

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Serving God's People Between Sundays
2025 Church Theme: The Year of Grace

Elevator Grounding Breaking Ceremony on Easter Sunday



April 20, 2025 was a glorious day for the life of St. John! Pastor Robinson and Trustees along with representatives for the K Sparks Construction Company, all donned their shovels to break ground to start construction of the elevator and baptismal dressing room project by K. Sparks Construction Company. Pictured from L-R: Aretha Hollins, Lake County Councilman Charlie Brown, Deacon Garthell Elkins, Bill Hutton, Kevin Sparks, Deacon Robert Williams, St. John Trustee Chair Delta Jones-Walker, 1st District Councilwoman Lori Latham, 5th District Councilwoman Linda Barnes-Caldwell, Rev. R. E. Robinson and Mattie Pugh.

Seeds of Faith Campaign

Your faith dollars toward the elevator project
as of April 30, 2025
\$41,413.00



Rev. R. E. Robinson,
Senior Pastor



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(219) 886-7769

<https://stjohnbcgary.org>

Dr. June Johnson
Director of Ministries

Children's Church and Youth News



A Glorious Sunday of Service: Children's Church Leads Outreach to I. U. Northwest Students

This past Sunday was nothing short of inspiring as members of the Children's Church, alongside several ministries, came together for a powerful outreach project supporting students at Indiana University Northwest. With hearts full of compassion and hands ready to serve, youth and adult volunteers worked side by side to collect food and essential items for university students facing food insecurity.

Spearheading the effort was Sister Mary Lee, Ministry Leader for the Children's Church and Youth Ministry Leader Sister Katie Young, whose vision and leadership guided the outreach from start to finish. Sister Mary recognized a growing need among college students on campus—many of whom are balancing their studies with personal and financial challenges. Her commitment to bridging that gap brought together an extraordinary team from across the church.

Joining the effort were members from In-Touch, the Deaconess Board, Sunday School, Ushers, and the Mass Choir. Each group contributed not only donations but also their time and energy, making the day a true demonstration of faith in action.

The outreach served as both a learning opportunity and a blessing for the youth, who were deeply involved in every step of the project—from organizing donations to distributing care packages. Their dedication reminded all in attendance that service is a cornerstone of faith, and that age is no barrier to making a meaningful impact.

As Sister Mary Lee so graciously put it, "We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, and today, we walked together in love." Let us continue to uplift our students and community, knowing that our united efforts can bring hope and light to those who need it most.

**Easter Sunday Services can be viewed
on our new web address
<https://stjohnbcgary.org>**



Palm Sunday at Children's Church was an exciting time as children and youth learned about the meaning of Palm Sunday. Youth also pinned palm leaves on church attendees as they entered the sanctuary.

Children, youth and sponsors line up to begin the Easter service. They did a fantastic job in presenting their speeches and praise dance.



3 Days after the death of Jesus

During the three days following the death of Jesus, many things took place.

The Resurrection: Jesus rose from the dead! An earthquake hit, then an angel of the Lord rolled away the stone door to the tomb and sat on it. The Roman guards witnessed this event. Matthew 28:1-4

The Angel Announcement: When Mary Magdalen and the other women arrived at the tomb to anoint the body with spices an angel met them. The angel told them that Jesus had risen! The angel also instructed them to tell the disciples what they had seen. (Matthew 28:5-8)

Jesus Appeared to Mary Magdalene: As Mary sat weeping at the tomb, Jesus appeared to her. Afterward, she ran to tell the Disciples what she had seen. (John 20:11-18)

The Disciples Peter and John raced to the tomb. Upon arriving they found it just as the women had said. Jesus had risen! (John 20:1-10)

The Guards Reported: When the guards witnessed these events, they reported to the chief priests, who instructed them to spread a false narrative of theft by the disciples, attempting to conceal the truth. (Matthew 28:11-15)

40 Days after the Resurrection of Jesus

After the resurrection of Jesus, He appeared to many people in different ways and various places before His final ascension to heaven. His appearances took place over a 40-day period.

Road to Emmaus: Two of Jesus' followers left Jerusalem to return home to Emmaus. On the way, they were met by Jesus, however, they did not recognize Him at first. After they had dinner together, Jesus revealed to them who He was. Jesus left them and they returned to Jerusalem to tell the Disciples what they had seen. (Luke 24:13-35)

Jesus Appeared to 10 Disciples: As the Disciples gathered, except Thomas, Jesus appeared to them and taught them. (John 20:19-25)

Jesus Appeared to 11 Disciples: This time when Jesus appeared to the Disciples, Thomas was there and felt Jesus' hands and side. (John 20:26-30)

Jesus Appeared to 7 Disciples: While seven of the disciples were at the Sea of Tiberias [Sea of Galilee] Jesus appeared to them. They had a meal and Peter was given special instructions. (John 21:1-19)

Jesus Appeared to Others: After appearing several times to the Disciples, Jesus appeared to a crowd of over 500. (I Corinthians 15:6)

The Great Commission:

Later when Jesus appeared to the Eleven, He instructed them to preach the Gospel and disciple others. He also instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. (Mark 16:14-18, Acts 1:1-8)

The Ascension: After Jesus gave His Disciples final instructions He ascended into heaven. (Acts 1:9-11)

7 Days after the Ascension of Jesus

Rounding out the last 7 days between the death of Jesus and Pentecost.

After Jesus' ascended, His disciples gathered in Jerusalem in preparation for the Feast of Pentecost.

The Giving of the Holy Spirit: On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Disciples and those with them. They immediately began telling others about Jesus.

During the 50 days after Jesus' death, He had many interactions with his Disciples and followers, providing them with guidance and encouragement. Unfortunately, we often celebrate Easter and then move on without realizing that **the story did not end with the resurrection.**



Mission Tea and Fashion Show

Saturday, April 26, 2025, the Mission Ministry presented a “Spring into Splendor Tea and Fashion Show. The Tea and Fashion Show was a resounding success with over 100 guests. Sister Shirley Mims brought out the best from the models accompanied by DJ Bertram Baker. Sister Shelly Wright is the Ministry Leader.



Upcoming Events

Deacon's Ordination Service

May 4, 2025 4 PM

Deacon Darrell Amos & Deacon Kevin Walker



Mother's Day

May 11, 2025

Women's Day

Sunday, May 18, 2025

10:45 AM

Women - Embracing Our Differences

Romans 15:7

Guest Speaker: Sister Joan Wilson

Color: Pink

Assessment \$25

Father's Day

June 15, 2025



Men's Day

June 22, 2025

Employment Opportunities

The Urban League of NWI has positions open for the Summer Learning Lab Program. There are numerous sites and positions available throughout Northwest Indiana. St. John is a possible site for this wonderful opportunity to enrich the children of our community. If you are interested or know someone who is available starting June 23 through July 28, you must apply at Summer Learning Lab.com. A Site Coordinator , teachers and assistants are needed.

<https://northwestindianalearninglabs.com/employment-application/>

Work B.I.G. is a collaborative effort between the City of Gary, CWI, Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Ivy Tech Community College, and WorkOne Northwest Indiana. Together, these partners are aligning resources to offer a program that addresses both immediate community needs and helps residents with local employment opportunities.

The first cohort of the program is scheduled to begin on April 28, 2025. To apply, visit CWI website: <https://www.cwicorp.com/workbig/>
Other cohorts will be added. You must apply at the above online address.

St. John Baptist Church 2025 Scholarship

Scholarship applications are available.

The deadline for submitting applications will be Friday, May 16, 2025. This application is available to graduating high school students and college students currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions who are disciples of our congregation. Applications may be secured from our church office, Sister Linda Mitchell, Sister Mary Lee, Sister Mary Williams or Sister Nikki Dates. You may also request an application packet via email to: DRLM125@yahoo.com



NEW ERA DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN

SISTER ALICE FAYE HEGWOOD, WOMEN'S PRESIDENT
REV. MARK FRAZIER, MODERATOR

VIRTUOUS WOMEN'S LUNCHEON
SPEAKER: REV. SHIRLEY GILLESPIE PROVERBS 31:10B
THE VALUE OF A WOMAN

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025 AT 12 NOON
CLARK ROAD MB CHURCH
2841 CLARK RD.
GARY, IN 46404
REV. PHARIS EVANS, JR., PASTOR

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ST. JOHN MISSION
MINISTRY LEADER SISTER SHELLY WRIGHT
\$15.00