

### February 5, 2023 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



In the Bulletin:						
Schedule of Events Letter from Claire B. Upcoming Events Parish Life	pg. 2 pg. 3 pg. 4-5 pg. 6	Respect Life Generous Spirit Youth Ministry Prayer List	pg. 7 pg. 7 pg. 8 pg. 8	Archdiocesan Events Missionary Report	pg. 9 pg. 10	

### **Parish Staff**

651-633-8333

ext. 1203

ext. 1227

ext. 1217

ext. 1210

PASTORAL MINISTRY

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
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Lee Treml, Director of Worship	ext. 1212
Lori Vosejpka, Director of Contemporary Enser	mble
	v247@msn.com
Abe Gross, Director of Ignite abrahamjohngr	
Margaret Harmon, Liturgical Admin. Assistant	
Tucker Moore, Children's Choir Director	ext. 1124
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Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life	ext. 1228
Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis	ext. 1280
Jen Livermont, Coordinator of Discipleship for	
	ext. 1234
Deacon Michael Lane, Coordinator of Sacrame	
Jodie Wolla, Administrative Assistant	ext. 1211
Claire Brostrom, Reach More Mission Coordina	
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	
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

### **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
PARIS	SH LIBRARY HOURS

Patrick Hinnenkamp, Director of Maintenance

Joseph Huebl, Communications Coordinator

Micki Hall, Receptionist/Executive Assistant

Melissa Berg, Hospitality Coordinator

Sat. 5:30 PM; Sun. 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Church Nursery: We offer year-round nursery during both the 8:30 am and 10:30 am 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, February 6, 2023

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church 8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals 8:30 AM Mass (Anah and Maria Fitzgerald) Church ~ Fr. Joseph

9:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Church 3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook

7:00 PM Intercessory Prayer Ministry Training ~ 211

#### Tuesday, February 7, 2023

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals

8:30 AM Mass (Darwin Larson+) Church ~ Fr. Joseph

9:30 AM Alive in the Word ~ 210

9:30 AM Kidz Closet ~ 203

1:00 PM Library Committee Meeting ~ Library

1:00 PM Caregivers Support Group ~ 204 2:30 PM Open Youth Room ~ LL 106

3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook

7:00 PM SVDP Meeting ~ 210

#### Wednesday, February 8, 2023

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals 8:30 AM School Mass (Charlie King and Helen Sullivan+) Church ~ Fr. Joseph

9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese

9:30 AM Faithfully Fit ~ 208

9:30 AM Sister Clarinda's Winter Scripture Study ~ 206/208

3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook

5:00 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals

5:30 PM Mass ~ Church ~ Fr. Joseph

6:00 PM Middle School Faith Formation ~ LL 106

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ LL 101

7:00 PM Contemporary Group Rehearsal ~ Church

8:00 PM Senior High Youth Group ~ LL 106

### Thursday, February 9, 2023

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

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church

8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals 8:30 AM Mass (Clarence Wilkus and Marcy Eder+) Church

~ Fr. Joseph

9:15 AM Circle of Women ~ 206/208

3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook

6:30 PM Catholic Watchmen ~ St. Joseph Hall

7:00 PM RCIA Class ~ 206

#### Friday, February 10, 2023

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Church 8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals

8:30 AM Mass (Ken Kapsner+) Church ~ Fr. Jaspers

9:30 AM Legion of Mary ~ 204

3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook

5:00 PM K of C Fish Fry ~ St. Joseph Hall

7:00 PM Middle School Youth Group ~ LL 106

#### Saturday, February 11, 2023

9:00 AM GIFT Faith Study ~ 211

1:00 PM First Eucharist Kick-Off ~ Church

3:00 PM Called Forth Devotion ~ Facebook

3:15 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals

4:30 PM Vigil Mass (James Witkowski+ and Ines Giraldo) Church ~ Fr. Paul

5:30 PM New Parishioner Orientation ~ St. Joseph Hall West

### Sunday, February 12, 2023

8:30 AM Mass (Lucia Hong Tran+ and Anthony Paul Tiem Vu+) Church ~ Fr. Paul

8:30 AM Sunday Nursery ~ Nursery 8:30 AM Sunday School ~ School Classrooms

9:30 AM New Parishioner Orientation ~ St. Joseph Hall West 10:30 AM Mass (Virgil Gottwalt and Jim Verbrugge+) Church

~ Fr. Paul

10:30 AM Sunday Nursery ~ Nursery

10:30 AM Sunday School ~ School Classrooms

11:30 AM New Parishioner Orientation ~ St. Joseph Hall West

5:00 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals

5:30 PM Mass (Pro Populo) Church ~ Fr. Paul

6:30 PM New Parishioner Orientation ~ St. Joseph Hall West

### From Claire Brostrom, Reach More Mission Coordinator



"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

~ Matthew 5:16

Perhaps you have heard the end of Mass announcements or seen people handing out flyers on Lenten small groups in the plaza. It's hard to believe that the Lenten season is already just around the corner, and even harder to believe it would be possible to take on something new.

In a culture where busyness and overcommitment reigns, it's difficult to prioritize a faith sharing group, lest it be just "another thing on the calendar." Work, kids' sports and extracurriculars, running a household, and just trying to have a family dinner together can feel like an uphill battle. It's understandable that a small group just might not feel feasible.

But the truth is that this type of community ought to be the primary thing on the calendar, around which other activities fit. This is something I have to remind myself even years into meeting with a fantastic small group of women. This environment of friendship and trust gives the support and encouragement needed to face the other commitments of the week. And there is grace in placing a priority on it!

The absolute necessity of community is something Jesus not only preached, but modeled in his own ministry. He selected the Twelve to be his companions and pupils, walking with Him from His early ministry to His death and resurrection. He then gifted them with the Holy Spirit and commissioned them to preach the Gospel, constantly seeking support from one another. "Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together" (Acts 2:46). If the disciples who spent years with Jesus Himself needed intentional community, how much more do we? We were not created to ride the highs and lows of life and faith alone, but to learn and grow among supportive brothers and sisters.

So what does a good small group entail? The goal is to draw adults into transformative friendship with Jesus and one another through God's word (Evangelical Catholic). A typical small group meeting will involve 3 key aspects: life, growth, and mission.

First, members discuss what is going on in their daily lives, seeking prayer and encouragement from their group mates. This naturally becomes easier over time as trust and friendship is built among the participants. The small group pursues growth in faith, based on the Word of God. Some groups focus on the weekly Scriptures; others might work through a study or podcast aimed at a particular theme. This type of meditation and discussion cannot possibly be fruitless! "Indeed the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, between joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Finally, the small group applies what was learned and discussed to daily life. Each member reflects on how the Lord is calling him/her to implement what they discovered in His Word.

The growth in faith and fellowship that occurs within a small group is hard to find in other settings. I encourage you to take a step of faith this Lent and commit to one of our 7-week studies! Perhaps you are looking to meet more parishioners, you desire to participate in this Lent in a deeper way, or you're simply curious to see what a small group is all about. We have a place for you! Our leaders are offering Lenten studies at all days/times throughout the week to accommodate the busy schedules we all have. Books have been ordered, and rooms reserved; simply sign up and show up! An environment of friendship and trust awaits; and I promise it will transform your Lent. Say "yes" to the Lord's invitation to walk more closely with Him to the cross this season. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10: 24-25).

In Christ,

Claire Brostrom

Sign up for a small group on our website at https://stjohnnb.com/faith-formation/registrations/ or with the QR code.

### **Upcoming Events**

### Caregiver's Group

We meet on February 7, the 1st Tuesday of the month, from 1:00—2:30 pm in Room 204. Come join us for a break, good company, good conversation and good prayer. You can come and share or not share, whatever you are comfortable with, and everyone will understand.

### Catholic Watchmen

The next meeting is at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 9 in St. Joseph Hall.



Father Joseph's talk is titled, "Called Forth this Lent; the messiness of holiness."

### Men's Fellowship

Thursday Mornings 6:30—8:00 am February 9 – March 16, 2023

The Creed – Bishop Robert Barron DVD Series

In this video-based study, Bishop Robert Barron leads us line-by-line through the elegant, intelligent, and succinct words of the Creed. Words that roll off our tongues easily but are often not fully understood. These words, such as believe, one God, incarnate, and consubstantial, will resonate in your soul and more deeply give voice to your own faith once you experience Bishop Barron's The Creed. Born at the Council of Nicaea in the Fourth Century after intense, theological debates, this formal statement of faith is the foundation of both eastern and western Christianity. All who are baptized profess belief in the statements contained in the Nicene Creed.

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

### Circle of Women

Thursday, February 9, upstairs in Room 206/208 from 9:15 am—11:30 am

We welcome women of all ages to gather on Thursday, February 9, 2023. We welcome back Janae Bower to listen to her speak about being "Called Forth: The Mystic Within". Join us as we share our faith and time in prayer with one another. Childcare is available. Grab one of our brochures from the kiosks or watch your Flocknote for details.

Any questions? Call Michelle (763.442.4936) Hope to see you there!





### **FISH FRY**

### Join us on February 10, 2023

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Knights are serving a fish fry

**Meal includes:** Fish, mac and cheese, tater tots, cole slaw, bread and butter, bars/cookies, lemonade, water, and coffee.

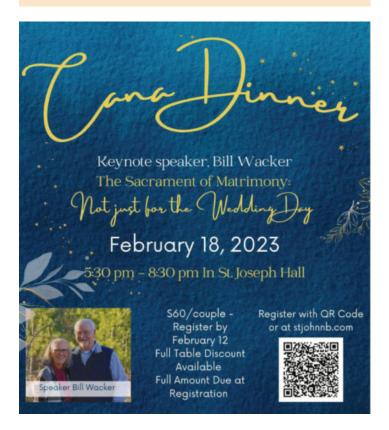
**Prices:** \$12/adult, \$8/ages 6-12, free/under 5, \$45/family maximum. Family is children and parents. Checks, cash, and credit cards accepted.

#### Upcoming K of C Meals:

February 26: Waffle Breakfast

March 10: Fish Fry
March 31: Fish Fry





### **Upcoming Events**

### SJB Parish Library News

This month the church celebrates several saints: St. Blaise, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Scholastica, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Valentine, St. Peter Damian, Marriage, and Consecrated Life, and the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Your parish Library offers a great selection of DVD's, CD's, and books on these subjects. Come and see, lean more about your faith and check out some of these items. The Library is open after the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses, and is located up the ramp across from the Archive's glass case. Any questions, call Jeannie Kratzer at 612-406-9387.

The Library Committee's schedule has changed. It is now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 1:00 pm—3:30 pm in the Holy Family Library. The next Library Committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 7 from 1:00 pm—3:30 pm. New members are always welcome.

### Save the Dates:



VBS, for children, age 3—current Kindergarteners, will take place Tuesday, June 20, 2023 to Thursday, June 22, 2023 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Registration opens in March.



Totus Tuus, for children entering grades 1—5, will take place Monday, July 24, 2023 to Friday, July 28, 2023 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Registration opens in March.

### Widows & Widowers

If you are single again, expected or not, for a long time or just recently, there is a community for you in this parish who understands. Join us for lunch on Monday, February 13 at 11:30 am at Perkins on County Road D.

### Called Forth to Prepare for Heaven: Estate Planning for You and Your Family

Save the Date - Thursday, March 2, 2023

Join fellow St. John parishioners and friends for a fascinating look at how we prepare for heaven! Featured speakers will address the spiritual, financial, and legal aspects of what to consider in creating an estate plan. You will also find answers to questions you may have about the sacramental life of the Church as we approach the end of life.

Please join us Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in St. Joseph's Hall as we hear from featured speakers:

Father Paul Shovelain – Preparing for Heaven with the Sacraments

Michael Cassel, Financial Advisor from Confetti Wealth Attorney Marty Schutz And more!

More details coming soon!

### Faithfully Fit

Come join us for Faithfully Fit, being held on Wednesdays at 9:30 am in Room 210.



### Parish Life *in Photos*

### SJB at the Synod Kick-Off













### **Respect Life**

### What You Do Matters...

by Mary Kohlhaas

The January 22 bulletin article stirred some discussion, and hopefully hearts and minds. I've heard far too often, "Fine, we tell her to have the baby, then what?" That question tells me that the mainstream media has done its job well. It has either undermined the value of ProLife Care Centers or has dismissed them altogether. Either way, you have NO IDEA how valuable their services are! There are several care centers in our area worth supporting and they have come a long way since the helplines of yesteryear. These are two we support:

- Abria Pregnancy Resources. (https://abria.org) They have been established in Minneapolis and St. Paul - a skip and a jump away from the large Planned Parenthood facility.
- Then there is the Women's Life Care Center in Little Canada (https://www.womenslifecarecenter.org/).

They are both cutting edge in the private services they offer — ultrasounds, pregnancy testing, STD testing, resources for children and now also life coaching for men as well as women. And all this for FREE through wonderful donors like you! Both clinics are about empowering men and women to successfully navigate an uncertain future. Visit them online and see how you can help.

### What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion

Read the full version at respectlife.org/l-o-v-e.

When a woman is facing a difficult pregnancy, the reaction of the first person she tells tends to set the tone for her decision-making. How do we respond in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby? First, prioritize listening over speaking. Ask her about her feelings, thoughts, values, beliefs, and wants. When her sto-

ry is fully shared, it is your turn to provide factual information, in a loving and caring way. Encourage her. Help her set goals that extend beyond her due date to help her see life beyond her pregnancy. Reassure

Reassure her that she is not alone.

her that she is not alone, and provide practical support. Pray with her, offering Christ's love at a crucial lifesaving and life-defining moment.

This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2019, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

### **Generous Spirit**

### RMDs and Tax Benefits

### When You Give to St. John the Baptist

Will you be required to take distributions from your retirement accounts in 2023? If so, did you know there are tax advantages when you make a gift to St. John the Baptist through your required minimum distribution (RMD)?

If you don't need your entire RMD, you can use a qualified charitable distribution strategy (QCD) to save on taxes. Simply direct your fund administrator to send the amount you request to St. John the Baptist as a charitable contribution.

For more information, please contact Mary May in the parish office at 651-633-8333, x1253, or email maym@stjohnnyb.org. May God bless you for your generosity to our parish!

### Are you in Need of a Prayer Quilt?

The SJB Quilting Ministry is an outreach ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. The group has several quilts that have been blessed and are ready to distribute. In the past, quilts have been distributed to young children, to cancer patients and to those facing surgery or a personal crisis. They are given for many reasons, but each is given for someone in special need of prayer.

If you are a parishioner and would like to request a prayer quilt for someone you know, please contact Mary Kohlhaas at 651-633-8333 ext. 1229 or at kohlhaasm@stjohnnyb.orq.

### The SJB Kidz Closet

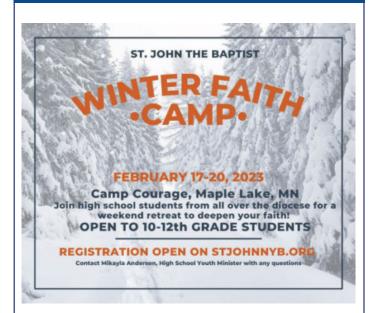
Throughout the winter months, needs for the SJB Kidz Closet have been increasing more and more. We would greatly appreciate specific donations of the following new or gently used items:

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

### New 12 Page Bulletin

You may notice that our parish bulletin now has an extra page. That is because our publisher (J.S.Paluch) sold our contract to another bulletin publisher (LPi) who can only print 4-, 8-, or 12-page bulletins. Thus, we now have a 12-page bulletin at no extra charge, so as to accommodate for their speed printer requirements. Please continue to support our advertisers who sponsor the bulletin!

### **Youth Ministry**



## WANT TO HELP OUR YOUTH GROUP AND DON'T KNOW HOW?

### DONATE SNACKS!

Our youth ministry program would appreciate your donation of pre-packaged snacks for youth group, confirmation and small groups!

> Feel Free to bring snack donation to the welcome desk at any time with your name on it, so we can thank you later.

CONTACT MIKAYLA ANDERSON, ANDERSONM@STJOHNNYB.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS!



"The only reason for my being killed, is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason that I die."

> ~ Saint Paul Miki (Feast Day February 6)

### 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 Ferdelman, Cassie Cramer, Jon Clark, Donna Yenish, John Leibrich, Nella Pitzen, 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 and Susan Amos Palmer, Dottie Searles, Sylvia Meagher, Mary Andersohn, Kris Mellstrom, Kay Hildreth, Stacey Miller, Mary Erickson, Larry Wasik, Steve Johnson, Audrey Geneva, Tim Steffl, Braxton Battaglia, Helen Heinks, JoAnn Cedarholm, Tom Goebel, Engracia and Jim Houle, Jon Latham, Marlene Nickel, Christa Jones, Sue Klinkner, Neil Lubke

If your name has been removed from this list and you would like to be prayed for, please call the parish office.

rayer 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

### Readings For The Week

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13 Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30 Friday: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37 Saturday: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10 Sunday: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28,

33-34a, 37]

### **Around the Archdiocese**

### Ladies Night Out - February 7

Grab a friend, and join us to learn about designing and decorating the domestic church. Learn what it takes to be a hospitable hostess, and discover how to transform your home into a Sanctuary from a Professional Interior Designer who will give practical tips and tricks you can implement yourself! Complimentary wine and cheese will be served. First 100 to register attend free! Sponsored by the women of St. Joseph Business Guild at the Church of St. Mark, 2001 Dayton Ave, St. Paul RSVP at www.sjbusinessguild.com



### World Day of the Sick 2023

Archbishop Hebda will preside. On this feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, all are invited to attend a special Mass dedicated to the sick, caregivers, chaplains & healthcare workers. A light reception will follow with Lourdes Holy Water blessings. Then a reflection, Finding Hope in the Sacred Heart will be given by the chaplain for North Memorial hospital and Curatio Apostolate, Fr. Andrew Jaspers. Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 10:00 am at Transfiguration Catholic Church 6133 15th St N, Oakdale, MN

### IC Music Presents: The Roaring Twenties

Dinner and variety show - Saturday, February 18 - Immaculate Conception Church, 4030 Jackson St. NE, Columbia Heights:

Join us for fine cuisine, beverages, and hit songs from the Roaring Twenties. Doors open - 6:00 | Dinner - 6:30 | Show - 7:45. Reserved seat tickets are required (\$40.00 - cash or check only) and are on sale in the IC parish office during the week. (Buy a table of 8 in one transaction you'll get 1 seat free.)

For information call 763-788-9062 or visit IC-CSonline.org

### Pacem in Terris Retreats

Please come to Pacem in Terris for a Transformative Lenten Retreat.

Allow God's love to heal, nourish and transform your life. Find rest in body, mind, and spirit in this hermitage sanctuary. No schedules or daily distractions. Pacem in Terris offers guests an environment of silence to pray and enter into an intimate union with God.

Open year-round. Gift certificates available. Reservations: 763-444-6408 www.paceminterris.org

### Our Fascinating Faith

**Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11)** 

On February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, the oldest of nine children in a poor family from Lourdes, France, saw Our Lady in the first of eighteen apparitions. At the grotto of Massabielle, Bernadette saw "a small lady in white" who invited her to return each day. During the visions the Lady communicated a message of penance, instructed Bernadette to dig so that a spring of water began to flow, requested that a chapel be built there at the grotto, and eventually identified herself by saying "I am the Immaculate Conception." Throughout these apparitions, Our Lady addressed Bernadette in a formal way, treating the humble girl with dignity. In 1862 the authenticity of the apparitions was confirmed by Church authorities. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was recognized worldwide in 1907. Lourdes became a place of pilgrimage for thousands of the faithful; their faith and the faith of many others was revitalized through the story of a simple young girl from rural France.

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# Called Forth into Mission

an update from Camryn Sulak, former SJB NET Missionary and current FOCUS Missionary

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you." ~ Pope Saint John Paul II

Happy New Year, SJB! I pray the new year is bringing you renewed opportunities for hope and trust in The Lord! I am back to share an update on my mission with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) at The University of Tulsa!

The start of 2023 kicked off with taking 30 students from The University of Tulsa to FOCUS' national conference, SEEK! 17,000+ people gathered in St. Louis, MO, for 5 days of intentional time set aside to worship, receive formation, and grow in their relationship with God. What a joy it was to witness and experience with the students! One student said that during a time of prayer at the conference was the closest she has ever felt to God. Many students had powerful experiences and returned to campus with a desire to continue growing in their faith. Thank you for your prayers and support for the students attending the conference!

The past few weeks back on campus, my team and I have both reconnected with students and had new opportunities to invest in students. One student, who after many unanswered invitations, came to Bible study the second week back! Through a conversation at Bible study, she shared her desire for a community of friends who could help her grow in her faith and her desire to buy a Bible. What a blessing! I had the opportunity to have lunch with her and take her to buy a Bible. The Lord is so faithful in continuing to bring new and open people to mission! My team and I have also invited students into authentic friendship with the hope of leading them to an encounter with Jesus Christ through:

- Investing in students through a movie night, game night, bonfire, coffee shop talks, walks and more!
- Bible studies and discipleship continuing this semester, with 3 new women joining Bible studies so far.

Inviting students to give of themselves in service through serving the homeless in downtown Tulsa and signing up for a FOCUS spring break trip to NY to serve with the Sisters of Life. Every day we begin by gathering as a team to pray for the conversion of the students. Join us! Will you please pray for the conversion of stu-

dents at The University of Tulsa?

- Pray for the students as they transition into their new class schedule and decide how they will spend time with God.
- Pray that students will be open to invitations to friendship and Bible study, especially those who weren't responsive last semester.
- Pray that students continue to desire growth in their faith and the zeal to share it with others.

Pray for me and my teammates that we may be truly present to the people The Lord places in front of us and desire His will. Thank you for your prayers and support as a community! This mission wouldn't be possible without you. Please know of my continued prayers for you and the SJB community.

God bless and thank you, Camryn Sulak



Camryn.sulak@focus.org Visit my Giving Page: Focus.org/missionaries/Camryn-sulak 817.929.8161

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