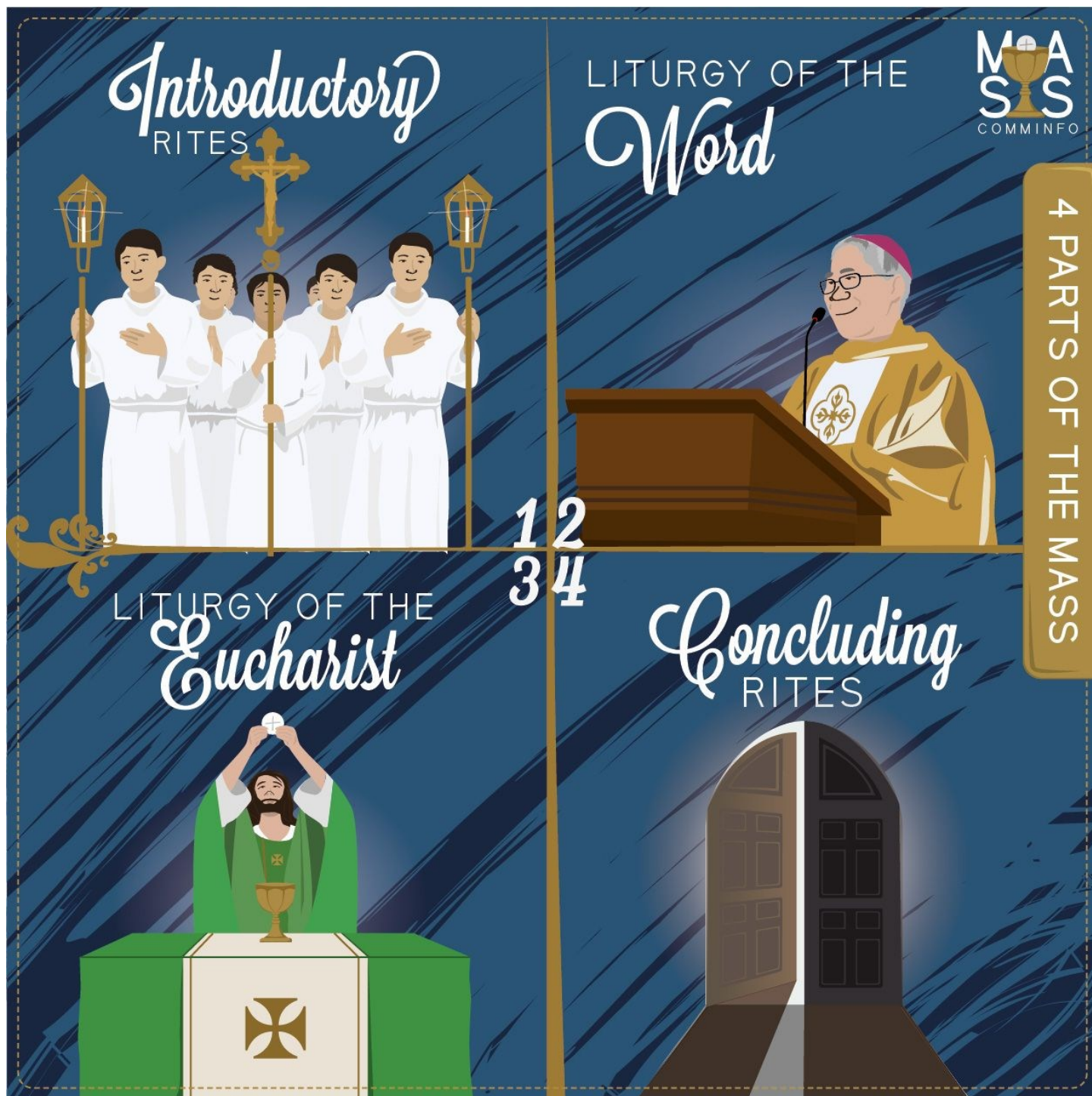


December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Called Forth into the Mass

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



*Read Father Paul's letter inside the bulletin for more information about
the Dismissal at Mass and being Called forth to Proclaim and Live out our Faith!*

Parish Staff

PASTORAL MINISTRY	651-633-8333
Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor	ext. 1214
Fr. Joseph Nguyễn, 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
WORSHIP	651-633-8333
Lee Trembl, Director of Worship	ext. 1212
Lori Vosejka, Director of Contemporary Ensemble	ext. 1234
	lav247@msn.com
Abe Gross, Director of Ignite	abrahamjohngross@gmail.com
Margaret Harmon, Liturgical Admin. Assistant	ext. 1279
Tucker Moore, Children's Choir Director	ext. 1124
OFFICE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION	651-633-1540
Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life	ext. 1228
Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis	ext. 1280
Jen Livermont, Coordinator of Discipleship for Families	ext. 1234
Deacon Michael Lane, Coordinator of Sacraments	ext. 1219
Jodie Wolla, Administrative Assistant	ext. 1211
Claire Brostrom, Reach More Mission Coordinator	ext. 1250
YOUTH MINISTRY	651-633-1540
Mikayla Anderson, High School Youth Minister	ext. 1218
Sarah Wilder, Middle School Youth Minister	ext. 1254
SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL (PreK - 8)	651-633-1522
Ann Laird, Principal	ext. 1117
Joy Thienes, Administrative Assistant	ext. 1118
Michelle Barsness, Marketing/Enrollment	ext. 1114
ADMINISTRATION	651-633-8333
Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations	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
Patrick Hinnenkamp, Director of Maintenance	ext. 1203
Melissa Berg, Hospitality Coordinator	ext. 1227
Joseph Huebl, Communications Coordinator	ext. 1217
Micki Hall, Receptionist/Executive Assistant	ext. 1210

PARISH CENTER HOURS

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

PARISH LIBRARY HOURS

Sat. 5:30 PM; Sun. 9:30 AM & 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.

Stay Connected:

LIKE OR FOLLOW US on FACEBOOK

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

Follow us on Instagram: @stjohnnyb_church

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

EMAIL: sjb@stjohnnyb.org

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, December 19, 2022

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church
 8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
 8:30 AM Mass (The Stampfle Family) Church ~ Fr. Joseph
 9:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Church
 3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook
 7:00 PM Rejoice Advent Pilgrimage ~ 210

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

7:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
 8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church
 8:30 AM Mass (Leo Larson +) Church ~ Fr. Paul
 9:30 AM Kidz Closet ~ 203
 3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook
 7:00 PM School Christmas Vocal Concert ~ Church

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
 8:30 AM School Mass (Christopher Foley +) Church
 ~ Fr. Paul
 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese
 9:30 AM Faithfully Fit ~ 208
 3:00 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals
 3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook
 5:30 PM Mass (John Lundak + and Steve Lauinger) Church
 ~ Fr. Joseph
 6:00 PM K of C Meeting ~ 211
 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ LL 101
 7:00 PM Contemporary Group Rehearsal ~ Church

Thursday, December 22, 2022

6:30 AM Men's Fellowship ~ St. Joseph Hall
 8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church
 8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
 8:30 AM Mass (Augustine and Kendra Spencer) Church
 ~ Fr. Paul
 3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook

Friday, December 23, 2022

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church
 8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals
 8:30 AM Mass (John and Katherine Macnowski) Church
 ~ Fr. Joseph
 9:30 AM Legion of Mary ~ 204
 3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook
 5:30 PM Altar Guild ~ Church

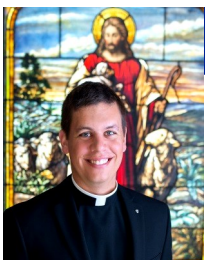
Saturday, December 24, 2022 ~ Christmas Eve

3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook
 4:00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass (The living and deceased members of the Janice and Bob Rieger family) Church
 ~ Fr. Paul
 6:00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass (Floyd Udermann + and the Corrigan Family) Church ~ Fr. Joseph
 10:30 PM Christmas Vigil Mass (Hedwig Breske +) Church
 ~ Fr. Joseph

Sunday, December 25, 2022 ~ Christmas Day

Parish Campus Closed after Masses

8:30 AM Mass (Pro Populo) Church ~ Fr. Paul
 10:30 AM Mass (Richard and Dale Dufault and Ralph Mickey Rooney +) Church ~ Fr. Joseph
No Mass at 5:30 PM



From the Pastor: Father Paul Shovelain

4th Sunday of Advent: Called Forth into the Mass

Called forth to Proclaim and Live

There are four different dismissals that the priest or deacon may conclude the Mass with. They are: "Go forth, the Mass is ended," "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord," "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," or "Go in peace." All of these options are a command to go which is the first word of our slogan, "Go. Make. Teach." The prayer of the Mass is finished but the fruits of it are far from over. Rather we go forth transformed and renewed in our faith. We are not meant to be one-hour-a-week Catholics but called forth with the grace of Christ from Mass to share the Good News by the way we live our lives.

Think of the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus, they broke bread with Christ and once they realized they were with the Lord, they went forth transformed and renewed in their faith. After a victory by our sports team, we are excited and pumped up for the next game. The victory of Christ on the Cross and the prize of salvation that is gained for us in the Mass is much more powerful and significant. We are invited in to receive the graces of the victory and Divine Life itself. The grace we receive from the victory help us to "GO" like the disciples and share Good News that Jesus is indeed alive. We so often like to share breaking news like that. Yet, it is difficult to share the Good News of Jesus as we are intimidated by what others may say or how they will respond. So how do we "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord?" We do so when the opportunity arises to speak positively rather than join in on gossip. We have the opportunity to share what Christ has done for us or why we love God so much. We can announce the Gospel in subtle yet very real and honest ways. We are also invited to glorify God through the way we live our life. This might mean that we say "Glory to God" when someone gives us a compliment. It may mean that we glorify God by serving others and helping them to realize their God-given dignity. We are invited to "Go in peace" and to carry with us the peace that comes from Christ alone. Instead of rushing to the next thing right after Mass, may we be attentive to the presence of Christ in our lives. May His peace give us contentment.

For more resources on the Mass, please check out our parish library near the display case and bathrooms in the church. Also, you can check out [formed.org](https://www.formed.org) as well <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

Archbishop Hebda's Pastoral Letter, "You will be my Witnesses" lays out the priorities for the next three years which include "Education on the Mass." We plan to study the Mass more intentionally through the 2024-2025 program year.

Finally, in anticipation of Christmas, we are excited to celebrate with you and many guests! Please be welcoming to all those joining us for Christmas as we want them to experience the joy of Jesus! Pray that all who come through our doors will be drawn into deeper communion with the Lord Jesus through encountering Him here.

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

Father Paul Shovelain

Coming Up at SJB

Advent Confession Times:

Special Advent Confession Times:

Sunday, December 18 at 3:30 pm—5:00 pm

- *Twelve priests will be hearing individual Confessions*

Tuesday, December 20 from 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Wednesday, December 21 from 3:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Our Regular Confession Times

Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 8:20 am

Wednesday from 5:00 pm - 5:20 pm

Saturday from 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

Sunday from 5:00 pm - 5:15 pm

- *No Confessions on December 25*

Christmas Season Mass Times:

Christmas Eve ~ Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm

6:00 pm

10:30 pm *with incense*

Christmas Day ~ Sunday, December 25

8:30 am

10:30 am *with incense*

No 5:30 pm Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil ~ Saturday, December 31

4:30 pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God ~ Sunday, January 1

8:30 am

10:30 am *with incense*

5:30 pm

Men's Fellowship

Thursday Mornings 6:30—8:00 am

December 22, 2022

"It Is Mercy I Desire"

DVD Presentation by Fr. Larry Richard

This presentation is in response to Pope Francis' call for the Year of Mercy, "...for all believers to have a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God." In this talk Fr. Larry explores the words of Jesus, "Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'it is mercy that I desire, not sacrifice.'" Matthew 9:13. To learn the true meaning of mercy, Fr. Larry explains that first we need to receive it, and then give it, and live it. Listen to this presentation, experience God's mercy, and become an instrument of His great mercy!

Come for the donuts, stay for the truth!!

Questions, call Dave @ 612-616-4013

Council of Catholic Women

The CCW Meeting on December 19 has been cancelled. Please watch the calendar for the date of our next meeting in January.

Sister Clarinda's Sunday Scripture

Classes are on Tuesdays 9:30 am—11:00 am

First Class is on January 17, 2023

Register Early Fee is \$10. Online Registrations are open!

Please visit our website to register: <https://stjohnnb.com/faith-formation/registrations/>

Journey to the Inn



Saturday, January 7, join us for Mass at 4:30 pm, followed by a pasta dinner sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for \$7/person; \$30/family. After dinner, we will begin our journey in the church with a Bible reading, singing and candlelight procession out of church to the living manger. We will sing Christmas carols as we follow the Wise Men to the stable with live animals. Hot cocoa and cookies to follow in St. Joseph Hall.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

We often need prayer for family, faith, health, work, relationships, and other challenges in life. St. John the Baptist's **Intercessory Prayer Ministry (IPM)** teams provide monthly individual prayer ministry one weekend a month after Mass in the Chapel of Angels. Come to the Chapel of the Angels after the scheduled Mass times below.

Our next **Intercessory Prayer Ministry** will be:

Saturday, DECEMBER 17 after the 4:30 pm Mass and

Sunday, DECEMBER 18 after the 8:30 am Mass.

"Therefore . . . pray for one another that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful."
~ James 5:16, 17

Faith Enrichment Opportunities at SJB

Parish Calendars

There are still some more Parish 2023 Calendars available for pick-up, but they won't last long. They are located under the tables with the worship aids in the plaza.

Please take one per family.

Many thanks to the Billman – Hunt Funeral Chapel who is the sponsor for our parish calendar.

SJB Women's Retreat Awaken

January 13-15 at Franciscan Retreat and Spirituality Center, Prior Lake, MN
Arrive by 6:00 pm and depart by 2:30 pm
Women 18+ from St. John's

Benefits from this retreat: Renewed and deepened relationship with Jesus, fuller participation in parish life, greater appreciation for Eucharist and Reconciliation, deeper prayer life, greater love for scripture, growth in the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Spots are starting to fill up, register soon!

Register on our parish website: <https://stjohnnb.com/faith-formation/registrations/>

Wines to Wishes

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 70 years of faith-filled excellence in education. Save the date for Saturday, February 4, 2023!

Funds from this year's event will go towards classroom carpeting, gym improvements, and upgrades to our school bathrooms. Money raised above and beyond our fund-a-need goal will go to our tuition endowment fund.

A big part of our event is our silent and live auction, and for these to be successful, we need donations! If you are able and interested in donating, we have a few different options, which can be found on the donations page of our [Wines to Wishes website](#).

To learn more about our event, donations, and/or sponsorships, visit our website: www.winestowishes.com. Invitations will be sent to families soon with information on how to register. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Contact Michelle Barsness (barsnessm@stjohnnyb.org) with any questions.

Faithfully Fit

Come join us for Faithfully Fit, being held on Wednesdays at 9:30 am in Room 210. You are welcome to join us any Wednesday.



We are a fun group of SJB parishioners who enjoy quality fellowship time together; strengthening our relationship with Christ, while also strengthening our physical bodies at the same time.

Hope to see you next Wednesday!

NEW Young Adult Community!

Are you a young adult? Are you interested in getting connected with our new and growing community? Contact wilders@stjohnnyb.org to learn more or get on the email list!

Looking for Something New and More Meaningful to Watch this Advent?

You can enjoy a free subscription to FORMED.org! FORMED provides amazing online videos, audio, and books 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. It's EASY and FREE to Register! They also have a lot of great educational, informative and fun Advent videos and resources waiting for you as you prepare for Christmas!

To register:

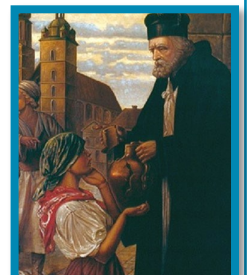
Go to www.formed.org and select the sign up as a parishioner and find St. John the Baptist in New Brighton, MN.

Enter your name and email and click sign-up.

Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

"Fight all error but do it with good humor, patience, kindness and love. Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause."

~ Saint John of Kanty
(Feast Day December 23)



All announcements are due by 12 noon on Thursday for inclusion in the weekend pulpit announcements.

Generous Spirit Opportunities

Wish List 2022

Have you had the chance to re-view St. John the Baptist's 2022 Wish List? You can find the full list on the Harvest Table, in last week's bulletin and on our web-site (www.stjohnnb.com).

Thank you for your generous support of our parish family! We are deeply grateful!



Food Shelf News

We've got good news and not so good news, but you can fix it!! The good news is that in these days of inflation, holidays, and wintery cold, more people are coming to utilize our SJB Food Shelf! It is an amazing grace to see those who come have their needs met by the generosity of volunteers and YOU – there in the pew! Along with that good news comes a plea – we are in need of more donations – canned and boxed foods, paper products, laundry and cleaning products, etc. Whatever you can do is appreciated and used. Thank you. You are such a generous blessing to this parish – and beyond!

The SJB Kidz Closet

Needs for the SJB Kidz Closet continue to increase and we rely on all the generous donations to meet these needs. We would greatly appreciate specific donations of the following new or gently used items:

- † Coats 4T—8
- † Boots for kids ages 4—8

Thank you, for your generosity!

Medical Leftovers?

Do you have any medical leftovers after someone no longer has need of them? It is useful and you don't want to toss it, but you don't need it or want to store it? Bring it in to the Pastoral Ministry Office. We will collect and send it down to Rochester to the Rochester Medical Mission who sorts, packs and sends it on to Haiti. So ANYTHING can be useful. Even if it is opened, they can use it up.

If in doubt, give Mary a call at 763.242.4229. In the past, our parish has sent four carloads of goods to Rochester for Haiti. Another carload went to Haiti by way of someone traveling there as well. Another carload went to the Ukraine with a family who still had family members there in need. Know that you are helping others around the world so much, and thank you for passing on the goods they need.

Please Pray For...

Those who have entered eternal life:

Those who are ill:

Sadlovsky Family, Sheehan Family, Cameron Santos, Patricia Roy, Dave Willette, Madi Rippy, Sydney Jo Rippy, Jesse McDonough, Daryl Stevens, Richard Adams, Geraldine and Gloria Hangartner, Sarah Miller, Emily Dahl, Theresa People, Josephine Schmidt, Erik Engebretson, Chris Natheos, Randy Vogland, Don Lumby, Alex Pearson, Thomas Jones, Jean Isacson, Fulton Francis Dobbs, Susan Welsh, Robert Cuddigan, Jenny Bruening, Annette Foreman, Mary Clare Farrell, Sawyer Anderson, Betsy Brown, Dee Olson, Jim Smith, Jerry Renk, Dale Phillips, Dennis Fox, Kathleen Schopf, Steve Lauinger, Charlotte Thrun, John Riedle, Poppy Craft, Annette Kirwan, Bonnie Norgren, Emma Lutsilili, Beverly Aplikowski, Mary Gormally, Georgianna Warden, Mary Spitzka, Michael Firdelman, Cassie Cramer, Jon Clark, Donna Yenish, John Leibrich, Nella Pitzen, Marcy Eder, Doug Brekke, Philip Jarosz, Kay and Gary Mayer, Elaine Loscheider, Diana Goebel, Cindy Chase, Charles Heath, Danielle Pratt, Claire Kriz, Carol Esterley-Ruff, Joe Brownrigg, Brigit Voss, Brandon Boss, Cynthia Quass, Ning Mariano, The Viker Family, Robert Lauinger, Phyllis Norbeck and Jennifer Norbeck, Joseph Wutsch, John Wiggins, Mary Jo Beaudry, Greg Najbert, Colleen Judd, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Cele Winter, Paul Jacobs, Matthew Grosjean, Jeremy Mainello, Deacon Rod Palmer, Donna Swanson, Dottie Searles, Sylvia Meagher, Mary Andersohn, Susan Amos Palmer, Kris Mellstrom, Kay Hildreth, Stacey Miller, Mary Erickson, Larry Wasik, Steve Johnson, Audrey Geneva, Luverne Klinkner, Tim Steffl, Braxton Battaglia, Warren Krekelberg

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.

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

Readings For The Week

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;

Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

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

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;

Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;

Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Lk 1:67-79

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29;

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14;

Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7;

Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;

Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Generous Spirit

Please Consider Christmas and Sunday Offerings to Support Our Parish

Each year, we rely on generous Christmas contributions to support the ministries of our parish. Weekly Sunday offerings are also vital: it is through these ongoing gifts that we are able to fund staffing needs, building operation and maintenance costs, and the many ministries our parish provides.

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. Please consider offering your regular Sunday gift and an additional Christmas gift to the parish.

If you receive a contribution envelope packet, you will find envelopes for both a Christmas offering and an offering for Sunday, December 25. You may give at Mass, or you may wish to contribute electronically. We understand that you may be traveling to visit loved ones this Christmas, and we want to make it easy to remember our parish during this joyful time. Thank you for your generous contributions at Christmas and throughout the year!

Scan the QR code or follow this link, <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/st835288> to access our electronic giving form.



A Very Merry Thank You!

The St. Vincent DePaul Society would like to thank all who participated in making our 2022 Sock and Underwear Drive a success! The final count was 3,692 items, which we delivered to four charity houses in the metro area to distribute to the homeless. We couldn't have done it without your generosity in the Spirit of Giving at this holiday season, Thank You.

May Peace, Love and Joy be yours

Religious Give Thanks.

A sister writes, "We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion." God bless you for donating to last week's second collection. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Sunday Giving Summary November 2022

- For the month of November 2022 Sunday Giving was 1% above budget. Thank you!
- For the fiscal year to date (July through November) we are 3.5% below budget.
- For comparison, last year Sunday Giving for November was 11% below budget, and July through November 2021 was 1.5% above budget.
- For the current fiscal year, 2022/23, we budgeted a 2.5% increase in Sunday Giving over actual 2021/22 giving.
- We are grateful for your many gifts! Thank you!

For more information or questions, please contact Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations, at 651-633-8333, ext. 1215 or dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org.

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

	Actual	Budget	Variance
November 2022	\$ 190,651	\$ 188,475	\$ 2,176
July 2022 – November 2022	\$ 799,325	\$ 828,755	\$ (29,430)

Religious Recognitions for SJB Student

When Adrianna Cogger of Girl Scout Troop 56276 reached the requirement of the Marian medal to go out and purchase some baby items to give to a pro-life organization, she took it one step further.

With the help of her Grandmother, Bernadine Skoglund, they measured, cut and sewed a beautiful Baby quilt which was blessed by her Pastor Father Paul Shovelain and then donated to the Kidz Closet at the Saint John the Baptist parish in New Brighton. She will be receiving her medal and patch During the Scouter Mass to be held in February.

For more information on Religious Recognition contact Theresa Cermak at theresacermak100@gmail.com.



Protect Yourself from Scammers

There have been recent attempts of someone pretending to be Fr. Paul and trying to scam people. Fr. Paul will not send you a text message unless he has spoken to you first. He will only send you an email from FrShovelain@stjohnnyb.org. If you receive a communication from Fr. Paul and are unsure of its authenticity, please call the parish office to verify before responding.

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent;

Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Friday: St. John of Kanty

Saturday: The Vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve)

Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Find Father!

Everyone, hidden somewhere in this bulletin there is a picture of our Pastor, Fr. Paul. If you can find it; you win a prize!

All you have to do is bring your bulletin to Joseph Huebl, Communications Coordinator at SJB, and show him the picture for your choice of a saint holy card! Joseph is in the parish office weekdays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Please stop by any time in that window to claim your prize!



The picture of Father looks like this:

Our Fascinating Faith

Las Posadas (December 16–24)

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of Las Posadas seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous Misas de Aguinaldo were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (posada) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the "O Antiphons" of the official liturgy, these posadas were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of Las Posadas has taken on so much importance among the Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?



—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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E: brent@mnpls.com MN LIC # BC630902



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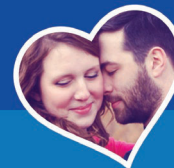


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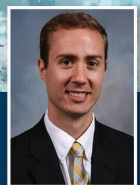
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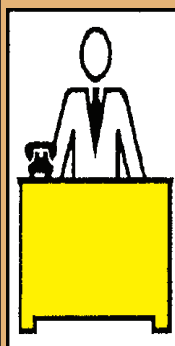


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