

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

“While he was still at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him” (Luke 15:20).



Rediscovering the Sacrament of Penance

Has it been a while since your last confession? Do you have questions about the Sacrament such as:
Its been so long, I can not remember the words...

I have committed too many sins, the priest will never forgive me...

Does the Church still teach that we have to go to Confession...

What's the Sacrament even called? Is it Penance, Reconciliation or Confession...

If you have experienced one of these thoughts you are not alone.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website contains resources to help you rediscover the Sacrament of Penance and answer questions about the Church and Church teachings. We invite you to explore this site at
<https://bit.ly/2sRNJ9b>

No matter if you go to confession regularly, or haven't been in years the Father is longing to run to you and welcome you home.

Join us for Advent Reconciliation

Communal Service (with Individual Confession and Absolution) Sunday, December 22, 2019 3:30pm

Private Confessions

Tuesday, December 17	3:00-5:00pm
Friday, December 20	7:00-8:30am
Saturday, December 21	3:00-4:15pm

Our regular scheduled times:

Monday-Friday	8:00- 8:20am
Wednesday	5:00-5:20pm
Saturday	3:30- 4:15pm
Sunday	5:00-5:15pm

PARISH STAFF

PASTORAL MINISTRY

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

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

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

Mikayla Anderson 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, 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 December 14/15

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

All are welcome to attend.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, December 16, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (James John Bischof+)
6:15 PM Handbell Practice ~ LL101
7:00 PM Library Committee Meeting ~ Library
7:00 PM RCIA ~ 210

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Tom Chies+)
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese
3:00 - 5:00 PM Advent Confessions ~ Confessionals
7:00 PM School Christmas Program ~ Church

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Carrie Anne)
9:15 AM Faithfully Fit ~ 208
9:30 AM Legion of Mary ~ 211
11:30 AM Widow/ Widowers Lunch ~ Perkins
5:00 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Bernice Powers+)
6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group ~ LL106
7:00 PM Contemporary Choir Rehearsal ~ Church
8:00 PM Senior High Youth Group ~ LL106

Thursday, December 19, 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 (Mary Clare Farrell)
9:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel
11:00 AM ABLE Book Club ~ 204
2:30 PM Middle School Open Youth Room ~ LL106

Friday, December 20, 2019

7:00 - 8:30 AM Advent Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Jerry & Betty Lou Elfert)
9:30 AM Greening of the Church ~ Church

Saturday, December 21, 2019

3:00 PM Confessions ~ Church
4:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Tom Chies+)

Sunday, December 22, 2019 Advent IV

8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (David Jarvi+)
10:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Bill Otto+)
3:30 PM Advent Communal Reconciliation ~ Church
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Pro Populo)



From the Parochial Administrator: Father Paul Shovelain

Advent: Opportunities to live out the Core Values

Generosity is the virtue that our students here at St. John the Baptist Catholic School are focusing on this month. Generosity is giving without counting the cost or expecting anything in return. Jesus Christ models this virtue perfectly for us and thus we strive to reflect our messiah by living out the virtue. Some practical ways we do that currently in the school is by putting together bags of joy for the homeless and needy. Each grade is responsible for donating important items including hygiene and practical items like hand warmers. The students then put together bags that they will distribute

to those in need. This exercise not only helps them live out the virtue of the month, it also helps them live out our core value of generous spirit.

Our parishioners continue to live out this same core value as evidenced by the tremendous response to the sock and underwear drive. We had well over a mile (over 5,280 pairs) of socks donated this year! Also, the Angel Tree has had an impressive response and many, many gifts have been donated for local charities. Thank you for your donation. So where does this generous spirit come from? Yes, it comes through our parishioners, but first and foremost it comes from God. He is the one who gives us every good gift and enables us to use them to build up his kingdom. In order to remain rooted in God and continue to live generously, we must rely on prayer. Hence, we continue to encourage the 1% Challenge. By giving 1% of your day to the Lord in prayer and reflecting on the scriptures, God will empower you to live generously and help you grow into the disciple he desires you to be.

It's not too late to start the 1% Challenge. Yes, Advent is half over, but Christmas is still 10 days away! Take some time to slow down in this fast paced society to rest with the Lord. He will strengthen, fulfill and love you. I know I am tempted to forget about Advent and focus solely on Christmas as I write out my Christmas cards and receive them in the mail. This Advent season is a time to wait patiently for the coming of Christ. By taking time to pray, we slow down and breathe in his presence and goodness. That allows us to live more intentionally and reflect him more perfectly.

A very important way to prepare for Christmas is by going to confession. Next Sunday, December 22nd we have our parish penance service. We will have 12 priests here who are eager to hear your confession and give you God's healing mercy and absolution. Whether it's been 1 month, 1 year, or 10 years, do not be afraid! Christ loves you and wants to strengthen his relationship with you. I know a number of years ago, our parish would have general absolution. While that practice was a valid way to give God's mercy in emergency situations, when individual confessions were not able to take place, it was never intended to be the norm. Naming one's sins is a powerful exercise and it requires humility, but it also shows an awareness of one's need for mercy. Also, having Jesus address you through the priest is powerful and personal. Confession is one of the most powerful places where I sense Christ working through me in a very real way. Through confession, you live out our core value by being willing to grow into the saint God desires you to be.

Upcoming Christmas Events at St. John's:

Journey to the Inn is less than a month away! Please join us on Saturday, January 4th as we journey with the wise men to find baby Jesus! Come to the 4:30 pm Mass and stay for dinner and the live Nativity! I plan to have animals from my brother-in-law's dairy farm again this year! We encourage you to bring your family! It will be a fun event that brings to life the Christmas story! Continue reading in the bulletin for more information.

Join us this coming Tuesday, December 17 at 7pm in the Church for our School Christmas Concert! Come on out and support our wonderful Catholic School! Students!

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

Father Paul Shovelain

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Prayer teams will be available to pray with you in the Chapel of the Angels on **Sunday, December 15 immediately following the 10:30am and 5:30pm Masses**. Please come to the chapel and someone will direct you.

SJB Anniversary Book Christmas Stocking Stuffer

If you appreciated the 50th Anniversary Book showcasing the religious artifacts and architecture of our New Church Edifice, we are making a limited number copies available for \$10.00 each. Consider giving this Christmas gift for friends and family members who may enjoy having their own coffee table edition. Available the weekends of December 15 & 22 in the Plaza after all Masses.

Icon Dedication

Dedication of the new icon of our Patron, Saint John the Baptist, given to the Glory of God by Juanita Zamor and family in loving memory of Kyran on Saturday, December 21 at 4:30 pm. Icon written by Nicholas Markell.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program is this Sunday directly following the 10:30 Mass! Please join us in St. Joseph's Hall. The Sunday school students from the 8:30 and 10:30 classes will all perform together. You don't need to have a Sunday schooler to enjoy this adorable event! Our students range in age from 3 to 6 years old, so the performance is very short and very sweet. Join us to watch our little angels sing their hearts out and put you in the Christmas spirit! Hospitality will follow.

Families Moving Forward is coming: January 12-19th, 2020

Tis the season for giving and sharing! St John's will be hosting up to four families in need of a safe shelter at our facility. Each evening, while our guests visit SJB, we give a warm welcome to each family. We provide 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 on December 21st and 22nd.***

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

Cars for St. John the Baptist Church



Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Make a tax deductible donation from the sale of your car, van or truck. The Knights of Columbus will manage the marketing, sale and transfer of title. Proceeds will be used to support the church and school.

Please contact Larry Paron for more information: 612-400-4274.



PERPETUAL ADORATION

So adorers can celebrate Christmas with family and friends, the adoration chapel will be closed at 2pm Tuesday, December 24th and will reopening 9am Thursday, December 26th.

Take time to pray, sign up for an hour in the adoration chapel.

Sign up for one of these open hours: Tuesday midnight, 3am; Wednesday midnight, 10pm; Saturday 1am, 2am, 5am, 7am.

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

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:

Gene Evangelist

Those who are ill: Mary Clare Farrell, Richard and Mary Puffer, Sawyer Anderson, 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, 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, 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 / 651-247-4202

Call with your prayer requests. Requests are confidential.

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

Join us Advent & Christmas at St. John's

Parish School Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00pm in the Church

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm No incense. Children's Choirs

6:00 pm No incense. Contemporary Group

10:30 pm Incense. Choir, brass quintet and Organ

Christmas Day

8:30 am No incense. Brass quintet and Organ

10:30 am Incense. Brass quintet and Organ

Feast of the Holy Family-

December 28-29 Regular Sunday Schedule

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 31 4:30pm

Wednesday, January 1 10:00am

Epiphany of the Lord

January 4-5 Regular Sunday Schedule

All Parish Family Event Journey to the Inn

Saturday, January 4th after the 4:30 pm Mass

Nursery, Sunday School and Children's Liturgy will all take place ONLY at 4:30 Mass that weekend. Join us for Mass, dinner, and caroling as we journey with the Wise Men to find the stable with Jesus and the animals.

Epiphany Vespers- Sunday, January 5, 4:00 pm

Join us for *Vespers* to celebrate Epiphany, followed by a Eucharistic Procession and festive hospitality.

There's No Place Like



Wines to Wishes 2020

Save the Date!

Wines to Wishes will be on Saturday, February 1st, 2020. This event is the premiere fundraising event for the school. This year, funds raised will be used to update classroom technology. If you are interested in donating to our event, we are currently looking for the following items: bottles of wine worth \$20 or more, gift cards, tickets to events (sports, theater, etc.), hot toys, outdoor gear, board games, sports apparel, and art supplies. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Items can be dropped off at the Welcome Desk or the School Office.

Please mark with Wines to Wishes. Contact Michelle Barsness barsnessm@stjohnnyb.org with any questions.

Interested in learning more about the event or registering to attend?

Visit www.winestowishes.com for more information

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



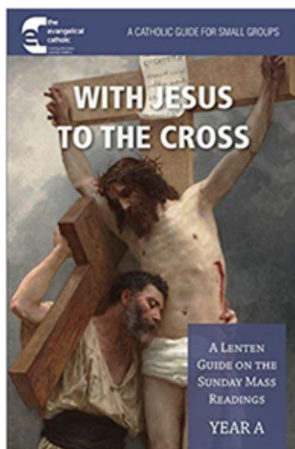
Remember when you are shopping on Amazon, use Amazon Smile. You will still receive the same selection and pricing as regular Amazon, but you are able to designate St. John's as your "charity of choice" and a percentage of your purchases will be sent to us. It's an easy way to support St. John's School.

Stay Connected:

LIKE us on www.facebook.com/SJBNewBrighton • EMAIL: stjohnsnb@pclink.com

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

Opportunities to Grow and Pray for Adults



Reach More *Encounter* Small Groups –

The time is now! Return to the Lord with all your heart so that you can fully experience the joy of the resurrection this Easter! Take time this Lent to enter more fully into the mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection and what it can mean for our life.

Join dozens of our trained small group leaders and over 100 parishioners as we put together another season of small groups.

It's a perfect way to get connected to God and to other people who are on the same journey as you. Discover how the Sunday readings relate to your daily life.

Our 2nd Season of Small Groups will begin Lent 2020. As always, there will be many options of meeting times throughout the week and we will accommodate as many people as we can. Our big sign up weekend will be January 18/19 and small groups will start the week of Ash Wednesday, February 23-29. We will use the six-week booklet called, *Jesus to the Cross A Lenten Guide on the Sunday Mass Readings*. Just like our fall small groups, learn to pray with Scripture and meet the Lord there.

Mark your calendars ladies...

Our new 2020 season of devoted begins again on February 19th! All women of the parish from all walks of life are invited to this gathering of women. Our own Jessica Balzarini will be kicking off our new season with a Talk on God's Generous Love. Come, take a breath, and be filled! Join us for a little wine, a little chocolate and some social time at 7:30 pm, with Introductions at 8:10 pm. Don't forget to share this gift with the women in your life and invite them to come along with you.

Charismata

Do you prefer the music at our 5:30 pm Mass on Sunday evening? The same music group plays for our monthly Charismata event. We meet on the 2nd Friday of each month from January through May. It's a time to be filled through praise and worship, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and prayer team ministry. Join us on January 10 at 7:30 pm.

Save the date - All Parish Retreat

February 21 (evening) and February 22 (daytime) here at St. John's. It will be a time to Encounter Jesus more deeply and prepare our hearts to get ready for Lent.

Are you currently receiving the Catholic Spirit?

If you would like to receive *The Catholic Spirit*, the bi-weekly newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, free of charge, contact the Parish Office at 651-633-8333

Save the Date...

Take time to enrich your marriage with a date night for Valentine's day. A great dinner, wine, and inspiring speakers. This year's Cana Dinner will be on February 15th and we are bringing in Kathleen and Troy Billings from a rural suburb of Chicago. Kathleen and Troy started from the ground up and currently direct a vibrant, parish-based marriage ministry called BAM – Building Amazing Marriages. They are frequent guest speakers locally and nationally and they are coming to MN to share their wisdom on how to *Stay Engaged in Your Marriage – Date Your Spouse*.

Winter Scripture 2020 - Two Part Series: Letters from Prison Part I & II - offered only on Wednesdays from 9:30 – 11:00am beginning January 22.

Letters from Prison - Incarcerated numerous times "for the defense of the gospel" (Phil 1:16), Paul wrote several letters from the confines of prison. Letters from Prison, Part 1, explores the letters of Philippians and Philemon in four sessions, explaining the reason each letter was written and addressing various themes such as joy, unity in Christ, reconciliation, and the close relationship between Paul and his communities. Letters from Prison, Part 2, provides an in-depth investigation of Paul's letters to the Colossians and Ephesians, two letters with a great deal in common. Besides being written from prison, both letters address Gentile communities learning to live faithful Christian lives. Exploring themes such as God's eternal plan, the unity of the church, and the fullness of life in Christ, these letters offer a sweeping and still relevant vision of faith in Christ and the church as his body. Cost is \$30. Registration online only by visiting <https://bit.ly/36UvL5j>



Thursday mornings at 6:30am
December 19 – 26, 2019

The Fantasy Makers: Tolkien, Lewis and MacDonald DVD Series

J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and George MacDonald were the pioneers of the fantasy genre, and their impact is unmistakable. Their works--exploring Middle-earth, Narnia, and other tales of redemption, sacrifice, and the battle of good and evil--have become best-selling books and blockbuster movies. Contemporary fantasy writers such as J.K. Rowling grew up inspired by their works. All three were deeply committed Christians, and their spiritual convictions permeate their writing. They engaged and challenged from the pulpit of imagination, speaking truth through fantasy. The Fantasy Makers examines the spiritual influences of these fantasy pioneers and the lasting impact their works have on our present-day culture.

Featuring Rowan Williams, Kristin Jeffrey Johnson, Malcolm Guite, Allister McGrath, and Michael Ward.

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

Library News

This is the 3rd weekend in Advent, and next week we celebrate the birth of our Lord. Enrich your spiritual journey towards Christmas by checking out books, DVDs, and CDs for the Christmas Season. Other subjects the Church celebrates this month include St. Frances Xavier, St. Nicholas of Myra, St. Ambrose, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucy, St. John of the Cross, St. Stephen, The Holy Innocents, The Holy Family. The library is open after the Saturday evening and All Sunday Masses-including the 5:30pm Mass. Any questions, call Jeannie Kratzer @ 651-636-8928.

*Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.
~ Isaiah 35:10a*

A Day in the Life as a NET Missionary

By: Cesar Ortega

As a NET missionary, no two days are the same. We usually start our day in prayer with daily Mass at SJB and then go into team prayer. Team prayer is a time we take every single day to praise God for who He is and pray together as a team so that we may be unified in ourselves and in our ministry. Typically it is an hour of praise and worship or sometimes we pray the rosary.

After prayer, we have small groups for the virtues class with the SJB middle school students or other jobs to work on. Every individual on the team has different responsibilities such as supplies, stats, finance, drama leader, musicians, transportation, recruiting, marketing, etc. We use this time to prepare for upcoming events, such as youth group and confirmation. Throughout the week we also have time for relational ministry, which is when we reach out to young people to hang out, build a relationship with them, and just talk about the faith and their relationship with the Lord. This opens a lot of doors to them wanting to build up a prayer life and personal relationship with God and to living a virtuous life by embracing their faith in the Catholic Church. Since we have been here, we have helped lead 2 retreats, one for Confirmation and one for the middle school students. During retreats we have dramas, testimonies, talks, and a time of prayer ministry where the youth can just have a conversation with God. We have seen much fruit with many students attending the sacrament of Confession as well as asking for prayers from us NET Team.

Host homes are another big part of our ministry here at SJB. Families in the community take a pair or sometimes the whole sisterhood (the women) or brotherhood (the men) and welcome us into their family. We have days where we spend the evening with them, investing in them and just getting to know them more. Without host homes we couldn't do this ministry and we are so grateful to them! About once every two weeks we have days that are dedicated to just hanging out as a team, bonding, and doing something fun. These days are crucial to our ministry as they allow us rest and recreation so that we may continue our mission with zeal. We are super excited to be a part of the community of Saint John the Baptist and just getting the opportunity to grow closer to God together.

"I cannot tell you, personally, how important and vital NET has been for my child. It has really been a game changer for us. I am so grateful to God for the incredible blessing of this group of warriors at our church arming our children with the Truth of Jesus. NET is truly a ministry of hope." – SJB High School Parent

Our NET Team is looking for host homes starting Jan. 9 if interested and would like more information, please contact Rita Arndorfer at 651-633-8333 Ext. 1220 or arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org.



Top: Morgan, Cesar, Sam, Anna Bottom: Solomon, Kacey, Eric, Annie

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Blue Christmas Sunday, December 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Timothy's Church, 707 89th Ave. NE, Blaine Will the holidays be different for you this year? Perhaps this time of year is lonely and sad for you, as it is for many. You may be grieving the loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, the loss of a job. Join us for this Blue Christmas service to offer your sadness to the One who is hope for the hopeless, and know that you are not alone.

Victim/Survivor Support Group December 16, 6:30-8 p.m., Maple Grove Public Library, Room 105, 8001 Main Street, Maple Grove.

Join with other victims/survivors of sexual abuse who share a similar experience and who want to provide each other with support, affirmation, hope, and empowerment. This group is about providing a safe, confidential environment for those who want to heal from the trauma of sexual abuse. We never heal in isolation from one another. We can help in our own healing and benefit from the experience of others in accomplishing this. The group meets on the third Monday of the month. Questions? Contact Paula Kaempffer, Outreach Coordinator for Restorative Justice and Abuse Prevention, 651-291-4429.

Archbishop's Discernment Retreat Saturday, December 28 at 5 p.m. - Monday, December 30 at 1 p.m., Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo, MN The Director of Vocations offers this annual retreat with talks by Archbishop Bernard Hebda. In addition to the talks given by the Archbishop, there will be times of prayer, an opportunity for the Rite of Reconciliation, times of recreation, and plenty of great food. This is for men discerning priesthood who are seniors in high school to age 50. This retreat is a wonderful opportunity to gain clarity in your discernment process and to meet other men who desire to follow Christ and to know his will for their lives. Register online at 10000vocations.org.

Annual CSAC Dinner/Dance Saturday, January 4, 5:30 p.m., Gulden's Restaurant, Maplewood Single Catholics are invited to the Catholic Single Adults Club's Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance. For dinner & dancing mail your \$25 check by Thursday, December 26th to: CSAC, P.O. Box 581321, Minneapolis, MN 55458 and call Carl at (651) 603-1412. Social hour begins about 5:30 p.m. No reservation is required for dance-only participants, \$10 at the door, at about 7:30 pm.

Totus Tuus Team Missionary Application deadline is Friday, February 3, 2020 Is God calling you to serve as a Totus Tuus Team Missionary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis this summer? We need men and women age 18-26 committed to their Catholic faith who feel called to share it with youth (grades 1-12) in local parishes, May 29-July 28, 2020. Missionaries will receive \$2,520 for their service. To apply visit www.archspm.org/totustuus or contact Nancy Schulte Palacheck at 651-291-4489 or schulten@archspm.org for additional information.

Gifts of Financial Treasure, December 8, 2019

	This Year <u>Actual</u>	This Year <u>Needed</u>	Variance <u>from Budget</u>
Sunday/wk 23	\$37,013	\$59,491	(\$22,478)
YTD through wk 23	\$843,295	\$880,729	(\$37,434)

God bless you for your generous support!

2019 - Thank You for Giving to St. John the Baptist!

As we approach the end of 2019, 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 all of our ministries. Please note that when giving to St. John's at the end of 2019, all contributions for 2019 must be received in the collection or the parish office on or before Tuesday, December 31 or postmarked in 2019. Gifts received on Wednesday, January 1 or after without a postmark of 2019 will be credited to 2020 giving, not 2019, 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 and on the parish website.

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.

For information on these or other giving options, please contact Bret Sutton, Director of Stewardship & Development, at 651-633-8333, ext. 1217

or suttonb@stjohnnyb.org

Thank you!

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. The next three are: Saturday, Jan. 5, 1-4 p.m. at Holy Cross, Minneapolis; Saturday, Jan. 25, 9 a.m.-noon at St. Peter Claver, St. Paul; Tuesday, Jan. 28, 6-9 p.m. at Pax Christi, Eden Prairie. Learn more about the Synod and see a full listing of Prayer and Listening Events at archspm.org/synod

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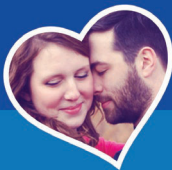
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