St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish

680 Mill Street, Excelsior, MN 55331

January 17, 2021

{Second Sunday in Ordinary Time}

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

Baptism of the Lord (Part 2)

This week I want to continue to write about our baptismal font. One of the decisions that we made for our baptismal font was to be able to have the option for a full immersion of both an infant and an adult (however, we have yet to do a full immersion, maybe this year?). The reason for this decision is because the immersion signifies a rebirth into being God's children. When you enter into the font you enter from one side, and leave the other, which can also signify the passing through the Red Sea. On a practical level, when we do have an immersion baptism of an adult, we will have the individual climb in with a step ladder, and then exit by step ladder.

One of the biggest challenges that we came across while designing and building the baptismal font was addressing how we get the holy water outside to drain. As you may or may not know, holy water cannot go to the sewer system, instead it has to be drained back outside in a natural way. As we started to explore the possibilities, and some exploratory excursions under the tunnel of the church, we realized a great solution. When the Gathering Place was built, a system for the rain runoff of the roof to be discharged to the lower part of our field was installed in order to not flood around the building. We hooked into that system so that when we drain the baptismal font, it is drained into the lower part of our field.

Another challenge we came across was how do we keep the holy water clean and microbe free. We installed a filtration system below the font in our mechanical room. The water flows through that filtration system which has helped immensely. We also make sure to refill the baptismal font at least once every two months and I re-bless the water. With the installation of that filter and pump, we also installed a heater to the baptismal font. We are able to warm up the water before a baptism, and will definitely warm it up before an immersion baptism.

I hope that this deep dive (pun not intended) into the baptismal font has helped you understand more about this awesome sacrament of Baptism. If you have any questions about the baptismal font, don't be afraid to ask. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the font is currently not being used and we are using a portable font for baptisms.

God Bless,
Fr. Carlson

Fr. Carlson on Vacation; No Daily Mass or Confessions January 18-27

Fr. Carlson will be on vacation from January 18th to the 27th. There will be no daily Mass or confessions during the time he is away.

We will have our weekend Masses with a visiting priest on January 23rd and 24th and confessions will be available on Saturday, January 23rd from 3:30-4:30pm.

Confessions and daily Mass will resume on Thursday, January 28th.

Make a Joyful Noise

Here we are, back in Ordinary Time. Back to "normal." Now what? We could just humdrum through the coming weeks until we reach the next more exciting season – Lent. (Yes, already!) OR, we can really make this time count. That's quite literally what Ordinary Time means after all!

Our experience of the Liturgical Calendar can, in many ways, be paralleled with our experience of the Liturgy. The year rises and falls with what might feel like more exciting times (such as Christmas or Easter) with more typical, bland time filling in the gaps (I'd be lying if I said Ordinary Time doesn't feel like this sometimes!). So, too, in the liturgy. There are the big moments of hearing the Word of God proclaimed, seeing Jesus Christ in the Eucharist held before our eyes, maybe even singing (or listening) to one of our favorite hymns during a procession! But then there's all that in between time . . . waiting for Mass to start, the pauses between readings, kneeling patiently as everyone moves through the communion line, and so on. If only Mass could be more efficient, right?

Not quite. For starters, Ordinary Time is far from ordinary! Imagine if our only records of Jesus were the Christmas and Easter accounts. We would be missing so much of his life and teachings! The "in between" time is crucial! The same is true in the Mass. The in between time isn't accidental, and we'd be missing out on so much if we treat it as such! We are not spectators of the Mass; we are participants. And how can we participate in those moments of what seems like down time? Before Mass starts – pray! In between readings – pray! After communion (especially after communion!) – PRAY! If we do so, we will doubly fulfill our duty of participating in the Mass and be showered with the Lord's abundant graces.

Exultemus Domino,
Kari Hoeft ~ Director of Music, Liturgy and Youth Ministry

Live the Gospel of Life

Prayer Service for Life

Cathedral of St. Paul
January 22nd 10:30am

Join in the Annual Prayer Service for Life. This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. Archbishop Hebda will also be recognizing those who exemplify pro-life work in our local communities with the Saint John Paul II Champion for Life Award.

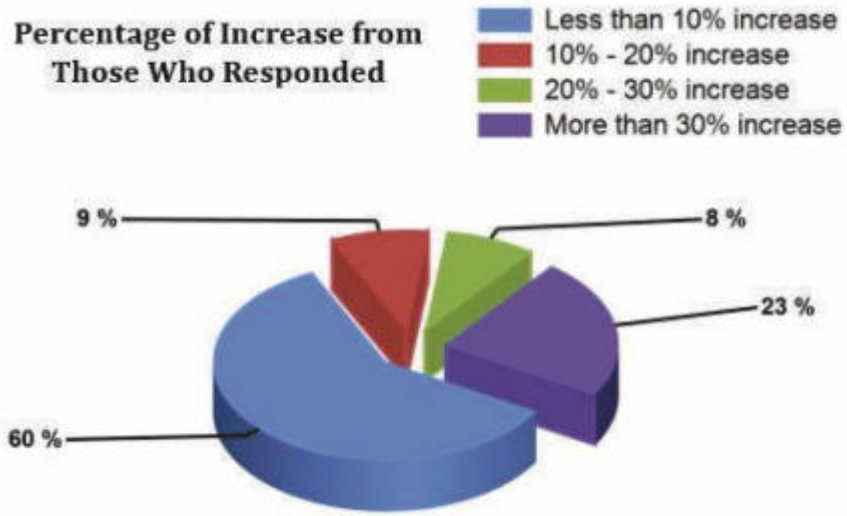
Physical attendance in the Cathedral will be limited to 250 guests but you can participate virtually here: *www.facebook.com/cathedralsaintpaul*

Thank you for supporting the ministry and outreach of St John the Baptist Catholic Church. The results confirm our commitment as a community and our desire to continue our mission. I am grateful to each of you for your offering. This shows our concern for each other and our parish. Please review the initial results of the commitment. We look forward to fulfilling our call to build up God's kingdom here in the Excelsior area.

God Bless,

Rev. Alex B. Carlson

Rev. Alex B. Carlson
Pastor



Our results from the Faith, Hope & Healing program reinforced the desire of our Catholic community to serve God's will. Over 71% of the parishioners who gave to the Sunday offertory in the last year recommitted to support for the next year.
10 families took their first steps in actively supporting the work of our parish.
Overall, we were blessed with 235 supporters stepping forward to secure the future of our work. By maintaining these commitments throughout the year, our church can continue its mission

Through your continued generosity we are able to support God's work and carryout the mission of our parish. Thank you for your response and prayers for the work we are doing.

Financial Support

Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2021 that reflect the promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us.

With eGiving, 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*

Weekly Prayer

Readings for the Week of January 17, 2020

Sunday: 1Sm 3:3b-10,19/Ps 40:2,4,7-10/1Cor 6:13c-15a,17-20/Jn 1:35-42
Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2,4-5,9-10/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3,15-17/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25-8:6/Ps 40:7-10,17/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8,10-14/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3,11-14/Ps 47:2-3,6-9/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5,10/Ps 25:4-9/1Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

Questions of the Week

First Reading:
Eli was the priest of the temple in Shiloh. He raised Samuel and helped Samuel to hear God's voice in his life. Who have you taught to hear God's voice?

Second Reading:
Paul taught the Corinthians that believers should "glorify God in your body" by avoiding immorality. What do you think is needed to live a good, moral life?

Gospel:
In John's account of the call of the first disciples, Jesus poses the question, "What are you looking for?" In your own spiritual journey, how do you know you have found Jesus?

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Mass Intentions

Sat.	January 16	8:00am	✝ Diane Martinka
		5:00pm	✝ Kathy Bedford
Sun.	January 17	8:00am	For the Parish
		10:00am	Mary Johnson
Mon.	January 18		No Mass
Tue.	January 19		No Mass—Father on Vacation
Wed.	January 20		No Mass—Father on Vacation
Thurs	January 21		No Mass—Father on Vacation
Fri.	January 22		No Mass—Father on Vacation
Sat.	January 23		No Mass—Father on Vacation
		5:00pm	✝ Robert Petersen
Sun.	January 24	8:00am	✝ Laura Kapsner
		10:00am	For the Parish

Vocation of Marriage

Each week we will be introducing one of the couples preparing for marriage at St. John's this year. Please keep them in your prayers and introduce yourselves when you see them!

Hello St. John the Baptist family,

We are Trevor Patterson and Anne Flake. This May, we will be getting married at St. John's. Both of us grew up in Chanhassen. We met at a local nutrition shop here in Chanhassen while Trevor was working and it all fell into place from there.

Currently, Trevor works full-time as an Account Executive for Metro Sales in Minneapolis. He also coaches baseball part-time for Minnesota MASH and Providence Academy HS in Plymouth. This year he has been attending RCIA and will be confirmed at the Easter vigil.

Anne is completing her Associate's Degree this spring then plans to pursue job opportunities. Her interests are in Art, Health & Wellness, Cooking, and working with children.

Thank you all for keeping us in your prayers! We are so blessed to be members of the St. John's community with you all!

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
- Joe Garaghty
- 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.

Introducing SJB Micro Market

St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School Adolescents community (middle school) is making and selling handcrafted items for you and your family to enjoy. Their name Micro Market is simply a description of what this site is, the platform on which they sell their goods. The proceeds go towards making more goods, learning new skills, and funding enrichments /outings throughout the year. Thanks for checking it out at *www.sjbmarket.com/*

Homemade items for sale: pickles, jams, sauces, and hot chocolate mix.

Cinnamon Rolls On Sale

In place of the Pancake Breakfast for Catholic Schools Week, we are pre-selling cinnamon rolls. We have two pick up options:
Friday, January 29th 3:00-4:00pm in the parking lot
Sunday, January 31st 9:00-11:30am in the Gathering Place
Cost $10 per tray for this fundraiser.

Pre-order your tray of 6 delicious frosted cinnamon rolls here *www.sjbmarket.com/*

Photos of the Week: Atrium

Financial Aid Opportunities

Aim Higher

Enrolled families my apply for an Aim High Scholarship by February 18th! Visit *https://aimhigherfoundation.org/scholarships/* for details.

Schultz Family Foundation

Is your child in the last year of preschool? The Schulze Family Foundation has created the Schulze Early Learning Scholarship Program to assist middle-income families in gaining access to excellent preschool programs for their children.

Kindergarten Enrollment Initiative

Receive $150 tuition discount on your 2021-2022 kindergarten tuition when you enroll by January 31st.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Tuesday, January 19th 4pm: Faith Formation CGS Levels 1 & 2
Wednesday, January 20th 6:30pm: Faith Formation, Confirmation Year 2
Monday, January 25th 7pm: High School Women's Group Zoom
Tuesday, January 26th 4pm: Faith Formation CGS Levels 1 & 2
Wednesday, January 27th 6:30pm: Faith Formation, Confirmation Year 1

High School Women's Group

All high school-aged women, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, are welcome and encouraged to join us as we partner with St. Hubert's to explore the Church's good news of our creation and purpose! This is an absolutely genius work of St. John Paul II, and we can't recommend it highly enough!
Please contact Kari Hoeft for more information *khoeft@stjohns-excelsior.org*

Meeting Dates: (7-8pm over ZOOM) January 25 February 8 & 22 March 8 & 22 April 5

ZOOM link: *https://zoom.us/j/91253286766?pwd=M1JrRXMvN0RHVUFINGZGTzZyLzFUUT09*

Read the Bible in a Year!

Fr. Mike Schmitz with Ascension Press is leading this Bible Study Podcast.
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for young adults and adults of all ages!

Over a QUARTER MILLION Catholics are on board, now is the perfect time to start listening! **Bible in a Year** has been the #1 PODCAST IN AMERICA on iTunes/Apple Podcasts! **Make THIS your resolution for 2021 and spend about 20 minutes a day growing in your knowledge of our faith.**

Find out more here: *https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/*

Spring Adult Bible Study on Prayer

Though prayer is one of the essentials of a thriving faith, we often feel as if we're talking to ourselves—or, worse, as if we're talking to no one at all. How can something so vital to the Faith be so elusive?

Join us for this Lectio video series led by bible scholar Dr. Tim Gray on Monday evening at 6:30pm OR Tuesday mornings at 9:15am for six sessions to dive deeper into the subject of prayer. We will meet all throughout Lent February 15-March 23.

We will have both Zoom and in-person options. Registration forms can be found online or in the Gathering Place. More information may be found at:
www.stjohns-excelsior.org/parish/Faith-Formation/Adult-Formation

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

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

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.

Collection(s) as of: 1/11/2021	
	Actual
Sunday	$6,130.00
FD Year-end EFT	$3,150.00
Plate	$331.00
	$9,611.00

Year-to-Date Information as of : 1/11/2021	
YTD Budget	$ 416,126
YTD Actual	$ 495,876
Amount Over/(Under)	$79,750

Year-to-Date Comparison to Prior Year as of: 1/11/2021	
Prior YTD Actual	$ 460,198
Current YTD Actual	$ 495,876
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	$35,678

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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