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# St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish

680 Mill Street, Excelsior, MN 55331

January 16, 2022 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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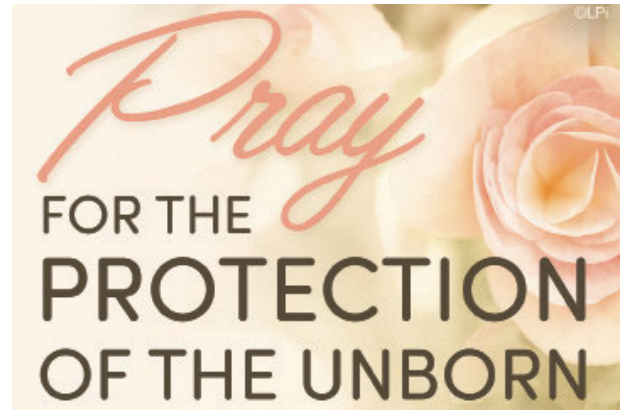
## *Hope for Life in 2022*

“2021 was the worst year for abortion rights since 1973,” claimed a recent social media post from a huge abortion group. Despite all the difficult news of the past year, **this** news is a consolation that there has been some good happening for unborn lives. While we currently have the most pro-abortion administration in US history and the most permissive abortion practices in the world, here is a quick look at why 2021 was devastating for the abortion industry, and the hope for a continued momentum for life in 2022.

Texas leads the charge for life with its Heartbeat Act, the Act standing despite numerous challenges. This law protects unborn children once a heartbeat can be detected, at 6 weeks gestation. This law is both saving lives daily and educating people that a heartbeat is present at such an early stage in development.

More pro-life legislation has passed on the state level in 2021 than ever before in our nation’s history. A total of 108 pro-life bills were passed, in comparison to the previous record of 89.

More babies have been saved on the streets through peaceful presence in front of abortion clinics than ever before. For example, 40 Days for Life reported that 2,505+ babies were saved during this year of prayer vigils. This number is double the previous record of 1,181 lives saved. Grassroots efforts like this are truly making a difference. Enthusiasm for the pro-life effort is growing wider and younger!



All eyes were on Virginia during the election in 2021. The abortion agenda fell flat! Additionally, Congress failed to pass harmful legislation. There are many pro-life candidates who are the favorites for 2022.

Thanks to amazing medical advancements, we now have pre-term babies who can survive and are viable at 20 weeks gestation. Nearly 50 years ago in 1973, during *Roe v Wade*, babies were only considered viable at 28 weeks. During 2021, baby Richard Hutchinson defied all the odds of surviving and now holds the record for youngest known person to survive at 20 weeks old and weighing only 11 ounces.

What a great blessing to have a conservative super majority on the Supreme Court, a dream that has finally come true! The Supreme Court is expected to issue a decision in spring/summer this year on the *Dobbs v. Jackson* case. Whatever the court decides, the consequences will be *enormous*. If the Mississippi law, which bans abortion before viability, is upheld, this could lead to overturning *Roe v Wade*.

*Continued on Page 2.*



### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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

# Calendar of Events

## Monday, January 17th

Father Carlson's Vacation Begins  
MLK Day - Church Office Closed  
No School - Care Available

## Tuesday, January 18th

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

## Wednesday, January 19th

Faith Formation Classes (4pm & 6:30pm -  
Confirmation Year 1)

## Thursday, January 20th

8:30am Women's Bible Study

## Friday, January 21st

9:00am School Mass  
10:00am Caffé & Avé

## Saturday, January 22nd

5:00pm Mass

## Sunday, January 23rd

8:00am Mass (Hospitality)  
10:00am Mass (Hospitality)

## *Hope for Life in 2022 continued from page 1*

Abortion law would then be left up to each individual state. There are predictions that up to 26 states would likely ban abortion as a result. Under *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, "pre-viability" abortion laws have been blocked for decades by federal courts. The outcome of this case could lead to extensive protections for the unborn without federal court interference.

Another great example of a pro-life victory from the Supreme Court happened in Philadelphia. Faith-based adoption through Catholic Social Services is finally restored and protected. The high court found that "the refusal of Philadelphia to contract with CSS for the provision of foster care services unless CSS agrees to certify same-sex couples as foster parents violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment."

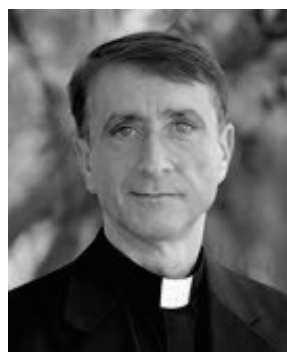
With this healthy dose of hope, take one step further. We need you in this fight. THE epic battle of our times! Abortion and contraceptive mentality have left our society and culture in ruins.

Consider attending the Prayer Service for Life on January 22 at 10:30am at St Paul Cathedral. Gather at 12:30pm in front of the Capitol to hear pro-life legislators give talks on important pro-life work.

*Next week: More ideas for specific ways to bring hope to our world.*

Ashley Burns  
Parishioner

## Cross Catholic Here Next Weekend



Father Bernard Olszewski will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach, which was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns

working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

Cross Catholic is a ministry that partners with bishops, priests, religious and lay workers to provide food, water, housing, education, orphan support, medical care, microenterprise and disaster relief — and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ — to the poorest of the poor in over 30 countries around the world.

## In Gratitude, SWOW

We appreciate your parish's partnership in honoring the sanctity of life through your generous 2021 gifts totalling **\$1,104.31**.

In Gratitude and Blessings,  
Kim Bennecke, Executive Director

# Mass Roots - The Profession of Faith

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We've listened attentively to the Scripture readings and homily, and it's time to profess our faith! This most often takes the form of the Nicene Creed. As "profession of faith" suggests, a creed is simply a set of beliefs. From where we stand in history, it's easy to take for granted the well-developed doctrines and explanations of our beloved Catholic faith. If you lived in the few hundred years following Jesus' time on earth, however, things were a bit different!

Fundamental questions about who Jesus is and his relationship to the Father were hot topics among the early Christian community. Was he human in body, but divine in mind? (Apollinarianism) Perhaps he was completely divine and only *appeared* to have a human body. (Docetism) Was he *created* by God, therefore the Son of God, but not truly God himself? (Arianism) These were all real theories, and since we have proven them untrue we now call them *heresies*, or false beliefs.

With all these ideas floating around, it was a confusing time for everyday Christians! Arianism was gaining substantial traction, so the Church stepped in and cleared things up. In May of 325, the First Council of Nicaea gathered and developed, you guessed it, the Nicene Creed! In it, the relationship of the Trinity was clarified. Jesus is "*begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.*" Jesus is both God's uncreated Son and God Himself - the mystery of the Trinity.

It's incredible how much depth these words have; how much debating and philosophizing it took to get them just right! Yet how often do we simply ramble off this powerful profession of faith out of mindless habit? Bring the Nicene Creed to prayer with you this week, and strive to truly *profess* it next time you're at Sunday Mass!

## Church Office Closed MLK Day

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The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 17th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## Exultemus Jan. 29

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All are invited to join us for an evening of adoration, praise and worship, and a brief reflection on Saturday, January 29th at 7pm at St. John's. Families, youth and adults are all welcome to participate! Confessions will also be available.

## 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.**

## FORMED

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Formed is a free subscription-based resource that provides you unlimited online access to a wide variety of top-notch Catholic materials. Podcasts, Bible studies, audio books, movies and more! You can even download the app and take it with you wherever you go!

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# Weekly Prayer

## Readings for the week of January 16, 2022

**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  
**Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22  
**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28  
**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6  
**Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12  
**Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19  
**Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21  
**Next Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

## Questions of the Week

### First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah used marriage imagery (bridge and groom) to describe the Lord's love for his people, Israel. What do you see as some implications of this marriage imagery?

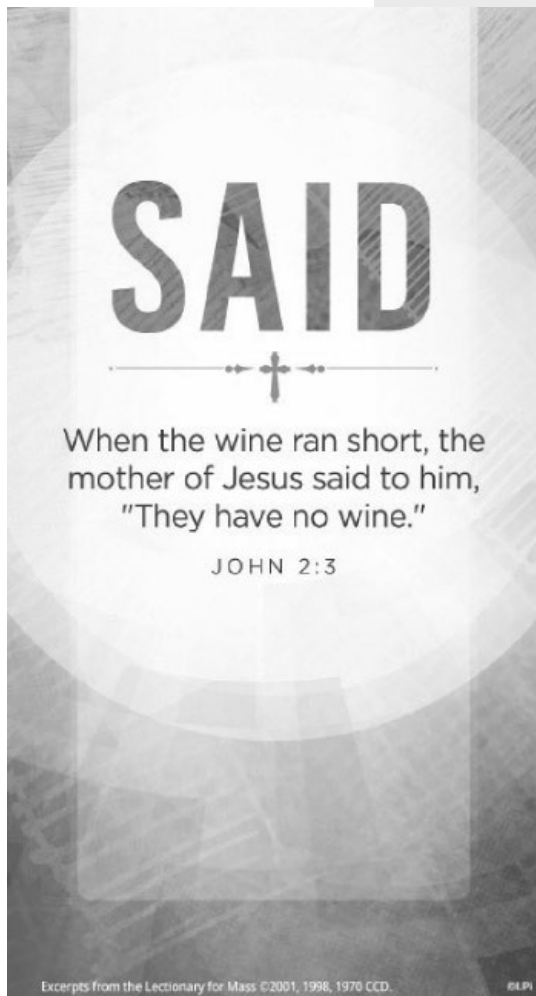
### Second Reading:

Paul taught the Corinthians that the individual gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant to benefit and unify the community of faith. How do you use your spiritual gifts within your faith community?

### Gospel:

Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana was one of the first public "signs" he performed revealing his divinity. It also showed Jesus' compassion, sparing the family shame at running short of wine. How do you imagine the family reacted to Jesus' intervention and rescue?

©LPi



## Mass Intentions

Mon.	January 17	No Mass	
Tues.	January 18	No Mass	
Wed.	January 19	No Mass	
Thurs.	January 20	No Mass	
Fri.	January 21	9:00am	Bishop-elect Joseph Williams
Sat.	January 22	5:00pm	Cross Catholic Outreach
Sun.	January 23	8:00am	For the Parish
		10:00am	The Lunger Family

## 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
- Joyce Koch
- Art Rosenberg
- Caroline Garanich
- 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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# Family Gingerbread House Contest

Many of our students signed up to build a gingerbread house over Christmas break for our Family Gingerbread House Contest. The students who participated each received the same gingerbread house building kit and were only allowed to use the items included in the kit. They returned their completed gingerbread houses when school resumed the Monday after break. The final results were all beautiful! The children now get to vote which house they like best and the winner will receive a winter family fun basket!



## The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The children at St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori school participate in The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of faith formation where children can grow in their relationships with God. Designed by Maria Montessori, and further developed in the 1950's by Sophia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobi, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a unique method founded in both Sacred Scripture and Liturgy and rich with the spiritual teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. Level I is designed for children ages 3-6, and Level II and III, with an emphasis on the parable of The True Vine, are for elementary children ages 6-9 and 9-12.



# News & Events

Take a look at what's coming up!

## Prayer Service for Life January 22nd

**Saturday, January 22, 10:30am, Cathedral of Saint Paul**

This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. All are invited and welcome. Saint John Paul II Champions for Life Awardees will be recognized during the prayer service. This event is sponsored by the Office of Marriage, Family and Life. For more information visit [archspm.org/prayer-service-life](http://archspm.org/prayer-service-life) or call 651.291.4488.

## January 22nd MCCL March for Life

On Saturday, January 22nd, join thousands of Minnesotans at the State Capitol in St. Paul at 12:00 noon for the MCCL March for Life. The March commemorates the deaths of more than 62 million unborn babies since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Your presence will help show elected officials and the public the importance of protecting unborn children and supporting women. Come speak for the voiceless! For more information, visit [mccl.org/march](http://mccl.org/march).

## Men's Silent Retreat

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 <http://www.demontrevilleretreat.com>. Other retreat days are also available.

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Give the best St. Valentine's Day gift possible by signing up for the February 12-13 Marriage Encounter! Weekends are held at Mt. Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit [www.marriages.org](http://www.marriages.org) to register, for additional information, or call 651.454.3238.

## Ordination of the Most Reverend Joseph A. Williams

**Tuesday, January 25, 1:00pm, Cathedral of Saint Paul, Saint Paul**

On December 10, Pope Francis named Father Joseph Williams, a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, as Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. The ordination of Joseph Williams to the Episcopacy will take place on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, with a public reception to follow. If you plan to attend in-person, please remember that Archbishop Hebda has strongly encouraged mask-wearing at Mass, in light of the pandemic. The ordination will also be livestreamed on the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis' Facebook page and aired on Metro Cable Channel 6. Learn more about Bishop-elect Williams, watch video interviews, and find details on the ordination at [archspm.org/newbishop](http://archspm.org/newbishop). Please join us in praying for our new auxiliary bishop!

# 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: 1/10/2022      Year-to-Date Information as of: 1/10/2022

	Actual	YTD Budget	\$528,293
Sunday (includes year end)	\$39,672.00	YTD Actual	\$550,932
Plate	\$425.00	Amount Over/(Under)	\$22,639
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,097.00</b>		

## Year-to-Date Information as of: 1/10/2022

Prior YTD Actual	\$495,876
Current YTD Actual	\$550,932
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$55,056

### 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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