



**JANUARY 2, 2022**

# 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 .....815-414-3083  
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  
Bulletin Secretary ..... Kathie Summers  
Parish Trustees .....Francis Jackson  
Becky Wisher  
PPC President .....Bill Spencer

**Parish Office Hours**

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

**Outreach Ministry Hours**

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

**Confessions**

Saturday 3:20 pm or by appointment.

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:30 am

**Weekday Mass Schedule**

Wednesday 8:00 am  
Friday 8:00 am  
Adoration Last Friday of Month  
following 8:00 am Mass



*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.



# Schedule ©LPI

Tuesday, January 4th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, January 5th

8:00 am + Merribeth Koyak

Thursday, January 6th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Friday, January 7th, *First Friday*

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

11:00 am Adoration at Sacred Heart FC

12:00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, January 8th, *Baptism of the Lord*

4:00 pm + Joyce Rempe

Sunday, January 9th, *Baptism of the Lord*

8:30 am + Sonny and Wilma 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, Tina Mannix, Joni Mollet, Fran Runyen, Bill Sargent, Angie Walden, Rita Williams, Brett Willits, Florence Workman, Charles M. Yeagle.



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



**Sunday, December 26th 8:30am**

Sunday Envelopes .....\$1,435.00  
Loose .....\$114.00  
Total Collection .....\$1,549.00

Christmas Collection \$1,673.00  
First Offering Donations \$3.00



**CCD K-8 Classes** - CCD classes do not meet today, January 2nd. Classes resume next Sunday, January 9th.

**Confirmation Class** - Class resumes this Wednesday, January 5th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

**Coffee and Donuts**

The Altar & Rosary will not host Coffee and Donut Sunday in January. The next Donut Day will be on Sunday, February 6th in the Parish Hall following the 8:30am mass.

**New Parish Office Hours**

A reminder that the new Parish Office hours effective January 1, 2022 begin this week. The Parish Office will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Father James will be available for appointments during these hours. Father will also be available for appointments on Thursdays from 9:30am to 2:00pm at Sacred Heart Rectory. Bulletin articles will continue to be due on Mondays by 9:30am. Collection Counters will continue to count on Monday mornings.

**New Weekday Mass Schedule**

Please be reminded that St. John's Weekday Mass Schedule effective January 1, 2022 begins this week. Weekday Mass will be Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:00am. Sacred Heart Weekday Masses will remain at 8:30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Adoration will be held at Sacred Heart on the first Friday of the month at 11:00am followed by Mass at noon. Adoration will be held at St. John's on the last Friday of the month following the 8:00am Mass. The Week-end Mass Schedule will remain the same.

**Confessions Schedule**

Also, effective January 1, 2022 Father James will hear Confessions every Saturday **from 3:20pm to 3:50pm before the 4:00pm Mass or by appointment**. He will be located in the Servers Sacristy (room on left in Sanctuary). He will also hear Confessions every Tuesday at Sacred Heart following the 8:30am Mass from 9:00am to 9:30am.

**Pastoral Care Visits to the Sick**

Effective January 1, 2022 Father James will begin making Pastoral visits to the sick following Adoration on the first and last Fridays of the month. If you or someone you know would like a Pastoral Visit, please call the Parish Office with name, phone number and address. Our Pastoral Care Eucharistic Ministers will continue their ministry in addition to Father's visits.

**2022 Church Calendars**

Calendars are now available at the church entrances. These calendars are provided free of charge courtesy of Calvert-Belangee-Bruce Funeral home in Farmer City. So please take one home today!

# 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.

## **For those age 70 1/2**

There is good news if you have reached age 70 1/2 and you would like to help St. John's Parish. If you have an IRA, the government requires you to take out a certain amount each year and be subject to federal tax. However, the law allows you to donate this amount directly to St. John's Church for 2021 and have it distributed free of federal income tax! What a wonderful opportunity for those 70 1/2 to help St. John's Parish! Please contact the person that handles your retirement plan or your tax advisor.

## **2021 Contributions Statements**

It's that time of year again. Please be aware that statements of your annual contributions **are not** automatically sent out. If you need a verification of your yearly donations for income tax purposes, please contact the Parish Office and we will be happy to prepare one for you.



Christmas may come but once a year, but thankfully the season doesn't end in the church's Liturgical Calendar on December 25th. After all the bustling activity leading up to Christmas Day, we get more time afterwards to reflect on the wonders of the Incarnation.

God first assumed a human nature to save us from our sins, most vulnerably, as a little baby in a stable in a cave in Bethlehem! Being born in such a seemingly lowly circumstance, Jesus wished to highlight for us how much he values true humility.

We consider those kings (also known as the Three Wise Men or the Magi) who followed the Star of Bethlehem that they saw in the sky heralding our Lord's birth. Matthew's Gospel refers to them as Magi, a word for astrologers, although tradition associates these men with royalty. They followed that star to the cave outside Bethlehem to pay homage to the "newborn king of the Jews" as they referred to Jesus (Matt 2:2).

Their journey is remembered not only on Christmas Day, but more prominently, afterwards, in the United States and many other countries on the first Sunday after New Year's Day on what we call Epiphany (although the official date of Epiphany is January 6th). This special holiday also commemorates Christ's manifestation to the gentiles (in this case the Magi).

Epiphany is also called Three Kings Day and children receive their gifts on this day in many Latin American countries (as well as in Puerto Rico and Spain) in commemoration of the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that the Magi brought Jesus!

"Epiphany" means manifestation. And the "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it's also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were "wise men" who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

*Lord, I love You and adore You. I lay my life before You and surrender all. You are my Divine King and Savior. My life is Yours. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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