

FEAST OF *the Holy Family*



Saint John the Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH

201 W. Blodgett St., Marshfield, WI 54449-2004 | stjohnsmarshfield.org

Mission Statement:

Our mission at St. John the Baptist Parish is to prepare people for the coming of the fullness of God's Kingdom by sharing the Catholic Faith and its tradition.

Parish Personnel

Fr. Dan Thelen, Pastor715-384-3252 ext. 2
dthelen@diolclergy.org
Hispanic Ministries715-384-3252 ext. 3
Deacon Jeffrey Austin, Permanent Deacon715-676-3186
Mary Gouin, Parish Secretary715-384-3252 ext. 0
Lisa Freund, Finance Office715-384-3252 ext. 4
David Alcott, Director of Faith Formation715-384-3252 ext. 5
St. John School Office715-384-4989
David Eaton, CCS President715-387-1177
Mass Times.....715-384-3252 ext. 1

Masses

Weekdays 6:45 a.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m. / 4:30 p.m.
Sundays 7 a.m. / 9 a.m. / 11 a.m.

HEARING LOOP INSTALLED

Switch
hearing aid
to T-coil



Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

Expectant parents are to participate in the Baptism preparation program. Contact the parish office for details.

Sacrament of Penance

Monday - Thursdays 6:15 a.m.
Third Fridays 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays Following the 8:00 a.m. Mass

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Those preparing for serious surgery are to contact the Rectory Office at 715-384-3252.

Parish Membership

Call the Rectory Office at 715-384-3252

MASS SCHEDULE**MON 12/29/2025** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop

6:45am Janet Johnson

Scripture Readings: 1 Jn 2:3-11

Lk 2:22-35

TUES 12/30/2025

6:45am Ray & Darlene Alt

Scripture Readings: 1 Jn 2:12-17

Lk 2:36-40

WED 12/31/2025 St. Sylvester I, Pope

6:45am Helen Stockheimer

Scripture Readings: 1 Jn 2:18-21

Jn 1:1-18

THUR 1/1/2026 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother

8:00am Anthony Bohman

12:00pm Helen Gotz

6:00pm Parishioners of St. John the Baptist

Scripture Readings: Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

FRI 1/2/2026 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops,
Doctors of the Church

6:45am William Stauber

Scripture Readings: 1 Jn 2:22-28

Jn 1:19-28

SAT 1/3/2026 The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00am Lucille Bauer

Scripture Readings: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6

Jn 1:29-34

4:30pm Alice & Zeke Sebastian

The Epiphany of the Lord**SUN 1/4/2026**

7:00am Frank & Evelyn Maurer

9:00am Parishioners of St. John the Baptist

11:00am Sylvester & Alice Fisher

Scripture Readings: Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**January 3rd & January 4th, 2026**LECTORS**

4:30pm Jonathan Rootellis

7:00am Laurel Rudolph-Kniech

9:00am Rita Blenker

11:00am Josh Dick

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

4:30pm Marcy Gotz / Kat Egle / Joe & Clare Fischer

7:00am Hope Kuehner / Laurel Rudolph-Kniech / Connie Manlick

9:00am Nancy Immerfall / Ron & Patty Kraus / Ann Kundinger

Pat & Marlea Lescynski

11:00am Chris Rutschow / Kim Rybicki / John Salzmann / Open

SERVERS

4:30pm Ava & Gianna Rootellis

7:00am Emmett Luther / Griffin Lescynski

9:00am Christina, Jonathan & Maria Nemitz

11:00am Evelyn & Eleanor Leschke

MUSIC MINISTER

4:30pm Cathy Heuer

9:00am Megan Schirger

7:00am Megan Schirger

11:00am Megan Schirger

Weekday Mass Servers - December 29th - January 3rd**Monday** - David Gouin**Thursday** Lee Alt - 8:00am**Tuesday** - Ray Housworth**Friday** Dennis Spencer**Wednesday** Dan Flees**Saturday** Kolbe & Dominic

Confessions are heard at St. John's on the third Friday of the month and at Sacred Heart on the first Friday beginning at 6:00pm. Two priests are available at this time. Confessions are also available at 6:15am Monday - Thursday and on Saturdays after the 8am Mass.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** we wish everyone a safe and happy New Year!

The parish office will be opened from 9am - noon on Wednesday, December 31st and closed on Thursday, January 1st.

The next Holy Day of obligation is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. The Mass schedule is:

St. John: January 1st

8:00am / Noon / 6:00pm

Ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, and Mass servers are needed. The sign-up sheet is in the sacristy. Please volunteer as soon as possible.

Masses at area Churches:December 31st Vigil Mass at *Sacred Heart of Jesus* at 5:30pmJanuary 1st *Our Lady of Peace* at 9:00am*Christ the King*, Spencer, at 8:00am and 6:00pm

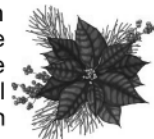
Please Note! Father Thelen will offer time for Confessions before and after the Mass on Friday, January 2nd. Sacred Heart will have Mass at 5:30pm on Friday, January 2nd. However, there will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration or Confession this Friday evening



It is with much gratitude that I thank everyone for the Christmas cards, gifts, food and prayers that I received throughout the weeks of Advent. I am touched by the kindness of so many! I also thank all those who put so much into the preparation to decorate our church for Christmas, those who assisted at Mass and those who provided us with beautiful Christmas music!

With Christmas blessings, Father Dan Thelen

Thank you! St. John's is always a beautiful church but even more so during the Christmas season! The flowers that grace our altars have been given in the memory of many of our loved ones. The names of all those remembered this Christmas can be found on the kiosk.

**Stewardship for December 20th - 21st**

This information was not available due to the timing of sending the bulletin to the printer. It will be included in next week's bulletin.



Any donations you wish to have included on your December 2025 statement must be dated no later than December 28, 2025 and into the parish office by Sunday, December 28th to allow ample amount of time for the finance office to process/deposit into the bank.

Total for the Thanksgiving Food Drive \$8,568.00**Total for the Giving Tree \$3,465.00**

We are so grateful for the generous spirit of this parish!

Diocesan Annual Appeal - 2025-2026

We will give weekly updates on our progress. As of 12/19/2025:

Campaign Goal		\$131,020.00
Amount Received	72.30%	\$94,726.32
Under Goal		\$36,293.68
Number of Donors	291	

Thank you to everyone who has so far donated to the annual appeal. We continue to make great progress! If you have not yet given, please prayerfully consider and help us reach our goal!

Prayer Vine ~ Do you or someone you know need prayers? To have requests for prayer placed on the vine, please call Connie 715-305-6742 and Donna 715-384-2479 (there are 2 lists).



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners of St John the Baptist!

Prayers for each of you during this Holy Season! I hope your Christmas was blessed with safety and good company. Prayers also as we enter this New Year of 2026. I keep in my thoughts especially those who have lost loved ones in the past. These times of celebration can be painful as those whom we love are no longer with us. May the Lord Jesus console you. Jesus provides solace whenever we turn to him.

As in years past during this season of greater solemnity I attempt to introduce incense more frequently into the liturgy. For those who attend the 7am and the 9am Masses, we have been using incense on most Sundays beginning in Advent and continuing through Christmas. We will do likewise during Lent and Easter. I have chosen not to have incense at the other Masses so that those with sensitivity to incense have opportunities to attend Mass without incense.

Incense has much symbolic significance. But before I share the symbolism, I recall one professor in seminary commenting on a very practical aspect of incense. The seminary professor mentioned that in olden days many persons coming to church carried with them a certain degree of body odor. The incense was a helpful way to quiet any emerging scents so that those coming to worship could focus on the Lord and not on their neighbor. My Dad always thought that this was why they named the seating in churches a 'pew'. :)

Practical humor aside, incense provides some very important symbols for us as Catholics. The first is its use in Scripture. The Book of Revelation says, "The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel." (Rev 8:4). Thus incense, just like candles, are symbols of our prayers going up to heaven. Votive candles communicate this important message in particular. Long after the person offering a petition exits the church, the candle remains burning, thus symbolically extending the person's prayer and petition for hours and even days within the church.

The second and perhaps even greater symbolism of incense is mystery. I could write much about mystery as this is a central purpose of worship. We are hard wired to adore God who is both revelation and mystery. Suffice it to say, just like fog can create a sense of suspense, the smoke of incense can effect a sense of the Divine, of a God whom we worship and love, but yet cannot fully know.

May St. John the Baptist pray for us.

Fr. Thelen



*We welcome this child through the
Living Waters of Baptism*

Brigid Enya Sullivan -
daughter of Patrick & Allison Sullivan
Baptized December 28, 2025

Congratulations to

Blain & Courtney Schmidt
On the celebration of their Marriage
December 27, 2025



Rebuild My Church: What did people say at the 40 listening sessions this fall? Those comments are now available for viewing, along with a summary of the top trends. You can also check out a brief video from Fr. Derek Sakowski sharing a Christmas story illustrating what it means to "pivot from maintenance to mission" at <http://www.dioc.org/rebuildmychurch>

Attention engaged couples: Registration is now open for the *Married Love: two becoming one* classes. The next available date is Feb. 28th, 2026 (St. John's). Couples should first contact their priest and then plan to attend a class at least six months before their wedding. To register, call Alanna Hart at 715-650-7310 or register directly at marshfieldmarriageprep@gmail.com

Sunday Mass & Healing Service St. Matthew Catholic Church in Wausau will celebrate Sunday Mass followed by communal and individual prayer for health and healing on Sunday, January 11th, 2026 at 3:30pm. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available prior to Mass from 2pm until 3:25pm.

OCIA Are you—or is someone you know—seeking a deeper relationship with God or interested in becoming Catholic? The Marshfield Deanery will offer OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) beginning in the New Year. This journey in faith includes 10 Sunday morning sessions from January 18th to March 22nd, a Palm Sunday retreat on March 29th, and the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil on April 4th, followed by four classes from April 12th to May 3rd. Contact JaNae at 715-384-9414 to sign up. *These classes will begin after the 8am (around 9:15am) Sacred Mass and held at Sacred Heart.



Living Stations of the Cross - for High School students

This is our 5th year of high school area students presenting the Living Stations of the Cross. We are looking for students willing to share their faith in this powerful ministry. Practices would be held once a week during January and February with the performance in March. There are no speaking parts. If you are interested in being a part of the Living Stations of the Cross, please submit your contact information to the parish office.

Join us for an engaging and practical workshop with Emily Geiger of the Equal Rights Institute, designed to help Catholics communicate the truth about the dignity of human life with clarity, charity, and confidence.

Emily's proven approach to pro-life dialogue has been tested on college campuses across the country. A dynamic and thoughtful speaker, she has appeared on MSNBC, EWTN, Relevant Radio, Focus on the Family, Christianity Today and more. This workshop will equip participants with concrete tools for meaningful, respectful conversations—especially in challenging or emotionally charged situations.

Date: Jan. 17th / **Time:** 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM (includes lunch)
Location: Our Lady of Peace Parish, 1414 W 5th St., Marshfield
Visit dioc.org/respect-life for complete details and to register.



Need Hope?

Take a Minute to Get to Know
Jesus is our hope.
(see 1 Timothy 1:1)

Christmas: Jesus is Our Hope

As we continue to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us seek deeper communion with the Son of God who is our hope. We are reminded at Christmas that "each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of contemporaries; His power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share His power, if, through holy faith and the Sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ." (Saint Charles Borromeo, bishop).

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