John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29
Welcome back to Ordinary Time!

For the last six weeks, Catholics around the world have been preparing for and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Churches were decorated, the liturgies were beautiful, and many gifts were given. But now what? What is God’s purpose for this in between time when the Christmas trees have been put on the curb and the nativities have been tucked away?

In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium, the three-to-six-year-olds sing a song about the liturgical colors, to remind us the reason for each Church season: “Purple (Advent/Lent) is for Preparation. White (Christmas/Easter) is for Celebration. Green (Ordinary Time) is for the Growing Time. Red is for Pentecost.” The growing time. We are no longer in a time of celebration, nor are we in a time of preparing. We are in a time of growth.

Now is the time we get to truly live what Christ came for. He came to transform our lives, to offer us conversion of heart, in order that we might live abundantly. In the readings we will be hearing about the life of Christ’s public ministry – especially the calling of His disciples and the teachings of the Kingdom of God. This was Jesus’ ordinary life. So often we have become numb to how extraordinary it truly was. Jesus spent his days healing the sick, raising the dead, telling parables, sharing meals with the outcast, walking on water. His daily life consisted of miracles. His daily life consisted of an abundance of grace, mercy, and deep love for the people around Him.

Miracles are happening around us all the time; are our eyes and hearts open to seeing what He is doing? Ordinary time is the longest of the Liturgical Seasons. What a gift that is for us! It is a time that we can live vibrantly the love God has poured into our lives. This is the season to develop a daily prayer life, maybe through committing to a weekly Holy Hour in Adoration. This is the season to form our minds to think like Christ, maybe in joining the Spring Adult Bible Study (see page 5 of this bulletin). This is the season to serve those around us radically well, maybe by joining the St. John’s crew at Feed My Starving Children.

If we celebrated or practiced penance all the time, we wouldn’t know the joy of simply living. God wants us to find Him in our daily life. He wants us to know what it means to live the full life of a Christian. So Happy Ordinary Time, dear parishioners – I pray it will be extraordinary!

God bless you,
Taylor Gruber
Director of Faith Formation

For more information on the liturgical calendar for 2020, please visit http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/index.cfm
**St. John’s Winter Gala 2020**

**Saturday, February 8th**

6:00PM–11:00PM

From the Danish word "hygge" (pronounced hue-guh) we are embracing winter by providing a warm, cozy environment for this year’s Parish Gala. That’s why we’ve moved our event to the Gathering Place! Join us Saturday, February 8th for great conversations, comfort foods, warmth by the fireplace, silent & live auction, and great fellowship— all for a great cause to support our parish family!

Register Online Here:  
https://sjexcels.ejoinme.org/parishgala2020

Or pick up a registration form in the Gathering Place

**BECOME A GALA SPONSOR**

The St. John’s Gala Sponsorship Program is a remarkable opportunity to show the love and commitment you have for our community. Plus it's a great way to advertise a business to our guests and parishioners. Our goal is to raise $50,000 to continue the St. John’s mission of providing for our parish family. There are several levels of sponsorship available that can work within your budget. Visit us online here or in the parish office to become a sponsor:  
https://sjexcels.ejoinme.org/sponsor2020

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

**Readings for the Week of January 19, 2020**

**Sunday:** Is 49:3,5-6/Ps 40:2,4-7-10/1Cor 1:1-3/In 1:29-34
**Monday:** 1Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9,16-17,21,23/Mk 2:18-22
**Tuesday:** 1Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20-22,27-28/Mk 2:23-28
**Wednesday:** 1Sm 17:32-33,37,40-51/Ps 144:1-2,9-10/Mk 3:1-6
**Thursday:** 1Sm 18:6-9;19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3,9-13/Mk 3:7-12
**Friday:** 1Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2-4,6,11/Mk 3:13-19
**Saturday:** Acts 22:3-16/Ps 117:1-2/Mk 16:15-18
**Next Sunday:** Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1,4,13-14/1Cor 1:10-13,17/Mt 4:12-23

**LITURGICAL EXPEDITIONS:**

**THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**BY DEACON RILEY**

As many of you may already know, music has a special way of communicating ideas and emotions. During joyful times in our lives, we want to hear happy, peppy music that mirrors the way we are feeling. During sorrowful times, slower, sad music can help us grieve and process our own emotions. Music can speak to us in a way that no other artistic medium can.

The same can be said of our spiritual lives. The book of Psalms is simply a collection of song lyrics. They span the entirety of the human emotional experience. You can tell that the author is feeling especially loved and protected by God in reading Psalm 23 (“The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want”). In Psalm 88, the author is feeling abandoned by God and alone in his pity (“You have taken away my friends. My one companion is darkness”). No matter how we feel in our spiritual lives and our relationship with God, there is a Psalm that reflects that emotion.

In Mass, we participate in and acknowledge this very human aspect of our spiritual lives. The cantor will sing a few lines of a Psalm, reflecting a powerful inner experience that we all have in our own personal faith journeys. We then acknowledge and participate in the same experience by repeating a portion of the psalm—usually a promise that God made to us.

When we go through life, the way we experience our faith is very personal and affects the whole person, from our personalities, to our relationships, to our emotional experiences (or lack thereof). The Psalms reflect that very human reality. But just as the Psalmist reflects many times, God does not abandon us.

“Those who know your name trust in you; you never forsake those who seek you, Lord” ~Psalm 9:11

**SCAM ALERT!**

A few parishioners have reported receiving text and email messages from people pretending to be Fr. Carlson. The message states pretty generically that he would like your help. When a person responds, they receive a reply requesting donations in the form of gift cards. Please know that these types of text messages are fake and should be reported and deleted.

Learn about text message spam, how you can respond and report at https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0350-text-message-spam
Parish Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH
8:00am  Mass (Hospitality provided by Knights of Columbus)
10:00am Mass (Hospitality provided by Knights of Columbus)

MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH
No School/Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST
7:00pm  RCIA Meeting
7:00pm  First Communion Kickoff (Gathering Place)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22ND
Faith Formation Classes

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD
7:00pm  Concert Series—Organist Dr. Michael Ging

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH
6:30am  Men Who Pray
5:00pm  Mass

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH
8:00am  Mass
9:00am-12:00pm Pancake Breakfast & Open House (School Gym)
10:00am  Mass

CONCERT SERIES PART III
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD AT 7PM
ORGANIST DR. MICHAEL GING
‘A CELEBRATION OF THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS’
Michael Ging is a church musician, organist, and entrepreneur. He has performed throughout the US and Mexico. Since being appointed Organist/Choirmaster at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church (Folly Beach, SC) at age fourteen, Dr. Ging has become one of the most active liturgical organists in the United States. Dr. Ging inspires thousands of worshipers each week and plays for over 400 liturgies each year.

Please join us for the St. John’s Concert Series Part III, made possible by the generous donations in the 2019 Gala Fund-A-Need as an ‘instrument of evangelization’ in our community.

If you would like to help with hospitality for this event, we need help with set up, serving cookies & coffee, and clean up. Please sign up online here or call the church office https://tinyurl.com/vna9535

FREE STRATA BREAKFAST
THIS WEEKEND!
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH
AFTER THE 8AM & 10AM MASSES
The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Free Breakfast in place of the regular hospitality on January 19th. This breakfast will be after the 8 and 10 AM Masses. Any free-will offering given that day will be donated to the State K of C Fund supporting seminarians and those entering religious life. Please join us for a great, free breakfast!

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Calling all men who would like a weekly opportunity for fellowship and sport. Join St. Therese and St. John’s men on Monday nights from 7:00-8:30pm in the school gym for a friendly pick up game of basketball. All are welcome! For questions and registration, contact Paul Schrupp at paul.l.schrupp@gmail.com
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.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Monday, January 20th: No school - Martin Luther King Day
Sunday, January 26th: Open House & Pancake Breakfast in the school gym from 9am—12:00pm
January 26th-31st: Catholic Schools Week
Friday, January 31st: Magician Brian Richards in the school gym at 10am

OPEN HOUSE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH FROM 9:00AM—12:00PM
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SJB KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 IN THE SCHOOL GYM
Join us as we build on the Legacy by Celebrating Catholic Schools Week! Experience the life of a SJB student and see what fun we have every day! (Proceeds go to the Middle School Spring Odyssey Trip and week-long elementary camping trip).
Cost: 6 and under $5, ages 7 and above $7, family $25
The Middle School Coffee House will be selling specialty coffee drinks and there will be a scavenger hunt for the kids!

Experience a little bit of the life of a child at St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School:
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Tuesday, January 21st:** First Communion Kickoff Meeting in the Gathering Place at 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, January 22nd:** Faith Formation classes, Confirmation Year 2 Meets

**Wednesday, January 29th:** Faith Formation classes, Confirmation Year 1 Meets

*Summer 2020 Registration open online at: [www.stjohns-excelsior.org/parish/Faith-Formation/Summer-2020](http://www.stjohns-excelsior.org/parish/Faith-Formation/Summer-2020)*

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**Is God Calling You?**

**Mass with Archbishop Bernard Hebda**

**Evening Program with Fr. David Blume**

**Saturday, February 1, 2020**

What will you do with your life? What are your plans, dreams and goals? Do you know that God has a wonderful plan for your life – a future full of hope (Jer. 29:11)? Do you know that the Lord Jesus is calling each one of us to follow Him in becoming holy and living our Catholic faith out loud.

Are you open to asking the question that is seldom uttered in our busy world, “Lord, how are You calling me to follow You?” There will be special breakout sessions for the young ladies and young men.

Signup at [https://tinyurl.com/sjblifeline](https://tinyurl.com/sjblifeline)

$5 for transportation

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**BIBLE STUDY**

Join us this fall for a Bible Study on the Mary! Who is Mary? Why is she so important to Catholics? And why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries?

Featuring the insightful biblical teaching of Dr. Brant Pitre, this study examines what Scripture, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about Mary. By closely examining the connections between the Old and New Testaments, Dr. Pitre presents clear and easily understood explanations about the life and identity of Mary, the Mother of God.

**Mondays at 6:30 PM**, February 17 – March 23

**Tuesday at 9:15 AM**, February 18 – March 24

**Other:** Let us know your availability or form your own group!

Registration Form can be found online here [www.stjohns-excelsior.org/parish/Faith-Formation/Adult-Formation](http://www.stjohns-excelsior.org/parish/Faith-Formation/Adult-Formation) or in the Parish Office. Registration Fee is $15.00. Due February 7.
**Archdiocesan Synod Prayer and Listening Events**

What’s working and what’s not in the Archdiocese? Archbishop Hebda wants to hear from you! Please prayerfully consider attending an upcoming Prayer and Listening event as one of the Pre-Synod Process and make your voice heard. Everyone is invited and Archbishop Bernard Hebda is scheduled to attend all events. Your input will help guide the Archdiocese over the next 5 – 10 years. The following are the next events scheduled:

**SAT, JAN 25, 9 AM– NOON ST. PETER CLAVER, ST. PAUL**

**TUES, JAN 28, 6 – 9 PM PAX CHRISTI, EDEN PRAIRIE**

**SAT, FEB 1, 9 AM– NOON ST. STEPHEN, MINNEAPOLIS**

If you are interested in attending one of these events and need transportation, please contact Nancy Giacchetti at 952-607-7233 or nancy.giacchetti@partnersinsynq.com. The SJB Ambassadors will make every effort to help you.

**Holy Family Winter Dance Clinic**

Holy Family Catholic High School Dance Team invites dancers in grades K-8 to their Winter Dance Clinic on Friday, January 31 from 5-8pm! Dancers will learn a routine, play games, and perform their routine during half-time of the boys varsity basketball game. A pizza dinner will be provided. Registration is open until January 24. Cost: $35 includes meal and a t-shirt.

**Conference for Restorative Justice and Reconciliation**

**January 23, 9AM– 3PM HOLIDAY INN & SUITES, LAKE ELMO**

This conference is open to all victim/survivors, and anyone who has been impacted by clergy sexual abuse. Hear from Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Ramsey County Attorney John Choi, retired Justice Janine Geske from Milwaukee, Tim O’Malley, and others. A panel of survivors and others will share their experiences concerning clergy sexual abuse and how it has changed their lives. Lunch is provided. There is no fee to attend; however, space is limited. To reserve a space please email Paula Kaempffer, Archdiocesan Outreach Coordinator for Restorative Justice and Abuse Prevention, at kaempfferp@archspm.org, or Tom Ring, Assistant Ramsey County Attorney, at tom.ring@co.ramsey.mn.us by January 20. Call 651.291.4429 for more information.

**High School Open House**

**Thursday, January 30th 6:30 PM**

Holy Family Catholic High School in Victoria invites prospective parents and students to attend their Winter Open House. Learn more and RSVP at http://www.hfchs.org/events/open-house/ Walk-in registration also welcome.

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**Stewardship Update**

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

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**YTD Information (as of 1/13/20)**

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