



JANUARY 10, 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 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
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.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am

Weekday Mass Schedule

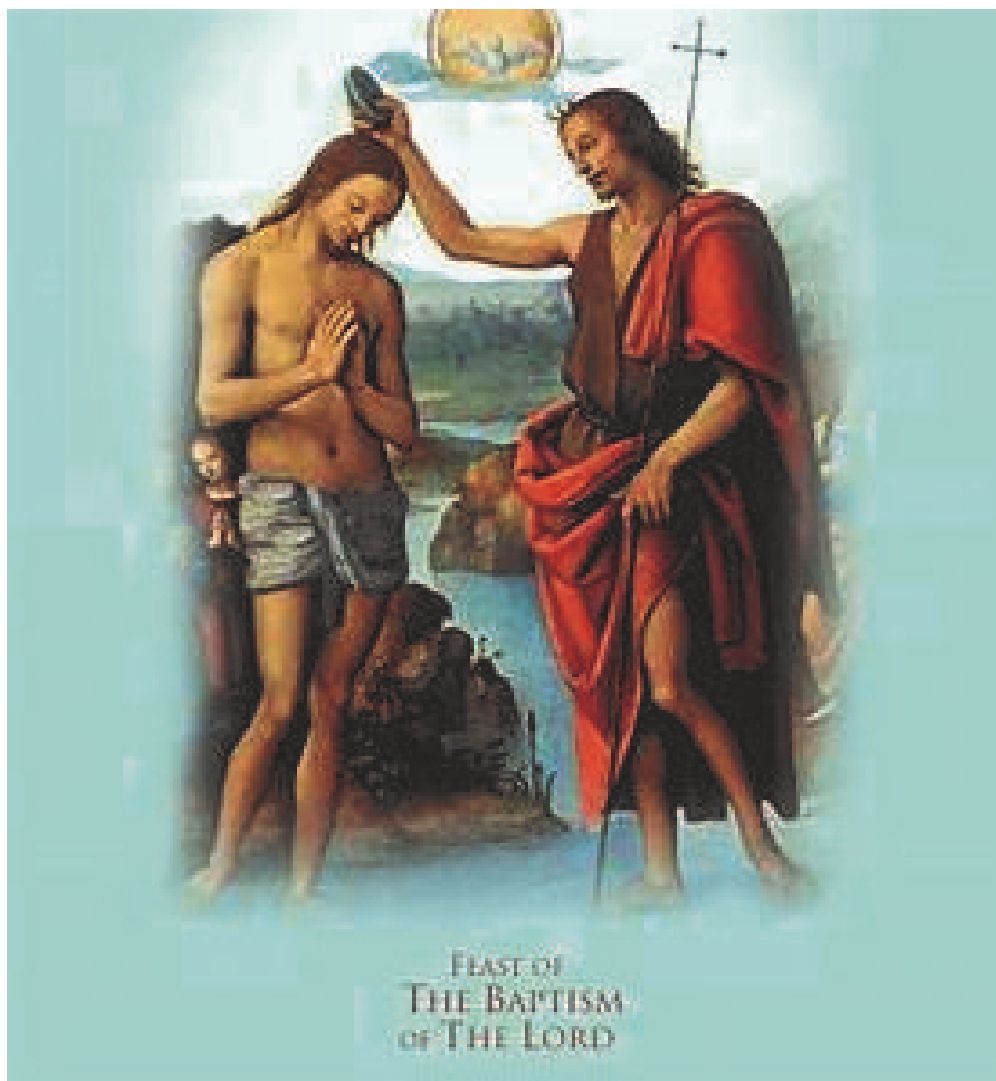
Monday 8:00 am
Wednesday 8:00 am

Marriage

Couples planning a marriage need to contact the Pastor at least six months Prior to the date of the wedding.

Pastoral Care

Contact the Parish Office for a home visit or Anointing of the Sick.



It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." — Mk 1:9-11

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, January 11th
8:00 am + Ed Madix

Tuesday, January 12th
 8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, January 13th
8:00 am For the People of St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart Parishes and Their Benefactors

Thursday, January 14th
 8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, January 16th, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 pm + Dorothy Smock

Sunday, January 17th, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am + Adam Schlesinger
 10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Liturgical Assignments

Saturday, January 16th, 4:00 pm Mass

Lector Sandy Stauffer
EMHC Bruce Askins
Servers Greg Toohill
Usher/Greeters Paul Nothnagel, Mike and Lyn Corrigan

Sunday, January 17th, 8:30 am Mass

Lector Linda Kilgarrieff
EMHC Jim Kilgarrieff
Servers Luis and Michaelangelo Mendoza
Usher/Greeters TBA

Parish Gatherings

CCD K-8 Classes—Classes meet today Sunday, January 10th following the 8:30 am Mass.

Altar & Rosary—NO meeting this Thursday, January 14th.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Saturday Evening Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany took place in the Parish Hall so more could enjoy the wonderful decorations. The Guitar Group provided music and Tom Horsley supplied pictures.



St. John's Spaghetti Dinner

Coming Soon! St. John's Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on **Sunday, January 31st**. We will be serving from 11:00am to 1:30pm. We will once again feature Avanti's spaghetti sauce and bread along with salad, dessert and beverage. The cost is just \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. This will be a drive thru event. We are in need of assistance in putting together the Spaghetti Dinner Bags. Help is needed to pack desserts, wrap bread, and box salads. Please sign up on the sheets in back of church to help work. And be sure to join us for this delicious meal!

Meals will be served from the rear door of the Parish Hall off the parking lot.

COVID - 19 FALL OUT

No one or no place is exempt from the effects of COVID - 19. Because several members of our Sunday Collection Counting teams have struggled with the virus this year, they have asked to step back for awhile. If you can help with the counting of the Weekend Collection, it would be greatly appreciated. We have several teams of two people who count the collection. Agreeing to help will not require a weekly commitment. Perhaps as little as once a month. Currently the collection is counted on Mondays, typically around 9 am. We need to have people step forward so the bank can be notified of the names of those who will be picking up the night deposit bags.



Weekly Offering

Saturday, January 2nd 4:00pm and Sunday, January 3rd 8:30am

Sunday Envelopes.....\$1,220.00
 Loose\$132.00
 Total Collection.....\$1,352.00

First Offering Donations \$71.00
 New Year's Collection \$340.00

Baptism



Each year on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it is our practice to publish the requirements for those parents who request the Sacrament of Baptism for their child.

- Families must be registered with the parish and use the envelope system
- Parents and godparents (if possible) must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class taught by one of the Parish Deacons. This is typically 1 hour in length and is a one-time experience. Once parents have attended this class, it need not be repeated for a second child
- Parents must agree to raise their child in the Catholic Faith and see that they grow up knowing Jesus and teach their child what it means to a member of the Catholic Church
- Choice of godparents must correspond with the requirements of Church Law (ask the deacon at the class if the choice of godparent is not of the Catholic Faith)
- Deacons will do baptisms that are scheduled outside of Mass
- Families requesting a baptism at a regularly scheduled weekend Liturgy will be reviewed and scheduled only with the permission of the Pastor

The above are the basic requirements that must be met before a baptism can be scheduled. **No exceptions will be allowed.** Baptism may be postponed until all of the above requirements are fulfilled.

Will 2020 Never End???

When we welcomed in the New Year of 2021, many hoped that all the negativity of 2020 might finally be over. Many made a New Year's Wish for a better and healthier year. Then the New Year came and it seemed like 2020 was on an instant replay. To remind us that we are not in charge, the New Year of 2021 came in with an ice storm. Trees, walkways, cars; absolutely everything was covered with ice. This made for dangerous travel. Even taking small steps could pose a hazard. With help from Deacon Scott Whitehouse, father's car was cleared of ice and mass was possible. Not so on Epiphany Sunday. On top of the ice came an unexpected 6 inches (or more for some) of snow. Sadly, Sunday Mass had to be cancelled. Power outages left many in the dark and without power. The Church was not exempt. We had power for awhile, but by 8 in the morning, we were in the dark. Because of this and the poor road conditions, the decision was made to cancel mass. We try to avoid this, but sometimes there is nothing we can do.

Thankfully, the parking lot is now cleared and walkways are clear of snow. Thanks to **Danny Austin** (parish janitor) and **Don Schlesinger** who came out to clear the walkways. With the help of God this will remain true for this weekend.

Today is the final feast of the Christmas Season.

The mystery of the Christ Child is not the only mystery about childhood that the Church ponders during the Christmas Season. This season also focuses our attention on you and me being called to adoption as God's very own children. For example, in St. John's first epistle the Beloved Disciple writes about this divine adoption, proclaiming: **"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. ... Beloved, we are God's children now"** [1 John 3:1-2].

That's a truly awesome mystery that John's proclaiming, but it's also a profound paradox. It's hard enough to imagine how a tiny baby could be the All-Powerful Lord of Hosts. But it's even harder to imagine how a sinner such as you or I could become, not just a saint, but a very child of God the Father! But **"so we are"**, St. John proclaims: **"we are God's children now"**.

God's adoption of us isn't just some act of pity on God's part, like the way that you might give shelter and food to a stray animal for a few days, before figuring out whom to pass it on to. When you pass on, at the hour of your death, you pass on to God Himself: if, that is, you're faithful during your earthly days to the promises of your baptism.

Christian baptism is the key to being God's children now, and—we pray—forever in Heaven. But our own baptism is rooted in the sacred mystery of the Baptism of the Lord, the sacred mystery that the Church is celebrating on this final feast of Christmastide.

The initial question that arises when pondering the Baptism of the Lord is "Why?" Why was Jesus even baptized in the first place? Baptism is for the washing away of sins, and Jesus of course never had any sins on His soul. So why did Jesus submit Himself to St. John the Baptist and receive John's baptism?

One significant reason is to mark a beginning. In fact, the new beginning marked by Jesus' Baptism is so significant that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes a link between Jesus' baptism and the beginning of Creation as described in the *Book of Genesis*. The *Catechism* states that "[t]he Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on [Jesus at the River Jordan] as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as His 'beloved Son'" [CCC 1224, citing Mt 3:16-17]. In other words, the work that Jesus began on the day of His Baptism was the work of a "new creation", also called the work of redemption and sanctification.

Likewise, when you were baptized, there was also a new beginning in your life. In fact, what began on the day of your baptism is so important that every year, you should celebrate the day of your baptism with as much, if not more, gusto than that with which you celebrate your birthday.



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Mary Lou Barnett and Paul Nothnagel.
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