Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

209 South Street
Waunakee, Wisconsin 53597
(608) 849 - 5121
www.stjb.org

Saint Mary of the Lake Catholic Church

5460 Mary Lake Road
Mail: 209 South Street
Westport, Wisconsin 53597
(608) 849 - 5121
www.stjb.org

APRIL 12, 2020

EASTER SUNDAY

"Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." - Mt 28:5b-6

DOMINGO DE PASCUA

"No teman. Ya sé que buscan a Jesús, el crucificado. No está aquí; ha resucitado, como lo había dicho. Vengan a ver el lugar donde lo habían puesto". - Mt 28, 5-6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. | Leccionario I © 1976 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano. ©LPi

Saint John the Baptist Pastoral Staff

Pastor, Rev. Monsignor James L. Gunn
Phone (608) 849 - 5121 ext. 311
Email jgunn@stjb.org

Parochial Vicar, Father Gabriel Lopez - Betanzos
Phone (608) 849 - 5121 ext. 352
Email (*Preferred*) frgabi@stjb.org

Deacon, Norbert Brunner (Deacon Norb)
Phone 608) 850 - 4669
Email nbrunner@tds.net

Business Manager, Jackie Nerat
Phone (608) 849 - 5121 ext. 118
Email jnerat@stjb.org

Administrative Assistant, Kim Piazza
Phone (608) 849 - 5121 ext. 136
Email kpiazza@stjb.org

Bulletin Editor
Phone 608) 849 - 5121 ext. 306
Email bulletineditor@stjb.org

School Principal, Liz Goldman
Phone 608) 849 - 5325 ext. 220
Email lgoldman@stjb.org
Fax (608) 849 - 5342

School Administrative Assistant, Beth Russell
Phone (608) 849 - 5325 ext. 109
Email brussell@stjb.org

Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis, Eileen Daley
Phone (608) 849 - 5121 ext. 174
Email edaley@stjb.org

En Espanol Maria Anderson, Spanish Sacrament Prep Assistant
Phone (608) 239 - 1394 Cell
Email manderson@stjb.org

Youth Minister, Karli Roessler
Phone (608) - 843 - 9332
Email kroessler14@gmail.com

Parish Council President—Tom Dorn
Parish Trustees—Dan McCausland and Tim Ryan

Parish Offices

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm at School Office

Email stjohnparish@stjb.org
Fax (608) 849 - 5866
School & Preschool (608) 849 - 5325
After Hours Emergency (608) 849 - 5121 ext. 3

Bulletin Articles & Notices
DEADLINE—Fridays @ 5:00pm—*ONE WEEK AHEAD*
Submit to www.bulletineditor@stjb.org

Saint Mary of the Lake Pastoral Staff

Rev. Msgr. James L Gunn, Pastor

Rectory (608) 849 - 5121
Msgr. Gunn (608) 849 - 5121 ext. 311
Father Gabriel Lopez - Betanzos (608) 849 - 5121 ext. 352
Fax (608) 849 - 4122
Website www.stjb.org
Email stmaryparish@stjb.org

Sacramental Life

Baptism, Baptismal Preparation Class, Weddings, Hospital Visits, Home Ministry (Eucharist), Scrip: Call Parish Office - 849 - 5121

Anointing of the Sick: First Tuesday of the month at the 8:00am Mass at Saint John the Baptist or by appointment.

Reconciliation: Saint John: Saturday 4:00pm and following the 8:00am Mass on Mondays and Tuesdays. Saint Mary: Saturdays at 4:30pm and following the 8:00am Mass on Wednesdays.

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction:
First Fridays of the Month 8:30am - 10:00am
Thursdays 9:00am - 9:00pm—Saint John the Baptist

PRIEST VISITS—If you or a loved one is ill and would like a visit from a priest, please call the rectory at 849 - 5121 for St. John's or St. Mary's. It is also very helpful if you tell care staff that you are a member of St. Mary of the Lake Parish or St. John the Baptist Parish. Msgr. Gunn and Fr. Gabi will regularly check with local hospitals and care centers to inquire about parish members in need of assistance.

**Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do Thou, O Prince
of the Heavenly Host,
by the Divine Power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who roam throughout the world
seeking the ruin of souls.**

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH
WITH THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Learn more about your Catholic faith by reading the Catholic Herald. If you do not subscribe but wish to receive the Catholic Herald print or new e - Edition in your home, contact your parish office.

If you need prayers for health issues, world peace, family issues, etc., or if you'd like to join the Prayer Network, please contact Doris Labarre 849 - 9692.

Mass Intentions for the Week	Saint John the Baptist	Saint Mary of the Lake
Saturday, April 11 *Holy Saturday*	8:00pm People of the Parish	8:00pm People of the Parish
Sunday, April 12 *Easter Sunday*	8:00am Deceased of the Parish 10:30am People of the Parish 1:00pm People of the Parish **Spanish**	9:00am ***NO MASS***
Monday, April 13 *Monday within the Octave of Easter*	8:00am Alvin Ziegler	8:00am ***NO MASS***
Tuesday, April 14 *Tuesday within the Octave of Easter*	8:00am Rahn Ripp	8:00am
Wednesday, April 15 *Wednesday within the Octave of Easter*	8:00am 59th Wedding Anniversary	8:00am Marianne Timmins
Thursday, April 16 *Thursday within the Octave of Easter*	8:00am Joe *(Anniv)* and Marcy Kopp	8:00am Dan CaPaul
Friday, April 17 *Friday within the Octave of Easter*	8:00am Marcy Greiber	8:00am Dan CaPaul
Saturday, April 18 *Saturday within the Octave of Easter*	Krystle Frey and James Erler *Wedding* 5:00pm Lucille *(Anniv),* Jerome, and James Wipperfurth 8:00pm Jim (Franco) Endres - In Memory of our 50th Wedding Anniv	5:15pm Shannon Maly
Sunday, April 19 *2nd Sunday of Easter* *Divine Mercy Sunday*	8:00am People of the Parish 10:30am Jerome, Dolores, David & Christopher Ripp 1:00pm Marcy Greiber **Spanish**	9:00am ***NO MASS***

A Spiritual Communion

Author Unknown

Jesus, truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament,
I love You above all things and
I desire to possess You within my soul.
Since I am unable at this moment to receive You
Sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as being already there
And unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

Please take an opportunity to pray for religious vocations by signing up to take the **Traveling Chalice**. You host the chalice for a week by displaying the chalice and praying for vocations each day. The pickup and drop off occurs on the weekend. For more information or to sign up please call Ed Gilkes at 608-358-5096 or email at edgilkes@gmail.com.

Current Schedule:

April 4/5 — Jim & Peg Tillman

For updates and information on COVID-19 from Bishop Hying and the Diocese of Madison, please go to their website:

www.madisondiocese.org/updates

Readings for the Week of April 12, 2020

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]; Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 [5b]; Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]; Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]; Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118: 1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a [22]; Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]; Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday:	Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

Please remember to keep in your prayers all those who have recently died and their families.

Laurie Maly

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let the perpetual light shine upon them.
And may the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Apologies to Bob Crahan and Family—Bob has not deceased as erroneously reported in last week's bulletin.

Prayer of St. Bernardine of Siena, Patron of all who suffer respiratory illness:

Jesus, Name full of glory, grace, love and strength!
You are the refuge of those who repent,
our banner of warfare in this life,
the medicine of souls,
the comfort of those who mourn,
the delight of those who believe,
the light of those who preach the true faith,
the wages of those who toil,
the healing of the sick.
To You our devotion aspires;
by You our prayers are received;
we delight in contemplating You.
O Name of Jesus,
You are the glory of all the saints for eternity. Amen.

O Mary, Health of the Sick,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you.
You know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide,
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows,
leading us through the cross
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

—Pope Francis, March 2020 (adapted)

Remember

O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

Extract from Saint Patrick's Breastplate

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me. Amen.

Lord Jesus,

You traveled through towns and villages
curing every disease and illness among the people.
At your command, the sick were made well.
Come to our aid now in this health crisis
so that we may know your healing love.
Heal those who are sick:
may they regain their health and strength.
Heal us from our fear,
which prevents us from helping one another.
Heal us from our pride,
which makes us certain of our health
and life apart from you.
Bless health care professionals with strength and
Compassion as they selflessly respond to our needs.
We make this prayer in your strong and holy name,
you, who with the Father and Spirit,
live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER IN TIMES OF PESTILENCE

The Star of Heaven that nourished the Lord
drove away the plague of death
which the first parents of man brought into the world.
May this bright star now vouchsafe to extinguish
that foul constellation whose battles have slain
the people with the wound of death.
O most pious Star of the Sea,
preserve us from pestilence;
hear us, O Lady, for Thy Son honors Thee
by denying Thee nothing.
Save us, O Jesus, for whom Thy Virgin Mother
supplicates Thee.

V: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Amen.

EASTER FLOWERS

St. John the Baptist Church

Marianne Meyer
IMO Jerome N. & Muriel Meyer
Richard & Kay Endres
IMO John & Marguerite McGinley; Adolph & Dorothy Endres
Linda Ziegler
IMO Bob Ziegler; Jerome, Mary Ann, Mark & Jerry Adler
Eugene and Diane Griffith
IMO Tina Griffith Paulson
Patricia McNulty
IMO Richard McNulty; Robert McNulty
Mary Bernards
IMO Bob Bernards; Our Parents
Richard and Joyce Riedner
IMO Adolph & Dorothy Endres; Leon & Bea Riedner
Frank and Alice Karls
IMO Lawrence, Marcella & Gerard Wagner; Robert & Mary Karls
Robert and Catherine Niesen
IMO Mike & Amanda Niesen; Albert Ripp
John and Carol Treinen
IMO Edmund & Lillian Acker; Eugene & Lydia Treinen
Mark and Laura Osinski
IMO Anne Brookes; Rita Zalewski
George and Beverly Morrison
IMO Ray & Julie (Dahmen) Kopp; William & Glenna Morrison
Richard and Holly Mercier
IMO Al, Albert, & Dolores Mercier; Elaine Bruesewitz
Ben and Sandy Meinholz
IMO Marv Greiber
Shirley Schmid
IMO Verlyn Schmid
Dennis and Janis Simons
IMO Donald & Helen Kovars; Greg Kovars
Paul and Dolores Bernards
IMO Our Parents
Laverne and Carol Statz
IMO John & Johanna Bollig Families; Jared Karls;
Anthony & Mary Statz Families; Brad Simon
Rita Heimbecker
IMO Bill Heimbecker
Brian and Ruth Soper
IMO Don & Colleen Soper; Edward Dodich
Robert and Renee Robbins
IMO Kassi Raley; Grandma Sandy Raley
Mary Heimbecker
IMO Deceased Heimbecker & Hellenbrand Families
Elain Laufenberg
IMO Ray, Ann, Edie & Fred Laufenberg
Beverly Roelke
IMO Marcus Roelke; Jan Natvig; Janel Oberle
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rapnicki
IMO Aloysius, Dolores, and John Rapnicki
Karyle Gile
IMO Pat Gile
Dennis Hampton
IMO Rita & Duane Hampton

St. Mary of the Lake Church

Richard and Susan Annen

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb
early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved,
and told them,
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don't know where they put him."
So Peter and the other disciple went out
and came to the tomb.
They both ran, but the other disciple
ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there,
but did not go in.
When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb
and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head,
not with the burial cloths
but rolled up in a separate place.
Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.
For they did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.
JN 20:1-9

20 Holy Hacks for Health and Holiness in the Pandemic

Patti Armstrong - *EWTN News, Inc. Reprinted permission applied for from the National Catholic Register*

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us." (Romans 8:18)

Although we are experiencing suffering and uncertainty due to the pandemic, there are also many opportunities to a grow closer to Christ and find comfort through him. A priest I know calls difficult situations like this our "holy place" where much has been stripped away leaving us feeling helpless — a place where we meet God.

Holy Hacks are ways to meet God. The term was coined in the book *Holy Hacks: Everyday Ways to Live Your Faith and Get to Heaven*, based on the popularity of "life hacks" as creative and easy ways to accomplish things. Holy hacks do that with the spiritual life, finding creative ways to grow closer to God and expand our capacity for holiness in everyday life. Here are a few suggestions for comfort and holiness during the pandemic.

1. Find assurance and spiritual guidance through the Quarantine Lectures, featuring such topics as *Grace and Anxiety: Spiritual Growth in a Time of Turmoil* and *Plagues: What We Can Learn from the Bible*, from the Thomistic Institute. You can also sign up for their free digital prayer book, *The TI Quarantine Prayer Book: Prayers in Time of Plague*.

2. Get your mind off your troubles through movies with good Catholic messages.

3. Ask St. Jacinta Marto, one of the Fatima children, to pray for those alone in hospitals. She died 100 years ago on Feb. 20, 1920, alone in a hospital at 9 years old. St. Jacinta predicted this would happen but was at peace and determined to offer her suffering for the conversion of sinners.

4. Spiritually adopt the dying. Fr. Philip Kemmy, a priest in Ireland, read the headline, "Everyone Dies Alone" and was moved to ask Catholics to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet daily to spiritually place themselves at the side of sick patients who can't take visitors.

5. If you are feeling shut in, read *The Diary of Anne Frank*, by a 12-year-old Jewish girl who hid an a small attic with her family for two years only to be discovered and exterminated. Or read *Left to Tell*, about Imaculee Ilibagiza's hiding in a cramped bathroom for 91 days with 7 other women in 1994 during the Rwanda genocide.

6. Don't test God. Practice social distancing so as not to put yourself in danger. Unite inconveniences to the sufferings of Jesus. Do the same with people irritating you at this time, including those in the media. Pray for them too.

7. Make a holy hour at your church or go to Online Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration for a listing of 13 chapels that broadcast adoration 24/7.

8. Go to daily Mass. Watch Masses on EWTN TV online or look for livestreamed Masses in the U.S. and a few in other countries such as in the U.K., Mexico, Australia and the Vatican.

9. Get the Vatican's special coronavirus indulgences daily.

10. Find blessings in your life as it is now and do a Rosary of gratitude, just naming a blessing on each rosary bead. Even in hardships, there are blessings — including electricity, food, Mass online and the gift of faith you've received.

11. Pray the Surrender Novena and feel daily consolation praying, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything!"

12. Offer up your sufferings, whether big or small. Don't waste suffering. Give it to Jesus in union with his suffering for your intentions.

13. While staying connected with people by the phone or over the internet, bless them. Pray for the person calling you and pray before you call someone.

14. When tempted to complain, take a breath, offer up your complaint and say a prayer for the sick instead.

15. Pray for first responders. Consider sending a gift card, a Mass card, or a note of thanks to those you know.

16. Start an email prayer group. A friend and I started a "Mary's Moms" group several years ago and we have more than 100 moms on the list. We pray novenas or a daily Hail Mary in between novenas and send out the saint of the day to pray for us. Do you have a book club or Bible study group unable to meet? Become a prayer group. We have only one intention — for the holiness of our families — which has now expanded to the safety and holiness of all families.

17. Comfort yourself with Scripture, especially where God promises to deliver us from fears. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). "*I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears*" (Psalm 34:4). The book *A Worrier's Guide to the Bible: 50 Verses to Ease Anxieties* by Gary Zimak might be helpful.

18. Listen to sacred or praise music, inspirational podcasts, or turn on Catholic radio to lift your thoughts and keep out negative thinking.

19. Set up a free conference call to pray together with family or friends. A brother of mine arranged this so that my 94-year-old Dad from his assisted living home led the Rosary with all siblings present from Prague, Alaska, Michigan, Oregon, Indiana and North Dakota. It worked so well we plan do it every Sunday from now on.

20. Make a daily sacrifice for our men in women on the front line, those suffering in the hospital, and for everyone suffering right now.

Saint John the Baptist

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

April 5, 2020

WeShare Online Giving	$5,491.00
Mail in donations	12,140.00

Saint Mary of the Lake

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

April 5, 2020

WeShare Online Giving	350.00
Mail in donations	3,175.00

Thank you to everyone for continuing to donate to our parishes during this difficult time. If you'd like to sign up for WeShare online giving, please go to www.stjb.org and choose either the St. Mary of the Lake or St. John the Baptist WeShare link on the main page. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call our parish office at **608-849-5121 ext. 118**.

Please sign up TODAY!!!

Waunakee and Westport parishioners will now be able receive parish communication through Flocknote an app developed exclusively for congregation communication.

Members of Saint John the Baptist and Saint Mary of the Lake parishes must sign-up to receive communications from their respective churches.

Parishes have separate Flocknote accounts.

Please visit our website to sign up:

www.stjb.org

Lighter Side

Home in Heaven

A pastor and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the pearly gates waiting for them.

"Come with me," said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine, from a bowling alley to an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

"Wow, thank you," said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the pastor to a rugged old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

"Wait, I think you are a little mixed up," said the pastor. "Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all, I was a pastor, went to church every day, and preached God's word."

"Yes, that's true," said St. Peter. "But during your sermons, people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed."

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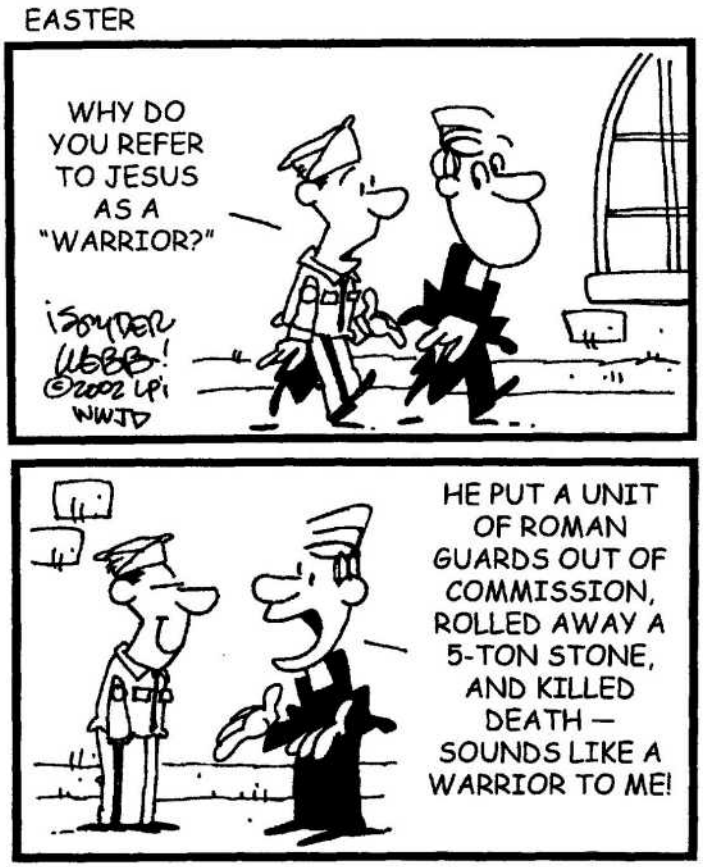


FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Eileen Daley (edaley@stjb.org) 608-849-5121 ext. 174
Maria Anderson (manderson@stjb.org) (Spanish) 608-239-1394

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Karli Roessler (kroessler14@gmail.com) 608-843-9332

2019-2020 FAITH FORMATION

Sundays Grades 1-6 9:15am-10:15am	Tuesdays Grades 1-6 6:30pm-7:30pm	Wednesdays Grades 7-10 7:00pm-8:00pm
4/12/20 NO Classes	4/14/20 NO Classes	4/15/20 NO Classes
4/19/20 NO Classes	4/21/20 NO Classes	4/22/20 NO Classes
4/26/20 NO Classes	4/28/20 NO Classes	4/29/20 NO Classes

First Holy Communion Masses

Children, we will look forward to celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at a future date when we can all come together on your big day! It will be a day of great joy and thanksgiving as you receive the Body & Blood of Christ for the first time.

CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL TEENAGERS!!!

It's been a crazy few weeks. There's a lot up in the air, and we're not sure when we'll start gathering at the Church again – but that doesn't mean youth events have to stop…

Thousands of teenagers from across the country are gathering on Sunday nights for the **BIGGEST YOUTH NIGHT EVER**. It's called **ProjectYM** Live and each week it'll feature some of the biggest speakers and worship leaders in the Catholic youth ministry world – last week they had OVER TEN THOUSAND students participate.

Saint John the Baptist is signed up to participate and students do NOT need to preregister.

All students have to do is head to **PROJECTYM.COM/WATCH** this Sunday at 7pm CDT.

Students will need a PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS to log on.

The broadcast starts at 7pm CDT, but plan to log in a few minutes early to make sure you're on when it starts. Students can access the event on any device with a web browser – but the faster the connection, the better.

Eileen Daley edaley@stjb.org

Buying **SCRIP** is a great way to support our school and parish community. Shop with gift cards in everyday categories including groceries, gas, restaurants and more. Scrip cards are available in the parish office.

Vacation Bible School

Saint John the Baptist Church
June 16-19, 2020??? TBA

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED TO SHARE IN THE MARVELOUS MYSTERY VBS!

HS & MS Students—Adults

Contact Eileen Daley at edaley@stjb.org
Or (608) 849-5121 ext 174

WE NEED HELP!

Are you looking for some meaningful way of helping families within our community? The **Waunakee Food Pantry** is in need of Volunteers who are *under the age of 70*, in good health and not caring for someone with a health need at this time. We are still open our normal schedule but with drive up service only in order to maintain social distancing. Donations can be made at the Waunakee Food Pantry, 806B S. Division St. in the donation box outside the door.

Top Items Needed by the Waunakee Food Pantry

- Spaghetti sauce
- Snacks
- Breakfast cereal
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Toiletries (Soap, shampoo, etc.)
- Condiments (honey, mayonnaise, ketchup and mustard)
- Crackers
- Canned meats
- Canned fruit
- Boxed or bagged dinners (Hamburger Helper)
- Boxed potatoes
- Pancake mix
- Pancake syrup
- Flour
- Sugar
- Snack items and crackers (Snack items that can be put into the Children's luncheons, any type of cracker)

Please check expiration dates on food items before you donate

The new church is locked during this pandemic crisis, so books are not accessible. Watch for further notice. Hope to see you SOON!

Diocese of Madison OEC—Marriage and Family—608 - 821 - 3000

Marriage Prep Weekend Retreats

Make the most of your marriage preparation!

For dates and registration, go to www.madisondiocese.org/mp

ESPANOL preparacion matrimonial

Spanish Real Life, Real Love Marriage Prep Session

Llame al 608 - 821 - 3000 para REGISTRARSE

World Wide Marriage Encounter

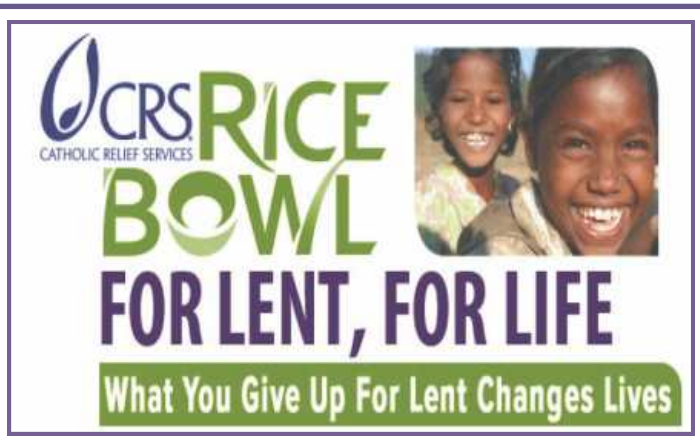
"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Do you believe that Jesus is the Lord of your marriage? Bring God into your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter. For more info go to: **alifetimeoflove.org** or call **(888) 574-5653**. Para un fin de semana en español por favor llamen a Candelario y Emilia al 815-375-4250.

Healing from Abortion

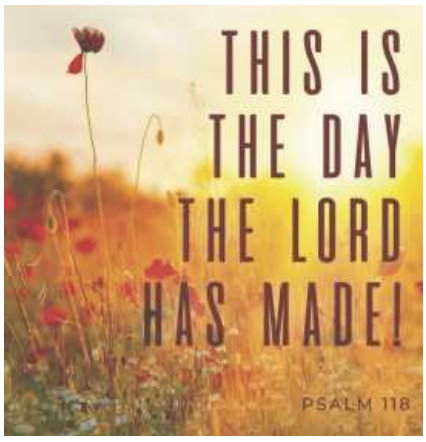
Healing from Abortion — One Weekend at a Time

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats - offer Hope and Healing for any person, who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion.

Visit: www.madisondiocese.org/rachel
or
www.madisondiocese.org/projectrachel



PLEASE SEND IN YOUR
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
RICE BOWL COLLECTION
BY MAIL IN THE FORM OF A CHECK.
MAIL TO:
SAINT JOHN CHURCH, 209 SOUTH ST., WAUNAKEE



Breakfast for the Homeless—Cereal for breakfast, sugar and powdered coffee creamer is always needed. A designated box will remain in the Gathering Room at Saint John the Baptist Church for these items if you are able to donate. Your donations mean a great deal *Thank you!*

The Beacon
Hope Shines Here

When we awoke this morning, we found ourselves blessed with another day. It is Easter Sunday. As that thought crossed our minds, did we find ourselves saying "so what" or "alleluia"? For many, today is truly a day of alleluia. For others, it is just another day of "so what." Faith makes a huge difference. It not only makes a difference in how we understand today and the significance of what we celebrate, it also makes a huge difference in terms of how we understand ourselves.

Succeed, live well, be productive, find your niche, follow your dreams, make money, protect your social status, be politically correct, and keep your preferences to yourself are pretty good examples of the messages our secular life wants us to hear. In and of themselves, they don't sound all that harmful. But when really examined, they are. The life of resurrection embodied in the Gospel tells us a much different story.

Life keeps us busy. We are always connected, distracted, occupied, and working. For many of us, an agenda awaits us before we even start our day, and unfinished stuff is brought with us when we retire at night. Make the best of life and "find your own road to happiness are messages we all too easily believe. The "so what" response to the new life of resurrection is often the result of believing that life is only what I make it. What God has to say isn't important to me securing my next raise.

Sadly, we live as if the grave is the end. While we may give the wonder of heaven a blink now and then, its glory really doesn't impress us or matter all that much. It's all about the here and now and what I need to do today to get where I want to be tomorrow. We tend to put off considering the one significant "tomorrow" that will come the millisecond after we take our last breath. When that happens, will we want to be thinking "so what?" or "alleluia"?

There is only one Jesus, one mission, and one resurrection. There is also only one of us. Have you ever pondered what one solitary, humble human life can do? Faith, not our world, tells us how special we are. We are not robots. We are not replaceable. We have one shot. There are no do-overs. Love is at our core and unites us together as one with the God of love who so desperately wants us to be with Him forever. This may not match our secular agenda, but it ought to make our true inner agenda leap for joy. There doesn't need to be an end. I can live forever. Alleluia! ©LPi

Hoy no se necesitan muchas palabras para entender lo sucedido. El contenido que se desea comunicar ya lo sabemos todos; "Jesús ha resucitado como lo había prometido." "El Ángel dijo a las mujeres: 'Ustedes no tienen por qué temer, yo sé que buscan a Jesús, que fue crucificado. No está aquí, pues ha resucitado, tal como lo había anunciado.'" (Mateo 28:5-6). Más adelante, se narra lo siguiente: *"Ellas se fueron al instante del sepulcro, con temor, pero con una alegría inmensa a la vez, y corrieron a llevar la noticia a los discípulos."* (Mateo 28:8). Cada año la Liturgia de este día nos invita a gozar de esa inmensa alegría, de ese gozo eterno que se anida en el corazón del ser humano que conoce al Señor y no lo deja, sino que por el contrario lo anuncia corriendo a sus hermanos.

Dios se revela de diferentes maneras, y en esta ocasión de la resurrección les da una misión a las mujeres; que vayan a Galilea a anunciar a los demás que lo habían visto. Ahora, en este tiempo, todos los bautizados tenemos la misma misión de ir a donde el nos espera: en la familia, comunidad y sociedad. La promesa de Jesús en sus palabras de *"Allí me verán"* (Mateo 28:10) tiene un sentido de responsabilidad de cumplir el plan de Dios que sigue resonando aun en este 2020. La Pascua que iniciamos hoy, es fuerza que empuja a ir a seguir luchando por el bien común y por la paz. ¿Qué tipo de gozo te deja este Domingo de Resurrección? ©LPi

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