

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

0S233 Church Street Winfield, IL 60190 630.668.0918 www.stjohnwinfield.org

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

 **LENT**  
WE CAN THINK OF **LENT**

..... as a time to .....

**ERADICATE EVIL OR CULTIVATE VIRTUE**

a time to

**pull up weeds** or **plant good seeds**

WHICH IS BETTER IS CLEAR,

for the **Christian ideal**

IS ALWAYS

**POSITIVE** RATHER THAN **NEGATIVE.**

[catholicALLYEAR.com](http://catholicALLYEAR.com)

-VEN. FULTON J. SHEEN

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - MARCH 5

Our parish is fortunate to have two different groups meeting to help parishioners handle their grief. The SJB Grief Support Group meets on the first Thursdays of the month and offers emotional support for those grieving a loss whether by death, divorce, or other significant event in their lives. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Office Dining Room. Contact the parish office for more information.



## HANDBELL CHOIR LOOKING FOR RINGERS

**Contributing to the Mass with your gifts? Now that rings a bell!**

The handbell choir at St. John the Baptist is looking for some additional ringers. Please email our Handbell Conductor, Joyce Schram at joyceschram5@gmail.com if you're interested. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7 to 8:15 pm in the church. The choir rings once a month for the 8:00 am Sunday Mass (dates to be determined).





# FISH FRY FRIDAY!

Join the fun on **February 27** - OR - **March 6, 20 or 27**  
**there is no fish fry on the 13th**

<b>ALL MEALS \$15</b>	<b>SENIORS \$14</b>
<b>FRIED COD, FRIED SHRIMP, OR COMBO</b>	
<small>MEALS INCLUDE: BAKED POTATO, COLE SLAW, AND DINNER ROLL</small>	
<b>CHEF TONY SPECIALS:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SPAGHETTI DINNER - GARLIC BREAD, HOUSE SALAD (KIDS.....\$9)</li><li>• FISH TACO DINNER - MEXICAN BEANS AND RICE, PICO DE GALLO, TORTILLA CHIPS</li><li>• ENCHILADA DINNER - MEXICAN BEANS AND RICE, PICO DE GALLO, TORTILLA CHIPS</li></ul>	
PIZZA + CHIPS.....\$7	
GOURMET SALAD.....\$8 LARGE \$5 SMALL	
<small>*ALL MEALS INCLUDE DESSERT AND A SOFT DRINK *</small>	
<b>BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE!</b>	

**Order Online at: [www.stjohnwinfield.org](http://www.stjohnwinfield.org)**  
**Or By Phone: 630-668-0918 ext.651**  
↳ Only During Fish Fry Fridays 3 PM - 6:30 PM

You may also phone Sean Conley at:  
630-668-0918 x651 with questions or orders

## SEASONS OF HOPE

**Season 3 to begin soon**

The first 'season' of the Bereavement Support Group began in August, and the third season will begin on Thursday, March 5. Seasons of Hope is a Catholic Christ centered bereavement ministry that focuses on our Catholic faith and the many ways our faith helps us through grief with the loss of a loved one. We meet every other week on Thursday evenings. Pre-registration is required. For more information, or to register contact Deacon Joe at 630-668-0918 x 610. You can also make contact via email at: [deaconjoe@stjohnwinfield.org](mailto:deaconjoe@stjohnwinfield.org).



**Seasons of Hope**

Bereavement Support Group

## YOUNG AT HEART LUNCH - FEBRUARY 25

Due to Ash Wednesday, you'll have to wait one week longer to share in the food and friendship of our Young at Heart Luncheon. We hope you will still be able to join us on Wednesday, February 25th at 11:30 am in Sebahar Hall for an Italian luncheon of Lasagna, meatballs, salad, garlic bread and yummy desserts. There is no pre-registration required, and no set fee to participate. Free will offerings appreciated. Young at Hearts is open to all who are at least 55 years young! Phone Gwen Hopkins with questions at 630.222.6777 .



# Living Lent

## *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**I**would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace. - Pope Leo XIV 2026

### **Mass and Our Lady of Sorrows Novena - Wednesday, February 25**

Meet in church every Wednesday during Lent at 5:00 pm

### **Stations of the Cross - Friday, February 27**

Meet in church every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm

### **First Lenten Fish Fry - Friday, February 27**

Order on line, or stop in person to enjoy the fantastic food and festive fellowship 5:00 - 7:00 pm

### **Reconciliation**

Available each Friday at 3:00 pm and Saturdays following the 8 am morning Mass. Mark your calendar now for the Lenten Reconciliation Service on March 19th at 7pm. A number of priests will be present to hear confession.

## **HEALING SERVICE WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND ADORATION**

**March 12 at 7:00 pm - light incense will be used**

All are invited to come and experience the healing power of Jesus within a healing service led by Fr. Dan Bachner. Jesus will be there, exposed in the eucharist for adoration, light incense will be used, soft music will be performed, anointing of the sick with specially consecrated oil will take place, and sacred first class relics will be walked through the crowd gathered for a special blessing through intercession of the saints. The evening brings spiritual strength, comfort and if God wills, physical healing.



## **40 DAYS FOR LIFE – LENTEN SACRIFICE**

On Ash Wednesday many parishioners stood across from Planned Parenthood and prayed. Many prolife advocates attended the Kick off event on Saturday, February 21.

Join us on Mondays and Wednesdays during Lent from 11 am to noon at Waterleaf Women's Center at 3055 E. New York St., Aurora. Please pray to save babies' lives.



## **CCW EVENT - MARCH 4**

Join us on Wednesday, March 4 at 10 am in Sebahar Hall for a Lenten reflection titled A Journey to Joy presented by Dolores Bopp Potterton. She will invite us to see the season as a time for deeper intimacy with Christ. Continental breakfast will be served with the reflection beginning shortly after 10 am. A brief meeting and announcement of our Woman of the year will end the morning. **See page 5** of this week's bulletin for information on the upcoming Spring Bazaar!



## K OF C PANCAKE BREAKFAST - NEXT WEEKEND - MARCH 2

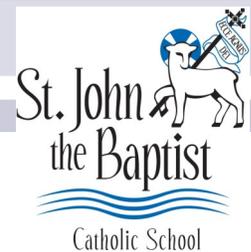
Treat yourself and your family to a freshly prepared menu of Hot Buttermilk Pancakes, Sausage Links, Thick Applewood Smoked Bacon, Apple or Orange Juice and Fresh Roasted Coffee.

**A free-will offering is appreciated.** Invite friends, bring a group and support the parish. Have a cup of coffee on us! The Knights volunteer over 95 million hours across the U.S. each year to better Catholic Faith Communities.

You'll find us in **Sebahar Hall from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.**



**Don't Forget - No School, Friday, February 27**



This year's Gala, *A Night at the Races* is here! Thank you for your generosity and for being an important part of our school community. Your support will make a lasting difference for our students. We are profoundly grateful to the many businesses, organizations and individuals that sponsor and support our Gala. None of this is possible without you and us working together for our children, our future.



**Our School is**

- Formed in Faith
- Educated in Excellence
- Embraced by Community

## CELEBRATING IS GRAND!

Recently the school celebrated the wonderful Grandparents that enrich our student's lives. The day began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Dan where students and grandparents prayed side by side, reflecting on the blessing of family and the wisdom passed from one generation to the next. Guests then were treated to a musical program and then welcomed into classrooms. We enjoyed hosting, as much as the note

below expressed a grandparent's point of view:

*Dear Mrs. Policht -*

*We were so happy to be part of the grandparents day at St. John the Baptist on Thursday. It was well organized and seemed to go off without a hitch. I hope that this will be a yearly function. The eighth graders did an awesome job of getting us grandparents where we needed to be. While I can't say that my husband enjoyed the math lesson, it was nice to watch Elli figure it out and try to explain her process to her grandpa. She is convinced when he went to school he used rocks to do math! Next time we plan on splitting time between Elli and Ryleigh.*

*We are so happy with the education our girls are getting at St. John's.*

*Sincerely, Sue Hoppe*

*Grandmother of Elli and Ryleigh, Mother of Vinnie the Wildcat*



## Scripture Readings



## POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

### MONDAY

February 23

*Lenten Weekday*

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18

Mt 25:31-46

### TUESDAY

February 24

*Lenten Weekday*

Is 55:10-11

Mt 6:7-15

### WEDNESDAY

February 25

*Lenten Weekday*

Jon 3:1-10

Lk 11:29-32

### THURSDAY

February 26

*Lenten Weekday*

Est C:12, 14-16,  
23-25

Mt 7:7-12

### FRIDAY

February 27

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 18:21-28

Mt 5:20-26

### SATURDAY

February 28

*Lenten Weekday*

Dt 26:16-19

Mt 5:43-48

### SUNDAY

March 1

*Second Sunday*

*of Lent*

Gn 2:1-4a

2 Tm 1:8b-10

Mt 17:1-9

**CCW's Spring Bazaar will take place on Sat. March 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being a Vendor, contact Cecily Langelier at: 630-408-2109 or [cecilyandlarry@comcast.net](mailto:cecilyandlarry@comcast.net)**



**DONATIONS** of Spring Seasonal Knick-knacks or home accessories in good condition are needed. Drop off donations in the vestibule of the parish office. Label them: CCW.

Phone the number above to rent a table to sell your own items.

## 2026 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ANNUAL APPEAL

If you have already pledged to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we sincerely thank you! Let join together to meet our parish goal of \$99,400. Every gift makes a difference.

If you still plan on making a gift, please prayerfully consider how you can elevate your faith beyond all expectations in support of those in need. Pledge envelopes are still available in church, or use the one you received in the mail. Gifts can be made on line at [jolietdioceseappeal.org](http://jolietdioceseappeal.org). We receive 70% of any amount raised over goal to use within our parish.

BEYOND ALL EXPECTATIONS:

*Faith that Elevates!*

2026 | Diocese of Joliet

## LIVE THE LITURGY THIS WEEK

### Keep Grace Upfront

Transgression and Sin play a big part in the garden of Eden story. So does grace - which is the first part of that story. In the Roman's reading St. Paul counterpoints Adam and Eve with the saving death of Jesus Christ. He is the very grace of God. It is only when standing within this grace can we name what is non-grace, what is wrong with life, what is sin. Thus, Jesus can face the tempter without faltering - and help us do the same.

- How will the Bread of Life fill me more than daily bread?
- How will I trust, and not test God?
- What things and/or people will I stop 'worshipping' so that I will worship God alone ?

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, centers for listening and acceptance, communities for minors, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025



# In Our Heart and Prayers

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, February 21

5:00 pm ✠ Karen Kelton  
✠ Jim Brewer

### Sunday, February 22

8:00 am ✠ Marilyn Bishop  
10:00 am People of the Parish  
12 Noon ✠ Bill Bartelli

### Monday, February 23

8:00 am ✠ Anthony Lipira

### Tuesday, February 24

8:00 am ✠ Richard Hitchner

### Wednesday, February 25

8:00 am ✠ Eduardo Magahis  
5:00 pm ✠ Souls in Purgatory

### Thursday, February 26

8:00 am ✠ Mary Bridget Cullen

### Friday, February 27

8:00 am Sp. Int. of John and Amy  
Garro

### Saturday, February 28

8:00 am ✠ Richard Hitchner  
5:00 pm ✠ Jim Russel  
✠ Evelyn and Howard  
Fischer  
Sp. Int of the  
Meath Family

### Sunday, March 1

8:00 am ✠ Carol Effinger  
10:00 am ✠ Clem and Joyce Milder  
12 Noon People of the Parish

**T**he Mass is considered the highest form of prayer in the Church, and certainly the most powerful prayer that is said on behalf of those who are deceased.

## For the Sick

Joan Buckingham, Wally Buckingham, Lawrence Campbell, Regalado Carlos, Mildred Hoffman, Luke Hougan, Michael McGrath, Britney Prehn, Fr. Gerald Riva, Genevieve Rohr, Rick Rohr, Bobby Schreiber, **Fr. John Sebahar**, Desiree Sheppard, Jeffrey Skrobutt, Anita Venard, Marino Verdico

To place a name on the prayer lists, contact Rosa Benavides, at rosab@stjohnwinfield.org or by phone at 630.668.0918 x 601. Names will remain on the sick list for six weeks. In a long term illness situation, simply identify such to Rosa at the time of your call.

## For the Deceased

**Francesco "Frank" Di Maso** - husband of Maria

## For those in the Armed Forces for Peace and Safety

Lt. Col. John Berg, SSgt Tyler Bowling, Commander Nicholas Daly, Sgt. Justin Earle, Lt. Col. Anthony Eschliman, Airman Nicholas Kostecka, Cpt. Matthew Luff, 1st Lt. Allyson Serbick, SPC Keegan Serbick, SPC Jack Serbick, Lt. Col. James Smolucha, Maj. Michael Smolucha

## For Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

The Sanctuary Church lamp burns this week for the Special Intention of the Rohr Family.  
The Chapel sanctuary lamp burns in memory of Frank DiMaso.



*Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit. - Pope Francis*

## Vocation Prayer Calendar

**February 22** Seminarian Vincent Omondi  
**February 23** Fr. William DeSalvo  
**February 24** Sr. Patricia Hottinger  
**February 25** Francesca-Cynthia Riddick, Margaret Trepal, Con Virgin  
**February 26** Srs. Lucina Aguilera, Maria del Rocio Castillo, Judith Perez, Maria Teresa Gonzalez, HJ  
**February 27** Dcns. Bill Crane, Mike Crowell, Dan Culloton, Greg Cummins  
**February 28** Fr. Bill Dewan

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS

### Is there something you can share with your neighbor?

Our Food Pantry at St. John the Baptist could use some help restocking a few items in particular. Our greatest needs currently include: Cooking Oil, Sugar, Pasta Sauce, Shampoo, Small Laundry Detergent and Deodorant. Check expiration dates before donating. Collection bins are at both entrances to church or can be dropped off at the parish office. Thank you for your generosity!



# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and School

**Parish office:** (630) 668 - 0918 Ext. 0  
**School office:** (630) 668 - 2625 Ext. 618

*Parish Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm, closed Friday*  
fax: (630) 668 - 1074

**Clergy** (630) 668-0918  
**Rev. Dan Bachner, Pastor** Ext. 601  
**Rev. Michal Twaruzek, Parochial Vicar**  
mtwaruzek@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 604  
**Deacon Rev. Mr. Joe Verdico**  
DeaconJoe@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 610



**Contact Us via email at:**  
contactus@stjohnwinfield.org

**Parish Staff** (630) 668-0918 x 0  
**Administration**  
**Marian Johnston, Business Manager**  
mjohnston@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 602  
**Aaron Simpson, Facilities Manager**  
aarons@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 603  
**Rosa Benavides, Admin. Assistant /  
Secretaria Hispana**  
rosab@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 601  
**Dianne Scheiblein, Accountant**  
diannes@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 614

**Adult Faith Formation**  
**Fr. Patrick Mulcahy**  
frpat@stjohnwinfield.org

**Religious Education Office**  
**Kathie Brewer, K-5 grade Coordinator**  
kathieb@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 613  
**Sofia Lech, 6-8 grade Coordinator**  
slech@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 612

**Music**  
**Carrie Marcotte, Dir. of Sacred Music**  
cmarcotte@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 608

(630) 668-2625 x 618  
**School Office**  
**Joanne Policht, Principal**  
jpolicht@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 617  
**Teri Hardesty, Admin. Assistant**  
terih@stjohnwinfield.org Ext. 618

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
(630) 668-0918 Ext. 692

**Communication**  
**Bulletin submissions:**  
Due Wednesday by 3:00 pm, ten  
days prior to publication date to  
sjbulletin@stjohnwinfield.org  
Holiday schedules will vary.

**St. John the  
Baptist Catholic  
Church & School**



## NEW PARISHIONERS

We warmly invite you to join our parish family. To register, stop by the parish office or see the parish website at [www.stjohnwinfield.org](http://www.stjohnwinfield.org).

## BAPTISMS

Baptisms are usually celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month after the 12:00 noon Mass. Special events and holidays may alter the schedule. There is a three month waiting period for new parishioners to schedule a baptism. Contact the parish office for information.

## PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Hospitals do not inform churches when parishioners are patients. Tell hospital staff you want to be added to the Catholic census so that hospital ministers know to visit. Contact the parish office Ext 1 to be added to the prayer list, or to receive Eucharist from a Minister of Care.

## FUNERALS

Arrangements for a funeral are usually made through the Funeral Director at a funeral home of your choice. Contact the parish office with any questions.

## MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

Diocese requirements include a formal engagement preparation period of at least six months before the date of the wedding and attendance in a marriage preparation program. St. John the Baptist requires either the bride, groom or parents of either to be registered as parishioners for at least three months before contacting us to set a date. There are a number of additional requirements. To begin the marriage process, either the bride or groom must contact the parish office.

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meetings take place on Thursdays at 7:00pm in the lower level of the parish office in Sodonna Hall.

### **Daily Mass Schedule during Lent :**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8:00 am**

**Wednesday 7:45 am and 5:00 pm** \* 5pm Mass is followed by Our Lady of Sorrows Novena

**School Mass is Wednesday at 10:00 am**

**Saturday 8:30 am**

### **Weekend Mass Schedule which fulfills Sunday Obligation :**

**Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon**

### **Reconciliation :**

**Parish Reconciliation Service - March 19 at 7:00 pm**

Also Fridays at 3 pm and Saturdays following morning Mass

There is no reconciliation on Good Friday or Holy Saturday

Follow us on:

