

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue #302
September–October, 2010



LET US PRAY

As Father John often reminds us, prayer and spiritual growth are the most important part of our lives in the parish. Keeping that in mind, the editors of the VOICE elected to devote the major portion of this issue to prayer opportunities and the parish ministries that support our spiritual growth. Upon preparation, we were edified to see how many opportunities there are for parishioners to grow spiritually. At the same time we were hum-



bled to see the participation in ministries that reach out to help others grow spiritually. We urge you to look over this issue reflectively. We invite you to either participate in some of the spiritual opportunities or to participate as a minister of prayer in one of the mentioned ministries. Remember the song we sing in church so often, "We Are Companions on the Journey?" It is apparent that our parish is on the journey. Are you on board?

COME LET US ADORE

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth."—Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

The first Thursday of every month the parish honors the living presence of Jesus with a Day of Adoration. The day starts with 8:30 a.m. Mass and ends with Vespers / Benediction at 7:00 p.m. If you have never attended, Adoration is when the priest takes a consecrated host and places it in a monstrance (from the Latin *monstrare*: to expose to view). The monstrance is placed on the altar for adoration. You may sign up to be a scheduled "adorer" or just stop in any time during the day to pray before the very presence of our Lord. You'll have some time alone with Jesus to pray your favorite prayers, read the bible, contemplate acts of faith, hope, charity, thanksgiving, or reparation, pray a rosary, or do whatever type of prayerful devotion. You can also just sit in silence; simply keeping Him company, just as you would a dear friend.



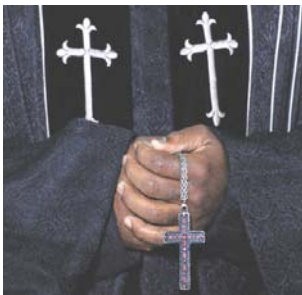
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Mark Your Calendar

- Coffee & Rolls After Mass – Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 7
- Baptism Class – Sep 30, Oct 28 @ 7:00 p.m. Fireplace Rm
- Eucharistic Adoration – Oct 7, Nov 4
- New Member Registration – Sep 26 after 8 & 10 a.m. Masses, Oct 5 & Nov 2 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Women's Morning of Reflection – Oct 9 @ 9:00 a.m. – noon, Commons, RSVP
- Anointing of the Sick – Sep 18 after 4:30 p.m. Mass
- Fr. John Girotti's "Know Your Faith," Oct 14 @ 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Church
- All Souls Day Vespers – Nov 2 @ 6:30 p.m.

PRAYING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD



The 31 Club's purpose is to develop an awareness of the priesthood; an awareness of the need for more priests; and an awareness of how special it would be to have an ordained priest from our own parish.

The members of the 31 Club pursue their purpose through prayer. They at-

tend one additional Mass each month with the sole purpose of praying for vocations to the priesthood. There are no regular meetings, just regular prayer.

There are sign up sheets in the narthex of the church. All are welcome to join. Contact Al Carlotto (434-8828) for more information.

PRAYING WITH THE HOMEBOUND

There are thirteen members of St. John's parish who perform Liturgy of the Word with Communion services for residents at Hampton Manor, Cardinal Ridge, and Tender Hearts (community based residential facilities). The weekly service follows the prayers said at Mass, the readings for the day, a reflection, reception of the Eucharist, and closing prayers. Those participating in the ministry say they get much more than they give. Yvonne Duffek stated, "The people are so grateful that the parish remembers them and prays with them. They are so devout and caring – it really inspires you."

All who take part in the minis-



try agree, the residents become friends. It starts off their morning with greetings and good cheer. After the service the presider passes out bulletins and fills the residents in on what is going on at St. John's. DeDe Rife, a presider at Hampton Manor said, "The residents' prayerful reception of the Eucharist is inspiring and I have come to think of the residents as

my friends."

The ministry requires a two night workshop and a VIRTUS workshop. During the training, presiders are given a format to follow and develop some practice reflections on the readings.

There are eight parishioners who take communion to the homebound or in nursing homes once a month. Their ministry is one of prayer, reflection, and companionship with the homebound. For many homebound parishioners, this contact is the glue that continues their connection with the parish and the visit is always welcome. It lets them know that they are in the hearts and prayers of the parish.

MEN IN PRAYER

The Men's Club is open to all men of St. John's. Meetings are once per month on the fourth Tuesday in the large conference room of the Parish Office Center from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Each meeting includes prayer, scripture, topical discussion, and fellowship. The group is currently reading a book titled, **Fuel: Catholic Men Living Faith.**

The Men's Club is closely as-

sociated with the men's Bible Study (many of the members are in both groups). However, one need not be in Men's Bible Study to belong to the Men's Club. This group allows men to get together and discuss their faith and what it means to them. It also gives the men of the parish an avenue to get to know each other and socialize.

The group consists of men of all ages and backgrounds. All that

is needed is a desire to grow in your faith.



MINISTERING PRAYER

Parishioner Lynn Greisinger is our highlighted Minister of Prayer for this issue. When Lynn retired, she dedicated her time to do good works in the parish by journeying on whatever path God led her to travel.

Since her retirement, Lynn's presence has been felt both as a leader in parish management and also a leader in prayer. She recently completed two years on the Pastoral Council and is in her fourth year as parish trustee. Her work in parish management was helped by her many years of experience at Schreiber Foods. However, it is in her role as leader of prayer that she gets the greatest satisfaction. Lynn is a commissioned Lay Leader of Prayer, a distributor of communion to the homebound and those in nursing homes, a leader of the Rosary at Cardinal Ridge, a Eucharistic



Minister, and a Lector.

"My training to become a Lay Leader of Prayer made a huge impact on me," stated Greisinger. "Not only did I learn about the richness of the gestures and symbols of the church and developing and presenting a reflection on scripture readings at a prayer service, but my spiritual life was also

enriched. It was truly an unforgettable experience," according to Greisinger. A Lay Leader of Prayer leads Liturgy of the Word with Communion every Tuesday morning, seasonal Vespers and Morning Prayer, and occasional funeral wake services or committals.

Bringing communion to the homebound and those in nursing homes is another favorite of Lynn's. "The people I visit are so grateful for prayer, the Eucharist, and companionship. It is very rewarding." As a member of Catholic Women / Christian Mothers, Lynn answered the call by volunteering to lead the rosary at Cardinal Ridge once a month.

Lynn is but one of many dedicated parishioners who use their spiritual life as a means to enrich the spiritual life of our parishioners. We are grateful to them all.

LAY LEADERS OF PRAYER

St. John's and other Catholic parishes around the country depend more and more on the laity in leadership roles, which includes being leaders of prayer. Our parish is blessed to have seven parishioners who are commissioned Lay Leaders of Prayer. These individuals complete a training program through the Green Bay Diocese to prepare for their roles as prayer leaders. The classes are held during one weekend for three months. Once commissioned, they take turns leading the parish in prayer on days when there is no scheduled Mass (Tuesday mornings) or for even-

ing prayers during Advent and Lent. They have also led wake services and committal services.

Marge Schiffer, Pastoral Associate and Director of Spiritual Growth for the parish states, "In a parish the size of St. John's with only one priest, the role of the laity in the spiritual life of the parish is essential. The individuals we have in this ministry realize the importance of the role they play in the spiritual journey of

the parish. Because of them, we offer more opportunities to our parishioners for prayer and reception of the Eucharist. We are blessed to have such a committed group."

The currently trained Lay Leaders of Prayer are: Gary Van Helvoirt, Jean Payette, Gary Lockstein, Jackie Amschler, Lynn Greisinger, Dave Bjorkman, and Marge Schiffer. Attending training this fall will be Ruth Holloway and Joe Smith. Parishioners who are interested in becoming involved in this prayer ministry can contact Marge Schiffer (434-2145 ext. 214).



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Rarely do new ministries begin with as many enthusiastic responses as the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. John's. The ministry, though in its infancy, has twenty-seven enthusiastic participants who knit, crochet, quilt, or sew shawls. The origins of this ministry are traced to Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, who believe that shawls are symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God.

The prayer shawls are made for someone suffering through a time of transition, crisis, or need as a tangible symbol of God's love and care expressed through human gesture.

The key is that the work is done intentionally; with each stitch, the creator of the shawl incorporates thoughts and prayers for the receiver. Then, before the shawl is given away it is blessed. Those who receive these shawls

feel they have been gifted with something precious, filled with healing energy, and connected to their parish community. "Those nights I wake up alone and frightened, I wrap it tight around me," said one recipient. Another said, "When I am at my lowest, it reminds me of God's love expressed through the work of human hands." Many have told the pastoral staff that when they wear the shawl, it feels like a loving hug.

According to Ruth Holloway, "Our group at St. John's is very new. We are deciding who we are as a ministry. The beauty of this is people who are homebound or unable to attend the monthly gatherings can still participate and feel they are reaching out to those in need with their prayers and



shawls. A typical meeting begins with prayer and ends with prayer. In between, we share stories and get to know each other as we work on the shawls."

If you are all thumbs and can't knit, crochet, sew etc. you can still help the group by donating the yarn or money for the yarn used to make the shawls. Truly this is a ministry that any parishioner can help with.

For more information regarding this ministry contact Ruth Holloway (434-2145 ext. 209).

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Men's Bible Study Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the



Parish Office Center, except when the Catholic Men's Group meets. The men use the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible. The Bible, which is designed for those who are not biblical scholars, gives the history of the area and time the books were written as well as maps to examine. This particular book contains only the stories of the New Testament. It covers when, where, and why the particular book of the New Testament was written. The group tries to read and discuss one chapter per week. All men from the parish are invited to attend. They are currently

reading St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians.

In addition to the Men's Bible Study Group, there are three other Bible Study opportunities:

- ✦ Chuck and Diane Tappa host one or two six-week studies in their home every year.
- ✦ George Smith offers a more comprehensive look at the scriptures.
- ✦ Honor Jensen concentrates on women in the Bible.

Watch the bulletin to take advantage of these opportunities to participate in Bible Study.

PRAYING THE ROSARY

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said,

"The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of

the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description."

Every Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. a group gathers in the chapel to pray the rosary. Each week a volunteer leads the rosary before the 8:00 a.m. Mass. All members of the parish are invited to participate.

In addition the

Catholic Women / Christian Mother's sponsor the rosary at Cardinal Ridge on the first and third Thursday of the month.



REST IN PEACE

Together we pray for those of our faith community who have died.

May they rest in peace

- † Charlene Ann Bembenek
- † Kevin J. Kleczka
- † Greg Siolka, Sr.
- † Gloria E. Hilgenberg
- † Elizabeth "Pat" Simpson



- † Audrey Moens
- † Nancy A. Kane
- † Caroline T. Van Laanen
- † Marilyn Day
- † Margaret "Peg" Knapp
- † Betty LuMaye
- † Isidore L. "Ise" Kwaterski

Our love and support to their families and loved ones.

BAPTISMS

Together we welcome the following children who joined our Catholic family:



- †Francesca Jo Palzewic – Daughter of Richard & Melinda
- †Olivia Ann Webb – Daughter of Andrew & Ashley
- †Ray Kenneth Toonen – Son of John & Lori
- †Jackson Steven Smith – Son of Corey & Ashley
- †Isabella Kay Piwonski-Dickinson – Daughter of John & Heather
- †Owen John Guzowski – Son of Eric & Jennifer
- †Alli Jo Tomchek – Daughter of Jonathan & Stephanie
- †Sawyer Tobias Daniel Williams – Son of Brett & Julie
- †Lila Caroline Edwards – Daughter of William & Anne

- †Alexander Ryan & William Matthew Vandebusch – Sons of Jeffrey & Tracy
- †Sophia Lynn Perez – Daughter of Francisco & Jessica
- †Noah Joseph Kroll – Son of Jeremiah & April
- †Averyx James Maufort – Son of Josh & Sarah
- †Evan James Stenson – Son of Geoffrey & Amy
- †Treyton James Altuve – Son of Adam & Erica
- †Kadelyn Skye Hansen – Daughter of Jesse & Katie
- †Addisyn Rayne Kowalewski – Daughter of Edward & Angela
- †Mason Nicholas Heintz – Son of Nicholas & Aili
- †Finnegan Gerald Kaster – Son of Michael & Meegan
- †Paige Catherine Miller – Daughter of Eric & Erin
- †Elijah Vance Middleton – Son of Alexander & Samantha

ST. JOHN BOY SCOUTS ATTEND THE CENTENNIAL

Johnathan Anderson and Matthew Matuszak attended the National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill Virginia where they celebrated the Centennial of Boy Scouts in the USA.

The boys started their journey in 2007 by saving and fundraising to pay for the trip. In 2009 they were assigned to a Provisional Troop. Over the following year Johnathan and Matthew attended several organizational meetings.

On July 21st they left Green Bay with nine adults and fifty other Boy Scouts from northeastern Wisconsin. The next day the Scouts toured and stayed at Kent



State University. On July 23rd they explored Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On July 24th it was off to the Washington D.C. Mall. The following day they discovered the Arlington Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and more

of the Washington D.C. Mall.

On July 26th the Provisional Troops checked in at Fort A.P. Hill, outside of Bowling Green, Virginia. Then it was seven days doing things such as rappelling, rock climbing, scuba diving, shooting, stage shows, patch trading, souvenir shopping, and meeting Scouts from around the world, just to name a few. Surely these experiences will last them a life time.

On August 5th Johnathan and Matthew returned safely back to Green Bay tired, but excited with lots of stories to tell and pictures to show to family and friends.

CHILDREN PRAY FOR FAMILY

Vacation Bible School was the last week in July, but the music, Bible stories, and faith sharing are ongoing. We had one hundred participants and ninety-five volunteers celebrated *Son Quest Rainforest*. The children, parents, and volunteers are still singing the songs and talking about the wonderful week they experienced.

The most touching part of the week was the faith and heartfelt

prayers that went out to a family that has a child suffering with an illness. Everyone offered prayers, made a giant get well poster, and showed the support of a loving Church community toward the family.

Lessons of God's love were told to the children in the parables of the week, but the lessons were lived out in the children present. This was truly a week of a lasting faith experience for all.



WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP



Every Thursday evening is another opportunity for prayer or to pray in our parish. From 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the lower level of St. John the Baptist Ministry Center, the Prayer Group gathers for prayer. The group informally prays through music, scripture

reading, reflections, and traditional prayers.

All members of the parish are invited to participate with the group. Feel free to stop in to pray and experience the vitality of your faith with your fellow parishioners.

EVANGELIZE OUR YOUTH

“I love God and kids! I am excited to have this position!” stated Jody Engebos the new Youth Minister for middle school grades 6–8 and high school grades 9–12. “I am responsible for planning fun events with kids, who could complain about that!” Jody was baptized at St. John’s and has been a member of the parish all of her life. She has two children of her own — one in middle school and one in high school — and has been a parent volunteer at Forest Glen School and at St. John the Baptist School. In fact, it was through Jody’s volunteer efforts to vitalize the youth ministry at St. John’s that she became the logical candidate for the position when it opened this sum-

mer. Jody remarked “My goal is to get kids involved in having fun, faith, and fellowship with other good Christian kids with good values.”

Jody stressed that she needs lots of help from the parishioners to accomplish this goal. She needs the involvement of the kids, support from chaperones, help from adults, food, and funds. “Please encourage the kids to join the youth events. Many don’t read the bulletin, so we are relying on parents and neighbors to talk to them about joining in.”

Jody emphasized that any



amount of time parishioners can donate will be appreciated. Also she emphasized all kids are welcome at the youth events (friends, neighbors, cousins). They don’t have to be Catholic. This is an

opportunity to evangelize our youth with the principles of the Catholic faith by witnessing Catholic fellowship and fun.

“For Youth Ministry to be successful it requires a team effort. We all need to be Jesus’ hands and feet to raise these kids up to be good Christians!” emphasized Engebos.

HOW ABOUT VESPERS

Vespers consists of songs, psalms, a reading, and reflection. Vespers is a part of the church’s Liturgy of the Hours.

Vespers is celebrated on Tuesdays during Advent and Lent at 6:30 p.m. in the day chapel. Also, our Day of Adoration concludes with

Vespers. If you have never experienced this type of prayer, please come and participate. Families are very welcome.

TWO NEW TEACHERS

Welcome to Joe Sambs and Kelley Bottei who are two new faculty members at St. John the Baptist School.

Kelley is the new three year old preschool teacher. She recently graduated from St. Norbert

College as a returning student. A mother of two, she volunteered at her children’s school and began realizing her desire to become a teacher. Prior to obtaining a teaching degree, Kelley spent many years as a pediatric nurse and nurse practitioner before she had children. It was at that time she realized she wanted more time with kids and less time with doctors, telephones, and paperwork.

Joe is the new middle school math teacher. He graduated from St. Norbert’s in 2009 with a math-

ematics degree and certification to teach grades 6–12. Joe’s student teaching was at DePere High School where he taught algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra. He also student taught at Franklin Middle School in Green Bay. During the 2009–2010 school year, Joe worked as a long term substitute teacher at Waupaca High School teaching advanced algebra and calculus for part of the year and day to day subbing for the rest of the year. He enjoys golfing and playing baseball.



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SHARE YOUR FAITH

WHAT IS CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH (CRHP)?

- ✦ Christ Renews His Parish is a spiritual renewal weekend designed to help individuals grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and with others in their faith community.
- ✦ It is an excellent opportunity for Catholics to renew their understanding of the basic beliefs and traditions of their faith.
- ✦ It is a time to relax, pray, think about priorities, and refresh ourselves spiritually.
- ✦ More importantly, it allows you the opportunity to examine, rediscover, and intensify your personal relationship with Christ.
- ✦ It is a two-day retreat unlike any you have previously attended. Parishioners share with one another the ways they have found meaning, hope, peace and love in their lives. They share Liturgy, have an opportunity to receive Reconciliation, and even share laughs along the way.
- ✦ It is an experience that is personal, inspirational, and fulfilling. Many participants feel that the weekend experience has been among the most powerful and positive of their lives.
- ✦ It is a chance where, in a casual atmosphere, you will begin friendships that last a lifetime.



Many of your fellow parishioners who have previously attended will be happy to share their experience. For more information about attending a CRHP weekend call Ruth Holloway (434-2145 ext. 209). The next men's CRHP weekend is September 25–26. The next women's CRHP is October 2–3.