To know, love, serve and share Christ through worship, teaching, stewardship and witness.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish
680 Mill Street, Excelsior, MN 55331

January 5th, 2020
{The Epiphany of the Lord}

To know, love, serve and share Christ through worship, teaching, stewardship and witness.

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

Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil.........................5:00 pm
Sunday..............................8:00 am
........................................10:00 am
Tuesdays.............................5:30 pm
Wednesdays, Thursdays..........8:00 am
Friday (School Mass).............9:00 am
 Saturdays...........................8:00 am
(Holy Days and Holidays—see bulletin
Or call Parish Office)

Sacrament of Confession
Tuesdays............................5:00 pm
Wednesdays, Thursdays.........7:30 am
Fridays.............................8:30 am
Saturdays.........................8:30-9:30 am
........................................3:30-4:30 pm

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.

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

To know, love, serve and share Christ through worship, teaching, stewardship and witness.

Epiphany of the Lord
“Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.” Isaiah 60:3

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church & Montessori School
#SJBExcelsior
Penances and Prayers
A Reflection By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS from LPI Publications

God’s glory, now, is kindled gentler than candlelight under the rafters of a barn:
Eternal Peace is sleeping in the hay,
And Wisdom’s born in secret in a straw-roofed stable.*

When I was younger, I wrote music to and recorded Thomas Merton’s poem, “Epiphany Carol.” If you have never read it, search it out on the internet. Merton’s words are profound and paint a picture of the awesomeness of Jesus, the newborn King of Kings, lying in a simple straw bed. The shepherds and Wise Men are drawn to pay homage to the One who has been born above all others and brings with him hope for a broken world.

As Merton correctly points out, the gifts we are called to bring to this baby and lay at his feet are our prayers and penances, next to those gifts of worldly wealth. What is it that you have to bring to the stable on this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord? Unless those prayers and penances lead to a new way of living, our gifts will be void of meaning. What we lay before him speaks to the change in us that he has given to us by his birth. Our daily stewardship is resembled in those gifts. If we are to truly echo the kingdom of God in our lives and actions, what we ultimately offer to him is no less than our entire selves. This baby will give his entire self for us, and his work must continue through our hands and feet.

While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries
Come after with our penances and prayers,
And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay
Beside the wise men’s golden jars.*

*Excerpts from “Epiphany Carol” by Thomas Merton

Father of light,
unchanging God,
today you reveal to men of faith
the resplendent fact of the Word
made flesh.
Your light is strong,
Your love is near;
draw us beyond the limits
which this world imposes,
to the life where Your Spirit
makes all life complete.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
**FLOWER DONATIONS**
Thank you to all those who donated for our Christmas flowers! Here is a continuation of our list from last week's bulletin.

Steve Alexander  
Robin & Melissa Baker  
Joanne Duda  
Gary & Jacqui Hoffman  
Diane Marlow  
Steven May  
Lyle & Bonnie Swanson  
Keith & Barb Thomas  
Sue Jensen  
Margaret Davis

*In Honor of:*  
The King Family  
The Eldredge Family

*Given by:*  
Judith King

**OPEN ADORATION HOURS**
Start the New Year off right and commit to an adoration hour! 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

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2020**

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13/Eph 3:2-3a,5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Monday:** 1Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7-8,10-12/Mt 4:12-17,23-25

**Tuesday:** 1Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4,7-8/Mk 6:34-44

**Wednesday:** 1Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2,10-12-13/Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday:** 1Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2,14,15,17/Lk 4:14-22a

**Friday:** 1Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15,19-20/Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday:** 1Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6,9/Jn 3:22-30

**Next Sunday:** Is 42:1-4,6-7/Ps 29:1-4,9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

**LITURGICAL EXPEDITIONS:**

**THE GLORIA**

**BY DEACON RILEY**

“And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.’” (Luke 2:13-14)

This familiar line that we sing every Sunday at Mass comes from an excerpt of the Christmas story. When an angel appeared to a handful of poor shepherds, they couldn’t help but sing this song of praise in expectation of the birth of the long awaited Messiah. Finally, after generations of prayer and sacrifice, God’s people would once again have the gates of heaven opened up for them. An event so momentous, so miraculous, that angels themselves would burst out in songs of praise.

The Mass, too, is worthy of this kind of jubilation. We, as a community, are echoing this song of the angels because God deserves it. We are recognizing the profound goodness of God and reacting to it in praise.

“...we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you. We give you thanks for your great glory.”

This type of reaction to acknowledging something good or beautiful is natural in all of creation. If we see a beautiful piece of art, we praise the artist. We go out of our way to shake the hand of members of the military to thank them for their service. When somebody does something extraordinary, we notice and acknowledge it.

So how great must something be for even the angels to burst out in a song of glory? Or for us, who sing it at every Sunday Mass? Just like the shepherds and the angels praised God having finally become man, we burst out in song as we await God coming to us in the Eucharist. To God is all the glory.

**BECOME A KNIGHT**

The Knights of Columbus is a trusted name, tried by time, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening men’s faith by living a life of virtue.

Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need. When the world says men should step aside, the Knights step up.

We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. Join us on life’s greatest adventure - to discover the man God calls us to be.

**BECOME A KNIGHT**—visit www.KofC.org/joinus

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Thank you to all those who donated for our Christmas flowers! Here is a continuation of our list from last week’s bulletin.

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Sue Jensen  
Margaret Davis

*In Honor of:*  
The King Family  
The Eldredge Family

*Given by:*  
Judith King
Parish Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH
8:00am  Mass (Hospitality)
10:00am  Mass (Hospitality)

MONDAY, JANUARY 6TH

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7TH
7:00pm  RCIA Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH
Faith Formation Classes

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH
9:30pm  Feed My Starving Children
7:00pm  Ladies Night Paint & Sip in the Gathering Place
7:00pm  Knights of Columbus Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH
6:30am  Men Who Pray
5:00pm  Mass

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH
8:00am  Mass (Hospitality)
10:00am  Mass (Hospitality)

Mass Intentions

Sat.  January 4  8:00am  The Global Unbound
       5:00pm  † JoAnne Johnson
Sun.  January 5  8:00am  For the Parish
       10:00am  † Cy Kerber
Mon.  January 6  No Mass
Tue.  January 7  5:00pm  † Tom Shipman
Wed.  January 8  9:00am  † Danny Hughes
Thurs.  January 9  8:00am  Allie Phillips
Fri.  January 10  9:00am  † Gilbert Lansdale
Sat.  January 11  8:00am  Shirley Dufresne
       5:00pm  Bill Ashenbach
Sun.  January 12  8:00am  Tom Rosensteel
       10:00am  For the Parish

Ladies Night Paint & Sip
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH 7-9PM
Our traditional Pre-Gala women's event will be held in the Gathering Place. Come ready for a Paint & Sip! Admission is to bring in a gift card or a gift basket for this year's silent auction!
Parishioner and local artist, Ali Benda, will lead our painting instruction! We will provide the canvas, paint, instruction, wine and appetizers. RSVP here https://tinyurl.com/szwb7f7 or by calling the parish office.

Feed My Starving Children
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH 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

Men Who Pray
All men are invited to join us in the Gathering Place on Saturday mornings from 6:30am – 8:00am for morning prayer and reflection on the weekly Gospel. No need to RSVP, just show up and feel free to bring a friend! Coffee is provided!

St. John's Winter Gala 2020
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
6:00PM—11:00PM
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
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 6th:** Classes resume
- **Monday, January 20th:** No school - Martin Luther King Day
- **Sunday, January 26th:** Open House & Pancake Breakfast in the school gym from 9am—12:30pm
- **January 26th-31st:** Catholic Schools Week
- **Friday, January 31st:** Magician Brian Richards in the school gym at 10am

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES IN A MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT**

**PRESENTED BY DR. ANN EPSTEIN, JANUARY 17-18, 2020**

Meeting the needs and honoring the strengths of children who are high performing or those with special needs in our Montessori primary classrooms can be both challenging and deeply rewarding. This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of characteristics of frequently occurring special needs including speech and language delays, sensory processing issues, challenging behaviors, and autism spectrum disorders. The workshop will incorporate small group discussions, several hands-on activities, short videos, PowerPoints, and reflective journaling.

*This is a great opportunity for both teachers and parents of advanced students and those with learning differences. Register online [www.stjohns-excelsior.org/school](http://www.stjohns-excelsior.org/school)*

**OPEN HOUSE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH FROM 9:00AM—12:30PM**

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, adults $7, family $25

**MAGICIAN BRIAN RICHARDS**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST 10AM (SCHOOL GYM)**

Get ready to laugh and be amazed! Join magician Brian Richards in the school gym for a little magic to celebrate Catholic Schools Week on Friday, January 31st at 10am. Minnesota magician, Brian Richards has been making family & school events entertaining and educationally significant since 1989. Brian is a person who is truly committed to the community. In addition to helping kids have fun while learning, Brian is also a part-time firefighter in his city. All are welcome to the magic show! Here is a photo from last year’s event.
IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, January 8th: Faith Formation Classes Begin again! Confirmation Year 2 Meets

Wednesday, January 15: Faith Formation classes, Confirmation Year 1 Meets (Sponsor Info Sheets due)

Tuesday, January 21st: First Communion Kickoff in the GP at 7:00 PM

20 NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS... THAT AREN’T ABOUT LOSING WEIGHT

Here’s a list of resolutions that can help you love the person God created you to be.

“...and with all your soul...”
1. Read the four Gospels, just one section a day.
2. Begin a prayer journal.
3. Go to Confession once a month.
4. Sign up for a weekly adoration hour.
5. Take up spiritual reading.

“...and with all your strength...”
6. Sleeping eight to ten hours each night.
7. Invite your family to take a family walk once a week.
8. Add one serving of fruit and vegetables each to your day.
10. Find a soda alternative.

“...and with all your mind...”
11. Put your phone away before bed.
12. Make a book list and read books from it.
13. Ask for help if you need it. Your mental health matters.
14. Replace music with interesting podcasts once a week.
15. Pick up a new hobby and dedicate a specific amount of time to it each week.

“...and love your neighbor as yourself.”
16. Volunteer through an activity that aligns with your skills and serves your local community.
17. Cook for your parents.
18. Write letters for friends’ birthdays.
19. Call your extended family to say hello.
20. Forgive someone.

BONUS!
21. Find a Bible verse that reflects your overall intention for the year!

Adapted from Lifeteen.com/blog, written by Courtney Kiolbassa
**Stewardship Update**
*Please note that fluctuation in weekly giving is often due to variable timing of annual stewardship gifts.*

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<th>Collection(s) as of: 12/23/19</th>
<th>YTD Information (as of 12/23/19)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday* $28,245.02 Plate $833.65</td>
<td>YTD Budget $398,439 YTD Actual $390,244 AMOUNT OVER/(UNDER BUDGET) $(8,195)</td>
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**Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors & Altar Servers:**
**January 11th & 12th**

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<th>5:00PM</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1st Reader</strong></td>
<td>Nicki Bartholomew</td>
<td>Berniece Schmidt</td>
<td>Suzi Fannon</td>
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<td><strong>2nd Reader</strong></td>
<td>Karina Rodriguez</td>
<td>Dalia Olson</td>
<td>Ashley Kleist</td>
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<td><strong>Eucharistic Ministers</strong></td>
<td>C1. Debbie Burns</td>
<td>C1. Mary Leirdahl</td>
<td>C1. Sue Bradley</td>
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<td>Sue Brisley</td>
<td>Mary Frerich</td>
<td>Chris Cockburn</td>
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<td>Amy Spaniol</td>
<td>Kathy Setten</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Chinander</td>
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<td>Charlie Kanan</td>
<td>Jane Fournier</td>
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<td>Sue O’Donoghue</td>
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<td><strong>Altar Servers</strong></td>
<td>M. Cockburn*</td>
<td>C. Setten*</td>
<td>E. Hollahan*</td>
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<td>B. Harwood</td>
<td>M. Hornecker</td>
<td>B. Thelen</td>
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<td>G. Currie</td>
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