



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

680 MILL STREET, EXCELSIOR, MN 55331



MAY 9, 2021
{SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER}

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

Mother's Day

On this Mother's Day, I recall a memory of my own mother. With four young children and little energy left in my tank, I turned to my mom and asked, "When is this going to get easier?" She looked at me, with understanding eyes, and said, "When motherhood ceases to be something you do, but rather someone you are."

This advice challenges me, to this day, but the good news is that Christ has already shown me how to become a mother. His instructions hang in every Catholic church. The image of our Lord, stripped of all he has, with his arms stretched out to serve, to comfort and to love. "This is my body, given up for you, do this in memory of me."

Mothers are honored with an incredible call to be this image of God's love on earth. He places a lot of responsibility in our hands. He, Himself, chose to save us through the love of a mother. He allowed Himself to be taught how to walk, talk, love and even pray by a mother.

The days that I remember and accept this incredible mission of motherhood, my hardships gain purpose. Diaper changing becomes holy. Yes, holy. Because these everyday acts of love strip me of myself, leaving behind a purer and selfless lover. A love that my children come face to face with multiple times a day, their first example of Christ's love. Through a mother's love, her children become equipped to be that love for those around them. Faith, hope, and love are only one generation away from extinction.

A mother's call reaches beyond her immediate family to the world, but it does begin with her family, amidst the mess, the noise and the tears. I recall, after one particularly challenging Mass spent wrestling toddlers, a kind man

approached me and said, "Those kids are going to make you a saint." His words could not be more true. Not only is my role as mother vital to my children and to the world, but they are equally my sanctification. It is the struggle and service of each day that will ultimately raise me up. "To serve is to reign" (CCC 786). So when will motherhood get easier? When we surrender all of our daily challenges over to the one who will transform them into love, for our sake, our children and the world.

Happy Mother's Day,
Gina Downs
Parishioner and School Parent



Make a Joyful Noise

When you hear the word “liturgy,” the first thing that pops into your mind is likely the Mass. The Mass is the most important kind of liturgy, as the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1324). But have you ever heard of the *Liturgy of the Hours*?

Much like it sounds, the Liturgy of the Hours are like little liturgies throughout the hours of the day. They are also referred to as the “Divine Office,” and are properly defined **as the daily prayer of the universal Church**. The hours are spread evenly throughout the day and night, initially structured around the Roman division of time. The first “hour,” for example, is at 6-9am and is referred to as “Prime,” or “the first hour.” Each “hour,” then, isn’t strictly 60 minutes, but simply refers to a particular block of the day. Have you ever heard the terms Vespers, Complin, Matins, or Lauds? These are a few of the other “hours” of the Divine Office!

Just as each “hour” isn’t actually 60 minutes, the prayer at each hour isn’t exactly 60 minutes either, instead lasting around five to twenty minutes. **This time is filled with a combination of psalms, prayers, Scripture passages, and hymns**. Depending on the which “Psalter” you are using, *all 150 Psalms are said or sung every one to four weeks!* For this reason, those who regularly pray the Liturgy of the Hours often find themselves memorizing many Psalms. What a beautiful way to “pray without ceasing!”

The Divine Office is prayed by all clergy and religious, but is encouraged to be prayed by the laity as well! The book with the layout of psalms, prayers, and hymns is called the Breviary, but can be quite confusing to follow without guidance at first. However, there are great websites and phone apps that lay out the prayers for each day in their proper order without the need to flip through the Breviary itself. A few examples are *divineoffice.org* and apps called *iBreviary*, *Divine Office*, or *Laudate*. **I encourage you to try praying even just one or two of the hours each day with family, a good friend, or even on your own.** Doing so, you will be joining the Church throughout the entire world in this beautiful and ancient tradition of prayer!

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

Mother’s Day Carnations

On this Mother's Day weekend, the Knights of Columbus are giving carnations to the adult women in our parish. These flowers are a sign of our appreciation for motherhood. If anyone wishes to make a donation on behalf of their mother or wife, your gift will go to assist women seeking support from the SoutWest Options for Women, our local Life Care Center.

Banns of Marriage

Please pray for these couples as they prepare to receive the wonderful Sacrament of Marriage!

May 15: Anne Flake and Trevor Patterson



May 28: Teresa Gorecki and Danny Masica



Financial Support

Making plans for the summer? Make sure to plan for your offertory as well! When your summer travels take you away from Sunday services, eGiving lets you continue to support St. John the Baptist and the ministries you cherish. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Recurring gifts sustain our parish through the busy summer months. You'll provide us with consistent support, even if you're away on a Sunday, so the programs, services, and ministries that mean so much to our community will never miss a beat.

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.

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!

Knights of Columbus

WE WANT YOU! To join the Knight's team! Our membership drive is the month of May with the initiation (exemplification) on June 6 right aft the 10am Mass. We encourage you to bring your family.

WHY JOIN: The church, school and parish need a strong Knights of Columbus to help with fundraising, social events and projects.

WHAT'S THE RISK? \$29.00 and a couple hours here and there. We don't wear funny costumes or a suit of armor but we do get to hand out tootsie rolls, carnations and make people smile.

I look forward to hearing from you – Tom Davis (612)242-9569;
thomaspdavis50@yahoo.com



Respect Life: Honoring Moms

Dear St. John's Parishioners,

The grass is greening up, the trees are budding, the birds are singing and Mother's Day is here.

As a mother of two grown daughters, I always look forward to Mother's Day when my family honors me for being "Mama". Through the many years of being a mom, I have come to respect my own mother even more for the bounty of love she gave us and the many sacrifices she made for my sister, brother and me. She always said she would "walk through fire for us if need be". Mothers everywhere understand this statement which I, also, say to my children and grandchildren.

Additionally, this time of year we are reminded of the many sacrifices that our Blessed Mother made for Jesus and all of mankind, and the love she bestows upon us still today. In that spirit, I would like to ask all of you to think of ways to honor your own mother as well as our Spiritual Mother, Mary.

In addition to the personal things you can directly do, please consider helping organizations like SouthWest Options for Women, Pro-life Action Ministries, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, etc. who do such great work on shoe-string budgets to save the lives of babies and help support their mothers. Please, especially, pray for these organizations to succeed in being the hands and feet of Jesus in a world that doesn't always appreciate them.

God bless you all and Happy Mother's Day to the many moms out there who tirelessly give so much of themselves to enrich all of our lives.

In Christ,
Susie Collins, St. John's Respect Life Chairperson

Weekly Prayer

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9, 2020

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

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1-6,9/Jn 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-3,7-8/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15,22-18:1/Ps 148:1-2,11-14/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 1:15-17,20-26/Ps 113:1-8/Jn 15:9-17

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3,8-10/Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3,6-9/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13/Mk 16:15-20

Questions of the Week

First Reading:

In the home of the Gentile-believer, Cornelius, Peter revealed one of the most significant insights from the early Church: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality." Where do you see this message of unity needed today?

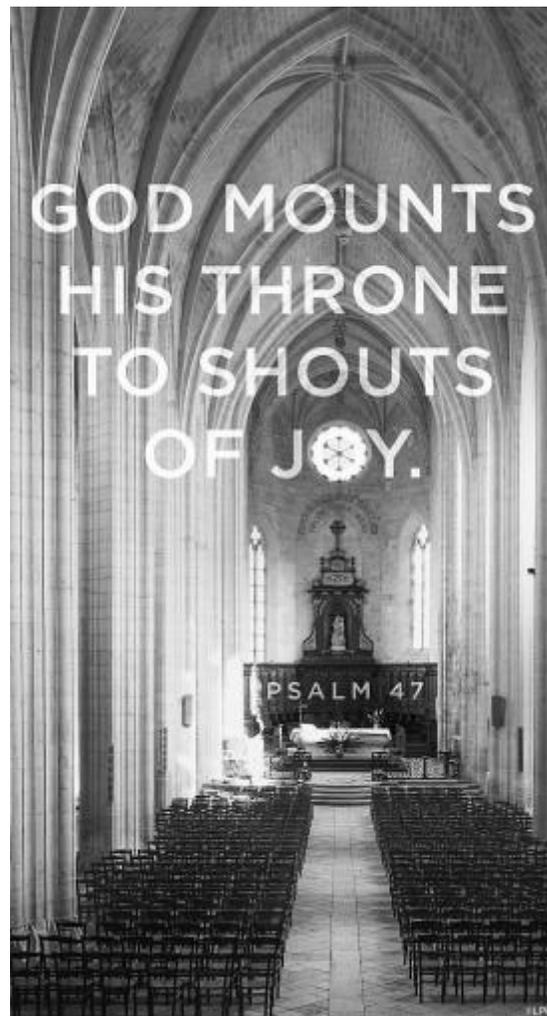
Second Reading:

John saw love at the very core of God's divine identity. In fact, for John, "God is love." For this reason, believers are called to love one another. How do you keep this virtue paramount in your life?

Gospel:

During his farewell discourse, Jesus refers to his disciples as his "friends." How often do you think of Jesus as your "friend?"

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Mass Intentions

Sat.	May 8	8:00am 5:00pm	Casey Houlton For the Parish
Sun.	May 9	8:00am 10:00am	†† Jeff & Dawn Doboszenski All Mothers
Mon.	May 10		No Mass
Tue.	May 11	5:30pm	Abby Smith
Wed.	May 12	8:00am	Colnar Family
Thurs	May 13	8:00am	† Pat Murphy
Fri.	May 14	9:00am	Marc Hexum
Sat.	May 15	8:00am 5:00pm	Fr. Andy McAlpin Elizabeth Behun
Sun.	May 16	8:00am 10:00am	For the Parish St. John's Confirmands

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.

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.

Help us unlock the \$20,000 match!

Any NEW or INCREASED sponsorships will be matched! Please prayerfully consider helping us unlock this match!

To register, donate or sponsor, please go to: <https://sjexcels.ejoinme.org/westernroundup2021>



First Communion Agape Meal

The week before First Communion, the school students continued the tradition of the older students serving an Agape Meal to those in 2nd grade as they complete their preparation time for First Communion. Agape love is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. It is the highest of the four types of love. The older students chose a 2nd grader to prayer for and serve. They fully gave up any self wants, desires, or comfort. They stood at attention to serve for 1.5 hours with no break! This is definitely one of my favorite traditions...those being served shared that they felt "so special"!

~ Angela Wroblewski, Principal



Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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

Summer Opportunities!

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (ages 4-11) will be **June 21-25 from 8:45 am - 12:00 pm** with a family fun night on **Thursday, June 24th from 5:00-6:00pm** with live music by the Teddy Bear Band. All activities will be outdoors and children will remain with the same group of children all week.

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!

Cost is just \$50/child, up to a maximum of \$125/family. Scholarships are available. Register online at: <https://permission.click/6q8GA/us>

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for some teen volunteers to help with Vacation Bible School! For those in Confirmation Year 1 & 2 next year this will help fill your volunteer hours requirement! To sign up, please email Sarah Reid at sreid@stjohns-excelsior.org

Family Fun Night

You and your family 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 5:00-6:00pm**.

There will be a free hot dog meal, the Teddy Bear Band will play, AND we will 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>

Extreme Faith Camp

Extreme Faith Camp is the best week of the summer for middle school students (high schoolers can sign up to help)! Save the date for **July 25-30!** Email khoeft@stjohns-excelsior.org if you want to register (spots limited).

Bonfires

Check the monthly calendar for bonfire dates throughout the summer!



Live the Liturgy

God is love. These three simple words deserve a great deal of attention. They have the power to transform our relationship with God from something that is static and distant to one that is personal and real.

We all know the power of love and how important it is to completing all of the human and divine circuits of our lives.

But we do not often consider the awesome fact that it is given to us as a gift and is not simply part and parcel of the human package.

God is the author of love and love itself.

When we truly love another human being, it is really God being God in and through us. The love to which we are called and the love of which the Gospel speaks is a selfless love that seeks the wellbeing of not only our significant others but of all of our brothers and sisters.

This love, which is of God, is a love that will endure all things and bring immeasurable joy when experienced. It is the most sincere form of friendship.

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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

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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

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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: 5/3/2021	
	Actual
Sunday	\$7,752.00
Plate	\$912.64
	\$9,019.24

Year-to-Date Information as of : 5/3/2021	
YTD Budget	\$ 660,930
YTD Actual	\$ 789,129
Amount Over/(Under)	\$128,219

Year-to-Date Comparison to Prior Year as of: 5/3/2021	
Prior YTD Actual	\$ 729,422
Current YTD Actual	\$ 789,129
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$59,727

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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