



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

680 MILL STREET, EXCELSIOR, MN 55331



MAY 2, 2021
{FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER}

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

First Communion Reflection

Congratulations to our parish children who have received Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for the first time this weekend! From their earliest ages they have been watching their family members (immediate and parish!) come forward to encounter Jesus in this most beautiful way. As they have watched, they have also been learning more and more about Jesus as well as growing in their friendship with Him.

The youngest of children learn the names of the articles of the Mass – paten, chalice, crucifix, candles, and altar. Older children begin to watch the movements or gestures prayed by the priest over the bread and wine, asking the Holy Spirit to come and transform them into Jesus in the Epiclesis and then lifting up the Body and Blood of Christ as Father offers (on our behalf) the greatest gift we have, Jesus Himself, back to God. In this moment of offering or doxology we each reaffirm our part in this offering through our “Amen!” This gift of Jesus, once received, helps transform us so that we can share His peace and light with those around us.

Many of this year’s First Communicants have spent much time in the Atrium copying some of these most important prayers of the Mass and then illustrating them to show their understanding of each one’s significance. This making of a personal Missal has allowed them to ponder the Mass as one great prayer made up of many prayers in a new and beautiful way.

In the words of the children:

- Catechist: “When Father prays the Epiclesis, what is He asking God to do?”
- Child: “I know! He’s asking God to send the Good Shepherd to protect the sheep!”
- Catechist: “When we have received the greatest gift, the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist, what could we do? What do we do when we receive a really great gift?”
- Child: “When you get a gift, you give a gift.”
- Catechist: “What do you think the Peace of the Lord is like?”
- Child: “The Peace of the Lord is when God shares His gifts...like the Body and Blood.”

May the first reception of the Body and Blood of Christ by these children be the first of countless moments of welcoming the Lord Himself into their hearts and souls. May each time we are invited to come to the altar table and receive the best food and best drink, the very Body and Blood of Jesus be, for each of us, as momentous an occasion as the first time we welcomed Him “under [our] roof.”

God bless our First Communicants,
Carolyn Kohlhaas, Catechist at St. John’s

Congratulations First Communicants

Wesley Cathers
Kayleigh Corrigan
Liam Downs
Nicholas Flores
Hayden Goodkind
Jane Gorham
Cora Harwood
Nicholas Hodgdon
Piper Hurst
McKenna Kelly
Isabelle Kunisch
Athena Lacayo
Abigail Magnus
Nicholas Mesa
Vince Schmitz
Caedmon Thelen
Harris Van Hecke
Lauren Wallenfelt



Make a Joyful Noise

First Communion Sunday – what a beautiful day to celebrate the gift of the Eucharist! I can only speak for myself, but it was well over a decade after my own First Communion before I learned some of the basics surrounding our Eucharistic Liturgy.

We all know that the Eucharist dates back to the Last Supper, but did you know those aren't the deepest roots? The Passover meal Jesus was celebrating with his disciples was itself a longstanding tradition stretching all the way back to Moses. Most of us are familiar with the story – Moses asks the mean Pharaoh to free the Israelite people, which he does after a devastating ten plagues are sent, only to change his mind and chase after them, at which point Moses has his famous parting of the Red Sea moment followed by years of wandering in the desert.

Right in the middle of that story we find the roots of the Eucharist, just before the tenth plague is sent – the death of the firstborn. In order to be spared from the plague, the Israelites were told to sacrifice a lamb, put its blood on their doorpost, and eat the lamb in the context of a meal with an oddly detailed layout. Pray this, eat that, sing this, drink that, all prescribed for the sake of avoiding the death of the plague.

This strangely specific meal was celebrated year in and year out, and is the same meal Jesus was celebrating with his disciples on the night of the Last Supper. That is, until he changed the centuries-deep tradition by saying of the bread and wine: "this is my body. This is my blood." *This was no small event!* **He became the lamb, sacrificed so that others may live – so that we may live.** (Notice the lamb on the front of our altar for this very reason!)

My hopes in explaining all this is to give us fresh perspective on the Mass we celebrate today. Without this knowledge, Mass can seem to be an oddly detailed hour with long prayers and unusual practices. But the liturgy isn't just a strangely scripted creation of some old guys in Rome; it is the centuries-old tradition passed down to us from Jesus himself. **Of all Christian denominations, our Catholic liturgy is the one most similar to the liturgies of the disciples and first Christians in the early Church. We are also the only liturgy in which the very flesh and blood of Jesus Christ are made present to us.** So before we yawn, tap our toes, and wish things were 'more this' or 'less that', let's first remember *why* our liturgy looks, feels, and sounds like it does, and appreciate the immense gift that is the Eucharist.

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

Banns of Marriage

Please pray for this couple as they prepare to receive the wonderful Sacrament of Marriage!

May 15: Anne Flake and Trevor Patterson

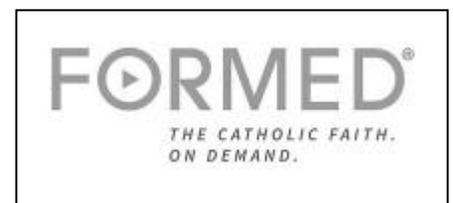


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Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Thank you for your generous support of last week's Catholic Home Missions Appeal. This mission helps strengthen the Church at home and ensure that the Gospel is spread across the United States. If you missed the appeal, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Financial Support

With eGiving, you can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift to support our parish. You may Enroll electronically online at faith.direct/MN855

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

ICA Foodshelf

ICA Food Shelf is currently hosting Pop Up Food Distributions every Friday now until May 28 from 9:00am – 11:00am. All Pop-Ups will be at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Hopkins. Boxes contain non-perishable foods, as well as produce, dairy, and protein. All are welcome, no appointment necessary. Wear your mask and drive-through to get your box! To receive text reminders and notifications on future distributions, text "APPLE" to 952.206.4109.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus membership drive is taking place through May 31st. If you are interested in joining or have any questions please contact Tom Davis: thomaspdavis50@yahoo.com or call/text 612-242-9569.



Who we are: Faithful male parishioners providing resources internally, locally and nationwide to help those in need.

Why become a Knight? To be a part of something bigger than yourself by helping others, volunteering and having fun. Get to know the people in the pew next to you! Help strengthen our parish. It's a great thing, you won't regret it! Live with purpose.

Mother's Day Carnations

The Knights of Columbus will be giving away carnations after all the Masses next weekend (May 8-9) for Mother's Day! Free will offering will go to SouthWest Options for Women.



SouthWest Options for Women Open House May 8th 1-4pm

Please join us in celebrating 30 years of helping women with unplanned pregnancies in our community. Our new center is conveniently located near Eden Prairie Mall and is steps away from Planned Parenthood. Stop by and tour our new space, learn about our new programs and how we plan to use our new location to help even more women in the communities we serve.

1:00 - 4:00 – Meet and Greet, Refreshments and Tours

2:00 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, hosted by Eden Prairie Mayor, Ron Case, and the Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce

2:30 - Welcome Bishop Cozzens - Center Blessing

Located at 574 Prairie Center Drive, STE 130, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Weekly Prayer

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2020

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-28,30-32/1Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Monday: 1Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-5/Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13,21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3,10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-10,12/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3,5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48/Ps 98:1-4/1Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

Schedule Change for May 8th No Morning Confessions

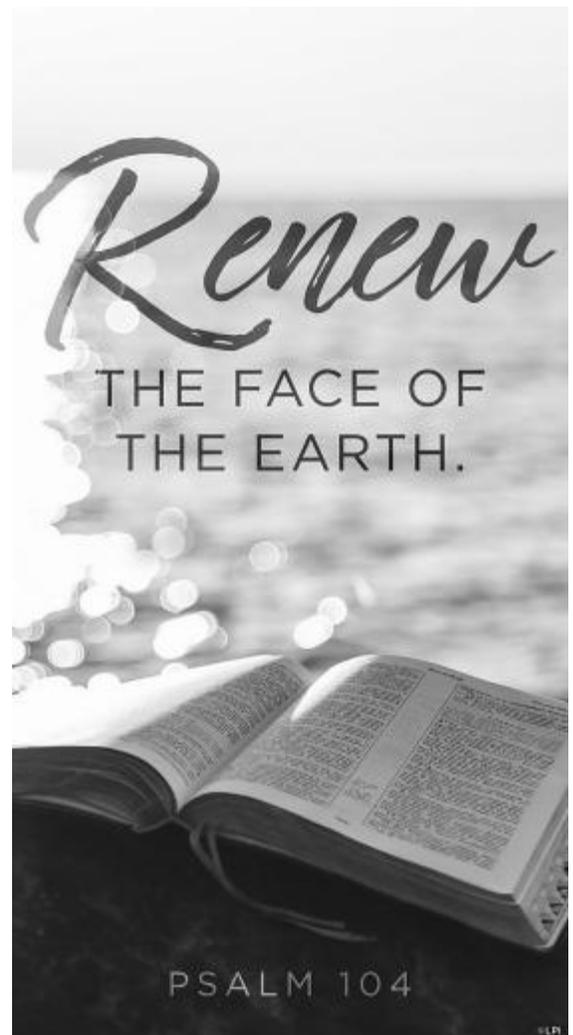
There will be no morning confessions on Saturday, May 8th. Fr. Carlson will be leaving right after 8am Mass to attend Joseph Nguyen's Diaconate Ordination. Please pray for Joseph as he prepares!

Rosary Before Mass

We have resumed praying the rosary again before all daily Masses. The Rosary will begin 25 minutes before Mass starts Tuesday -Saturday

Mass Intentions

Sat.	May 1	8:00am	† Emily Vassar
		5:00pm	Arielle Totty
Sun.	May 2	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of the Fritts Family
		10:00am	For the Parish
Mon.	May 3		No Mass
Tue.	May 4	5:30pm	Kathleen Murphy
Wed.	May 5	8:00am	† Marcella Matteson
Thurs	May 6	8:00am	† Howard Gans
Fri.	May 7	9:00am	†† Ed & Maureen Sweigard
Sat.	May 8	8:00am	Casey Houlton
		5:00pm	For the Parish
Sun.	May 9	8:00am	Jeff & Dawn Doboszinski
		10:00am	All Mothers



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
- Mike Salzer
- Joyce Koch
- Art Rosenberg

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.

Photos of the Week

SJB school students celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up the grounds and learning more about the earth and its continents!



Western Roundup Church & School Gala June 26th

By combining the annual church Gala and the annual school Golf Classic into one, big church & school Western Roundup, our total fundraising goal is \$100,000. We hope to partner with you – our parishioners and families to meet this very important need. To register, donate or sponsor, please go to: <https://sjexcels.ejoinme.org/westernroundup2021>

Here are some ways that YOU can be involved and make an impact:

- **Register to attend!** Tickets are \$50 per person for a fun night to kick up your heels, enjoy a great meal and participate in the community of St. John's.
- **Become a sponsor!** Did you know that we have a \$20,000 matching challenge?! Any NEW or INCREASED sponsorships will be matched! Please prayerfully consider helping us unlock this match!
- **Donate to the silent or live auction.** Our auctions are always a fun highlight of the night!
- **Donate toward our fund-a-need!** Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for Liturgical Vessels and Adoration Chapel Items including Chalice, Monstrance, Easter & Funeral Vestments and Security for the Chapel.
- **Volunteer!** We need LOTS of help moving tables and chairs, decorating, bartending, serving and tearing down. Sign up for a time at <https://tinyurl.com/gala2021volunteer>

Pre-Gala Paint & Sip!

Please join us on Wednesday, May 19th from 6-8 pm! We will paint outside by the school playground. Canvas, paints, instruction, heavy appetizers and wine are all provided. Parishioner and local artist, Ali Benda, will lead our Paint & Sip!

Cost: bring in a basket or item for the Gala silent auction (valued at \$25 or higher).

Pre-registration is required as space is limited <https://tinyurl.com/galapaintsip2021>



Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

May 1st and 2nd: First Communion during Masses

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

Wednesday, May 5th 6:30pm: Faith Formation, Confirmation Year 2

Saturday, May 8th 7:00 pm: Exultemus for the Parish followed by a High School Bonfire and Grill Out.

Wednesday, May 12th 6:30pm: Closing Mass for Faith Formation

May 15th and 16th: Confirmation during Masses at St. John's

Bonfire and Grill Out

High School: Saturday, May 8th, 7:00-10:00pm

Join us for Exultemus in the church at 7:00pm followed by a bonfire, hotdogs on the grill, outdoor games, and good conversation! Feel free to bring sports equipment and drinks or sides to share. Permission form here

<https://permission.click/Nvqpa/us>

FREE Family Fun Night Pre-Gala Event

Since the gala is adults-only (and we are not offering childcare this year due to Covid restrictions), we wanted to offer a family night! **You are invited to our FREE Family Fun Night pre-gala event that will be on the back lawn and playground on Thursday, June 24th from 5:00-6:00 pm.**

This is a FREE opportunity to:

- Meet new parishioners and school families
- Build community and have fun
- Celebrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist
- Enjoy a free hot dog meal
- Listen and dance along to the Teddy Bear Band

We will also have games. Please bring your own picnic blanket and/or lawn chairs.

Please RSVP for this FREE Family Fun Night here so we know how many meals to prepare <https://tinyurl.com/familyfun24th>

Vacation Bible School

Register today as space is limited!

All kids aged 4-11 are invited to Vacation Bible School! Our theme goes along with the St. John's upcoming Western Roundup as we are going on a Rocky Railway adventure! Gear up for a fun week. Each lesson is paired with a Bible verse, virtue of the day, and Saint of the day!

Vacation Bible School at St. John's will be **June 21-25 from 8:45 am - 12:00 pm** with a family fun night on **Thursday, June 24th from 5:00-6:00 pm** with live music by the Teddy Bear Band.

Cost is just \$50/child, up to a maximum of \$125/family. Scholarships are available.

Register online at:

<https://permission.click/6q8GA/us>



Volunteers Needed for VBS

Many volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School! If you are an adult or teen who can help, please email Sarah Reid at sreid@stjohns-excelsior.org

Help Needed for:

Faith Lessons, Music, Snacks, Group Leader, Pre-event shopping, Skits, Games, Crafts, Check-in, Skits, Photo/Video, Clean up

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

Fraser 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: 4/26/2021	
	Actual
Sunday	\$11,653.00
EFT	\$12,913.33
Plate	\$606.86
	\$25,173.19

Year-to-Date Information as of : 4/26/2021	
YTD Budget	\$ 644,430
YTD Actual	\$ 780,130
Amount Over/(Under)	\$135,700

Year-to-Date Comparison to Prior Year as of: 4/26/2021	
Prior YTD Actual	\$ 713,610
Current YTD Actual	\$ 780,130
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$66,520

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
 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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