ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WISHES YOU A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I WOULD LIKE TO START THIS MESSAGE WITH A QUOTE FROM HARLAN MILLER:

"PROBABLY THE REASON WE ALL GO SO HAYWIRE AT CHRISTMASTIME WITH THE

ENDLESS UNRESTRAINED AND OFTEN SILLY BUYING OF GIFTS IS THAT WE DON'T QUITE

KNOW HOW TO PUT OUR LOVE INTO WORDS."

I LAUGH AT THIS LINE BECAUSE I CAN SAY, "I HAVE BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT AND HAVE ALSO BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF SUCH GIVING."

THE BIGGER REASON FOR LIKING THIS QUOTE IS IT POINTS TO THE TRUTH THAT AS INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY WE STRUGGLE WITH PUTTING OUR FEELINGS OF LOVE INTO WORDS OR ACTIONS. I BELIEVE WE ALSO STRUGGLE WITH ACCEPTING LOVE AS A GIFT WHEN IT IS GIVEN TO US.

IN FACT, IT SEEMS EASIER AND MORE ACCEPTABLE TO DEAL WITH THE DARKNESS IN OUR LIVES AND THE WORLD THAN LOVE. DIVISION, ANGER AND HURT SEEM TO BE TALKED ABOUT ALL THE TIME ON THE NEWS AND SOCIAL MEDIA. JUST BRING COVID-19 UP AND WATCH SIDES BE CREATED. DARKNESS, PAIN AND SUFFERING ARE A REAL PART OF OUR WORLD. I TALK ABOUT THE DARKNESS OF OUR PRESENT LIFE TO HELP MAKE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST MORE MEANINGFUL. OVER 2,000 YEARS AGO, GOD SAW THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD AND SENT HIS ONLY SON INTO THE DARKNESS TO BE THE LIGHT. THE WORLD WAS CHANGED BY THE BIRTH OF JESUS, REFLECT ON WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STARS, ANGELS, SHEPHERDS AND HOW MANY OTHER LIVES WERE TRANSFORMED.

FOR ME, THE BIRTH OF JESUS STILL BRINGS THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD. I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE FROM MY EYES AND HEART OF A PARISH PRIEST ONE WAY I SEE GOD'S LOVE BREAKING INTO OUR WORLD.

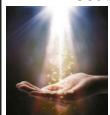
EACH YEAR, I SEE WHAT IS CALLED THE CHRISTMAS CROWD OF PEOPLE COMING TO THE CHRISTMAS MASSES AS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES. AS THEY COME, THEY BRING WITH THEM A RENEWED SPIRIT OF PEACE, LOVE AND JOY. WITHOUT BEING TOLD, THEY ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS. I WATCH THE WAYS PEOPLE COME TOGETHER, THE HEARTFELT GREETINGS GIVEN TO EACH OTHER, HOW SMILES AND HUGS ARE MORE MEANINGFUL AND SINCERE. WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT THEY BRING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WITH THEM; INDIVIDUALS BREAK OUT OF THEIR DARKNESS AS THEY PREPARE TO ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND EACH OTHER. THIS SCENE HAPPENS YEAR AFTER YEAR, IN PARISH AFTER PARISH, IN COMMUNITY AFTER COMMUNITY. I HOPE YOU CAN ALLOW YOURSELF TO SEE AND BECOME THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

MY PRAYER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES IS TO ALLOW GOD'S LOVE TO ENTER THE DARKNESS OF YOUR LIFE. OUR GOD DOES NOT GO HAYWIRE WITH HIS GIFT GIVING. HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU THE GIFT OF HIS SON JESUS. MAY YOU ACCEPT HIS GIFT OF LOVE INTO YOUR HEARTS AND ALLOW IT TO DWELL WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES OVER THE NEW YEAR.

PEACE, LOVE AND JOY FR. RON BELITZ

IN OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Focus of this weekend's celebration



The incarnation is an act of God's self-gift. At a time where we put so much emphasis on the exchange of presents, today's celebration is an invitation to refocus on the gifts of life, love and relationship. How do we share ourselves with others? Do we listen attentively when someone speaks to us, or are we distracted by our laundry list of to-dos? Some serious self-reflection might reveal that we could more generously share our gift of self.

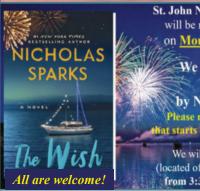


Do you ever wonder why we can't just all get along? Do you ever long for a more loving and peaceful world?

"Be Like Jesus, Live Like Jesus" small groups will be meeting for five weeks beginning the <u>week of January 16th</u> and will be forming in the very near future!!

TIMES AND DATES COMING SOON!!

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE LISTED IN THE BULLETIN, SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE!



St. John Nepomucene Book Club will be meeting in the Library on Monday, January 3rd!

We will be reading "The Wish" by Nicholas Sparks. Please read up to the chapter at starts "The Second Trimester"

We will meet in the library (located off of the Gathering Space) from 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Congratulations to Lois Evers, Pauline DeGroot and Mutz LaBrec who have been St. John Mission Club volunteers since 1999!



Thank you ladies for your dedication these past 22-years and we look forward to many more years together at the St. John Mission Club!

Reminder for Church Cleaning



The church cleaning will be held

on January 3rd following the 6:45 a.m. Communion Service. We can always use more helping hands!

The Mission Club will be closed on December 29th and January 5th.

The Mission Club will reopen on Jan. 12th

with their normal hours. Also, if St. John School is closed because of bad weather, the Mission Club will be closed too.



These will take place in Fellowship Hall from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm. Join us at anytime! We will be holding two of these great and yummy meals on January 29th & February 19th.

You may sign-up for this event starting Jan. 8th!

Wedding Banns

Ш **Emily Janssen and Derek Larsen**

Ш **Iennifer Noonan and Ben Rohr**

Heather Keddell and Jake DeGroot



Remember in Your Prayers



Our prayers and thoughts go to the family of: Mary L. Burkart, who passed away on December 12, 2021 We pray that you rest in the eternal light of Christ.

St. John Nepomucene New Year's Mass and Parish Office Hours

New Year's Day, January 1st—Mass will be at 4:30 p.m.

The parish office will be CLOSED all day on December 31st and on January 3rd. The

parish office will reopen on January 4th for normal business hours.



Let St. John Nepomucene share our love with you and your college students!

Please sign up your college students, and we will have a care package sent! You can sign up at the Information Desk, the parish office or by emailing Kay Wells, at jknboys@sbcglobal.net.



Please provide the student's full name, full address, school, as well as your contact name and phone number by January 27th.



Registration



January 31 or February 1 at 7:00 p.m.

The Xavier curriculum will be described and advice will be given regarding course selection for the upcoming year. Those who are ready to make final course selections will be invited to do so. Tours of the building will be available. The program will begin in the Xavier High School Theatre.

Register at bit.ly/2XRU3xe or by calling 920-733-6632.

#XavierXperience

2021 Calendar Winners

11/28/21 \$50 Robbie Kruse, Appleton

11/29/21 \$25 Chris Van Asten, Little Chute

11/30/21 \$25 Marty & Sue Evers, Appleton

12/01/21 \$25 Karen Ott, Kaukauna

12/02/21 \$25 Diane Diny, De Pere

12/03/21 \$25 Marlo McMahon, Little Chute

12/04/21 \$25 Rick & Deb Verstegen, De Pere

12/05/21 \$50 Mary Wiedenhaupt, Kaukauna

12/06/21 \$25 Jane Miller, Kimberly

12/07/21 \$25 Dan Van Roy, Milwaukee

* Calendar winners will receive their check in the mail within two to three weeks. *

St. John Nepomucene Catholic Community Little Chute, WI - December 26, 2021

Financial Update Summary

WEEK 23

Weekly Offert	ory
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Budgeted Weekly	\$1,613.08
Received	\$2,049.26
Surplus	\$436.18

Year-to-Date Offertory

Budgeted Year-to-Date	\$37,100.77
Received	\$33,676.35
Deficit	(\$3,424.42)

Weekly Sacrificial Giving

Budgeted Weekly	\$21,636.92
Received	<u>\$24,535.11</u>
	\$2,898.19

Year-to-Date Sacrificial Giving

Budgeted Year-to-Date	\$497,649.23
Received	\$439,286.37
Deficit	(\$58,362.86)



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Prayer Shawls are available in the Mission Club (Door #7) on Wednesdays or call the parish office.



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St. John Faith Development

St. John Faith Development seeks to foster among young people a lifelong relationship with God and His Church so all may live as disciples who know, love and serve Him.

Community Bag Drop

Thank you to all of our students and families for your support of our Community Bag Drop this year! It has been amazing to watch this program grow over the years. So many people were impacted by this simple act and **THANK YOU** for reinforcing the true meaning of Christmas!



Grades 1 - 8

Students in grades 1 - 8 will resume their regularly scheduled Faith Development sessions on Wednesday, January 5th.



Grades 9 & 10

Our next session will held be on Sunday, January 9th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Confirmation

Our next session will be held on Sunday, January 16th from 8:00 am until 12:00 p.m. *This session will be for students and sponsors*.

St. John School

The students/staff at SJS will be on Christmas break from December 23rd through January 2nd. School will reopen on Monday, January 3rd.

The Before/After School Care Program will not be available during the break.

THANK YOU to all who were able to attend the Christmas Concert

"Here We Come A-Caroling".

The concert was recorded and is available on our YouTube channel labeled "SJS Christmas Concert" to watch!



Substitute Teachers Needed!

If you have a Bachelor's Degree and are interested in teaching on an as needed basis, we would *LOVE* to add your name to our call-in list. Please contact Mr. Flottmeyer at kflottmeyer@stjn.org if you are interested in this opportunity.

For SJS news, updates and schedules, please visit stjn.org/news for the Dutchmen Details posted weekly on Wednesdays.

We wish you a very prosperous and peaceful New Year!

Youth Ministry

Catholic Heart Workcamp 2022 Join us in Billings, Montana!

Calling ALL high school students! Registration is NOW OPEN!

To register, please go to: https://holyspirit-parish.org/Chwc



Make all checks payable to: Holy Spirit Parish Fo

For more information, please contact Clint at cjorn@stjn.org or 788-9082.



Parish Directory

PARISH OFFICE	(920) 788-9061
	EMAIL parishoffice@stjn.org
PASTORAL STAFF	
Fr. Ronald Belitz	Pastor
Deacon David Van Eperen	Executive Director
Deacon Bruce Corey	Pastoral Associate
Debbie Hartjes	
Kathii Schommer	Finance
Jessica Hietpas	Finance
James DeGroot	Music Ministry Coordinator
Sarah Zouski-Teske Ex	ecutive Secretary / Bulletin Editor
Sarah Vosters	Marketing Coordinator
ST. JOHN CEMETERY (Roger Van G	Groll)(920) 422-0467

Office Hours (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday) 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Office Hours (Wednesday) 12:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Ryan Gloudemans......Director of Religious Education

Peg Van AstenAdministrative Assistant

Kelly Ufi Administrative Assistant ST. JOHN SCHOOL (920) 788-9082

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Email....

Lori Verhagen Pastoral Council Chairperson
Todd Schommer Finance Council Chairperson
Nicole Vanden Heuvel Board of Education Chairperson
Nancy Vanderloop Secretary Trustee
Amy McLaughlin Treasurer Trustee

BULLETIN DEADLINE Monday at 4:00 p.m.

BAPTISM — Contact the parish office for the Sacrament of Baptism.

RECONCILIATION — Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. or by appointment.

WEDDINGS — Contact the parish office at least six (6) months in advance.

PASTORAL CARE

Please inform the parish office of anyone who is sick, homebound, in a care facility or of other special needs.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new parishioners! Visit the website or contact the parish office to register or to change your contact information.

Children's Liturgy for January 1st and 2nd

4:30 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

STAY TUNED

as to when our Children's Liturgy will be returning !!!!

FIRST Steps for January 2nd

8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.



.(920) 788-9033

stjnfaithform@stjn.org

Weekly Mass Schedule and Intentions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

1 John 1:1-4 John 20:1a, 2-8

6:45 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

1 John 1:5—2:2 Matthew 2:13-18

6:45 a.m. Bill Verhagen

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35

6:45 a.m. For a safe and healthy New Year

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

1 John 2:12-17 Luke 2:36-40

6:45 a.m. Dennis and Chris Van Dinter

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18

6:45 a.m. Jim Mulry, Jack and Vi Reynebeau,

Don and E.B. Reynebeau and Jerry Reynebeau

and John and Dorothy Heezen

2:00 p.m. Wedding — Emily Janssen and Derek Larsen

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1ST

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

2:00 p.m. Wedding — Jennifer Noonan and Ben Rohr

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

4:30 p.m. Ronald Ludtke and St. John Nepomucene Members

Servers: Hannah Nash, Tyler Verstegen

Eucharistic Minister: Lisa Hartjes, Erin Karrels,

Linda Schuh, Jen Verstegen

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

8:00 a.m. Bob & Gloria Vanden Boogart and Robert Elrick

Servers: Leighton DeBruin, Will Jansen

Eucharistic Minister: Mary Gloudemans, Ron Van Lankveldt,

Jo Van Lankveldt, Jessie Hietpas

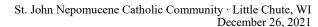
10:00 a.m. Jacob Hermus and Ed Belongea

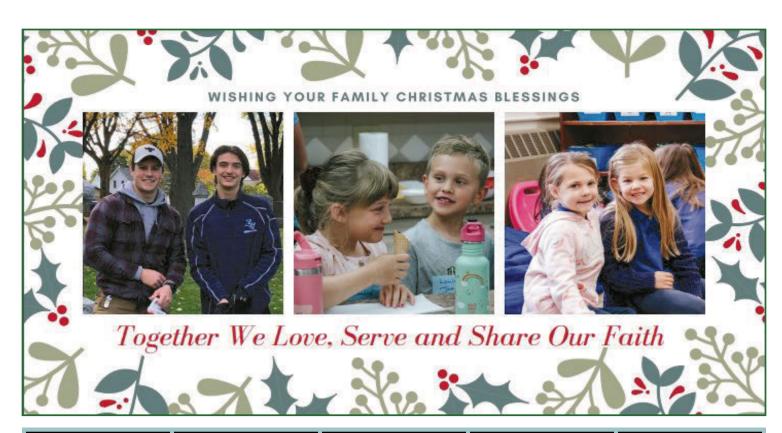
Servers: Not Filled

Eucharistic Minister: Debbie Hermsen, Kelly Ufi, Kathy Verhagen,

Kate Berken

*Lead Minister appears in Bold.







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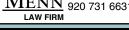
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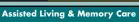
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