

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish

680 Mill Street, Excelsior, MN 55331

January 9, 2022 | The Baptism of the Lord



## The Baptism of the Lord

*When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

**Matthew 3:16-17**



### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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

# Calendar of Events

## Tuesday, January 11th

6:00pm RCIA

7:00pm Knights of Columbus Consecration to St. Joseph Meeting

## Wednesday, January 12th

Faith Formation Classes (4pm & 6:30pm - Confirmation Year 2)

## Thursday, January 13th

8:30am Women's Bible Study

9:00am Feed My Starving Children

7:00pm Knights of Columbus

## Friday, January 14th

10:00am Caffé & Avé

## Saturday, January 15th

5:00pm Mass

## Sunday, January 16th

8:00am Mass (Hospitality)

10:00am Mass (Hospitality)

## Mass Roots - Incense

Well, our in-depth journey through the parts of the Mass is already halfway complete! Before we move from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist, let's pause today and explore an element occasionally found in both portions of the Mass - **incense**.

First of all, what *is* incense? If you've ever noticed the priest, deacon, or server swinging a chain connected to an ornate metal container with holes in the top, this is what we call a **thurible or censers**. Inside, charcoal is lit and incense sprinkled on top, releasing not just smoke, but a sweet-smelling aroma! This is due to the composition of the incense, which most commonly consists of **frankincense or myrrh**. Sound familiar? The gifts of the three kings! They are actually resin from trees, and are valuable precisely because of their sweet scents as well as medicinal qualities.

So how did this smelly tree substance come to be associated with the Mass? We can actually go all the way back to the Old Testament and find Moses and the Israelites using incense for worship! Here and many other places, **incense is associated with purification and sanctification**. We hear in the book of Psalms: "*Let my prayer come like incense before you . . .*" The smoke from the incense is a **visible symbol of our otherwise invisible prayers** rising to heaven! St. John the Apostle speaks of incense similarly in his visions of heaven in the book of Revelation: "*Another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer . . . and the smoke of the incense rose with*

*the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God.*"

If the angels in heaven use incense to worship the Lord, it only makes

sense that we do the same! **The Mass is precisely where heaven and earth meet**; where we join the communion of saints in the absolute highest form of prayer here on earth. So next time we smell that sweet scent as the altar, book of the Gospels, offertory gifts, or we ourselves are incensed, **let us be reminded of the presence of the angels and saints** worshiping among us. As we watch the smoke rise, let us enter deeper into worship and **remember the sanctifying power of prayer - communing with the Lord, the Word made flesh** in a manger so many years ago, whom we are destined to worship for all eternity!

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



## Fr. Carlson on Vacation Jan. 17-26

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Fr. Carlson will be on vacation starting Monday, January 17th through Wednesday, January 26th.

**We will have the School Mass on Friday, January 21st at 9:00am.** However, there will be NO other daily Mass and NO daily Confession times available while Father is gone - this includes Saturday morning Confession & Mass, so please plan accordingly.

**We will have our regular Sunday Mass times - Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm and Sunday Masses at 8:00am & 10:00am.**

We will also have afternoon Confession available on Saturday, January 22nd from 3:30-4:30pm.

## Emergency Tornado Relief Collection

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Thank you for giving both financially and through prayer to those impacted by the recent tornados. To date, our parish has raised \$4,106.00 to help those suffering from the terrible aftermath. If you have not had the chance to give and would like to make a donation, please visit [www.archspm.org/tornado-relief](http://www.archspm.org/tornado-relief) for more information.

## Feed My Starving Children

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

## SWOW Thank You

Thank you very much for your generous donation of diapers and baby supplies to help women and their babies at SouthWest Options for Women in Eden Prairie. Your abundant generosity touches the lives of many needy children and families in our community!

SouthWest Options for Women (SWOW) is the only pregnancy center in the western suburbs. Your gift will help sustain the free services provided by our ministry to women facing the challenges of an unexpected or possibly unwanted pregnancy. Your generosity is the reason women in our community are receiving life-affirming hope and provisions.

SWOW's free services include pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, Life Coaching, pregnancy and parenting education, cribs, car seats, diapers, and other essential infant supplies.

With so many organizations to choose from, we feel especially honored our ministry was chosen for this gift of love and sacrificial giving. We appreciate your partnership in honoring the sanctity of life.

In Gratitude and Blessings,  
Kim Bennecke, Executive Director

## Retirement Fund for Religious

**Religious give thanks.** A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious! Over the past year, our parish has raised \$5,077.00. Thank you all for your generous support of our retired religious! *Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.*



# Weekly Prayer

Readings for the week of January 09, 2022

- Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
- Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
- Next Sunday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

## Questions of the Week

### First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah was called to bring words of comfort and good news to the beleaguered Israelites held captive in Babylon. How do you minister to those in your life struggling to find God's presence?

### Second Reading:

Paul taught Titus that baptized believers are called "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly." How well do you think you live by this moral and ethical standard?

### Gospel:

We hear today the account of the baptism of Jesus and God's words from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." What do you imagine Jesus did (prior to the start of his public ministry) that was so pleasing to God?

©LPI

## Mass Intentions

Mon.	January 10	No Mass	
Tues.	January 11	5:30pm	Delores Hoffman
Wed.	January 12	8:00am	Dillon Dupont
Thurs.	January 13	8:00am	Karen Nelson
Fri.	January 14	9:00am	Peter Hartwich
Sat.	January 15	8:00am	Sam Aeshliman
		5:00pm	For the Parish
Sun.	January 16	8:00am	† James R. Pluth, MD
		10:00am	† Mike Salzer

## 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
- Roger "Pete" Hansen
- Mary Rosati
- Tom Bartholomew
- Viviana Wright
- Joyce Koch
- Margaret Davis
- Art Rosenberg
- Joe Garaghty
- Caroline Garanich
- Ruth Colnar
- Scott Lunger
- David Streeter
- Jerry Doboszanski

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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.*



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## Welcome Back, Students!

The halls were quiet for a couple weeks with our students on Christmas break. The only activity we really had was a little Christmas party for the staff, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training, care a few days, and, of course, staff caring for the classroom pets. We are glad to have the students back in class and hope everyone enjoyed their break!



# News & Events

Take a look at what's coming up!

## St. John's Knights - Consecration to St. Joseph

**Are you on the consecration to St. Joseph journey (or curious about it)?**

Please join us for informal conversation regarding the book *Consecration To St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* and how the journey is going for you. The goal is casual conversation, fellowship, and support as you make your way to consecration.

We will be meeting in the Knights of Columbus Room (downstairs, the Lower Gathering Place) on January 11th and in the Gathering Place on January 18th starting at 7:00pm each night.

## Men's Silent Retreat

**Thursday, January 20 - Sunday, January 23**

Looking for the perfect getaway? Let God meet you at a beautiful retreat location in Lake Elmo, MN. Join us for a Men's Silent Retreat at the Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House January 20 - January 23. The retreat begins Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. Free will donations are accepted. For more information, call Bob Cardinal at (651) 398-1457 or check out the website [www.demontrevilleretreat.com](http://www.demontrevilleretreat.com). Other retreat days are also available.

## Ladies of St. John's - Give yourself a gift!

You are warmly invited to nurture your relationship with Jesus by attending the 6th Annual Women's Retreat - Deeper Love on Friday evening, January 14 & Saturday, January 15 at the Church of St. Therese in Deephaven. Take time out to come rest in His love during this time of learning & sharing, prayer, music, sacraments & sisterhood! We will welcome Minnesota author and national speaker, Liz Kelly, who will guide us to encounter a deeper love with Jesus Christ, as she shares insights from her award-winning book, *Jesus Approaches*.

The retreat may be attended in-person, virtually, or a combination of both. Cost is \$65 and scholarships are available. Details and a registration link can be found at [www.st-therese.org](http://www.st-therese.org). Come strengthen the tether between your own heart & the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." Let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 11-13, 2022 in Buffalo, MN and May 6-8, 2022 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call Brent & Tracy Chessen at 612-756-8720 or visit them at [twincitieswwme.org](http://twincitieswwme.org).

Collections as of: 12/28/2021		Year-to-Date Information as of: 12/28/2021	
	Actual	YTD Budget	\$500,793
EFT	\$10,829.33	YTD Actual	\$473,446
Christmas	\$8,490.00	Amount Over/ (Under)	(\$27,347)
Sunday	\$24,631.00		
Plate	\$2,154.90		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,105.23</b>		

**Year-to-Date Information as of: 12/28/2021**

Prior YTD Actual	\$468,714
Current YTD Actual	\$473,446
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$4,732

Collections as of: 1/3/2022		Year-to-Date Information as of: 1/3/2022	
	Actual	YTD Budget	\$517,293
Year End Giving	\$28,553.67	YTD Actual	\$510,835
Mary Mother of God	\$270.00	Amount Over/ (Under)	(\$6,458)
Sunday	\$8,078.33		
Plate	\$486.52		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,388.52</b>		

**Year-to-Date Information as of: 1/3/2022**

Prior YTD Actual	\$486,265
Current YTD Actual	\$510,835
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$24,570

**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)*

*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*

**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.

# Parish Offices

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

**PASTOR: FATHER CARLSON**

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

**DEACON: DCN GARY HOFFMAN**

garyhoffman44@gmail.com

**PARISH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR: MARIE RICE**

Ext. 204 | mrice@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

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

Ext 200 | melsen@stjohns-excelsior.org

**OFFICE & CEMETERY MANAGER: MEGAN ADAM**

Ext. 207 | 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**

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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