

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

3526 St. John's Way • South Bend, IN 46628

Rectory: 574-233-5414 • Email: johnthebaptistcc@aol.com

Sunday, March 23, 2025 • 3rd Sunday of Lent

Website: [www.stjohnspartans.com](http://www.stjohnspartans.com)



## St. John Parish Office

**Pastor**.....Fr. Sunday Akuh  
**Business Manager/ Secretary**.....Mrs. Sue Cencelowski  
Located at Holy Family Rectory  
**Office Hours** 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
**574-233-5414**  
**Music Director** : Mr. Ben Davis

## Sacraments

**Sacrament of Matrimony**  
Contact the rectory six months in advance. Catholic parties are expected to be registered parishioners and attending Sunday Mass regularly.  
**Sacrament of the Sick**  
Please call rectory any time of the day or night at

either 574-233-5414 or 574-393-8320.

## Communion Calls

Please keep us informed of the sick and the homebound, particularly when there is serious illness.

## Prayer Chain

Are you aware of anyone in need of prayers? Call the Prayer Chain and within hours these intentions will be in the prayers of every member of the Prayer Chain. To start the Prayer

## St. John's School Office

Chain call Sylvia Ryan at 574-233-2869.  
3616 St. Johns Way  
South Bend, IN 46628  
**574-232-9849**  
**Office Hours**..... 7:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

**Principal**..... Mrs. Shannon Jones  
**Secretary**..... Mrs. Maureen Kapica  
**Maintenance**..... Mr. Mark Waite

## Other

### New Parishioners

You are most welcome. Please register at the rectory. Kindly notify us of a change of address.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Monday 12:00 P.M.

### Live Streaming Links

#### YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfFHOJ2hdxM91-qPvj5UMg>

#### Facebook

St. John the Baptist Catholic School of South Bend  
<https://m.facebook.com/61561017520975>



# Fr. Sunny...the Pastor's Pen

## I am, the Lord!

The continuous self revelation of God as the ever present “I am”, has been constant and consistent in all of human history. For even the whole of creation itself tells of the power and glory of God. Everything God has created all speaks of his eternal presence. In a more graphic and compelling way, on this third Sunday, we recall the experience from the burning Bush, as Moses is called by God to lead his people out of slavery to the freedom of knowing him and living for him alone, the great “I am.” For anyone who then chose to live a life outside of “the I am” therefore, is a choice to live in perpetual slavery and emptiness. Lent comes to show us and help us to trace the way back to our father, an ever present father who does not only know our afflictions but sees them, understands and cares about them. Because he knows our sufferings, whenever we cry, he hears! And he rescues us, praise the Lord who sets us free!

His name is in the present continuous tense: **“I am who I am.”** The same yesterday, today, and forever. That is the mighty God we serve. David sang of his nature as kind and merciful in our responsorial Psalm 103. The gospel concludes his call to repentance with this parable of the fig tree and patience of the Gardener-God. Though we are encouraged to take advantage of this season of grace and his uncommon patience, to repent and be renewed, we must never take for granted the ever merciful nature of God as an excuse to remain helplessly in sin.

St. Paul warns the Corinthians against the danger of overconfidence or presumptuous loose living by recounting the story of the Israelites and how they desired evil things, and the tragic outcome of their lives as the fruit of their poor choices. God hates a fruitless life. He not only just desires us to repent alone, he

awaits the good fruits of our lives as a proof of our repentance. And so, we cannot afford to ‘waste’ the grace of God so lavishly available to us, because by living in effortless carelessness, we have become like the barren fig tree. The Galileans and or the others killed in Siloam are enough warning signs to us by the Lord. They and the fig tree in the gospel was presented as a great example for all of us just like the Corinthian church to work hard at repentance for as Jesus stated: “if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did.” Scary! But save us O Christ, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

But this should scare and help us to repent, Jesus came to remind us two things. One, that God expects us to bear fruits. And secondly, that he so knows human frailty so well that he is patient with sinners. There is a need for a change of heart, a need for growth. To grow means to **GET RID OF OLD WAYS.** We cannot do it alone, but Jesus is that gardener that pleads on our behalf, he would work in and on us to change us, that is, if we yield to his gentle leading and let him in. This Lent brethren, we must make every effort not to remain in sinful living. By the power of the Holy Spirit we would transform. As this parable emphasizes God’s patience and the urgency of our response to the call to conversion, whoever seeks to be upright in the sight of the Lord, must strive each day to learn to do good and make justice our aim.

God is faithful and always ready to forgive. The three disciplines of Lent **prayer, fasting and alms giving** should be undertaken with the goal of serving God. Especially when we are blessed with material things of this world, we have automatically received a special duty to use them to serve others, particularly those in need. This will serve as fruits of repentance.

### Scripture Readings

**Monday** 2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday** Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday** Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

**Friday** Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday** Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

**Sunday** Fourth Sunday of Lent Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### Our Stewardship

**Saturday 4 pm & Sunday 10 am Mass**

**Adult**.....\$1,488.00

**Loose** .....\$109.00

**Sunday 11:15 am Spanish Mass**

**Adult**.....\$75.00

**Loose** .....\$81.00

**Grand Total** .....\$1,753.00

**Weekly Budget**.....\$2,316.88

**Weekly Variance** ..... **-\$563.88**

# PARISH NEWS

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2025

There are still **plenty** of spaces left for your mass intentions. Please call the rectory at 574-233-5414 to schedule them.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS**, please remember the soul of Thomas Michael Skrzypiec. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

# NEWS & NOTES

**Please join us for a special Mass and Stations of the Cross to pray for the return of our adult children** (or other loved ones) to the faith. The Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Bill Schooler at St. Thérèse, Little Flower, parish on Thursday evening, April 3, at 7 PM. After Mass we will pray the Stations of the Cross with reflections written particularly for this same intention. All are welcome for Mass and/or Stations. Registration is not required, but encouraged. To register, please visit [www.ablazeMission.org/return](http://www.ablazeMission.org/return). **Sponsored by Marriage & Family Ministry and Ablaze Mission.**

**Original Jonah Fish Fry at Corpus Christi Parish**, 2800 Corpus Christi Drive, from 3:30-6:30 PM on Friday, March 28. Both dine-in and drive-thru carry out. Fish, sweet & sour cabbage, Polish noodles, coleslaw, bread & butter, and dessert. Adults: \$15; Seniors: \$13.00. Purchase in advance from parish office until March 26 and save \$2.

**St. Adalbert Sisters' Auxiliary Annual Bake Sale** will be held Saturday, April 12, 8am-12noon at St Adalbert Heritage Center (first floor of the school building). Lamb Cakes will be on a pre-paid, pre-order basis only. No Lamb Cakes will be available for sale at the Bake Sale. The deadline for the pre-orders is Friday, April 4. Cost is just \$27 each. **Please call St. Adalbert Parish at 574-288-5708 to pre-order your lamb cake today.** Sweet-sour cabbage, Polish noodles and all kinds of baked goods for Easter will be available. Lunch will be available. The Easter Bunny will be available from 11-11:30 am. Bring your cameras. Any questions, please call Ann Marie, 288-5708, Monday - Friday, 8am-4pm.

# Mass Intentions

## Monday, March 24, 2025

9:00 A.M. †Zalas Family

## Tuesday, March 25, 2025

9:00 A.M. †Doreen Cebulski Johnson

## Wednesday, March 26, 2025

9:00 A.M. †Victor & Esthela Montalvo

## Thursday, March 27, 2025

9:00 A.M. †Gerard Sieradzki

## Friday, March 28, 2025

9:00 A.M. †Cleotilde Abrajam

## Saturday, March 29, 2025

4:00 P.M. For Our Parish Family

## Sunday, March 30, 2025

10:00 A.M. †John Thyllis & Joan Kowalski

11:15 A.M. †Norma Ramirez

# Ministry Schedule

## Saturday, March 29, 2025 • 4:00 P.M.

### Ushers

Bob Krol & Ron Stopczynski

## Sunday, March 30, 2025 • 10:00 A.M.

### Ushers

Bob Borlik & Chris Nyikos

# This Week in

# Our Parish Community

## Monday, March 24, 2025

9:30 A.M. Legion of Mary

## Wednesday, March 26, 2025

8:00 A.M. Adoration-until 8:55 A.M.

9:45 A.M. Divine Mercy until 10:30 A.M.

## Friday, March 28, 2025

8:00 A.M. Adoration-until 8:55 A.M.

5:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross

## Saturday, March 29, 2025

3:00 P.M. Confessions (Until 3:45 P.M.)

## Sunday, March 30, 2025

11:15 A.M. La Misa en Española



### Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
 Body of Christ, save me.  
 Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
 Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
 Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
 O Good Jesus, hear me.  
 Within your wounds hide me.  
 Separated from You, let me never be.  
 From the evil one, protect me.  
 At the hour of my death, call me;  
 and close to you bid me.  
 That with Your saints and angels,  
 I may be praising You  
 Forever and ever.  
 Amen.



### Fatima Eucharistic Prayer

Most Holy  
 Trinity,  
 I adore You!  
 My God, my  
 God,  
 I love You  
 In the  
 Most Blessed  
 Sacrament

## Adult Trivia Night at Holy Family

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Holy Family Gym, Doors open at 6:00 pm and trivia begins at 6:30 pm. Spring Themed games and prizes including 50/50 raffle, basket raffles, mulligans for purchase. Tables can include up to 10 people. \$100/table entry fee. Must be 21 to enter. Cash bar available. Tailgate style event. No outside alcohol permitted. Deadline to enter a team is Thursday, April 17th. Please call the school office for more information at 574-289-7375.