



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

680 MILL STREET, EXCELSIOR, MN 55331



## FEBRUARY 21, 2021

{FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT}

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

## Montessori Education Week

This weekend we are honored in Minnesota to have a week dedicated to celebrating Montessori Education. After celebrating Catholic Schools Week, we are very excited to celebrate Montessori Education Week as well!

This year we are celebrating Maria Montessori's 150th birthday. A special tulip in honor of Maria Montessori has been commissioned in The Netherlands because of the great contribution she made to humanity.

We are proud and honored to have classrooms that fully support Montessori Education. It is hard to describe in a single paragraph; however, I will summarize it by saying that the classroom is founded on two truths: **That the child must be respected and that children can spontaneously love learning.** These founding truths, along with careful observation, form a child-centered method that Dr. Montessori called an "Education for Life." Its goal is to develop the whole human being - emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually - towards the nurturing of peaceful, caring citizens.



The prepared environment within each classroom honors the child with beauty and order, both essential for him to work at his natural, individual and optimal level. The materials used on a daily basis show the child how every aspect of learning is connected and intertwined. The Montessori teacher, or Guide as we call them, guides the child without interfering in her natural ability to teach herself, and becomes an independent, contributing member within the plan of God.

**St. John's is extremely fortunate to have both the Montessori Method and the Catholic viewpoint merge in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.** The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children ages 3 to 12. It originated in 1954 through the work of Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, a Biblical scholar trained in Catholic theology, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori educator. **Since 1999, St. John the Baptist has had this unique faith formation program which uses Montessori teaching principles to present the most essential realities of the Catholic faith to even very young children.** Specially designed materials and inspiring presentations help children explore areas of faith formation appropriate to their developmental age. Scripture and liturgy form the foundation for the Catechesis which has as its aim the development of each child's relationship with the Good Shepherd. As the child grows, this relationship of love becomes the basis for living a moral life and for finding one's particular place within God's Plan.

Underlying the entire catechesis are the following principles:

- God and the child have a relationship that catechesis seeks to serve with reverence and respect.
- The child is capable of perceiving the greatest realities of faith and must be given time and space to discover, enjoy, and ponder over these deep truths.
- The catechist is a servant of a message that is not his or her own and, together with the child, humbly listens to God's word in Scripture and ponders His action in liturgy.
- Prayer, contemplation, silence, and joy are natural components of the child's religious life which must be both prepared for and honored when they arise.

The Atrium is offered to the children at St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School as well as through the Faith Formation program. The Atrium has a 'retreat center' atmosphere and is a place where children experience the joy of falling in love with God and journeying with Him. We invite you to visit this beautiful spiritual environment for children. St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School and Church is the only school in the West Metro and one of just a handful of schools nationwide that completely integrates Montessori education with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. **Schedule your tour today and see the beauty of what the community at SJB has created and continues to offer.**

God Bless,  
Angela Wroblewski, Principal

# Lent at St. John's

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## Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent

Fridays in Lent at 5:30pm followed by adoration until 6:30pm

## 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

Friday, March 12th 3:30-7:00pm (*Order at [www.sjbmarket.com](http://www.sjbmarket.com)*)

## Exultemus!

Saturday, March 13th 7:00pm

# Make a Joyful Noise

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Myth #2: Vatican II got rid of chant.

It's odd that there was a widespread movement away from chant after Vatican II, because the document is incredibly clear and non-controversial on the subject:

*"The Church acknowledges Gregorian chant as specially suited to the Roman liturgy: therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place in liturgical services."* (SC 116)

There's really not much to sift through and explain here! The text follows up by acknowledging that *"other kinds of sacred music, especially polyphony, are by no means excluded from liturgical celebrations, so long as they accord with the spirit of the liturgical action"* (SC 116). So other sacred music is allowed, yes, but it has a lower ranking of importance next to chant.

But why? We've dipped our toes into these waters before – let's refresh your memory. Chant has been a part of the liturgical tradition pretty much as long as the liturgical tradition has existed! When we hear chant, our minds naturally turn to the sacred. It ushers us into prayer, since it is associated with nothing else in our modern world. It's a part of our *radical otherness* as Catholics.

And not only that, but chant also has unique characteristics that specially suit it to the liturgy. This is largely attributed to its lack of meter or time signature – there's no beat to tap your toes to, in other words. This makes it suitable to *any* text. There's no need to re-word and re-phrase to make the text fit the tune – instead, prayers are left beautifully intact and Scripture unedited to the flexible tones of chant. And just as chant isn't bound by beats and measures and time signatures, so too is our God. He is blissfully free, outside of time, and bound by absolutely nothing.

So not only is chant deeply interwoven into our liturgical tradition, it is also practically and even theologically meaningful! Hence, it's *"pride and place"* in the Mass today.

Exultemus Domino,

Kari Hoeft ~ Director of Music, Liturgy and Youth Ministry

# Vocation of Marriage

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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!



**Caroline Bildsoe & Andy Burns**  
August 2021

Caroline and Andy met in 2018 and started dating shortly after. They love traveling, being active, and spending time with friends and family. Faith is a big part of their relationship and they look forward to putting God first in their marriage. St John the Baptist Catholic Church is a community and parish that Caroline and Andy are excited to be a part of as a married couple.

## Financial Support

Last year, many in our St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish family chose to welcome the Lenten season by giving up envelopes and making the change to eGiving, and the steady support of recurring givers helped sustain our ministries during the upheaval of COVID-19. This year, we invite each of you again to prayerfully consider helping St. John's by embracing eGiving.

During COVID-19, our parish has sought out every possible way to reduce operational expenses without scaling back ministries, and encouraging eGiving is one of the most effective ways to lower our day-to-day costs.

With eGiving, you can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. You may Enroll electronically online at [faith.direct/MN855](mailto: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!

## A Message From SouthWest Options For Women

SouthWest Options for Women (SWOW) will begin 2021 with a relocation. We have secured a new space in the heart of the communities we serve moving to Eden Prairie Mall Tower Center, sharing a parking lot with Planned Parenthood. Being only steps away from their doors will give us the enormous blessed opportunity to reach many more abortion-minded women on a daily basis.

We are so blessed to have St. John the Baptist Catholic Church walking this journey with us to bring a life affirming message to so many more abortion-minded women. Thank you for your support.



## Information Session

St. John's Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a talk by Marie Ziesmer on Thursday, March 11th, in the Gathering Place. Marie is the Bilingual Client Coordinator for SouthWest Options for Women. She will be bringing us up to date on their recent building move and present needs in supporting women in the Western Suburban Communities. Look for more information in coming bulletins.

## Formed During Lent

**It's not too late to sign up!** This Lent, we invite you to journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for FORMED Daily Lenten Reflections at [formed.org/lent](http://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.**

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To create a personal, free account, please to go [www.stjohns-excelsior.formed.org](http://www.stjohns-excelsior.formed.org)



# Weekly Prayer

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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2020

**Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-9/1Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15  
**Monday:** 1Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19  
**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7,16-19/Mt 6:7-15  
**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19/Lk 11:29-32  
**Thursday:** Est C:12,14-16,23-25/Ps 138:1-3,7-8/Mt 7:7-12  
**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26  
**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8/Mt 5:43-48  
**Next Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18/Ps 116:10,15-19/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

## Questions of the Week

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### First Reading:

God promises Noah to use a “bow in the clouds” (a rainbow) as a sign and symbol of His divine pledge to never again allow a world-wide flood to devastate the earth. This is the Bible’s first recorded covenant between God and humanity. What do you think of when you see a rainbow?

### Second Reading:

Peter teaches that Jesus preached to both the living and the dead — those dead dating back to the days of Noah — and connecting us through baptism. What do you find intriguing about this idea?

### Gospel:

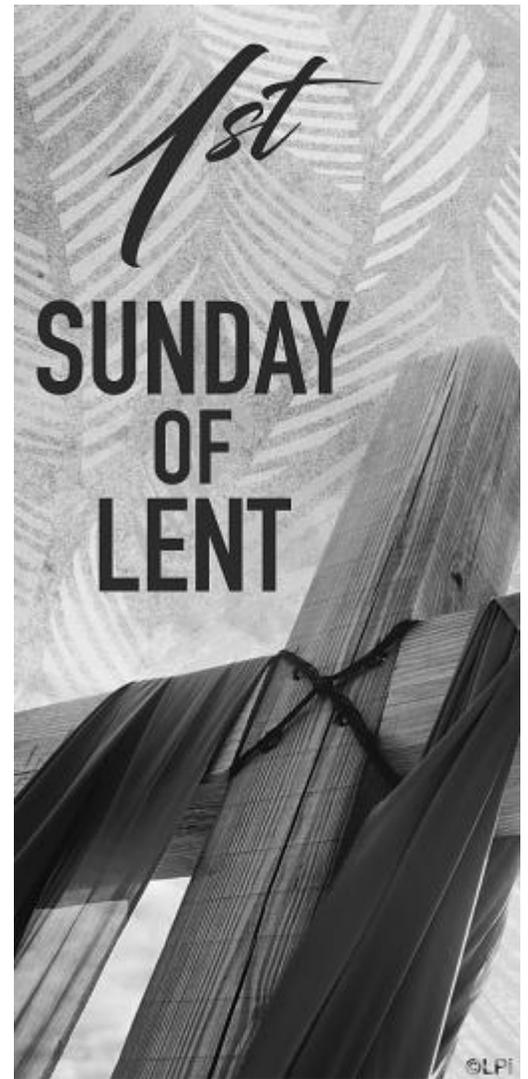
We hear about Jesus’ temptation in the desert and his inaugural gospel message to those living in Galilee. Jesus saw repentance as necessary to believe his good news. As we begin the Lenten journey, what aspects of your life require repentance?

© LPi

## Mass Intentions

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Sat.	February 20	8:00am 5:00pm	Sue Bannon For the Parish
Sun.	February 21	8:00am 10:00am	† Michael Renard Living & Deceased Members of the Martinka Family
Mon.	February 22		No Mass
Tue.	February 23	5:30pm	† George Koehnen
Wed.	February 24	8:00am	Bill & Judy Ashenbach
Thurs	February 25	8:00am	Jeff & Dawn Dobezenski
Fri.	February 26	9:00am	† Robert Peterson
Sat.	February 27	8:00am 5:00pm	† Dean Chinander † Kathy Bedford
Sun.	February 28	8:00am 10:00am	For the Parish † Diane Martinka



## Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

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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.*

## *St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School*

MONTESSORI EDUCATION WEEK  
FEBRUARY 22-26



Contact us to learn more:  
952-474-5812  
[www.stjohns-excelsior.org](http://www.stjohns-excelsior.org)

"You and everyone at SJB have been an unbelievable blessing to our son both in his faith and education. He is so happy there and as a parent that's all you can wish for for your kids. You truly have the best program and teachers that I've come across!"

~ Sent to our principal from a school parent

## SJB Micro Market

St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School Adolescent community is making and selling handcrafted items for you and your family to enjoy. 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](http://www.sjbmarket.com)

**Homemade items for sale: salsa, jams and sauces!**



## 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](mailto:school@stjohns-excelsior.org) if you are interested.

# Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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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

Saturday, February 27th 6pm: Middle 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>

Tuesday, March 2nd 4pm: Faith Formation CGS Levels 1 & 2

Wednesday, March 3rd 6:30pm: Faith Formation, Confirmation Year 1



## Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

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It's no accident that prayer is first on that list. We often get pre-occupied with the "fasting" part of Lent, which focuses on giving something up, but Lent is first and foremost about our relationship with God.

In the book of Hosea, God tells His people "I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." Above all else, God desires that we love him and know him.

Realizing this was a big turning point for me. After my "turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel" moment (TAFSABFTTG, for short), I decided that rather than giving up chocolate for Lent, I would commit to praying every day instead. We had a chapel at my high school, so every morning before classes began, I would go and spend 15 minutes in prayer.

Once, when Mother Teresa was asked how she prayed to God, she said "I look at Him and He looks at me." That was my model for these 15 minutes of prayer each day. It wasn't about having a deep emotional experience or saying a certain number of Hail Marys – it was just about spending time with God.

At times it was a difficult commitment to keep. But after 40 days of starting each morning with prayer, I didn't want to stop. Even now, six years later, the commitment I made that Lent still has an impact on my life. Every morning, when I force myself out of bed, one of the first things I do is spend time in prayer.

*(More on fasting and almsgiving in the upcoming 2 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

Fr. Carlsson 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: 2/16/2021	
	Actual
Sunday	\$8,383.00
EFT	\$8253.67
Plate	\$638.17
	\$17,274.84

Year-to-Date Information as of : 2/16/2021	
YTD Budget	\$ 493,428
YTD Actual	\$ 613,967
Amount Over/(Under)	\$120,539

Year-to-Date Comparison to Prior Year as of: 2/16/2021	
Prior YTD Actual	\$ 545,855
Current YTD Actual	\$ 613,967
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$68,111

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.....7:30am & 5:00pm  
 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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