

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH of Collegeville

14241 Fruit Farm Road | St. Joseph, MN 56374 | 320.363.2569 | www.StJohnTheBaptistParish.org

Twinned Parish: Church of Saint Benedict of Avon
PO Box 98 | Avon, MN 56310 | 320.250.5618

Welcome

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.

Make Straight the Way

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of..." Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today! @LPI

This Second week of Advent, we ask you to examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making choices that move you farther away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight". Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!

Let us come together to prepare the way in our hearts for Christ by joining us for our

Advent Reconciliation Service on Thursday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.
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. All are welcome.

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On Sabbatical Aug-Dec.
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EVENTS IN OUR AREA

December 8, Albany, Lake Wobegon Brass Band: At The BEAT (Albany Area High School) 2:00 pm Come enjoy your favorite holiday classics performed in traditional brass band fashion! Call 845-5060 or go online to district745.org/BEAT for tickets (Adults: \$17, Students: \$12)

December 14, Collegeville, Theology Day: Fifty Years on the Family: A Look Back to the Present Presenter: Kari-Shane Davis Zimmerman, Ph.D. check-in at 8:30am, presentation from 9-Noon, Emmaus Hall, Saint John's University, Collegeville. Free event. Lunch provided. Registration is required: www.collegevilleMN.com/theologyday, 320-363-3560 or theologyday@csbsju.edu.

January 20, St. Cloud, Vespers For Life: Held at the Church of St. Anthony, 2405 N 1st St, St. Cloud. Rosary at 3:30 p.m. and Vespers at 4:00 p.m. Bishop Donald Kettler will preside at the Vespers service. The service includes music, prayer, scripture and reflection for the over 60 million children who have been aborted since 1973. Monetary donations accepted to Mother Mary's Fund to assist crisis pregnancy centers in the Diocese of Saint Cloud. For more information, visit http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/vespers-for-life-4/.

January 22, St. Paul, March For Life: Join us on the bus for a prayer service and the March for Life on January 22 at the Cathedral of St. Paul. The bus will leave after the 7:15 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony Parish parking lot in St. Cloud, picking up at several locations in the diocese. Check our website for the most up-to-date information.

A free-will offering will be accepted to help defer the cost of the bus. To reserve a space for the bus ride, register online, contact the Office of Marriage & Family at 320-252-4721 or visit: http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/march-for-life-3/.

February 23, Sauk Rapids, Catholic Men's Conference: Sacred Heart Church. This year's theme is Men of Integrity, "Mentoring Disciples," with an emphasis on evangelizing to youth and young adults. Our keynote speaker will be Deacon Ralph Poyo. For more information, visit: http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/catholic-mens-conference-2019/

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30AM MASS Faith Formation Classes	Parish Office Closed 7:00PM Social Justice Meeting		8:00AM MASS +Loretta Dullinger Breakfast 9:15 Choir Rehearsal	8:30AM Coffee Cake Baking 7:00PM Reconciliation/Prayer Service	8:00AM MASS Benediction	5:30 PM MASS +Olivia Eynck-Kimlinger	3rd Sunday of Advent Building Rental

YOUR WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Adult Envelope	\$1,345.00	Special Needs (Green Envelope)	\$60.00
Donations Fiscal Year To Date	\$47,987.00	Children's Envelope	\$2.00
Budgeted Donations Fiscal Year To Date	\$57,500.00	Wednesday Coffee Cup	\$17.00
Loose Plate	\$30.00	Christmas Flower Donations	\$10.00

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 REQUESTS

Louise Bartlett, Julia Beckmann, Lorraine Degiovanni, Bob Dumonceaux, Gloria Ebacher, Ben Hamilton, Elizabeth Hamilton, Leo Heck, Dcn. Mike Keable, Alvina Klocker, Susan McKeon, Clara Meyer, Judy Ruprecht, Bob Simon, Charlie & Nancy Wenner, Military Men, Women and their families.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15TH 5:30 PM						
GREETERS:	SERVERS:	LECTOR:	GIFT BEARERS:	EUCH. MINISTERS:	SACRISTAN:	MUSIC:
Brian Eisenschenk Gene Eisenschenk	Isaac Hansen Nick Hansen	Nancy Fandel	Bob & Evie Dumonceaux	Nancy Fandel Chuck Griffith Linda McNair	Mary Griffith	Brittany & Jason Prigge

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

MASS SCHEDULES

St. John the Baptist Church

Wednesday 8:00 AM
Friday 8:00 AM
Saturday 5:30 PM

Reconciliation: Saturdays at 4:30 PM

St. Benedict Church

Tuesday 8:00 AM
Thursday 8:00 AM
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Reconciliation: Thursdays at 7:30 AM

St. John the Baptist Parish Sunday Mass Schedule:

Mark your calendars to join us for monthly Faith Formation Sunday Masses which have been scheduled for 8:30AM on:

SUNDAYS → December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 7

MUSIC NOTES

Christmas Choir

It's that time of year to prepare for Christmas Eve Mass. We will have rehearsal December 12th at 9:15 am at the Parish Center.

Music Schedule

We are seeking more individuals to share their talents in the music ministry. If you sing or play an instrument, please consider joining us. We are in need of many more voices and accompanists. Contact Jason Prigge to get involved.



PARISH HAPPENINGS

Advent Reconciliation Service



We will be hosting our annual Advent Reconciliation Prayer Service on Thursday, December 13th at 7:00PM.

When the daily activities and life seem to overwhelm us, as they might at this time of year, it is good to pause and to reflect on the lives of Mary and Elizabeth, who were open to God's activity in their lives.

We encourage you to 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. Afterwards, stay and enjoy hospitality: coffee and brownies.

Coffee Cake Orders

Reminder, coffee cake orders can be picked up on Friday, December 14th between 8:00AM-2:00PM or after 5:30PM Mass on Saturday December 15th. Thank you to all of the volunteer bakers who have signed up to bake on Thursday, December 13th!

Reverse Advent Calendar

The St. John the Baptist Social Justice & Ministry Committee is sponsoring a food drive with a "reverse" Advent calendar. It is a "reverse" Advent calendar because instead of counting down the days, we are adding up food items each day. Collect your contributions in a box and bring them to the Parish Center on Dec. 22nd or to the Christmas Eve Mass. The SJM committee will distribute your contributions to Catholic Charities, Avon, Cold Spring and St. Joseph food shelves. Copies of the Reverse Advent Calendar can be found on the bulletin board in the parish center or on the parish website near the bulletins.

What is your favorite Christmas Memory?

This year, instead of holding the Christmas Eve Pageant, we are looking for parishioners to write short testimonials about a favorite Christmas memory or what Christmas means to you. This is open to any and all ages and they will be printed in the worship aid for Christmas Eve at the Abbey Church. Please return these to Meghan Stretar, either via email (mestretar@csbsju.edu), or they can be placed in her mailbox in the Parish Center, or the collection basket by December 16. If you would prefer to pick up a Favorite Memory Worksheet to submit, they can be found on the bulletin board.

Middle School Youth Rally

The 2019 Middle School Youth Rally has moved from Saint John's University to Cathedral High School. The rally takes place on Sunday, January 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The theme, "Dream Small" will be presented by Luke Spehar, a local musician and speaker. More information about the event can be found on the St. Cloud Diocese website: www.stcdio.org

Retirement Fund for Religious

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years with little or no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. A Retirement Fund for Religious can be found in your contribution envelope pack. Thank you.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH OF COLLEGEVILLE:

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS (CHRISTMAS EVE):

Monday, Dec. 24th | 5:00 p.m. | Abbey Church

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH:

Saturday, Dec. 29th | 5:30 p.m. | Parish Center

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S EVE):

Monday, Dec. 31st | 5:30 p.m. | Parish Center