You for the extra effort to help present a clean and sanitized worship space for the Infant Christ and all visitors. Those who helped: Tom Horsley, Nancy Horsley, Susan Cooper, Jerry Ishmael, Paul Nothnagel, Linda Kilgarriff, Jim Kilgarriff, Mike Kroeger, Angie Sarver, Kathy Madix, Denny Madix, Don Schlesinger.

Church Decorators - with the task of decorating both the Parish Hall and the Church, there are just too many people to name individually. On behalf of those who coordinated the effort a super Thank You. If people have not visited the Parish Hall to see how it was decorated, today would be a great day to stop in to see the Manger Scene which takes up almost the entire north wall. A beautiful Christmas Design

See column 4 for Star of Bethlehem 2020

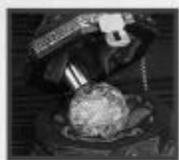


Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh

Have you ever wondered what the Holy Family did with the gifts of the Magi? All three Kings believed that the “Expected One” would be the Son of God as well as the “King of the Jews.” That is why they adored Him and gave Him gifts: of frankincense for His divinity, gold for His royalty, and myrrh for His Humanity. They had received the true Faith in the Savior to come from the Jews who had not returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity in the sixth century BC. That holy Faith in the Messiah and the tradition of “His Star” that would announce His Advent from the heavens was communicated by the Judaeans to the Gentiles of Persia, Mesopotamia, Arabia, and even as far as India. Some fathers believed that Melchior was a king from Persia, Gaspar, a king from India, and Balthasar, a king from Arabia. Saint Matthew tells us only that they came from “the East.”

There is no clue in the Gospels as to what the Holy Family did with these gifts. We can only conjecture. Perhaps they divided their treasures among the poor after giving a portion of it to the temple treasury. We know that they did not have enough money to offer more than two turtle-doves, the lowest requirement of the law for the poor mothers who came to the temple to be purified after giving birth. That event took place only twenty-eight days after the coming of the Magi and forty days after Christ’s Nativity.

Saint Joseph may have used part of the money from the sale of the treasures to support the Holy Family in Egypt. That may seem reasonable. Some have speculated that perhaps the myrrh was kept for its medicinal value and for anointing the dead. Yet we know from Saint John’s Gospel that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes with them when they buried Our Lord. Might they have received the myrrh from Our Lady? The myrrh she had received from the Magi? Perhaps. The Mother of God knew from Simeon at Jesus’ Presentation in the Temple that her heart would be pierced by a sword. She knew that she would one day offer her Son to His Father as the Sacrifice of the Lamb of God for the sins of the world.



GOLD

The royal metal; signifies Jesus’ Kingship (hence, the gift for a king).



FRANKINCENSE

Symbol of prayer; signifies Jesus as the High Priest/Mediator between God and man (hence, the gift for a priest).



MYRRH

A burial ointment; meaning that Jesus had to die for the salvation of all (hence, gift for one who would die).



The Star of Bethlehem 2020

On Dec. 21, 2020, Jupiter and Saturn will cross paths in the night’s sky and for a brief moment, they will appear to shine together as one body. While planetary conjunctions like this are not everyday events, they also are not particularly rare.

This year’s conjunction is different for at least two reasons. The first is the degree to which the two planets will be aligned. Experts predict that they will appear closer during this conjunction than they have in nearly eight centuries and also brighter.

But the second factor, and the one that has thrust this event into the spotlight, is that it will occur on the winter solstice, just before the Christmas holiday. The timing has led to a speculation whether this could be the same astronomical event that the Bible reports led the wise men to Joseph, Mary and the newly born Jesus – the Star of Bethlehem.

The story of the star has long fascinated readers, both ancient and modern. Within the New Testament, it is found only in the Gospel of Matthew, a first-century account of Jesus’ life that begins with the story of his birth. In this account, wise men arrive in Jerusalem and say to Herod, the king of Judea: “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” The star then leads them to Bethlehem and stops over the house of Jesus and his family.

The theory that the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn may be the Star of Bethlehem is not new. It was proposed in the early 17th century by Johannes Kepler, a German astronomer and mathematician. Kepler argued that this same planetary conjunction in or around 6 B.C. could have served as inspiration for Matthew’s story of the star. Kepler was not the first to suggest that the Star of Bethlehem may have been a recognizable astronomical event. Four hundred years prior to Kepler, between 1303 and 1305, the Italian artist Giotto painted the star as a comet on the walls of the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, Italy. Scholars have suggested that Giotto did this as an homage to Halley’s Comet, which astronomers have determined was visible in 1301, on one of its regular flights past the Earth. Astronomers have also determined that Halley’s Comet passed by the Earth in or around 12 B.C., between five and 10 years before most scholars argue that Jesus was born. It is possible that Giotto believed Matthew was referencing Halley’s Comet in his story of the star.

The star in Matthew’s story may not be a “normal” natural phenomenon, and Matthew suggests as much in the way that he describes it. Matthew says that the wise men come to Jerusalem “from the East.” The star then leads them to Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem. The star therefore makes a sharp left turn. And astronomers will agree that stars do not make sharp turns. Moreover, when the wise men arrive in Bethlehem, the star is low enough in the sky to lead them to a specific house. As physicist Aaron Adair puts it: “the Star is said to stop in place and hover over a particular lodging, acting as an ancient GPS unit.” The “description of the movements of the Star,” he noted, was “outside what is physically possible for any observable astronomical object.”

Compliments of



STARCREST
CLEANERS

bright ideas in dry cleaning

John C. Larkin
D.M.D.

Comprehensive
Dentistry

PARISHIONER

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

217-935-5216
323 W. Washington St.

Fryman Tree
Service

(217) 935-9281

PO Box 117
Wapella IL 61777

Kevin & Kim Mandrell
Owners



FRANCIS JACKSON
OWNER

512 W. Van Buren
217-935-BIGD
bigd1985@icloud.com

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection
From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide



Authorized Provider | SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251

K & S
Furniture

Downtown Farmer City
202 S. Main • Farmer City

Low Sales Tax **309-928-9382** FREE Delivery

Hours: Tue-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm

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.



Working For You
To Create
A Meaningful
Expression
Of Love.

Alex A. Calvert, Director Serving All Faiths

Calvert
funeral homes
Aegreata Clinton Market

BORDER PATROL PEST CONTROL

Termite Inspections/Treatments
And All Other Pests

Vic Ranney
Locally Owned & Operated

CLINTON
935-4391

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Contact **Trey Hill** to place an ad today!
thill@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2613

BETSY ULRICH, D.D.S., M.S.
SUGAR CREEK ORTHODONTICS, P.C.

200 S. Towanda Ave.
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 452-7445

400 North Chicago St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 732-1073

www.sugarcreekortho.com



Tim Leary
Owner
Operator

Retail

Open 7 Days

1522 E. College Ave. • Normal, IL
(309) 452-2222

catholicmatch®
Illinois



CatholicMatch.com/IL

AQUASOFT

WATER CONDITIONING
• SALES • RENTALS • SERVICE

Free Water Analysis

100 EAST CLAY STREET
217-935-3690

Blank space for advertisement.

PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

\$29.95/MO
BILLED QUARTERLY

PLUS SPECIAL OFFER

CALL NOW!
1.877.801.7772

WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM



DB
DeWitt Savings Bank

302 W. Main St.
Clinton, IL 61727
Ph: 217-935-9470

JUSTIN FENTRESS
President

FDIC www.dewittsb.com

THOMAS AUTOMOTIVE

8459 Katie Road
Clinton, IL
217-935-6063



Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!

www.parishesonline.com

