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# St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish

680 Mill Street, Excelsior, MN 55331

December 26, 2021 | Christmas 2021

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## Celebrating Christ

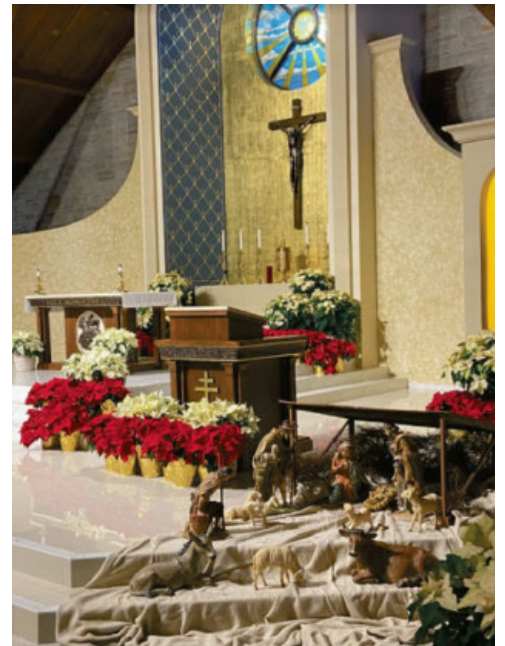
One of the highlights of the Christmas season for me is seeing all of the Christmas cards come in to the office with pictures of families. Be it a family that I see every Sunday or a family from another parish that I have served at, it is always great to see. In looking at the pictures, what I usually see is a family that is smiling, either in front of a Christmas tree or a beach, etc. This picture represents an image that they want to convey to everyone who receives it - a picture of a family that is happy to be together and one that wants to share their love with you and your family as well. Every once in a while, I think about what sort of Christmas card Mary and Joseph would send out. I think that it would be a card announcing “EMMANUEL” with a picture of Jesus. Of course Emmanuel means that God is with us, and that’s exactly what Christmas is about. Jesus Christ is our great blessing this season, so as we look at pictures of other families, make sure to look at Jesus as well, and thank Him for all that He does for us.

I hope that this Christmas season is a great blessing to you and your family. It is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ and all the gifts that He has given us. Speaking of gifts, one of the great gifts that our parish has been given is the opportunity to learn more about our faith through an online service called FORMED.ORG. This website has a ton of different content to help you on your faith journey, be it videos, books, audio books and talks, and much more. If

you have yet to register an account through Formed, you can do it by visiting [www.formed.org/signup](http://www.formed.org/signup) and just put in our parish name (St. John the Baptist - Excelsior, MN), or our zip code of 55331, and it will be free to you!

In this season of Christmas, let’s make sure to spend time with the one who we are celebrating: Christ. Maybe during this season you and your family can spend some additional time in prayer, especially in front of a nativity scene. Or you could stop by the church and spend some time in prayer in front of Jesus in the Adoration Chapel. No matter what you do, just make sure to spend time with Christ, because He is the one who we are truly called to worship.

God Bless and Merry Christmas,  
Fr. Carlson



### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

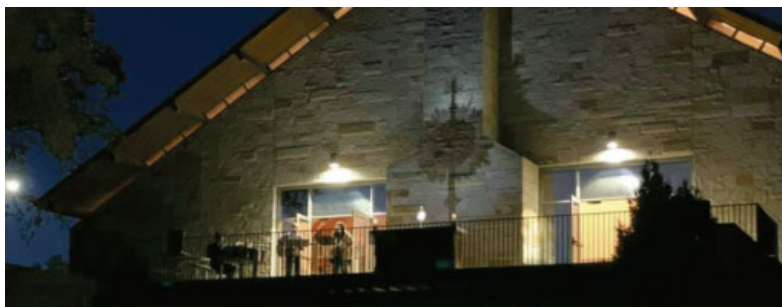
# Merry Christmas!

From all of us here at St. John's, we wish you a wonderful and blessed Christmas! Thank you for being a part of our community and celebrating Christmas with us!

*"For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*  
Luke 2:11

## Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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### Exultemus

Praise & Worship nights with Adoration, Confession, and a brief reflection - open to all ages! We host Exultemus one Saturday a month.  
**Next Date: January 29th at 7pm**

### Vacation Bible School 2022

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School June 20-24, 2022!  
The week is for children ages K-5th grade.



### Extreme Faith Camp 2022

Watch for our Extreme Faith Camp summer dates coming soon! This is an amazing week for middle schoolers and high schoolers to delve deeper into their faith while having a ton of fun!



# St. John's Parish Gala Coming June 2022!

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Keep an eye out for our annual Parish Gala date! We will have it in June this coming year. Join us for great food, fellowship, a silent and live auction, games for all ages, and much more!

Stay tuned for more details!

## Feed My Starving Children

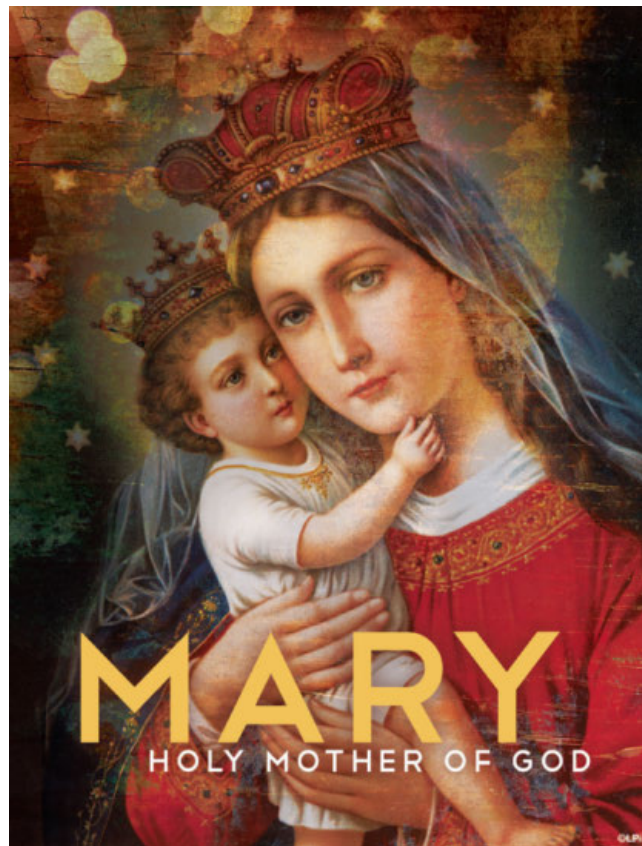
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We serve at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen every second Thursday of the month from 9am-11am. The next date is Thursday, January 13th. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Place to join us!

## Welcome Visitors!

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If you are a visitor and would like to become a parishioner here at St. John the Baptist in Excelsior or if you've been attending Mass with us for ages but just haven't ever gotten around to registering, please call or email the parish office and make an appointment to register to be part of St. John's wonderful community! You can also start the registration process by visiting our website at [stjohns-excelsior.org](http://stjohns-excelsior.org) and completing the New Parishioner Registration Form found under the About tab and either drop it in the weekend collection or send it to the Church Office. Welcome to our parish!



## Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

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January 1st is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. This year, it is not a holy day of obligation, however, we are still offering a morning Mass time the day of, **January 1st at 9am.**

There will also be First Saturday Devotions starting at 8:10am before Mass. No Confession will be offered after this Saturday morning Mass. Happy Feast!

## Offices Closed

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The Church Office will be closed December 31st and the School Office will be closed December 30th & 31st for New Year's. Happy New Year!



# Weekly Readings

## Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

# Questions of the Week

### First Reading:

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?

### Second Reading:

John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, "we may be called children of God." How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family?

### Gospel:

Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with "great anxiety" as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. How do you seek God's help for the anxious moments in your family?

©LPi

# Mass Intentions

Mon.	December 27	No Mass	
Tues.	December 28	5:30pm	The living & deceased members of the Salzer Family
Wed.	December 29	8:00am	† Sandra McCormick
Thurs.	December 30	8:00am	† Chris Foote
Fri.	December 31	9:00am	† Frank Laken
Sat.	January 1	9:00am	† James Hardy
		5:00pm	Teresa Aeshliman
Sun.	January 2	8:00am	For the Parish
		10:00am	†† Jimmy & Mary Savoie

# 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
- Terese Paetzel
  - Roger "Pete" Hansen
  - Tom Bartholomew
  - Joyce Koch
  - Art Rosenberg
  - Caroline Garanich
  - Scott Lunger

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# 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.*



## Building on a Legacy

As we enter this Christmas Season, we have been able to ponder with gratitude those who have come before us and paved the way with their faith, virtue and reason. St. John's has long been known for its strong community, parent involvement, academic excellence and generosity. Previous students, teachers and parents have created a faith-filled school where children thrived and developed the skills needed to be successful contributing members of society.

Today, we are building on the legacy of those who came before us, who have made St. John's the great place that it is. We aspire to continue this rewarding work, as we are guided by our Roman Catholic faith, and prepare students to live out the Gospel message, achieve academic excellence, and joyfully lead by faith, virtue and reason.

With hands-on learning in multi-age classrooms, our students work at their natural, individual and optimal levels. Older students are able to grow in leadership while younger students thrive through peer mentorship. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd engages the entire child, body, mind and spirit, bringing a deeper faith on a path leading to a meaningful relationship with God....the very beginning of each child's journey in their personal relationship with our Savior.

### Join us as we build on the Legacy by Celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

1. In place of the Pancake Breakfast, there will be cinnamon rolls to pick up on Sunday, January 30th!
2. Magician Brian Richards will perform again this year! His lively and entertaining presentation will take place in the school gym on Friday, February 4th at 11:45am.

THANK YOU for continuing to support St. John's Catholic Montessori School.

Merry Christmas and God Bless,  
Angela Wroblewski

*"The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school but for life."  
- Maria Montessori*



**A visit with llamas!**



**Back to School Night**



**Veterans Day 2021**



**Advent Celebration**

# Year End Giving

Thank you for your generosity!

## Your Gifts Are Welcome and Appreciated!

As we approach the end of calendar year 2021, here are a few ideas to help maximize your financial support for our parish:

### Direct Contribution through *Faith Direct*

You may wish to consider a very convenient way to offer your regular and sustaining support through our electronic giving process. Automatic deductions can be drawn from your checking account or charged to credit card each month. You don't have to worry about writing weekly or monthly checks – it's all handled electronically! Enroll today at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/MN855>. One-time gifts can be made up until 11:59pm on Dec 31st for the 2021 calendar year.

### Christmas Envelopes

There is a Christmas envelope in your December packet. We hope that you will maintain your regular weekly support along with making a special Christmas contribution.

### Stock Contributions

Appreciated stock is a great way to make a contribution AND perhaps maximize your tax benefit. Stocks must be transferred by December 31st for credit in tax year 2021.

### Employer Matching Funds

Check with your employer to determine whether a matching gift from your company can double the value of a contribution to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church or Montessori School.

### IRA Charitable Deduction

Individuals who are 70 and a half or older may direct distributions from their traditional IRA to eligible charitable organizations. The provision has a cap of \$100,000 for charitable distributions from individual IRAs each year. Individuals may exclude the amount distributed directly to an eligible charity from their gross income. The tax incentive regarding IRA contributions provides a marvelous gift opportunity for senior parishioners owning IRA's. Please consider a direct IRA distribution to St. John's!



### Donor Advised Funds

Establishing a Donor Advised Fund through Catholic Community Foundation can offer immediate tax benefits today while ensuring your ability to give to St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish in an on-going manner for years to come. For information about establishing a Donor Advised Fund, please contact Chris Nelson at [nelsonc@ccf-mn.org](mailto:nelsonc@ccf-mn.org).

*Please note that the IRS requires that gifts must be **postmarked or received** into the parish office by Dec. 31st in order to qualify for a 2021 deduction. Envelopes placed in the collection basket or delivered to the church by Friday, December 31st will count towards 2021 giving, while those placed in the collection on Saturday, January 1st and forward will count towards 2022 giving, **regardless of check date.***



# Thank you for Giving!

Thank you to all who support our parish! Your gifts make all we do at St. John's possible! Due to the timing of this bulletin, we do not have the most recent numbers for the offertory yet. We will print them as soon as we are able. Thank you!

If you are interested in online giving, **you can sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/MN855](https://faith.direct/MN855), or text 'Enroll' to 952-209-7722.** E-Giving 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.

## 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	8:30am
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*

## Parish Offices

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

**PASTOR: FATHER CARLSON**

Ext. 216 | [fr.carlson@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:fr.carlson@stjohns-excelsior.org)

**DEACON: DCN GARY HOFFMAN**

[garyhoffman44@gmail.com](mailto:garyhoffman44@gmail.com)

**PARISH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR: MARIE RICE**

Ext. 204 | [mrice@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:mrice@stjohns-excelsior.org)

**ACCOUNTING: CHRISTA VASSALLO**

Ext. 203 | [cvassallo@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:cvassallo@stjohns-excelsior.org)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, LITURGY & PARISH ENGAGEMENT: KARI HOEFT**

Ext. 206 | [khoeft@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:khoeft@stjohns-excelsior.org)

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & ADMIN ASSISTANT: MARY ELSEN**

Ext. 200 | [melsen@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:melsen@stjohns-excelsior.org)

**OFFICE & CEMETERY MANAGER: MEGAN ADAM**

Ext. 207 | [madam@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:madam@stjohns-excelsior.org)

**LEAD MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN: MIKE PYLKA**

Ext. 205 | [mpylka@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:mpylka@stjohns-excelsior.org)

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

**PRINCIPAL: ANGELA WROBLEWSKI**

Ext. 301 | [awroblewski@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:awroblewski@stjohns-excelsior.org)

**SCHOOL OPERATIONS MANAGER: MONICA BENDA**

Ext. 300 | [mbenda@stjohns-excelsior.org](mailto:mbenda@stjohns-excelsior.org)

**PARISH TRUSTEES: BARB THOMAS, MARK SPANIOL**

**FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR: PAT JOHNSON**

**PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: CHARLIE KANAN**

Church 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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