Several years ago a friend of mine went through an unplanned job and resultant life transition. We kept in communication during his transition period via phone calls and emails. In one of our conversations he said: “John, I’ve been praying and trying to discern God’s plan for my life, but I’m not getting any clarity.” In response I told him that I wasn’t convinced that God had a specific plan for each of our lives, as that would negate our free will. And our free will is one of God’s great gifts to us—and more than occasionally—something that gets us (or at least me) into trouble.

If God had a specific plan for each of our lives, if we didn’t have our free will, we would be nothing more than automatons. Now in saying this, there is a need for great clarity, while I don’t believe God has a specific plan for each of us, I do believe that God has a “general” plan for all of us. The old Baltimore Catechism stated this well when it indicated that: “God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven.” Our free will allows us to make the choice for God in our each of our lives. Unfortunately, our free will also allows us to choose things other than God. Without free will, we would have no choice, but to love God in all God’s magnificence and glory. Free will is a great gift, but it also comes with great responsibility. Because of it even small decisions can have significant consequences.

Now the above having been said, I also believe that there are times when God does call us to a specific service. Cardinal John Henry Newman stated this well back in 1848: “God knows me and calls me by my name….God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.” These words of Cardinal Newman remind us that we are not created without a purpose.

I do believe we are called to some specific service—even though we may never know what that purpose or service is. Perhaps the service God is calling someone to be good husband/wife,
A COMMUNITY ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we:
• Practice biblical stewardship
• Share our faith with others in word and deed
• Pursue ecumenical and interfaith relationships
• Rejoice in rich diversity

As the Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, we are committed to provide:
• Inspiring liturgies and sacred arts
• Transforming life-long learning opportunities
• Engaging service to one another and justice for all

STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS
The Basilica of Saint Mary is committed to the future growth of our parish. The Our Parish Our Future plan outlines the three strategic areas of focus for the next five years. This plan builds upon the parish’s strong vision, mission, and values.

The Arts
Move, inspire, and transform individuals and communities through excellence in the arts and creative practices.

Inclusivity
Build a culture where people feel valued, welcome, integrated, and included.

Homelessness
Respond to the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. These three areas of focus were strategically selected through a comprehensive, contemplative process with our parish leadership, staff, and consultants.

The three areas will unify and inspire collaboration across our parish and resonate throughout our commitment to the community.

Learn more about the strategic direction of our parish at mary.org/ourfuture.

SAFELY CELEBRATING MASS

Pre-registration is required and opens 24 hours before each Mass.
Register at mary.org or call the Director of Engagement at 612.317.3417.
Registration closes online one hour prior to Mass or if it has reached capacity.
You may only register for one Mass at a time.
Be sure to bring a face mask with you, which needs to be worn over your nose and mouth at all times inside The Basilica.

The Basilica is our spiritual home—a place of welcome. We want each person who enters The Basilica to feel safe. The Basilica will follow all state health and safety guidelines.

You will see new practices and policies when you return. The policies will continue to change as we monitor the official guidelines. Pre-registration for Mass is required at mary.org or call our Director of Engagement at 612.317.3417.

Please review all of the protocols on the registration form. Your cooperation in these extraordinary times embodies our vision to seek the well-being of our community.

Archbishop Hebda’s dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass continues.
We will continue to livestream Mass Monday through Friday at Noon and Sunday at 9:30am at mary.org and Facebook live at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls.

Please check-in for Mass at the ground level doors off 17th Street and the circle driveway (except for the 7:00am weekday Mass).
LITURGY & SACRED ARTS

FUNERALS
Remembering and Celebrating the Lives of:
+ August "Gus" Zuccaro, 1-16-21
+ Don Fern, 1-19-21
+ Marilyn Rehberg, 1-25-21
+ Richard "Dick" Graziano, 1-25-21

May they rest in peace.

LENTEN OBSERVANCE
The Christian faithful are to do penance through prayer, fasting, abstinence, and by exercising works of piety and charity. All Fridays through the year, and especially during Lent, are penitential days.

ABSTINENCE: All who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during Lent.

FASTING: All those who are 18 or older, until their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Only one full meal is allowed on days of fast. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to one's need, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. The obligation does not apply to those whose health or ability to work would be affected seriously.

ZOOM: LENTEN MORNING PRAYER
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS OF LENT, 9:15AM
Please find the Zoom link at mary.org.

FRIDAYS OF LENT
7:00AM EUCHARIST, BASILICA
In-person
NOON, EUCHARIST, BASILICA
In-person and livestream
5:30PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS, BASILICA
In-person and livestream

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28
3:00PM
In-person and livestream
SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2:30PM
On Palm Sunday, March 28, there will be a choral meditation beginning at 2:30pm with The Basilica Schola Cantorum.
In-person and livestream

ZOOM: FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00AM-NOON
For more information, contact Mark Wyss at mwyss@mary.org or 612.317.3410. Registration is required at mary.org.

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
(FRIDAY, MARCH 19, NOON MASS, BASILICA
We will mark this solemnity with festive music (organ and cantor).

SOLEMNITY OF ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD
(THURSDAY, MARCH 25, NOON MASS, BASILICA
We will mark this solemnity with festive music (organ and cantor).

SACRED ART
ART THAT SURROUNDS US
Johan van Parys, Ph.D., Director of Liturgy and Sacred Arts, shares information each week about a piece from The Basilica of Saint Mary's art collection. Visit mary.org/artthatssurroundsus.

LENT AND EASTER ART COLLECTION
Visit an extensive collection of art and crucifixes online at mary.org/lenteasterart.
CHRISTIAN LIFE

ZOOM: SHORT LISTENING WORKSHOP
SATURDAYS, MARCH 6 & MAY 1, 9:00-11:30AM, ZOOM

Emmaus Listening Ministry seeks to bring the gift of listening to the world. For those not quite ready to enter the ministry or commit to the full training, a short listening workshop will be offered on Saturday, March 6 and Saturday, May 1 from 9:00–11:30am to help us become better listeners to those we love and those we work with. Come, experience a couple of the foundational, core principles of listening and learn a few new skills to apply in your personal life. The workshop is free but registration is required at mary.org/listeningworkshop. Questions? Contact Wendy at 612.317.3474 or wcaduff@mary.org.

ZOOM: RACE, DISABILITY AND EQUALITY WEBINAR SPONSORED BY THE BASILICA’S DISABILITY AWARENESS MINISTRY
SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00-11:30AM, ZOOM

This past November, on the occasion of the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities, then President-Elect Joe Biden made a statement that we must "recommit ourselves to upholding the civil rights of persons with disabilities around the globe", and emphasizing that the COVID-19 pandemic "has uniquely and disproportionately impacted the disability community". He went on to stress that "we must ensure that people of color with disabilities have a fair shot and are treated equally." Join us for the Zoom Webinar: Race, Disability and Equality as moderator Aaron Gabriel and panelists Kymani Queen, Michael Wolfe, and Naa Mensah, all Twin Cities artists and educators, share their experiences producing works that explore the intersections of race and disability. Register at mary.org for Zoom credentials. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Janet Grove at 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org.

ZOOM: HANDS AND HEART TOGETHER WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00-11:30AM, ZOOM

Are you a caregiver for someone you love now or have you filled that role at anytime in the past? Join Basilica parishioner Patricia Hoolihan, author of the book Hands and Heart Together: Daily Meditations for Caregivers, as she reads excerpts from her book. Our time together will open up the possibility of story sharing among those gathered, in addition to reflecting upon and writing some of your own experience. The cost is $20 and includes a copy of her book, which will be mailed to you ahead of time. Registration required at mary.org/handsandheart by March 5. For more information, contact Wendy in the Caring Ministries office at 612.317.3474 or wcaduff@mary.org.

ZOOM: UNDERSTANDING INVISIBLE DISABILITIES WORKSHOP
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 3:00-4:30PM, ZOOM

Presenters Cindy Edwards and Annie Montemayor have developed a unique virtual workshop to educate people on the most common invisible disabilities in the workforce today, discuss how to build a culture of disability awareness, provide resources and options that protect people with invisible disabilities, and teach conversation skills for discussing invisible disabilities in the workplace and beyond. Register at mary.org/invisible for this free event and to receive Zoom login details.

ZOOM: AMERICAN REFUGEE PODCAST SERIES
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 9:00-10:00AM, ZOOM

Sam Graber is the host of the award-winning podcast American Refugee. With a national listening audience, Sam lives in Minnesota and is a member of Temple Israel. Joined by immigrant advocates he will moderate the Saturday Zoom session. Listen to the podcast and then join in for a spirited and informed discussion with immigration leaders from throughout Minnesota. The discussion will focus on Episode 9: Escape the Room. Please visit mary.org/immigrationpodcast to register and receive the Zoom credentials.

COMMON GOOD

BASILICA NEIGHBORHOOD RACIAL JUSTICE PILGRIMAGE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2:00PM

As part of celebrating Black History Month and continuing our work for racial justice, The Basilica will be hosting a walked pilgrimage on Sunday, February 28. The 2.2 mile pilgrimage route will take us through the Summit and Lowry Hill neighborhoods and include the site of the former St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in North Minneapolis. The group will meet in the Teresa of Calcutta Hall on The Basilica campus at 2:00pm for a brief presentation by Will Peterson, founder of Modern Catholic Pilgrim, who will speak about the practice of pilgrimage in the Catholic tradition and pilgrimage as an exercise in racial reconciliation. Dr. Reba Luiken, a local historian and columnist for The Catholic Spirit, will then provide a short history of the former St. Martin de Porres parish and changes to our neighborhood in the 75 years since it was built. There will also be time for individual prayer (Visio Divina) with the original stained glass windows from the St. Martin de Porres parish. The group will then depart together and return to The Basilica to celebrate the 4:30pm Sunday Mass. Please note that this event will follow all Basilica protocols for managing risk related to COVID-19. Participants will be required to wear masks during the event and complete a short health screening upon arriving at The Basilica campus. Registration and further information can be found at mary.org. Please reach out to Mara Stolee Cable at mara.stolee@gmail.com with any questions.

LISTEN, LISTEN...

When a woman with an aging parent suffering from dementia can share her story with a listening presence; when a patient with a life-threatening illness can talk about his fears to a caring ear; when a woman who has been abused finds comfort in safely telling her story to a nonjudgmental listener—that is the power of Emmaus Listening Ministry. Contact Wendy to become trained or to have a volunteer listener meet with you: 612.317.3474 or wcaduff@mary.org. This is a free ministry at The Basilica provided by highly trained volunteers. Next training is in early April; interviews happening now!
LEARNING

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

ZOOM: FRIDAY FAMILY FISH NIGHT
FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 6:30-8:00PM ZOOM
All families with kids in our Faith Formation and children’s choirs are invited to join us for Friday Family FISH night. This free, virtual evening of ZOOM fun will feature: FINGO...with fish names instead of numbers, Hokey Pokey song breaks, adult Catholic trivia breaks (Are YOU smarter than a 4th grader?), and FISHY favor bags and FINGO cards (which a parent will need to pick up before the event.) We expect some special guests to join us. Register at mary.org.

ZOOM: LENTEN BOOK STUDY FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN
SATURDAY, MARCH 13
9:00AM-10:30AM
COST IS $10 PER INDIVIDUAL OR COUPLE
Parents with small children or in our faith formation classes are welcome to join together for the beginning of Lent to read and discuss Fr. Ronald Rolheiser’s book Domestic Monastery, which connects family life and religious communities in the Church. It is a very readable, short book with lots of good spiritual insight and should hopefully lead to good discussion and sharing of family wisdom from the group. Register at mary.org or email Ben at bcaduff@mary.org. Registration will include a copy of the book that will be mailed to you prior to the group meeting.

ZOOM: BAPTISM CLASS FOR PARENTS INFANTS & CHILDREN AGE 6 AND YOUNGER
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 6:30-8:30PM
If you are expecting, or in the process of adopting a child, please attend one of our baptism preparation classes currently online. We offer classes approximately nine times a year for parents who are registered members of The Basilica and plan on having their child baptized here. Godparents are welcome too. For more information call the Learning office at 612.317.3439. Please register online at mary.org.

PRAYER RESOURCES

Vespers and Prayer services recorded live are available on at mary.org/vespersandprayers.

Pray the Rosary together either in person or virtually with us; we have made a virtual Rosary available on our website at mary.org/roary.
In 2020, The Basilica Landmark has funded the following projects:

- Tuck-pointing the exterior façade on the upper western side of the Church
- Performing the necessary maintenance and the installation of a new blower unit for our organ
- Installation of two needlepoint bipolar ionizations units to remove viruses (including SARS and COVID-19), allergens and mold from the air of Church, lower level, and choir room
- Acquire equipment, cameras, lighting, computers, software and training for livestreaming

We invite you to join our efforts by making a gift to The Basilica Landmark’s Annual Fund today at thebasilicalandmark.org/give or by contacting Stephanie at 612.317.3472.

SAVE THE DATE:
LANDMARK SPARK
SATURDAY, MAY 15
Landmark Spark will go on as planned on Saturday, May 15, but in a virtual capacity. This year, we will be live-streaming the event straight into your home.

Tickets start at no cost. Sponsorship packages are available to purchase. Please visit thebasilicalandmark.org/spark for more information.

ESTAMP FLOWERS
Each Easter, The Basilica abounds with Easter lilies, symbols of the resurrection. Please consider a gift for Easter flowers at mary.org/give. Gifts in honor or in memory of a loved one received by March 21 will be acknowledged in the Easter worship leaflets.

Together in Hope
The Catholic Services Appeal Foundation is an independent foundation partnering with fellow Catholics to share Christ’s love with neighbors in need through ministries that serve the poor, support life and strengthen the Faith.

Your gift brings hope.

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<td>PEOPLE PER WEEK RECEIVING FRESH GROCERIES AND HYGIENE ITEMS</td>
<td>RECEIVING END-LIFE GIVING CARE VIA HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS</td>
<td>CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS RESPONSING FROM IN-PERSON LEARNING</td>
<td>PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH HOUSING/EMERGENCY SHELTER EACH MONTH</td>
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<td>HOT MEALS SERVED MONTHLY</td>
<td>YOUNG PEOPLE BEING STRENGTHENED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH</td>
<td>FUTURE PRIESTS RECEIVING TUITION ASSISTANCE, ROOM AND BOARD</td>
<td>WOMEN &amp; FAMILIES PROVIDED WITH PREGNANCY SUPPORT</td>
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BASILICA FUND
We welcome you wherever you are

The Basilica Fund represents 79% of our operating budget. Our ministries, along with the daily work of this parish, are not possible without you and your support of The Basilica Fund. To make a gift, please visit mary.org/give. Secure online giving is simple; no need to remember cash or a check. It also means less paper and lower administrative costs, enabling your contribution to go further.