

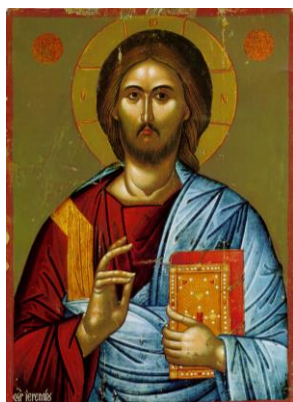
Welcome to this issue of the Messenger. The St. John XXIII Stewardship Commission works to highlight some of the many ways people are actively living out Christ's message of love and service in our faith community. This month we are pleased to tell you about a special program that will be held at *A Place to Be* Spirituality Center. Stewardship Commission

Encountering the Divine

Since the earliest days of Christianity, we have sought ways to express biblical stories through pictures and mosaics. Honoring the Jewish tradition, early followers were careful not to depict God through these images. However, with the birth of Jesus, God acquired a human face. Now that God could be seen, the Word-made-flesh could be expressed freely.

As Christianity spread, its art became more prolific. Since most Christians were illiterate, sacred art, often referred to as the poor man's Bible, became a manual for spiritual instruction, a means for meditation on Scripture, and a resource for prayer and worship. Sacred art was a central way the Word was proclaimed; walls and windows were covered with Scripture depicted in painting, stone, mosaics and stained glass. Through this art, the Word became more real, more present to worshippers.

Over time, as societies became more literate, we lost the ability to "read" sacred art and learn from its theological significance. On Saturday, April 6, Al McCauley from Cardinal Stritch University will unpack the richness of Sacred Art and help us gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of our rich heritage. We will learn how to "read" sacred art and practice *Visio Divina*, a way of encountering the Divine through contemplation with sacred art. Join us for an engaging, reflective morning:



Vision Divina: What We Can Learn from Sacred Art

Saturday, April 6

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Cost: \$25; registration is requested

Location: *A Place To Be* Spirituality Center

Call 262-284-9035 or register online at www.aplacetobesc.org.

Thank you to all who gave so generously of your time, talent and treasure. Huge thanks to the Men's Society and the others who volunteered to help at those wonderful Friday Fish Fry's and those who brought the desserts. Only one left this season and that is April 5, St. Peter's CafeteriaGuaranteed delicious! A fun time!

Upcoming events

Friday, April 5, 5:00 pm Men's Society Fish Fry, St Peter's Cafeteria

Saturday, April 6, 10:30 am, Communal Penance Service, St Peter's Church

Saturday, April 6, 5:30 pm Hospitality and Raffle & Bake Sale, after Mass at St. Peter's

Sunday, April 7, 11:30 am, Hospitality and Raffle & Bake Sale, after Mass at St. Peter's

Sunday, April 28, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Farewell to Building Open House, St. Mary's School

Please see the bulletin or Parish website at www.stjohn23rd.org for more information on these events and to see a full listing of events.