

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

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

March 30, 2025 • 4th Sunday of Lent

Website: www.stjohnspartans.com



St. John Parish Office

Pastor.....Fr. Sunday Akuh
**Business Manager/
Secretary**.....Mrs. Sue Cencelwski
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
Chain call Sylvia Ryan at 574-233-2869.

St. John's School Office

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](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

Rejoice joy is coming!

Today as we celebrate the Laetare Sunday, we are called upon to rejoice even in the midst of the desert experience of the Lenten season. Joyful hope in anticipation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the victory over sin and death. There is place called Golgotha, another name for mercy, for here the man of Calvary sets us free.

This theme of victory of the cross, comes at a price: the blood of the lamb of God, centered around the forgiveness that God willingly offers to sinful humanity and in turn, He expects us to offer it to one another. This explains why the antiphon to today's mass echoes loudly: **"Rejoice Jerusalem and all who love her, be joyful all who were in mourning, exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast"**. Cf Isaiah 6610-11. Latarae Sunday took its name from this point

God has always sought to offer reconciliation to the human race again and again. But we are always rebellious and rejecting this gratuitous 'coupon' to spend grace. Take a look at the Israelites arriving at the promise land, in spite of all their infidelity, disobedience, rebellion and ingratitude, God through Joshua gave them another opportunity to enter into relationship with him. He cleanses them as by a new 'sacrament' of mercy, of reconciliation and restorative peace. This is exactly what happens to us at the confessional each time we approach the sacrament of penance.

For therein, **"God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the church may God grant you pardon and peace."** and the priest in persona Christi capitas, absolves you from your sins in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God has indeed been faithful throughout history.

In the compelling and heart moving parable of the prodigal 'sons', we typically find ourselves fitted into the shoes of the many characters in the story. First, we have the wasteful Son who took his own inheritance and went far away to live a life of reckless irresponsibility and debauchery. And when he had spent it all, he returned back to the father's house broke, broken and empty. Does this not resonate with many of us who have taken God's chances for a ride? Many who are now taking God's graces, opportunities, blessings and patience for granted! We have spent it all many times, again and again. And when we chose to come back, the same God receives us joyfully. What a father?!

Secondly, and here again is the next story of the second 'prodigal

son', I chose to call him prodigal because while he was living in the house, he was never at home. He was a stranger in his own house, cold and insensitive. He ignorantly did not take advantage of his father's generosity all these years, he labored, he never served. And when the opportunity presented itself for him to show the love that is lavishly obvious in the father's house, it became clear he had learnt nothing, he became judgmental, condemnatory, bitter, resentful and angry. He too also squandered the opportunity to show family love to an erring brother, to bear with the weakness of the brother, and so he too is prodigal, wasteful with God's grace. Does this hit home with you?

The lavish mercy and love of God is so abundantly available to the sinner who repents. Infact, there is joy in heaven over the soul that returns home. Praise God.

Prodigality in a positive sense, seems to run in this family of God. For even their father was very "spendful" with his blessings, very lavish with his waiting for the sinner to come home. He gives, and gives and forgives, this is the nature and the heart of God. So unlike us who continues to get, and get, and still forget so easily.

As we recount God's many blessings and opportunities in our lives on this Sunday, we are confronted brothers and sisters with Saint Paul's call to us as the new Corinthians to do away with old ways of unforgiving spirit, for we are now new creatures in Christ and our ministry is the ministry of reconciliation. As Lent brings reconciliation between God and the world in Christ, and calling us to be ministers of reconciliation: Please, I too implore you too on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God.

The gospel today is a big cry of the father's heart, God wants all his wayward children to come back to him, somebody is knocking on your door! Open your hearts and let him in, test and see his goodness King David sang. Look towards him for the strength to do this, and be radiant. Let our faces not be abashed, for when the poor call out, the Lord heard and from all their distress he saved them. Who is the poor here? It is the one who is sinful, the one who is wretched, the one who does know of his need of God is called the poor person. So that we may be able to forgive one another and celebrate the unconditional abundant love of God.

I now give everyone of us an assignment: who is that person that you find it so difficult to forgive and let go? How long have you held unto this grudge and bondage? Your penance is simple: today, go and reconcile!

God bless you.

Scripture Readings

Monday Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3,5-6, 8-9; Ps 51:12a, 14a; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11 *Scrutiny Readings:* Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Our Stewardship

Saturday 4 pm & Sunday 10 am Mass

Adult\$1,433.00
Loose\$115.00

Sunday 11:15 am Spanish Mass

Adult\$126.00
Loose\$101.00

Grand Total\$1,775.00
Weekly Budget\$2,316.88
Weekly Variance **-\$541.88**

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.

CHRIST THE TEACHER

Jesus comes to us in many ways and by many names. One name that is close to all of us is “Teacher”. Jesus never preached, but was constantly finding ways to teach everyone about God. Therefore, the title “Christ the Teacher” is so fitting for this special recognition. In Mark 6:34 it says “Jesus taught because He saw the need. And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things”. While all of the teachers in this school follow this example and answer God’s call to teach, we would like to recognize one teacher in particular as someone who exemplifies the model of Christ as Teacher. This teacher displays a great love for her students from the top student to the most needy. She is always looking for new ways to make learning fun and always goes the extra mile to make sure her struggling students also get what they need. She is patient, loving, and kind despite how difficult the circumstances may be. Her teaching methods are solid and her students show growth on a consistent basis. We are so lucky to have her as part of our family here at St. John the Baptist. **Congratulations to this year’s Christ the Teacher awardee, Miss Stiglitz.**



Mass Intentions

- Monday, March 31, 2025**
9:00 A.M. †Pete Gapczynski
- Tuesday, April 1, 2025**
9:00 A.M. †Florence & Fred Widmann
- Wednesday, April 2, 2025**
9:00 A.M. †Sister Rosario & Maria Alban
- Thursday, April 3, 2025**
9:00 A.M. †Leszczynski Family
- Friday, April 4, 2025**
9:00 A.M. †Mr. & Mrs. Widmann
11:30 A.M. †Mary Ann Jackowiak
- Saturday, April 5, 2025**
4:00 P.M. †Jhony Coria
- Sunday, April 6, 2025**
10:00 A.M. †Gerald Zielinski
11:15 A.M. For Our Parish Community

Ministry Schedule

- Saturday, April 5, 2025 • 4:00 P.M.**
Ushers
Don Wesolowski & Oscar Nunez
- Sunday, April 6, 2025 • 10:00 A.M.**
Ushers
Volunteers

This Week in Our Parish Community

- Monday, March 31, 2025**
9:30 A.M. Legion of Mary
- Wednesday, April 2, 2025**
8:00 A.M. Adoration-until 8:55 A.M.
9:45 A.M. Divine Mercy until 10:30 A.M.
- Friday, April 4, 2025**
8:00 A.M. Adoration-until 8:55 A.M.
5:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross
- Saturday, April 5, 2025**
3:00 P.M. Confessions (Until 3:45 P.M.)
- Sunday, April 6, 2025**
11:15 A.M. La Misa en Española



Date	Day	Event	Time
April 17, 2025	Thursday	Lord's Supper	6:30 PM
April 17, 2025	Thursday	General Adoration	7:30-8:30 PM
April 17, 2025	Thursday	Individual, Family, Group Adoration	8:30 PM until just before Midnight
April 18, 2025	Friday	Stations of the Cross	2:00 PM
April 18, 2025	Friday	Passion of the Lord	after Stations
April 19, 2025	Saturday	Easter Vigil	9:00 PM Bilingual
April 20, 2025	Sunday	Easter Sunday Mass	10:00 AM Bilingual

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. Therese, 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. Sponsored by Marriage & Family Ministry and Ablaze Mission.