Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil..............................5:00pm
Sunday......................................8:00am
.............10:00 am
Tuesdays....................................5:30pm
Wednesdays, Thursdays..............5:30pm
.............8:00am
Friday (School Mass)..................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

Church Office
(952) 474-8868
Fax: (952) 444-3474
Pastor
Ext. 216
Father Carlson fr.carlson@stjohns-excelsior.org
Deacon
Dcn Gary Hoffman deacongary@stjohns-excelsior.org
Parish Administrator Ext. 204
Andrea McMerty-Brummer amcmerty-brummer@stjohns-excelsior.org
Accounting Ext. 203
Christa Vassallo cvassallo@stjohns-excelsior.org
Faith Formation Ext. 207
Taylor Gruber tgruber@stjohns-excelsior.org
Communications Coordinator Ext. 208
Sarah Reid sreid@stjohns-excelsior.org
Office & Cemetery Manager Ext. 200
Megan Adam madam@stjohns-excelsior.org
Lead Maintenance Technician Ext. 205
Scott Kragness skragness@stjohns-excelsior.org
School: (952) 474-5812 Fax: (952) 444-3474
Principal Ext. 301
Angela Wroblewski awroblewski@stjohns-excelsior.org
Administrative Assistant Ext. 300
Monica Benda mbenda@stjohns-excelsior.org
Parish Trustees: Barb Thomas, Mark Spaniol
Finance Council Chair: Pat Johnson
Parish Council Chair: Charlie Kanan
The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Catholics love hierarchy. We know that bishops are higher than priests, and the pope is the highest bishop. We know that Cathedrals are the “highest” parish in a diocese, and that all other sacraments point toward the Eucharist. Like playing a good card game, there is always a “trump”.

We also see a hierarchy in Holy Days. Throughout the liturgical year, we celebrate the feasts of many saints or events in the life of Christ. The highest holy day of the year is Easter, followed by Christmas, followed by every other Sunday. We see that being exercised today as we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

So why is this important right now? December 8th is a very important Holy Day of Obligation; the Immaculate Conception of Mary. It is the day when we normally remember and celebrate that Mary, the Mother of God, was conceived without the pain of original sin!

Well within this hierarchy of Liturgical days, Sundays of Advent rank higher than other solemnities. Advent is a time when we are waiting for the coming of Jesus. In Latin, the word “Adventare” means “to approach” or “to arrive soon”. We, as a church, patiently await the second holiest day of the year: Christmas Day, when The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

Therefore, Holy Mother Church has made the decision we postpone celebrating the Immaculate Conception this year to give precedence to the Second Sunday of Advent. And this is quite fitting, as our Mother Mary would have wanted to do the same. The purpose of Mary is to always point toward her son, Jesus. Like a good mom, she would not have wanted to overshadow the accomplishments of her son.

But for those of us that still want to celebrate the Immaculate Conception this year, fear not! Anytime a major solemnity is outranked, it is transferred to the next available day and loses its obligatory nature for the year. So that means that all over the world this year, the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9th. Although it is usually a Holy Day of Obligation, when it is transferred, it is no longer obligatory to attend Mass on that day.

Phew! That’s just a long way of saying that we still get to celebrate the Immaculate Conception, but just a day later. I still encourage you all to try to find a Mass to remember our Mother Mary on Monday, but if you can’t, consider saying a Rosary or two. It’s what Mary would want!

God bless you,
Deacon Riley Durkin

Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing
Who reigns now with Christ, our Redeemer and King.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!

In heaven the blessed your glory proclaim
On earth we, your children, invoke your fair name.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
**Open Adoration Hours**

*Take some quiet prayer time in the adoration chapel*

**Open Adoration Hours**

**Mondays:** 12:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM
**Tuesdays:** 10:00 PM
**Wednesdays:** 12:00 AM
**Thursdays:** 9:00 AM
**Fridays:** 12:00 AM, 4:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 11:00 PM (WEEK 4 ONLY)
**Saturdays:** 4:00 AM, 7:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM
**Sundays:**

Please contact Sara Magnus at 612-708-3382 or via email at saramagnus@hotmail.com if you are available and willing to sign up for an hour each week!

**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!

This is a great way to enter in to the Advent Season as the musical theme for this concert is “From Darkness Into Light.”

The concert will be followed by a reception where the audience may enjoy refreshments and fellowship and an opportunity to greet the performer. If you would like to help with the reception, please sign up here https://tinyurl.com/qv2x32m

*All concerts are open to the public with no admission charge. No registration required. The concert series was funded from our 2019 Parish Gala Fund-A-Need in order to be an ‘instrument of evangelization’ to our community.

Save the date for the final two concerts:

- Thursday, January 23, 2020
- Thursday, May 14, 2020

**Readings for the Week of December 8, 2019**

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
**Monday:** Gn 3:9-15,20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:26-38
**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-3,10-13/Mt 18:12-14
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4,8,10/Mt 11:28-30
**Thursday:** Lgs 13:2-7,24-25a/Ps 71:3-6,16-17/Lk 1:5-25
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4,6/Mt 11:16-19
**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4,9-11/Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19/Mt 17:9a,10-13
**Next Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a,10/ Ps 146:6-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**St. John’s Concert Series Presents**

*"From Darkness Into Light"*

**Frida**

**December 13th - 7 PM**

Sponsored by Schmitt Music

Dr. Christopher Weldon - Juilliard-trained Concert Pianist
**PARISH EVENTS**

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH**
- 7:00pm  RCIA Meeting *(Upper GP)*
- 7:00pm  Parish Council Meeting

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**
- 7:00pm  Faith Formation Classes
- 5:45pm  4th Grade and older at Feed My Starving Children
- 6:00pm  Children’s Choir rehearsal
- 7:00pm  Adult Choir rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH**
- 9:30am  Feed My Starving Children
- 7:00pm  Knights of Columbus Meeting

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH**
- 7:00pm  St. John’s Concert Series with Dr. Weldon
- 6:30am  Men Who Pray
- 5:00pm  Mass

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**
- 7:00pm  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

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

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS**

DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH

Our parish is supporting the aging religious with a collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. You will find envelopes on the table by the Baptismal Font. Please be generous!

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH 9:30AM — 11:30AM**

Please consider giving a couple hours of your time to help out at Feed My Starving Children. It’s a worthy project packing meals for malnourished kids! You can sign up in the Gathering Place or contact Mary Ann Chinander at (952) 474-5834

**CHURCH CLEANING**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 9:30AM-1:30PM**

We will do our annual Advent deep cleaning of the church including wiping down the kneelers and pews, dusting, sweeping & mopping. Please bring any favorite vacuums or other cleaning supplies as well. We provide buckets, rags, cleaning solutions, etc. Lunch will be provided. Let us know we can count on you by signing up here https://tinyurl.com/usucmza or by calling the parish office at 952-474-8868.
WHAT DOES THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AT SJB LOOK LIKE?
The Children’s House (preschool) is a mixed age environment specifically designed to help children between the ages of 2½ to 6 years to develop at their own pace, choosing their work from the Montessori materials which are displayed in an ordered and accessible way. Children work individually, or in groups, with hands-on activities which are designed to help them develop physically, spiritually, socially, emotionally and intellectually. Each activity is complete in itself and also prepares for later activities so that the children move from one activity to the next, mastering each new challenge with ease. Children become confident in their own abilities because the environment naturally encourages them to persevere, achieve manageable goals and correct their own mistakes.

Children develop the ability to concentrate on tasks and see them through in a logical way and consequently they learn to read and write with ease as they are developing an understanding of mathematics through exploration of concepts in concrete form. There is ample opportunity for exploration of the world, including the animals, people and plants in it while expressing themselves freely through music, drama and art.

SCHOOL STAFF SPOTLIGHT
Clare Della Pietra/Children’s House 2 Assistant
A native of Minneapolis, Clare Della Pietra (Ms. Clare) has always felt called to teach and inspire children, particularly through the Montessori method of education. Over the last year, Clare has moved back to Minnesota from Texas, where she studied Spanish and Classical Music at the University of Dallas in Irving. She has lived in Mexico (missionary), Costa Rica (study abroad), and Spain (aupair). Before joining the community at St. John the Baptist, she taught Spanish to toddlers across the metro, and worked in high school administration. She was first introduced to St. John’s from a friend and co-worker, and was thrilled to find a place where work, education, and learning are not only full of love and joy for children, but also for the Catholic Faith. In her leisure time, Clare loves being with her husband at their home in Minnetonka, hiking, finding geo-caches, cooking, organizing, hosting friends, and learning. Moreover, Clare has an undying passion for singing and exploring new music. She enjoys using the knowledge she gained during her studies at the University of Dallas, in addition to her natural talent, to help build and maintain fruitful relationships, all for the glory of God. She is incredibly blessed, excited, and delighted to work with such a marvelous Catholic community!
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Wednesday, December 11th:**
*Feed My Starving Children 5:45-7:30 PM, 4th-10th Grade*
*PreK—3rd Grade meet at their regular time*

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

**Wednesday, December 18th**
*Confirmation Year 1 meets, Classroom 1*

**Wednesday, December 25th**
*No Faith Formation: Merry Christmas!

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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.

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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.

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**10 HACKS FOR ADVENT**

1. Get crafty and make, or purchase a beautiful Advent wreath to enter into the season in a real way.

2. Tune into some lovely Advent jamz and hold off on the Christmas hits until the Christmas season... well at least try your best.

3. If people say “happy holidays” to you while you’re shopping for Christmas gifts, don’t get in a high and mighty rage and demand that they say “merry Christmas” to you... just remember that Christ dwells in every human being, that they are worthy of love, and smile and say “thank you.”

4. Spend a little bit more time in prayer, preparing your heart for the coming of Christ... and preparing your mind for the many Hallmark Christmas movies you’ll have no choice but to watch.

5. Bake something sweet for a friend. Or a foe.

6. Stop thinking about what’s on your Christmas list for a minute and try being Santa Claus to someone in need.

7. Learn from my mistakes and don’t forget about eating the daily dose of chocolate from the Advent calendar. Catching up may be delicious, but it also generates a wicked stomach ache.

8. Pick up some helpful Advent reading. Maybe Awaken Hope, or another daily devotional to help you enter into the season!

9. Try walking around with an attitude of gratitude, even while department stores and online marketplaces try to cultivate an attitude of greed ... nobody likes a Scrooge.

10. Most importantly, don’t skip over this season of eager expectation and hopeful waiting. Remember the gift of Christ’s Incarnation that we’re awaiting, and let yourself enter into that waiting.

*adapted from the Life Teen Blog*
GOODNESS RADIATES: ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION FOR MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 8:30AM-12PM
ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH, CRYSTAL


ARCHBISHOP’S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
CHRIST THE KING RETREAT CENTER, BUFFALO

The Archbishop’s Discernment Retreat is for men who are seniors in high school to age 50 and are discerning priesthood. This retreat is a wonderful opportunity to gain clarity in your discernment process and to meet other men who desire to follow Christ and to know his will for their lives. Cost is $100. Please check with your pastor or local Serra Club for scholarship, if interested. For more information call 651-962-6890

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

* Please note that fluctuation in weekly giving is often due to variable timing of annual stewardship gifts.

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<td>Amount Over/(Under Budget)</td>
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Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors & Altar Servers:
December 14th & December 15th

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<tr>
<th>5:00PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Reader</strong></td>
<td><strong>2nd Reader</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eucharistic Ministers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicki Bartholomew</td>
<td>Noreen Andrews</td>
<td>C1. Mark Spaniol</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John Dupont</td>
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<td>Theresa DeMun</td>
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<td>Liz Rosenberg</td>
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<td>Mickey Dalsin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lou Prescott</td>
<td>C1. Judith Bortscheller</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sue Bradley</td>
<td>Linda Peterson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sue O’Donoghue</td>
<td>John Behun</td>
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<td>Sue Brisley</td>
<td>Jean Gray</td>
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<td>Barb Thomas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deb Jonikas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Altar Servers</strong></td>
<td><strong>C1. Joleen Roy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Cockburn*</td>
<td>C. Setten*</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Rodriguez</td>
<td>G. Carter</td>
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<td>S. Rodriguez</td>
<td>G. Currie</td>
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(TIME TALENT TREASURE)

 around the archdiocese