

MISSION STATEMENT

We The people of the Whiting/Robertsedale Cluster, are a Catholic Faith Community, ethnically rich, culturally diverse, and one in Faith. Inspired by the unity of the Holy Trinity, we endeavor to share our Faith as disciples of Jesus.



The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Today's gospel presents both wonderful and curious contrasts. A blind man gains the disciples' attention, and they ask Jesus whether his blindness is due to his sin or the sin of his parents. The culture of Jesus' time attributed illness and other problems to personal sin. Jesus reassures them that the man's blindness is not the result of sinfulness but so that God's glory may be revealed.

Jesus proceeds to anoint the blind man's eyes, restoring his sight. The Pharisees question the man as they discount the miracle, claiming that Jesus is certainly not from God.

The jubilant man insists that he has been healed and that the man who healed him is certainly a prophet. Furthermore the healed man after repeating his joyful testimony ironically asks the questioning Pharisees if they want to be Jesus' disciples!

The blind man has experienced Jesus' merciful love and power and he joyfully gives his testimony, amazed that these teachers cannot see!

WHAT ABOUT US?

- ◆ Are we blind to God's constant action in our daily lives?
- ◆ We pray that God will open the eyes of our hearts, renewing our vision so that we will respond to Jesus' love and joyfully share our stories.
- ◆ May we like the healed man testify/witness to others the good news of God's constant presence in our lives.

Mass Schedules:

St. Adalbert:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Anticipated Mass

Confessions Saturday:

3:30 — 4:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Monday—Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Confessions: Weekdays:

Following the 7:00 a.m. Mass

Confessions

The Thursday before 1st. Friday of each Month
SJB 4:00 — 4:30 p.m.

Sacraments: Please Call St. John Church Office

**Whiting /Robertsedale
Faith Community**

**St. John the Baptist
&**

St. Adalbert

March 22, 2020

PRAYER FOR DURING A PANDEMIC

May we, who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake. May we, who have no risk factors, remember those most vulnerable. May we, who have the luxury of working from home, remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we, who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close, remember those who have no options. May we, who have to cancel our trips, remember those that have no place to go. May we, who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market, remember those who have no margin at all. May we, who settle in for a quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

During these times, when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. We ask this through Christ the Healer.
Amen.

Saint John the Baptist Church ~ 1849 Lincoln Ave.**MAIN RECTORY NUMBER.....(219) 659-0023****RECTORY FAX NUMBER.....(219) 473-7551****E-Mail: churchparishoffice@stjohnbap.org****Website: www.stjohnbap.org****Secretary, Becky Flores..... General Information
bflores@stjohnbap.org**

PASTOR.....Rev. Mark Peres, C.P.P.S. Ext. 116
DEACONS.....Leo Barron & Joseph Manchak
Banquet and Hall Rental.....Cathy Bryan Ext. 104
BULLETIN Editor/Secretary.....Nora Perez Ext. 105
FAITH FORMATION/YOUTH MINISTRY.....Jamie Sandona Ext. 106
ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT.....Margaret Saliga (219) 659-4138
MARRIAGE PREPARATION.....(219) 659-0023
ST. JOHN SCHOOL ~ Main Number..... (219) 659-3042
Principal.....Jessica Gonzalez Ext. 304
School Secretary , Jeanine JonesGeneral Information
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.....(219) 659-1073

BULLETIN ARTICLES: nperez@stjohnbap.org**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Mon., March 23: 7:00 p.m. SJB ~ RCIA CANCELLED
Tues., March 24: 9-3 p.m. Senior Center ~ CANCELLED
 1:00 p.m. SJB ~ STATIONS OF THE CROSS
 6:30 p.m. SJB ~ The 99 Masterclass CANCELLED
Wed., March 25: 11:00 a.m. Lunch with Friends ~ CANCELLED
Thurs., March 26: 11:00 a.m. Senior Center CANCELLED
 6:30 p.m. SJB ~ Choir Practice
Fri., March 27: 7:00 p.m. SJB ~ STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Sat., March 28: 3:30 p.m. ST. AL'S ~ CONFESSIONS
Sun., March 29: 9:00 a.m. SJB ~ Faith Form. Classes CANCELLED
 1:00 p.m. ST. AL'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE**

The Whiting/Robertsdale Catholic Community will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance on **Tuesday, April 7th, 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.** Shared scripture readings, prayerful music, and an encouraging homily inspire the participants to be reconciled, accepting God's merciful forgiveness and reaching out to others with the same

generous mercy. You are encouraged to mark your calendars accordingly and plan to attend. The spiritual benefits are infinite.

LENT CONTINUES

God has taken the initiative of loving you first. Throughout the Bible God is constantly calling his people (that's you and me) back. However this is not a one time call. Jesus is calling us every day to deepen our love for him and fully live the life to which he calls us.

Today, respond to his call by offering him ten minutes of your time in prayer. Sit with him in the quiet of your heart and invite him in.

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY**IN LOVING MEMORY****March 23: Monday ~ St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop**

7:00 a.m. † Ed & Marge Matuska by Joe Kruczek

March 24: Tuesday ~ St. Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr

7:00 a.m. † Donnie Sabol by Marina Sabol

March 25: Wednesday ~ THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

7:00 a.m. † Raymond Cortazar by Family

March 26: Thursday ~ Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. † Monica Moers by Katherine O'Neil

8:30 a.m. † NO MASS

March 27: Friday ~ Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. † Elsie G. Canner by Jack & Judy Strisko

March 28: Saturday ~ Lenten Weekday**(SA)** 4:30 p.m. † Carol Spitzer by Anne Nastav**March 29: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

8:00 a.m. † W/R Catholic Community

10:30 a.m. † Joe Geffert by Dave & Laurie Phelps

03/15/2020**St. John**

Regular Collection.....\$ 4, 888.47

Grade School.....14.26

High School.....0.00

Total.....\$4,902.47

St. Adalbert

\$ 1,008.00

INSPIRATION from**St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

"Pray to know the will of God and to accept the will of God. We should do his will with obedience. Jesus did the will of his Father unto death on the cross. Mary chose obedience when she said, 'Be it done unto me according to your word.' This obedience is the surest way to true holiness."

**We celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation
Wednesday, March 25**

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:30-33)

We Pray...

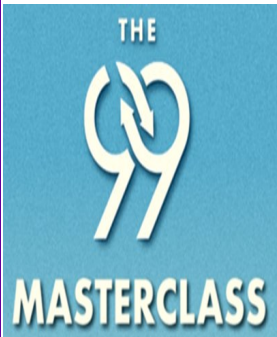
Heavenly Father, you have made the womb of each woman a very special place. Help us to hold fast to the sanctity of this first home of humanity, remembering the wonderful mystery, that God inhabited the womb of a young woman and came forth as the savior and deliverer of the world. Amen

RESPOND TO THE CALL/THE CRY

Our **God calls to us** to receive his love and then share it with **those who cry out for help.** May the tangible rice bowl on your table be a reminder of the many blessings you have received, as well as a reminder of the many who struggle daily to survive.

Join our faith community - and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States - in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter, using the **CRS Rice Bowl.** May these 40 days prepare us to celebrate Easter joy as we share God's unconditional love.

W/R CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

TIME TO START SOWING
THE SEEDS FOR SPRING

The Springtime of Evangelization Is Up to Every One of Us.

"It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plant and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."

(Mark 4:31-32)

Saint John Paul II's call for a "new springtime of evangelization" resounds even more profoundly today.

The new evangelization, as John Paul II envisioned, requires a dynamic relationship with the living God and a willingness to share the graces that stem from this life-altering friendship.

May **The 99 Masterclass** give our faith community new insights and the tools necessary to come alive in our Catholic Faith while bringing the JOY of the Gospel to every aspect of our lives.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
SAFE AND COURTEOUS PRACTICES DURING MASS

- ◆ If you are sick, do not come to Church.
- ◆ During the sign of peace you should courteously offer Christ's peace by using the usual words "Peace be with you" with a slight bow of your head towards your fellow parishioner.
- ◆ There will not be distribution of the Precious Blood from the cup until further notice.
- ◆ You are asked to receive the Sacred Host in the hand to reduce the spread of infectious germs.
- ◆ To safeguard against spreading germs, healthcare professionals recommend washing hands with soap and hot water regularly or using alcohol-based hand gels when washing hands is not immediately possible.
- ◆ Use the inside of your elbow to cover your mouth if you need to sneeze or cough.

RCIA UPDATE:

Continuing prayers from the Parish Community are requested for the following participants in RCIA:

Candidates for Sacraments of Initiation: Casey Gates and Stephanie Zandy;

Candidates for Communion and Confirmation: Rosalinda Gallegos and Madelyn Sanchez;

Candidates for Confirmation: Juan Gallegos and Christina Goding.

These candidates faithfully participate in preparation sessions and continue their journey of faith as members of our faith community. Please continue to pray for them as we continue our Lenten journey in preparation for our joyous celebration of Easter.



ST. JOHN ROSARY SOCIETY

The St. John Rosary Society recently received a generous donation from Joe Hovanec, son of long time Rosarian and St. John teacher, Florence Hovanec.

He said that it was in appreciation for all that the Rosary Society does for our parish. And we say, "Thank you, Joe."

Carmelite Monastery TOUR

St. John Rosary Society is planning a trip by car to the Carmelite Shrine in Munster on **Thursday, April 16**. We will car pool from the St. John parking lot at 9:30 a.m. in order to arrive at the shrine by 10:00 a.m. A guided tour of the hallowed grounds and various shrines will be followed by prayer time in the large church.

Once the tour is completed, those interested will drive to Theo's on Indianapolis Blvd, Highland for a 12:30 lunch (individuals pay their own). If you have never visited this sacred space on Ridge Road in the heart of Munster, IN, you are welcome to join our mini-pilgrimage. For further information and to register phone or email Joyce Wagner at 219-922-8413, joyce6333@att.net.

EASTER FOOD DRIVE

In our Parish Community we'll have roughly 30 families we need to help this coming Easter. Donations of can goods, non-perishable food items, and toiletries can be dropped off in the back pews of **St. John's Church on Palm Sunday, April 5th**. Volunteers are needed after this Mass to help package, deliver, and load cars with these baskets. Please be generous of your time and gifts which come from God.

Also monetary donations can be dropped off at the rectory to help cover the cost of gift cards, so these families can purchase milk, eggs, etc!

Thank you and God bless all of you.

IMPORTANT

Due to **the present situation in our diocese today**, the following changes are being made to accommodate you and to insure the success of **this food drive**. We have roughly 30 families that need assistance this Easter. Food can be dropped off at the curb in front of St. John's Church and assigned personnel will carry it in on the following dates:

Thursday, April 2nd 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 3rd 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4th 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Church doors we open daily **Monday – Friday at 6:00 a.m. for 7:00 a.m. Mass**. Also Sunday Mass is still at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. These are other options to help make it convenient with your schedules. For these times only, please carry in food and put in back pews of Church.

ALSO, monetary donations can be dropped off at the rectory. If there are any changes in this schedule, our parish will be notified. Thank you in this matter and please be generous with your gifts from God.

Please contact Tom and Lucy, if you should have any questions: 219-659-7943.

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**DARKNESS AND LIGHT**

The Church invites us on this Fourth Sunday of Lent to consider light and darkness. Both practically and metaphorically it is a healthy Lenten exercise to think about light and darkness in our lives.

In reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, you were reminded that, "you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord." The text does not say you are *in the light* of the Lord; no, it says you *"are light"* in the Lord. What might that mean? Light in the Lord implies a relationship between you and the Lord.

The Lord is light; indeed the Lord is, as Psalm 27 puts it, "my light and my salvation." And the psalmist draws from the inspired assertion this encouraging conclusion, "whom do I fear?" With the Lord dwelling within you and enlightening you, you have nothing to fear.

There was a time – before your baptism – when you were indeed in darkness, as was the case with the Ephesians before they heard and believed the good news. But with Baptism, they and you became illuminated with the life and light of Jesus Christ. There may have been other times between then and now when you chose to turn away from the light, to extinguish the light of Christ within you, and to revert to darkness. But here you are, at this moment, drawn By God's grace into the light. Note again that Paul was telling the Ephesians (and through them, telling you) that you "are light." So again, I have to ask: what might that mean?

It seems to me that Paul is saying that the follower of Christ is an enlightened person, a person who has light within, a person who exudes light, a person who not only reflects the light of Christ, but who can illumine his or her part of the world and thus assist others in finding their way out of the darkness into the light. The world [certainly] needs that spiritual illumination today.

(Taken in part from a Homily from:
The Word Proclaimed by William J. Byron, SJ.)

**ENCOURAGEMENT from Pope Francis**

Parents pray for mothers and fathers whose children are suffering. Ask for God's help. "So often for a father or a mother, it is more difficult to bear a son or daughter's pain than one's own. The family, we can say, has always been the nearest 'hospital'...It is the mother, the father, brothers, sisters and grandparents who guarantee care and help one to heal."

(Pope Francis - **Wisdom on Love, Practical Advice for Families**)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

On Wednesday, March 11th we hosted our first literacy night at the school. With this being the first event we really did not know what to expect or how well attended it would be. We were pleasantly surprised and had over 200 students and parents attend the literacy night "Reading Madness." We had such a successful event and were able to provide families hotdogs, chili, nachos, candy, along with great book raffles. Forever Blue and Gold sponsored the literacy night along with an anonymous donor from the parish and Big Shoulders donated all of our books we were able to raffle off. Again I am blown away by the community support we constantly receive and I know we are the great school we are because of this. Along with great food and raffles we also had a book fair for the students and their families. All of the teachers were in attendance and played literacy games with their students such as Scrabble and Apples to Apples. There was a make your own bookmark station and 4 different "crime scenes" set up showcasing the setting of different books and the students had to figure out the book. I could not have asked for a better night! The teachers were amazing in helping put together this event and the 100% participation from all of the faculty and staff made this a success. Great things are happening at St. John the Baptist!

DISCONTINUED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The **99 Masterclass** program on Tuesday evenings will continue at a later date to be announced. You may call Margaret Saliga at 659-4138 if you have questions or concerns.

The **Senior Center at Pulaski Park** is temporarily closed. You may call Kathryn Jezuit 659-7269 if you have questions or concerns.

The weekly Wednesday **Lunch With Friends** will resume in mid to late April.

DISCOVER MASS

If you would like to receive the weekly parish bulletin for our Whiting-Robertsdale Catholic Community via your emails, simply put discovermass@diocesan.com into your browser, click and follow the prompts and enter **St. Adalbert OR St. John the Baptist Whiting, IN 46394**. Then, by entering your name and email address you should be able to receive a weekly email of the current bulletin and also the previous four weeks.

Also, you can visit St. John the Baptist Church web site: www.stjohnbap.org to have access to our weekly bulletins and other events within our Catholic Community.



St. John the Baptist is selling cafeteria folding metal chairs \$5.00 each. For more information contact: Kirsten Lund at 773-206-2412 or keh1478@hotmail.com

FOREVER
BLUE AND GOLD
Saint John Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

B: Eleanor Biel, Steve B., Al & Dot Baker, Joseph Bibat, Bob & Betty Bonchik, Noel Bubala

C: Ben Cassoday, Jim Campbell, Abigail Coates, Rebecca Coates, , Dorothy Chovan, Nancy Coleman, Olivia Crinion, Lavonne Curington, Jeannine Cusson, Sharon Cusson

D: Gloria Demeter

F: Jeanine Faulkner, Thomas Federenko, Judy Fernald, Audrey Filipek, George Fitzak, Malia Fortunak, Joseph Fortunak

G: Andrea Gaynor

H: H. Haas, Debra Henderson, Kingston M. Hensley, Dennis and Peggy Hyde

J:

K: Gloria A. Kaminsky, Leonard Kaminski, Gerry Kasarda, Ryan Keelan, Anne M. Kovach, Barbara J. Korba, Corky Kuipers

L: Lenore Lazur, Anita Le Claire, Les Le Claire, Donna Lewandowski

M: Adeline Matalik, Edward Matalik, Kristi Matalik, Mary Madejewski, Frank Matlon, Ginny McHale, Jerilyn Miller, Larry & Toni Milkowski,

N: Ann Novotney

O: Bob Oliver

P: Willie Parlor, Virginia Piljak, Mary Puplava

Q: Leonardo Quiroz

R: Kathleen Radloff, David Reyes, Delia M. Reyes, Joel Rivera, Tim Ripee, Ed. Roszkowski, Kay Rosinski, Linda Rokosz, Joyce Rybicki

S: Arthur Salinas Jr., Armando Sanchez, S. Scivinsky, Robert & Phyllis Samano, Collette Santay, Aaron Smith, Deanna Stolarz, K. Smith, R. Smith, S. Stimac, Jack Strisko, Michael J. Swentko, Suzanne M. Swentko

T: Nancy Teles, Sean Tennant, James Toth, Geraldine Tumidalsky

V:

W: Terry W., Phil Wetnight, Marjorie Wohlr

Z:

"Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage."
(Psalm 23: 4)



B: Matt Barbetta, Sean Bowman, **C:** Christina Campa, Sean Coleman, **E:** Noe Edmond, **F:** Victoria Franco, **G:** Larry Gazafy, Matthew Geffert, John Gervais, Gerardo Gonzalez, James Grunhard Jr., **H:** Alex Gonzalo Hernandez, Elliot Hlavaty, Matthew Hlavaty, **J:** Justin Jansky, **K:** Thomas M. Kaminsky, Keith Kennedy, Jeff Klobucar, Jason Koscielski, Jeffery Koval, Mark Koval, **M:** Walter Malenki, Randall McAllister, Mike McCay, Hugh A. McNinch, Philip Mlynarski, Derek Monks, **N:** David Novotney, **O:** Zack O'Drobinak, Nicholas Okamura, Justus Oliver, Mark Opachan, **P:** Kenneth Petkunas, Thomas Puplava Jr., **R:** Robert Rodriguez, **S:** Antonio Salas, Eric Schaufele, Elliott Schultz, Natalie Serna, John Starzyk Jr, Alex Supergan, Jason Sutton, Szewczyk, **T:** Stephen Taylor, Jeffrey Thormeyer, Christopher Trojnar, **V:** Samuel Valdyke, **W:** Ray Walsh.

SUMMER CATECHETICAL MISSION
2020 MISSIONARY INFORMATION

Totus Tuus, a week long summer parish mission for 1st-12th grade students, is once again coming to the Diocese of Gary. In its fifth summer, we have spread the Gospel message of salvation to hundreds of youth by fostering Eucharistic and Marian Devotion and simply having fun!

We are currently looking for college aged men and women to serve as missionaries to hand on the Catholic Faith to the youth of our Diocese. We pay a stipend of \$2,000.00, and all of food and housing is paid for during the commitment from May 28 – July 26, 2020.

For more information please call: (219) 769-9292 or

www.dcgary.org

In an effort to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Coronavirus, we have decided to postpone and to reschedule the NWI Catholic Men's Conference on March 28, 2020, and reschedule the men's conference for August 29, 2020 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Chesterton.



FAITHFULNESS

AUGUST 29, 2020 • 8AM TO 3PM

SPEAKERS





Chris Padgett
Jack Rigert
Fr. David Simonetti

LOCATION

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
638 N Calumet Road • Chesterton, IN 46304

Registration 7:30AM • Conference Begins With Mass 8:00AM • Ends 3:00PM

Cost: \$30 Adult / \$20 College or High School Student

Register online or for more information
call 219.769.9292 or email nwicatholicmen@gmail.com

www.nwicatholicmen.com

"AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."

— JOSHUA 24:15

Catholic Charities Offices ~ Our Mission

Catholic Charities provides and advocates, and social needs of the poor and vulnerable in the four counties of the Diocese of Gary.

Main Office: 940 Broadway, Gary, IN. 46402 (219) 886-3549

3901 Fir St. East Chicago, IN. 46312 (219) 397-5803

6919 Indianapolis Blvd, Hammond, IN. 46324 (219) 844-4883



REST IN PEACE
Mary "Mimi" Murzyn

Rest In Peace