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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

Catholic Schools Week



There's No Place Like



Wines to Wishes 2020

Please Join Us on February 1st, 2020!

Silent Auction 5:30-8:30pm; Casino Games 6-8:45pm; Live Presentations 9:00pm

Wines to Wishes is St. John the Baptist School's premiere event that funds critical needs and upgrades of the school as well as celebrates 60+ years of faith-filled excellence in education. This year's proceeds will be used to update classroom technology needs. Additional funds raised will be used to continue to support our school endowment. The evening will include a silent & live auction, hor d'oeuvres & beverages, wine tasting & casino games for your entertainment. Visit www.winestowishes.com for more information

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:

February 8/9

The new parishioner meeting will be held after each Mass the weekend of February 8/9. The meeting will start 15 minutes after ALL Masses in St. Joseph Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, January 27, 2020

Catholic Schools Week

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Dale and Joni Phillips)
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese
9:00 AM Sunday Scripture ~ 204

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Sylvia Steffl+)
9:15 AM Faithfully Fit ~ 208
9:30 AM Legion of Mary ~ 211
9:30 AM Winter Scripture Study ~ 210
1:00 PM Wellness Wednesday ~ St. Joseph Hall
5:00 PM Confessions ~ Church
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Magdaline Indihar+)

Thursday, January 30, 2020

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
(Thomas and Joan Winkels+)
9:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel
9:15 AM Circle of Women ~ 206
1:00 PM School Variety Show ~ School Gym
2:30 PM Middle School Open Youth Room ~ LL106

Friday, January 31, 2020

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Don Phillips+)

Saturday, February 1, 2020

3:30 PM Confessions ~ Church
4:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Colleen LaBerge+)
5:30 PM Wines to Wishes ~ St. Joseph Hall

Sunday, February 2, 2020

8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Pro Populo)
9:30 AM RCIC ~ 204
10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word ~ Chapel
10:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul
(Thomas and Joan Winkels+)
5:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Carol Jean Ronyak+)



From the Parochial Administrator: Father Paul Shovelain

Willingness to Grow - This core value of ours, which helps us respond more fully to Christ's invitation to be his disciple, is lived out in our school. Our students are willing to grow and want to learn who they are and how they are called to live in this world. Through our teachers and school staff, we help our 307 students in grades Pre-school through 8th realize that they are loved and cared for by Christ. They have many opportunities each week to develop their understanding of reading, writing, math, social studies, Spanish, art, music, and gym. Most importantly, they grow in their faith through morning prayer at the start of the school day, 2 minutes of silence at the end of the school day, daily religion class and weekly school Mass. We also help them to live like Christ by highlighting a virtue each month that Christ modeled. We discuss what it is and how it is lived out by the saints. We then put it into practice by living out the virtue in school and home. Each month, our staff highlights a student in each grade who has lived out the highlighted virtue and they receive the Joy award.

We desire not just our students to grow, but their families as well. We invite them to participate in our church programs and activities. By growing in their faith, the parents help their students to grow as they themselves are witnessing the importance of the faith to their children. We have men's groups, women's groups, Encounter groups, and other programs that they participate in. If you have not participated in one of those activities, I encourage you to do so! Two ministries where I have seen several school parents grow in their faith are Watchmen for men and *devoted* for women. Our next Watchmen is February 13th at 6:30pm in St. Joseph Hall. We start with dinner and fellowship and then have a presentation about the faith that is created for men. We finish with a time of discussion and opportunity for prayer. Our next *devoted* is Wednesday, February 19th in St. Joseph Hall. Social time begins at 7:30 pm and the program begins shortly after 8pm. Please join us!

We desire all our parishioners to grow and step out of their comfort zones to be effective in building up the kingdom of God in New Brighton and beyond. This past week on Wednesday we had dozens of parishioners pray at the Cathedral of St. Paul and then march to the State Capitol for the sake of increasing respect for all human life. January 22 is the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs Wade*, that legalized abortion. Since 1973, millions of people have marched across the country praying for life and asking our government to reverse that decision. There were 28 of us who participated in the March for Life in Washington DC on Friday, January 24. It was an opportunity to grow, as we risked rejection and ridicule for opposing something our society supports and encourages. Watch for an upcoming article about how the March for Life went.

Wines to Wishes, our school fundraiser, is only a week away! I encourage you to join us for this fun filled evening. You will have the chance to support our school as well as get to know our school community better. It will be held after the 4:30pm Mass in St. Joseph Hall and the plaza. Check out the ad on the cover of the bulletin for more information! I look forward celebrating our wonderful Catholic School and seeing you there!

In a couple weeks, we have a chance for engaged and married couples to grow and enjoy an evening together at our Cana Dinner! It will be held Saturday, February 15th after the 4:30pm Mass in St. Joseph Hall. Check out the ad on the next page for more information! I look forward to honoring the Sacrament of Marriage with you all that evening!

Finally, I want to say **THANK YOU** for your generosity to our wonderful parish! One of my goals when I started as Parochial Administrator was to finish the year with our income exceeding our expenses. We are on track to do that because of your generous spirit! Thank you for your continual support! Your support builds up the kingdom of God in New Brighton and beyond. See the mid-year report from our business administrator in this bulletin. Thank you for following through on your pledges and supporting our wonderful parish! There is much work to fulfill Christ's command to **GO. MAKE. TEACH.** and together we can do just that!

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

Father Paul Shovelain

Cana Dinner
Stay engaged in your marriage
Date your spouse

Saturday, February 15
5:30pm in St. Joseph Hall

Married and engaged couples are invited to enjoy an evening with wine, conversation a marriage blessing, delicious dinner and fantastic speakers - Troy and Kathleen Billings.

\$50 per couple/\$180 for a table of 8
To register, visit www.stjohnnb.com

Join us for our 2-day Parish Retreat
February 21 from 7-9:30pm and
February 22 from 9am-4:30pm
in St. Joseph Hall

Jesus comes to meet us where we are and draws us more deeply into a relationship with him.

Retreat includes opportunities to:

- † Be moved by his mercy
- † Experience love, peace and joy.
- † Variety of ways to approach God in prayer
- † Confession and Adoration.

Fee will offering of a suggested donation of \$20 to cover expenses of food and materials.

You must preregister to attend by visiting
<https://bit.ly/2ReYYC1>.

Sing for our neighbors

Following Catholic Schools Week Mass and Open House on Sunday January 26th, everyone is invited to continue the celebrations at "Sing for Our Neighbors", a Community Support Center fundraiser at 2:00 p.m. The concert will feature choirs and musicians from nine community churches including St. John the Baptist. Representing our parish will be the Merry Minstrels who will perform three English folk dances. The concert will be held at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 8211 Red Oak Drive, Mounds View MN. Admission is free but donations support the mission of CSC, a network of faith partners, community organizations, and businesses working together to prevent homelessness by connecting neighbors to resources and providing long-term support. Come enjoy an afternoon of good music while you support a great cause!

PERPETUAL ADORATION

"God speaks in the silence of the heart.
Listening is the beginning of prayer."
~ Mother Teresa

Silence your heart and listen to God during an hour of adoration.

These are open hours that need an adorer, sign up for one: Tuesday midnight, 3am, 7pm; Wednesday midnight; 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:

Eleanor Gadacz, Bill Platzer, John Johannes

Those who are ill: Pat Delaney, Ken Schumann, Amelia Lynn Sandquist, Jeanne Dompierre, John Miskowiec, Mary Clare Farrell, Richard Puffer, Sawyer Anderson, Betsy Brown, 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, Carl Stampfle, Marcy Eder, Doug Brekke, Jack Longnecker, 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

Opportunities to Grow and Pray

Sunday Scripture with Sr. Clarinda - Tuesdays at 9:00am in room 204.

No registration is necessary, all are welcome.

Men's Fellowship - Thursday Morning 6:30-8:00am January 30 – March 5 Genesis to Jesus-DVD Series presented by Matthew Leonard. Genesis to Jesus is part of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology's dynamic Journey Through Scripture Bible study series. Journey through Scripture is the St. Paul Center's flagship Bible study program designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of the Scriptures while deepening their understanding of the riches of our faith. Journey through Scripture takes a holistic approach, looking at the entire Bible and how all of its parts work together.

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

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, January 30. This week we are excited to have popular author, speaker, and retreat leader, Alyssa Bormes delve deeper into our theme with her presentation "On Romans 12:12". Through humor, analogy, and an innate gift of storytelling, Alyssa helps ignite in her audiences a newfound sense of wonder in the Church. Her passion is to inspire others to take on greater personal responsibility for their faith and to grow in spiritual maturity. 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 by the information desk. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday!

Family Formation - is the Catholic formation program we use for children in grades 1-6. It is an original approach to passing on the Faith, with parents having a hands-on approach to the education of their children. Family Formation meets once a month for both parents and children. We encourage everyone to go to 5:30 PM Mass, and even reconciliation at 5:00 PM since we provide child care. We have dinner together at 6:00 pm, and Family Formation begins from 6:30 -8:00 PM. Each month has a different topic to focus on through 4 lessons. Each lesson is a great way to gather the family and build faith at home so that it is woven into the fabric of the family. Faith is meant to be lived every moment of the day, not just at church. All are invited to join us for the adult presentation.

The next presentation will be on February 5 - Go Tell It On The Mountain - Evangelization: Our Baptismal Call

Join us for High School Youth Group this Wednesday from 8-9:30pm in the Youth Room!

Contact Mikayla Anderson, Youth Minister, andersonm@stjohnnyb.org for more information!

Join us for Lifeline YOUTH MASS with Archbishop Hebda and Fr. Blume. This night will be a special night on vocations! February 1st, 2020. Meet at SJB at 5pm – travel by bus to NET Center, return back around 10pm. Permission Slip required.

Contact Mikayla Anderson, Youth Minister, andersonm@stjohnnyb.org for more information!

GRANDPARENT MINISTRY - Living the Faith on our Journey to Eternity. St. John's Grandparent Ministry will offer an eight week EWTN video series beginning Tuesday morning, February 4th. New guests each week will showcase the importance of grandparents in the faith life of their grandchildren. This is a wonderful opportunity for grandparents to come together to support and empower each other in their grandparent vocation.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/2vbXksv>

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.

Dylan Harper Domini, son of Mitchell and McKenzie

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24:7-10; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-5, 11-14;

Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11;

Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;

Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Please remember St. John's Food Shelf

St. John the Baptist
Operating Revenue and Expenses
July to December 2019

<u>6 Months Ending December 31:</u>	<u>6 Months Actual</u>		<u>6 Months Budget</u>
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	1,094,902	1,029,345	1,089,299
School Tuition Revenue	689,523	636,841	672,000
Other School Revenue	420,606	316,773	424,520
Other Parish Revenue	185,027	150,683	150,433
Total Revenue	<u>2,390,058</u>	<u>2,133,642</u>	<u>2,336,252</u>
Salary and Benefits - Parish	526,749	527,415	558,851
Salary and Benefits - School	935,223	869,510	916,747
Facility and Operation Costs	249,545	287,155	301,175
School Operating Expenses	320,616	324,484	337,932
Parish Ministry Expenses	95,632	114,793	109,563
Total Expenses	<u>2,127,765</u>	<u>2,123,357</u>	<u>2,224,268</u>
Revenue Minus Expense	<u>262,293</u>	<u>10,285</u>	<u>111,984</u>

The financial report above summarizes St. John's operating revenues and expenses for the first 6 months of the fiscal year with a comparison to the same period last year and to the year-to-date budget for the current fiscal year.

With our debt being retired in June 2019, your generosity in this final year of our OSMG Five-Year campaign is funding several important church and school ministries. And, our Sunday Giving shows great promise—we budgeted for an increase this fiscal year and by the end of these first six months your generosity made the budget! As we have reported previously, this past fall many parishioners increased their pledges to Sunday Giving for 2020. Thank you! If you have an outstanding pledge to the OSMG Five-Year campaign please continue to honor your pledge commitment as these funds support several of our ministries, including our parish NET team. Thank you!

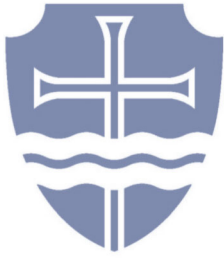
St. John the Baptist Catholic School has seen growth in both its preschool and K-8 program this year. We have gained over 20 new families for the 2019-2020 school year and have continued to maintain a student retention rate over 90% from year to year. We continue to expand our programming in preschool and K-8, which has helped us to build a strong and growing school. We have many parish families—current and former school parents, grandparents and other school supporters—who contribute to the vitality and growth of our school. Thank you!

How we manage our finances is a part of who we are, a part of living out our mission. Our parish is grateful for our many parishioners who authentically seek to live out our core values of a reliance on prayer, a willingness to grow, and a generous spirit. Your generosity is certainly illustrated in the table above!

If you have any questions about this report, or any other questions about parish finances, please contact Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator, at 651-633-8333, ext. 1215 or dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org.

Thank you,
Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator

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



Go.Make.Teach. NEWS

Catholic Schools Week

Vol. 3 January 26, 2020

How We Live the Core Values

St. John the Baptist Catholic School has been working on incorporating the three core values into all aspects of student and staff activities.

Students and staff have a **reliance on prayer**. Daily, we pray multiple times throughout our day. We begin with a morning prayer during announcements, and after, classrooms will pray as a group and incorporate intentions. Students and staff pray before lunch and snack as well as before leaving at the end of the day. As a school, we pause for two minutes in the afternoon to pray silently. We attend Mass every Wednesday as a school community, and each Friday, one grade participates at the daily Mass. Students and staff pray before events and meetings and attend adoration as classes, larger groups, and sometimes as an entire school.

Students and staff have a **generous spirit**. We teach our students the importance of being generous and helping others. We volunteer where we can to serve the community and each other. Some of the more notable projects that we do as a school community are the Bags of Joy that we do during Advent and a Lenten project. Our middle school students recently visited Second Harvest Heartland. We are doing our best to integrate the virtue of generosity whenever we are able.

Students and staff have a **willingness to grow**. We welcome new students and families with open arms. We constantly provide opportunities for our school community to learn about the Catholic Faith and how vital it is to have God be a part of our lives. Using the Virtue in Practice program, we learn a new virtue every month and practice living them out. Academically, we differentiate our instruction to meet our students where they are at and challenge them to grow every day.

We are proud of the progress that we have made thus far and look forward to what we will do for the remainder of the year.

Scott, Andrea Collins sought a school to foster faith and service

A school that provided an environment combining faith and service is what Scott and Andrea Collins were seeking for their children when they chose St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish School about eight years ago.

"I think we wanted a community where our kids felt welcomed and could become their best and we feel like faith is a big part of that and all the things that they do, I mean the service stuff they do through the school," Andrea said recently.

They have Annaleigh in 6th grade, Charlotte in 5th, Ellsa in 2nd and two-year-old Harald.



Scott, who is in law enforcement, was raised a Catholic and went to a Catholic high school for two years. Andrea, a nurse, was reared a Lutheran. Before they married they decided to raise their children as Catholics, in the same faith, which she said was really important. She went through the RCIA program and became a Catholic the year after they married.

"Going to a Catholic school gives you a moral foundation that won't dissolve when you get older and go to a non-Catholic high school or college," Scott said, "and the quality of education is a bonus."

He explained that he felt he saw that foundation in action after they started going to Mass at St. John's when 4th, 5th and 6th graders would help out 2nd graders without being asked.

"The virtues get engrained," he said, "that's the Catholic way, to offer and assist."—*Betsy Carlson*

Parents reflect on decision to send their children to SJB school

Finding community, passing on their faith and getting a quality education for their children were the primary considerations in sending their four to St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish School say Mike and Beth Robertson.

Their youngest, Bridget is now an eighth grader at the school. Their search for a school started when the oldest, Katie was pre-school-age; she's in college now. Beth, a part-time accountant, said recently that she visited a public school back then and found class sizes unappealing and didn't feel community there.

Mike, an engineer, said they were looking for a school experience where parental involvement was expected because they wanted to be involved.

Beth visited St. John's and liked the sense of community she found here, she said. She also met and talked with then Principal Sue Clausen, especially about what services would be available for their middle daughter who is hard of hearing.

The principal described services the Mounds View School District was providing to a student with hearing loss already in the school. That confirmed it for the Robertsons, Beth said.

Now, with their last child finishing up at St. John's they have been well pleased with the school. Due to financial considerations, they made the decision not to continue Catholic education after eighth grade and now have Erin and Tommy at Irondale High School. "We felt very strongly that their faith foundation was very strong at that point," said Mike. Beth added, "I feel that St. John's school not only prepared them spiritually but academically. Our kids are very successful at Irondale and I know that is because of what they learned here." —*Betsy Carlson*



Connection is what the Browns value at St. John's school

Don and Megan Brown's older son is a kindergartener at our parish school and they say they have embraced the community that St. John the Baptist Church and School is.

They moved into the home where Megan grew up in New Brighton after Don, an insurance adjuster, got back from a deployment with the Air National Guard out of Duluth in 2017. They started attending Mass and became intrigued by the community they saw.

About that time Megan, an internal auditor, began looking into private education for their sons. She had taken their older son Noah to ECCE through the Mounds View School District. They liked it but wanted something more intimate, she said.

After Megan spoke with St. John's Little Lights preschool director Andrea Schroeder-whom Megan said answered every question and made her feel at peace-they enrolled Noah. Now Kellen, their younger son, attends Little Lights.

"In retrospect," Don said, "what we get here is a better sense of community. The kids are more invested, the parents are more invested and the teachers are in a setting that's more conducive to a better education. When I drop my sons off in the morning, I feel like I'm dropping them off with family."

An example of the bond they feel happened when Megan had a "small health scare."

She said, "I came back with positive results. These teachers embraced me. They had been praying for me.

They're not only invested in our kids but they are invested in our family. They 100 percent cared."

Don and Megan are in the RCIA program. He is becoming a Catholic and she will be confirmed.

—*Betsy Carlson*



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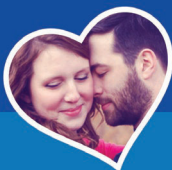
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