



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

FAITH · FAMILY · FRIENDSHIP

December 21, 2025 ♦ Fourth Sunday of Advent

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are called together in fellowship to witness to our Catholic faith through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments. We give testimony to Jesus Christ by reaching out with compassion to others.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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PARISH STAFF:

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Fr. John Powers
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Music Director:

Sharon Williams

Cemetery Manager:

Steve Bebeau

TRUSTEES:

Lynn Eggert Russ Ray

PARISH COUNCIL:

Mike Beauchene	Angie Haggerty
Adam Benney	Rena Hales
Barb Carnes	Jim Penick
Lisa Crosby	Jake Reining
Cindy Gibbs	



• 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

DO NOT
BE AFRAID.

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From the Pastor

St. Bernard of Clairvaux famously wrote that there are three comings of Christ: our Lord's birth at Christmas, his coming again at the end of time, when all eyes shall see him, and an intermediate coming, when the Lord is born in the hearts of the faithful. The first two are visible, the intermediate one is hidden, but as I write this message for the final days of Advent and the beginning of the Christmas festivities, I can see many ways in which Jesus is being made visible in our parish.

This year I have seen incredible generosity in our parish, not only in our response to the Lord, Renew Your Church capital campaign, but in your response to our giving tree, to Cross Services Food Shelf in Rogers. We've had many new volunteers at the parish festival and liturgical schedule; and many of our new parishioners have commented that not only have they been welcomed, but St. John's feels like home. I have personally felt blessed by those who have reached out to communicate their needs or the needs of their neighbors, and I feel as we move into 2026 that I hope we can continue to make the love of Christ known to all those that we encounter, to do as St. John the Baptist did, to point the way to the Lord.

So on behalf of myself and the entire staff here at St. John's, thank you all for the many ways in which you live out your faith, and as we celebrate the birth of Christ, it is my prayer that he may continue to be born in your hearts. We wish you all a holy and happy Christmas, and a blessed Christmas season!

- Fr. John Powers

ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES THIS WEEK

In addition to the regular confession times, Fr. Powers will be hearing confessions this coming Tuesday evening, December 23, from 6:00 - 6:20 p.m. and then also after the 6:30 p.m. Mass from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PLANT MEMORIALS If you would like to have one or more of the Christmas Poinsettias which adorn the sanctuary for the Christmas Season as a memorial for a deceased loved one, please put your name and the name(s) of the ones being remembered in an envelope along with \$13.00 for each plant and drop it in the collection by TODAY (Sunday, December 22).

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Octave of Christmas is an eight-day extension of the Christmas celebration in the Catholic Church, starting on Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and ending on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1), treating each day with the joy and significance of the original feast to deepen understanding of the Incarnation. St. John's has added Masses to the regular daily Mass schedule throughout the Octave of Christmas. You are encouraged to attend.

→ LOOKING AHEAD → **JANUARY 1 - HOLY DAY**

Thursday, January 1, is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. St. John the Baptist will celebrate Masses for the Holy Day with an anticipatory Mass on Wednesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. as well as a Mass on Thursday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m.

RETIRED RELIGIOUS THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Retirement Fund for Religious last weekend. A total of \$1,040.00 was received. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will close at Noon this Wednesday, December 24 and will remain closed until Monday morning, December 29 for the Christmas Holiday. The parish staff wishes everyone a Joyful and Blessed Christmas Season!

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all who participated in this year's Giving Tree. Over 130 gifts were collected this year which were donated to Gifts Anonymous serving the communities of Otsego and Rogers. Thank you for making a child's Christmas brighter this year!



CHURCH SUPPORT



OFFERTORY • DECEMBER 14, 2025

Adult Envelopes (49)	\$ 2,206.00
Plate and Non-Parishioners	1,036.00
Holy Day Offerings (4)	129.00
Misc. Contributions (3)	925.00
Automatic Deposits (19)	823.00
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 5,119.00

OFFERTORY • IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult Envelopes (21)	\$ 527.00
Plate and Non-Parishioners	258.00
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 785.00
Projected Need	\$ 5,607.00
Received Last Week	5,904.00
Projected Need to Date	134,568.00
Amount Received to Date	132,924.00
Deficit - Last Week	\$ 1,941.00
This Week	1,644.00





CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Invite your neighbors, friends and visiting family to join you for Christmas Mass at St. John the Baptist:

Christmas Eve	4:30 p.m.
	9:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	9:00 a.m.

The 4:30 p.m. Mass will be a Children's Mass. Beginning at approximately 4:15 p.m. the children will be leading the singing of familiar Christmas carols and perform the Nativity Scene. The Adult Choir will also have prelude music prior to the 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. Masses. Come early to the Christmas Masses to listen and participate!

LITURGICAL ROLES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve - 4:30 P.M.

Ushers:	The Reining Family
Reader:	Sarah Moylan
Servers:	Jude and George Walton
Communion Minister:	Brooklyn and Asher Reining

Christmas Eve - 9:00 P.M.

Ushers:	The Glass Family
Reader:	Deb Sodman
Server:	Logan Crosby
Communion Minister:	Lisa Crosby

Christmas Day - 9:00 A.M.

Ushers:	Seeking Volunteers
Reader:	Sheila Long
Servers:	Seeking Volunteers
Communion Minister:	Cindy Gibbs

COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

LUNCH AND CARDS

Join with fellow parishioners this Monday, December 22, in the social hall from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. A light lunch will be served (free will offering appreciated). Cards to follow. Bring a friend; we hope to see you there! Hosted by Angie Haggerty, member of the Mission and Media Committee and Parish Council. All are welcome!

TAX TIMELY DONATIONS

As the end of the calendar year approaches, many people are beginning to think about their taxes for the year. The IRS is very clear on what tax year contributions fall in. Any contribution that is in the office by December 31 is a donation for 2025. A donation mailed and postmarked with a date of December 31 or earlier is a 2025 donation. All donations postmarked after December 31 are 2026 donations regardless of the date you put on the check.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

NO TLC THIS WEEK - CHRISTMAS BREAK

We will not meet for faith formation this week. We are on Christmas Break and will resume with TLC Family on Wednesday, January 7.

CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30 P.M. MASS - On Christmas Eve, all youth are invited to participate in our Children's Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. Mass. Younger children will dress up and participate in a Nativity scene before Mass. Older kids and teens sing with the choir. The prelude begins at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24. Many people visit out of town family and attend Mass at their parishes on Christmas. If you are the out-of-town family, with loved ones attending 4:30 p.m. Mass, please invite your nieces, nephews and grandchildren to join us! We will have a rehearsal, while the Church is being decorated for Christmas, this Sunday following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. If you can't make the rehearsal, that's okay; I can send you the list of songs so you can practice on your own. Please follow the QR code to sign up or email Sarah Moylan at sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com.



EXTREME FAITH CAMP REGISTRATION - EFC Registration is now open! Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders are highly encouraged to attend. If you need information about registering, please contact Sarah Moylan at sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com.



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS . . .

Bena Bourgeois, Marie Corbin, Ken Croteau, Lynn Eggert, Donna Rivers Hauan, Martha Killian, Jean Klee, Peggy Kohman, Wayne Lahn, Jane Lenz, Rick Marion, Mary Middleton, Barbara Mulcahy, Anné Otremba, Viola Plante, Jodi Playle, Catherine Schumacher, Dawn Storms Family, Tim Timm, Mary Watson, Billi Jo Weekley, and Sandi Weekley. Becky Bader (sister of Ed Bader), Ricky Bengtson, Mike Gullickson and Bill Southworth (friends of Marilyn Nordine), Mary Bebeau (sister-in-law of Dave Bebeau), Raymond Bernard (brother-in-law of Joan Playle), Lori Brix (sister of Elaine Wagner), Jeff Chouinard (son of Joanne Chouinard), Dennis Daleiden, Collette Hardy, Andy Heid, Nikki Martinez, Virginia Resler, Phillip Robinson and Joe Simms (friends of Lynn Eggert), Darrell Delles (brother-in-law of Joan Playle), Sarah Dietzler (friend of Kathy Timm), Julie Corbin Dray (niece of Joan Playle), Nancy Hobbs (sister of Linda Bebeau), Jerry Kamrow and Scott Knowlan (sons-in-law of Mary Kay Christian), Nancy Karl (friend of Mary Dahlheimer), Dawn Schmidt (friend of Joanne Chouinard), Dave Stasson (brother-in-law of Lucy McAlpine), Ed Wojciak (brother of Teri Ray), and Dan and Kristy Zapf (grandchildren of Earl and Elaine Schulenburg).

NEW IN THE COMMUNITY? WE WELCOME YOU!
Please call the parish office at 763.428.2828 to register.

CATHOLIC Q & A

TITHING VS. STEWARDSHIP

Question: What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

Answer: Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God. Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.

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DAYTON KC POSTER CONTEST

The "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest is in progress. The goal of this program is to increase the awareness of young people's faith, while encouraging them to speak to other youth "in their own language" about the true meaning of Christmas. All participants will be recognized. The Knights of Columbus will be awarding prizes. Contest entrants compete in one of five grade levels: K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Families are asked to pick up the Entry Forms for their kids and grandchildren and the required 11 x 17-inch poster material on the counter in the Social Hall. Each poster must reflect the "Keep Christ in Christmas" theme with a visual image. There is no limit to the number of posters each participant may submit. Each poster should be the original work (including concept, layout, slogan, and any visual image) of a single person. Entrant's name and age should be on the BACK of each poster. Encourage your youth to be creative and to let us know how they Keep Christ in Christmas. All posters and entry forms should be submitted in the marked box in the Social Hall by December 24. They will be available to view after Christmas. Prizes will be awarded later.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Liturgical Minister Schedule Request Form for January and February included in the December 7th bulletin is due this weekend. New ministers are welcome - please consider joining a ministry! Extra forms available at the exits.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 21

Winter Begins
7:30 a.m. Mass
Confessions following Mass till 8:45 a.m.
8:30 a.m. Rosary
9:00 a.m. Mass
10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal, Church
10:30 a.m. Church Decorating for Christmas

Monday, December 22

12:00 p.m. Lunch and Cards, Social Hall (till 2:00 p.m.)
6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation - Advent Series
(till 7:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, December 23

6:00 p.m. Confessions (till 6:20 p.m.)
6:30 p.m. Mass
7:00 p.m. Confessions (till 8:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 24

Parish Office Closing at Noon
No Faith Formation Classes
4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas!
9:00 a.m. Christmas Mass
Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 26

7:30 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass
No Eucharistic Adoration
Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

8:00 a.m. Mass
4:00 p.m. Confessions (till 4:45 p.m.)
4:30 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Family
7:30 a.m. Mass
Confessions following Mass till 8:45 a.m.
8:30 a.m. Rosary
9:00 a.m. Mass

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH

The Liturgical Environment Committee invites everyone to come help decorate the church for Christmas. This year we will be decorating today (Sunday, December 21) beginning at 10:30 a.m. We need many hands to accomplish this task. Come for as little or as long as you can.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE Because of the early publication deadline for New Year's, all information for the January 4 bulletin must be submitted to the parish office by Monday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m.



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