

## Fear and Intimacy

This bronze shows the young John pointing as if responding to a question or pointing the way. There was anxious anticipation amongst the Jews about the coming Messiah. Yet, we have no reason for anxiety.

Anxiety comes from fear of the unknown. When we're unsure of how things will turn out, we get anxious. When we lack control or can't plan for our security, we get anxious.

Fear and anxiety are the enemies of intimacy and love. Fear makes us run far enough away so we feel removed from danger, safe from the aggressor. Or it drives us to hold someone, seeking strength in attachment. But fear doesn't create space for true intimacy. It either creates excessive distance or suffocating closeness.

John didn't want to create fear or caution of God. Rather, he wanted to open hearts to receive God in love. Ours is not a God of fear, but of love.

In Jesus' Incarnation, he shows just how much he wants to be with us. He comes to make his home among us, while waiting for us to accept him and make room for him. He doesn't force, but comes with patience and love.

Knowing that he loves and wants the best for us, we merely need to make ourselves known to him by revealing our deepest needs to him with prayer.

John the Baptist came to prepare the path for the Messiah, and many responded by asking, "What should we do to prepare?" Put aside anxiety and fear, simply prepare a home for him, and then let him in.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*What causes me fear or anxiety?*

*Can I give my anxiety to Jesus and ask him to bring me a greater sense of peace this Christmas?*



Piece: *The Young St. John the Baptist*  
Date: 1955  
Artist: Francesco Messina  
Location: Vatican Museums

PHOTO © GOVERNATORATO S.C.V. - DIRECTORATE OF MUSEUMS

*Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.*

*Philippians 4:6*





*Holy Trinity Church*

Cherry, IL

*St. Patrick Church*

Arlington, IL

*St. Thomas More Church*

Dalzell, IL

Dear Parishioner,

The Christmas Gospels speak to us of a family, rejoicing at a child's birth, their lives uniquely affected by God's presence in their midst, responding with faith and trust to their special role in the history of salvation.

The example of the Holy Family inspires us as we celebrate Christmas. As they rejoice at Jesus' birth, so too do we, remembering the new divine life made possible by Jesus' life on earth.

To all I extend my prayerful best wishes for a joyous and blessed Christmas. I am deeply grateful to all of you for all that is being accomplished in the life of the parish. As I ask your prayers, I assure you of mine, that in the New Year we who are God's family on earth may serve Him with gladness.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Father Patrick Fioren, Pastor*



#### ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE 2018

St. Valentine, Peru, IL  
Tuesday, December 18th  
Area-Wide Confessions  
6:30 PM

St. Patrick Church, Arlington  
Wednesday, December 19th  
6:00 PM

Holy Trinity Church, Cherry  
Thursday, December 20th  
6:00 PM

St. Thomas More, Dalzell  
Friday, December 21st  
6:00 PM



#### MASSES

##### Christmas Vigil

Holy Trinity Church, Cherry  
4:00 PM

St. Patrick Church, Arlington  
10:00 PM

(Preceded by Christmas Music Selections by Choir at 9:30 PM)

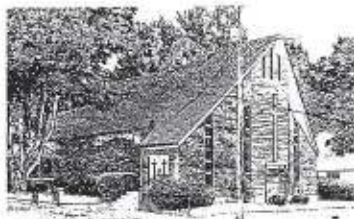
##### Christmas Day

St. Thomas More Church, Dalzell  
10:00 AM & 5:30 PM



##### New Year's Day

St. Patrick Church, Arlington  
10:00 AM



Holy Trinity - Cherry

St. Patrick - Arlington

St. Thomas More - Dalzell

3 Church Website: [www.bureaucatholic.org](http://www.bureaucatholic.org)

The Main Office Of Holy Trinity &  
St. Patrick Catholic Church Is Located At:

212 S. Main St., PO Box 159

Cherry, IL 61317-0159

Holy Trinity Parish Church & Rectory

Office Phone: (815) 894-2006

Office Email: [HolyTSP@gmail.com](mailto:HolyTSP@gmail.com)

Medical Emergency Phone: (815) 664-8241 \*\*New

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

9:00AM to Noon

Closed Holidays & Holy Days of Obligation

Administration

Pastor: Fr. Patrick Fixsen

Email: [frpat.fixsen@gmail.com](mailto:frpat.fixsen@gmail.com)

Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Email: [JulieHTC@outlook.com](mailto:JulieHTC@outlook.com)

St. Thomas More Church Office

302 Chestnut St.

Dalzell, IL 61320

Office Phone: (815) 663-6201

Open Wednesdays - 9AM - Noon

Email: [thomasmore32@gmail.com](mailto:thomasmore32@gmail.com)

Mass & Confession Schedule

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish

Weekend Masses

*Sunday Vigil (Saturday) - 4:00 PM*

*Sunday Mass - 8:30 AM*

Daily Mass (Weekdays) & Holy Days

Tuesday - 12:15 PM & Thursday - 8:30 AM

Confessions

Saturday - 3:15 - 3:45PM or By Appointment

Mass Schedule

St. Patrick Catholic Parish

106 Church St.

Arlington, IL

Sunday Mass - 10:30 AM

Holy Days of Obligation Refer To Schedule

Mass Schedule

St. Thomas More Church - Dalzell, IL

Vigil Mass (Saturday) 5:30 PM

Weekday Mass (Wednesday & Friday) - 8:00 AM\*

Sunday Last Chance Mass 5:30 PM

Confessions Every 2nd & 4th Sunday - 4:45-5:15pm

Holy Day of Obligation Refer To Schedule

Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel - Open 8am - 8pm (M-Sat)

Sunday - Open 8am until conclusion 5:30pm Mass

\*\*Divine Mercy Chaplet - Every Friday at 3 PM

Daily Mass Intentions for

Masses the Week of December 17, 2018

Offered For

Monday

St. Patrick, Arlington - 5:30pm (Rosary Following)

† Barb Oleson

Tuesday

Holy Trinity, Cherry - 12:15pm

† Mina DeAngelo & Ron Floroplus

Wednesday

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 8:00am

† Alan Goodrick

Thursday

Holy Trinity, Cherry - 8:30am

† Charlie & Hazel Keutzer

Friday

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 8:00am

† No Mass

\*\* Divine Mercy - Every Friday at 3PM (St. Thomas More Adoration Chapel)

Next Weekend's Mass Intentions

Weekend of December 22-23, 2018

Saturday Vigil:

Holy Trinity, Cherry - 4:00 PM

† Alex Wiltse

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 5:30 PM

† Dean & Dolly Abney

Sunday:

Holy Trinity, Cherry - 8:30 AM

† For The Parishioners

St. Patrick, Arlington - 10:30 AM

† William Bonnell

St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 5:30 PM

† Pat Pirch

(See Next Page For New Mass Intention Policy)



## Ministry Schedule For Next Weekend

### Holy Trinity

#### LECTOR

Saturday - 4:00PM - Carol Lauer

Sunday - 8:30AM - Jeff Pinter

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday - 4:00PM - Bill Lauer

Sunday - 8:30AM - Terry Templeton

Saturday - 4:00PM -

RJ Talbot & Antonia Cattani

Sunday - 8:30AM -

?

### St. Patrick

#### LECTOR

Sunday - 10:30AM - Bernice Keutzer

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Sunday - 10:30AM - Richard Pommier

#### SERVERS

Sunday - 10:30AM -

Carter & Casen Cherry

### St. Thomas More

#### ROSARY

Sat 5:30PM - TBD

#### LECTOR

Sat 5:30PM - TBD

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Sat 5:30PM - Mary Jean Goodrick

#### SERVERS

Sat 5:30PM - ?

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

December 17 - Mass Reparation Sins/  
Rosary - St. Patrick (Arlington) - 5:30pm

December 17 - St. Patrick's Choir  
Practice - 6:15pm (After Mass)

December 26 - Rosary Against Evil -  
Please Pray At Home This Week - 6PM

January 2 - Rosary Against Evil - St.  
Thomas More (Dalzell) - 6PM

(St. Thomas More Rags made 420 lbs.  
in November, Outstanding!)

### Last Sunday's Offering

Holy Trinity - \$2187.00

Needed Weekly - \$1700 (-\$16672.00)

St. Patrick - \$672.00

Needed Weekly - \$700 (-\$4893.00)

St. Thomas More - \$1179.00

Needed Weekly - \$900 (\$4889.00)

\*\*(Parentheses) - Overage/Deficit of  
Collection

## \*\*Christmas Confession s Starting Next Week

Confessions will be at 6-7pm on the  
following days at the three churches:

December 19 - St. Patrick, Arlington

December 20 - Holy Trinity, Chery

December 21 - St. Thomas More. Dalzell

There is also an area wide  
Advent Penance Service at St.  
Valentine's in Peru from 6:30-8 PM.

### Three Church BCR Alert System

As Father mentioned last week,  
we are implementing an alert system for  
Mass cancellations or Church Event  
changes. It can either be by phone text or  
email alert. Go to bcrnews.com and click  
on bcrbriefs. Then sign up and scroll to  
Community Cancellations/Notices and  
click on HTSPSTM Parishes. And if you  
need help please let us know. Thank you!

### Weather Warning Notice

With the winter's unpredictable  
snowfall, which is hard to plan on or  
prepare for, please be cautious. Please stay  
home if you have health or physical  
difficulties dealing with the extreme  
weather. If the roads are too icy or not  
plowed because of fresh snow, the  
immediate Mass to be celebrated will be  
cancelled and my parishioners will be  
dispensed. But please us by putting into the  
collection the following week what you  
would have put in for the cancelled Mass.  
Unfortunately, the bills still keep coming  
in! A good rule is if the weather is good  
enough to go the store, sports event, or  
otherwise, you should go to Mass. Check  
with WLPO (1220AM) for cancellations.

## \*\*New Mass Intention Policy For 2019\*\*

One of the big problems is fitting  
in Saturday evening and Sunday Mass  
intentions for everybody. Also per Canon  
Law, Father has to offer one Mass a  
weekend for "The People", also known as a  
"Pro Populo" Mass, which we rotate  
between Holy Trinity and St. Thomas  
More. Starting January 1st, 2019, for all  
Masses scheduled after that date, we can  
only accept three (3) Masses per family  
for Sundays. If we have an opening on a  
Sunday, we will be keeping a special list  
to fill spots. All other Masses will have to  
be for weekday Masses.

### Special Event In Area

None Scheduled

## For The Week

This week John the Baptist  
speaks specifically about Jesus' coming  
onto the scene to begin His earthly  
ministry. While John the Baptist spoke  
on God's behalf, Jesus' presence would  
help to separate the good from the bad  
in the world. And He still is doing this  
today.

As John spoke, the people  
were again given a new prophet to  
bridge the Old and the New Covenant.  
God had long ago promised his people  
through the patriarchs of the old  
covenant (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob),  
and through the prophets (Isaiah,  
Jeremiah, Zephaniah, etc.) and rulers of  
Israel (Moses, David), that he would  
send them a Redeemer who would save  
them from their sins, free them from  
oppression, fill them with the joy of his  
presence, and bring them his everlasting  
kingdom of peace and righteousness.  
Today we pray for Christ's Real  
Presence in our lives to do just that once  
again at Christmas.

### ADA Goals 2018-19

Holy Trinity - \$16,421.00

Pledges To Date \$5255 (32%)

St. Patrick - \$11,340.00

Pledges To Date \$5570 (49%)

St. Thomas More - \$10,917.00

Pledges To Date \$4520 (41%)

## Sacramental Preparation

Baptisms: Preparation is required  
for the first child in the family.  
Baptisms are scheduled on  
Sundays at noon or by special  
arrangement. Please contact  
Father to setup an appointment.

Marriages: Preparations need to  
be started one year before the  
Wedding date. Please contact  
Father for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Per  
Canon Law of the Catholic  
Church, anyone over the age of  
seven years old is to observe the  
requirements of the RCIA, unless  
there is a danger of death. If  
anyone has not received all of the  
sacraments; baptism, First  
Communion or Confirmation,  
please talk to Father.



## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 17

Advent Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8-10

Mt 1:1-17

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 18

Advent Weekday

Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 19

Advent Weekday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a

Lk 1:5-25

### Thursday

DECEMBER 20

Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38

### Friday

DECEMBER 21

Advent Weekday

Sg 2:8-14 or

Zep 3:14-18a

Lk 1:39-45

### Saturday

DECEMBER 22

Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28

Lk 1:46-56

### Sunday

DECEMBER 23

Fourth Sunday

of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:39-45



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# Dear Padre,

## What do we really know about John the Baptist and how do we know it?

What we know about John the Baptist comes from a combination of Scripture and Church traditions that evolved during and after the writing of the Scriptures of the New Testament.

John's parents were Zechariah, a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Elizabeth, who was related to Mary. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife would bear a son, even though she was quite old. It is believed that John was born in the region of Ain Karim, southwest of Jerusalem. During his early twenties, he was a member of the Qumran community, and later was a desert hermit. In his late twenties John began his public ministry in the Jordan River Valley. He followed a long line of Jewish prophets who preached against evils of the day, demanding inner repentance and outer baptism as a sign of that repentance.

John continued to preach in the Jordan Valley even after encountering Jesus. Eventually John was arrested by Herod Antipas and imprisoned at Machaerus Fortress by the Dead Sea. He was beheaded at the request of Salome, daughter of Herodias. After John's death, many of his disciples followed Jesus, including Andrew and John.

John, whose name means "God is gracious," is usually represented in pictures holding a long slender cross with a small lamb partially hidden behind him. He is the patron of monastic life, people with epilepsy and other compulsive disorders, lambs, printers, blacksmiths, and tailors.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING, C. 1665, BY MATTEO PRETI/WIKIPEDIA

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



## A Word From Pope Francis

Let us implore from on high the gift of commitment to the cause of peace. Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and our communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain. Peace throughout this world...Simply PEACE.

—Address at Ground Zero Memorial, New York City, September 25, 2015



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