Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am and 10:00am
Tuesdays: 5:30pm
Wednesdays, Thursdays: 8:30am
Fridays: 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

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel
Open to all, 24 hours per day

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.

Resurrection Cemetery
5555 Covington Rd, Shorewood, MN 55331

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
**ADVENT**

Advent is my favorite liturgical season; it is a season filled with so much hope, joy, faith, and peace. It is also a time that parallels the posture of the human heart. Until we reach the gates of Heaven, we dwell in a time of waiting, longing, and anticipation. On a natural level we wait for a new job, a baby to be born, results of the test to come in, our friends and family to arrive, the debt to be gone, or our house to sell. In the big and small moments in life, we wait, we long, we anticipate. And as painful as these moments may be, I have come to know deeply that it is in these times that, if we are open to it, we can experience in abundance God’s nearness and goodness.

St. Augustine wrote:

*Simply by making us wait He increases our desire, which in turn enlarges the capacity of our soul, making it able to receive what is being given to us. We may [speak] figuratively of honey, gold, or wine – but, whatever we say, we cannot express the reality we are to receive. The name of that reality is God ... We must extend ourselves toward the measure of Christ so that when He comes He may fill us with His presence. Then we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

All of our waiting is a reflection of our ultimate longing for Christ. It is a gift to have a season where we are invited to open wide our hearts and reflect on what it is that we truly desire and long for. Each year, we bring each of our earthly hopes before Him, and seek Him within them. In prayer we ask “Is this desire making room for the One who wants to fill my whole being with His love and joy and hope?” How amazing is it that God uses our human desires to expand our hearts to make room for Himself?

I pray that this Advent may be a time of joyful waiting, hopeful longing, and peaceful anticipation for you and your families. May you walk with Mary & Joseph in these next four weeks, waiting with them for the birth of the child who is called Holy, the Son of God, Jesus.

God bless you,
Taylor Gruber
Director of Faith Formation

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**ADVENT RESOURCES**

This weekend marks the first Sunday of Advent. This is a time of preparation, of hopeful longing! Here are a few resources you can use over the course of the next four weeks to prepare your hearts to receive Christ at Christmas:

1. **Have an advent wreath** at home and light candles each week. (Find special advent wreath prayers at a Christian bookstore or online)
2. **Go to confession**; participate in the Parish Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, December 17th and/or see weekly confession schedule on front page of bulletin or website.
3. **Read an advent devotional**; find great resources on FORMED.org or pick one up this weekend in the Gathering Place.
4. **Start an advent calendar** and place a nativity set in your home - start a tradition!
5. **Have a Jesse Tree** - learning about the ancestry of Jesus.
6. **Help those in need** - serve at a shelter, feed the hungry, clothe the naked - and see Jesus in the faces of those you meet.
7. **Attend the St. John’s Concert Series Part II “From Darkness Into Light” on Friday, December 13th.** Dr. Christopher Weldon will play some beautiful advent-themed music.

Join us on Tuesday, December 17th at 7 pm for our Parish Reconciliation Service. We have several priests available for confession following a short prayer service.
PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

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
- Betty Roy
- Mary Rosati
- Viviana Wright
- Bill Ashenbach
- Margaret Davis
- Kon Wurm
- Ruth Colnar
- Kathy Bedford
- Steve Haskins

ST. JOHN’S CONCERT SERIES PART II

“FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT”

DR. CHRISTOPHER WELDON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH 7:00PM

For the second concert in this series, we are proud to present "From Darkness Into Light," with Dr. Christopher Weldon. Dr. Weldon is a Juilliard-trained concert pianist who will perform works by Brahms, Chopin, and Liszt. Please join us on Friday, December 13th! This concert is sponsored by Schmitt Music, featuring one of their Steinway concert grand pianos!

The concert will be followed by a reception where the audience may enjoy refreshments and fellowship and an opportunity to greet the performer.

*All concerts are open to the public with no admission charge. No registration required.

FR. DOSH SPEAKER SERIES 2020

GEORGE WEGEL

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH

We are very happy to announce author, analyst and Catholic theologian, George Weigel as our speaker for next year. Please save-the-date for Tuesday, March 17th for our 2020 series on Catholic Evangelization in the 21st Century.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2019

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1,8-9,19-21,25-27/Mt 7:21,24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1,4,13-14/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21,23-26/Ps 147:1-6/Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,19/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
PARISH EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
8:00am Mass (Hospitality)
10:00am Mass (Hospitality)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
7:00pm RCIA Meeting (Upper GP)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
Faith Formation Classes

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
6:30am Men Who Pray
7:10am First Saturday Devotions
9:00am First Reconciliation Retreat
5:00pm Mass
6:00pm Advent Celebration

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
8:00am Mass (Hospitality)
10:00am Mass (Hospitality)

MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Children’s Choir
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, Dec 11 & Dec 18, 6:00-6:30pm
Mass: Sunday, December 22, 10:00am
Christmas Eve Mass, Tuesday, December 24, 5:00pm

Adult Choir
Rehearsal: Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, 7:00pm
Christmas Eve Mass, Tuesday, December 24, 10:00pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. November 30 8:00am † Maurice Puype
5:00pm Sarah Frazer

Sun. December 1 8:00am For the Parish
10:00am Elizabeth Fritts

Mon. December 2

Tue. December 3 5:30pm † † Robert & Patricia Murphy

Wed. December 4 8:00am Joe Setten

Thurs December 5 8:00am † Donald Peterson

Fri. December 6 9:00am Gladys Mattheisen

Sat. December 7 8:00am † Howard Gans
5:00pm Sue Shipman

Sun. December 8 8:00am † Jay Schmidt
10:00am For the Parish

BEHOLD ST. JOHN’S

These past weeks we have had discussion with you about our Behold St. John’s Increased Offertory Program. Our parish has so much to offer to those in the Excelsior community. We are a beacon of hope for those in need, for those suffering, for those who are hungry, searching, and need our prayers and assistance in a multitude of ways. We are also there for our parish family through the administration of the sacraments, the celebration of Mass, and the Holy Eucharist. How blessed we are to be able to serve so many in our parish and community!

We are called by God to continue to advance our mission and to build up God’s Kingdom here in Excelsior. There are so many more people who need our assistance. There is so much more work to be done. The reality is that we will always need resources to do God’s work. Until the needy are clothed, the hungry are fed, and the Gospel is spread to the ends of the earth, we will need resources.

Many of you have already submitted your Commitment Card to the church and have committed your offertory support to continue to advance our parish mission. Thank you! Many of you have not yet submitted your commitment card. Our goal through this initiative is 100% participation from our parish community. Please turn in your Commitment Card this week if you have not already done so in order to be accounted for in the final Summary Report. Please pray for our parish. Please become involved in the life of our parish by joining a ministry to help serve those in need. St. John’s Catholic Church is a wonderful parish because of YOU and what each one of you make of it!

For those registered parishioners not currently supporting the church with regular offertory gifts, please consider a monthly gift to support the needs of our parish.

I thank you for your generosity and am humbled by your sacrifice. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

May the Lord continue to bless us and the work we are doing!

~ Andrea McMerty-Brummer, Parish Administrator
Advent Candles on Sale Now
Back by popular request! Middle School students have made Advent candles from pure beeswax. Funds raised will support their winter camping trip to the Audubon Center of the North Woods. Candles can be purchased in the school office. For more information please call the school at 952-474-5812.

Set of 4 Candles: $15
White Christ Candle: $5

School Advent Program
Thursday, December 19th at 6:00pm
Join us for our Advent Celebration in the school gym with reception to follow. Pray with us through song and scripture reading!

Christmas Around the World
Friday, December 20th from 2:30-3:30pm
Mark your calendars for Christmas Around the World. This is a time set aside to hear from the elementary and middle school students how other countries celebrate Christmas. Enjoy a sample taste of traditional food from various countries. All are invited to join in this celebration in the school cafeteria.
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Wednesday, December 4th:**
*First Reconciliation Meditation, 5:45-6:30pm
*Confirmation Year 2 Meets

**Saturday, December 7th:**
*First Reconciliation Retreat, 9:00am—noon
*Advent Celebration 6:00-8:00pm

**Wednesday, December 11th:**
*Feed My Starving Children 5:45-7:30 PM, 4th-10th Grade

**Tuesday, December 17th:**
* First Reconciliation

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**FIRESIDE DISCUSSION WITH TALA**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH**
**FROM 6:30—8:00PM**
Join us for a "Fireside" gathering with discussion on the book, *The Gifts of Imperfect Parenting* by Brené Brown on Dec. 4 from 6:30 - 8:00pm. This is the second in the two-part discussion, but if you missed the first one, don’t worry; come anyway as you are sure to gain some great insight! Find the audiobook for purchase online, for free with an Audible trial or at your local library.

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**GARDEN PATCH GIFT CERTIFICATES ON SALE**

Please contact the parish office to buy your gift certificates this year for the Garden Patch! This youth fundraiser is going on now. You can use the gift certificates for trees, wreaths, decorations, etc - anything and everything they have to make your home festive for the holidays! You can also purchase the gift certificates online here: [https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/MN855/27057](https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/MN855/27057) and pick them up in the church office.

*Youth will sell gift certificates after Masses most weekends.*

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**JOIN US FOR AN ADVENT CELEBRATION**

**FAMILIES: COME PREPARE YOUR HEART TO RECEIVE THE NEWBORN KING!**

**DECEMBER 7 AT 6:00 PM**
**IN THE GATHERING PLACE**

**FOLLOWING THE 5:00 PM MASS, COME FOR PIZZA, PRAISE & WORSHIP, AND COOKIE DECORATING!**

Let us know you’re coming at [https://tinyurl.com/sjladvent](https://tinyurl.com/sjladvent)

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**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**

All 4th - 10th Grade Faith Formation Classes will be serving at Feed My Starving Children on

**DECEMBER 11 FROM 5:45—7:30 PM**

Please plan to drop your child off and pick up at FMSC (18732 Lake Dr E, Chanhassen, MN 55317). Parent volunteers will be needed to help pack food that evening. Please watch your emails for more details.
First Saturday Devotions at St. John’s
Saturday, December 7th at 7:10am
Please join us at 7:10am for the Rosary and fifteen minutes of quiet meditation on every first Saturday of the month.

St. John the Baptist Giving Tree
The gift drive wraps up on Sunday, December 1st. If you haven’t brought in your gifts yet, please do so by this Tuesday, December 3rd. Thank you for your generosity!
For more information, please contact Taylor Gruber at tgruber@stjohns-excelsior.org.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Working in the Margins
Thank you to all who helped support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development that assists organizations fighting anti-poverty through economic and community development efforts locally and nationally. We appreciate your generosity in the 2019 campaign!

The Devotion to the 2000 Hail Marys
Saturday, December 7th from 7:00am — 5:00pm
(All are welcome to join at anytime during those hours!)
Room 222 at St. Hubert’s (Chanhassen)
Everyone is welcome to join the first Saturday of each month for this ten-hour devotion. Experience the magnificent blessings of our Lord Jesus through the powerful, miraculous 2000 Hail Mary’s prayer and fasting devotion! For more information, please email Maria Peden at mariafpeden@gmail.com

Retirement Fund for the Religious
December 7th & 8th
Our parish will hold the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection next weekend. Many elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for years for little or no pay. Today, hundreds of religious communities lack adequate retirement savings and struggle to provide for older members. Collection proceeds offer financial assistance and resources to help eligible communities meet the ongoing needs of senior members.

Stewardship Update
*Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, this bulletin went to print before our November 24th numbers were in. Please see next week’s bulletin for the update.
Thank you.

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors & Altar Servers:
December 7th & December 8th

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