

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

"ALL IN NOW . . . SO WE ARE ALL IN HEAVEN"



## MASS SCHEDULE:

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri: 8AM  
Tuesday: 5:30PM  
Saturday: 5PM  
Sunday: 7:30, 9 & 11AM  
LIVESTREAM MASS: Sat 5PM

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Tuesday: 4:40-5:15PM  
Friday: 7-7:45AM  
Saturday: 9-10AM

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Mon/Tues/Fri/Sat: 9AM-5PM  
Wednesday: 9AM-8PM  
Thursday: 11AM-5PM  
Sunday: 12-5PM

## CONTACT US:

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 8:30AM-4PM  
Friday: 8:30AM-1PM

**4625 W. 125TH ST.  
SAVAGE, MN 55378  
952-890-9465**

Contact us:  
Website: [stjohns-savage.org](http://stjohns-savage.org)  
Email: [welcome@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:welcome@stjohns-savage.org)

Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick  
& Funeral Assistance: call the Parish  
Office.

**FOR AN OFF HOURS EMERGENCY  
CALL: 763-572-4355**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND  
PRESCHOOL:  
12508 LYNN AVE.  
SAVAGE, MN 55378  
952-890-6604**



# 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name,  
receives me.” - Mk 9:37a

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 | THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## A NOTE FROM FATHER LITTLE



### **COMMUNITYFEST**

Thank you to all who have planned, volunteered, attended, and prayed for this CommUnityfest we celebrate this weekend. Last year's dialed-back (yet still enjoyable) event is a great memory. Given the circumstances, I'm proud and grateful that we were able to hold such an event.

But I am even more delighted that God has worked this year through so many "All In" hearts, minds, and hands—to allow us a bigger and better celebration of God's love that is known and experienced through the relationships we cherish in the SJB community. May God continue to keep us all safe, healthy, and holy in his service to himself and our neighbor!

### **NEW SEMINARIAN**

As you'll remember, St. John's was part of the priestly formation of now-Father Josh Salonek (now happily serving not far away at St. John Neumann in Egan) as his teaching parish assignment. I was beginning to wonder if St. John's would be asked to serve this essential mission again right away with a new seminarian this year or if the seminary would be giving us some "time off." As it turns out, we have been asked to begin again right away with a new seminarian. This week I was pleased to meet Josh Heywood of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska. Josh is beginning his four years of major seminary and study of theology at St. Paul Seminary, and will be assigned to me as his teaching parish supervisor at St. John's for the next four years. It will be a slightly different experience in that we will be working with a seminarian not from our diocese. But I expect that St. John's will embrace Josh in the same welcoming spirit as we are accustomed to showing to any newcomer. Please pray for him and all his classmates, and I look forward to his introduction in the coming weeks.

### **9/11 REFLECTIONS**

At the Saturday evening Mass last week, I shared a brief personal reflection on the significance of 9/11 in my own life. I recalled that I was a senior in high school on that day, and felt an intense desire to "do something" in response to the astonishing evil and destruction of life we saw. I was, and still am, a man of deep patriotism and love of country, so military service seemed like the most obvious way to go. But as a Type 1 diabetic, I'm medically ineligible for service. A career in politics and government also seemed like a way to meet that idealistic desire—but that wasn't ultimately what God wanted. So I am evermore grateful that God did indeed have an even more profound way for me to meet the wickedness of that day—to share his love and be an instrument of his grace through the priestly vocation he gave me a few years later. I don't know if it's possible to measure just how much of my desire to be a priest is attributable to the events of twenty years ago, but I came to realize in my prayers and reflections through the days of marking that solemn anniversary that there were some seeds of a vocation planted in me even by such an act of evil.

## A NOTE FROM FATHER LITTLE (CONT.)

As I shared, it just so happened that on that twentieth anniversary, I celebrated five of the Church's seven sacraments—kind of like hitting for the cycle as a priest! And of course, it's not for my own satisfaction or credit that I did that, but rather Christ worked through me to bestow his abundant life on his people and on the whole world. Seeing God's grace at work so powerfully that day could not have been a more moving way to experience the anniversary, and I'm so happy to be here at St. John's where such moments are my daily bread. Let us all recall that if we present ourselves to the Lord in sincerity of heart—even prompted by moments or experiences of evil or sadness—that He will take that offering and make it fruitful in bringing more love into the world and bring about the peace of his Kingdom!

### **STAFF UPDATE**

As was shared last week via email, I also wanted to include in this week's bulletin the message from Jim Weiland on his decision to resign from his position as Director of Finance and Business Administration (see bulletin page 5). Jim believes, and I support his decision, that the Lord is calling him to serve more broadly and thus has accepted a position with Catholic Financial Corporation (CFC) where he will have the opportunity to support more priests, parishes and dioceses. While I am sad to see Jim transition away from St. John's, I am so very grateful for the impact he has made in his short time here and I am encouraged by his commitment to follow where he believes our Lord is leading him. In that short time, much has happened and I am grateful to have had Jim's steady hand guiding the temporal affairs of St. John's. Jim has been one of the closest, most trustworthy, and most faith-filled collaborators with whom I have ever served in the Church.

Jim and CFC have generously agreed to a slow transition. During this time, Jim will continue to ensure key financial and administrative functions are completed as well as support me in developing an appropriate transition plan. Jim's position is now posted on the archdiocesan website. I invite you to please pray for the person God is readying to succeed him, whomever that may be.

I would also ask that you join me in thanking Jim for the many contributions he has made to St. John's and offer prayers for him as he moves forward in a new direction to serve our great Church. As we hear frequently in Scripture, we are all called to do His will. Finally, I ask you for your prayers for me as I continue to shepherd the flock at St. John's.

In Christ,  
Fr. Ben Little



**FAITH-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR ALL AGES!**

Register now for Faith Formation (RE), CGS, Sunday School, Middle School Encounter, Confirmation, High School Youth Group, First Communion, and sacrament preparation!

Faith Formation opportunities are available at St. John's for all youth from preschool through high school ages and programs begin in October. Register by September 29 to ensure your child is included. First Communion preparation begins in 2nd grade and confirmation preparation begins in 9th or 10th grade at St. John's.

**Parents, use this URL to register for all program options, depending upon child's age (please have child's approximate dates & locations of sacraments received to date handy): [bit.ly/FaithFormation-Registration](http://bit.ly/FaithFormation-Registration).**

Questions? Email [faithformation@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:faithformation@stjohns-savage.org) or phone 952-890-9434 for more information, or look for the Faith Formation team staff at the CommUnityfest Sunday breakfast after 11AM Mass on Sept. 19 to learn more.

**NEW FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 2021–2022**

Sunday School is a lively faith formation gathering for children aged 3–5 years, including preschoolers and kindergarteners. Sessions meet from 10:10–10:50AM, **(between 9AM and 11AM Mass)**, October through April. Small groups of children are led by dedicated volunteer catechists. Materials used include the Pflaum gospel-based curriculum along with weekly gospel activity handouts, coloring pages, crafts, games, music, and more. You can help your child's faith come alive and grow by joining in this fun and interactive faith environment! For more information about Sunday School, contact Joan Walerius at [jwalerius@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:jwalerius@stjohns-savage.org).

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**

Calling all high school students, no matter where you attend high school! Join Sr. Fabiola for faith learning, sharing, social and service opportunities especially for high schoolers. Meet in the youth room beginning October 6 from 6–7:30PM to gather with old friends and make new ones. Registration is free!

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is another new Faith Formation offering at St. John's for 2021–2022. CGS provides a prepared environment (CGS Atrium) where children choose and experience meaningful work and have a conversation with God. Our Level I Atrium serves 3–6-year-old children. Sessions meet on Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evenings beginning in October and concluding in April. A CGS Level I trained catechist prepares the environment and gives selected presentations from scripture and liturgy and the child chooses materials to aid in reflection and to build a relationship with God. You can help your child build a more intimate relationship with God by joining in this retreat-like experience!

Below are a few sample anecdotes from parents and catechists at other parishes who have experienced CGS:

- *CGS has BEAUTY—God's beauty all over it. The Atrium helps to take our faith and make it alive and personal.*
- *One evening after returning home from the atrium a little boy whispered confidentially to his mother: "Mommy, I have a secret. I am one of Jesus' baby sheep and so is (my brother)."*
- *The Atrium is a respite place, a holy place, a place to find the sacred, a place to find God, a place to be with the Good Shepherd. We bless you Lord for Your goodness and beauty we have tasted through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.*
- *[My son] is benefitting so much from the Atrium. I frequently hear him singing parts of the hymns that he learns, such as the Pater Noster (the "Our Father" in Latin). He made up his own little song. Once as he was running water gently over the back of his hand, he explained this was part of the presentation on baptism. I think it's truly inspirational to see how the Holy Spirit is so strong and alive in the hearts of these children.*

For more information about CGS, contact Joan Walerius at [jwalerius@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:jwalerius@stjohns-savage.org).



**FAITH FORMATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Volunteer to be a helper, catechist, or small group leader for children, youth, or young adult ministries! You are invited to be a disciple of Jesus to youth and young adults. Opportunities for involvement are plentiful (from a hall monitor to a meal helper and much more!) and the need is great! To learn more or to sign up to help in a variety of capacities, go to [bit.ly/FF-Volunteers](http://bit.ly/FF-Volunteers).

Questions? Contact the Faith Formation team at [faithformation@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:faithformation@stjohns-savage.org).

## MASS INTENTIONS



SAT., SEPT. 18:	†† Ralph and Margaret Mueller
SUN., SEPT. 19:	
7:30AM:	† Nancy Hunter
9AM:	For Our Parishioners
11AM:	†† Mike and Doug Barry
MON., SEPT. 20:	††† John, June, and Charlie Gretz
TUES., SEPT. 21:	† Tom Zschokke
WEDS., SEPT. 22:	Special Intention for Jessica and Hudson Vanderhyde
THURS., SEPT. 23:	† Emmy Torborg
FRI., SEPT. 24:	† Richard Neuville
SAT., SEPT. 25:	† Bob Alpers
SUN., SEPT. 26:	
7:30AM:	†† Jane Braun and Marie Knutson
9AM:	For Our Parishioners
11AM:	† Andi Little
MON., SEPT. 27:	† Lourdes Pelayo
TUES., SEPT. 28:	† Dwayne Giles
WEDS., SEPT. 29:	† Clem Adelman
THURS., SEPT. 30:	† Mary Moehring
FRI., OCT. 1:	† Nancy Hunter

### REMINDER: BP. COZZENS THIS SUNDAY

Join Bishop Cozzens for 11AM Mass this Sunday, Sept. 19, where we will celebrate the role of catechists in our community and be reminded of our own baptismal call to echo the faith to others. A free brunch with the Knights of Columbus will follow Mass. During brunch there will be games and faith activities for the children while adults have an opportunity to hear from Bishop Cozzens about the primary role of parents, grandparents and the parish community in the faith lives of our children. Come and be inspired by all the ways that St. John's has to support your faith journey and the spiritual development of our children and youth!

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



#### SUN., OCT. 3, AFTER 11AM MASS

Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends for a special blessing on Sunday, Oct. 3 after the 11AM Mass! The Blessing of the Animals is an annual tradition in honor of the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4). Please have pets on leashes or in carriers, and meet in the parking lot after the cars have cleared.

## READINGS THIS WEEK



#### Readings for the week of September 19, 2021

<b>SUNDAY:</b>	Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37
<b>MONDAY:</b>	Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Lk 8:16-18
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8 [1b]/Lk 9:1-6
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45

#### Readings for the week of September 26, 2021

<b>SUNDAY:</b>	Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
<b>MONDAY:</b>	Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 [17]/Lk 9:46-50
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Zec 8:23]/Lk 9:51-56
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 [1]/Jn 1:47-51
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11[9ab]/Lk 10:1-12
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9 [9]/Lk 10:13-16
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37 [34]/Mt 18:1-5, 10

## HOLY FAMILY FLOWERS

*In loving memory of Richard Neuville  
from Shirley Neuville*



## IN OUR PRAYERS

#### BAPTISMS

Taylor Jean Duch  
Isla Bowie Forsht  
Mollie Mae Fritz

#### REST IN PEACE

Donald Pask

#### NEW PARISHIONERS

Ashley and Paul Winge  
(Ava, Elsie, Hudson, and Kira)

## 7:30AM MASS UPDATE

Beginning the weekend of September 25/26, the 7:30AM Mass will have more minimal music, similar to a daily Mass, creating an option for a more simple and subdued Sunday Mass. In most cases there will not be a cantor or accompanist, except on feast days and on other celebratory weekends.

## RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October 2021

# RESPECT LIFE MONTH



*St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!*

### AN ADOPTION LOVE STORY

Having children and raising a family had always been our expectation. We soon learned, however, that our chances of becoming pregnant were small. It wasn't long before we started talking about the possibility of adoption. I wondered if my heart was big enough to love an adopted child as I would have loved a biological child. But with prayerful discernment, we decided to start the process. On Christmas Eve, my husband and I left the hospital with Andrew. It didn't take long before there was no doubt in our minds that he was our son, the greatest gift from God! We can't imagine loving a child whom we conceived any more than we love Andrew.

(This is a summary of a personal account in a USCCB Respect Life Program article, which can be found in full at [respectlife.org/adoption-love-story](http://respectlife.org/adoption-love-story).)

### ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

Through the generosity of parishioners who have walked the path of adoption, St. John's is able to offer financial assistance to help offset adoption costs. For more information, contact Beth Prendi at [bprendi@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:bprendi@stjohns-savage.org) or 952-890-9465 ext 114.

## BABY ITEMS NEEDED



### DONATE BABY ITEMS OCT. 1-31

The Respect Life Ministry will be collecting diapers, wipes, formula, new or gently used baby clothing, and other small baby items during the month of October. A crib will be in the atrium all month for donations, which will go to Alpha Women's Center, Pregnancy Choices, and Sharing and Caring Hands.

## A NOTE FROM JIM WEILAND

With many mixed emotions, I have made the decision to leave my position as Director of Finance and Business Administration at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and School and have accepted the invitation to join Catholic Finance Corporation. I came to this decision through much prayer and conversation with my wife Julie and my spiritual director. I believe without a doubt that God is inviting me to serve more broadly, sharing my gifts and talents with multiple priests, parishes, and dioceses.

Upon my arrival here, I quickly learned how blessed St. John's is to have Fr. Little be assigned as pastor. I cherish the time I have been able to support him as he leads St. John's into the future and I will greatly miss our working relationship.

In my time at St. John's, I encountered a very loving and accepting community. A community full of people seeking to live God's will and inviting others to join them along this journey. I have also developed some wonderful friendships with people who share similar values and a desire to follow Jesus Christ. My time at St. John's has truly been an enriching experience that has allowed me to continue to grow in faith and service to the church. Thank you to each of you for your generosity and friendship, especially during these unprecedented times.

I am now beginning my transition and I will help to train my successor in addition to completing a few projects over the next several months.

Thank you very much for welcoming me to your community. Be assured of my prayers for St. John's.

In Christ,  
Jim Weiland

## MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

### NATIONAL PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS

#### MASS OF REMEMBRANCE: TUES., OCT. 12, 5:30PM

The Healing Hearts Ministry invites you to honor babies lost to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death, along with the babies you long for through infertility, with a special Mass of Remembrance.

Join us at 5:30PM for Mass in the church or via livestream as we recognize and celebrate the souls who have left imprints on our hearts.

The Healing Hearts Ministry is available to surround mothers and hopeful mothers with encouragement, understanding and prayer. If you, a friend or family member would like support, please contact Wendy Turner at [wmturner58@gmail.com](mailto:wmturner58@gmail.com) or 612-803-4355.



## GROWING THROUGH LOSS SERIES

The Growing Through Loss fall series continues on Sept. 21 with "Multiple Losses and the Transformative Nature of Grief," presented by Paul Johnson, retired educator and grief specialist.

On Sept. 28, the topic is "Self-Care During Grief," presented by Brittany Squillace, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and Grief Counselor at Best Self Therapy, LLC, Prior Lake.

Growing Through Loss is presented by the Interdenominational Coalition of South Suburban Churches, comprised of sixteen churches south of the river. Attend for one or all sessions on Tuesday evenings, Sept. 21 & 28 and Oct. 5 & 12, from 6:30–9PM at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church (3611 North Berens Road NW, Prior Lake). Suggested donation per session is \$4.00. Masks are recommended.

To see other speakers or learn more about the series, visit [growingthroughlossstc.com](http://growingthroughlossstc.com). Questions? Contact Barb Korman at 651-452-8261 or email [growingthroughloss@gmail.com](mailto:growingthroughloss@gmail.com).

## ADORATION



In June, St. John's celebrated twenty years of perpetual adoration. Several parishioners shared stories about their experiences, and we have one more moving testimonial to share with you!

*My mother has Alzheimer's disease and is in the end stages. It's comforting to know that she loved eucharistic adoration. I don't remember which hour she first had, but we later shared the 11AM hour on Wednesdays for a few years. It's comforting that we were able to share this beautiful devotion. In the coming days, I will need to go more frequently to adoration to draw the strength that I need to be her "nurse" until, as is said in The Servant Song, my dad and I will help mom "see this journey through."*

See the cover of the bulletin for our current eucharistic adoration schedule.

## DIVINE MERCY CENACLE



### TELL ME ABOUT MY MERCY

Do you want to know more about Divine Mercy and the graces God has for us? Please join us for the weekly Divine Mercy Cenacle, starting Mon., Sept. 20 at 10AM in the atrium. A cenacle is a small group gathering. The Divine Mercy Cenacle follows the diary of St. Faustina, the Bible, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and uses a guide book. We are starting a fresh group that requires no experience!

The cost is \$13 for the book. Contact Kathy Loehr at 952-237-2473 or Sandy Berg at 612-670-1773 for more information. Register at [stjbsavage.breezechms.com/form/DMC21](http://stjbsavage.breezechms.com/form/DMC21).

## SYNOD

# SYNOD 2021



### ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SYNOD SMALL GROUPS THIS FALL

Be part of the Synod process that will shape our local Church. In small groups that begin this week, our parish will:

1. **Pray** for God's guidance on how we can more vigorously proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!
2. **Learn** the Church's wisdom on the Synod focus area topics.
3. **Discuss** your perspective and ideas with other parishioners.
4. **Respond** with your feedback on archdiocesan priorities to proclaim the Good News in our culture today.

Mark your calendar to join in and choose the weekly day/time that best fits your schedule. We hope you'll attend all 6 of the gatherings (one per week for 6 total weeks), but plan to come as you are able and to join in any weekly gathering beginning Mon., Sept. 20 and ending on Fri., Nov. 12, 2021. Pre-registration is not required.

- Mondays beginning Sept. 20, atrium, 7–9PM
- Tuesdays beginning Sept. 21, church and atrium, 9:30–11:30AM or 6:30–8:30PM
- Thursdays beginning Sept. 23, atrium, 6:30–8:30PM
- Fridays beginning Sept. 24, atrium, 9–11AM

See more at [archspm.org/synod](http://archspm.org/synod). Questions, or want to be a small group facilitator or scribe (easy and fruitful)? Contact Liz Lockhart at [llockhart@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:llockhart@stjohns-savage.org).

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

### September 19, 2021 • 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." —Mark 9:35*

Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us don't like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" (sacred) and "facere" (to make). In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

### September 26, 2021 • 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." —Mark 9:41*

We are made in God's image and likeness. We tend to forget this. When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them? When others look at you, do they see the face of Jesus in you? When we realize that all lives matter to God, then gratitude and generosity become easier. Why? Because that's the way we are made! We are one Body of Christ; when one of us is hurting, all of us feel the pain.

# CONTACT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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\*denotes part-time

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