

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

4625 W. 125TH STREET SAVAGE MN 55378 | STJOHNS-SAVAGE.ORG | 952-890-9465

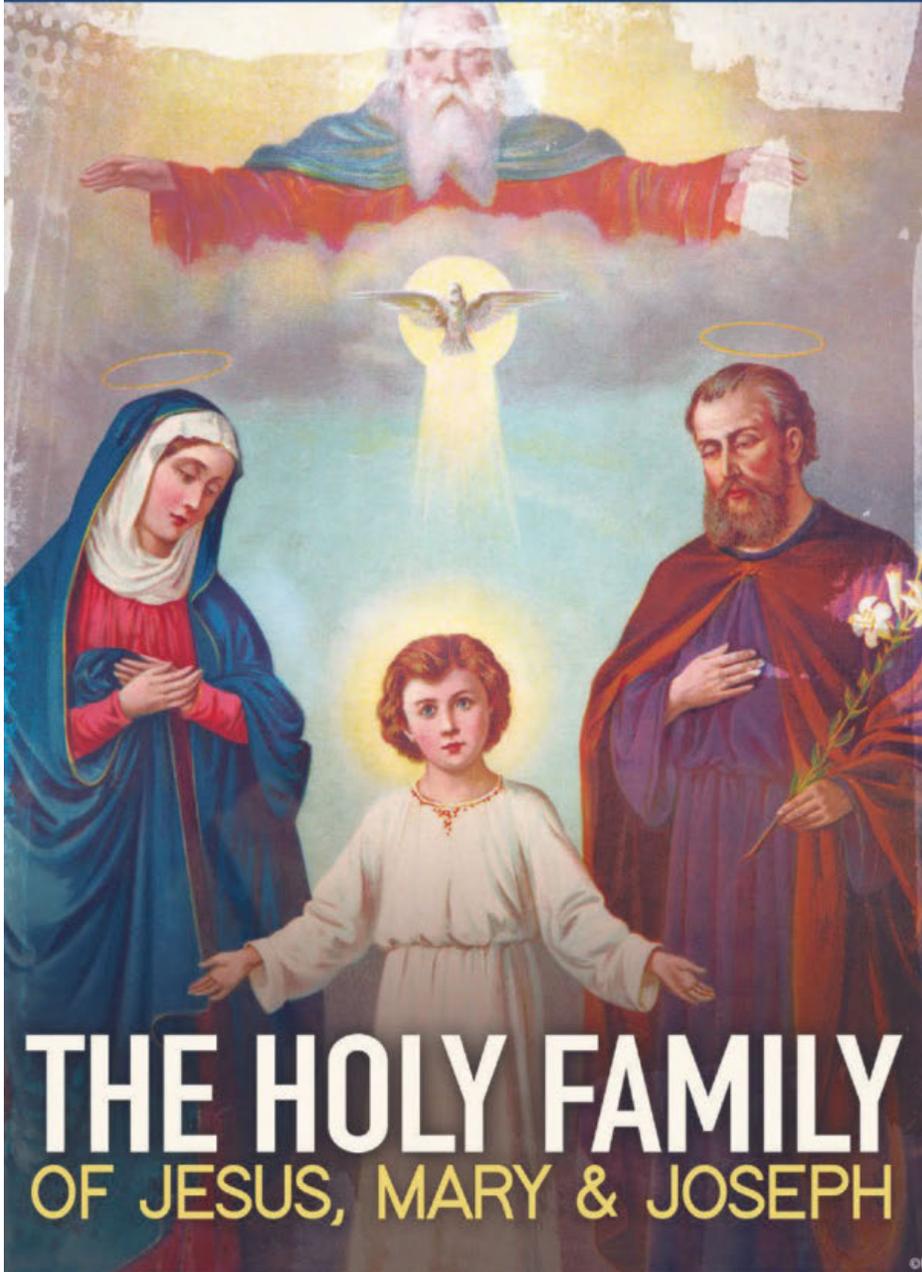


## DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri: 8AM  
Tuesday: 5:30PM

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 5PM  
Sunday: 7:30, 9 & 11AM  
LIVESTREAM MASS: Sat 5PM



## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Tuesday: 4:30-5:15PM  
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



## A Note from Father Little

### **A few thoughts on altar servers...**

As mentioned a few weeks ago in the announcements at the end of Mass, the cramp put on a lot of our liturgical ministries due to the pandemic is beginning to go away. We are grateful for those many volunteers who have remained willing to serve throughout, and are also looking forward to welcoming new volunteers into any number of the responsibilities that are needed to make our weekend liturgies flow as we hope they will. It is so important for us to be continuing to give glory to God and meeting the needs of our parish and school family as fruitfully as we can. One of the many responsibilities that was inhibited due to the pandemic was altar serving. Thanks to the attentiveness and sacrifice of Deacon Joel Neisen in particular, we are seeing the return of that important ministry, which is one that is to be taken up mainly by the younger demographic in our parish.

Even as we've gotten excited about welcoming back altar servers, we know that there has been some uncertainty around the return altar serving. I'm particularly aware as pastor the questions have arisen among some about the new beginning of altar serving at this time.

I'd like to answer a few questions regarding the Ministry of altar serving—its meaning and purpose, and our hopes for it in the future at St. John's.

#### *Why are altar servers important?*

Altar serving has been a long and important tradition in the history of the church. Because the liturgy is the source and summit of all we do, it is a solemn responsibility and the highest expression of who we are as Catholics. But because the liturgy takes place in time and space, there is practical help that needs to be added to it. During the pandemic, you saw our clergy largely celebrating the liturgy without the assistance of altar servers. However this is not the ideal. The church has long treasured the tradition of inviting younger people to perform some of the adjacent tasks to the celebration of the Mass at the altar: carrying vessels, carrying the missal, lighting candles, and any other duties that arise. Our faith is a faith in the Incarnation of Jesus, who comes into our time and space as a human being. Even though the liturgy is otherworldly, it also takes place in this world with its practical needs.

*So I get it, there's a practical need for altar servers. But what about a spiritual need?*

As with many things in the church, what begins as a practical need can be given a spiritual meaning as well. Even though servers serve a practical need, over the centuries serving at the altar has become a way to draw young people close to what is holy, in the

hopes that they might at least consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Obviously for much of the tradition, only young men were invited to serve at the altar because young men would be the only ones discerning a vocation to the priesthood. In recent years, however, Pope Saint John Paul II extended permission for girls to serve at the altar as well. Even though their altar serving might not be aimed at the priesthood per se, we hope to awaken in them a desire to serve the church in some form of women's consecrated life. At St. John's, we have the added blessing of the presence of our Sisters of Pro Ecclesia Sancta, who model so beautifully for our young women the possibility of a life consecrated to God.

I heard altar serving is becoming a bigger deal with more commitment at SJB. Is this true?

Yes. As we reintroduce altar serving after the natural pause of the pandemic, and especially given the reasons above, we want to develop a group of servers, parents, and leaders who have made a true and meaningful commitment to the Lord and the Church in this important ministry. This is why there has been more extensive training and a more comprehensive manual for altar servers in their responsibilities. This is a ministry (or extracurricular, if you will) that asks more of participants, because unlike any other activity a young person could be involved in, it is dedicated entirely to God. Parents and servers should be aware of this.

At the same time, we also want to stress that we are not asking for super-athlete perfection in our servers, even as we give clear expectations. We know it will take time to learn and grow. Fr. Matthew and I will always be patient and gentle with servers. We will never get angry or impatient with servers as they learn. We believe this will allow servers to develop into leaders within the program themselves, who can then be entrusted with a leadership role in training new servers as they enter the program.

These are just a few initial thoughts on altar serving, and I hope they bring clarity. Please reach out with any other questions you might have and that I could answer in a future article!

We are also grateful to the adults who have stepped forward to help coordinate and train and be an example for our altar servers. This is a place I firmly believe that lay faithful should be active, and it is great to see this happening!

### **New Auxiliary Bishop**

I am thrilled, and grateful to God, for Pope Francis' appointment of Bishop-elect Joseph Williams as our new auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Bishop-elect Williams is one of the most gentle and holy priests I know, and his ministry in the Latino community for many years has had my deep admiration. He will be ordained bishop at the Cathedral on January 25th, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, one of the patronal feasts of our Archdiocese.

### **Merry Christmas!**

On the behalf of the entire staff at St. John's, I wish you a very blessed Christmas and joyous New Year. May this season be filled with the peace of Christ's coming and the love of family and friends as we sing glory to the newborn King!

**Fr. Ben Little**  
Pastor



## Holy Day Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:  
Fri. Dec. 31 at 5PM and Sat. Jan. 1 at 10AM

## Mass Intentions

### SAT., DEC. 25:

9AM: +Nancy Hunter  
11AM: +John Gill

### SUN., DEC. 26:

7:30AM: ++ Bill and Stephen Ross  
9AM: For our Parishioners  
11AM: + Bergie Lang

### MON., DEC. 27:

+ Gerald Kemp

### TUES., DEC. 28:

+ Bob Jones

### WEDS., DEC. 29:

+ Cleon Hennen

### THURS., DEC. 30:

+ Cleon Hennen

### FRI., DEC. 31:

5PM + Ralph Braun

### SAT., JAN. 1:

10AM: For our Parishioners  
5PM: +Marie Mathies

### SUN., JAN. 2:

7:30AM: + Patricia Houston  
9AM: For our Parishioners  
11AM: + Doug Menke

### MON., JAN. 3:

+ Sylvia Verkuilen

### TUES., JAN. 4:

Special Intention Jeanne Fangman

### WEDS., JAN. 5:

+ Carol Voit

### THURS., JAN. 6:

+++ Mark Kuehnel, Steven and John Studer

### FRI., JAN. 7:

+ George Lahr

## Holy Family Flowers

*In loving memory of Bergie Lang  
from the Family*



## In our Prayers

### REST IN PEACE

Collette Torgeson  
Caroline Erickson

### UPCOMING WEDDINGS

Tom Sackett and Erin Hoffman—January 14, 2022  
John Hirsch and Kelsey Jeffrey—January 15, 2022

### NEW PARISHIONERS

Laura and Jacob Hudinsky  
Tabetha Temperley

## Weekly Scripture Readings

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

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

**Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

### Readings for the week of January 02, 2022

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

**Next Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



## Faith Formation Corner



What is Alpha? Alpha is a gathering at the parish that creates an environment and opportunity for an encounter with Jesus. As Pope Francis likes to say, the chance for “Jesus to find them.” Alpha is being used by thousands of Catholic parishes in over 70 countries around the world.

The Catholic version of Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the Catholic faith. It is especially designed for those with no experience of the Church, but all can benefit from it as there is no assumption of a certain level of knowledge, understanding or engagement with Catholicism. Alpha gatherings include a meal, a talk and/or a video, and small group discussion over a period of a few weeks. It includes a day or a weekend away near the end of the gatherings. St. John’s is making plans now to lead an Alpha experience at our parish in the early new year. Begin praying now for those who will lead Alpha and for those who should or will attend and encounter Christ!

**Check out this video to learn more:**  
<https://player.vimeo.com/video/363785889>

Stay tuned for more info coming in the new year!

### Confirmation January Dates:

- January 5: High School Youth Group–Topic: A Match Made in Heaven
- January 12: Confirmation Small Group Classes
- January 19: High School Youth Group

*Parish office closure for New Years*

**December 30 at 12PM through December 31.**

**The parish office will reopen January 3 at 8:30AM**

*Happy New Year from Fr. Little and Staff*



Young Adult Winter Retreat

Young adults 18 and up are invited to join us for a mini winter retreat.

Saturday, January 8, 3-6PM

Register at [bit.ly/SJBYretreat](http://bit.ly/SJBYretreat)



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Contact: [rhilpisch@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:rhilpisch@stjohns-savage.org)

### January Faith Formation Calendar At-a-Glance

- January 5: All ages gather—optional meal 5:15–6PM, programs begin 6–7:30PM, door1-CGS, K-5 FFF, MS Encounter, HS Youth Group all meet
- January 8: First Reconciliation Retreat; Saturday, enter door 3, look for signup soon
- January 8: Young adult retreat, 3PM
- January 11: Family Adoration, 6:15–8PM, church
- January 12: CGS, MS Encounter, Confirmation all meet
- January 19: CGS, MS Encounter, HS Youth Group all meet
- January 26: Catechist Gathering, 6:30PM, atrium
- January 9, 23, and 30: Sunday School meets

## Financial Blessings

Current Month	November 2021		
	Actual	Budget	Last Year
Envelopes & Plate	\$98,302	\$98,873	\$87,762
EFT	\$61,901	\$60,000	\$66,520
Holy Days	\$4,907	\$3,500	\$4,907
Total	\$165,109	162,373	\$159,189
<b>Current Fiscal Year To Date</b>			
Total	\$647,826		
Budget	\$636,962		
Last Fiscal YTD	\$624,473		

### Support for Tornado Victims

If you would like to support the victims of the recent tornadoes in the United States, you can place money in an envelope during the collection at any of our Masses or drop off at the parish office. On the envelope or check, please note Tornado Fund and make your check payable to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. All monies collected will be forwarded to the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund through the Center for Mission at the Archdiocese. Thank you for your support and please continue to pray for all those suffering from this recent disaster.

## Treehouse Teen Ministry

Signups are now beginning for bringing meals to the troubled teen support group here in Savage for the first half of 2022. Please log into the following link to choose your meal tasks and dates.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4cadac2fa4fc1-tree1>  
 Questions contact, Deacon Jerry Little at: [jlittle@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:jlittle@stjohns-savage.org).

## BeFriender Ministry

Everyone is, at times, on a difficult journey and needs a caring companion who will listen, empathize, and be a reminder of a caring faith community. BeFriender Ministry is not a ministry of "doing," but of "being"—being present and listening quietly.

BeFrienders provide care through a listening presence to anyone experiencing grief, loss, or other concerns to:

- **Chronic illness**
- **Death of a loved one**
- **Divorce or separation**
- **Job loss/Career change/Financial challenges**
- **Parenting challenges**
- **Stress of caregiving**

And so much more. For more information contact Beth Prendi 952-890-9465 ext. 114 or [bprendi@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:bprendi@stjohns-savage.org)

## Fellowship Weekend

FELLOWSHIP IS BACK, and we have a new bakery!

We are so happy to once again be able to celebrate fellowship with cookies and donuts after Masses. There are some changes. Fellowship will now be on the SECOND weekend of the month, we have a NEW bakery, Bittners Bakery in Shakopee, and we are now able to offer BOTH cookies and donuts on Saturdays. Please come check it out. The next Fellowship Weekend will be **Jan 8 and 9**.

If you would like to volunteer to help at a Fellowship Weekend, please use this link.

<https://forms.gle/gFTp9QcNaVA2z9sG8>



## We Care Weekend

The 1st weekend of each month, nonperishable food is collected and distributed around the community to support the hungry. Next weekend, Jan 1/2nd, bring your nonperishable goods to the atrium for collection in the bins located at the entrances. Every little bit helps and this is a fantastic way to give together as a family.

## Children's Giving Spree



The Children's Giving Spree on Dec. 4 was an amazing success, all thanks to our festive and friendly teen helper elves and dozens of other volunteers! Over 180 shoppers age 3+ arrived with shopping lists and left with wrapped gifts. How exciting Christmas will be when these children watch their loved ones open gifts chosen especially for them. "It is more blessed to give than to receive," indeed!

We are already looking ahead to next year's event, and know we will have a great need for gift bags and wrapping supplies. As you prepare for—then clean up after—your holiday celebrations, please consider donating your gently used wrapping supplies (especially gift bags, tissue paper, gift boxes, and bows) in our boxes at doors 7, 10, and 11.

If you are interested in helping with next year's event, please contact Julie Kelly at [jkelly@stjohns-savage.org](mailto:jkelly@stjohns-savage.org).

In addition, thanks to all who came to the Stations of the Crib. We hope you enjoyed walking through the stations that led through the Nativity story. Please visit the eNews to complete a short survey.

# Christmas Flowers

## IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR

Clem Adelman  
Mary Adelman  
Mary & John Albertano  
Bernard & Verna Alex  
Ellen Anderson  
Frances Andregg  
Francisco & Cristina Arbon Sr.  
Richard Armstrong  
Cleto Arnedo  
Consuelo Arnedo  
Darrell & Elizabeth Bahnsen  
Paul Barton  
Caitlan Barton  
Patricia Yentsch Beck  
The Becque Family  
Lolie & Dick Belcher  
Rose & Albin Benson  
Harper Blanks  
Marie Blommer  
Ralph & Jane Braun  
Raymond Bukkila  
Don & Rita Cacic  
Joe Cacic  
Rosalie Carlson  
Mary Carlson  
Harry Carlson  
Donald Casement  
Marlene & Pete Chacos  
Jackie & Don Charles  
Bev Coakley  
George & Emma Coakley  
Francis & Helen Coleman  
Leo Dannecker  
Mike Dannecker  
Sally & Edw Dauer  
Jack & Florence Davidson  
Sophie Decker  
Ernst Decker  
Walter Demskie  
John Demskie  
Betty Diebold  
Michael Dietz  
Leonard & Coletta Dietz  
Kathy Doebel  
Ray Egan  
George & Sadie Egan  
Doris Ellis  
Mary Elsner  
Barb & Jerry Enfield  
Kasper & Lokraze Erhardt  
Bonnie Erstad

Jide Ezeani  
Alvin Feist  
Jim & Gerry Ferns  
Richard Filipek  
Dawnlyn Filipek  
Claudette Filipek  
Paul Filipek  
Dougious Filipek  
Gigstad Family  
Ed & Loretta Giles  
Dwayne Giles  
Henry, Elizabeth, Virginia & Leroy Giles  
Dwayne Giles  
Rose Mary Gregory  
Chuck & June Groebner  
Leonard & Marlys Gross  
James Guckeen  
Anne & John Haberberger  
Linda Haberberger  
Norm & Virginia Hagen  
John & Kitty Haggemiller  
Michele Hansen  
Matt Hei  
Gladys Hei  
Stacy Hei  
John & Katherine Heibert  
Cleon Hennen  
Jay Hoger  
Robert & Margaret Hudy  
Jerry & Anne Hughes  
Bob, Helen & Terry Hugus  
Nancy Hunter  
Cliff & Shirley Jacobson  
Ashley Jenkin Segal  
Ed & Esther Jobroxen  
Robert Jones  
Lori Ann Jones  
Paul David Jones  
George & Carol Joyce  
John, Mary & Hazel Kasten  
Maria Kasten  
Joe & Dorothy Kauffmann  
Alba Klemin  
Judy Klotz  
John & Marie Knutson  
Jeanette Krautkremer  
Greg Krautkremer  
Sallie & Hal LaFoone  
Bergie Lang  
LaVonne Leroux  
Trudy Leslie  
Cheryl Longnechey

Ed & June Luce  
John Lucy  
Larissa Lucy  
Mary Lunney  
Elsie Lunney  
Merton MacRae  
Ed & Claudia Manka  
William & Louise Martin  
Jack, Roselee & Joyce Martin  
Brian Mason  
Bruce Mason  
Mary McCann  
Kristy McCracken  
McManus Family  
Harold & Kathirn McQuiston  
Jim & Mary McQuiston  
Earl McQuiston  
John McQuiston Family  
Mark Meixensperger  
Victor & Stella Meller  
Frank & Clara Meller  
Arthur & Deborah Menke  
Howard & Marilyn Menke  
Doug Menke  
Charles & Josephine Micek  
The Mikkalson Family  
Bradley J. Mills  
Edward Mitchell  
Helen Mitchell  
Anne & Walter Natyshak  
Sally & Greg Natyshak  
Richard Nelson  
Joe & Dorothy Occhino  
Joseph Ofomata  
Stephen Ofomata  
Richard & Theresa O'Keefe  
Marshall Olson  
Phyllis Olson  
Solomon O'Lunigh  
Livinus Osuji  
Lucy Osuji  
William Oswald  
Deb Paetz  
Paul Pannier  
John & Dorothy Poxon  
Jim & Petty Poxon  
Paul Radtke  
Joan Radtke  
William & Vera Reddy  
Rolland Robertson  
Margery Robertson

Edward & Maggie Roethke  
Fred J. Roleff Jr.  
Gilbert & Elizabeth Rosco  
Dianne Rosco  
Greg Rosco  
Manuel Salvador  
Clotilde Salvador  
Eva & Al Schafer  
John Schaffer  
Shane Silbernagel  
Joseph & Mary Silbernagel  
Bill Simms  
Fern Simning  
Butch & Veronica Smude  
Connie & Sylvester Soukup  
Donald Soukup  
George Spanish  
Ray Spratt  
St. John's Community  
Helen Stadler  
Tom Stadler  
The Stevermer Family  
Marge Stuhn  
Fran Tacconelli, Jr.  
Frank & Evelyn Talas  
Roger Taney  
Mary Jayne Taney  
John T. Tazell  
Mary Lou Tvedt  
Darlington Umeh  
Ed Valach  
Frank Valach  
Frank Valach  
Ed Valach  
Mike Valosky  
Edward Van Arnam  
Deceased family of Susan Vanderhyde  
Mildred Varey  
Emil & Helen Vasko  
Ralph & Steven Vasko  
Cody Vickstrom  
Kimberly Vickstrom  
Pam Walsh  
Sally Wampach  
L.A. Wampach  
Deceased Wampach Family  
Ray & Flo Wanless  
Steve Wanless  
Floyd & Mary Ann Weinzierl  
Dave Williamson  
Patrick A. Yelk

# CONTACT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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**\*denotes part-time**

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