

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

Core Commitment



Reliance on Prayer

All Saints Day Parade

Sunday, November 1st on All Saints Day we will host an All Saints Day Parade of saints! We invite children of all ages to dress up as a saint and gather in the West Parking Lot at 1:00pm. We will get lined up and parade around the parking lot led by one of the NET team playing the guitar to "Oh When the Saints Go Marching In". Kids dressed up as a saint can enter into a raffle by age group. All children will receive a goody bag.

After the parade, join us inside for saint bingo and a craft. Inside activities will be limited in size to follow COVID protocols and only one family will sit together at a table to provide social distancing. The entire event will run from 1-2:30pm but families can choose to do only the outside portion of the event.

The Feast of All Souls
November 2, 2020

*Commemoration of All
the Faithful Departed*

*We Remember...
We Celebrate...
We Believe...*



You are invited to join the Community of St. John's
for a Mass in remembrance on
November 2 at 8:30am or 7pm.

PARISH STAFF

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor ext. 1214
Fr. Kevin Wagner, Parochial Vicar ext. 1213
Deacon Peter D'Heilly VM 1298
Deacon Rod Palmer VM 1288
Deacon Gary Schneider ext. 1239
Deacon John Belian ext. 1229
Mary Kohlhaas, Pastoral Care Coordinator VM 1298
Susan Amos Palmer, Befriender Coordinator

WORSHIP

Lee Trembl, Director of Worship ext. 1212
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
Jen Livermont, Coordinator of Discipleship for Families ext. 1234

Michael Lane, Coordinator of Sacraments, RCIA 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
Teri Shea, Office & Facilities Manager ext. 1237
Michelle Chock, Accountant ext. 1224
Maureen Owusu, Parish Bookkeeper ext. 1255
Rita Arndorfer, Volunteer Coordinator ext. 1220
Thomas Herschbach, Receptionist ext. 1210
Patrick Hinnenkamp, Director of Maintenance ext. 1203
Bonnie Haik, Communications Coordinator
haikb@stjohnnnyb.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday -Thursday 8 AM - 8 PM
Friday 8 AM - 7 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday 8 AM - 5:30 PM

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.

Stay Connected:

LIKE us on www.facebook.com/SJBNewBrighton

EMAIL: stjohnsnb@pclink.com

Visit our website: www.stjohnnb.com

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, November 2, 2020 ~ Feast of All Souls

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Parish Library
8:30 AM Mass ~ Feast of All Souls ~ Church
3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook
7:00 PM Baptism Class ~ 208
7:00 PM Mass ~ Feast of All Souls ~ Church
7:00 PM RCIA ~ 211

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Parish Library
8:30 AM Mass (Mark and Delores Lundeen) Church
9:00 AM Sunday Scripture with Sister Clarinda ~ 204
3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Parish Library
8:30 AM Mass (Ralph Arnott+) Church
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese
9:30 AM Faithfully Fit ~ 210

9:30 AM Fall Scripture Class ~ 206

3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook

5:00 PM Confessions ~ Parish Library

5:30 PM Mass (Carrie Anne Johnson) Church

6:00 PM Family Formation ~ St. Joseph Hall

7:00 PM Arts & Environment ~ 204

8:00 PM Senior High Youth Group ~ LL106

Thursday, November 5, 2020

6:30 AM Men's Fellowship ~ St. Joseph Hall

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Parish Library

8:30 AM Mass (Jay Gregory+ & Laura Lee Gregory)

9:30 AM Circle of Women ~ 206

3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook

Friday, November 6, 2020

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Parish Library

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church

8:30 AM Mass (Ralph Arnott+) Church

3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook

Saturday, November 7, 2020

8:00 AM RCIA Retreat ~ St. Joseph Hall

3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook

3:30 PM Confessions ~ Church

4:30 PM Mass (Gordon Dahl+) Church and live-streaming on YouTube, Facebook and on CTV North Suburbs Comcast Cable Channels 15 (standard definition) and 859 (high definition).

7:00 PM Cornerstone Youth Mass ~ Church

Sunday, November 8, 2020

8:30 AM Mass (Joan Anderson+) Church

8:30 AM Sunday Nursery ~ Nursery

9:30 AM RCIC ~ 204

10:30 AM Mass (Marcella Pecchia+) Church

10:30 AM Sunday Nursery ~ Nursery

10:30 AM Sunday School ~ School Classrooms

3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook

5:00 PM Confessions ~ Parish Library

5:30 PM Mass (Pro Populo) Church

The bulletin deadline is 12:00 noon on Thursday, 10 days before the Sunday publication date. All submissions will be edited for length and content and are subject to final approval. Space is very limited. Thank you for your cooperation. Send requests to: stjohnsnb@pclink.com



From: Father Kevin Magner, Parochial Vicar

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints. It is an annual solemnity that honors all the saints of the Church throughout history, including those we know and those we may never have heard of.

A simple definition of a saint is a soul who is enjoying eternal life with God in heaven. If our common goal as human beings is to go to heaven after we die, then our mission in life is to become saints.

The saints throughout history have come from all walks of life. Some were bishops, priests or nuns. Others were farmers, students, mothers, fathers, kings, queens, doctors, lawyers and fishermen. The one common attribute of all saints throughout history has been their relationship with their God. All saints have humbly recognized that their lives would be nothing without their reliance on God. That reliance is expressed through the life of prayer.

Prayer is simply communication with God. We can communicate with God in many ways such as praise, petition, repentance and thanksgiving. Our prayers may be more formal and structured such as in liturgy or in praying the rosary. Prayer can also be more informal such as simply speaking to God directly from your heart. Whatever its form, all prayer is effective because it draws us closer to God.

This year in our parish we focus on the theme of being “United in the Holy Spirit”. We become united in the Holy Spirit through the practices of our parish core values of our Willingness to Grow, Generosity of Spirit, and our Reliance on Prayer. Like the saints before us, we draw closer to God when we humbly recognize who we truly are before Him. As human beings we are small and weak and broken. We all suffer from time to time with loss, heartache, failure and despair. Where would we be if we did not know about our loving God who wants to heal us and comfort us in our suffering?

When we pray to God we are showing Him that we love Him just as He loves us. When we pray in praise or thanksgiving we show our worship of God and our gratitude for all that He gives us. When we pray in repentance we show our contrition for the ways in which we have sinned and damaged our relationship with Him. When we pray in petition we show how much we need God as the source of all good things.

Prayer is so important in our spiritual life. But this particular core value of our parish calls us not just to pray but to *rely* on prayer. This calls us to a deeper understanding that prayer is not just a good thing but a necessity. “Reliance on Prayer” truly means that we look at prayer as the foundation of our spiritual lives. It gives us the confidence to believe that no matter what happens, prayer will sustain us. When we pray every day we become more familiar with the “feeling” of God and can let go of our worries knowing that His presence surrounds us at all times.

As we seek to have our parish become united in the Holy Spirit, I encourage you all to commit to a **Reliance on Prayer** as part of your daily life. With our entire parish committed to prayer, we will truly be united in the Holy Spirit, which is the essence of God Himself.

In peace,

F. Kevin Magner

Core Commitment 2021: United in the Holy Spirit

This fall is the time to renew our commitment to our core values, including our Sunday Giving. Our theme this year is ***United in the Holy Spirit***—in this time of great challenges for so many, one sure guide for our parish and for each of us is the Holy Spirit—the Counselor, the Guarantor of our Unity.

Let us commit to supporting our parish through our core values:

- † Relying on prayer and allowing our hearts to be conformed to Christ's heart by the Holy Spirit
- † Being willing to grow and let the Holy Spirit fill our minds with the wisdom of God
- † Living out of a generous spirit and uniting our will to God's will which allows the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ in the world.

So many of our parishioners have demonstrated their unity with St. John the Baptist throughout 2020 with an abundant generosity! So far through 2020 Sunday Giving has been up over the prior year and has more than met our budgeted projections. Thank you! We now ask that those parish families who are able to do so, sustain giving at that level so we are able to continue our ministries in the year ahead.

For more information please contact Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator, at dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org or 651-633-8333, ext. 1215. Thank you!

Electronic Giving. More than 400 parish families now give to St. John the Baptist on an ongoing basis via electronic giving. Giving to the parish in this way has never been easier, safer or more convenient. You can give from your checking or savings account or your credit card. (If you give by credit card, you may be eligible for rewards or points, depending on your card's member benefits.) When you set up electronic giving you can choose the amount, frequency and where your donation goes—to the general operating fund or a host of other special collections. Contact Maureen Owusu at owusum@stjohnnyb.org or 651-633-8333, ext. 1255 to set up electronic giving. Or, sign up through our website at <https://stjohnnb.com/give-online/>.

Thank you!

Sunday Giving Summary

	This Year Actual	This Year Budget	Variance from Budget
Monthly total: September 2020	\$ 137,564	\$ 130,501	\$ 7,063
YTD total: July 2020 - Sept. 2020	\$ 436,045	\$ 409,109	\$ 26,936

As the table above illustrates, our parishioners' generosity has enabled us to exceed our budgeted projections through September! Thank you for your continuing commitment to our core values!

Thank you all for your generous spirit!

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Our adoration Chapel remains open for scheduled adorers only. We do ask you to use a disinfecting wipe on your space before and after you pray.

Become a scheduled adoror during one of these open hours: Wednesday midnight, 1am, 3pm; Friday 10pm; Saturday 1am, 2am.

Adorers on Monday 2pm, Wednesday 4am, and Friday 6pm would like a prayer partner.

For more information and to sign up now, call Kathy 763-464-3985 or Mark 651-245-6493.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who have entered eternal life:

Those who are ill:

Lillian Reps, Joseph Szeplieniec, Harley Hochstetter, Sarah Miller, Emily Dahl, Rose and Daryl Stevens, Theresa People, Josephine Schmidt, Erik Engebretson, Chris Natheos, Randy Vogland, Don Lumby, Alex Pearson, Thomas Jones, Ted Kueppers, Dale Dufault, Mary Anne Lindberg, Jean Isacson, Fulton Francis Dobbs, Susan Welsh, Robert Cuddigan, Jenny Bruening, Annette Foreman, John Miskowicz, Mary Clare Farrell, Richard Puffer, Sawyer Anderson, Betsy Brown, Dee Olson, Jim Smith, Jerry Renk, Dale Phillips, Dennis Fox, Teresa Lieser, Kathleen Schopf, Tom Miskowicz, Bob & Christine Springhetti, Steve Lauinger, Marianne Brekke, Charlotte Thrun, John Riedle, Joan Zawadski, Suanne Christensen, Poppy Craft, Annette Kirwan, Bonnie Norgren, Tom Roback, Emma Lutsilili, Braxton Battaglia, Beverly Aplikowski, Stephan Bucko, John Mistelske, Mary Gormally, Lloyd Mans, Mary Spitzka, John Demont, Michael Ferdelman, Shirley Hill, Jon Clark, Lucas Kramer, Cassie Cramer, Georgianna Warden, Donna Yenish, Mary Wegerson, John Leibrich, Scott Lemke, Nella Pitzen, 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

You are invited to join us for Mass

Saturday at 4:30 PM
also live-streaming on YouTube and Facebook and on CTV North Suburbs Comcast Cable Channels 15 (standard definition) and 859 (high definition).

Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 AM and 5:30 PM
Please read the parish directives for attending Mass found on our website www.stjohnnb.com.



Men's Fellowship
Thursday Mornings
from 6:30-8:00 AM in SJH

Join us on November 5 for

**The Bible & the Sacraments – DVD Series by
Matthew Leonard & Scott Hahn - Final Sessions**

The Bible and the Sacraments is unlike any other study on the sacraments. Certainly, it looks at the basic teaching of the Church as to their meaning and origin, but it goes further. It investigates the deeper mystery of the sacraments as illuminated by Sacred Scripture. Examining the rich relationship between the Old and New Testaments, it reveals the sacraments as more than mere earthly rituals. They are incredible “powers that come forth” from the Body of Christ” (CCC 1116).

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



Join us for
CIRCLE OF WOMEN!
THURSDAY, November 5,
ROOM 206 at 9:30 am

We welcome women of all ages to join us for fellowship, formation and prayer. It has

already been an incredible blessing to grow in our knowledge of the Holy Spirit together. Snacks and beverages will be provided! We will continue to practice current protocol from the SJB preparedness plan. Childcare will be offered at limited capacity. There will be a virtual option for women who are unable to be onsite, check your email from Flocknote for details. Any questions? Call Michelle (763.442.4936) or Carrie (612.275.2236). Bring a friend and check it out this Thursday!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11;
Jn 6:37-40**

Tuesday: Phil 2:5-11; Ps 22:26b-32; Lk 14:15-24

**Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;
Lk 14:25-33**

Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 15:1-10

Friday: Phil 3:17 - 4:1; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 16:1-8

**Saturday: Phil 4:10-19; Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9;
Lk 16:9-15**

**Sunday: Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18
[13-14]; Mt 25:1-13**

*See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.*

~ 1 John 3:1

Family Formation
Wednesday, November 4

“I Believe” (The Creed) presented by Father Paul

- Session 1 is 6:00-7:15, Session 2 is 6:45-8:00.
- Confession is at 5:00pm (childcare is available)
- Mass is at 5:30pm.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Childcare, Preschool and Kindergarteners meet upstairs in the Parish Center. Grades 1-6 are in St. Joseph Hall with their families, and 7th & 8th grade are in the Youth Room.

Around the Archdiocese

Exploring Men's Vocations with Archbishop Hebda
Tuesday, November 3, 2020 –8 p.m., St. Nicholas, New Market

Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Father David Blume, Director of Vocations, invite men, ages 16 – 50, who are discerning the priesthood or religious life to join us for this virtual event! Come for an evening of prayer and conversation with Archbishop, priests and religious sharing their vocation testimonies. More information and to register, see 10000vocations.org

Forgive Me, Lord – Women's Retreat
Saturday, November 7, 7:20 a.m-12:30 p.m. at Church of St. Peter, 6730 Nicollet Ave., Richfield

This is our second annual women's retreat featuring Mass, Stations of the Cross and musical reflections. Father Jerry Dvorak will give a presentation on forgiveness. The event will also be livestreamed on our Facebook page. Cost \$10. www.stpetersrichfield.org

Holy Hour for Vocations

Tuesday, November 10, 7-8 p.m. St. John the Baptist, Savage

All people of the Archdiocese are invited to participate in the Holy Hours for Vocations. Each month, the event will take place at another parish in the Archdiocese. Come spend an hour with Jesus each month to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life and diaconate. For more information and safe - distancing guidelines for this event, please contact the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890 or visit 10000vocations.org.

Deacon Discernment Day

November 14, 2020, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at The Saint Paul Seminary, St. Paul

A day set apart to explore the vocation of Deacon in this Archdiocese. What is the diaconate? Who can become a deacon? What does a deacon do? What roles do the wife and family have? How to discern and respond to the Lord's call to Holy Orders? What is the application, discernment, and formation process? Wives are encouraged to attend also. No charge. Registration is required as seats are limited. Register online at www.semssp.org/idf. For more information, contact sjleif@stthomas.edu, 651-962-6891.

Seeking Host Homes for our NET Team

Host homes are needed for our NET Team. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Rita Arndorfer at arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org.

Meet NET Team Members Catherine Mattern and Zach Filla



Name: **Catherine Mattern**

Age: 18

Hometown: Brimfield, IL

Confirmation Saint: Martin

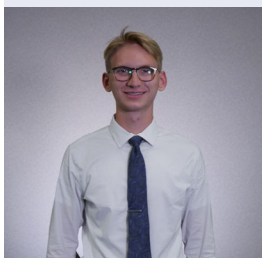
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What is your favorite childhood book?
"If you give a pig a pancake..."

What is your favorite book now?
"O Pioneers!" by Willa Cather

Why did you choose to serve on NET?

I chose to serve on NET because I found the need to educate and inspire youth in their faith. In my own community, I saw my friends struggling in their faith with little direction from loving adults. I wanted to show youth that it is possible to live a normal fruitful life and also live your Catholic faith.



Name: **Zach Filla**

Age: 18

Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

Confirmation Saint: John Bosco

What is your favorite childhood book? Tom Sawyer

What is your favorite book now?
The Scarlet Pimpernel

Why did you choose to serve on NET?
God made it clear that he wanted me to.

Can you believe it?

Yes, this is the 20th year St. Johns has collected socks and underwear for the homeless. 20 years of clothing the naked. So far, we have collected 95,000 pairs of socks in 19 years. Can we hit 100,000 pairs to cap off 20 years?

Starting next weekend, the St. Vincent de Paul society will have the blue containers at the church doors. We need men and women's white socks and underwear. (T-shirts, boxers and thermal.) Over the years we have expanded to giving to 5 shelters. Our parish is a very generous parish! God loves a cheerful giver.

Sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society

Poinsettia Sale



Are you looking to add a little Christmas color to your home? The 8th 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" (\$10), 6.5" (\$15), and 8.5" (\$25). Order forms may be found on the Harvest Table in the church plaza or at the school office beginning on November 4th – or you may order directly from a student and coordinate delivery from them! Orders and payment will be accepted through Thursday, November 19th at either the school office (Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:30pm) or the welcome desk in the church plaza.

If you do not order directly from a student, plants will be available for pick-up on Friday, December 4th from 2:30 pm-4:00pm, Saturday, December 5th after the 4:30 pm mass or Sunday, December 6th after the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses in St. Joseph Hall.

If you have any questions, contact Melanie Dowell (mjdowell05@gmail.com or 763-439-4640).



Used Clothing Drive November 14 & 15

Save your gently used clothing for our St. John's 8th Grade Class Trip Fundraiser. Students will be in the church plaza collecting any clean, gently used clothing, shoes, towels and linens you

may have the weekend of **November 14 & 15**. As you transition those closets from summer to winter – bring in those donations for our students to use in the clothing drive as they work to raise funds for their Washington D.C. Trip!

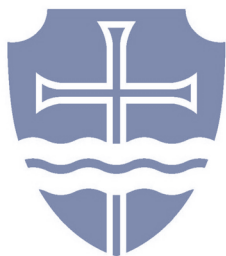
If you have any questions, contact Rita Arndorfer at arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org or 651-402-4377

Senior Book Club

All seniors are invited to join us for "Senior Book Club". The next date is **November 11 at 11:30 am in room 210**. We are reading "The Woman Who Walked in Sunshine" by Alexander McCall Smith. *In this installment of the beloved and best-selling series, Mma Ramotswe must contend with her greatest challenge yet--a vacation. Business is slow at the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, so slow in fact that for the first time in her estimable career Precious Ramotswe has reluctantly agreed to take a holiday. The promise of a week of uninterrupted peace is short-lived, however, when she meets a young boy named Samuel, a troublemaker who is himself in some trouble....* This book is fun to read and lighthearted. Questions? Contact Mary Kohlhaas 651-633-8333 ext. 1229

Upcoming dates: December 9, 2020 & January 6, 2021

Have you remembered St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in your will?
Let Mark know at 651-633-8333 ext. 1215



Go.Make.Teach. NEWS

Living out our core values to become a Saint

Vol. 6 November 1, 2020

Rob Jensen lives his faith as a lifelong journey

By Betsy Carlson

Baptized a Lutheran and raised a Presbyterian, Rob Jensen, now a St. John the Baptist Catholic Church parishioner, says he has always believed that faith had to be a lifelong journey.

His outlook, which as he shared his faith story, we see fits well with our core value of willingness to grow.

He met and married his wife, Susan, a Catholic, while he was a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Though he never intended to become a Catholic, he said recently they always had hoped they could be a family unified in worship. They felt too that God brought them together.

When their first child was born, he said, he had the thought that if he really believed that God brought them together, he owed it to her to at least take a serious look at the Catholic faith. "Frankly, I think it was the Holy Spirit," he said.

So, he spent about a year "devouring" books about the faith, conversion stories and about people who left the faith and came back to it, such as Jeff Cavins. Then he enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and joined the Catholic Church, while they were living in southern Minnesota.

"Right when I was confirmed that night, I had a great sense of peace and that I'd finally come home and that the wondering and searching was over," Rob says. "That was really just the beginning and they (Baptism, Communion and Confirmation) are considered the gateway sacraments. They are supposed to be the beginning and not just then end."

And RCIA wasn't the end for Rob. After the Jensens moved to the Twin Cities several years ago, Rob grabbed an opportunity to take "The Great Adventure Bible Timeline" study in person with Cavins, because of his earlier exposure to Cavin's writing.

Over the years since, he has done several Cavins Bible studies and repeated the Bible Timeline program at St. Paul's in Ham Lake. After Rob heard of the Catechetical Institute's two-year program on the Catechism of the Catholic Church from Cavins, he took it to study the catechism in the "same systematic way" he had studied Scripture, he says.

Feeling that he has a lot of head knowledge and wanting to grow spiritually this past year, he took the School of Prayer through the Catechetical Institute, he said.

Another way he has grown is by helping others to study the faith here at St. John's. Among other efforts, he co-teaches the RCIA program.

An area of growth he says he's looking to now dovetail with this parish's core commitment: United in the Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit is the person of the Holy Trinity I know the least," he said.



Elferts feel led by God as they give to SJB parish

By Betsy Carlson

When Jerry and Betty Lou Elfert were asked to share ways they live out the core value of having a generous spirit, they were reluctant to talk about themselves and what they do at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. With a bit of gentle persuasion, they agreed to an interview. We learned of ways they serve and why.

For them, it's about gratitude and giving back to God. "A lot of what we do is to give back to God for what we've had," says Jerry. "We have three wonderful boys that are doing well, five grandchildren. We're thankful. We haven't had any major health events." Betty Lou adds, "It's fulfilling. It's just, you know, that God wants you to love your neighbors and care for other people." Jerry finishes her thought by adding, "and He gives us the opportunity to do that. It's not us deciding what we're going to do, it's God leading the way."



A theme that comes out when talking with these 40-year members is that they respond to needs. One time when the annual turkey dinner was being prepared, a woman was left to work alone when help hadn't made it in. Jerry, who had been sorting food for the food shelf, then spent the rest of the morning and early afternoon helping put the turkeys in the pans for roasting. He says, "That's the thing we do. When we see a need, we help."

This year, early in the pandemic, Betty Lou made some masks and donated them to the church, she noted.

Jerry and Betty Lou have been co-chairpersons of the food shelf for eight years and volunteered with it before that. Jerry runs electrical cords and sets up lights for the annual fall fest. Before Covid-19 he was a Eucharistic minister for many years and did funeral hospitality. He also carves turkeys regularly for the annual dinner.

Betty is a Eucharistic minister and serves as sacristan for some of the weekday Masses. She wipes dishes for the turkey dinner and booya. She's a member of quilting groups at St. John's and the Church of St. Odilia and she sewed a banner when requested.

Prayer builds a family and brings a new job

By Betsy Carlson

For Peter and Abby Tierney, their reliance on prayer resulted in their now 20-month-old toddler Jack—who never stops, another baby expected next May and a new job for Abby where she can better balance family life and work.

Reliance on prayer is a core value here at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. "The most impactful thing that we have noted through prayer has been particularly in the conception of our son and of our new baby too," said Peter recently. "There was a time when we did not think that we would be able to have children. We had seen a multitude of physicians."



He went on to explain that two things happened when they brought their situation to the church. They were able to pray a Novena to Our Lady of the Milk for the blessings of motherhood and they were led to Dr. Matthew Anderson, a pro-life fertility doctor who uses the NaPro fertility treatment program that was fruitful for them, Peter says.

They found the doctor through a classmate of Abby's who works for the doctor, Peter says. And, Anderson later hired Abby, a physician's assistant, to work at the Aalfa Family Clinic in White Bear Lake.

Their connection to Our Lady of the Milk came because they had talked to a parishioner who was making a pilgrimage to Bethlehem and told her of their desire to have children but that they were facing fertility issues. The parishioner thought of them when she visited the Catholic Chapel of the Milk Grotto in Bethlehem. She brought back a special powder from the grotto to use in their prayers.

The site is believed to be where the Holy Family took refuge before their flight to Egypt. It is said that while Mary was nursing Jesus, a drop of milk fell to the floor turning the cave white.

Peter explained the novena includes praying a daily decade of the Rosary in honor of the Nativity, the third Joyful Mystery, and having the mother-to-be drink a mixture of a tiny bit of the powder in milk or water, which they did.

Thousands of births to persons experiencing infertility have been attributed to the prayers and the Milk Grotto, he added. "I believe that God worked to bring these people into our lives to enable us to have kids and because Abby was needing a place to work that was more conducive to having a family life," said Peter. Abby says, "I believe this whole process has been utterly divine and we walked into these doors that have been opened and we just keep finding them open. Here we are with one (child) and one on the way."

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



This brief document is a summary of the United States bishops' reflection *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. It complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.



Our nation faces political challenges that demand urgent moral choices. We are a nation at war, with all of its human costs; a country often divided by race and ethnicity; a nation of immigrants struggling with immigration. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty; part of a global community confronting terrorism and facing urgent threats to our environment; a culture built on families, where some now question the value of marriage and family life. We pride ourselves on supporting human rights, but we fail even to protect the fundamental right to life, especially for unborn children.

We bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with the truth, so they can make sound moral choices in addressing these challenges. We do not tell Catholics how to vote. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. Faith helps us see more clearly the truth about human life and dignity that we also understand through human reason. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34). According to Pope Benedict XVI, "charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity'" (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 29).

The United States Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to participate and speak out without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning our central moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to the political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good.

How Does the Church Help Catholics to Address Political and Social Questions?

A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby

the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence

The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound. A good end does not justify an immoral means. At times Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build through moral means a more just and peaceful world.

Doing Good and Avoiding Evil

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows the right to life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed.

Similarly, direct threats to the dignity of human life such as euthanasia, human cloning, and destructive research on human embryos are also intrinsically evil and must be opposed. Other assaults on human life and dignity, such as genocide, torture, racism, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Disrespect for any human life diminishes respect for all human life.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support.¹

Opposition to intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive duty to contribute to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both opposing evil *and* doing good are essential. As Pope John Paul II said, "the fact that only the negative commandments oblige always and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment" (Encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52). The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work. The use of the death penalty, hunger, lack of health care or housing, human trafficking, the human and moral costs of war, and unjust immigration policies are some of the serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

Making Moral Choices

Difficult political decisions require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. “Those who formulate law therefore have an obligation in conscience to work toward correcting morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and in sinning against the common good” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [USCCB], *Catholics in Political Life*).

When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see Pope John Paul II, Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 73).

Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When Church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

What Does the Church Say About Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square?—Seven Key Themes

A consistent ethic of life should guide all Catholic engagement in political life. This Catholic ethic neither treats all issues as morally equivalent nor reduces Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates’ positions on issues and should consider candidates’ integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens “to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest” (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following themes of Catholic social teaching provide a moral framework for decisions in public life.²

The Right to Life and the Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. Direct attacks on innocent human beings are never morally acceptable. Within our society, life is under direct attack from abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, and destruction of human embryos for research. These intrinsic evils must always be opposed. This teaching also compels us as Catholics to oppose genocide, torture, unjust war, and the use of the death penalty, as well as to pursue peace and help overcome poverty, racism, and other conditions that demean human life.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible. Each of us has a right to religious freedom, which enables us to live and act in accord with our God-given dignity, as well as a right to access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

While the common good embraces all, those who are in greatest need deserve preferential concern. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor and marginalized.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, opportunities for legal status for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity.

Solidarity

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

Caring for God’s Creation

Care for the earth is a duty of our Catholic faith. We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, as bishops we vigorously repeat our call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak, and the pursuit of the common good. This kind of political participation reflects the social teaching of our Church and the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

- 1 For more on the moral challenge of voting, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, nos. 34-39. Visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org.
- 2 These themes are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005). For more information on these seven themes, see www.faithfulcitizenship.org. For information on how we bishops of the United States have applied Catholic social teaching to policy issues, see www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

For a wide range of educational and other resources to help share Faithful Citizenship, go to www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship was developed by the chairmen, in consultation with the membership, of the Committees on Domestic Policy, International Policy, Pro-Life Activities, Communications, Doctrine, Education, and Migration of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was approved for publication by the full body of bishops at its November 2007 General Meeting and has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

Msgr. David J. Malloy, STD
General Secretary, USCCB

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USCCB
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Publication No. 7-236
Washington, DC
ISBN: 978-1-60137-236-9

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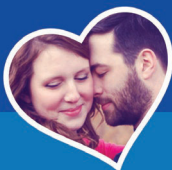


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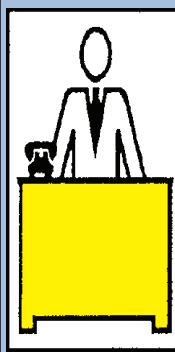
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