

Guide Book & Directory

2021

St.



St. John the Evangelist

*Serving the People of Deer Park and the
Surrounding Communities Since 1891*

7121 Plainfield Road • Deer Park, Ohio 45236
(513) 791-9004

St. John the Evangelist Parish

7121 Plainfield Road, Deer Park, Ohio 45236

Mailing Address: 4136 Myrtle Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
(513) 791-9004

Welcome to this updated issue of the St. John the Evangelist Parish Guide Book and Directory for 2021.

In the Directory pages you will find the most recent names, addresses, and phone numbers submitted to the Parish Office from the other members of your parish community.

St. John the Evangelist is a parish with a rich 130 year heritage dating back to the dedication of our first church in 1891. Through the years our buildings have served generations of parishioners in their dedication to their Catholic Faith and Community. The parish is indeed grateful for its history, that God has so generously blessed us. We, the present day parishioners, are now determined to carry the flame of faith into the future.

WE ARE ‘BELOVED OF THE LORD’!

As of July 1, 2016 St. John the Evangelist Parish and our neighbors at St. Saviour Parish have formed Region 11, this means that while each Parish continues functioning in its own identity we now share the same Pastor.

We have also been blessed with the opportunity to lease our current school building to the *Leaves of Learning Educational Program* for grade levels Pre-K thru 12. The income from this property, as well as the generosity of our parishioners, provides us the ability to pay our bills and plan for our future!

Good things are always happening at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Deer Park, Ohio.

Your full participation in the life of your parish is essential for keeping it and you strong and healthy. We hope and pray that many of you will find a way to be more involved. The Parish Staff is here to serve your needs and to provide opportunities for the faith formation of all members of your family. Please do not hesitate to call us at the Parish Office if we can be of any assistance to you, or for more information regarding organizations and ministries listed in this book.

Special thanks to the advertisers; whose support make this book possible. Please remember to patronize their businesses.

May God and St. John the Evangelist continue to bless us all!

Bishop Joe Binzer and Your Regional Staff

St. John the Evangelist Parish

‘Moments in History’

The following highlights are taken from the Parish Centennial History Book

The following realtor’s advertisement appeared in the Cincinnati Times – Star on September 5, 1889: CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS – *‘the initial drawback to suburban property caused by a lack of good schools and churches has, however, been overcome in Deer Park. In addition to the churches of the various denominations already built, a new Catholic Church, School, and Parsonage will be erected on the Plainfield Pike. The site has already been selected and accepted by the Real Estate Committee of the Church. Plans are being prepared and subscriptions collected.’*

From the Catholic Telegraph of September 24, 1891: *‘next Sunday afternoon, the cornerstone of a new church in Deer Park, this county, but a few miles distant from the city, and on the line of the “Highland Route”, Lebanon and Northern Railway, will be laid with appropriate ceremonies.’*

After several delays, the dedication of the first church building took place on October 23rd, 1892.

St. John the Evangelist School was first opened in September, 1905. The school was made up of one classroom. There were fifty children present, 1938 brought a new ‘temporary’ church (currently the gym) which provided for building four more classrooms in a second story above the church.

The end of World War II brought many changes to St. John Parish. The return of the troops from the war was the impetus for the famous ‘baby boom’ and the growth of suburbs all over the country. Silverton, Deer Park and the adjacent areas which still belonged to the parish territory were prime examples of this expansion in home building and surge in the school population. After VJ day plans were set in motion for the formation of new parishes from territory formerly belonging to St. John Parish.

Fr. Joseph Dauwe scouted out the prospects for the formation of a new parish in the Rossmoyne – Blue Ash area. On Easter 1947 the first mass was held at St. Saviour Church. In a similar manner, territory formerly within the boundaries of St. John parish went to form St. Vincent Ferrer parish (March 1946) and All Saints Parish (February 1949).

The dedication of the new and current St. John church building took place on the feast of St. John the Evangelist, December 27th, 1967.

The list of St. John Pastors through the years is impressive and includes these holy and dedicated men: Rev. Aloysius Kohmescher 1891-1894; Rev. Bartholomew Kuppenbender 1901-1905; Rev. Herman G. Limbeck 1905-1917; Rev. Joseph J. Burwinkel 1918-1923; Rev. Henri Cortain 1919-1928; Rev. William P. O’Connor 1928-1935; Rev. James J. Conroy 1935-1961; Rev. Henry D. Naber 1961-1970; Rev. John C. Coghlan 1970-1983; Rev. Lawrence J. Mick 1983-1997; Rev. Thomas R. Espelage 1997-2016; Rev. Timothy S. Bunch 2016-2019; Rev. Matthew Feist 2019 -?.

Parish Mission Statement

The Catholic Christian Community of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Deer Park, gathers to worship, proclaim God's Word, and celebrate the sacraments. As an inclusive, active parish, we strive to be a sign of God's presence in the world, welcoming all and reaching out to serve those in need.

Regional Pastoral Staff

Pastor Fr. Michael Cordier..... 791-9004
Coordinator of Religious Education Jenny Edmonds..... ext. 102
Administrative Secretary Linda Smith..... ext. 101
Maintenance Supervisor..... Dave Bucker..... ext. 107
Director of Music Mr. Jim Balbach... Parish Office
Parish Business Manager..... Shannon Benvenuti..... ext. 108

Telephones

Parish Office..... 791-9004
Parish Website..... www.stjohndp.org

Mass Schedule

Weekdays Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at St. Saviour 8:00 am
Saturday at St. Saviour 4:00 pm
Sunday at St. Saviour..... 9:00 am
Sunday at St. John 11:00 am
Holy Days of Obligation Check Bulletin

Liturgical Ministries

Vibrant liturgy is dependent on the full participation of all members of the community. An exciting way to become involved in our parish is to spend just a little extra time at weekly Mass in one of the following ministries. Call the Regional Office (791-9004) for more information regarding any of our liturgical opportunities.

These important ministries, while requiring a minimal commitment of time, are vital to the quality of our liturgies and to our parish community at large.

Lectors - Ministers of the Word proclaim the Word of God from the Old & New Testaments to the assembly gathered in worship at Mass to touch their hearts and challenge them to live that Word. Those members of our parish, grade 8 thru adult, who are blessed with the gifts necessary for proclaiming God's Word, are encouraged to share their gifts through this ministry.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - These Liturgical Ministers assist the priests distribute the sacred Body and Blood of our Lord to the members of the assembly. Ministers of the Eucharist are needed within the celebration of Mass and also to bring communion to our parish shut-ins and to area nursing homes. Anyone who has received the sacrament of Confirmation is invited to take part. Formal instruction will be given.

Altar Servers - Anyone in grade 4 through adult is welcome to train and participate in this valuable ministry. Participants are scheduled for the weekend Masses and volunteers are always needed to help with funerals.

Ushers - Members of this Ministry welcome people to our parish liturgies, making them feel comfortable and at home. If needed, they help seat people, and take up the collection of offertory envelopes.

Choir - The parish choir enhances the music in our parish. Anyone, Grade School thru Adult, who enjoys singing at Mass is invited to join our choir at practices and participation in our parish Mass on Sundays. Some members also serve as cantors and musicians. Feel free to talk to our Music Minister, Jim Balbach after Mass.

Sanctuary & Sacristy Clean Up - Once a week several dedicated parishioners prepare the church for Sunday worship. They dust the pews, water plants, tend the candle stands, clean and refresh holy water stands, see to it that vestments and servers robes are clean, along with any other necessary chores. Let us know if you are interested in helping.

Church Environment - This group 'decorates' the sanctuary according to the liturgical calendar. If you want to help, especially if you are gifted in flower arranging and/or interior design, let us know.



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Faith Formation Opportunities For Children

PSR – Parish School of Religion - This program is designed to foster spiritual growth and give spiritual instruction to children of the parish, grades PreK thru 8, who attend a public elementary school. Classes for grades PreK-8 are held on Sunday mornings 10 – 10:50 am at St. Saviour Parish, 791-9004. Sunday Liturgy attendance by participating families is expected.

All adult volunteers must have attended a Virtus Workshop and completed a Background Check.

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation for Children - Provides an opportunity for unbaptized and uncatechized children who have reached the age of 7 to be initiated into full Communion with the Catholic Church, and our community, by preparing for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation. Depending on the readiness of the candidate this process may take from 1-3 years. Call the Regional Office, 791-9004 for more information.

Sacramental Preparation - Our parish Sacramental Preparation Programs, particularly for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, are designed to encourage parish candidates and their families into full participation in the life of our parish community, its worship and ministries and to follow the guidelines for Sacramental Preparation set forth by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Contact Jenny Edmonds 791-9004 for information.

Vacation Bible Camp - VBC is open to all children entering grades 1 thru 6 and takes place in the month of July. Registration information should be available in June.

For Adults

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - This program offers an opportunity for those approaching the Catholic Faith for the first time to experience and learn Catholic beliefs and the Catholic sense of community. This faith journey is nurtured by the community where participants come together to learn, to share, and focus on faith. The process is ongoing and may take 1-3 years, depending on the individual's readiness to participate. Anyone wanting to participate to deepen their faith or to share their faith with others is welcome to participate by calling the Regional Parish Office.

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Other Parish Commissions & Ministries

Bereavement Ministry - Please contact our Regional Office. (791-9004)

Dads' & Men's Club - This group of parish men is dedicated to the upkeep of the parish gymnasium and other parish buildings and grounds as needed. Money is raised through member dues and various fundraisers. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month (except July) to plan and socialize. All men of the parish are welcome to participate.

Finance Committee - As with any family or institution, fiscal responsibility is a necessity. The Finance Committee is charged with the upkeep of our monetary health by serving the Pastor and Pastoral Council as an advisory board. They consult with the Regional Business Manager in preparing and approving the annual parish budget.

Gift Card Program - This is a year round fundraiser for the parish. Gift Cards are available for many local grocery stores, merchandise stores, restaurants and gas stations for parishioners to purchase and use like cash toward their own purchases or for gift giving. The parish purchases these gift cards at a discount and in turn sells them at face value. This is an easy way to donate to the church, with no extra out of pocket expense to you. Gift Cards are available after Masses on Sunday.

Offertory Money Counters - The purpose of the group of collection counters is to tally the offertory contributions of Sunday and holy days and to prepare the monies for deposit in the bank. If you are interested in helping with this, call the Regional.

Parish Festival - The St. John Parish Festival is the largest fundraiser contributing to the parish general fund. One of the main objectives of the Festival is to bring the Parish Family together to build community while having fun at the same time. The Festival runs the second weekend in June, Friday evening through Sunday evening. Planning begins nearly a year in advance on a monthly basis and input from all parishioners is welcome. Volunteers are needed for booth chairpersons and for working shifts in the booths at the Festival.

Pastoral Council - Members of the Pastoral Council volunteer to serve a three-year term. The Council advises the Pastor and Staff, assisting in the discernment of parish needs and reflecting on the issues of the parish at large. Council assists the Pastor and Staff in developing a pastoral plan to carry out the mission of the Church; and helps set priorities among broader issues, and in evaluating the parish's actions in light of those plans and priorities. Pastoral Council normally meets on the fourth Monday bi-monthly.

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Prayer Chain - The St. John Parish Prayer Chain is a group of people who answer prayer requests in times of special need or for emergency situations. Anyone may call the Parish Office or any prayer chain member with a prayer intention. There is no set form on how one is to pray or which prayers to say. The benefits are numerous, not only to those prayed for, but also for those who do the praying. We are always anxious to have more people be part of the chain to pray for those in need. Call the Regional Office. (791-9004)

St. Vincent de Paul - The volunteers of this Society assist the needy and less fortunate living within our parish boundaries. The Society operates according to the “Rule” of the Society and those of the Archdiocesan Council of the Society. They meet on the 1st Monday of each month in Letterst Hall. If you are interested in being an active member, call 791-9004.

A 2nd collection in months with a 5th Sunday and occasional canned food collections assist this Conference with their ministry.

Social Outreach - Social Outreach volunteers bring to the attention of the Parish, needs for social change and address social outreach issues in the community at large. They strive to reach across social boundaries, to stand by the poor and vulnerable in our community, to protect human life and care for creation. To accomplish these goals several programs are sponsored throughout the year, including Christmas Downtown, and Care and Share Barrels.