



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

680 MILL STREET, EXCELSIOR, MN 55331



DECEMBER 13, 2020

{THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT}

To know, love, serve and share Christ through worship, teaching, stewardship and witness.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

A number of children at St. John's are preparing to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. In the Atrium, where we gather each week, they have been getting ready by "opening and enjoying" the many gifts of God and marveling at His goodness. His plan for fullness of life was foretold by the prophets, witnessed to by angels and shepherds, learned men and even an unborn baby. As Jesus grew, He spoke about the Kingdom of God, revealing that it is like a Mustard Seed and a Precious Pearl. He knows us by name and lays down His life only to take it up again and share with each of us (on the day of our Baptism) a life stronger than death, a light stronger than darkness. What great love! While encountering and recognizing His many gifts, we have also asked how we might respond to the one who has filled the earth so that it resembles a banquet table lavishly heaped with all that we need. His great love demands a response in kind! As we ponder the Parable of the True Vine, we realize that we don't want to just bear fruit; we want to bear the most beautiful fruit that will bring the greatest glory to God!

As part of their preparation for Reconciliation, one child, when pondering the Parable of the Found Coin in Luke 15, mentioned that the Scripture reminded him of the parable of the Precious Pearl. He said that the coins were like the Kingdom of God. He was asked if we can lose just part of the Kingdom and he responded, "Yes." Another child added, "That's what happens when we sin. We lose a coin." They continued, "So we are the woman and the lamp we light to help find the coin is Jesus. He is the light." They were asked, then, about the broom that helps the woman sweep to find the lost coin. One of the children said, "The broom the woman sweeps with is the Holy Spirit."

In Reconciliation, when our sorrow and contrition meet the power of the Holy Spirit who comes to us through the gift of absolution, we enjoy a return to the fullness of life given to us at our Baptism. Please join me in praying for these children who will receive this gift for the first time. May they (and we!) often come to receive this great gift!

Thank you!

Carolyn Kohlhaas

SJB Catholic Montessori School & Faith Formation Program Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium Guide



Daily Mass and Confession Times This Week

Monday: No Mass or Confessions

Tuesday: No Mass or Confessions

Wednesday: 5:00pm Confessions; No Daily Mass

Thursday: 7:30am Confessions; 8:00am Mass

Friday: 8:30am Confessions; 9:00am Mass

Saturday: 8:00am Mass; Confessions at 8:30-9:30am & 3:30-4:30pm

***Please note: no daily Mass or confessions on Tuesday, December 15th and no daily Mass on December 16th as Fr. Carlson will be on vacation.**



Updated Music Schedule

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (2nd-8th grade)

Rehearsals: Dec 9 (Group 1) or
Dec 16 (Group 2) @ 3:45-5pm:

Christmas Eve Group 1:

2:40pm: Rehearse

3:00pm: Begin Prelude

3:30pm: Mass

Christmas Eve Group 2:

5:10pm: Rehearse

5:30pm: Begin Prelude

6pm: Mass

Sunday, December 27th

9:30am: Warm Up

10am: Mass

HIGH SCHOOL / COLLEGE / YOUNG ADULT CHOIR

Christmas Rehearsals: Dec 12 & 19

Saturday 8:30-9:30am (after 8am Mass)

(Flexible according to interest)

Christmas Day:

8:30am: Warm Up

9am: Mass

Saturday, December 26th

4:30pm: Warm Up

5pm: Mass

ADULT CHOIR

Rehearsals: Dec 10 & 17

Thursdays 7-8:30pm

Christmas Eve:

9:15pm: Warm Up

10pm: Mass

Sunday, December 27th

7:30am: Warm Up

8am: Mass

Make a Joyful Noise

Here we are, already halfway to the beloved "O Come, All Ye Faithful" that welcomes in the Christmas season! But before we reach that "O," you may have noticed several other "O's" journeying with us throughout Advent. Not just "O Come Emmanuel," but come "O Wisdom," "O Lord of Israel," "O Root of Jesse," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," and "O King of all Nations," too! These are what we call the "O Antiphons."

First of all, what's an antiphon? Put simply, an antiphon is a short, repeated phrase of Scripture typically pertaining to the liturgical season, daily Saint, or other theme. The repeated part of the Psalm that we sing/speak at each Mass is a great example! (Today's being "My soul rejoices in my God," if you recall!)

When it comes to the "O Antiphons" of Advent, the Scriptural theme is the prophesying of the Messiah in the book of Isaiah. We plead for the coming of the Messiah by calling on each of these seven titles of our prophesied Savior. It's a bit like having several nick-names for your spouse or best friend, each title revealing something different about that person and your relationship to them. While the name alone, "Lucy," for example, reveals part of her identity, her titles as "big sis," "goofball," and "snuggle-bug" give us an even fuller picture!

So we repeatedly beckon the coming of the Lord through the O Antiphons, meditating on who he really is and therefore better preparing ourselves for his coming. As is often said, you can't love someone whom you don't know! This final week and a half of Advent, let the O Antiphons settle into your soul and bring you closer to the one who was, who is, and who is to come!

Exultemus Domino,

Kari Hoeft ~ Director of Music, Liturgy and Youth Ministry



Financial Support

The holidays are upon us, and like everything this year, they are anything but typical. Our ministries need your support today.

After the uncertainty, unemployment and isolation caused by COVID-19, families in our community will be turning to St. John the Baptist for help in astonishing numbers during the holiday season.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. We appreciate all parishioners using this means to support our parish. You may Enroll electronically online at faith.direct/MN855

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

Community Needs

THANK YOU for your continued support of ICA Foodshelf and SouthWest Options for Women! Please continue to place your donations in the bins labeled ICA and SWOW outside the Gathering Place entrance. **Please continue to give generously!**



Thank You!

Thank you to parishioners Jack Jasper and Mary Stumpfl for sharing their amazing talents with us and creating the beautiful wooden pillars for our Advent candles that you now see in our sanctuary. Jack's incredible woodworking matched with Mary's painting has given us this wonderful gift to our parish community. Thank you to Jack and Mary!



Retirement Fund for the Religious

We're taking up a second collection this weekend for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. **Please support our second collection this weekend by placing your envelope in the collection basket by the baptismal font or by going online here <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/MN855/25819>.** Learn more at retiredreligious.org.



Weekly Prayer

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a,10-11/Lk 1:46-54/1Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2,9-13/Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8,18,21c-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2,8-10/Ps 72:1-4,7-8,17/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a/Ps 71:3-6,16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday: 2Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Ps 89:2-5,27,29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Questions of the Week

First Reading:

Isaiah shares his understanding of his prophetic call and his experience of the Lord as a God of justice and compassion. As we continue in the season of Advent, what new spiritual insights are you discovering?

Second Reading:

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be thankful to God and be active in their newly found faith in Christ by following his moral imperatives. How are you putting your faith into practice during this Advent?

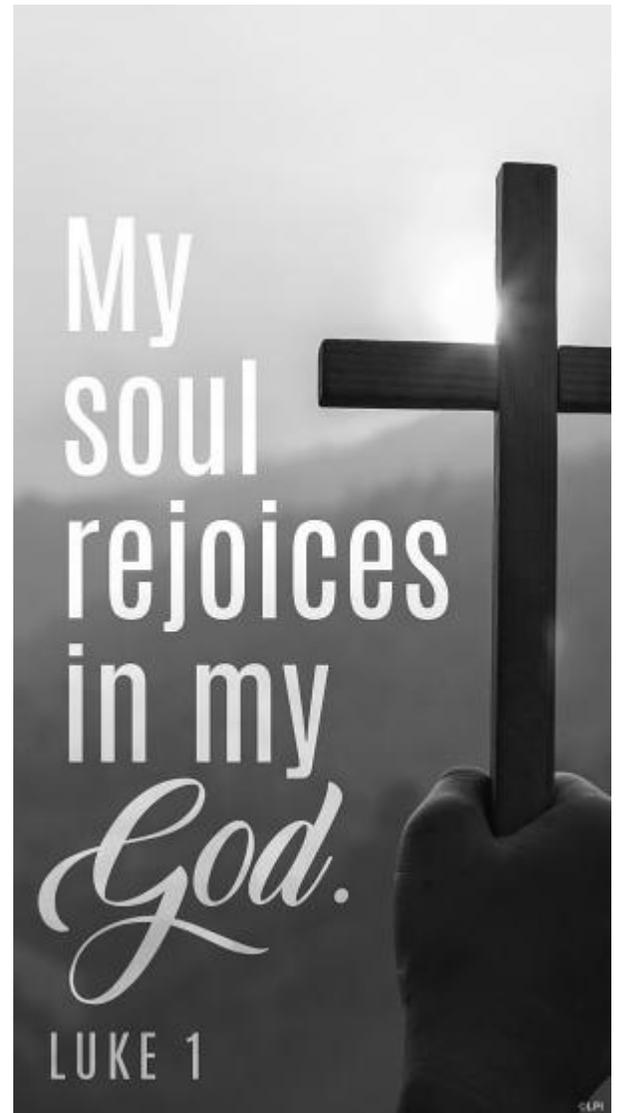
Gospel:

John tells us that the religious leaders in Jerusalem questioned the identity of John the Baptist, wondering if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet who Moses prophesied would come. John the Baptist responds in humility, with a clear sense of his own call. Do you humbly accept God's call in your life?

© LPi

Mass Intentions

Sat.	December 12	8:00am	† Kathy Bedford
		5:00pm	† Howard Gans
Sun.	December 13	8:00am	Mary Jane Koch
		10:00am	For the Parish
Mon.	December 14		No Mass
Tue.	December 15		No Mass
Wed.	December 16		No Mass
Thurs	December 17	8:00am	† Bernie Hennessy
Fri.	December 18	9:00am	†† Edward & Lucille Huntington
Sat.	December 19	8:00am	† Thomas Leishman
		5:00pm	For the Parish
Sun.	December 20	8:00am	† Michael Renard
		10:00am	† Gary Patnaude



Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

We invite you to keep in your daily prayers the sick and confined of our parish who seek God's joy in their infirmity, in particular:

- Elvera Hoops
- Mary Rosati
- Viviana Wright
- Margaret Davis
- Kon Wurm
- Ruth Colnar
- David Streeter
- Roger "Pete" Hansen

St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School



Guided by our Roman Catholic faith, St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School prepares students to live our the Gospel message, achieve academic excellence, and joyfully lead by faith, virtue and reason.

Advent Traditions

During Advent, classrooms use their Advent wreaths each morning for prayer. They are also learning about the tradition of the Jesse Tree. Each day they read about a different event that led to Christ's birth—such as the creation story, the fall of Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, and Abraham and Issac. It's a beautiful way to recount the story of the world and to remember the reason for God becoming man.

The children have been busy learning music and singing with all their hearts for a beautiful Advent celebration. We look forward to seeing the Advent Program all come together in a video presentation!

Here are a few photos of classroom Advent traditions and the recording of the Advent program!



Staff Fun

The church and school Staff enjoyed a fun First Friday after school event making gingerbread houses!



Enrollment for New Students 2021-2022

Applications for new students opened on December 1st. If you would like to schedule a tour of our school, please call the office at 952-474-5812 or go online. You can apply for the 2021-2022 school year here <https://mytads.com/a/stjohnthebaptistschoolexcelior>

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry



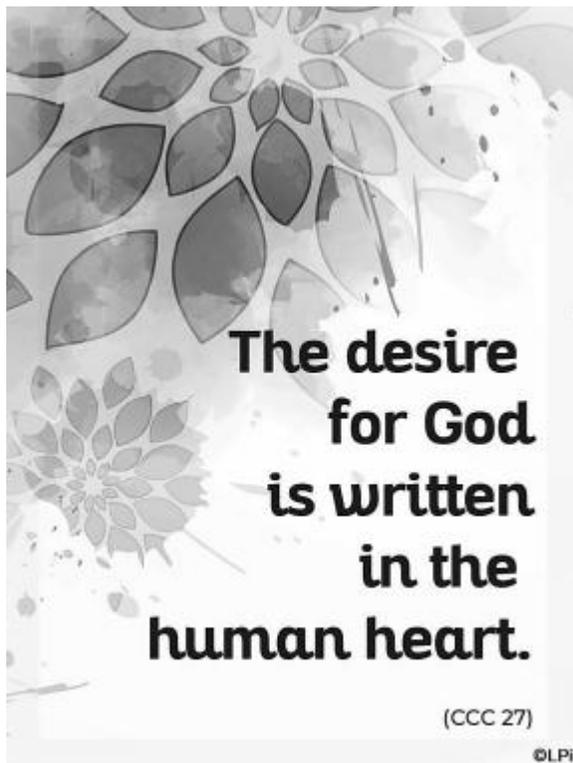
Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Dates

Tuesday, December 15th 4pm: Faith Formation CGS Levels 1 & 2

Wednesday, December 16th 6:30pm: Faith Formation, Confirmation Year 1

No Faith Formation classes the last two weeks of December

Winter Fun Event has been cancelled



10 HACKS FOR ADVENT*

1. Get crafty and make, or purchase a beautiful Advent wreath to enter into the season in a real way
2. Tune into some lovely [Advent jamz](#) and hold off on the Christmas hits until the Christmas season... well at least try your best.
3. If people say “happy holidays” to you while you’re shopping for Christmas gifts, don’t get in a high and mighty rage and demand that they say “merry Christmas” to you... just remember that Christ dwells in every human being, that they are worthy of love, and smile and say “thank you.”
4. Spend a little bit more time in prayer, preparing your heart for the coming of Christ... and preparing your mind for the many Hallmark Christmas movies you’ll have no choice but to watch.
5. Bake something sweet for a friend. Or a foe.
6. Stop thinking about what’s on your Christmas list for a minute and try being Saint Nick to someone in need.
7. Learn from my mistakes and don’t forget about eating the daily dose of chocolate from the Advent calendar. Catching up may be delicious, but it also generates a wicked stomachache.
8. Pick up some helpful Advent reading. Maybe [Awaken Hope](#), or another daily devotional to help you enter into the season!
9. Try walking around with an attitude of gratitude, even while department stores and online marketplaces try to cultivate an attitude of greed ... nobody likes a Scrooge.
10. Most importantly, don’t skip over this season of eager expectation and hopeful waiting. Remember the gift of Christ’s Incarnation that we’re awaiting, and let yourself enter into that waiting.

** adapted from the Life Teen Blog*



Stewardship Update

*We have significantly lowered our Offertory Budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. As such, our Over/(Under) may seem artificially positive, as actuals are compared to a significantly reduced budget number from the prior year. For this reason, we have additionally included this year's actuals compared to last year's actuals for a more accurate reflection of our offertory growth/(decline).

*Please note that fluctuation in weekly giving is often due to variable timing of annual stewardship gifts.

Parish Offices

CHURCH: (952) 474-8868 Fax: (952) 444-3474

Pastor Ext. 216

Father Carlson fr.carlson@stjohns-excelsior.org

Deacon

Dcn Gary Hoffman deacongary@stjohns-excelsior.org

Parish Administrator Ext. 204

Andrea McMerty-Brummer
amcmerty-brummer@stjohns-excelsior.org

Accounting Ext. 203

Christa Vassallo cvassallo@stjohns-excelsior.org

Director of Faith Formation Ext. 207

Will Beardmore wbeardmore@stjohns-excelsior.org

Director of Music, Liturgy & Youth Ministry Ext. 206

Kari Hoeft khoeft@stjohns-excelsior.org

Communications Coordinator Ext. 208

Sarah Reid sreid@stjohns-excelsior.org

Office & Cemetery Manager Ext. 200

Megan Adam madam@stjohns-excelsior.org

Lead Maintenance Technician Ext. 205

Mike Pylka mpylka@stjohns-excelsior.org

Collection(s) as of: 12/7/2020	
	Actual
Sunday	\$11,678.50
Plate	\$416.60
	\$12,095.10

Year-to-Date Information as of : 12/7/2020	
YTD Budget	\$ 314,624
YTD Actual	\$ 374,825
Amount Over/(Under)	\$60,201

Year-to-Date Comparison to Prior Year as of: 12/7/2020	
Prior YTD Actual	\$ 348,820
Current YTD Actual	\$ 374,825
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$26,004

School: (952) 474-5812 Fax: (952) 444-3474

Principal Ext. 301

Angela Wroblewski awroblewski@stjohns-excelsior.org

Administrative Assistant Ext. 300

Monica Benda mbenda@stjohns-excelsior.org

Parish Trustees: Barb Thomas, Mark Spaniol

Finance Council Chair: Pat Johnson

Parish Council Chair: Charlie Kanan

The church office is open to the public, but we ask that you make an appointment. All church office visitors will ring the bell and wait for assistance as we will not staff the front desk. Unscheduled visitors are not allowed into the school buildings at this time, but the office is open.

Building Hours—Open for Prayer:

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

Saturday 8:00am-6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am-12:00pm

Tune in to our Livestream of Masses

<https://tinyurl.com/sjbyoutube>

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil.....5:00pm
 Sunday.....8:00am
10:00am
 Tuesdays.....5:30pm
 Wednesdays, Thursdays.....8:00am
 Friday (School Mass).....9:00am
 Saturdays.....8:00am
 (Holy Days and Holidays—see bulletin
 Or call Parish Office)

Resurrection Cemetery

5555 Covington Rd, Shorewood, MN 55331

Sacrament of Confession

Tuesdays.....5:00pm
 Wednesdays, Thursdays.....7:30am
 Fridays.....8:30am
 Saturdays.....8:30-9:30am
3:30-4:30pm

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples must call Fr. Carlson 6 months in advance

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office 2 months prior to child's birth. Required classes held regularly.

*A local Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church.
 Victim Assistance Hotline: (651)291-4497*

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