



# November 10, 2019

## 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

Our Core Values: a reliance on prayer; a willingness to grow; a generous spirit



*Willingness to Grow:  
Core Value at  
St. John the Baptist*



**Council of Catholic Women**



**SMALL GROUPS** *Youth Group*  
Seek Jesus. Together.

*Scripture Classes*



### One Spirit ~ Many Gifts Sunday Giving Renewal

This is Commitment Weekend! Please return your completed pledge form at this weekend's Masses, or drop off at the parish office. You may also return your form through the mail or in the collection on an upcoming weekend.

For more information please contact Bret Sutton, Director of Stewardship & Development,  
at [suttonb@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:suttonb@stjohnnyb.org) or 651-633-8333, ext. 1217, or 651-315-5952.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## PARISH STAFF

### PASTORAL MINISTRY

651-633-8333

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Parochial Administrator ext. 1214  
Fr. Kevin Magnier, 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. 1219  
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  
Jen Livermont, Sacramental Records ext. 1219  
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:

**THIS WEEKEND, November 9/10**

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.*

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Monday, November 11, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Magnier (Gene Ward+)  
6:15 PM Handbell Practice ~ LL101  
7:00 PM RCIA ~ 210

### Tuesday, November 12, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Darwin Larson+)  
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese  
9:00 AM Sunday Scripture ~ 204  
4:00 PM Cemetery Committee ~ 201  
6:30 PM SJB School Open House ~ School/SJH  
7:00 PM Intercessory Prayer Ministry ~ 210

### Wednesday, November 13, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Cay Vu)  
9:15 AM Faithfully Fit ~ 208  
9:30 AM Fall Scripture Study ~ 210  
9:30 AM Legion of Mary ~ 211  
5:00 PM Evening Confessions ~ Church  
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Magnier  
6:30 PM Knights of Columbus ~ 211  
7:00 PM Contemporary Choir Rehearsal ~ Church  
8:00 PM Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) ~ LL106

### Thursday, November 14, 2019

6:30 AM Men's Fellowship ~ St. Joseph Hall  
8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Vernon Kackman+)  
9:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel of the Angels  
9:15 AM Circle of Women ~ 206  
1:00 PM Quilters ~ LL108  
2:30 PM Middle School Open Youth Room ~ LL106  
6:30 PM Catholic Watchmen ~ St. Joseph Hall

### Friday, November 15, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Gordon Dahl+)  
10:30 AM Anointing Mass and Luncheon ~ Chapel

### Saturday, November 16, 2019

3:30 PM Confessions ~ Church  
4:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Ernest Utecht+)

### Sunday, November 17, 2019

8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Magnier (Joan Roemer+)  
8:30 AM Sunday School ~ School Classrooms  
9:30 AM RCIC ~ 204 St. Clare Conference  
10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word ~ Chapel  
10:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Reynold Mueller+ and Family)  
10:30 AM Sunday School ~ School Classrooms  
11:30 AM Advent Retreat ~ St. Joseph Hall  
5:30 PM Confirmation 2 ~ LL106  
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Magnier (Pro Populo)





## *From the Parochial Administrator: Father Paul Shovelain*

### **Willingness to Grow**

In addition to reliance on prayer and generous spirit, our third core value at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and School is **willingness to grow**. We are affected by Original Sin and thus we need to cooperate with God's grace in order to overcome it. By being receptive to God's grace and responding to the opportunities he provides for us, we are able to become saints! However, we have to be willing to grow and that is not easy. The Lord is inviting us to grow into the disciples he desires us to be. As we grow, we are more and more filled with God's love and goodness and find happiness in fulfilling his call. He desires our happiness and thus we can trust that being faithful to him will bring us joy!

Jesus invited his disciples to grow throughout his public ministry. He formed them through his parables and his sermons. They grew to trust God and turn away from sin. St. Peter struggled to grow into the disciple Jesus desired him to become. When Jesus told Peter how he was going to suffer and die, Peter failed to trust in God's plan and spoke against it. Jesus had to correct Peter and point out that God's plan is the best plan. Later, when Jesus is arrested, Peter denies knowing Jesus three times. After all they had been through, Peter still struggled to remain faithful to Jesus. He preferred his own protection rather than remaining strong in the face of persecution. Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to grow by forgiving him. Ultimately, Peter was a martyr and offered his life as a witness to the fact that Jesus was truly the Son of God! Peter struggled to grow, but he was willing to. He learned from his mistakes and continued to work at responding to the grace of Jesus Christ which led him to become a saint.

Here at St. John's, we desire to become saints. We are not born saints but have to become saints by receiving mercy and responding to the opportunities Christ gives us to share in his ministry. When we rely on prayer, we encounter his love and are strengthened by him. When we live out of a generous spirit, we share Christ with others and participate in his ministry. When we are willing to grow, we humble ourselves and allow ourselves to be led by Christ to true happiness which comes from living in union with God the Father.

Our active parish offers so many opportunities to help you grow into the disciple God is inviting you to become. We have a wonderful Catholic school, which is growing and we welcomed 4 new students this past week. We invite the students to grow in their relationship with God through Wednesday school Mass as well as daily prayer times. Our family formation program offers families of the parish the opportunity to grow together in their relationship with God. We have over 120 people in Encounter Small Groups who are growing together as disciples of the Lord. We offer opportunities to study the faith through the Bible Studies led by Sister Clarinda. Our many adult programs include presentations that are meant to help men and women grow in their vocation and become the best version of themselves. We have a parish library which is a great resource. We also have the book and cd stand, near the west entrance, which offer those who come through our doors the opportunity to learn our beautiful Catholic faith through various forms of media. We really want to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and thus we direct a lot of our energy toward that purpose.

I invite you in this year to grow by developing your God given gifts. Men join us for Watchmen, Knights of Columbus or Men's Fellowship to grow in your relationship with Jesus and others of our community. Women join us for Circle of Women, Council of Catholic Women, or devoted and grow into your relationship with Jesus and others of our community. One upcoming opportunity to grow is our Family Advent retreat on November 17th. We are doing the retreat before Advent so that we can start Advent in the right mindset. All parishioners are welcome! This is an opportunity for us to grow in our understanding of Advent and the importance of inviting Christ into our lives. (Check out the advertisement found in the bulletin for more info.)

Look for ways to grow this year here at SJB. You will be amazed at what God will do through you when you live as his disciple. He is a loving and generous God who wants to share his love both with you and through you! By being willing to grow, we are able to cooperate with the grace of God and more effectively GO. MAKE. TEACH.

Thank you to all those that came out for our All Saints Party, especially the 75 saints. It was great to see the little saints and all the kids having so much fun here at St. John's.

*As the Father loves me, so I also love you!*

*Father Paul Shovelain*





### Thank you!

Thank you to **Stephanie Waite** and her many volunteers who organized an amazing Turkey Dinner! This event was a fine example of our core value of generous spirit being lived out! Our volunteers generously gave of their time and energy!

Many others generously gave pies! We served over 300 in the hall and about 150 takeout meals were sold. Many people enjoyed great food and company! **Thank you too all who volunteered and made the event a great success!**

### Dreams

The story is told about a man that dreamt that he died in a car accident. When he woke up the next morning, he immediately went to the bank and withdrew all his money. Why? Because the slogan of the bank was, "We make your dreams come true!"

Well the homeless dream of clean, dry, white socks, t-shirts, boxer shorts, thermal underwear (large sizes) and women's socks and underwear, too. (Blue containers at church doors.) We can help make their dreams come true this Christmas season.

"When were you naked, Lord, and we clothed you?"

*Sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society*



### Anointing Mass Friday, November 15 at 10:30 AM

Anointing is a sacrament in our church for those experiencing a new diagnosis, illness (physical or mental), upcoming surgery, or complications of aging. Also those facing chronic illness can benefit. This sacrament can bring healing of both body and soul. Come join us in the chapel for this Mass.

**All are welcome.**

**Hospitality after Mass in St. Joseph Hall**



Prayer teams will be available to pray with you in the Chapel of the Angels on **Saturday, November 9** immediately following the 4:30pm Mass and on **Sunday, November 10** immediately following the 8:30am Mass. Please come to the chapel and someone will direct you.

### St. John's Newly Baptized

*Through water and the word you have become a child of God  
and are sealed as Christ's own forever.*

**Grace Christine Osten** child of Matthew & Kelsey Osten  
**Margaret Louise Ribar** child of Matthew & Erin Ribar



Our Director of Stewardship and Development, Bret Sutton, has worked with hundreds of benefactors to help make the most advantageous giving decisions for you (the donor), your family, and St. John's. To learn more, contact Bret at 651-315-5952.

## PERPETUAL ADORATION

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."

C.S. Lewis

Need change in your life? Pray in the adoration chapel.

Sign up for one of these open hours: Tuesday midnight, 3am; Saturday 1am, 2am, 5am, 7am.

The adorers at these hours have requested a prayer partner: Monday noon, 2am, 2pm, Wednesday noon, 4am.

Call Kathy 763-464-3985 or Mark 651-245-6493 for more information and to sign up. Substitute adorers are needed, especially for midnight to 6am

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

#### Those who have entered eternal life:

**Those who are ill:** Betsy Brown, Jean Buckska, Dee Olson, Jim Smith, Jerry Renk, Dale Phillips, Dennis Fox, Teresa Lieser, Kathleen Schopf, Tom Miskowic, Bob & Christine Springhetti, Ben Montes, Steve Lauinger, Marianne Brekke, Charlotte Thrun, John Riedle, Dolores Bona, Joan Zawadski, Suanne Christensen, Poppy Craft, Susan McSherry, Rita Kochevar, Bernice Bartz, 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 Szeppeniec, 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.

**CIRCLE OF WOMEN, Room 206, 9:15-11:30 am.** We invite women of all ages to join us for our next gathering on **Thursday, November 14.** Joining us for the first time will be Bernadette Gockowski, a local artist and mother who focuses primarily on religious artwork. Come hear her speak about "Saint Ignatius and Emotional Virtue". Childcare is available. Any questions, please don't hesitate to call Michelle at (763)442-4936 or Carrie at (612)275-2236, our brochures are available in the kiosks. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday!



**Thursday Morning 6:30-8:00am - Now – December 12, 2019 - The Wild Goose DVD Series by Fr Dave Pivonka.**

***Come for the donuts, stay for the truth!! Questions, call Dave @ 612-616-4013***



**Attention ALL Men!** Join us for our next Watchmen, **Thursday, November 14 at 6:30pm.** Fr. Paul will give a live presentation on the Core Values of SJB and how they can help you be the sons, brothers, fathers and husbands that God is calling you to be. We will start with a meal at 6:30pm followed by the presentation, discussion and opportunity for prayer and confession. Please join us! Contact Fr. Paul with any questions.



The Knights of Columbus will be meeting on November 13, 2019, 6:30 pm business meeting and 7:00 pm the general meeting in room 211.

Join us for a special time of ADORATION with Praise and Worship this week for High School Youth Group. **Wednesday, November 13, 2019 from 8-9:30pm in the Youth Room.**

## GLORIFY PRAISE AND WORSHIP

**All ages are invited to join the NET  
Team for praise and worship Saturday  
mornings.**

**NOVEMBER 2ND, 16TH, & 23RD  
/ IN THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
YOUTH ROOM / SATURDAYS AT  
10:00AM**

**Archdiocesan Synod—What's working and what's not in the Archdiocese?** Archbishop Hebda wants to hear from you! Please prayerfully consider attending an upcoming Prayer and Listening Event, as part of the Pre-Synod Process and make your voice heard. Your input will help guide the Archdiocese over the next 5-10 years. There are 20 Prayer and Listening Events. Learn more about the Synod and see a full listing of Prayer and Listening Events at [archspm.org/synod](http://archspm.org/synod)

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Wis 1:1-7; Ps 139:1b-10; Lk 17:1-6  
Tuesday: Wis 2:23 - 3:9; Ps 34:2-3, 16-19; Lk 17:7-10  
Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-4, 6-7; Lk 17:11-19  
Thursday: Wis 7:22b -- 8:1; Ps 119:89-91, 130, 135, 175; Lk 17:20-25  
Friday: Wis 13:1-9; Ps 19:2-5ab; Lk 17:26-37  
Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43; Lk 18:1-8  
Sunday: Mal 3:19-20a; Ps 98:5-9; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

## Library News

November 11 is Veteran's Day! Find a Veteran and thank him or her for their service to our country. Most of them are silent heroes. Listen to their stories of courage and faith, and realize that because of their service, we are still a country of the free and home of the brave. Your parish library offers books and DVDs in our Military and Faith category. Mark your calendars! The annual SJB LIBRARY BOOK FAIR is scheduled for the weekend of December 7/8. The library is open after the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. Any questions, call Jeannie Kratzer @ 651-636-8928.





### Fall School Open House

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019 from 5:30p-7:00p**

St. John the Baptist Catholic School is a place... Where every student is known, cared for, and respected. Where each student is a member of a community of faith, knowledge, and service. *Where each child is given a foundation for life.*

For more information, please call 651-633-1522.



### Give to the MAX!

Give to the Max Day is coming up on Thursday, November 14. We are hoping to complete our Wi-Fi upgrade to provide technology access for all. Donate now through Nov. 14th by visiting <https://bit.ly/2PMOfQY>



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington D.C. Poinsettia Fundraiser

Are you looking to add a little Christmas color to your home? The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class at St. John's School is selling poinsettia plants to raise money for their upcoming trip to Washington D.C.

Plants are available in pink, white or red in sizes 4.5" (\$9), 6.5" (\$15) and 8.5" (\$25). Order forms may be found on the Harvest Table or at the school office.

Orders and payment will be accepted through Thursday, November 21 - bring to the school office (Monday - Friday 7:30am-3:30pm) or drop it off at the Welcome Desk in St. Paul Plaza.

Plants will be available for pickup on Friday, December 6 from 2:30 - 4pm, Saturday, December 7 after 4:30pm Mass or Sunday, December 8 after 8:30am and 10:30am Masses in St. Paul Plaza. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Carroll [carrollj@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:carrollj@stjohnnyb.org) or 651-633-1522 x1111.

### Gifts of Financial Treasure, November 3, 2019

	This Year Actual	This Year Needed	Variance from Budget
Sunday/wk 18	\$41,277	\$48,849	(\$7,572)
YTD through wk 18	\$556,774	\$615,202	(\$58,428)

*God bless you for your generous support!*

### St. John the Baptist 2019 FallFest Financial Report

	Income	Expense	net
Raffle	\$ 43,126	\$ (13,243)	\$ 29,883
Food/beverage	\$ 31,820	\$ (15,912)	\$ 15,908
Sponsors/Donations	\$ 19,541	\$ -	\$ 19,541
Booya	\$ 12,411	\$ (3,783)	\$ 8,628
5K Run	\$ 7,895	\$ (2,264)	\$ 5,631
Children's Games	\$ 6,557	\$ (517)	\$ 6,040
Market Fair	\$ 5,891	\$ -	\$ 5,891
Other	\$ 3,156	\$ (2,589)	\$ 567
Bean Bag Tournament	\$ 1,685	\$ (450)	\$ 1,235
Entertainment	\$ 1,455	\$ (18,383)	\$ (16,928)
Car Show	\$ 210	\$ (50)	\$ 160
Administration	\$ -	\$ (20,819)	\$ (20,819)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 133,747</b>	<b>\$ (78,010)</b>	<b>\$ 55,738</b>

2019 was one of our best FallFests ever! This income supports all of our parish ministries. Thank you again to our co-chairs John & Taylor Burns and Jim & Janice Treat, and all the staff and parish leaders who put so much time and effort into this festival. It was a wonderful parish and community event!

### SJB QUILTERS

**SJB Quilters** will meet Thursday, November 14 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.** 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.

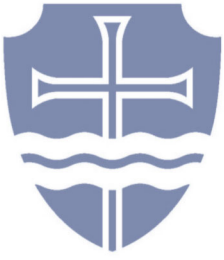
### Military Board

When the war began in Iraq in 2003, we erected a military board in St. Paul Plaza along with a lectern for listing names and intentions of those in service to our country. This board was intended for short term use during the war. We decided to leave it up for a duration after the war ended, and have now decided it is time to remove the board. We will however, leave up the lectern with the book of names along with the American flag in St. Paul Plaza. Please continue to remember those who serve and protect our nation.

### Stay Connected:

LIKE us on [www.facebook.com/SJBNewBrighton](http://www.facebook.com/SJBNewBrighton) • EMAIL: [stjohnsnb@pclink.com](mailto:stjohnsnb@pclink.com)

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



# Go.Make.Teach. NEWS

**Core Values**

**Vol. 2 November 10, 2019**

## **Jim and Janet Glaser have learned they can't out-give God**

By Betsy Carlson

It is sometimes said that people can't out-give God. Jim and Janet Glaser are a couple who have lived and learned that that adage is true.

They each grew up with parents who were active in their church or community and when finances were tight as newly-weds, his father told them to give more to the church and things would work out.

"I found that to be true and figured it must work for time as well," says Jim. "It's like the more I give the more I gain. It's like time slows down to get everything done."

Jim's mother was in a church circle, baked desserts for funerals and volunteered the family to clean their parish church at least once a year during Lent. His father taught CCD, sang in the choir and was on the church board. Janet's father helped out neighbors, worked with the Boy Scouts and coached Little League.

"I wanted my children benefitting from that, learning to be kind hearted," says Janet. "We both like to be part of the solution, to have some input and to work with a group, to give back."

They've passed that sense of "giving back" to both of their children, Matt who is a freshman at St. Cloud State University, and Mackenzie who is a junior at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Both were Mass servers.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matt rejuvenated gardens in front of the rectory. He planned the garden, stayed in a budget and got volunteers and guided the work. Mackenzie was in the church choir for four years and helped with last summer's hiring process for our parish's new youth ministry leader.

Jim and Janet feel they've been blessed in their life, blessed with enough finances to be able to "give a little more," blessed with jobs they've loved and volunteer efforts that involve doing things they are interested in or love doing.

For her that has meant singing in St. John's regular choir and our *schola* choir. For Jim, it has meant gardening around the rectory. He is on the commission for the Office of Discipleship and Mission (formerly Faith Formation) and in the Knights of Columbus. Recently they hosted Cesar and Solomon, members of the NET Team, for two weeks.

And because they were becoming empty nesters, they started working with Families Moving Forward a year ago so they had "something to do together." They are part of an eight-person core team that hosts homeless persons and families seeking transitional housing for a week twice a year here at St. John the Baptist. They expect to lead the core team in another year anticipate working with Families Moving Forward for a few years.

## **Roland and Corine pray together weekly in adoration chapel**

By Betsy Carlson

For husband and wife Roland Hodufia and Corine Eusebio prayer is an essential component in their lives.

Roland, an immigrant here a year and four months ago from Togo in West Africa, says, "I have passed through many things in my life. I recognized that God helped me a lot in life. Every day I have to pray."

Corine tells of being trained by her parents from childhood to pray every morning before getting out of bed because, she says, "They taught us that it's grace for you if you wake up."

She emigrated from Togo in August of 2015 with their two daughters Stella, now 15, and Elielle, 13. The girls serve Mass here at St. John the Baptist.

In her home country, Corine says, she started practicing Eucharistic adoration with Thursday visits becoming a weekly routine. In his younger life, Roland says, he went to church every Sunday.

Their relationship started in 1998 and at that time she introduced him to the charismatic renewal in Togo and they started doing adoration together—on Thursdays.

He started to pray with the renewal group and little by little found that interesting and he says that it created a new relationship with God and made prayer a part of his life.

Though separated by extenuating circumstances from 2007 to 2015, Roland and Corine kept up their adoration prayers in different West African countries. Now reunited in the U.S. they continue their adoration practice together, still on Thursdays.

While apart they communicated mostly by telephone and a few emails and had experienced some communication difficulties in making immigration plans. By the grace of God, Roland came back to Togo before Corine and their girls came to the U.S. and they had three months together then. He remained in Togo until 2018.

*continued* —————>

Remembering the earlier time apart, Roland says, "I was close to God because of a lot of suffering. It is that time that I really realized that God is really, really real with me. At that time God told me many, many things. I heard his voice." God told Roland not to be afraid and that everything would be okay and that He is with him. He says, "I am seeing now some of those things God told me before."

He and Corine continued to trust God to help with his immigration and continue to ask for help in dealing with adjustments to living and working here.

Roland says that without God, we can't do anything, "It isn't possible. I talk to my God to help me."

Corine says, "It's very simple. We need Him every time."

## Rearing children, connecting with others means growing for Banaszaks

By Betsy Carlson

*"Growth is the only evidence of life," Saint John Henry Newman once said.*

Nic and Katie Banaszak have plenty of evidence of life as members of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and as parents of three daughters, Erica 8, Allison 6 and Hailey 4.

They are growing through several parish programs. They are in Family Formation, which includes teaching the faith to their children. Katie attends *devoted* and is in a women's small group. For a little more than a year Nic and Katie have been presenting Baptism prep classes.

Nic says that for the first couple of years they were at St. John the Baptist most people knew who their kids were and then as they became more involved with activities in the parish people started to recognize them as a family.

Meeting other families was one of the reasons they got involved in the Baptism preparation program, according to Katie. The idea of the program, she says, is to build a community and to help families who are having their children baptized connect with similar families.

Family Formation is a descendent of CCD programs many people are familiar with, but it isn't just for youngsters. Parents and children attend the once-a-month sessions during the school year. The kids go off to their grade level classrooms and the adults have a speaker on the same topic as the kids, says Nic. Recently they heard about the liturgical year, says Katie. "I do find even when it's a subject that I might say, 'I know about this,' there's new subject matter or that I hadn't thought about it that way before," she says.

Both Katie and Nic appreciate the lessons that are sent home for the parents to teach to their children.

Nic says that at a recent Mass they talked about the liturgical season and what color Father Paul was wearing. Katie adds that the lessons help the girls to focus on what's going on in the Mass and to focus on symbols and traditions they wouldn't have talked about before.

The take-home packets are changing the family's prayer life. Katie says the lessons include a memory prayer or verse and that they are using these in their nighttime prayers. "When I grew up, the way we would pray was just reciting a prayer," she says. "There wasn't a conversation that was happening. And it is something I'm working on myself in how I pray but, I'm trying to teach our kids how to pray, how to have a conversation with God and to build a relationship too."

Personal development for this family includes fun and good times too. They enjoy Sunday Fundays, the FallFest and the All Saints Party.



## Save the Date For These Upcoming Family Events !

**"Inviting In" Family Advent Retreat** What are simple ways to invite Jesus into our homes during Advent to make the season of Advent more meaningful for your family? Please join us immediately following 10:30 Mass on **Sunday, November 17th** for the **Family Advent Retreat**. We will have tacos for lunch, and we ask that you bring a side or dessert to share. We will do a fun group activity and then have a break-out session for kids based on age while the adults hear a talk. We will end with an easy luminary craft that will bring the Holy Family into our homes. "Invite In" a family to join us!

**Sunday, December 15th** directly following the 10:30 Mass please join us for the **Sunday School Christmas Program** in St. Joseph Hall. All of the Sunday school students from both the 8:30 and 10:30 classes will perform. Hospitality will follow. You don't need to have a Sunday schooler to enjoy this adorable event! All are welcome!

**Celebrate Epiphany with the Wise Men** as they journey to the Inn to encounter Jesus! Our annual Journey to the Inn Event will be **Saturday, January 4th** with dinner and the program following the 4:30 Mass. Nursery and Sunday school will **ONLY** be offered during this Mass so bring the whole family! All are welcome!



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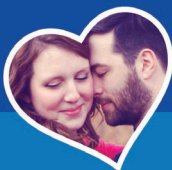
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