

Welcome to the Stillwater Catholic Parishes

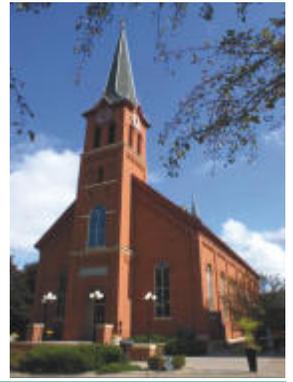


Church of St. Michael

611 South Third Street
www.stmichaelstillwater.org
Parish Office: 651-439-4400 | Fax: 651-430-3271

St. Mary's Church

423 South 5th Street
www.stmarystillwater.org
Parish Office: 651-439-1270 | Fax: 651-439-7045



St. Croix Catholic School
www.stcroixcatholic.org School Office: 651-439-5581

After-Hour Clergy Emergency Line 651-430-1551

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17, 2021



Friday, January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. Help expectant parents to welcome from God the priceless gift of their child's life. Console parents who have lost that gift through abortion, and lead them to forgiveness and healing through the Divine Mercy of your Son. Teach us to cherish and to care for family and friends until God calls them home. Help us never to see others as burdens. Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith to public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself.
Amen.

Churches of St. Mary & St. Michael

Entrance Antiphon: Psalm 66:4: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Processional Hymn 693: 1. I want to walk as a child of the Light, I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19: Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, Speak, for your servant is listening." Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

Psalm Response 40: *Response:* Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. *Verses:* I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God. / Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come." / "In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!" / I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20: Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel Acclamation: John 1:41, 17b: We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Gospel: John 1:35-42: John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated

means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ — . Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

Preparation

Sanctus: #377B: Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Domine Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

Amen

Agnus Dei: #384B: Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Communion Antiphon: 1 John 4:16: We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

Communion: Hymn 1047

1. Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name Two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them. Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.

2. As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.

Hymn 884: 1. Lord, when you came to the seashore, You weren't seeking the wise or the wealthy, But only asking that I might follow.

Refrain: O Lord, in my eyes you were gazing, Kindly smiling, my name you were saying; All I treasured, I have left on the sand there; Close to you, I will find other seas.

2. Lord, you knew what my boat carried: Neither money nor weapons for fighting, But nets for fishing, that I might follow. *Refrain*

Spiritual Communion Prayer: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Recessional Hymn 758: 1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy, Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Bi-Parish & Archdiocesan News & Events

A Special Thank You from the Food Shelf!

Thank you to everyone who donated food, money, and gift cards to our St. Michael's Food Shelf. We gave out 1,000 meals for the holidays—enough to feed each family for 5 days, plus a gift card to purchase a turkey or ham.

Personal items, Hamburger Helper meals, side dishes, and dry cereal are always needed. Please contact Pat if you need assistance at 439-3241 (Monday-Thursday, 9:00-10:00 a.m.)

Totus Tuus Team Members – Is God calling YOU to serve?

Bring the good news to the next generation; share the faith, build friendship, answer the call and become a 2021 Totus Tuus Summer Missionary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis! The Archdiocese is in need of men and women ages 18-26 committed to their Catholic faith who feel called to share it in local parishes with youth (grades 1-12). This is a 2-month commitment: May 29 – July 28 (including one week of training and a one-week break for the 4th of July holiday). Missionaries will receive \$2,520 for their service.

To apply visit www.archspm.org/totustuus or contact Nancy Schulte Palacheck at 651-291-4489 or schulten@archspm.org for additional information. Apply by Friday, February 1, 2021.



Knight Notes

American Catholic priest Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus and first council in 1882 as a mutual benefit society for Catholic immigrants in New Haven, Connecticut. Councils are numbered consecutively. For example: President John F. Kennedy was a Fourth-Degree member of Bunker Hill Council No.62. Our local Council 1632 was formed on May 12, 1912, replacing the Ancient Order of Hibernians (an Irish Catholic

Fraternal Organization) as the primary Church men's organization. Today there are over 15,000 KC Councils. Vivat Jesus!

March for Life Youth & Family Conference: Friday, January 22

High school and college students are invited to this day of prayer, inspiration, pro-life education and advocacy for the pre-born. Families are welcome and may register as a group at archspm.org/marchforlife. Cost is \$10 per person; please bring your own bagged lunch. Watch for more details to come!



Prayer Service for Life: Friday, January 22

Please join us at the Cathedral of Saint Paul at 10:30 a.m. for this prayer service to commemorate the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. Limited seating will be available, and COVID-19 protocols will be followed. The prayer service will also be livestreamed on the Cathedral's Facebook page at [facebook.com/cathedralsaintpaul](https://www.facebook.com/cathedralsaintpaul).

Archdiocesan Synod: Faith and Culture Series: January 20 – February 9

Inspired by the thousands of participants at the Prayer and Listening Events, this series connects their stories to the story of the Church. Four sessions will be held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Each virtual event includes a talk, testimonials, and a live panel discussion. Registration is required to participate live. Find topics, dates and registration at archspm.org/synod.

Marriage Encounter Weekend in Farmington: February 13-14

2020 has been incredibly difficult on all of us and marriages have suffered! Commit to 2021 being the year you find enrichment, joy, and hope in your relationship! Register for the February 13-14 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt. Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for additional information or call 651-454-3238.

Opportunities for Prayer

Day of Prayer for Unborn at the Church of St. Michael: Friday, January 22

In all dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. Join us at St. Michael's for Eucharistic Adoration in the main church and special prayer offerings throughout the day:

- 9:00 a.m. – Adoration Transfers to Church & Morning Prayer
- 2:00 p.m. – Moves back to Adoration Chapel (for School Mass)
- 4:00 p.m. – Adoration Returns to Church
- 5:00 p.m. – Rosary
- 5:25 p.m. – Repose Eucharist for Mass
- 6:00 p.m. – Expose Eucharist in the Church
- 9:00 p.m. – Night Prayer & Transfer Eucharist to Adoration Chapel

Holy Hour for Life at St. Mary's Church: Sunday, January 24

Holy Hour for Life

Sunday, January 24th

3-4 PM (2:30 Rosary for Life)

St. Mary's Church - 423 5th St S, Stillwater

**This will also be livestreamed/recorded at St. Michael's facebook page*



Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn

- 2:30 Rosary for Life
3 O'clock Holy Hour includes
- Exposition
 - Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 - Music
 - Rose Procession
 - Prayer
 - Benediction

After the Holy Hour, we will recognize Art & MaryLou Junker, recent recipients of an Archdiocesan Champions for Life Award AND rejoice with a parish couple as they share their adoption story. Please come join us!

Please come to pray for an end to abortion with prayer, meditation and adoration of the **Holy Eucharist.**

- Due to current restrictions, there will not be a soup supper this year ☹️ -

Sponsored by the Respect Life Committee of St. Mary/St. Michael/St. Charles

Fr. Michael Izen, Pastor
frizen@costm.org | 651-379-1261

Fr. Austin Barnes, Parochial Vicar
frbarnes@costm.org | 651-379-1262

St. Mary's Church

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
651-439-1270
fharris@costm.org
Parish Council Chair, Mary Wicker
(651-430-3223)

Mass Times
Monday - Saturday 7:30 a.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.

Church of St. Michael

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
651-439-4400
info@costm.org
Parish Council Chair, Dennis Symalla
(952-222-0245); symalla@centurylink.org

Mass Times
Monday - Friday 5:30 p.m.
Saturday (Anticipatory) 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.

Online Mass

Follow us on Facebook and join us live online every day for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass:
Monday - Saturday 7:30 a.m. (Facebook)
Sunday 9:15 a.m. (Facebook & YouTube)

***Updated (10/18):** Our 9:15 Sunday Mass will be broadcast on Channel 18 (Valley Access) on:
Wednesdays (5 p.m. and 11 p.m.)
Thursdays (5 a.m. and 11 a.m.)
Saturdays (9 p.m.)
Sundays (Live at 9:15 a.m.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Michael's (Northwest Corner of Church)
Monday - Friday 5:00—5:25 p.m.
Saturday 3:00—4:15 p.m.

St. Mary's (Confessional, Behind Screen)
Saturday 8:00—8:30 a.m.

Respect Life News

Spiritual Adoption Update



20 Weeks - End of Month 5
"Mommy felt me kick today!"



I am 5 months old now. I'm 12 inches long and I weigh about one pound. I'm really getting big and mommy can now feel me kick and move around! Hey! Someday maybe I'll play soccer! Thank you for praying for me!

We are now mid-way through the pregnancy! Your spiritually adopted baby is growing stronger each day, and now can kick hard enough for his mother to feel.

This month, please say a special prayer to St. Joseph for the father of your spiritually adopted baby, that he the courage and strength he needs to support mom and baby.

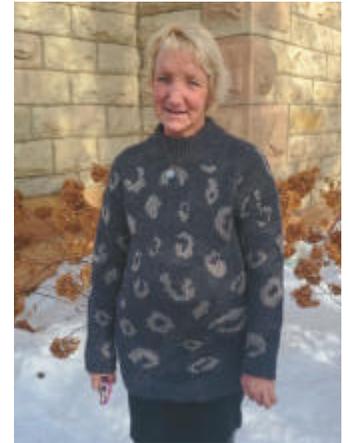


Stewardship

Jackie Valerius: Pastoral Minister

Jackie Valerius has been a parishioner at St. Michael's for over 50 years. She attended school at St. Michael's, creating some of her fondest memories with friends at SCCS. Jackie earned a Master's Degree in Teacher Leadership and has enjoyed the opportunity to teach full time in the public school system and part time at SCCS for 30 years. She has also taught multiple grades in Faith Formation, served as a catechist for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and been grateful to volunteer in almost every department of SCCS and parish life.

Her husband Paul and two of their four sons live and love life in Stillwater. The blessings of belonging to this community of believers continue to inspire and drive Jackie to grow every day in her Catholic Faith. Jackie looks forward to working with and learning from our parishioners and community members in her new position as Pastoral Care Coordinator.



Emilie-Rose Hagen: Sunday Protocol & Volunteer Coordinator

Emilie-Rose Hagen has been a parishioner at St. Michael's since her family moved to Stillwater in 2002. She loves the beautiful music, majestic architecture, enthusiastic parishioners, and generous priests of St. Michael's. Emily is also a student of environmentally-friendly landscape design and a volunteer sidewalk counselor with Pro-Life Action Ministries. She was homeschooled throughout her high school years, giving her the freedom to study the subjects most of interest to her such as economics and eco-friendly farming. She enjoys baking, reading, swing dancing, and caring for her family's chickens.

Would You Be Able to Help a High Schooler Attend an Amazing Faith-Filled Camp?

We have a few high school students who are in need of financial support in order to attend **Winter Faith Camp** 2021. The cost of the weekend retreat, including transportation, is \$230. The camp includes Mass, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, formative talks, and free time for activities such as sledding, games, crafts, winter sports, etc. - all centered around Our Lord Jesus Christ. Visit skgiving.com/app/giving/st218145 to make a donation and select the Winter Faith Camp fund or mail a check to Faith Formation with WFC in the memo. Any amount is helpful and greatly appreciated. The deadline is February 5. Thank you for supporting our young people!



Operating Funds: (Weekly collection, EFT payments and gifts used only for operating expenses for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021). Please contact your Parish Office if you previously received envelopes and no longer need them since switching to online giving! Thank you for your timely response.

7/1 - 1/10/2021	St. Mary's	St. Michael's
Budgeted Collections	\$239,262	\$943,811
Actual Weekly Collections	\$246,826	\$978,729
Amount Over / (Short)	\$7,564	\$34,918

Respect Life News

“Getting Work Right: Labor and Leisure in a Fragmented World”

Presented by Dr. Michael Naughton: Tuesday, January 19

Catholic men, join us at St. Michael’s Social Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19 as Dr. Michael Naughton will be presenting “Getting Work Right: Labor and Leisure in a Fragmented World.” To get work right, we must get leisure right. Though it sounds simple, it is particularly difficult because we so often compartmentalize our lives between faith and work, public and private life, church and state, and so on. We mistakenly think we will be okay if we manage to balance these pairings, but balanced lives confront (rather than perpetuate) our divisions. This talk will explore the relationship between work and leisure from a Catholic perspective and why this relationship is so important for our work and our faith, drawing from Naughton’s book *Getting Work Right: Labor and Leisure in a Fragmented World*.

Professor Michael Naughton is the director of the Center for Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas–Minnesota. He holds the Koch Chair in Catholic Studies and is a full professor in the department of Catholic Studies. He also taught in the College of Business for more than 20 years. Professor Naughton is author, co-author, and co-editor of 10 books and over 60 articles. He helped coordinate and write the *Vocation of the Business Leader* issued by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (2012), which has been translated into over 15 languages. His forthcoming book is called *What We Hold in Trust: Rediscovering the Purpose of Catholic Higher Education* (March 2021). He is married to Teresa. They have five children and one grandchild. He received his Ph.D. in theology from Marquette University (1991) and an MBA from the University of St. Thomas (1995).



Tuesday, January 19



Location: Social Hall,
Church of Saint Michael
7:30 p.m. Welcome &
Opening Prayer
7:35-8:15 p.m.
Presentation
8:15-8:30 p.m.
Benediction
8:30 p.m. Departure

St. Michael’s Parish News

Welcome, New Parishioners!

Please help us welcome our newest parish family: Floyd and Shirley Hale.

Congratulations to Newlyweds!

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Zachary and Mary (Hooley) Wright who entered the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony last weekend. May God remain the center of their marriage all the days of their lives!

St. Mary’s Parish News

History Display Case

St. Mary’s History Committee has purchased a display case for the hallway between the atrium and the Social Hall. They will display items of historical interest to our church and will vary the items a few times a year. Please stop by after Sunday Mass to see the display! We thank St. Mary’s History Committee for helping us appreciate our rich history!

Christmas Gift

If you have not yet received a book from our Christmas book giveaway, or if you picked up one book and would now like to read the other, extra copies of both titles will be in St. Mary’s atrium while supplies last. You can also pick up your envelopes and church calendar while you are there. If you are unable to go to church and would like those items brought to you, please call the church office. We would like to once again thank the Men’s Club for purchasing the books for our Christmas Book Giveaway.

Worship and Liturgy

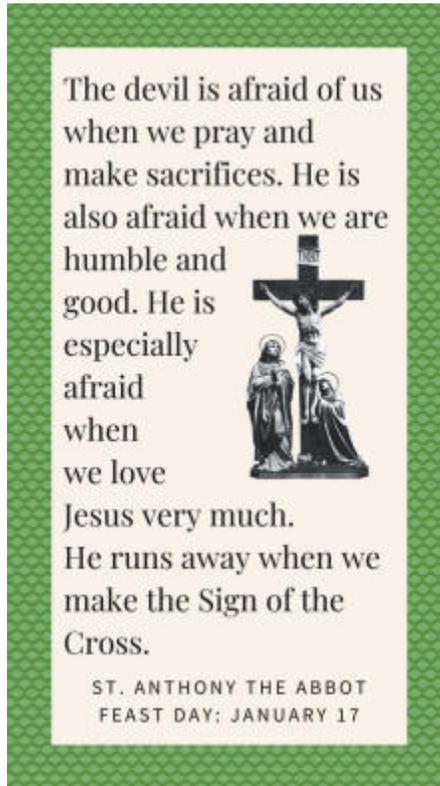
Mass Intentions for the Week of January 18-24

St. Mary's Church

- Mon. 7:30 a.m. † Frances Wilger
 Tues. 7:30 a.m. L&D Members Schroedl Family
 Weds. 7:30 a.m. † Bud Heck
 Thurs. 7:30 a.m. † Baby Hartmann
 Fri. 7:30 a.m. † Sid Bartkey
 Sat. 7:30 a.m. † Fr. William Gamber
 Sun. 8:00 a.m. † Marilyn & Gene Keating
 10:30 a.m. † David Simonet
 6:00 p.m. The People of St. Mary's

Church of St. Michael

- Mon. 5:30 p.m. † Mary Rita Peroceschi
 Tues. 5:30 p.m. † Gordon Moosbrugger
 Weds. 5:30 p.m. † Tim O'Brien
 Thurs. 5:30 p.m. Karsnia, Menard, Weisbrod, & McKissick Families
 Fri. 5:30 p.m. † Fr. Francis Kittock
 Sat. 4:30 p.m. † Sally Heimerman (Anniversary of Death)
 Sun. 7:30 a.m. The People of St. Michael's
 9:15 a.m. † Sally Heimerman
 11:00 a.m. † Clea Dalton

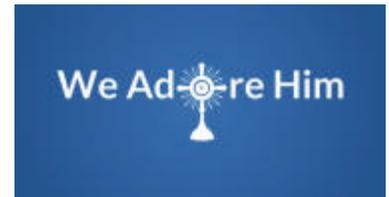


Request A Mass Intention

To have a Mass said for someone, please contact your Parish Office.

24/7 Eucharistic Adoration at St. Michael's

THANK YOU to all the heroic subs and steadfast committed adorers, new and veteran. We have covered many open hours but quite a few still remain. Sign up for an hour or join the substitute adorer list—Two great ways to start the new year!



Sign-Up to Pray

Please continue using WeAdoreHim.com to schedule your Holy Hours, find subs, and make or renew your commitment. Contact Sam with any questions.

Chapel Coordinator

Samantha Bertrand
 sjkbertrand@gmail.com
 612-615-4393

Daily Readings

Monday, January 18 – Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 19 – Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 20 – *St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr.* Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday, January 21 – *St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr.* Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12

Friday, January 22 – *Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:* Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8

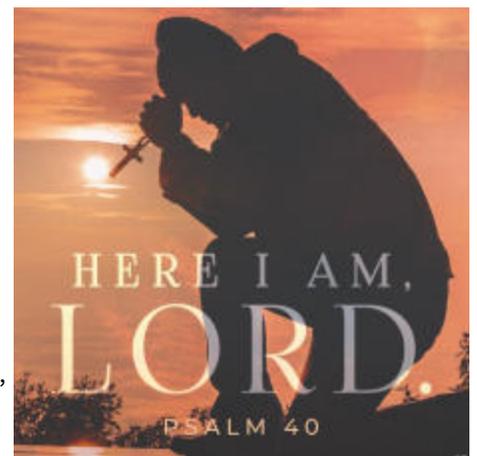
and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday, January 23 – *St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St.*

Marianne Cope, Virgin; BVM: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Mk 3:20-21

Sunday, January 24 – *3rd Sunday in*

Ordinary Time: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20



St. Croix Catholic School

Serving the parishes of St. Mary, St. Michael and St. Charles | SCCS Office: 651-439-5581 | www.stcroixcatholic.org

Silver Lining Leads Family to SCCS

"We couldn't be happier. It almost makes me feel some 'gratitude' towards COVID. Because without it, we wouldn't have sat down and reconsidered what sort of environment we wanted our children to be educated and raised in. As difficult as COVID has made life, I am thankful that it helped lead us to choose SCCS!"

—Jessica Moritz, Parent of SCCS Kindergartner



Creative Learning

As part of a winter studies unit, Ms. Jean and Ms. Sarah set up an ice fishing and ice skating center in the preschool. It's no wonder our little ones LOVE coming to school!

Where Did Those 40 Years Go?

Our beloved Mrs. Berry is eagerly anticipating the start of her 40th year of teaching Kindergarten at SCCS in September 2021. Wow! Don't miss this milestone! While the Initial Admissions window closed on January 13, we are still accepting applications (please see details below). And don't forget, ALL incoming Kindergarten families will receive a \$250 tuition credit (made possible by the generous donors of Catholic Schools Center of Excellence) if admissions process is completed in January. We have several tuition assistance options available too for qualifying families (see below).



SCCS Continuing to Accept Applications



While our initial window for Admissions Applications closed on January 13, SCCS continues to accept applications (Preschool – Grade 8) for the 2021-2022 school year. You can access Application and Enrollment Information on our website at stcroixcatholic.org or contact Denise Faust at dfaust@stccs.com or 651-439-5581 (Ext. 232) today!

You may also learn more about Tuition Assistance options on our website.

New for 2021-2022: CSCOE Kindergarten Enrollment Incentive

Thanks to the generosity of Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) and its benefactors, a special \$250 credit will be offered to ALL incoming Kindergartners, including those currently enrolled in our Ark of Angels Preschool program (if process is completed by end of January).

Faith Formation

Serving the parishes of St. Mary and St. Michael | Faith Formation Office: 651-351-3175

In-Person Sessions: No PreK—Confirmation Classes the week of January 18

All About the Atrium: Baptism

Last week, the Church celebrated the Baptism of Our Lord. In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium, children ponder the gift of Baptism each year. We especially focus on Baptism during the Easter Season, and children who are receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist spend time with the Baptism presentations as part of their preparation.

Baptism: The Gift of Life: Baptism is an immense gift. Young children who have already been baptized as infants need to become aware of this gift they have received as soon as possible. They need to be given the opportunity to contemplate and enjoy the gift already at work within them. And young children who come to our atrium who have not yet been baptized also need to know about the gift of Baptism. They too need to become aware of the great desire of the risen Christ to share his life and light with us in a most particular way through Baptism. (Sofia Cavalletti, *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*, p. 57)

The gifts and signs of Baptism are introduced to the children in their first year of the Level One Atrium. The gifts and signs are actually presented over a series of three presentations. In the Level Two and Level Three Atrium, children look at the rite (ceremony) and prayers in depth. They also come to understand the relationship between Baptism and the other Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Light and the White Garment Sofia Cavalletti explains, “For every subject we present to the children, we need what we might call “the linking point,” that is, an especially striking element that emphasizes the vital nucleus of the theme.” We look for that linking point in the language of signs. It may not necessarily be the most liturgical or theological element. Cavalletti found that in Baptism, the linking point is the theme of light. She says, “Light has an immediate effect on the senses and it is psychologically gratifying and reassuring; thus the child associates the image of Christ the Light with the Good Shepherd and the effect of the former image is reinforced.” In the atrium, the children are called by name to come forward and light their own candle from the Christ candle. They are able to recognize the Light of Christ—that is the Paschal candle—is the same light they carry within themselves.



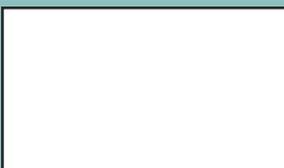
White Garment

The light inside the heart shines on the outside in the white garment. The white garment is a sign of cleanliness and new life. It shows we are children of the light. The image of Christ as light has always been prominent in Christian tradition, starting with St. Paul and the Church Fathers through today. St. Paul associates “illumination” with baptism. The White Garment is placed on the child during the rite (ceremony) of baptism. The prayer language offered reflects that the child is “clothed in the light of Christ.” The older child, in preparation for Holy Communion, prepares his or her own white garment. In some communities, the church may provide the garment, and the child stitches a red cross on the front of the garment. During the Communion Retreat, the parent(s) are again invited to recall the promises made at baptism, as the garment is placed on the child. The garment is worn upon the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and again for Holy Communion.

Helping Children Know the Gift of Baptism: The child who is living out his or her Baptism needs to know its richness. The new Rite of Baptism offers signs that are so obvious and, I would say, tangible, that catechesis has no need to invent anything in order to present it to children. It is the first Baptismal sign that we present to children, and it already let us “see” the vertical and horizontal dimensions of that life which, in Christ, unites us to the Father and to our brothers and sisters. Children readily recognize that their own candles would stay unlit had they not been lit from the paschal candle, which is the sign of the risen Christ. The light given to us is God’s gift and we receive it in ourselves because, in the first place, Christ’s light has overcome the darkness. (Sofia Cavalletti, *Way of Holy Joy* “Baptism: Foundation of Peace,” p. 6)

—The above article is from The Newsletter for parents in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium, www.cgsusa.org (April 2015)

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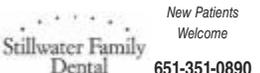
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