

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, September 7, 2025

23rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

"WHOEVER DOES NOT CARRY HIS
OWN *cross* AND COME AFTER ME
CANNOT BE *my disciple*."

LK 14:27



Bishop Hicks' Column September 2025 The Leo Effect: Reflecting After 100 Days



In the world of leadership, there is a common practice: after the first one hundred days in office, we pause to reflect. What direction is this new leader taking us in? What tone has been set? Where might we be headed? In these early months, we are beginning to see the kind of shepherd God has given us. The “Leo Effect,” as I like to call it, is the fruit of his presence. It is the blessings, the new stirrings, and the hopeful signs already emerging in our Church and in our world.

At a recent Presbyteral Council meeting, one of our [Augustinian](#) priests told me that, since Pope Leo is himself an Augustinian, they have noticed a marked increase in young men expressing interest in the priesthood. That is the Leo Effect in action. These are ripples of inspiration that move from Rome all the way to local parishes and communities like ours.

Another question I have been asked many times in recent weeks is this: will Pope Leo XIV choose Chicagoland as the first place he visits? People have wondered if he might return to his roots in the south suburbs, visit his old neighborhood in [Dolton](#), grab a slice of his favorite pizza, or even celebrate Mass at White Sox Park. As wonderful as that would be, and as much as I would personally love to see it, I usually remind people that his first stop is more likely to be a place in urgent need of healing, reconciliation, or peace. Perhaps the Holy Land, perhaps Ukraine, or perhaps another corner of the world that needs his pastoral presence. But who knows? The Holy Spirit guides these journeys, and for now we simply wait in joyful anticipation.

People close to Pope Leo have said, “He listens more than he talks.” That in itself is part of the Leo Effect. In an age of noise and constant headlines, the witness of a leader who listens deeply is striking. His way of leadership is not rooted in quick soundbites but in steady gestures of closeness and compassion. Early in his pontificate, [he celebrated Mass with the homeless](#) and then shared a meal with them. He has spoken often of the [“fire of love” that must burn within us](#), not a fire that remains hidden, but one that spreads outward in compassion, justice, and peace.

Another sign of the Leo Effect is his bridge-building across cultures. Born in the United States, [formed as a missionary in Peru](#), and shaped by the Augustinian spirit of community and humility, Pope Leo embodies the universality of the Church. His very life story unites North and South America, English and Spanish, tradition, and modernity.

Pope Leo has also expressed concern about pressing global issues. He has spoken about the [moral questions surrounding artificial intelligence](#), reminding us not to allow technology, money, or power to displace God. [He has called for peace in conflict zones](#), urging the world to pursue reconciliation. He has also reminded us that the greatness of the Church is not measured in status or wealth, but in holiness and service. Recently, he approved a new [Mass for the Care of Creation](#), highlighting his commitment to safeguarding our common home and encouraging all believers to pray and act for the protection of God’s earth.

At the same time, he has shown deep respect for tradition. When he walked out onto the balcony of St. Peter’s, [he reclaimed the use of the mozzetta](#), a traditional papal vestment symbolizing continuity with history. He also revived [the ancient practice of personally bestowing the pallium](#) on new archbishops. These gestures remind us that while Pope Leo leads the Church into new challenges, he remains anchored in her history and symbols. His leadership balances continuity with creativity.

Many have also noted his warmth and relatability. He is approachable, enjoys simple pastimes like [baseball](#), [tennis](#), and [word games](#), and speaks plainly from the heart. These touches of humanity remind us that the pope is not a distant figure but a pastor walking with his flock.

The Leo Effect is nothing less than the Holy Spirit reminding us that God is alive and active in His Church. And just as the world pauses after one hundred days to reflect on a leader, let us pause to recognize the Spirit’s work through Pope Leo XIV. [As we pray for our new Holy Father, let us also commit ourselves to being open to the impact the Leo Effect can have on our own lives, to become people of unity, compassion, and love that set the world aflame.](#)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, September 6, Vigil Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00am ♥ Sheila & John Otto, Blessing on 60th Wedding Anniversary (*Rita Grabowski*)
 5:00pm ♥† Living and deceased members of the Knights of Columbus
 † Charlene Herrera (*Walter & Therese Martineau*)
 † Karen Glenn (*Hussey Family*)
 † Clem & Joyce Midler (*Mike & Dale Fabianski*)
 † Marian Zajkowski (*Florian & Diana Szmurlo*)
 ♥ Norma Garvey, for good health (*SJB Friends*)

Sunday, September 7, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00am † Gregory A. Conley (*The Conley Family*)
 10:00am † Deirdre Scott (*Pat & Garry Young*)
 Noon ♥† The People of the Parish

Monday, September 8

- 8:00am † Ben Sikorski (*The Sikorski Family*)

Tuesday, September 9

- 8:00am † Lucille & Kenneth Tucker (*The Family*)

Wednesday, September 10

- 8:00am † Robertina Ballentos (*Bless & Ed Romero & Family*)

Thursday, September 11

- 8:00am † Rufino Ligan (*Carlito & Amor Gabas*)

Friday, September 12

- 8:00am † Kathleen Ryan
 † Deceased members of the Wolak Family (*Karen & Tom Borow*)
 † Arnold Pins (*JoAnn Pins*)
 † Maria Barrios (*Henry & Christine Kare*)
 † Roberto Kare (*Henry & Christine Kare*)
 ♥ The intention of the women's 138th Cursillo weekend

Scripture Readings For the Week of For the Week of September 7, 2025

Sunday Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17;
 Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

Monday Feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6ab, 6c; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

Tuesday Memorial of Saint Peter Claver

Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday

Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom

1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5 and 6-7; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11;
 Jn 3:13-17

Prayer Requests

We understand how important it is to lift our loved ones up in prayer. If you have someone who needs prayers, is sick, or has passed away, please contact us at 630-668-0918 x 0, or contactus@stjohnwinfield.org.

Lawrence Campbell
 David Henderson
 Luke Hougan
 Britney Prehn
 Edward Ranahan
 Desiree Sheppard
 Anita Venard
 Marino Verdico

Prayer Line

If you would like a loved one prayed for by our prayer line, please visit our website to submit a request at stjohnwinfield.org/prayer-request.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
 FIRST RESPONDER, ACTIVE DUTY
 & VETERAN PARISHIONERS:**

Lt. Col. John Berg
 Commander Nicholas Daly
 Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Eschliman
 Airman Nicholas Kostecka
 Captain Matthew Luff
 Lieutenant Colonel James Smolucha
 Major Michael Smolucha

If you would like your name or the name of your loved one on this list, please contact the parish office:
 630.668.0918 x 0
contactus@stjohnwinfield.org

Our Sanctuary Lamps

This week, our Sanctuary Lamps* burn in Memory of (†) /Honor of (♥):
CHAPEL † Norma Garvey
CHURCH ♥ Rohr Family, for health



*If you would like to request a sanctuary lamp to burn in memory of/in honor of a loved one, please contact the parish office. A \$10.00 donation per week is requested.

Coming Soon to St. John's



Join St John's Book Club at our next monthly meeting, Wednesday September 17th at 7 pm at the home of Karen Tsaparis. We will discuss the book, *Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships* by Nina Totenberg. Please inquire for directions or with any questions and RSVP Jean at tjdaniell@att.net.

Cursillo Corner

Fall Cursillo Weekend Dates

Cursillo weekends will be held at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien. Please pray about who you are called to invite to this life changing weekend. Applications are available at www.jolietcursillo.org.



- ♦ Women's 138th Weekend September 11-14 (Rectora: Elaine Jimenz)
- ♦ Men's 146th Weekend October 23-26 (Rector: Bob Barron)

If you would like to be sponsored for a weekend or are looking for additional information on the Cursillo Movement, contact our Parish Coordinator, Amy Serritella at amythe1@att.net or visit the website www.jolietcursillo.org.



Prayer Service Come Pray With Us

For loved ones, friends and others who have left the Church

Please send prayer requests (first names only) to pattivanloechl@hotmail.com

Sunday, September 14th
2-3pm St. John's Chapel



**CATHOLICS
FOR LIFE**

"May the dignity of man according to the Creator's plan be spread" – Pope St. John Paul II

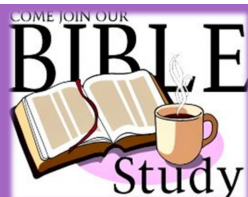
From September 24 through November 2, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life Fall Vigil – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to peacefully pray across the street from the Aurora Planned Parenthood Women's Center. Why participate in person? Because it works! According to Abby Johnson, known for her true life story in the movie

Unplanned, "When pro-life people show up outside the clinic the no-show rate goes up to almost 75%."

Members of St. John's will be praying every

Monday and Wednesday from 11 am to 12 pm on the hill at Waterleaf Women's Center, across the street from the largest Planned Parenthood Center in Illinois, located at 3055 E New York St. Aurora, IL

The weekend of Sept. 13th and 14th we'll be at both the east and west entrances of the church. PLEASE stop and sign up for times you'd be able to join us in prayer. Thank you for caring.



All Are Invited to Friday Morning Bible Study

Friday Morning Bible Study has resumed as of Friday, September 5th. We will meet every Friday in Sebahar Hall

from 9:30 to 11:30 AM until the middle of May. This year, we will be finishing our study on the rise and fall of Israel, with the books of 2Kgs, Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah and Lamentations. We will also be doing season 5 of The Chosen during Lent. Bring your bible and join us!

If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Axelson, laxelson@comcast.net, 630-988-3100.



Seasons of Hope

Bereavement Support Group

Seasons of Hope began August 28 at St John the Baptist. As we approach session two of Season 1, September 11, it is good for you to know that if you are considering registering for Season 1 **you must do so prior to Sept 11**. Registration for Season 1 ends and no new participants are accepted at the completion of session two. **Registration for Season 2 begins Sept 12**. To register or for more information please contact Deacon Joe at 630 668 0918 x610 or email deaconjoe@stjohnwinfield.org. Space is limited in each season.

Around the Diocese



NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

For Aborted Children

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
SAINTS PETER AND
PAUL CEMETERY
911 NORTH AVE,
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540
12:30PM- ROSARY
1:00PM- MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Saints Peter and Paul music ministry will lead us in sacred music. The Knights of Columbus will post an honor guard throughout the event at the memorial. This year's speaker is **Mary Burruss**. Mary will share her story of how both God and abortion have changed her faith life and her life's journey bringing her to join us today. You don't want to miss this talk.



Curious about Pope Leo XIV?

Dr. Mary Amore and the Board of Directors of Mayslake Ministries cordially invite you to

A Joyful Evening of Conversation

with **Fr. Tony Pizzo, O.S.A.**,

*Prior Provincial of the Augustinians
and lifelong friend of Pope Leo.*

When: Friday, September 26th at 7:00pm

Where: Ascension of our Lord Parish, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

Fr. Tony fondly recalls: "As the red velvet curtains at the Vatican parted, I realized that my college pal from the South Side of Chicago- that I know as "Bob" - had been elected the first American pope."

Join us for a special evening as Fr. Tony Pizzo, O.S.A., Prior Provincial of the Augustinians, offers reflections and personal stories about Pope Leo XIV, the newly elected, Chicago-born Pontiff.

The evening will include a Q&A session, providing attendees the opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the new Holy Father. Wine and cheese will be served.

Register online at www.mayslakeministries.org or by phone at 630-852-9000.
Admission: \$30 per person.

All proceeds raised will support the work of Mayslake Ministries.



OPERATION ANDREW DINNER

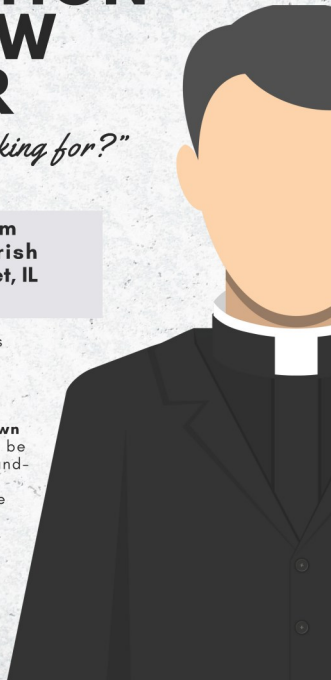
*"What are you looking for?"
John 1:38*

**September 25, 6-8pm
Queen of Apostles Parish
18 Woodlawn Ave, Joliet, IL
60435**

Young men and their fathers are invited to join **Bishop Dennis Spies** and several area priests for dinner, conversation, and testimonials about their own vocation stories. There will be opportunity for a question-and-answer session and meeting other young men open to the priesthood.

Open to high school and young adult age men and their fathers.

Scan the QR code to RSVP.



Register now for
UNBOUND Freedom
In Christ Conference
SEPT 12 & 13
MATT LOZANO
**FR JAMES GUARASCIO &
THE JOLIET UNBOUND TEAM**
Friday evening September 12 from 6:30pm to 9pm
Saturday all day September 13 from 9am to 6:30pm
Fee \$50 Parishioners | \$75 Non-Parishioners
*for catered lunch, dinner & materials

REGISTRATION & DETAILS
OLMERCY.COM/MINISTRY/UNBOUND-PRAYER-MINISTRY

 **OUR LADY of MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH**
701 S Eola Road, Aurora, IL

St. John the Baptist Catholic School *Update*



Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, Dads of Action, and the Council of Catholic Women for making the Back to School BBQ a delicious success! We are grateful for your time, hard work, and support! A special shout out and thank you goes to our Wildcat mascot for coming!! Thank you to all who came! SJB is truly embraced by community!



St. John the Baptist School's Home & School Organization is hosting the Annual Grandparent & Grandchild Bingo Night!

Join us for a fun night to play Bingo, enjoy a delicious dinner and spend quality time with family and friends!

Saturday, September 27th

Sebahar Hall 6-8pm

Space is limited! Please RSVP by Thursday, September 11th

Grandparent or VIP - \$15

Child - \$10

Volunteers Needed! Scan the volunteer signup QR Code to signup:



Bingo RSVP By Thursday, September 11th

Family Name and Email: _____

Children Names and Grades: _____

Number of Adults: _____ X \$15 Total \$ _____

Number of Children: _____ X \$10 Total \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Cash or checks payable to St. John the Baptist
Kindly Submit Your RSVP to the School Office

Sacrificial Giving

Offertory collections for the weekend of
August 24, 2025 were \$20,615.00

We thank you for your support and prayers in helping us meet our weekly goal of \$24,600.

Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday 8:00am (Chapel)

Saturday 8:00am & 5:00pm (Church)

Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am & Noon (Church)

Holy Day Masses:

Vigil 7:00pm (Church)

Holy Day 8:00am (Church)

Holiday Masses:

9:00am only (subject to change)

Confessions:

Friday 3pm (Church)

Saturday after 8am Mass (Church)

Adoration:

Thursdays 9:00am - 6:00pm (Chapel)

Grief Support:

Our grief support ministry offers a supportive environment for those dealing with loss. Meetings will resume in the fall. Please watch the bulletin for updates later in the summer.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting:

Thursdays at 7:00pm in Sodonna Hall (lower level of parish office)

New Parishioners

You can register by visiting our website at www.stjohnwinfield.org or stop by the parish office.

Sick and Homebound

Contact the Parish Office at ext. 0, for prayer, or to receive Eucharist from a Minister of Care.

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated on the third Saturday of the month at 12:00pm, (scheduling subject to change with special events, and holidays). Please contact the parish office for information on registering your child for baptism. There is a three-month waiting period for new parishioners.

Funerals

Are usually arranged by the funeral home director at the funeral home of your choice. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

Weddings

St. John's requires the bride or groom, or either of their parents to be registered parishioners for at least three months prior to contacting the parish office. Either the bride or groom should contact the parish office to start the marriage process for a wedding. Please do not reserve your venue prior to scheduling your wedding date with our pastor. Diocesan policy requires at least six months of marriage preparation.

St. John the Baptist Information

Rev. Daniel Bachner, Pastor

Rev. Michal Twaruzek, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Rev. Mr. Joe Verdico

PARISH OFFICE

630-668-0918 Ext. 0, Fax 630-668-1074

05233 Church Street, Winfield, IL 60190

Email: contactus@stjohnwinfield.org

Website: www.stjohnwinfield.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm,
closed Friday

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Send to: sjbbulletin@stjohnwinfield.org

Due Wednesday at 3:00pm (10 days prior to publication date) Holiday schedule subject to change and has earlier deadlines.

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



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St. John the Baptist
Parish news*

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