



September 22, 2019
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

835 2nd Avenue NW • New Brighton, MN 55112 • 651-633-8333 • Fax: (651) 633-7404 • www.stjohnnb.com

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



Every day look for the opportunity to reach out and invite someone to St. John's. If we invite them, they'll come!



Join us for Sunday Funday TODAY, September 22 after the 10:30am Mass from 11:30am – 1:30PM. **Meet the NET Team!** We will gather in St. Joseph Hall after Mass for a potluck lunch. The parish will provide Homemade Mac and Cheese and Hot Dog Bites. Families are asked to bring a side dish (fruit, salad, or dessert) to share. Following lunch we will play some games outside and then pray the rosary.

Join us for our
YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF!
September 25, 2019
in the Youth Room

Middle School Youth Group – 6:30-8pm
High School Youth Group – 8-9:30pm
Contact Mikayla Anderson, Youth Minister,
for more information.



Wednesday, September 25 will be our monthly gathering of women, called *devoted*. Join us for a little wine, a little chocolate and some social time at 7:30 pm. Our speaker will begin by 8:10 pm. All women of the parish from all walks of life are welcome and bring a fellow female! Brochures are available in the kiosks.



Thursday Morning 6:30-8:00am - September 26, 2019 – October 3 - Forgiven – The Transforming Power of Confession. Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession provides the Church's teaching about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, including a practical "walk through" of what happens in the confessional and how every moment connects to Scripture, Catholic Tradition, and God's passionate desire to be with you. ***Come for the donuts, stay for the truth!! Questions, call Dave @ 612-616-4013***

CIRCLE OF WOMEN, Room 206, 9:15-11:30am We invite women of all ages to join us for our next gathering on **Thursday, September 26**. This Thursday we will be joined by Jennifer Silvera. Jennifer's husband, a police officer, was killed in the line of duty, leaving her with two young children. This place of tragic loss was followed by unimaginable grace, love and ongoing restoration, Jennifer brings her message of encouragement in her presentation "Be Here Now: How to Live in the Moment". Childcare is available. Brochures are available in the kiosks. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday!

PARISH STAFF

PASTORAL MINISTRY

651-633-8333

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Parochial Administrator ext. 1214
Fr. Kevin Wagner, Parochial Vicar ext. 1213
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

651-633-8333

Jay Hunstiger, Director of Worship ext. 1212
Carrie Kram, Director of Choristers Kramc@stjohnnyb.org
Lori Vosejka, Director of Contemporary Ensemble lav247@msn.com
Abe Gross, Director of Ignite abrahamjohnngross@gmail.com

OFFICE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

651-633-1540

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

651-633-1540

Mikayla Anderson cell 651-529-0526 ok to txt ext. 1218

SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL (PreK - 8)

651-633-1522

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

ADMINISTRATION

651-633-8333

Mark Dittman, Business Administrator ext. 1215
Bret Sutton, Director of Stewardship ext. 1217
Teri Shea, Office & Facilities Manager ext. 1237
Michelle Chock, Accountant ext. 1224
Maureen Owusu, Parish Bookkeeper ext. 1255
Rita Arndorfer, Volunteer Coordinator ext. 1220
Bonnie Haik, Receptionist ext. 1210
Steven Fierro, Hospitality Coordinator ext. 1227
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.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to St. John's!

The Next New Parishioner Meeting:

October 12/13

The new parishioner meeting will be held after each Mass the weekend of October 12/13. The meeting will start 15 minutes after Mass in St. Joseph Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, September 23, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul
(John & Katherine Macnowski+)
7:00 PM RCIA ~ 210

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Bill Otto+)
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese
9:00 AM Sunday Scripture ~ 204
9:00 AM The Grand Adventure ~ 210

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Stewart Laird+)
9:15 AM Faithfully Fit ~ 208
9:30 AM Fall Scripture Study ~ 210
9:30 AM Legion of Mary ~ 211
5:00 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Frances Chorzempa+)
6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group ~ LL106
8:00 PM *devoted* ~ St. Joseph Hall
8:00 PM Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) ~ LL106

Thursday, September 26, 2019

6:30 AM Men's Fellowship ~ St. Joseph Hall West
8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul
(Adolph & Helen Duchesneau+)

9:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel

9:15 AM Circle of Women ~ 206

Friday, September 27, 2019 ~ FallFest

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul

(David Hill+ & Dean Erickson+)

Saturday, September 28, 2019 ~ FallFest

3:30 PM Confessions ~ Church
4:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Joseph & Theresa Grace+)

Sunday, September 29, 2019 ~ FallFest

8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Deloris Wolcyn+)
10:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Tom Schott+)
5:30 PM Confirmation 2 ~ LL106
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Pro Populo)

Due to the tents for our FallFest being set up the morning of Wednesday, September 25, the west parking lot will be closed beginning Tuesday evening, September 24.



*From: Mikayla Anderson,
Director of Youth Ministry & Confirmation*

This upcoming year, and for the next 3 years, St. John the Baptist has invested in our youth in a new way through NET Ministries. NET Ministries is a mission organization that trains, equips and sends, young (18-26) Catholic's to spread the gospel. NET missionaries are either placed on retreat teams, where they travel around the country leading weekend retreats for different parishes, or they are placed on discipleship team, where missionaries stay at the same parish all year assisting with various programming around the parish. This weekend, we welcome NET Team 14, a discipleship team, to our SJB family.

Our 8 NET missionaries will be mainly assisting with our youth, including middle school youth group, high school youth group, confirmation preparation, family formation and being involved in St. John's middle school. By February 2020, we are hoping to start discipleship small groups for high school students. In addition, NET missionaries will be doing outreach around the community, such as attending high school sporting events, high school lunches and other community events.

Throughout their time here at SJB, missionaries will live with host families for 2 weeks at a time. Host families, are parishioners of St. John's who have generously opened up their homes for 2-4 missionaries throughout the year. Missionaries will eat meals and be integrated in family life of our parishioners. We are still in need of generous parishioners who are willing to open their home to our missionaries. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

As mentioned in the beginning, NET missionaries will be serving with our parish for the next 3 years, although it will not be the exact same team. Missionaries are giving up a year of their life to follow what the Lord is calling them to.

We are so blessed to have the witness of young people serving the Lord in such a counter cultural way, and SJB is going to be so blessed by their presence and ministry this year.

If you have any questions regarding the NET team and their mission, please contact Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator of Discipleship for Youth. If you would like to be a host home to our missionaries, please contact Rita Arndorfer, Volunteer Coordinator.

Mikayla Anderson, Director of Youth Ministry and Confirmation

FallFest Schedule

FRIDAY 5:00pm – 10:00pm

Inflatables for all ages-*Baseball Field*
Kids, Teens, and Adult Games
Pig Roast 5:00pm until gone
Grill the Priests- 5:30pm
Market Fair - St. Joseph Hall, 4:00-8:00pm
The Shane Martin Band, 7:00-10:00pm

SATURDAY

9 am- Fun Run 5K & 1 mile

2:00pm-10:00pm

"Bags" Tournament 2pm- *Baseball Field*
Car Show 2:00-5:00pm
Market Fair 2:00-8:00pm *St. Joseph Hall*
Inflatables for all ages-*Baseball Field*
Kids, Teens and Adult Games
BINGO hosted by K of C
Food and drink concessions
The Baron of Bubble 2:00-6:00pm
Accordion with Jan Shovelain 3:30-4:15pm
Mass 4:30pm- *Church (Golf Cart Shuttle from North Parking Lot beginning at 3:45pm)*
Necessary Diversion, 5:30-7:00pm
GB Leighton 7:30pm-10pm
Fireworks- 10pm *Baseball Field*



SUNDAY 11:00am-3:00pm

Polka Mass 10:30am- *Church*
Booya 11am until gone- *St. Joseph Hall*
(Booya take out starts at 12:30pm-*East Parking Lot*)
Brass Barn Polka Band- Noon
Food and drink concessions
BINGO hosted by Knights of Columbus
Inflatables for all ages-*Baseball Field*
Kids and Adult Games
Designer Purse Bingo -2pm
Raffle Drawing 3:00pm



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SIGN UP IN THE PLAZA



FALLFEST DONATIONS NEEDED

Children's Games - Toys, 2 liter pop, snack size items, juices, chips,
cookies, donuts, theater-size candy

Booze Toss – bottles of wine, liquor, spirits, large beer

The FallFest 1mi. & 5k Fun Run/Walk is back again this year. September 28, at 9am. Race against Fr. Paul in the 5k or take a stroll with Fr. Wagner in the 1 Mile. We will also have signs up sharing the history of the parish along the route. Registration Forms are available on the Harvest Table or you can register online at: <https://bit.ly/2XRkhd1>

FallFest Bags Tournament Saturday, September 28, 2 pm
Winners take home \$200 cash prize! *New this year!* Food and drinks will be sold at the field by the tournament! Registration Forms are available on the Harvest Table or you can register online at: bit.ly/2KAngm0

Vendors needed for the annual FallFest Market Fair Our Market Fair will be held on September 27 & 28. If you have a product you want to sell, or creation you made yourself, we would love to have you. For more information contact Kathy Paron (763) 464-3985 or kparonk1@gmail.com Don't Miss the Fun.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6;
Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5;
Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn,
7-8; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b;
Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a;
Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7-10;
1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio);
Autumn begins
Thursday: Ss. Cosmas and Damian
Friday: St. Vincent de Paul
Saturday: St. Wenceslaus; Blessed Virgin Mary
St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who have entered eternal life:

Peter and Carol Geier, parents of Randy Geier

Those who are ill: Frances Skiba, Teresa Lieser, Kathleen Schopf, Tom Miskowic, Bob and Christine Springhetti, Ben Montes, Mary Farrell, Steve Lauinger, Marianne Brekke, Charlotte Thrun, John Riedle, Dolores Bona, Joan Zawadski, Suanne Christensen, Poppy Craft, Susan McSherry, Rita Kochevar, Bernice Bartz, Robert and Annette Kirwan, Bonnie Norgren, Tom Roback, Mike Bartel, Emma Lutsilili, Jerome Sauer, Braxton Battaglia, Beverly Aplikowski, Stephan Bucko, John Mistelske, Mary Gormally, Lloyd Mans, Mary Spitzka, Elaine Loscheider, Bev Stampfle, John Demont, Michael Ferdelman, Shirley Hill, Jon Clark, Jim Montury, Lucas Kramer, Cassie Cramer, Georgianna Warden, Donna Yenish, Mary Wegerson, John Leibrich, Scott Lemke, Mark Nelson, Nella Pitzen, Mary Lou Long, Donna Reinkober, Helen Sullivan, Alfred Duku-Celestino, Fulton Francis Dobbs, Virginia Hudoba, Carl Stampfle, Marcy Eder, Doug Brekke, Jack Longnecker, Joe Szeplieniec, Stanley Kruta, Philip Jarosz

If your name has been removed from this list and you would like to be prayed for, please call the parish office.

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

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

Sunday Scripture Tuesdays at 9:00am in room 204. No registration is necessary, all are welcome.

Back by popular demand, Professor Philip Rolnick will be offering a 2 part series on the Human Person.

Beginning October 6, Rolnick will be discussing Neuroscience and the Soul and on October 13 we will be discussing Image and Likeness of God. Open to all and free! Be sure to check in by 1:15 pm in the Plaza!

Sunday School – Registration Closing September 29th Do you want your child excited about their faith? Sunday school is a fun and exciting presentation of the Gospel message with songs, crafts, stories and prayers to help the message come alive! We will learn about the saints, discuss the different parts of the liturgical year and have a class prayer cloth. Sunday school is available during the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses for children ages 3 through Kindergarten. Classes begin October 6th and we are registering now! Registration is on the website by following this link: <http://stjohnnb.com/home/registrations/> Questions? Email me at livermontj@stjohnnyb.org.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

St. John's Food Shelf Volunteers Needed

The St. John's food shelf is in need of two volunteers to help with the food shelf. There is an opportunity on the fourth Wednesday of each month, and another on the third Monday of each month in the morning from 9:45 until 12:15. You would work with one other volunteer greeting and checking in those who come for food, giving out the food and stocking the shelves. The only requirements are to be comfortable with using a computer and to have a willingness to help those in need. Please consider volunteering a little of your time and energy to help your neighbors in need. With questions or to volunteer call Jerry or Betty Lou at 651-636-2054.

Families Moving Forward is coming October 13-20

Once again St. John's will be hosting up to four families in need of a safe shelter at our facility. Each evening we provide a warm welcome, private rooms, dinner and breakfast and children's activities. Our volunteers have one goal: to make the families feel welcome, safe and comfortable.

Please stop by the Families Moving Forward table in the Plaza after all Masses this weekend to learn more and/or sign up to volunteer.

Questions? Call or email Sharon Bowen at 651-644-8347, sbowen49@gmail.com or Alicia Bowen at 651-644-8347, bowen.alicia4@gmail.com. There are many ways for all to volunteer! Join us for this wonderful opportunity! Thank you in advance for your help.

Eucharistic minister for Benedictine Health

We are looking for a new Eucharistic minister for Benedictine Health to be on a rotating schedule. You would be doing a prayer and communion service and bringing the Eucharist around to rooms also. Commitment would be 1x month on a Thursday or Friday. Questions call Mary Hartz 651-633-8333 ex 1229

It's time to clean out your closet.

Have any clothes in your closet that you haven't worn or even looked at during the last 6 – 8 months? Then it might be time to let someone less fortunate take a look at them – having a clothing drive in the West Parking Lot on Saturday, October 5 from 9am until noon. Bring your gently used clothing, shoes, small household appliances, jackets, etc. to donate to a wonderful cause! Remember – "whatever you did for these, the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for Me".

Winter Clothing Needed

St. John's local St. Vincent de Paul conference is collecting gently used or new winter coats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the needy in our community. Items can be dropped off in the SVDP box in the coatroom by the west entrance by October 11th. Items will be distributed on October 12th at Christ the King Church.



"He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry." Psalm 146:7(NIV)

Saturday, October 19 from 1-2:30pm join St. John's to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children, Coon Rapids. This activity is for anyone age 5 to 100. Families and singles. Lots of fun and great community service. Volunteer time counts for Confirmation Community Service. Your time and service will feed the hungry around the world. Register at www.fmssc.org. Group name is St John the Baptist New Brighton or join code: 19101. If you need assistance signing up contact stephanie.mn@outlook.com 651-769-4584 or tomlemke@comcast.net, 651-253-4456.

Cemetery Committee Openings

The St. John the Baptist Cemetery Committee is looking for up to three new members this fall. The ideal committee member has a personal interest in our cemetery, some experience in planning, an availability for quarterly meetings (usually in the late afternoon), a willingness to do some preparation between meetings, and an appreciation for the value of communication in our parish setting. Members are appointed to a three-year term, which can be renewed once.

The purpose of the Cemetery Committee is stated in its constitution: *It is the purpose of the Cemetery Committee to assist in the plans for the overall direction of the cemetery, to develop rules and regulations of the cemetery, and make operational and financial recommendations to maintain a viable cemetery operation.*

Please contact Gene Delaune, Cemetery Committee Chair, (efdnkwd@goldengate.net) or Mark Dittman, Parish Administrator, with questions or to nominate yourself to serve on the committee. Gene and Mark will meet with prospective members prior to recommending their appointment by the Parochial Administrator.



Let's Sing!

Choristers is starting soon! Consider signing up for this fun program now with new times and expanded offerings for K-8! Come try it out!

Choristers (grades 2-8) - 2 sessions now offered
Mondays 2:30-3:30pm OR 4:00-5:00pm
Sing 1 time per month primarily at 4:30pm Saturday Mass. Begins October 7th. \$45 yearly fee

Cherub Choir (grades K-1) - 2 sessions now offered
Tuesdays 2:30-3:10pm OR 4:00-4:40pm
Sing 2-3 times a year at Mass. Begins September 24th. \$35 yearly fee

MARCH FOR LIFE REGISTRATIONS AVAILABLE!

January 21-26, 2020, SJB will be taking a pilgrimage to Washington DC to participate in the National March for Life. This pilgrimage is for High School Students and their families. Cost is \$490. Fundraising will also be available.

Contact Mikayla at andersonm@stjohnnyb.org to let her know if you are interested in participating or to register!

Gifts of Financial Treasure, September 15, 2019

	This Year Actual	This Year Needed	Variance from Budget
Sunday/wk 11	\$ 20,661	\$ 31,244	(\$10,583)
YTD through wk 11	\$ 327,939	\$365,068	(\$37,129)

God bless you for your generous support!

Are you looking for a couple of hours of work? Do you like being around children? SJB school is looking for someone to help serve lunch in our school cafeteria. Contact Kristy Champion for more information at championk@stjohnnyb.org or 651-633-1522.

Growing Through Loss series continues Sept. 23

The fall Growing Through Loss series continues Monday, Sept. 23 with Caring for a Broken Heart, featuring Linda Cherek, licensed therapist, educator, consultant and author, as the speaker. Grief changes hearts and minds, making for a new normal in one's life. Confusion, sadness, fatigue, inability to focus, depression—all these and other emotions are common when experiencing grief. This session helps identify what's happening and presents some ideas to help you cope with the "out of control" feelings of grief. The program is from 6:45 to 9 p.m. at St. Odilia Church, 3495 N. Victoria, Shoreview. The series continues Mondays through Oct. 21. There are brochures available in the St. Paul Plaza kiosks. Registration is taken at each session. You may attend any one or all the programs. There is no fee, but donations are welcome. Free child care is available by request one week in advance of the program by calling 763-755-5335. For more information about the program, call Sue Amos Palmer, 651-633-8333 ext. 1298. The next program in the series is Sept. 30 A Personal Grief Story: Sharing Hope with Monica Shearon, Christian mother, educator and life coach.

YOU ARE INVITED

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019—7:00PM

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH
13505 EXCELSIOR BLVD., MINNETONKA

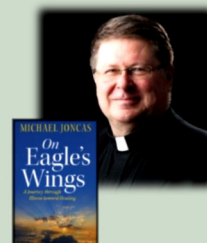
WILL WELCOME GUEST SPEAKER

FR. MICHAEL JONCAS,

ON EAGLE'S WINGS:

A JOURNEY THROUGH ILLNESS

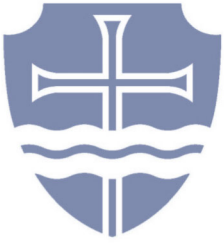
TOWARD HEALING.



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Archdiocese's Victim/Survivor Assistance Program 651-291-4497 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Go.Make.Teach. NEWS

Vol. 3 September 22, 2019

NET Team: INVITED IN to help us - GO. MAKE. TEACH

by Betsy Carlson

This past week a group of eight, new, young adults showed up in the Chapel of the Angels for daily Mass. They're part of NET Ministries, which is known mainly for sending teams around the country to put on youth retreats.

But the group here at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and School is different from their traveling counterparts. They're a discipleship team and are here from now to May to work mainly with sixth through 12th graders as well as with young adults and other parishioners to get to know us and to show us how to deepen our faith lives and become messengers for Christ—disciples.

The four-women and four-men team is here as part of a three-year program to cooperate with the parish and school to develop a youth outreach plan that will allow the parish to flourish for years to come, ultimately drawing others into communion with Christ and each other.

There is one other discipleship team in Minnesota—at Providence Academy in Plymouth and one team each in Texas, Illinois and Michigan.

Eric Ramos, 23, from Duncanville, Texas, is the team leader at St. John's. He joined the NET team in July and is on his first assignment. Co-team leader is Kacey Short, also 23, from Forrest, Ill. She traveled the Midwest and South on a NET retreat team last year and was the drama leader.

Ramos says the initial job of the team will be to get to know the youth in our parish. The team will be setting up times to meet and talk with sixth to 12th graders. Forming discipleship groups is one thing they'll probably do. They'll plan events with youth minister director Mikayla Anderson. Building community with parish members will be a focus as well.

He says they won't be doing much instruction but rather talking about how God loves us and then teaching people to respond to Him by showing how team members live—with daily Mass attendance, their prayer lives, reading Scripture, in service and by sharing their faith.

"We'll be here to talk about why we're here, why we love God, showing people how to be messengers," says Ramos.

"What I want to do is to make them [the youth] know God and that He is love and that He loves them right where they are in their lives, you know. That He is just begging them to say, 'Yes,' to Him and that He wants to do wonderful things through them," says Ramos. "We are His tools and He is the master."

Ramos, a welder for two years, grew up in a charismatic community and knew of NET because some young people from the group served on NET teams. He says he found himself being drawn to people in his church and community, including NET missionaries, who truly gave themselves to Christ and then how God worked through them. He says he wanted the kind of love from God that he saw in them.

He saw them living out their faith in prayer, in goodness, in service and in spreading the Gospel to everyone they encountered. "Then I had this kind of epiphany moment, NEWS FLASH, Eric, God has always loved you like that," he says, "I had a knowledge of God before that moment, but it turned into a belief and a love of God."

For the nine months before joining NET Ministries, he was deeply involved as a volunteer in his home parish's youth ministry, young adult ministry and Bible study.

The other team leader, Short graduated from college in December 2017 with an English degree. She hadn't heard of NET Ministries until she was 21 and learned of NET from people whom she met through Totus Tuus a semester before she graduated. She says the idea of being with eight to 12 people on a team for nine months freaked her out, and, finishing her degree was at the front of her mind.

After she graduated college, she worked for a lawyer for a while and says she felt a restlessness. The work she was doing was good and she was using her degree but she just felt she wasn't where she was supposed to be. Then in January of 2018, NET popped into her mind and she went to the Net Ministries Web site and, without doing much research, applied to become a team member, she says. "I just dove in."

Part of the procedure for joining a team is an interview retreat weekend. She says she fell in love with NET that weekend. It was because of what NET is about, their mission and also that NET is geared specifically to sixth through 12th grade students. She thinks that's a very important time in a person's life. She left the retreat weekend feeling NET was where she was supposed to be. That's evidently what NET officials thought too because a week later she got a call from their recruitment director asking her if she would accept a position as a missionary.

A mother catechizes her children and learns from them too

by Betsy Carlson

Melanie Dowell says she believes God gave children to her for many reasons but one of them was that He wanted her to be truly closer to Him.

Dowell cites several ways she's grown closer to Jesus through raising her kids. They include educating them at St. John the Baptist Catholic School, making a strong decision to catechize them at home, seeing her daughter involved in NET Ministries Lifeline Mass events, going through the archdiocesan Catechetical Institute so she could answer more of their questions and then witnessing her kids on fire for their faith.

"I'm a cradle Catholic and I've always been involved at church and I went to school there. Both my parents were Catholics who raised us and taught us as Catholics. But that personal connection to Jesus, I don't believe I truly had until really my kids showed me how to do that. Thank God that I learned how to do that," she says.

Mother and daughter have attended a number of NET events together. Melanie says that as a parent her participation in NET has opened her up to the Holy Spirit to guide her children in their faith. While she and her daughter, Emma, have always been close, Dowell says that Emma's participation in NET has brought them closer and bonded them through her daughter's journey with her faith.

"She's [Emma] shared so much of her faith with me. She's learned so much and I truly believe that she has Jesus in her heart and she brings Jesus to places where you can't freely talk about Jesus," says Dowell. "It's something that I feel is such an amazing blessing in our lives. I'm so grateful that she is choosing that for her life," says Dowell.

Emma, a junior at Irondale High School, has been to Extreme Faith Camp several times and Melanie and Emma have gone together to three Steubenville Youth Conferences. Emma is part of a NET Teen Ministry Team and helps out with monthly NET Lifeline Masses.

An active parishioner, Melanie has been involved at St. John the Baptist in Sunday school, family formation, small groups for confirmation, youth group and as a sacristan. She works in the mornings at the parish's pre-school. She has a full-time job at CSI in New Brighton too.

Her daughter isn't her only child who is going to NET activities. Melanie says Jack, a middle school student, has seen changes in his sister, taken an interest in getting involved in the activities for older students and has started going to NET Masses also.

"I enjoy seeing my kids on fire for their faith at such a young age," she says. "It's a priority to them. It humbles me and helps me as a parent. I learn so much from my kids."

Dowell says she and her two children have helped each other and working with them broke whatever barrier she had in her faith and moved her to a new level in her faith and in relationship to Christ.

She says her husband Adam is an unbeliever. She calls him a wonderful husband and a wonderful father and says he supports her in her belief in sending the children to St. John's. "My kids, they're just amazing. Their strength and their faith is amazing and how we live our lives will bring him to God."

Larry Gillespie looks forward to work of NET Team, discusses faith formation at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church & School

by Betsy Carlson

Lifelong St. John the Baptist parishioner Larry Gillespie says that he's hoping the NET Team members will help our school teach its students to be warriors for Christ and adds he wants to do all he can to support this ministry.

It's not about developing careers and going out and making millions, but about developing their faith lives, he says. It's about their coming to see Jesus as their brother and Mary as their mother.

Gillespie says he is glad that the Dominican sisters have come to St. John's too. He feels the sisters and the NET Team can work to produce good Catholics and good leaders who will have good marriages, which will strengthen the Church. He says he is hopeful that the presence of the sisters in their habits will inspire vocations to the religious life too.

He says he's heard that NET missionaries are "so successful" in developing Catholic students.

Gillespie, a daily Mass participant, says he loves going to the weekday Masses attended by our students. "That was me 60 years ago," he says and remembers going to Mass at least one day a week when he attended St. John's school. He reminisced recently about going to Mass in the auditorium and said someone else told him they remembered going three days a week. He says daily Mass is one of the most important things about being a member here. He has been going to daily Mass for about 30 years. He started with the intention of going to daily Mass for about a month during one Lent and has "been going ever since."

Gillespie likes starting his day with Mass and Communion, the body of Christ, he says, "Give us this day our daily bread. It's such a gift."

The people of St. John's are his family, Gillespie says, "my church family." He sings the praises of the parish and, among many things, is grateful to Father Paul and Deacon Peter D'Heilly for the support they gave him when his wife died two and a half years ago. He says they encouraged him that it wasn't the end of life, but it is a different life.

As part of his membership here, Gillespie has served in such ministries as the food shelf, meals on wheels and taking Communion to people in nursing homes. He says, "I tell them how much God loves them. They're suffering and many can feel abandoned. It's important to remind them they're loved."

Outside the parish, he is president of the North-Minneapolis Serra Club, which is an international organization promoting and supporting vocations, priests, seminarians and religious as well as encouraging members' personal holiness. He listens to Relevant Radio and watches EWTN, which he says are "so wonderful" in spreading the Catholic news.

Going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009 with other St. John the Baptist members and then in 2010 to Medjugorje in Bosnia with a group led by parishioner Stephanie Percic increased his faith and his love for Jesus.

"Just being in the Holy Land and walking on that dirt that Jesus walked on, that was powerful for me," Gillespie says. "It may sound trite, but my focus is on a daily life in my faith."

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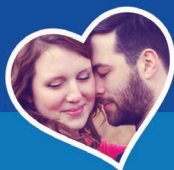
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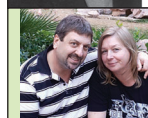
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