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Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life: **GO. MAKE. TEACH.**

*God has commanded
that every lofty mountain
be made low. — Baruch 5:7*



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13;
Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Lk 1:39-47
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab;
Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16,
18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7;
Lk 3:10-18

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
Monday: International Human Rights Day
Tuesday: St. Damasus I
Wednesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Thursday: St. Lucy
Friday: St. John of the Cross

RICHES

*Riches are the instrument of all vices, because
they render us capable of putting even our worst
desires into execution. ~ St. Ambrose*



**Retirement Fund
for Religious**

Please give
to those who
have given
a lifetime.



Aging religious need your help.

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift today for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous. Use the "Share in the Care" envelope in your packet and drop it in the regular collection, or donate online at www.stjohnnb.com/ShareintheCare. For more information visit: <https://retiredreligious.org/>



Expectant Parents Blessing December 9 after the 10:30am Mass

A special blessing for expectant mothers and their families will be held at the Our Lady of Guadalupe, Garden of Life Chapel.

This blessing is sponsored by St. John's Respect Life Committee

PARISH STAFF

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Fr. Michael Skluzacek, Pastor ext. 1213
Fr. Paul Shovelain, Parochial Vicar ext. 1214
Deacon Peter D'Heilly
Deacon Rod Palmer VM 1298
Deacon Gary Schneider VM 1288
Susan Amos Palmer, Befriender Coordinator VM 1298
Mary Hartz, Parish Nurse ext. 1229

WORSHIP

Jay Hunstiger, Director of Worship ext. 1212
Carrie Kram, Director of Choristers cramk@stjohnnyb.org
Lori Vosejka, Director of Contemporary Ensemble lav247@msn.com

OFFICE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

Jessica Balzarini, Director ext. 1228
Mary Kohlhaas, Family Formation Coordinator ext. 1234
Jen Livermont, Sunday School Coordinator ext. 1233
Jodie Wolla, Administrative Assistant ext. 1211

YOUTH MINISTRY

Adam Rooble - cell 651-529-0526 ok to txt ext. 1218

SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL (PreK - 8)

Ann Laird, Principal ext. 1117
Joy Thienes, Administrative Assistant ext. 1118
Michelle Barsness, Marketing/Enrollment ext. 1114

ADMINISTRATION

Mark Dittman, Business Administrator ext. 1215
Bret Sutton, Director of Stewardship ext. 1217
Teri Shea, Facilities Coordinator ext. 1237
Michelle Chock, Accountant ext. 1224
Maureen Owusu, Parish Bookkeeper ext. 1255
Rita Arndorfer, Volunteer Coordinator ext. 1220
Bonnie Haik, Communications Coordinator ext. 1210
Steven Fierro, Hospitality Coordinator ext. 1227
Jean Robson, Administrative Assistant ext. 1219
Patrick Hinnenkamp, Director of Maintenance ext. 1203

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon.- Thurs. 8:00am - 8:00 pm
Friday 8:00am - 7:00 pm
Saturday 9:00am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00am - 5:30 pm

PARISH LIBRARY HOURS

Sat. 5:30 PM; Sun. 9:30 & 11:30 AM

Church Nursery: We offer year-round nursery during both the 8:30am and 10:30am Sunday Masses for children ages 1-3. Children play with caring staff while you are able to fully participate in Mass. The nursery is closed on holidays.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to St. John's!

The Next New Parishioner Meeting: THIS WEEKEND, December 8/9

The new parishioner meeting will be held after each Mass this weekend. The meeting will start 15 minutes after Mass in St. Joseph Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

The bulletin deadline is 12:00 noon on Thursday, 10 days before the Sunday publication date. **All submissions for the Dec. 30 bulletin must be received no later than noon on December 18th.** All submissions will be edited for length and content and are subject to final approval. Space is very limited. Thank you for your cooperation. Send requests to: stjohnsnb@pclink.com

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, December 10, 2018

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Church
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Skluzacek (James Gardner+)
7:00 PM RCIA ~ 206

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Church
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Skluzacek (Gene Beijer+)
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese
9:00 AM Sunday Scripture ~ 204

5:30 PM Commission Meeting Night Mass ~

Fr. Skluzacek - All are welcome to attend

6:00 PM Commission Meeting Night ~ SJH

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Paul Anthony Tiem Vu+)
9:15 AM Faithfully Fit ~ LL106
9:30 AM Legion of Mary ~ 211
9:30 AM Scripture w/ Sr. Clarinda ~ 210
5:00 PM Confessions ~ Church
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Skluzacek
6:30 PM Knights of Columbus ~ 211
6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group ~ LL106
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ LL101

Thursday, December 13, 2018

6:30 AM Men's Fellowship ~ St. Joseph Hall
8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Church
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Isaiah George Spiess)
9:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel
11:00 AM Senior Christmas Potluck ~ St. Joseph Hall
1:00 PM Quilters ~ LL108
6:30 PM Catholic Watchmen ~ St. Joseph Hall
7:00 PM Bible Study w/ Sr. Clarinda ~ 210
7:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study ~ 204

Friday, December 14, 2018

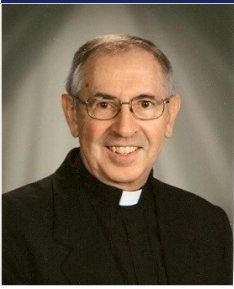
8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Church
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Kathleen Kieffer+)
7:30 PM Charismata ~ Church

Saturday, December 15, 2018

9:00 AM First Reconciliation Service ~ Church
3:30 PM Confessions ~ Church
4:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Skluzacek
(Augustine C. Lamb+ & Michel Stautz Schaffer+)

Sunday, December 16, 2018 Advent III

8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul
8:30 AM Sunday School ~ School Classrooms
9:30 AM RCIC ~ 207 St. John Neumann
10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word ~ Chapel
10:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Skluzacek
10:30 AM Sunday School ~ School Classrooms
11:30 AM Intercessory Prayer Ministry ~ Chapel
4:00 PM Advent Vespers ~ Church
5:30 PM Confirmation 2 ~ LL106
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Pro Populo)
6:30 PM Intercessory Prayer Ministry ~ Chapel



From the Pastor: Father Michael Skluzáček

December 9, 2018
2nd Sunday of Advent

Advent Stars

Just like the Star of Bethlehem led the Magi to the Christ Child, there are two Advent Stars who lead us to a fruitful celebration of this season: Mary and John. Our Blessed Mother Mary, with two major feasts this season, and John the Baptist, both lead us to get the most out of Advent.

In today's gospel, St. John the Baptist "*proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*" We are to "*prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight his paths*" (Luke 3:4). The most effective way to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight his paths is by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, we name our sins before a priest, who represents Christ. We face our failings honestly and accept responsibility for our sins. Through the powerful grace of absolution, the path is then made straight for the Lord to enter our lives more deeply.

There are two major feasts of Our Lady during the Season of Advent – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which we just celebrated Saturday, and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which we will celebrate on Wednesday, December 12th. In 1531, Mary appeared as a pregnant, Native American woman to St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac, a hill near what is now Mexico City. She identified herself as Juan Diego's merciful mother, and "the mother of all who live in this land, of all humankind, of all who love me, of those who cry out to me, of those who seek me, and of those who have confidence in me." Mary showed her motherly love to a people who had professed for centuries a polytheistic and human sacrificing religion. Less than twenty years later, 9 million people were converted to Christianity.

We who live in this land are privileged to receive the *double protection* of Our Blessed Mother! Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the United States, and Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas, including North, Central and South America. Saint John Paul II called Our Lady of Guadalupe the "**Star of the New Evangelization**," and challenged the Christians of America to evangelize once again this great continent. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also the Patroness of the Unborn, and has become a symbol of tremendous hope, peace, compassion and solidarity for people struggling with just daily living. Perhaps we can take some time this week to stop by our beautiful **Garden of Life Chapel** and pray near the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Ask her to lead us to a renewed respect for all human life, and to a renewed commitment to the New Evangelization. And let us implore her motherly assistance for people struggling with the challenges of life.

2019 Parish Calendars

2019 parish calendars are now available free of charge. Please pick one up at the church entrances. The "Catholic Appointment Calendar" is a great way to keep informed of liturgical days and saints' feast days throughout the year. Each month features illuminated manuscripts from the Vatican Library as well as photos of Pope Francis and quotations from his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*). We thank Billman-Hunt Funeral Chapel for sponsoring our parish calendars.

2018 End of Year Wish List

Please check out our St. John the Baptist Church and School Wish List for year-end sponsorship opportunities. Copies of the list can be found on our website, on the Harvest Table and at the Welcome Desk. Thank you!

Thank You for Giving to St. John the Baptist!

As we approach the end of 2018, we want to express our most sincere gratitude to all of our parishioners for their support of St. John's this year. Your tax-deductible gifts to St. John's support our most vital ministries. If, in these next few weeks before the end of the fiscal year, you would like to make a special gift to St. John's, please note that all contributions for 2018 must be received in the collection or the parish office on or before Monday, December 31 or postmarked in 2018. Gifts received on Tuesday, January 1 or after without a postmark of 2018 will be credited to 2019 giving, not 2018, regardless of the date on the check or the envelope used. We are grateful for your gifts!

Two other ways to give.

Electronic giving. We offer a convenient electronic giving option that allows donations to be withdrawn directly from your bank account or debit/credit card on a scheduled, automatic basis. This method of giving allows both the donor and the parish to budget and allocate funds more accurately. Donations can be scheduled at a time of month convenient to you, and can be adjusted or suspended at any time. Authorization forms are available in the church office or call or email Michelle Chock in the parish office at chockm@stjohnnyb.org.

Gifts of stock. A gift of appreciated stock is a good way to donate - you get to claim for tax purposes the full value of the gift when given to St. John's, and you avoid paying tax on the gain in the stock's value (capital gains). See your tax adviser to find out what works best for you. Please call or email Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator, with questions in the parish office at dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org.

Thank you!



Fair Trade- December 16th!!

Christmas is right around the corner. Our coffee, teas and chocolates make great gifts as stocking stuffers, hostess gifts and thank you gifts. Stop by the tables after all the Sunday Masses on December 16 for chocolate coins, chocolate petite gift sets, chocolate mints and of course, Fair Trade coffees and teas to compliment these Divine chocolates.

Support workers in third world countries to earn fair wages by buying Fair Trade products. Merry Christmas and thank you for supporting this ministry.

PERPETUAL ADORATION

"In prayer our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of situations of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity." Pope Francis

Take time to pray and open your heart to charity. Become a scheduled adorer.

These are the open hours that need to be filled: Tuesday 3am; Wednesday 9am; Thursday 1am, 3am; Friday midnight, 1am, 2am, 3am, 10pm, 11pm; Saturday 2am, 7am, 3pm.

Prayer partners are requested for these hours: Tuesday 5am; Wednesday 4am; Thursday 2am, 5am; Friday midnight, 1am, 2am, 7am, 10pm; Saturday 4am.

Substitute adorers are needed, especially for midnight to 6am.

Call Kathy 763-464-3985 or Mark 651-481-0939 for more information and to sign up for your hour.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who have entered eternal life:

Those who are ill: Mary DeVries, Barb Gregerson, Lloyd Mans, Lucy Gebhardt, Mary Spitzka, Mark Hammer, Elaine Loscheider, Bev Stampfle, John Demont, Michael Ferdelman, Shirley Hill, Jon Clark, Jim Montury, Lucas Kramer, Bill Ivory, Jim Greve, Cassie Cramer, Georgianna Warden, Donna Yenish, Mary Wegerson, Stephen Sandquist, John Leibrich, Scott Lemke, Mark Nelson, Nella Pitzen, Joan Roemer, Mary Lou Long, Donna Reinkober, Helen Sullivan, Victoria Stratton, Alfred Duku -Celestino, Ellie Warchol, Fulton Francis Dobbs, Virginia Hudoba, Carl Stampfle, Marcy Eder, Jeff Drew, Daniel Welter, Doug Brekke, Jack & Marcella Longnecker, Joe Szepieniec, Stanley Kruta, Philip Jarosz, Joni Grieman, Sara Groehler, Zach Boryczka, Tom Miller, Jean Schaaf, Greta Stefanich, Jean Lanzel, Deloris Wolcyn, Evelyn Arneson, Vic Spaulding, Madi Rippy, Sydney Rippy, Sarah Lumaya, Richard and Patricia Gigrich, Marianne Brekke, Patricia Beaubien, Delores Demont, Sally Norgren, Gerry Kuglin, Norma Stanisha, Steve Lauinger, Michael Warchol, Nancy Kiuii, Catheryn Klukas, David Martin, Mary Brunner, Kathy Brownrigg, Loretta Witkowski, Jessie Johnson, James Wehr, Carol Ruff, Juanita Zamor, Anne Saylor, Richard Pellow, Mary Puffer, Janet Doud, Gay Jacobsen, Carol Johnson, Anita Leibrich, Charlotte Thrun, Rose Maciaszek, Fred & Deana Irish, Connie Pearson, Mike Fritz, Rita Kochevar, Catherine Schonhardt, Barb Cant, Linda Puffer, Mark Puffer, Jenny Reicks, Robert & Annette Kirwan, Thomas Daley, May Gariepy

PRAYER LINE 651-633-1618 /651-633-5845 Call with your prayer requests. Requests are confidential.

BIRTHRIGHT Caring help for pregnant women.
(651) 646-7033 Saint Paul (763) 757-0715 Coon Rapids

*Pick up an angel from the Angel Tree and
make Christmas brighter for someone else!
DUE BACK ON DEC. 16*

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

Join Sister Clarinda for Sunday Morning Scripture, Tuesdays at 9AM

Men's Fellowship - Thursday Morning 6:30-8:00am - Now - December 27, 2018. Knowing Jesus and His Church – Fr Larry Richards DVD Presentation. Looking for a clearer understanding of what we believe? Presented as only Fr Larry Richards can, this series of talks will give you a deeper look into the teachings of the Catholic Church. Come for the donuts, stay for the truth!! Questions, call Dave @ 612-616-4013



Calling all Catholic Men! The next St. John's parish Catholic Watchmen Night is Thursday, December 13th from 6:30-9:00pm in St. Joseph Hall. Join other St. John's men for fellowship, food, beverage, and a new presentation by Father Skluzacek about keeping Sunday Holy. Questions? Contact Fr. Paul frshovelain@stjohnnyb.org

Charismata - led by Father Michael Becker and Deacon Gary Schneider - December 14 from 7:30-9:30pm here at St. John's. Encounter God in Praise, Adoration, & Prayer Ministry." The Charismata event is a time of prayer where the abundance of God's gifts and graces are poured out onto His people. There will be time to encounter the Lord more deeply. Receive prayer for life's tough situations. All are welcome.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry – Calling on the Power of God. Intercessory prayer is prayer for others. A prayer intercessor is someone who pleads with God on behalf of another who is in need of God's healing power. We all need prayer for family, faith, health, work, relationships and the challenges in life. Jesus longs for us to come to him in prayer and blesses our prayer for one another. James 5:16 *"Therefore...pray for one another that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful."* St. John the Baptist is very fortunate to have intercessory prayer ministry (IPM) teams. Under the guidance of Deacon Schneider, they provide monthly ministry in the Chapel of Angels after Mass. **This month, IPM is on Sunday, December 16th following the 10:30 AM Mass, and after the 5:30 PM Mass. Your prayer needs are held in strict confidentiality, so come freely in faith before God.**

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN - Serving St. John's for 92 years - All CCW members and friends are invited to join us for our next meeting **December 17 at 6:30pm in St. Joseph Hall.** We are happy to welcome Father Paul's aunt, Janice Shovelain. Janice will delight us with Christmas music played on her accordion. For more information call Lu Heiling at 651-633-0710. Christmas Blessings to all!

Bible Study with Sister Clarinda - The 3 letters of Johannine & Introduction to the Book of Hebrews (11 sessions) Among the books of the New Testament, the Letter to the Hebrews stands out for its rhetorical and theological brilliance. It is arguably the greatest Christian sermon ever preached or written. Its author deserves to be revered as the patron saint of preachers. He has presented the essential claim of Christian faith that Christ died for our sins in a persuasive argument with a deep emotional appeal. One way to introduce this book is to describe Hebrews as a sermon in written form, of uncertain origin, intended to encourage perseverance in Christian faith. The author describes his work as a "message of encouragement. **Registration form can be found in the kiosks.** **Classes begin January 9/10.**

The Sacraments: Our Points of Contact with Jesus Christ - Join your fellow parishioners for a 4-week series on The Sacraments. Fr. Paul, Fr. Skluzacek and Jessica Balzarini will give four powerful presentations demonstrating the immense importance of the seven Sacraments. In each Sacrament, Christ communicates his very life to us and allows us to participate in his work. The evenings will include a presentation, discussion, and a time for prayer.

When: Wednesday evenings, January 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 7:00-8:30pm **You're welcome to attend one, two, three or four sessions (the fee is \$10 for 1, 2, 3 or all sessions)** **Where:** St. Joseph Hall **Who:** Adults and teens are welcome to attend (limited spots for childcare provided) **Fee:** \$10 includes program materials and hospitality (Scholarships are available). Registration forms can be found in the kiosks.



Save the Date for an All Parish Family Event Journey to the Inn with the Wise Men on Epiphany, Saturday, January 5

- 4:30pm - Mass • 5:30pm - Dinner • 6:15pm - Join us for an indoor program and outdoor candlelight procession as we "Journey to the Inn with the Wise Men". Cookies and cocoa will end the night.



Save the Date!
Wines to Wishes will be on Saturday, February 2nd, 2019.
This event is the premiere fund-raising event for the school. This year, funds raised will be used to purchase flexible seating furniture for our classrooms.

If you are interested in donating to our event, we are currently looking for the following items: Bottles of Wine worth \$20 or more; hot toys; outdoor gear; board games; sports apparel; art supplies; gift cards; tickets to events (sports, theater, etc.)

Items can be dropped off at the Welcome Desk or the School Office. Please mark with Wines to Wishes.

Contact: Rita Arndorfer arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org or Michelle Barsness barsnessm@stjohnnyb.org.

Thank you!

Care Crew Preschool Teacher

St. John's Preschool is looking to hire an enthusiastic, creative, dedicated person who loves children. The Care Crew Teacher must be 18 years old and would provide quality care for our 3-5 year old students in an after School Program. This position would include planning creative and fun activities, maintaining a safe and clean environment, and most importantly, engaging with the children. The hours are 2:30-5pm Monday-Friday. For more information or to apply contact Andrea Schroeder schroedera@stjohnnyb.org



As you begin your holiday shopping, remember to use Amazon Smile for your purchases. It works the same as regular Amazon shopping, but a percentage of your purchases will come back to St. John's. Go to www.smile.amazon.com, login using your regular Amazon account, and designate St. John the Baptist Church and School of New Brighton as your charitable organization.

SJB QUILTERS

SJB Quilters will meet Thursday, December 13 from 1-3 PM in the Seniors Room. **We gladly welcome you to stop by and check out our quilts. New members are always welcome.** Some of our members do machine sewing while others prefer the hand stitching. If you can sew, iron, tie a knot or simply seek fellowship, we welcome your participation. For more information, please contact Helen @ 763-786-1512 or Ann @ 651-484-5598. If you would like a prayer quilt, please contact Mary Hartz at 651-633-8333 ext. 1229.



DID YOU KNOW...

Confession cards used to be given to parishioners eligible to go to confession. After confession these cards were given to the confessor and the parishioners "Easter Duty" was fulfilled.

If you or someone you know needs communion or home visit, please contact Mary Hartz and she can set up a volunteer to come to you. Mary can be reached by calling 651-633-8333 ext. 1229

Senior Christmas Potluck December 13 from 11am-2:30pm in St. Joseph Hall

- Bring a dish to share - call Mary Hartz with what you'll be bringing 651-633-8333 ext. 1229
- Wear red or your favorite Christmas sweater.
- Bring a White Elephant gift.
- Just added - Sister Clarinda will give a talk about Advent from 1:30-2:30pm.

All Seniors/Widow/Widowers are Welcome!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

If you would like to remember those who have died, or honor someone special, we invite you to donate in their name(s) to the Christmas Plant, Wreath & Tree Fund. Please complete the form below and send it with \$20 (suggested amount) to the Parish Center. You can also donate online by visiting our website www.stjohnnb.com, go to online donations, fill in the information for FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR or use the envelope provided in your packet.

Donations will be accepted through Christmas.

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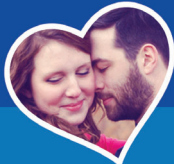


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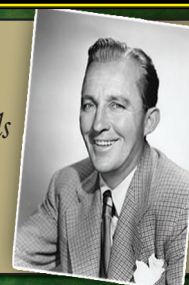
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