

# Welcome

We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey

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

**Listen, Here, Now – Prepare the way!**

I listened to a talk by Fr. Greg Boyle SJ this past week on the radio. Fr. Boyle is head of Homeboys Industries in Los Angeles, CA where he works with former gang members and where they learn new life skills. It is a great a ministry to those on the fringe of society. It is also very challenging and stressful. He was asked how he uses prayer to manage it all. He shared that he uses different phrases in his meditation and then repeats it throughout the day. The phrase he is using now is, "Listen, Here, Now". It helps him to be grounded in the moment and not worry about the past or the future. It is a challenge when he meditates, to calm himself. So, he uses this phrase to better focus his prayer, so he can better listen to what God has to say to him. Then throughout the day he will repeat the phrase to himself, especially when he is going to meet someone. Repeating the phrase teaches him to listen first and to give full attention to the person in front of him.

I have started to use this form of phrase meditation and have found it helpful. During Advent we are called by God to prepare the way of the Lord. With all the distractions of our culture, it can be difficult to calm ourselves and really listen to God. I suggest that this phrase meditation can be helpful in gaining focus in our lives. As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord, let's Listen, Here, Now.

Together, let us prepare the way of the Lord.

Fr. Greg



**Second Sunday of Advent**

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

The Twinned Parishes of:

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST of Collegeville

Phone: 320.363.2569

Mailing Address:  
14241 Fruit Farm Road  
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Website:  
[StJohnTheBaptistParish.org](http://StJohnTheBaptistParish.org)  
[www.facebook.com/sjtbp parish](http://www.facebook.com/sjtbp parish)

and

SAINT BENEDICT of Avon



Phone: 320.250.5618

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 98  
Avon, MN 56310

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**Mass Schedule**

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

**Reconciliation:**

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

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**EVENTS IN OUR AREA:**

**December 12, Collegeville, Reconciliation Service:** St. John the Baptist Parish will host "Reconciled to Christ" a prayer and reconciliation service at 7:00PM in the Parish Center. All are welcome.

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


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

**February 3, St. John's University, Catholic Men's Conference:** A Call to Responsibility. 8:00AM-5:30PM at the Humphrey Auditorium. Speaker: Damon Owens. For more information call 320-252-4721 or visit: [www.stcdio.org/mensconference](http://www.stcdio.org/mensconference).





DECEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Parish Office Closed	7:00PM Reconciled to Christ; an Advent Reconciliation Service 	8:00 MASS Breakfast	Coffee Cake Baking 8:30am-5pm	8AM-2PM Coffee Cake Pick-Up	5:30 PM Mass ++George & Viola Dullinger 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	3rd Sunday of Advent

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

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS: SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH 5:30 PM**

GREETERS:	SERVERS:	LECTORS:	GIFT BEARERS:	EUCARIST MINISTERS:	SACRISTAN:	MUSIC:
Ken Schmitt Chuck Lauer	Nick Merdan Elizabeth Merdan	Nancy Fandel Denis Hynes	Becky Hafner Jerry Fogarty	Nancy Fandel Elaine Omann Deb Symalla	Bob Simon	Jason Prigge Brittany Prigge

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

**Parish Committee Chairpersons:**  
**Liturgy:** Scott Wallner  
**Parish Life:** Heidi Peternell  
**Social Justice & Ministry:** Michael Roske  
**Faith Formation:** Jody Kappes & Kari Scholz  
**Finance Council:** Dan Backes  
Personnel Committee: David Lyndgaard

**Pastoral Council Representatives:**  
Elaine Omann (2015-18)  
Dan Backes (2015-18) **Past Chairperson**  
Michaela Roske (2016-2019) **Chairperson**  
Joe Warner (2016-2019)  
Jason Mohs (2017-2020b)  
Joe Theisen (2017-2020)



**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

Adult Envelopes.....\$ 1,269.00  
Donations fiscal year to date.....\$ 54,365.00  
Budgeted donations fiscal year to date.....\$ 56,166.00  
**Other income:**  
Loose Plate .....\$ 59.33  
Green Envelopes.....\$ 0.00  
Children Envelopes.....\$ 0.00  
Wednesday Coffee Cup.....\$ 19.00  
Hurricane/Earthquake Collection.....\$ 20.00  
Christmas Flowers.....\$ 20.00

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.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

We are a progressive Catholic Benedictine Community encountering Christ through the celebration of Word and Sacrament, one another, nature, and our thirst to create a just world.

**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.

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!" (Isaiah 40:3, NRSV). May we also prepare our hearts for the Messiah's coming.

**PARISH NEWS/EVENTS**

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:**



Save the date and plan to join us on December 12th at 7:00pm for our newly refreshed Advent Reconciliation service. Take some time out of your busy schedule to lift up your burdens and settle your soul with Christ in the form of song, personal reflection, penance and /or communal participation. We look forward to having you join us.

**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:

Third SUNDAY OF ADVENT Drop off on Dec. 16

**Chocolate Chips or Vanilla**

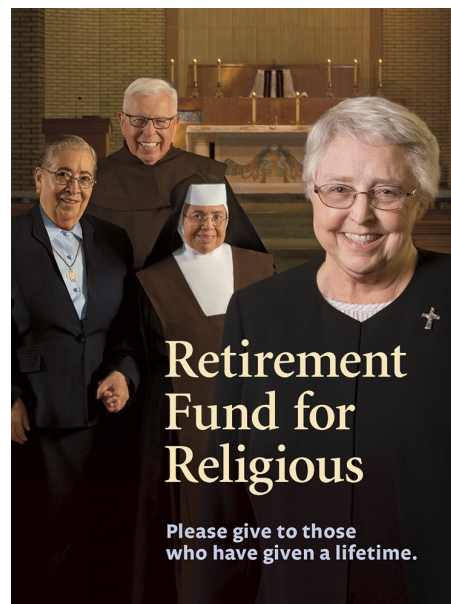


**COFFEE CAKE ORDERS**



Thank you for placing your coffee cake orders! We will be baking Thursday, Dec. 14; cakes will be available for pick-up on Friday, Dec. 15th from 8:00am-2:00pm, or Saturday after 5:30pm Mass.

**HELP RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**



**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

The envelope for Retirement Fund for Religious found in your envelope pack can be placed in the collection basket today. Your generous contribution helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders.

**PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE THANKS YOU:**

Parish Life would like to thank everyone who participated in Turkey Bingo on November 18! We had a large crowd and a lot of fun! Special thanks to the Faith Formation students who manned the floor selling cards and checking Bingo's, our two callers and the extra help in the kitchen - we couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you to all who have donated to our Quiet Oaks collection! This is an ongoing project and Quiet Oaks is appreciative of our parish support. Thank you to Joe and Elaine Omann for delivering our donations!

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**



We are looking for a few parent or teenage volunteers to help with the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. If you are able to help, please contact Alyssa Maty: (815)207-3208 or e-mail: amaty001@csbsju.edu

**MUSIC NOTES**



Christmas is quickly approaching. We will have two rehearsals for both Christmas Masses. Practices are on Saturday December 9th and Sunday December 16th at 6:30 pm. Voices and instrumentalists are invited to join us. The more, the merrier.

**FAITH FORMATION CORNER**

**•FAITH FORMATION CLASSES THIS SUNDAY**

This Sunday, December 10th we will meet from 9:30-10:45.

**•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.

**•ADULT FAITH FORMATION—HOW DID I GET HERE?**

Join us on December 10th from 9:30-10:45am for our Adult Education speaker series. Hear Alyssa and Deacon Reginald's stories. Refreshments will be provided.