

Welcome

We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey

A NOTE FROM FR. GREG MILLER, O.S.B.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; Come, O Lord, and set us free. Psalm 25

I want to thank all who shared a gift from the Giving Tree in Avon and all who shared household items in Colleeville for Quiet Oaks Hospice. Your generosity is amazing. These acts of charity makes visible the love of God.

Christmas is a great opportunity for us to share the joy of knowing Christ. I encourage you to invite the whole family, neighbors and friends to join us for our church services.

4th Sunday of Advent Dec 23:

mass St. John the Baptist, Parish Center 5:30 PM

4th Sunday of Advent Dec 24:

mass St. Benedict Church, Avon 9:30 AM

(Please note the 8:00 and 10:30 AM are combined into one mass at 9:30 AM)

Christmas Eve Dec 24:

mass Abbey Church at 5:00 PM Fr. Greg Miller OSB

mass St. Benedict Church, Avon, 5:00 PM Fr. Michael Peterson OSB

Christmas Day Dec 25:

mass St. Benedict Church, Avon, 8:00 AM Fr. Greg Miller OSB

mass St. John the Baptist, Parish Center, 8:30 AM visiting priest

mass St. Benedict Church, Avon, 10:30 AM Fr. Greg Miller OSB

On behalf of the staff of both parishes, we wish you and your families, blessings of health, happiness and joy.

Fr. Greg



Third Sunday of Advent

This Weekend's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Twinned Parishes of:

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST of Colleeville

Phone: 320.363.2569

Mailing Address:

14241 Fruit Farm Road
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Website:

StJohnTheBaptistParish.org
www.facebook.com/sjtbp parish

and

SAINT BENEDICT of Avon



Phone: 320.250.5618

Mailing Address:

PO Box 98
Avon, MN 56310

stbenedictavon.org

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Mass Schedule

Mon. & Thurs. (Avon) 8:00AM
Wed. & Fri. (Colleeville) 8:00AM
Saturdays (Colleeville) 5:30PM
Sundays (Avon) 8:00 & 10:30AM
2nd Sunday of each Month (Colleeville) 8:30AM

Reconciliation:

Thurs. (Avon) 7:30AM
Saturdays (Colleeville) 4:30PM

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EVENTS IN OUR AREA:

December 17, St. Cloud, St. Anthony Parish Breakfast: serving from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the St. Anthony Parish Center, 2410 1st St N, St. Cloud. Menu: Smoked sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, pancakes with fruit toppings, fresh fruit, rolls, hash browns, coffee, and milk or orange juice. Adults \$8, Students grades K-12 and preschoolers eat for free this month!

December 17, Onamia, Advent Healing Mass: Join the Crosier Fathers and Brothers at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia for an Advent Healing Mass. The Mass will include the Anointing of the Sick and the ritual of blessing with the Relic of St. Odilia. Coffee and rolls will be served following the Mass.

December 23, Colleeville, Pageant Rehearsal: St. John the Baptist Parish Christmas Pageant Rehearsal will take place in the Abbey Church at 10:00AM for children ages 4 and up.

December 24, Colleeville, Christmas Eve Pageant and Mass: St. John the Baptist Parish hosting Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00PM in the Abbey Church.

December 25, Colleeville, Christmas Day Mass: St. John the Baptist Parish will host Christmas Day Mass at 8:30AM in the Parish Center on Fruit Farm Road.

January 6, St. Cloud, Dance Show: Dance show will feature the Crusaderettes along with other area High School Dance Teams and Dance Studio Groups. Shows are at 2:00pm and 6:00 pm. Cathedral High School North Gym. \$8 for adults, \$5 for students.

January 19, Colleeville, Theology Day: Marriage and Divorce: Insights into the Tradition. Join us for a grace-filled conversation as we first explore the dimensions of the marriage sacrament and the purpose of the annulment process. This session also has a second aim, and that is, to name the real-life struggles that can exist within a marriage and why we need to rethink the way we think and speak about this sacrament. In addition, we will discern ways we as a church community can and should (better) walk alongside those experiencing marital stress and the impending reality of divorce. Jan. 19th, check-in from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and presentation from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Emmaus Hall, Saint John's University, Colleeville. Free event. Lunch provided following presentation. Registration is required: www.colleevilleMN.com/theologyday, 320-363-3560 or theologyday@csbsju.edu.

DECEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Parish Office Closed		8:00 MASS +LaVerne Dylla Breakfast		8:00AM Mass +Bill Cofell Benediction	10 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal in the Abbey Church 5:30 PM Mass 4th Sunday of Advent	4:00 PM Pageant Rehearsal @Abbey Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Mass in the Abbey Church	Christmas Day 8:30 AM Mass in the Parish Center

All events take place at St. John's Church/Parish Center unless otherwise noted.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: SATURDAY DECEMBER 23RD 5:30 PM IN THE PARISH CENTER

GREETERS:	SERVERS:	LECTORS:	GIFT BEARERS:	EUCARIST MINISTERS:	SACRISTAN:	MUSIC:
Arnie Sauerer Dan Ortloff	Nick Hansen Holly Hansen	John Melancon Evie Dumonceaux	Marlin Faber Joyce Faber	Evie Dumonceaux Bob Dumonceaux Joyce Abeln	Dan Ortloff	Jason Prigge Dianne Bechtold

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH 5:00 PM IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

GREETERS:	SERVERS:	LECTORS:	GIFT BEARERS:	EUCARIST MINISTERS:	MUSIC:
Brian Eisenschenk Gene Eisenschenk Lee & Carol Wolf	Scott Wallner Bob Simon	Eileen Haeg Sharon Beach	Joe Omann Elaine Omann	Sharon Beach, Elaine Omann, Dave Lyndgaard, Dan Ortloff, Bob & Alice Mayers, Kari Scholz	Jason Prigge The Choir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: SUNDAY DECEMBER 25TH 8:30 AM IN THE PARISH CENTER

GREETERS:	SERVERS:	LECTORS:	GIFT BEARERS:	EUCARIST MINISTERS:	SACRISTAN:	MUSIC:
Clarence Simon Shirley Simon	Mike Keable	Nick Hansen Greg Hansen	Marita & Don Schwinghammer	Tess Koltas Linda McNair Deb Symalla	Brian Posch	Jason Prigge The Choir

Thank you to those who volunteer for our various liturgical ministries.

PARISH STAFF

When you have a question or concern regarding some aspect of parish life, please contact us. We will do our best to provide an answer for you.

Pastor: Fr. Gregory Miller, OSB
Office: (320)363-2569
Cell: (320)291-5223
E-Mail: glmiller@csbsju.edu

Business Manager: Julie Ortloff
Office: (320)363-2569
Cell: (320)492-2835
E-Mail: jortloff@csbsju.edu

Music Coordinator: Jason Prigge
Telephone: (320)356-0763
E-Mail: jason.prigge@stbenedictavon.org

Faith Formation Coordinator: Alyssa Maty
Telephone: (815)207-3208
E-Mail: amaty001@csbsju.edu

Trustees: Dean Merdan: (320)356-7131
Lori Fuchs: (320)267-1283

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Adult Envelopes.....	\$ 2,445.00
December 15 Electronic Donations.....	\$ 3,860.00
Donations fiscal year to date.....	\$ 60,670.00
Budgeted donations fiscal year to date.....	\$ 58,608.00
Other income:	
Loose Plate	\$ 83.00
Children Envelopes.....	\$ 13.00
Wednesday Coffee Cup.....	\$ 19.00
Immaculate Conception Envelopes.....	\$156.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$ 67.00
Religious Retirement Fund.....	\$40.00

Thank you to those who regularly and generously give of their treasure as well as those who give of their time and talent to support the work of our parish.

PRAYER CORNER

Louise Bartlett, Julia Beckmann, Lorraine Degiovanni, Loretta Dullinger, Bob Dumonceaux, Gloria Ebacher, Ben Hamilton, Olivia Eiyneck-Kimlinger, Marge Engelmeier, Richard Haeg, Leo Heck, Alvina Klocker, Susan McKeon, Clara Meyer, and Military Men, Women and their families.

If you would like your name added to our Prayer Corner, please contact the Parish Office. After 3 months, names are removed, to be re-added contact the office.

“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.” —Hal Borland

PARISH NEWS/EVENTS

OPPORTUNITY TO DOUBLE YOUR FOOD SHELF DONATION
It is not too late to make a cash donation to the food shelves participating in the annual Charity Challenge. The Skalicky Foundation will match contributions during the month of December. Donations should be sent directly to the following food shelves:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF SAINT CLOUD
Mail checks to PO Box 2390, St. Cloud, MN 56302

ST. CLOUD SALVATION ARMY
Mail checks payable to the Salvation Army to:
400 US Highway 10 S, St. Cloud, MN 56304

ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF
Mail checks payable to the Church of St. Joseph with “food shelf” in the memo line to:
P.O. Box 384, St. Joseph, MN 56374

JOYFUL GIVING FOR QUIET OAKS:
We are excited to kick off our Joyful Giving Program! Over the next five weeks we will be collecting donations for Quiet Oaks Hospice House. Each week suggests different items needed by Quiet Oaks:

Fourth SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Drop off on Dec. 23

Furniture Polish or Window Cleaner



COFFEE CAKE ORDERS
Thank you for placing your coffee cake orders! Ordered cakes can be picked up TONIGHT following 5:30pm Mass. **Thanks to the many volunteers** who helped bake all 318 cakes! There are some extra cakes available for sale following mass tonight, or by contacting the parish office during the week.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS:
During this time of year, it is important to remember the many ways that God has blessed each one of us. Thank you for the many ways you share your God-given personal gifts & financial resources with our parish. Your contributions will allow us to present another year of faith-filled ministry to thousands of people in 2018.

The deadline for consideration of your year-end contribution as being tax deductible for 2017 is December 31, 2017

FISH FRY TICKETS FOR GIFT-GIVING
Advance Fish Fry tickets make a great Christmas gift! An adult ticket can be purchased for \$10 from the parish office. Our 2018 Fish Fry Dinners will take place on February 16 and 23rd (the first two Fridays of Lent). Advanced tickets will be available for \$10 and Tickets at the door will be sold for \$12.

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES:
The 2018 Contribution Envelopes are available for pick up. Even if you participate in the Electronic Donation Program--you still have a pack of envelopes designated. All packs of envelopes include weekly envelopes plus monthly green envelopes (facility fund) and holy day envelopes as well as special Diocesan collection envelopes. Children may sign-out a box of their own envelopes if they wish.

MUSIC NOTES



Christmas is quickly approaching! Wont you please consider joining our Christmas Choir? Practice will be **Saturday**, December 16th at 6:30 pm. Voices and instrumentalists are invited to join us. The more, the merrier.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

•JR. HIGH YOUTH RALLY
Junior High Students will be attending the Rally at St. John's Prep. School on January 7th from 9:15-4, registration fees have been paid by the parish.



•CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Children (age 4 and up) are encouraged to sign-up for our annual Christmas Pageant which will take place on Christmas Eve at 5:00PM in the Abbey Church. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Rehearsal is scheduled at 10:00AM on Saturday December 23rd in the Abbey Church.

•FAMILY GAME DAY
Jan. 14th from 9:30-10:45, all families welcome to join, snacks and drinks provided)

•RECONCILIATION SERVICE/JOYFUL GIVING
thanks to everyone who came to our Reconciled to Christ Service and donated goods to Quiet Oaks & the Avon food shelf.

•QUESTION OF THE WEEK
Would any adults be interested in having a 1 hr event just for our parish to get together in the new year and perhaps make it an adult faith formation day at the Milk & Honey Apple cidery in town? To respond YES and to submit any other suggestions, please email Alyssa at Alyssa.Maty@gmail.com)