

**March 14, 2021**  
**4th Sunday of Lent**



**Join  
ME**



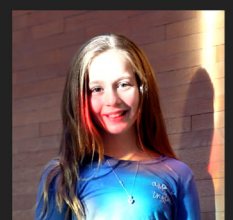
**at**



**SJB**



**United in  
the Holy  
Spirit,  
as  
Family**



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

## PARISH STAFF

<b>PASTORAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>651-633-8333</b>
Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor	ext. 1214
Fr. Kevin Wagner, Parochial Vicar	ext. 1213
Deacon Rod Palmer	VM 1298
Deacon Gary Schneider	VM 1288
Deacon John Belian	ext. 1239
Mary Kohlhaas, Pastoral Care Coordinator	ext. 1229
Susan Amos Palmer, Befriender Coordinator	VM 1298
<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>651-633-8333</b>
Lee Treml, Director of Worship	ext. 1212
Lori Vosejka, Director of Contemporary Ensemble	lav247@msn.com
Abe Gross, Director of Ignite	abrahamjohnngross@gmail.com
<b>OFFICE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION</b>	<b>651-633-1540</b>
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
<b>YOUTH MINISTRY</b>	<b>651-633-1540</b>
Mikayla Anderson cell 651-529-0526 ok to txt	ext. 1218
<b>SCHOOL &amp; PRESCHOOL (PreK - 8)</b>	<b>651-633-1522</b>
Ann Laird, Principal	ext. 1117
Joy Thienes, Administrative Assistant	ext. 1118
Michelle Barsness, Marketing/Enrollment	ext. 1114
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>651-633-8333</b>
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
Mary May, Development Associate	ext. 1253
Thomas Herschbach, Receptionist	ext. 1210
Patrick Hinnenkamp, Director of Maintenance	ext. 1203
Bonnie Haik, Communications Coordinator	haikb@stjohnnny.org

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday -Thursday 8 AM - 8 PM  
Friday 8 AM - 7 PM  
Saturday 8:00 AM - 5:30 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 OR FOLLOW US on FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/SJBNewBrighton/>

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel <https://bit.ly/3n9WnGQ>

EMAIL: [stjohnsnb@pclink.com](mailto:stjohnsnb@pclink.com)

Visit our website: [www.stjohnnb.com](http://www.stjohnnb.com)

Archdiocese's Victim/Survivor Assistance Program

651-291-4497 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Monday, March 15, 2021

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass (Roger Stockinger+) Church  
3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook  
7:00 PM RCIA ~ 211

### Tuesday, March 16, 2021

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass (Monty Musselman+) Church  
9:00 AM Sunday Scripture with Sister Clarinda ~ 210  
3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook

### Wednesday, March 17, 2021

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass (Robert Kish+) Church  
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese  
9:30 AM Faithfully Fit ~ 210  
9:30 AM Lenten Adoration ~ Chapel of the Angels  
3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook  
5:00 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
5:30 PM Mass (Deceased and Living Members of the Ruth Mueller Family) Church

6:30 PM Knights of Columbus ~ St. Joseph Hall

### Thursday, March 18, 2021

6:30 AM Men's Fellowship ~ St. Joseph Hall  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass (Deloris Delarge+) Church  
3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook

### Friday, March 19, 2021

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass (Clarence Thrun+) Church  
9:00 AM Lenten Adoration ~ Chapel of the Angels  
3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook  
6:00 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
6:30 PM Lenten Friday Evening Mass  
(Margaret Marcello+) Church

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross ~ Church

### Saturday, March 20, 2021

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Lenten Saturday Morning Mass  
(Nicholas Bernardini+) Church

3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook  
3:30 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
4:30 PM Mass (Jerry Freund+) Church

### Sunday, March 21, 2021 ~ Lent V

8:30 AM Mass (Pat Delaney+) Church  
8:30 AM Sunday Nursery ~ Nursery  
10:30 AM Mass (Roger Stockinger+) Church  
10:30 AM Sunday Nursery ~ Nursery  
10:30 AM Sunday School ~ School Classrooms  
2:00 PM First Eucharist Retreat ~ St. Joseph Hall  
3:00 PM Litany in Time of Need ~ Facebook  
5:00 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
5:30 PM Mass-RCIA Third Scrutiny (Pro Populo)  
6:45 PM Confirmation Preparation ~ St. Joseph Hall



## *From the Pastor: Father Paul Shovelain*

**Join me at SJB! We are glad you are here!** Maybe you are reading this online, or before Mass, or after receiving this bulletin in the mail. Regardless of where you are, we are glad you are part of our parish! This past year has been hard and has stretched us in ways we never thought we could be pulled. Yet, the grace of the Holy Spirit has helped us to adapt in bringing the saving message of Christ to New Brighton and beyond.

This was the last weekend of public Masses a year ago and that drove us to offer virtual Masses. We continue to live stream Masses, as there is a dispensation from Archbishop Hebda from attending Sunday Mass in person. We plan to continue to live stream Masses indefinitely as it helps us fulfill our mission to GO. MAKE. TEACH. Yet, we are highly encouraging parishioners to return to Mass, unless you have a serious reason not to, such as you are high risk or caring for a high-risk family member. It is easy to get in the habit of watching Mass from home because it is more convenient. However, we miss you and we desire you to receive the fullness of Christ in the Eucharist at Mass.

It is also important to note, Mass is a GET TO not a have to. This is especially true as we look back a year ago and people were not able to attend Mass from March 19 through May 26, 2020 due to the shut-down. We are happy to be open and continue to take all the necessary precautions so that we can remain open to serve you spiritually! We GET TO celebrate Mass together and it is so beautiful to pray with a church filled with people worshiping God while taking precautions to mitigate risks.

Every Tuesday, I meet with several staff members to discuss any changes to the government mandates. We adjust accordingly and discuss how the past weekend went. We also look ahead to the upcoming week(s) and plan accordingly. We continue to adapt to serve you spiritually as best we can while maintaining your physical safety. The MN Department of Health Faith Based Outreach Workgroup sends me regular updates and I communicate with the New Brighton Department of Public Safety as needed. I share this to show you how seriously we are taking the pandemic.

Why do we go to such great lengths to maintain your safety? Because we want you here at SJB to encounter Jesus in the Sacraments and in our community. I hope you were able to watch the "Join me at SJB" video in this past Thursday's email. It is on YouTube and Facebook as well as the local Cable Station NineNorth (formerly CTV). It was filmed with our parishioners, whose pictures are on the cover of this bulletin. These parishioners have been strengthened by the unshakeable presence of Christ here at SJB. One of them shared, "In the chaos of the world, I have found true peace in the Mass." Please share the video with others!

Our ministry changes hearts and minds for Christ. Thus, it is important that we do all we can to bring people to Jesus. Please check out our GMT Newsletter, found on page 7, which highlights parishioners who are preparing to receive Christ in the Sacraments. They have already experienced Jesus in our community and desire to go deeper through the reception of the Sacraments. Please pray for them and all who come through our doors. We desire to help every person grow in relationship with Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church.

We especially invite you to plan to join us for Holy Week as we recall Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Palm Sunday Masses will be Saturday at 4:30pm and Sunday at 8:30am, 10:30am, and 5:30pm. Mass on Holy Thursday, April 1st will be celebrated at 7:00pm. On Good Friday, April 2nd, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at noon. The Solemn Service will be held that afternoon at 3pm and Tenebrae at 8:00pm. The Easter Vigil, will be celebrated on Holy Saturday at 8:00pm and Easter Sunday Masses will be at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am. We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

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

*Father Paul Shovelain*





**JOIN US FRIDAYS  
DURING LENT**  
Mass at 6:30pm  
Stations of the Cross at 7pm

**ALSO**  
Join us for Mass on Saturday  
morning at 8:30am

Mass and Stations of the Cross will be in the Church  
and livestreaming on YouTube and Facebook.  
Masks are required.  
Please maintain social distancing.



### **Expectant Parents Blessing March 14**

Parents expecting a new baby or  
adopting one in the near future,  
are invited to join us for a special  
blessing at the "Garden of Life"  
chapel after the 10:30am Mass  
on March 14.

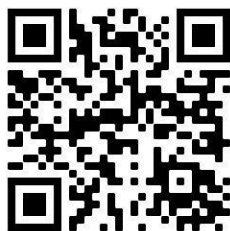
*A Blessing  
ON THE WAY*

*Sponsored by St. John's Respect Life group.*

### **Join Me at SJB: Welcome Home!**

This past weekend, our priests preached about creating a welcoming atmosphere here at SJB. We continue to follow Covid protocols to maintain your physical safety, while being more intentional about welcoming everyone who comes through our door. We need your help in order for everyone to encounter Jesus' love and goodness when they come to SJB. We need greeters/ushers to help with welcoming people and seating people as well as taking up the collection. We also could use a few more Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

If you are able to help with one of these ministries, contact Rita Arndorfer at the parish office at [arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org) or call the parish office at [651-633-8333](tel:651-633-8333) ext 1220. You can also scan the QR code to go right to the Get Involved page on the St. John's website!



### **JOIN US FOR ADORATION DURING LENT**

This Lenten season we invite you to adore the Lord in the Eucharist in Adoration in the Chapel of the Angels on Wednesdays from after the 8:30 am Mass until the 5:30 pm Mass and Fridays from after the 8:30 am Mass until the 6:30 pm Mass. Masks are required. Please maintain social distancing.

## **PERPETUAL ADORATION**

*"It is the law of friendship that friends should live together. . . . Christ has not left us without his bodily presence in this our pilgrimage, but he joins us to himself in this sacrament in the reality of his body and blood." ~ St. Thomas Aquinas*

Our adoration Chapel remains open for scheduled adorers only. Masks must be worn by all adorers, without exception, if more than one person is in the room. Maximum of three adorers at a time. We do ask you to use a disinfecting wipe on your space before and after you pray.

Pray in the presence of our Lord during an hour in the adoration chapel by becoming a scheduled adorers during one of these open hours: Wednesday midnight, 1am, 4am; Friday 6pm; Saturday 1am. Adorers on Monday 2pm and Friday 6pm would like prayer partners.

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:**  
Richard Brennan

### **Those who are ill:**

Daryl and Rose Stevens, Richard Adams, Carol Ruff, Geraldine and Greg Najbert, Gloria Hangartner, Louise and Cindy Sadlovsky, Lillian Reps, Joseph Szepieniec, Sarah Miller, Emily Dahl, 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, Sawyer Anderson, Betsy Brown, Dee Olson, Jim Smith, Jerry Renk, Dale Phillips, Dennis Fox, Kathleen Schopf, Tom Miskowicz, Bob & Christine Springhetti, Steve Lauinger, Marianne Brekke, Charlotte Thrun, John Riedle, Suanne Christensen, Poppy Craft, Annette Kirwan, Bonnie Norgren, Tom Roback, Emma Lutsilili, Braxton Battaglia, Beverly Aplikowski, Stephan Bucko, John Mistelske, Mary Gormally, 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

**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



**Men's Fellowship - Thursday Mornings from 6:30-8:00 AM Now – June 17, 2021**  
**Join us for: Knowing Jesus and His Church DVD Series from Fr. Larry Richards**  
 Bring your Bible and your Catechism and be ready to learn from Father Larry Richards of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation.

**Knights of Columbus monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 7 PM in St. Joseph Hall**

**There will be NO Circle of Women on Thursday, March 18 due to Spring Break. See you next week!**

**The March CCW Meeting has been cancelled due to COVID. Please continue to pray the rosary.**

### **Totus Tuus Summer Program**

Please join us the week of July 11-16 for Totus Tuus. The theme this year is The Virtues, Beatitudes and the Joyful Mysteries. College students on fire for their faith will be presenting a Catholic summer curriculum based upon the pillars of our faith.

**There is a Grade School Program that runs Monday, July 12-Friday, July 16 from 9-2:30pm for students entering grades 1-6 in the fall.** We will ignite the hearts of students with songs, skits, games, prayer, Mass, small groups, recess, and large group presentations.

Questions? email [livermontj@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:livermontj@stjohnnyb.org)

*(Students entering 1st grade can choose either Totus Tuus or VBS, whichever works better for the student and their family. Please note that the days and times are different for the different programs.)*

**There is also a Junior High/High School Evening Program that runs Sunday, July 11-Thursday, July 15 from 7:30-9:45pm for students entering grades 7-12 in the fall.** This program includes large group presentations, small group discussions, games, and night prayer. Questions? Please email [andersonm@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:andersonm@stjohnnyb.org)

To register, visit <https://stjohnnb.com/faith-formation/registrations/>

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54  
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16  
 Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30  
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47  
 Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a  
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53  
 Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

### **The Fruits of the Spirit VBS**

Join us on July 13, 14, 15 from 9 AM-noon for the Fruits of the Spirit VBS! VBS is for students in preschool through children entering Kindergarten. (Children entering 1st grade can choose either VBS or Totus Tuus, whichever program works best for your child and family.) We will read stories, make crafts, pray, have a snack, and playground time. VBS is a fun way to experience Christ's teachings and the Holy Spirit through hands-on play with friends from school and church! We will meet in the First Grade classrooms. On our last day, we will end with a big water extravaganza! The cost is \$30 which includes the cost of a VBS t-shirt.

Questions? Email Jen at [livermontj@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:livermontj@stjohnnyb.org).

To register, visit <https://stjohnnb.com/faith-formation/registrations/>

## **EXTREME FAITH CAMP**

A CATHOLIC YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

@ Trout Lake Camp

## **Save the Date**



**HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS:**

**JULY 31ST - AUGUST 6, 2021**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPERS:**

**AUGUST 2ND - AUGUST 6TH, 2021**

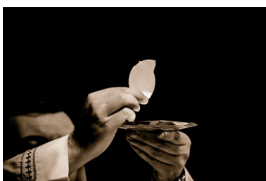


**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**



Contact Mikayla Anderson with any questions!  
[andersonm@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:andersonm@stjohnnyb.org)

To register, visit <https://stjohnnb.com/faith-formation/youth/extreme-faith-camp/>



### **Communion Appointments**

We are providing appointments to serve those parishioners who are at high risk for COVID-19 and for that reason do not feel comfortable attending Sunday or daily Mass on:

† Monday, March 22 from 5:30 – 6:30 PM

† Tuesday, March 23 from 10:20 - 11:20 AM and 2:10 - 3:00 PM

To make an appointment to receive Holy Communion, visit <https://bit.ly/3019LTW>

**Marian Choir Concert**  
**Thursday, March 25 at 7 PM**

Please join us for a Marian choir concert, in honor of the Solemnity of the Annunciation on Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 pm. The concert will take place in the Church with light refreshments afterwards located in St. Joseph Hall. There also will be a livestream link for those who wish to view online.

**PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 27 from 10 -11:30 AM** is another drive-thru event for those high risk parishioners who want to but cannot yet come in the church. **Come and receive Holy Communion and blessed palms without leaving your car.**

We will be having the drive-thru in the large parking lot on the west side of church. Just follow the directions when you arrive at the lot entrances near Veterans Park. We can't wait to see you!

**GOD UPHOLDS ME**

*I take for my sureties:*

*The power of God to guide me,  
the might of God to uphold me,  
the wisdom of God to teach me,  
the eye of God to watch over me,  
the ear of God to hear me,  
the word of God to give me speech,  
the hand of God to protect me,  
the way of God to go before me,  
the shield of God to shelter me.*

—St. Patrick

**Join Fr. Paul Shovelain and Jeff Cavins**  
**on a Pilgrimage to the**  
**Holy Land January 10-24, 2022!**

It is our joy to invite you to join us on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land where you will find a new dimension of understanding Christian history and the life of our Lord, the Blessed Mother and the Apostles. We will walk where Jesus walked, taught, performed miracles. We will have Mass at holy sites like Church of the Nativity, the Garden of Gethsemane and Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Please give us the privilege of sharing this experience with you!

We are taking into consideration the possible need for social distancing and sanitizing due to the Covid19 virus, and we will be complying with any guidelines that Israel will have in place for travel if restrictions continue through January. Visit <https://bit.ly/3b8NY1Y> for more information.



**Sunday Giving Summary**

	This Year Actual	This Year Budget	Variance from Budget
Monthly: Feb. 2021	\$ 161,800	\$ 173,313	\$ (11,513)
YTD: July 2020 - Feb. 2021	\$ 1,503,275	\$ 1,466,885	\$ 36,390

Sunday giving for February was 3.7% below that of February 2020. However, Sunday giving for July through February is up 5.7% over the same period in 2019/20, and we are 2.5% above budget. Being ahead of budget at this point in the fiscal year is encouraging--with your continued generosity we will be on track to end the year in a good financial position. Thank you!

For more information or questions, please contact Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator at 651-633-8333, ext. 1215 or [dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org).

**Every gift you make promotes our core values!**  
**Thank you all for your reliance on prayer,**  
**your willingness to grow and your generous spirit!**

**Electronic Giving**

**Take the opportunity during this**  
**Lenten season to sign up for**  
**electronic giving. It's safe and easy!**

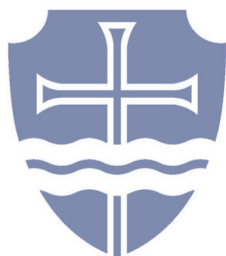
Go to St. John's website [www.stjohnnb.com](http://www.stjohnnb.com) and select "Give Online".

Questions?  
Call Michelle or Maureen at 651-633-8333.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

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





## Pandemic, uncertain times pushed Claesons to SJB and RCIC for the children

by Kristin Claeson as told to Betsy Carlson

My name is Kristin Claeson and my husband is Michael Claeson. I am a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. My husband is an IT consultant at TR Computer Sales. Our children both attend St. John the Baptist School. Elizabeth is 8 and in third grade. Evan is 5 and in kindergarten.

Michael was raised and still is Catholic. I was raised Lutheran but would like to eventually become part of the Catholic Church. I currently go to Mass with our family at SJB. We always intended to raise our kids Catholic.

We have been interested in sending our children to SJB for school since Elizabeth was in kindergarten but didn't start until this year; the fall of 2020. We heard many wonderful things about the school through multiple families in our neighborhood. The pandemic pushed us to explore SJB. We wanted our children to attend school. We also felt strongly that in uncertain times like these faith, God and community were more important than ever. We almost felt as if it was divine intervention.

Our children were not baptized prior because we never really had a "home base" church. We didn't go regularly to one church. Once we started school at SJB we knew we had found our "home base" in the school and the church. We have found the faith community we have been waiting for.

We have grown along with our children in our faith as they grow in theirs. Their excitement about their religion classes in school as well as the RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children) lessons on Sunday mornings have brought up many talking points in our family. Michael and I believe our children are teaching us as much as we are teaching them. It has really made our family grow together in our faith and relationship with God.

Elizabeth and Evan are most looking forward to learning about God and continuing to grow in their relationships with Him through receiving their sacraments. They are looking forward to participating in the church community and getting to work with their classmates at SJB for the rest of their sacraments.



## For Michael and Rebekah Sharp becoming Catholic is a big step, as marriage was

by Betsy Carlson

During this year's Easter Vigil at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Michael and Rebekah will become Catholics and receive the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist. Receiving the Real Presence in Communion is what they are yearning for—together.

Their journey to the Catholic Church manifested itself after Michael became interested in older, more liturgical forms of worship. He grew up in an evangelical church. He says he also heard people he didn't know discussing social and political issues and articulating their Catholic faith very well. "So I started getting interested in some of the issues and also came to appreciate that the Catholic Church had held the line on certain questions like abortion, contraception and marriage and things like that," he says.



Continued on page 9

## Michael and Rebekah Sharp continued

Michael and Rebekah moved back home to Rochester, Minnesota, after he finished physician assistant school in Arizona in 2017. It was then he proposed becoming Catholic. She says she was on a different page and her answer was a “practical” no because she thought Catholics don’t have child care at church and she had two little babies. Now, they have their three children and are expecting another this spring.

Rebekah says that she had been raised with a prejudice against Catholicism. Yet it was getting back to her family of origin that brought them to St. John the Baptist.

Her father has Alzheimer’s and because of that, she says, Michael graciously moved the family to New Brighton last July. Rebekah says, “When we moved again he said, ‘I need to become Catholic, I can’t not become Catholic, and at least start to begin going to a Catholic Mass and I want to take this class.’”

She says she felt very strongly that they could not be a house divided and be going to two different churches so they started reading, “Born Fundamentalist, Born Again Catholic,” by David Currie, a former Protestant preacher who explains the theology of his becoming a Catholic. So, last September they started St. John’s Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes. And as Lent is passing, they both say they are excitedly looking forward to receiving the Sacraments.

Rebekah says, “In the past two years, and in the class, the more that I’ve yearned to partake in the Eucharist, not just with the Church and not the belief that it’s the full body and blood of Christ, but to do it with him. This whole process has been so beautiful for our marriage. I’m super excited to be part of it.” Michael says, “Over the past two or three years, I was really hungry for the Real Presence. It’s been interesting now as we’re getting closer to it. It’s less excitement and more nerves. I don’t know if I’m up for this. This is a big deal. “I’m excited for this but I just also know there’s a big step and we both view this as a lifelong commitment, how we did walking into marriage.”

## Rebecca, Francis look to their relationship with God as they approach marriage

by Betsy Carlson

The story of Rebecca David’s and Francis Aurelious’s long distance relationship and upcoming marriage Sept. 4 could be a Hallmark movie, but it would be better story because it is based on their shared connection to God.

In her responses in a telephone interview and in Francis’s email comments about marriage preparations offered though St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, they revealed how much they value their relationship with God.

Their story begins with their families having fled war-torn Sudan and living in a refugee camp in Uganda in the 1990s. Both Rebecca, 26, and Francis, 31, were born in Uganda. Francis moved to Canada when he was 12, about a year after his father died. His uncle and wife and brother had sponsored him. Rebecca’s family immigrated to New Brighton when she was 9.

As Rebecca tells her family’s story, she repeatedly talks of faith being instilled in her family and the importance of growing their relationship with God whether escaping a war, coming to St. John’s, being able to go to our Catholic school or getting married.

And as she looks to the future, she says of the sacrament of Marriage, “It’s the next step we take as Christians to continue building that relationship but also sharing the love that God has put in our hearts with our significant other.”

How did they meet? Well, they’re part of the Ma’adi people, an ethnic group in South Sudan and Uganda. Rebecca explains they met at an annual Ma’adi conference in the U.S. when she was in college.

Francis picks up the story: “When I met Rebecca, she was just in her first or second year of university. When I first saw her, I knew that she was the one and immediately I sounded the trumpet to my mother back home in Uganda. Funny enough, she had already met Rebecca and lived with her (in the refugee camp) just before she and her family migrated to United States.

“And my mother had just confirmed that my spirit—that trusts in God—had been confirmed, that I have made the right choice and that God already knew I was going to marry Rebecca! In God, through God I trust that I’m ready.”

Rebecca plans to move to Canada after they marry. Right now, she is the communication coordinator for People Serving People and he’s in the Canadian military in Toronto.





# Washburn-McReavy

## Funeral Chapels & Cremation Services

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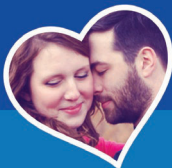


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