

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH of Collegetown

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.

A Note from Staff Member Jason Prigge

What do we do to protect and safeguard our young people? At the 'Call of the Baptized' event, it was brought to our attention that many individuals don't know what steps we take or the process we go through to protect our young people from abuse. Along with the parish council and the parish staff we felt it was important to inform everyone who may or may not have students in the Faith Formation program.

In previous years the Diocese of St. Cloud required a background check every five years and annual safe environment training. They went about the task by creating materials in house for adults while have supplement DVD or short clip screenings for young people. I would then have to keep track of who did the training via paper and submit an annual report to Tim Welch at the Diocese with all of our adults and a summary of the student training.

This year the Diocese switched to a program through Catholic Mutual (the same group who hosts our insurance) which is all online. We still require a background check every five years along with annual safe environment training. However, if we have new volunteers or parents, they must create an online account and do the three-hour training which will then trigger a background check which costs the parish \$20. While the training and background check are good for five years, they still must do the annual training put out by Catholic Mutual. Individuals who have completed a background check within the past five years must still complete the annual training. This training is for all staff, volunteers and even the pastor(s). Parish volunteers need to complete the training, and the parish is notified as they do.

It is a high priority, as staff, that we keep our young people and vulnerable adults safe, if you haven't taken the training - please do so. If you are not sure, please contact Meghan Stretar, who is our parish Safe Environment coordinator. In the wake of tragic events of abuse in our global Church we can prevent it by doing our part as a baptized Catholic.

Link for training: <https://stcloud.cmgconnect.org/>

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On Sabbatical Aug-Dec.

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EVENTS IN OUR AREA

January 12, St. Cloud, Cathedral H.S. Crusaderette Dance Show: Come support the Cathedral High School Crusaderette Dance Team at their annual dance show on January 12, 2019. This show will feature the Crusaderette Dance Team, as well as area high school dance teams and studio groups. Shows are at 2 pm and 6 pm at CHS North Gym. Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$5 for students (K-12) and children.

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
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
3rd Sunday of Advent Building Rental	Parish Office Closed		8:00AM MASS Breakfast 6:00PM Pageant Meeting		8:00AM MASS Benediction	5:30 PM MASS +John Gagliardi	4th Sunday of Advent

YOUR WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Adult Envelope	\$2,628.00	Special Needs (Green Envelope)	\$0.00
December Electronic Contributions	\$3,595.00	Children's Envelope	\$8.00
Donations Fiscal Year To Date	\$54,210.00	Immaculate Conception	\$57.00
Budgeted Donations Fiscal Year To Date	\$60,000.00	Wednesday Coffee Cup	\$18.00
Loose Plate	\$51.00	Christmas Flower Donations	\$25.00

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.



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 22ND 5:30 PM						
GREETERS:	SERVERS:	LECTOR:	GIFT BEARERS:	EUCH. MINISTERS:	SACRISTAN:	MUSIC:
Kevin Schrom Ann Schrom	Jane Simon	Greg Hansen	Arnie & Rhonda Sauerer	Kelly Haeg Alice Mayers Bob Mayers	John Brinkman	Dianne Bechtold Jason Prigge Bob Abeln

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24TH 5:00 PM IN THE ABBEY CHURCH						
GREETERS:	SERVERS:	LECTOR:	GIFT BEARERS:	EUCH. MINISTERS:	SACRISTAN:	MUSIC:
Lee & Carol Wolf Bob & Alice Mayers	Scott Wallner	Denis Hynes	Ron & Charlotte Eisenschenk	Joyce Abeln, Kari Scholz, Bob & Alice Mayers, Dave Lyndgaard, Bob & Evie	Br. Xavier Schermerhorn OSB	Jason Prigge Choir

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 → January 13, February 10, March 10, April 7

MUSIC NOTES

Christmas Choir

Choir members should meet at 4:30 pm Christmas Eve in the Abbey Church. Extended family members are welcome to join us!

Caroling at the VA

If you would like to join us to go caroling at the VA this Sunday, December 16th at 1:30 pm. Meet in the sunroom (between buildings 50 & 51), all are welcome!

PARISH HAPPENINGS

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!!!

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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Much to our delight several people have volunteered as organizers, children and ADULT actors for our Christmas Eve Pageant! We are happy to incorporate ADULTS in this year's pageant, and there is still time for YOU to volunteer. Please contact Julie Ortloff to sign-up and receive rehearsal information.

THANK YOU FR. CYRIL FR. IAN

It is with grateful hearts, for the work Fr. Cyril and Fr. Ian have both done during their time here in our parish, that we offer thanksgiving. Please join us by offering thanks and farewell with hospitality immediately following mass this evening.

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

Everyday Stewardship

I wish I were a better steward. I would like to think I am a pretty generous person, and I do work hard to cultivate the characteristics of a good Everyday Steward in my life. However, stewardship is about more than giving. It is also about prudence and wise planning. It is about storing up grain for the lean years and making sure there is enough oil to light your lamps when the power goes out. If I were a better steward, I would have that \$1,000 emergency fund to dip into when I need a car repair. I would save more for retirement and vacation. I would have more food in the garage freezer because I bought more on sale and prepared for when money was a little tighter. In a nutshell, I would be prepared for whatever comes my way, good or bad.

Advent is a time of preparation. We not only prepare for Christmas, but for the day when Jesus Christ returns again. Unfortunately, we too often act like this is the only time to prepare for such events. We should be preparing all throughout the year.

If we only focus on our spirituality at Advent and Lent, then we are poor stewards of our time the rest of the year. The wise steward is always cultivating their faith and working to improve their relationship with God. They know that they need to be prepared for anything at any time. They stand ready, waiting for the call of their God.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

