



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

680 MILL STREET, EXCELSIOR, MN 55331



FEBRUARY 14, 2021

{SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME}

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

A Witness to Others

The Roman soldiers whacked a crown of thorns into Jesus' head, mocking His heavenly crown. It was painful, but He chose to keep wearing it as a witness to his role and identity as King of the Universe. You're wearing a similar crown. **As a baptized Catholic, you are a child of this King and a member of this family.** This puts a certain target on your back. In the least actively religious period of our nation's history, you've chosen something that others want to mock.

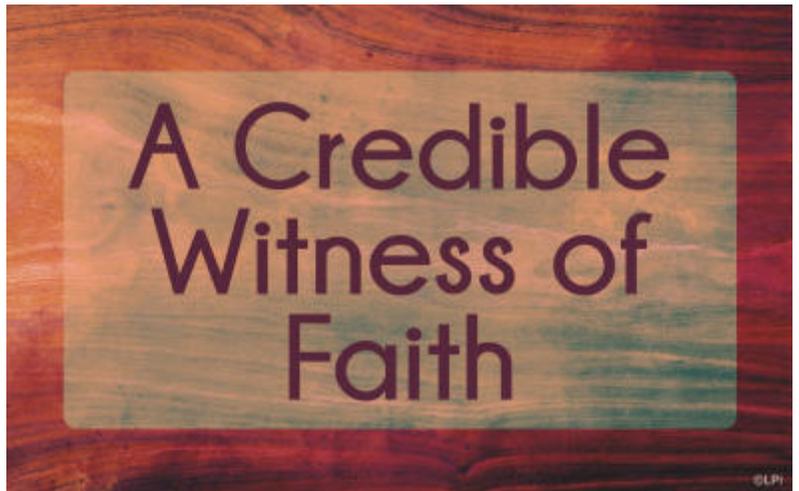
It's not cool to be Catholic. It's a difficult lifestyle for our teens to defend at cafeteria conversations, for parents to defend at parties, and for many grandparents to defend at family gatherings. **It's more difficult still to defend it in a way that seems at all beneficial to those involved.**

This struggle is not new. We've been an unpopular lot in most societies for most of our 2,000 year history. Irish and Italian immigrants were called "unamerican Papists" among the more civil slurs. Ancient Roman Christians were martyred for going to Mass, as were missionaries to Japan, villagers in Mexico, farmers in Ireland, and countless other examples from every one of the past 21 centuries. We see persecution in dramatic public forms, and in private, subtle ones. While I don't hope for anyone's persecution, I do hope that you are a bold enough witness to truth to notice these instances around you, and that you don't shy away when you see it coming.

This is your crown of thorns. Christ, the king of the universe, was given a distorted crown to mock his role and identity. You, a beloved child of God, and a member of His Church, are mocked with a distorted version of Catholicism. The Romans didn't understand Jesus' divinity, and many in "society" don't understand Catholicism. They don't hate it, they just hate what they think it is. It's your duty and your privilege to be a witness to that truth. **To be a witness to Love Incarnate. To defend the crown of the Prince of Peace.**

So, I encourage you in this coming Lenten season to continue to embrace your crown as Jesus embraced His. Don't take it off when you're trying to make friends or to get a promotion or to keep the party going. Even under pressure, remember that you are good, that your faith is great, and that God is perfect in every way. Embrace the sting of your crown as a reminder of what it truly is, embrace your Catholic faith for what it truly is, and embrace God, because He Is.

God Bless,
Will Beardmore
Director of Faith Formation



Catholic Services Appeal Foundation

Together in Hope: The Catholic Services Appeal Foundation partners with fellow Catholic 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 by helping provide:

- Thousands with life-giving care via hospital chaplains.
- 12,000 people / week with fresh groceries and hygiene items.
- 1,200 hot meals monthly.
- 635 people with housing/emergency shelter each month.
- 33,000 young people with Faith-filled outreach.
- 1,300 women and families with pro-life support.
- 28,000 Catholic school students with in-person learning.
- Over 50 seminarians studying to be future priests of our Archdiocese with tuition assistance, room and board.

Visit www.GiveCSAF.org to donate online or place your envelope in the basket this weekend for our second collection!



Make a Joyful Noise

Myth #1: Vatican II got rid of Latin.

One of the most obvious changes in the Liturgy post-Vatican II was the switch to the *vernacular*, or the language of the people in a given area. (English, in our case). But did you know this wasn't a mandated change? Instead, it was deemed allowable, then left up to local bishops' councils to decide for their region. The change was made nearly everywhere, but the use of Latin was not meant to be erased. Let's see how this all unfolded in the text:

"The use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites. But since the use of the mother tongue . . . may be of great advantage to the people, the limits of its employment may be extended." (SC 36)

In other words, Latin is still the language of the Church! Why that is the case is a subject for another week. For now, let's dig a bit deeper into the text regarding this language switch:

"In Masses which are celebrated with the people, a suitable place may be allotted to their mother tongue. This is to apply in the first place to the readings and 'the common prayer,' but also, as local conditions may warrant, to those parts which pertain to the people . . . Nevertheless steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them." (SC 54)

Let's piece this all together. Put simply, the vernacular was optionally introduced particularly for parts of the Mass which change day by day (the readings and the common prayer), while Latin was meant to be retained for the *Ordinary* of the Mass, which are the parts that don't change. A few examples of the Ordinary you likely recognize are the *Kyrie* (Lord, have mercy), the *Sanctus*, (Holy Holy Holy), and the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) – parts we regularly sing/say in Latin here at St. John the Baptist!

Whether you're a "fan" of Latin or not, now you know what the text actually says! Stay tuned as we continue to debunk the myths and misunderstandings of the Second Vatican Council.

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

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!



Brian Garanich and Caroline Lunger
July 2021

Brian and Caroline met in April of 2020 and after a few short months, both knew that God had intended for the couple to be together. The happy couple got engaged in September during a family vacation to Hilton Head, South Carolina. Caroline grew up in Chanhassen and attended school at St. John's, where the Lunger family has been parishioners for over 20 years. Brian grew up in Strongsville, Ohio and lived there until attending college at the University of South Carolina, where he received his doctorate of pharmacy degree. He then moved to the Twin Cities for work and recently bought a home in Prior Lake around the same time his parents relocated to Minnesota last year. The couple is excited to be able to celebrate their wedding Mass at St. John's, which will be concelebrated by Brian's uncle who is a Catholic priest in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Financial Support

eGiving helps sustain and build our ministries throughout the year. 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

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!



Lent at St. John's

Join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17th at 8:00am or 7:00pm

Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent

Fridays in Lent at 5:30pm

Followed by adoration until 6:30pm

Small Group Bible Study on Prayer begins February 15 and 16

Monday evening or Tuesday morning options - registration forms in Gathering Place and online at www.stjohns-excelsior.org

Confession Times

Tuesday: 5:00pm

Wednesday: 7:30am & 5:00pm

Thursday: 7:30am

Friday: 8:30am

Saturday: 8:30-9:30am & 3:30-4:30pm

Fish Fry Drive Thru

See page 4 for more details

(note that our Fish Fry is by drive-thru only)

Friday, February 19th 3:30-7:00pm

Friday, March 12th 3:30-7:00pm

Formed During Lent

This Lent, we invite you to journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for FORMED Daily Lenten Reflections at formed.org/lent. **Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your Christian life.**

Formed is a free subscription-based resource that provides you unlimited online access to a wide variety of top-notch Catholic materials. **Podcasts, Bible studies, audio books, movies and more!** You can even download the app and take it with you wherever you go!

To create a personal, free account, please to go www.stjohns-excelsior.formed.org



Weekly Prayer

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2020

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2,44-46/Ps 32:1-2,5,11/1Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Monday: Gn 4:1-15,25/Ps 50:1,8,16-17,20-21/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8;7:1-5,10/Ps 29:1-4,9-10/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6,12-14,17/2Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4,6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6,18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-9/1Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Closed for President's Day

The church and school offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th for President's Day.

Ash Wednesday Mass Times

Wednesday, February 17th at 8:00am and 7:00pm

Mass Intentions

Sat.	February 13	8:00am	† Ed Van Pelt Sr
		5:00pm	Joe Shipman
Sun.	February 14	8:00am	Sophie Houlton
		10:00am	For the Parish
Mon.	February 15		No Mass
Tue.	February 16	5:30pm	Barb Thomas
Wed.	February 17	8:00am	For the Parish
		7:00pm	For the Parish
Thurs	February 18	8:00am	Sarah Franzier
Fri.	February 19	9:00am	Jim, Ruth, Joe Colnar
Sat.	February 20	8:00am	Sue Bannon
		5:00pm	For the Parish
Sun.	February 21	8:00am	† Michael Renard
		10:00am	Living & Deceased Members of the Martinka Family



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
- Tom Bartholomew

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.

Fish Fry

We are excited to be able to offer two Fish Fry dates this Lent! Please pre-order your to-go meal for **February 19th and March 12th** at www.sbjmarket.com. Pick up in the designated area of the school parking lot from 3:30-7:00pm. A runner will bring the food out to your car!

Prices: Adult Meal \$12
Children's Meal \$6

Adult Meal: Beer-Battered Atlantic Cod, Homemade Baked Beans, Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Bread Roll **gluten free baked fish available*

Kid's Meal: Homemade Macaroni & Cheese, Carrots and Celery, Bun, Cookie

Proceeds for this fundraiser benefit the school enrichment trips!

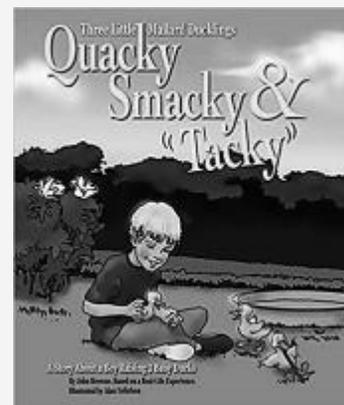
**Due to Covid restrictions, we are not offering in-person dining this year.*



Thank You John Browne

St. John's parishioner and teen author John Browne, who won the 2020 Moonbeam Children's Book Award, has donated his picture book *Quacky, Smacky & Tacky* to every student in our school! John is the son of Tim & Colleen Browne.

We are so grateful for his generosity! His book is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Catholic Schools Week Recap

Here are a couple photos from Catholic Schools Week. Magician Brian Richards and Fr. Carlson's Vocation Day presentations were great highlights! Thank you for your continued support for St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School!



Position Open

We are currently seeking applicants for a Toddler and Aftercare Assistant, Monday-Thursdays from 1pm-6pm. Please email the school at school@stjohns-excelsior.org if you are interested.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Tuesday, February 16th: No Faith Formation this week

Wednesday, February 17th: No Faith Formation this week. Please join us for Ash Wednesday Mass at 7:00pm

Saturday, February 20th 6pm: High School Movie Night

Permission Form for the Semester: <https://permission.click/MNjRb/us#/information>

Short Permission Form for this Event: <https://permission.click/QvKVW/us>

Monday, February 22nd 7pm: High School Women's Group Zoom

Tuesday, February 23rd 4pm: Faith Formation CGS Levels 1 & 2

Wednesday, February 24th 6:30pm: Faith Formation, Confirmation Year 2



What Are You Giving Up For Lent?

For years, this question defined what Lent was all about for me. Sure, at an intellectual level, I could have told you that Lent existed to spiritually prepare us for Easter. But at a real, day-to-day level, Lent was just about giving something up for forty days.

That something was usually chocolate. Every year, without fail, Lent would catch me unprepared, and I would make the same half-hearted commitment to give up chocolate (which definitely didn't extend to the completely different food groups of chocolate ice-cream and/or chocolate-chip cookies).

Then when Easter Sunday came around I would mentally congratulate myself and celebrate by devouring a chocolate egg twice the size of my head. Another Lent successfully completed (as far as I was concerned)

It wasn't until my final year of High School that my perspective on Lent changed dramatically. I was attending Mass on Ash Wednesday, lined up behind my classmates to receive the ashes on our foreheads. As I reached the front of the line, the priest made the sign of the cross on my forehead in ashes and said ten words I've never forgotten: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel."

Not only do these words mark the beginning of Lent, they also reveal its purpose. Lent isn't about giving up chocolate, or ice-cream, or social media. At its heart, Lent is about turning away from sin, and being faithful to the gospel.

Now, I don't know if you've tried turning away from sin and being faithful to the gospel, but let me tell you, it doesn't happen instantly. No one achieves Mother-Teresa-level-holiness overnight. It's a journey – but so is Lent! Lent is 40 days long for this reason. It echoes the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert, fasting and preparing for his public ministry (Luke 4:1-12). In a similar way, Lent is meant to be a time of preparation for us, where we grow in our relationship with God.

How do we make Lent a time of preparation? Well, for me it started when I decided that instead of giving up the same thing every year, I would actually try to live my Lent with purpose. There are three areas in particular that the Church teaches we should try to grow in over these 40 days: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. (*more on this in the upcoming weeks*)

by SAM BREBNER. Excerpt taken from <https://lifeteen.com/blog/desert-live-lent-purpose/>

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

Frater 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

Collection(s) as of: 2/8/2021	
	Actual
Sunday	\$5,568.00
Plate	\$381.00
	\$5,949.00

Year-to-Date Information as of : 2/8/2021	
YTD Budget	\$ 469,226
YTD Actual	\$ 596,692
Amount Over/(Under)	\$127,466

Year-to-Date Comparison to Prior Year as of: 2/8/2021	
Prior YTD Actual	\$ 517,300
Current YTD Actual	\$ 596,692
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$79,391

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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