



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED Sacrament

2119 STILLWATER AVE E ST. PAUL, MN | 651.738.0677 | CHURCH@BLESSEDSACRAMENTSP.ORG

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

The only way to know God is to love God. Our minds will never fully grasp the mystery of God, but our hearts and souls can learn to love the mystery. Years ago, when life had a more innocent quality to it, we believed what we were told or witnessed, unless there was direct evidence otherwise. This was especially true if the information came from someone in authority. In a sense, we were a bit more gullible on one hand but also more trusting on the other. The latter is an admirable quality that sadly can be eroded when we realize we have been duped. With education and technological advances, we find ourselves more skeptical and less likely to too quickly accept and believe what we see and hear.



For all of the good that social media can do, it can also easily distort reality and truth. Photoshop and a myriad other technological truths can add to, fabricate, and make even the non-existent seem real. It is amazing. How far do we allow this obviously justifiable skepticism to take us? Questioning and doubting are healthy elements of any good relationship as long as we don't allow them to turn us away from a deeper experience of love and encounter. If we cannot get our minds around something or empirically justify or prove it, we tend to declare it a hoax, untrue, or unauthentic and walk away. The very same trust that can quickly be eroded is exactly what is essential for all of our relationships, especially our relationship with God. With all things and people that make a profound claim on us, we have to trust in the absence of knowledge. Full self-investment involves plunging completely into the unknown!

Simon Peter said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter came to this knowledge, which is not "head knowledge" because of the relationship he shared with Jesus and what God was able to reveal in and through that relationship. Peter simply "knew" because of love that this is who Jesus really is. The silent exchange of love between friends, and not an intellectual exercise of the mind, brought Peter to this place. When we stop and think about it, there are many things in life that we simply know but do not completely understand. When someone sacrifices their own well-being for another, it may not make intellectual sense when examined. But it makes a world of sense when it is carried out. The vastness of reality and an encounter with incomprehensible mystery all lead us to profound silence where we simply know something to be true. Have you trusted enough to allow your relationship with God to bring you to this place or are you still too skeptical?

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

To stand in the presence of God is to stand in the presence of incomprehensible mystery. We are people of proofs and facts. With good reason, we are becoming more doubtful of what presents itself to us, as technology makes it easy to fabricate false images and distort what is actually true. What we think is real actually may not be. We become skeptical. Does this skepticism affect our relationship with God? To have faith in God means that we must be willing to trust in the absence of full knowledge. To know the mind of God means we would know God himself, and that is impossible. To acknowledge Jesus as the Christ means we acknowledge that the reality and presence of an incarnate God has a fundamental claim on who we are. When we name this truth, we participate in a depth of knowledge that stretches us far beyond the scope of our minds. It brings us to silence, which is the only way to touch our soul. ©LPi

MESSAGES FROM OUR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Parish contributions

Just a quick note on the contributions coming in to the parish. We are running behind on the amount of contributions we receive. We have taken a very conservative means to budget for contributions, and even so, we are running about 20% below our "normal" totals. If you currently are not receiving envelopes and wish to receive them, simply let us know. Approximately 35-40% of our parishioners are currently not using envelopes. Also, please keep in mind the other two easy ways to contribute: electronically each month [from your bank to our bank] or by using the "Donate Now" button on our website. No amount is too small to consider giving. (Ex: \$5/week = \$260/year, or \$20/month = \$240/year.)

New lighting controls

The new lighting controls in the church have now been installed and are working perfectly. A special "THANK YOU" shout out to a few parishioners who have generously donated towards this project. To date we have already collected 40% of this expense. If you feel so inclined to contribute to this, or any other project, simply add it to the memo line on your check.

New Concrete Entrance

We are moving forward with plans to replace some of the broken concrete outside of the front entrance. Plans are to obtain competitive bids and to hopefully have this work done this fall.

Loss of Chesterton Academy lease

It was not a surprise to us that Chesterton Academy would not be returning this year. Financially what this means is a loss of rental income (over \$25,000+.) More importantly, we miss seeing the youth in the hallways and in church. We were blessed to have them here as long as we did. Good luck Chesterton Academy -- we miss you!

Catholic Services Appeals Foundation (CSAF) update

We are currently at \$2,024 over our goal of \$21,358. This means that we will receive back a rebate of 50% of the amount that exceeds our goal. It also means that we will continue to receive back 50% of all funds that keep coming in. The more that is pledged the more we will get back.

goodbye!

With heartfelt appreciation we thank our retiring trustee, **Tom Regan**, for his years of dedicated service and concern for our parish community!



We are also very grateful that **Don Winger** has agreed to take on the role of our newest trustee!

hello!



God bless you both, gentlemen!

Join us for **NINEVEH NIGHT of prayer and penance** Saturday, August 29th from 7-8pm (in the main church) to atone for our sins and beg God's intervention against further sickness and disasters. **All are welcome to attend!**

Miriam Dinner – Save the Date!

Tuesday, September 29, 6 – 8:30 p.m., Holy Cross, Minneapolis
Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda and Father David Blume, Director of Vocations, invite women, ages 16 – 35, who are discerning consecrated life to join us for this event! Come for an evening of prayer and dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocations testimonies. Space is limited! It is typical for guests to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth / campus minister. RSVP before September 24 at 10000vocations.org. Questions? Email stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org or call the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890.

PROJECT “WISH LIST”

On-going project list

Here is a list of some projects that we are working on, along with their respective costs:

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Installing a key fob system	\$ 1,500
Individual key fobs	\$ 10 each
Re-keying all exterior doors	\$ 700
Replacing church lighting controls	\$ 2,500
Addition of altar candle stands [2-4]	\$ 1,200
New concrete parish entrance	\$ 12,000+
Current [7 camera] surveillance system	\$ 220/mo. (\$ 2,640/yr.)
Soffit repair outside Robertson room	\$ 1,100
Re-stripping parking lot	\$ 450
Re-stenciling handicapped parking areas	\$ 300
Pruning trees @ rectory	\$ 600
Gutter covers @ rectory	\$ 300
Adding top soil around our facilities	\$ 350
Replacing shrubs @ front of church	\$ 300

We THANK YOU for any financial assistance you may be inclined to contribute towards these specific projects. God bless.

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PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
Carol McKenna,ext. 15
FAITH FORMATION 651-738-0677
Connie Hill, Director ext. 14
MUSIC
Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
PRAYER LINE
 Please call Carol McKenna.....651-492-2778
CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

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BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
RECONCILIATION- Saturday 3:00-3:45pm
By appointment on other days
MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-W-F 1-11pm & TH 6am-noon
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

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Sunday, August 23
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/ Mt 16:13-20
 Lacey Ramirez Cruz
 Parish Mass
Monday, August 24
Saint Bartholomew, Apostle
Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51
Tuesday, August 25
Saint Louis, Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest
2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Mt 23:23-26
 † Michael P. Casello, Sr.
Wednesday, August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Mt 23:27-32
 Sister Maravillas, OCD
Thursday, August 27
Saint Monica
1 Cor 1:1-9/Mt 24:42-51
 Fr. Ed Broom, OMV
Friday, August 28
Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Cor 1:17-25/Mt 25:1-13
 † Louise Walk
Saturday, August 29
The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 6:17-29 (Morning Readings)
 † Ron Ryan, Jr.
Sunday, August 30
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27
 Lacey Ramirez Cruz
 Parish Mass

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

August 23—August 30

The celebration of public Masses has resumed for a limited number of participants!

Please sign up online or call the parish office!

Other Schedule Information:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 PM or call for an appointment.
- Livestream Mass—**Tuesday-Friday at Noon, Saturday at 4:00 PM and on Sunday at 9:00 am** on Facebook or watch later on our You Tube channel link via our website.

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

August 8/9, 2020

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 5,657.07
Holy Day:	\$ 45.00
Other:	\$ 500.00
<u>Additional Operating Income:</u>	<u>\$ 185.00</u>
Total :	\$ 6,187.07

Movement and Meditation Classes available via Zoom

This Fall's Movement and Meditation Classes are scheduled to start on September 14. This 8 week session will last until November 2. Cost for the 8 week session is \$72.00 and it will be a "Zoom session." **Classes will not be held in the Robertson Room.**

To register and pay directly please click this link:



<https://yogadevotion.com/class/zoom-yogadevotion-with-nancy>

If you know someone who would like to attend these classes, have any questions, please contact Lisa @yogadevotion.com

HEALTH TIP

Don't like using dental floss or find it difficult to manipulate?

Several inexpensive alternatives are available that do the same plaque-removing job. Floss picks are single-use gadgets that feature a toothpick at one end and a small, taut piece of floss stretched between two small arms at the other. An **interdental brush** has tiny bristles (much thinner than on a toothbrush) that can clean between teeth. They come in different shapes and sizes and are available in single-use or reusable versions. The wooden **Stim-U-Dent Plaque Remover** looks a bit like a triangular toothpick, with a flat end and a pointed end. The moisture from your saliva softens the wood, allowing you to run it between and over your teeth and along the gumline. A fourth option, called a **dental rubber tip stimulator**, has a handle with a replaceable pointed rubber tip at one end. The flexible point makes it especially good for cleaning along the gumline, but unless you have very widely spaced teeth, it's likely too thick to get between all of them (so it can't really stand alone as a floss alternative but could be paired with one of the other products). With any of the products, don't force them between your teeth, and consult your dentist first about which to use if you have implants, bridges, or very tightly spaced teeth.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE
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FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation this Fall

Classes begin September 1st! Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is offered semi-monthly on Tuesday mornings 10:00 to 11:30 am (NEW) or Wednesday evenings 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm. Confirmation classes (for students grades 8-12) meet semi-monthly 10:00 am to 11:00 am (after Sunday morning Mass). Family Formation is available Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings, or fully at-home. All Family Formation uses curriculum from Sophia Institute. Visit the website for details or to register. A few more catechists are needed to assist with sacramental prep classes.



Las clases comienzan el 1^{de} septiembre! La catequesis del Buen Pastor se ofrece semestralmente los martes por la mañana de 10:00 a 11:30 am (NUEVO) o los miércoles por la noche de 6:15 p.m. a 7:45 p.m. Clases de confirmación (para los estudiantes de 8 a 12 años) se reúnen semestrales de 10:00 a.m. a 11:00 am (después de la misa del domingo por la mañana). La formación familiar está disponible los miércoles por la noche, los domingos por la mañana o completamente en casa. Toda la Formación Familiar utiliza el plan de estudios del Instituto Sophia. Visite el sitio web para obtener más información o para registrarse. Se necesitan algunos catequistas más para ayudar con las clases de preparación sacramental.

What if

Faith Formation is flexible and responsive. In-person classes will follow Archdiocesan guidelines to minimize risk, including wellness screenings, masks, and widely-spread learning centers. If your family prefers a fully at-home experience this year, or if we need to suspend in-person gatherings, videos and family packets will give parents the tools for learning and living the faith at home. Parents are empowered as families grow in faith together. Questions? Contact Connie Hill at the parish office or cahill@blessedsacramentsp.org.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

This child-centered faith formation program is based on Montessori teaching principles. From the age of three, the child uses beautiful materials to cultivate prayer and a personal relationship with God. CGS offers sacramental preparations for First Reconciliation and First Communion beginning in first grade and culminating in second grade.





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