
St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish

680 Mill Street, Excelsior, MN 55331

September 19, 2021 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Catechetical Sunday

Are you the kind of person who sets goals for yourself? I am. In high school, I wanted to be the absolute fastest hurdler I could possibly be. How about you? Maybe you've had similar aspirations in sports, music, theatre, career, parenting, the list goes on! When we really want something, that thing we want places demands on us. It requires something of us. Let me elaborate further.

To become a faster hurdler, the first obvious thing I needed was a coach. **A teacher.** This teacher is someone who had experience hurdling and could therefore share her insights with me. She would point out my flaws in form and suggest ways to improve.

Another obvious element was *time*. Dropping my race times didn't happen overnight! It required consistent practice, day in and day out, whether I "felt like it" or not. This also required sacrifice – being at practice every day after school meant I had to say no to any other thing going on at that time.

And it didn't end at practice! Striving to be a successful hurdler **flowed over into the rest of my life** in ways such as eating and sleeping well and staying mentally strong. I had to surround myself with people and activities that were conducive to my thriving on the track.

Lastly, none of these things would really matter if I didn't **want it**. I had to keep my eyes on the prize with

passion and fervor! Without this, I wouldn't have had the physical or mental stamina that each day required of me. Why did I want it? Not to be better than others (that wouldn't cut it), but to **become the best version of myself.**

Today is Catechetical Sunday, and I see many parallels between my hurdling journey and our catechetical journey! Try rereading my elaboration above, but replace 'hurdling' with 'growing in faith'. In our never-ending journey of catechesis, we need a **teacher** to guide us, with Christ himself being our ultimate mentor. We must commit our **time**, and to let our desire to deepen our faith **flow over into the rest of our lives.** And we especially need to **want it** for the sake of becoming the **best version of ourselves** – the person God has created us to be.

This Sunday, let's renew our commitment to keep our eyes on the prize of heaven, and to meet with joy the demands this Christian lifestyle requires of us.

Let's thank those who have stepped in as teachers and mentors in our own lives, and respond by accepting the catechetical baton passed on to us – *to make disciples of all nations.* (Matthew 28:19)

Exultemus Domino,
Kari Hoeft ~ Director of Music, Liturgy and Parish Engagement



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Parish Picnic & Corn Roast THIS Sunday!

Join us for fun and fellowship on the back lawn at St. John's after the 10am Mass for our annual Parish Picnic!

Event includes:

- *Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- *Brats and hot dogs
- *Roasted corn
- *Potluck sides and desserts
- *Music
- *Bouncy house

Prayer for Catechists

September 19th is Catechetical Sunday



Prayer for Catechists

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2021

Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Financial Support

eGiving is a great stewardship habit – it streamlines your giving and lets you do even more to help St. John the Baptist grow our ministries that share the Good News of God’s love. Why not make the switch today? You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Recurring gifts were a lifeline during COVID-19 and sustained our parish throughout the year. They provide consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programs, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in need throughout the community.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/MN855, or text ‘Enroll’ to 952-209-7722

Community Support

THANK YOU for your continued support of ICA Foodshelf and SouthWest Options for Women! Please bring your donations during the offertory procession or place in the bins labeled ICA and SWOW outside the Gathering Place entrance. Thank you for your generosity!

Banns of Marriage

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

October 2nd: Kasey Penk & Joseph Rosensteel



Altar & Rosary Society

We are in need of 5-6 parishioners who can commit 2 hours per month for a one-year commitment to help with cleaning the church, as well as praying for Fr. Carlson and the community of St. John the Baptist.

This is a beautiful and rewarding ministry, which can be done at any time that works in your schedule, so long as it is not during Mass times, funerals, etc. Those who have been a part of this ministry have found it to be a very peaceful and fruitful time of prayer and service. Training will be provided.

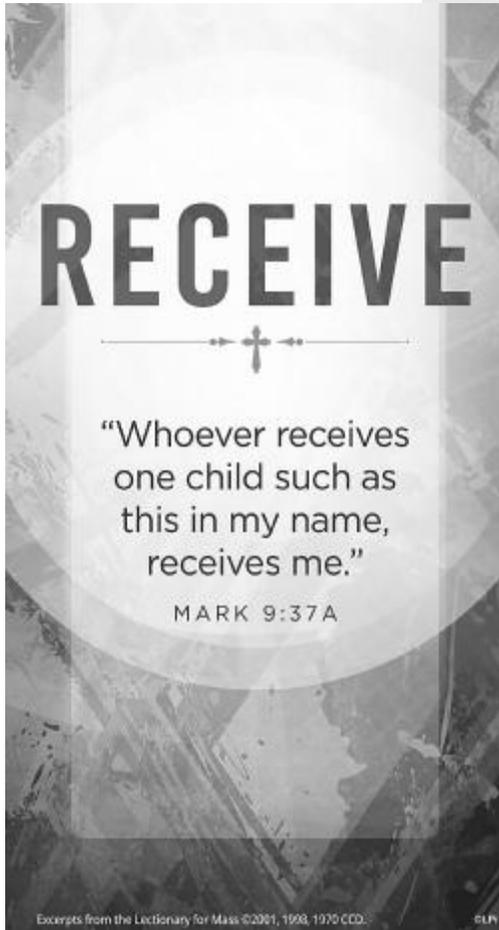
Contact Frances Phillips (edfranc3@gmail.com) or Kari Hoeft (khoeft@stjohns-excelsior.org) with questions and to get involved!

KC’s Mega Raffle Party

All are welcome on Saturday, September 25th from 6-9:30pm! Join us in the Gathering Place for **fellowship and live music throughout the evening.** (*You need not be present to win.*)



From 6-7:30pm we will sell burgers in a basket for \$5; choose from hamburger, salmon, turkey or veggie. We will also have free hors d’oeuvres. Help support our Catholic education scholarship fund by getting your tickets today! 50+ chances to win.



Weekly Prayer

Readings for the Week of September 19, 2021

Sunday: Wis 2:12,17-20/Ps 54:3-8/Jas 3:16-4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Monday: Ezz 1:1-6/Ps 126:1-6/Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7,11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday: Ezz 9:5-9/Tb 13:2-4,7-8/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1-6,9/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1-4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9,14-15a/Jer 31:10-13/Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8,10,12-14/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48

Questions of the Week

First Reading:

The Wisdom writer reveals the mentality of the wicked, characterized by revenge and treachery. How best should people of faith respond to such behavior?

Second Reading:

James offers insight into the human condition as it relates to how often our ambitions and passions can lead us astray. How do you keep yourself grounded in holy intentions?

Gospel:

We hear today how the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus questions and reluctant to share with him some of their tensions. Why do you sometimes hold back from opening up to the Lord?

©LPi

Mass Intentions

Mon.	September 20	No Mass	
Tues.	September 21	5:30pm	† Thomas Peterson
Wed.	September 22	8:00am	† Konrad Wurm
Thurs.	September 23	8:00am	† Anna Monsieur
Fri.	September 24	9:00am	† Bob Ross
Sat.	September 25	8:00am 5:00pm	† Konrad Wurm † Geraldine Holl
Sun.	September 26	8:00am 10:00am	For the Parish † Sandra McCormick

Pray for the Sick

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
- Ruth Colnar
- David Streeter
- Roger "Pete" Hansen
- Tom Bartholomew
- Mike Salzer
- Joyce Koch
- Art Rosenberg
- Caroline Garanich

St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School

Guided by our Roman Catholic faith, St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School prepares students to live out the Gospel message, achieve academic excellence, and joyfully lead by faith, virtue and reason.



Recap of the First Week of School

It has been a full and busy first week of school! The children are making new friends, exploring their environments and learning their first presentations of the school year.

They started off the week on Tuesday (9/7/21) with the first school Mass. Fr. Carlson gave a special blessing as they embarked upon this new school year. It was a wonderful way to start off the day and the first week!

Upper Elementary began the year with Five Great Lessons. Montessori uses these Five Great Lessons as an introduction to all topics, providing a “Big Picture” to demonstrate how the sciences, art, history, language, geography, math are interrelated. Through the Five Great Lessons, children become aware that the universe evolved over billions of years, and that it is based on the law and order through which all the plants, animals, and the rest of creation is maintained.

The Adolescent Community started the first week of school with a 4-day long camping trip! They split wood (see photo below), played some team games, and enjoyed community-building time together.



Youth & Adult Formation

“Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in You” ~ *St. Augustine of Hippo*

Faith Formation

Registration is STILL OPEN and we have room in our classes!

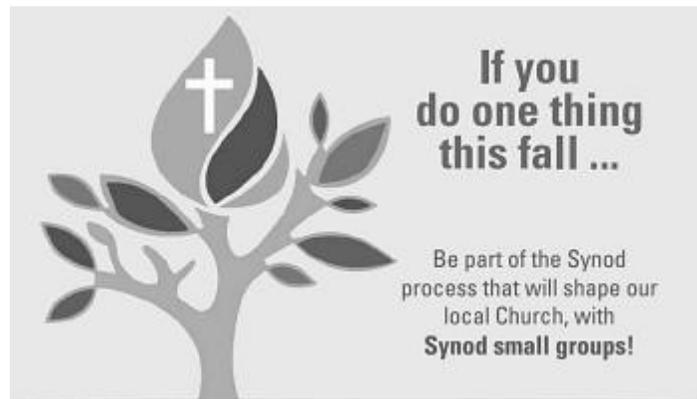
If you have not yet registered for our Wednesday night classes for the 2021/2022 school year, please go online and register today! We have classes for Pre-K through 10th grade. You can find out more and register here: <https://stjohns-excelsior.org/faith-formation/>

Our Faith Formation Kickoff & Mass will be on September 29th at 6:30 pm, so please mark your calendars!

Synod Small Groups

How can you share your feedback? Through Synod small groups. For six weeks, you will gather in a small group with other parishioners to:

1. **Pray** for God's guidance on how we can more vigorously proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!
2. **Learn** the Church's wisdom on the Synod focus area topics.
3. **Discuss** your perspective and ideas with other parishioners.
4. **Respond** with your feedback on Archdiocesan priorities to proclaim the Good News in our culture today.



Join us this fall to help shape the future of our local Church through the ongoing Archdiocesan Synod process. Options for this study at St. John's are:

- * Mondays, beginning October 4th from 6:30-8:30pm
- * Tuesdays, beginning October 5th from 9:15-11:15am

Stop by the table in the Gathering Place this weekend to find out more. You can also go online here to register <https://tinyurl.com/sjbsmallgroup2021>. These small groups are free and open to all!

Stewardship Update

*We have increased our Offertory Budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. 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.

Collections as of: 9/13/2021 Year-to-Date Information as of: 9/13/2021

	Actual	YTD Budget	\$180,817
Sunday	\$7,260.00	YTD Actual	\$151,435
Plate	\$505.00	Amount Over/ (Under)	(\$29,382)
Total	\$7,765.00		

Year-to-Date Information as of: 9/13/2021

Prior YTD Actual	\$170,093
Current YTD Actual	\$151,435
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	(\$18,658)

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil	5:00pm
Sunday	8:00 & 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)

Sacrament of Confession

Tuesdays	5:00pm
Wednesdays, Thursdays	7:30am
Fridays	8:30pm
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

Parish Offices

CHURCH: (952) 474-8868 Fax: (952) 444-3474

PASTOR: FATHER CARLSON

Ext. 216 | fr.carlson@stjohns-excelsior.org

DEACON: DCN GARY HOFFMAN

deacongary@stjohns-excelsior.org

ACCOUNTING: CHRISTA VASSALLO

Ext. 203 | cvassallo@stjohns-excelsior.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, LITURGY & PARISH ENGAGEMENT: KARI HOEFT

Ext. 206 | khoeft@stjohns-excelsior.org

PARISH ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: SARAH REID

Ext. 208 | sreid@stjohns-excelsior.org

OFFICE & CEMETERY MANAGER: MEGAN ADAM

Ext. 200 | madam@stjohns-excelsior.org

LEAD MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN: MIKE PYLKA

Ext. 205 | mpylka@stjohns-excelsior.org

SCHOOL: (952) 474-5812 Fax: (952) 444-3474

PRINCIPAL: ANGELA WROBLEWSKI

Ext. 301 | awroblewski@stjohns-excelsior.org

SCHOOL OPERATIONS MANAGER: MONICA BENDA

Ext. 300 | mbenda@stjohns-excelsior.org

PARISH TRUSTEES: BARB THOMAS, MARK SPANIOL

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR: PAT JOHNSON

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: CHARLIE KANAN

Building Hours— Open for Prayer:

Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

Saturday 8:00am-6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am-12:00pm

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