



MAY 9, 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

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(Bulletin Items Due By Monday 9:00am)
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Parish Staff

Religious EducationSue Neuschwanger
Parish Secretary.....Debbie Askins
Bulletin Secretary Kathie Summers
Parish TrusteesFrancis Jackson
Becky Wisher
PPC PresidentBill Spencer

Parish Office Hours

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

YOU DID NOT CHOOSE
ME, BUT I CHOSE
YOU AND APPOINTED
YOU SO THAT YOU
MIGHT GO AND BEAR
FRUIT—FRUIT THAT
WILL LAST—AND
SO THAT WHATEVER
YOU ASK IN MY NAME
THE FATHER WILL
GIVE YOU.



"Do you know what you call those who use towels and never wash them, eat meals and never do the dishes, sit in rooms they never clean, and are entertained till they drop? If you have just answered, "A house guest," you're wrong because I have just described my kids."

Erma Bombeck



M A S S intentions



Monday, May 10th

8:00 am Mother's Day Novena

Tuesday, May 11th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, May 12th

8:00 am Mother's Day Novena

Thursday, May 13th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, May 15th, Ascension of the Lord

4:00 pm Mother's Day Novena

Sunday, May 16th, Ascension of the Lord

8:30 am Mother's Day Novena

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

CCD NEWS—Our End of Year Party was last Sunday. The kids enjoyed pizza and donuts while they did craft projects and played games. Everyone had a great time. We'll see you next September!



Left: Best Attendance Awards went to (LtoR) Sofia Nazi, Emmelissa Vazquez, Antonio Vazquez, Liam Wilson & Miguel Mendoza. They each received a \$5.00 certificate to DQ.

Right: Reese Pearson made drawings for Angie Sarver & Ms. Sue about "Be Kind". The Pearson family will be moving to Morton this summer due to parent's job transfer. We will miss them.



Birthright Annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Hopefully, you took home a Birthright Baby Bottle last weekend. If you missed getting a bottle, there are still some on the table in back of church. Please fill it with coins, bills or a check and **return it by May 30th**. Thanks to our generous donors, Birthright is able to provide many free services to families in our local area. These services, including a 24/7 hotline, were made possible by the proceeds from last year's Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to life!!

Parish News

Altar & Rosary—End-of-Year dinner held this Tuesday, May 11th at 5:30pm at St. John's Parish Hall. RSVP to Donna Hall by May 9th at (217-871-8981).

Eucharistic Minister & Lector Training—Lector training on Wednesday, May 12th at 6:30pm. Eucharistic Ministers training on Wednesday, May 19th at 6:30pm.

Current EM and lectors should attend at 7pm for new info.

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Please note that in the Diocese of Peoria, the Solemnity of the Ascension has been permanently transferred to the 7th Sunday of Easter.



Good Luck Mike & Lyn!

Mike and Lyn were sent off with a wonderful blessing and "teary" special song at the 4:00pm Mass last weekend.



Thank you to the Altar & Rosary Ladies for preparing a very nice reception.



We all said our good-byes at the reception held in the Parish Hall following Mass. Good luck, dear friends, and enjoy your new home!



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



Saturday, May 1st 24th 4:00pm
and
Sunday, May 2nd 8:30am

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday Envelopes | \$2,578.00 |
| Loose | \$345.00 |
| Total Collection | \$2,923.00 |



Isidore has become the patron of farmers and rural communities. In particular, he is the patron of Madrid, Spain, and of the United States National Rural Life Conference.

When he was barely old enough to wield a hoe, Isidore entered the service of John de Vergas, a wealthy landowner from Madrid, and worked faithfully on his estate outside the city for the rest of his life. He married a young woman as simple and upright as himself who also became a saint—Maria de la Cabeza. They had one son, who died as a child.

Isidore had deep religious instincts. He rose early in the morning to go to church and spent many a holiday devoutly visiting the churches of Madrid and surrounding areas. All day long, as he walked behind the plow, he communed with God. His devotion, one might say, became a problem, for his fellow workers sometimes complained that he often showed up late because of lingering in church too long.

St. Isidore the Farmer also enjoyed a miraculous relationship with his angel. Often, he would enter deep mystical prayer but would fall behind in his farming as a result. However, his angel would actually finish his work for him so that Isidore could continue praying.

He was known for his love of the poor, and there are accounts of Isidore's supplying them miraculously with food. He had a great concern for the proper treatment of animals.

He died May 15, 1130, and was declared a saint in 1622.

"I give you a new commandment: love one another." Jesus made this pronouncement in his farewell discourse, during the Last Supper. Hence, it is his last and most urgent wish. As if he were saying: "I am going now. You might forget all the other things I did and said. Just don't forget this one. This is the summary of everything I have told you." And so it is indeed; for this is what our final "exam" will be about: **Not** about doctrines, **not** about catechism, **not** about the Bible, but about LOVE: "I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink." (Matthew 24: 34-36)



During the early centuries of the Church, when Christians were being persecuted and martyred, some of them offered to die in place of others (just like St. Maximilian Kolbe did during World War II in the concentration camp of Auschwitz). The pagans were amazed at this and remarked, "See how they love one another."

Why is this commandment called new? What is new about it? Love of neighbor is found in the Old Testament: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18) All other religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam) teach about love also. What, then, is new in Christ's commandment? "As I have loved you," that's what is new. Our love has to be like Christ's, that is, sacrificial. Not emotional, not romantic, but self-sacrificing – to the point of death.

In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims that his followers must keep the commandment to "love one another as I love you." Moreover, Jesus declares that selfless love comes from a willingness to sacrifice one's life for others. In the Gospel narrative, Jesus is arrested soon after this proclamation, so he is preparing his followers to understand and interpret his crucifixion as an example of selfless love (agape).

Unfortunately, the world is filled with much hate. Not only are many people not living selflessly, but they are living with hatred and disregard for others. Even worse, many claim to be followers of Christ while spewing hatred toward others. The love that is envisioned by the Johannine community may be difficult, but it is essential that we all work toward it. The readings proclaim that we come to know God by being like God.

As to the question of how we can show selfless love, we might reflect on Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideas about love and the Beloved Community: "Love is creative and redemptive. Love builds up and unites; hate tears down and destroys." King's vision of the Beloved Community was grounded in love, reconciliation, dignity and respect for all. Poverty, racism, violence and the conditions that stem from these evils are intolerable. By working to end hate and division, fighting conditions and practices that dishonor others, we show our love for one another—and we come to know God by being more like God.

Mother's Day



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