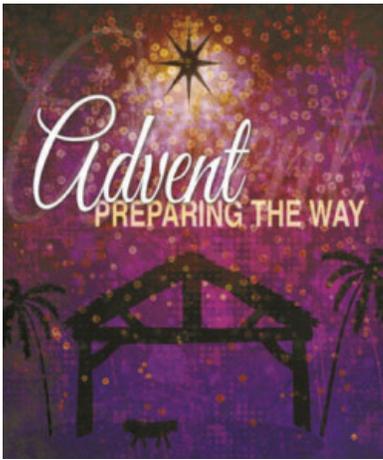


DECEMBER 19, 2021



Saint John *the* Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH

502 NORTH MONROE
CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727

Administrator

Rev. James Owusu-Yeboah, SMA

Deacons

Patrick Comfort
Scott Whitehouse

Parish Office

Phone.....217-935-3727
Emergency Cell 309-
E-Mail..... stjohnsclinton@yahoo.com
Bulletinstjohnsbulletin@yahoo.com
(Bulletin Items Due By Monday 9:00am)
Website.....clintonstjohns.org

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 and Wednesday
9:30 am to 2:30 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

Baptism

Parents must be registered members and attend a class prior to scheduling the Baptism. Contact the Parish Office for details.

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.



Today's Advent Prayer
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus, Infant of hope,
make our souls leap at the sound of your name.
Draw us into the hope of your coming among us.
Help us to see you in the midst of the burdens we carry,
that we might trust in the promise of your life.
Amen.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND



Advent

Monday, December 20th

8:00 am For the People of St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart Parishes and Their Benefactors

Tuesday, December 21st

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, December 22nd

8:00 am + Allen Cooper



Thursday, December 23rd

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Friday, December 24th, Nativity of the Lord

5:00 pm + Don & Mary Jackson

11:30 pm + Bob, Rita and David Gaddy

Saturday, December 25th, Nativity of the Lord

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

4:00 pm NO Mass

Sunday, December 26th,

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 am + Sonny, Wilma, Steve, Chris Buraglio

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

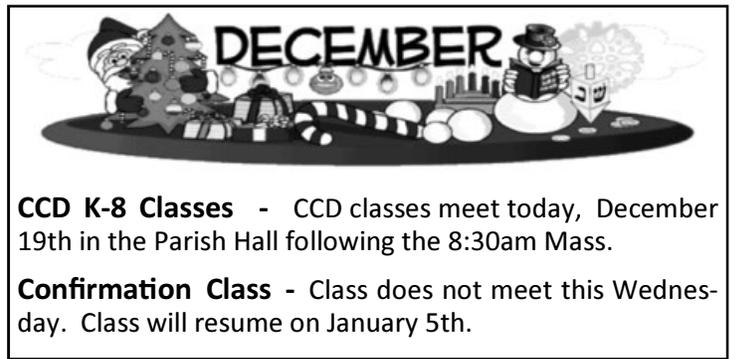
Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes
Sue Thompson



Prayers for the Sick

Kay Bailey, Mary Lou Barnett, Pamela Boatright, Connie Brown, Martha Cooper, Phyllis Fehr, Roy Harrold, Bev Hartsock, Mary Hirsch, Linda Kilgarriff, Patty Lecomte, Steve Lighthall, Mike Mannix, Tina Mannix, Joni Mollet, Fran Runyen, Bill Sargent, Angie Walden, Rita Williams, Brett Willits, Florence Workman, Charles M. Yeagle.

Collection Counters this week are **Silvia Comfort and Nancy Wikoff**. Thank you for serving in this way.



DECEMBER

CCD K-8 Classes - CCD classes meet today, December 19th in the Parish Hall following the 8:30am Mass.

Confirmation Class - Class does not meet this Wednesday. Class will resume on January 5th.

Father Jim Update: Father Jim has moved to a Rehab Facility in Pontiac. If you would like to send a get well card or a Christmas card his address is: Accolade Healthcare of Pontiac, 300 W Lowell Ave, Room 116, Pontiac, IL 61764.

Retired Religious Fund Collection

A reminder that a second collection will be taken **this weekend, December 18th & 19th** after Communion for the financial support of the Retirement Fund for the Religious. Please use the envelopes that were distributed last weekend. Please help support the men and women who have served us.

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day, January 1st, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This year it is not a Day of Obligation because it falls on Saturday. However, one Mass will be offered for both parishes on **Friday, December 31st at 5:30pm at Sacred Heart in Farmer City.**

Christmas Eve Music

Please join us before the 11:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve to sing Christmas carols led by St. John's Choir. This has become a very popular tradition in recent years. Carols begin at 11:00pm. Everyone is welcome.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24th
4:00pm St. Patrick Wapella
5:00pm St. John Clinton
10:30pm St. Patrick Wapella
11:30pm St. John Clinton
(Carols begin at 11:00pm)

Saturday, December 25th
10:00am St. Patrick Wapella
10:30am Sacred Heart Farmer City
(Please note: NO 4:00pm Mass on Dec. 25)

Readings for Christmas Vigil Mass: Isaiah 62:1-5/Acts of Apostles 13:16-17,22-25/Matthew 1:18-25
Reading for Christmas Mass in the Night: Isaiah 9:1-6/Titus 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-14



Saturday, December 11th 4:00pm
and
Sunday, December 12th 8:30am

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,457.00
Loose	\$278.00
Total Collection	\$2,735.00

CHRISTMAS Blessings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The birth of the Messiah gives the church great hope. Although secular celebrations of Christmas ignore the significance of the holy day, the church gives us Advent to help us keep our focus. We reorient our hearts and minds to recall, once again, the mysterious glory of the Incarnation. In these weeks of yuletide preparation, we stop to remind ourselves what it means to be Christian, in case we have begun taking it for granted. To be Christian is to believe that God is truly with us, in the most personal, intimate way imaginable; he is one of us! "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Through the Incarnation, God became human and lived among us to love us, to guide us, to heal us, and to strengthen us. It is the promise of a savior given through the early prophets, a promise that the faithful held dear as they waited. As that most beautiful of all anniversaries approaches, celebrate this season remembering the greatest gift ever given to every person--the gift of a Savior.

A woman, short of years but abundant in wisdom, hears the call of God through an angel and all of creation waits for her response. The story of the Annunciation in this Sunday's Gospel places on a major stage the relationship humanity has with God the Father. His love for us is so great he would seek to become like us in the Incarnation, and then by his death and resurrection save us from death so that we may live forever with him. The entire cosmic plan hinges on the response of one girl.

Have you ever had to make a decision that would entirely change your life and the lives of those around you? Has God ever asked you to risk it all for the kingdom? Maybe the question came in the form of a loved one's death. Perhaps a cross-country move or a job change was the request. Confronting the reality of the call made your stomach ache and your head spin. What was your response?

As this Advent draws to a close, and a new calendar year lies just beyond your Christmas tree, let us pray that when the call comes we may respond as mature disciples. Age does not define maturity. Neither does experience. Maturity is defined by how we respond to God in those most challenging of moments. This Christmas, may a young girl in a far off land lead us to an infant Child who one day will most certainly ask us a question that will shake us to our core, and may our answer echo hers, "yes."



**Advent
Penance
Service**



One great way to prepare for the savior's coming at Christmas is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. An Advent Penance Service has been scheduled for this **Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 pm at St. John's Church.** The people of St. John's Clinton, Sacred Heart Farmer City, and St. Patrick's Wapella parishes are all encouraged to join us for this great act of preparation.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Today is the last Sunday of the Advent season, and we hear in the Gospel the anticipation of the feast we will celebrate in just one day. Christmas is coming! Jesus is on his way!



We have had weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, and now we are on the very verge of its arrival. The children in our midst can hardly contain their excitement as they wait to wake up on Christmas morning. The thrill of this coming moment is meant to remind us of the joy and anticipation we should all feel as we await the coming of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a great feast, but there is more here than a remembrance of the past or a fabulous party in the present. There is a looking-ahead as well. We celebrate as we anticipate.

Much as Mary must have waited in wonder during the nine months of her pregnancy, we wait in hopeful expectation as Christians looking forward to being reunited with our Savior. Our future is full of hope. The deflating melancholy that afflicts many people after a holiday runs its course need not be the experience of the Christian waiting for Christ. We are always looking forward to something! There is never a moment when we have no cause for joy. Our lives are lived in a kind of unending advent as we stand in watchful waiting.

Let us remember this as we enter into our Christmas Eve gatherings and festivities. As we join with family and friends to share in the good things of this life, may we carry with us the joy of knowing that even better things lie in store for us who welcome the infant Jesus into our hearts and homes.

Each year, this season of Advent comes around. Today we bless the fourth and last candle on our wreath. Let us ask God to bless our family on this final Sunday in Advent:

God of surprises, today we hear about the surprise that Mary experienced. She is pregnant with your Son!

Help our family to be obedient to your surprises, however they may spring up in our lives. All of your gifts work for the benefit of your people.

When we light this final candle on our wreath, let us bring your surprise gift of love to our neighbors and friends.

We ask this through Christ, who is the ultimate surprise gift to the world.

Amen.



Winter Solstice
December 21st

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