

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue #304
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CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The mission of the Catholic Church has always emphasized education. For many years that primarily focused on “Catholic Schools.” St. John’s School goes back over one hundred years. The Church and St. John’s has also emphasized faith formation (formerly known as CCD or Religious Education) for those not attending Catholic schools. Currently, we have a vibrant faith



formation program for students in kindergarten through sophomore year in high school and a strong Confirmation program. We have young adult education and continuing education programs for adults in the parish. In other words, St. John the Baptist has education programs for all ages. This issue of the VOICE will highlight some of our education outreach available to parishioners of all ages.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

St. John’s Catholic school joined thousands of Catholic schools across the nation in January to celebrate the gift of Catholic education. For over 100 years, many St. John families have supported Catholic education. This year focussed on alumni and grandparents who had been a wonderful influence in children’s lives.

Catholic Schools’ Week began with an Open House on Sunday morning, January 30th. Refreshments were served and teachers greeted the families. On Monday, January 31st, St. John alumni joined the students in



cluded students writing thank you letters to our community veterans, a school wide salute to our flag, and spending quiet time with Our Lord during Adoration.

Friday, February 4th, was Student Appreciation Day. A school Pep Rally was followed by a Grandparents’ Day. About 120 grandparents enjoyed Bin-



the school gym to kick-off Catholic Schools’ Week. Other activities during the week in-

go and lunch with their grandchildren. Students and staff were very excited to welcome the many grandparents who support Catholic education. The PTO organized a student versus parent basketball game to wrap up the celebration on Friday evening. Any guesses who won???



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Lenten / Easter Services

- † Ash Wednesday - March 9: Ashes Service @ 6:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.; Masses @ 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
- † Early Morning Liturgy of the Word - Tuesdays and Thursdays: March 10 - April 19 @ 6:30 a.m.
- † Morning Weekday Mass - Tuesdays through Fridays: March 10 through April 20 @ 8:30 a.m.
- † Morning Liturgy of the Word - Mondays: March 14 - April 18 @ 8:30 a.m.
- † Stations of the Cross - March 11, 18, 25, April 1 (God Spell Concert), 8, & 15 @ 7:00 p.m.
- † Individual Reconciliation - Saturdays: March 12 through April 16 @ 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
- † Parish Reconciliation - Wednesday March 30 @ 6:30 p.m.

- † Vespers - Tuesdays: March 15 - April 19 @ 6:30 p.m.
- † Holy Thursday Morning Prayer - April 21 @ 8:30 a.m.
- † Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper - April 21 @ 7:00 p.m.
- † Good Friday Morning Prayer - April 22 @ 8:30 a.m.
- † Good Friday Service of the Lord's Passion and Death - April 22 @ 1:00 p.m.
- † Good Friday Vespers - April 22 @ 7:00 p.m.
- † Holy Saturday Morning Prayer - April 23 @ 8:30 a.m.
- † Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - April 23 @ 8:00 p.m.
- † Easter Sunday Masses - April 24 @ 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Other Events

- † First Eucharist Enrollment at all Masses - February 26 & 27
- † GRACE Information Meeting - February 27 after 10:00 a.m. Mass
- † New Member Sign up - March 1 @ 7:00 p.m., Fireplace Room
- † Date Night - March 4
- † Lenten Book Sale - March 13
- † Rite of Election - March 13 @ 2:00 p.m.
- † Spring Break - March 21 - 25
- † Bread Feast - April 4 & 6 during Faith Formation
- † Adoration - March 3, April 7, & May 5
- † Adult Confirmation - March 22, 29, April 5, & 12 @ 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Fireplace Room
- † Coffee & Donuts Sunday Masses - February 20, March 6, & 20

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

On December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the *Queen of Peace Prayer Group* at St. John the Baptist School planned the Liturgy. As the newest members, third graders, processed in with the oldest members, eighth graders, they offered roses to Our Blessed Mother. Prayer Group members in the other grades actively took part in liturgy by lecturing, altar serving, bringing up the gifts, and singing in the choir.



This is the tenth year anniversary of the Prayer Group, originally called *The Friends of Mary* which formed in the fall of 2000. Students who volunteer to join the group give up a recess or study time to pray for the needs of others. There are seventy-eight members this year, eighteen that have joined for the first time – members must be in at least third grade.

Mrs. Karen Bernstein directs the fifth Grade Prayer

Group members. Mrs. Kay Moore directs the Middle School and Grades 3 and 4.

A new Prayer Group Committee was formed in 2009. The committee includes parents Karen Hoffmann, Mindy Ruby, Cindy Draghicchio, and Jennifer Dercks. This year, Mrs. Draghicchio developed a Service Booklet. Members can earn holy cards and an end of the year certificate through service activities. Services include donating time by visiting the elderly, earning money to buy food for the food pantries, attending Mass at another Catholic church in our area, etc.

The prayer group was thrilled to learn that the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help received approval for its apparitions of Mary the very same day, December. 8! The prayer group has made retreats to the Shrine in past years.

AN EDUCATION IN GRACE

Many parishioners have been hearing about GRACE (Green Bay Area Catholic Education) for well over a year. In an effort to help the entire parish understand what the GRACE system is all about, we asked principal Vicki Moratz to enlighten us. Below is her explanation.

“Parish members and school parents often ask the question, What are the advantages of coming together to create a school system? As the leadership team, the GRACE principals developed the following list of benefits:

- ✚ *Expanding faith integration in every curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular area so students will know and be able to live the Catholic faith more fully*
- ✚ *More in-depth focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) as 21st century learning for the future*



- ✚ *Create targeted hands-on, accelerated learning for all students-including those who struggle, learn differently or have special needs*
- ✚ *Access and participate in grants only attainable as a system*
- ✚ *Participate in Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA 7) for staff professional development at a lower cost*
- ✚ *Experience student Measure*

of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment with data analysis in an almost immediate manner as individual schools and as a system so that students' instructional needs and learning styles are addressed

- ✚ *Share more fully various approaches to meeting educational standards so that programs are moving toward similarity for more efficient and cost-effective purchasing*
- ✚ *Commit to one-on-one computing devices for current teaching and learning applications*

This is the last school year for transitioning into GRACE for the St. John's School. The GRACE School System becomes fully operational July 1, 2011.

We truly appreciate your continued support as it is vital to a successful future for all our GRACE students, families, and staff members,” said Mrs. Moratz.

NOT SURE WHERE TO FISH?

On January 22–23 the Gospel and video reflection focused on Jesus' call to “Come, Follow Me.” If you've been thinking about becoming a “Fisher”, the following are some hot fishing spots!

These are the top four areas identified through the Focus Groups, the survey cards many filled out, and the Leadership night last fall.

- ✚ *Youth / Youth Programs*
- ✚ *Services (Helping Hands, CRHP, etc.)*
- ✚ *Liturgy / Music*
- ✚ *Leadership / More Volunteers*



The Parish Council is working on the specifics behind each of these four areas and will share them with you in the coming months.

In the meantime, “fish” through the Stewardship of Service booklet handed out in January and check out these fishing spots!

What is the gift you have to offer? The red boxes are in the narthex for you to return your Stewardship of Service forms.

Thank you to all members of St. John's. We are gifts to each other and God continues to bless our community...

We can show you where to drop your line!

BAPTISMS

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



- † *Spencer Anthony Lee Gezella* – Son of Heather Jo
- † *Connor James Wassenberg* – Son of Matthew & Jenny
- † *Ella Marie Ferm* – Daughter of Kevin & Melissa
- † *Kloey Rae Deavers* – Daughter of Michael & Kandice
- † *Graceyn Marie Oberhuber* – Daughter of Nathan & Kim
- † *Cameron Claude Emmers* – Son of Lance & Cheryl
- † *Benjamin Joseph Bloodgood* – Son of Joseph & Kelly
- † *Ty Austin Stindt* – Son of Daniel & Tasha

- † *Eliana Grace Balli* – Daughter of Jody & Diane
- † *Landon Scott Spettel* – Son of Justin & Christine
- † *Eva Marie Streckenbach* – Daughter of Shane & Kim
- † *Karsten Chapman Cherek* – Son of Matthew & Jennifer
- † *Serenity Ann Vander Meulen* – Daughter of Justin & Ashley
- † *Gage Deacon Erdmann* – Son of Christopher & Heather
- † *Madeline Marie Erdmann* – Daughter of Christopher & Heather
- † *Jackson Daniel Gevaert* – Son of Matthew & Kelly Jo
- † *Axel Matthew Anderson* – Son of Matthew & Jane
- † *Macie Marlene DeSmidt* – Daughter of Charles & Ashlie
- † *Gary James Landolt* – Son of Robert & Amanda
- † *Addysen Kayleen Pamperin* – Daughter of Daniel & Jennifer
- † *Taryn Marrea Platkowski* – Daughter of Ross & Melissa

CHURCHTIME

Churchtime is a program for children ages 4–7. Churchtime meets from September to May during the 10:00 a.m. Mass. The children come to Mass with their parents and sit with them. Fr. John calls the children up after the opening prayer and blesses them before they go out to the Narthex for their lesson. The children focus on the gospel, us-

ing flannel boards or acting out the story to catch their attention. Small group discussions, videos, and prayers help explain gospel. An art or craft project is done to reinforce the days' lesson. After Communion the children return to church.

Cathy Seidl coordinates Churchtime. Adults and youth

volunteers serve as helpers.



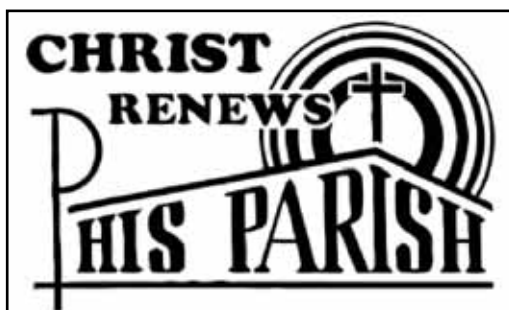
CRHP

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH (CRHP) is a process designed to bring adult members of our parish together in Christ. It is a renewal weekend in which parishioners experience a personal spiritual renewal and an abundance of love in Christian community. Participants share the ways they have found meaning, hope, peace, and love in their lives. The experience is personal, inspirational, and fulfilling. Many participants feel that the weekend experience has been among the most powerful and positive of their lives.

“This is the perfect way to establish a stronger bond with God

and your fellow parishioners” stated Ruth Holloway. “The atmosphere is casual and often you begin friendships that last a lifetime”.

Christ Renews His Parish has two sessions: one for men and the other for women. The two weekends are not mixed sessions. It allows a husband and wife to participate on different weekends and still tend to



family needs.

To date, 168 St. John parishioners have experienced a CRHP weekend. Many of them have expressed that they feel more connected to the parish and that it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know their fellow parishioners better. CRHP weekends are held here at St. John's and are led by parishioners who have previously attended a CRHP weekend.

The next CRHP men's weekend is April 2–3. The next women's weekend is April 16–17.

If you are interested in participating, contact Ruth Holloway @ 434-2145, ext 209.

REST IN PEACE

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

May they rest in peace.

- ✠ Michael L. Demeny
- ✠ Geraldine Gierczak
- ✠ Sylvia M. Belschner
- ✠ David E. Kramer



- ✠ Frank Barinotti
- ✠ Robert J. Ullmer
- ✠ Esther A. Bertrand
- ✠ Thomas G. Christofferson
- ✠ Michael B. Mulrooney
- ✠ Robert “Bob” C. Baumgart

Our love and support to their families and loved ones.

RCIA 2011

This year there are four adults involved with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA, as it is usually referred to. The group has been meeting since October and studying the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. During February, meetings have been on Saturday afternoons and include attendance at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. In March, RCIA will begin attending 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Two of the participants this year were baptized in another Christian religion, but will be received into the Catholic Church and make their first Communion and Confirmations on Holy Saturday. They are Casey Cooney and Todd-Lee Kotanen. They are referred to as can-



didates.

One of the four participants this year, Josh Weigner, is called a catechumen. That means that Josh has never been baptized.

Our catechumen and candidates are dismissed after the homily for further study because they do not partake of the Eucharist as yet.

Josh’s wife, Glenda, was baptized

Catholic and made her First Communion as a child but has never been confirmed. Glenda is not dismissed from Mass but does attend the other RCIA sessions as she prepares to be confirmed.

On January 30, the participants in RCIA were presented with a copy of the Creed, one of the rites that takes place during their

preparation.

During Lent, the Rite of Sending to meet the Bishop will be celebrated as well as three Scrutinies.

The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Holy Saturday.

The group will continue to meet for several weeks and end their time together with a dinner.

ADVENT GIFT



About \$4,800 was raised at the Chapter 6 concert in December. “We were thrilled with the turnout for the concert and are delighted to use the proceeds to support worthwhile programs,” stated Karen Bernstein.

She presented a check for \$2,400 to Nancy Zambrowicz from the West

Side Love Life Program. The Love Life Ministry assists low income families with formula, diapers, and other necessities for babies and young children. The other half of the proceeds, about \$2,400, went to support St. John’s food pantry.

Special thanks to Chapter 6 for reducing their rates for our parish.

CATECHIST IN-SERVICE

There are approximately sixty catechists and aides who volunteer their time in the Faith Formation programs. These volunteers are recruited by the Faith Formation staff which this year includes Marge Schiffer, who is directing the sacramental programs of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist;



Susan Casleton who facilitates the grades 1–6 program; Marie Francis, the Coordinator for grades 7–8 and part of the team working with First Communion and First Reconciliation; and Amy Koehler who coordinates the high school program,

including Confirmation.

The volunteer catechists are given lesson plans or outlines of what to cover in each class. Several times a year the catechists are called together for an in-service, a night of learning and sharing. The first in-

service featured one of our Catholic school teachers, Julie Schmitz, sharing pointers about classroom management and discipline. This past month on January 19, Fr. Willie VanDeLoo spoke to the catechists about the theology of the sacraments. His talk was both interesting and informative. After the speaker's

presentation, the different grade levels gather with the staff person in charge of their area. Catechists are also invited and encouraged to attend the diocesan programs which are based on the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults.

YOUTH MINISTRY IS THRIVING AT ST JOHNS!

The teens of our parish had fun singing at The Big Red Kettle in Bay Park Square, 'floating' in the Howard parade and party, playing paint ball indoors at Commando Paint ball Sports, and sledding at Meadowbrook hill and shelter.

None of this would have been possible without the great support of the community at St. John's. If it were not for the parish community's support in the way of food – something that always draws teens – time in the form of chaperones,

talent such as playing the piano, cooking, and sledding, treasure with the support of our car wash, and Christian Mothers donation, more than one hundred young people would not have had a chance to have fun together in a safe Christian environment.

Upcoming events include a middle school dodge ball / bingo night and high school paint ball / faith activity. There is hope for a movie night and open gym time for the high school youth.



And I get to play too!"

Jody remarked that there were a few young adults who stepped forward and took on some projects as their own for the Christmas parade, Red Kettle singing, and sledding. Engebos reflected, "What a joy to watch our youth blossom and grow. I asked God how I could be His hands and feet, and now I get to plan good things for the youth. God is Good!"

These events will require volunteers, but only in the form of chaperones. According to Jody Engebos, the youth minister, "It is so easy and you'll always get back more than you give. Just watching these kids play warms my heart.



FAITH FORMATION GRADES 1 – 6

Faith Formation classes are available to public school students in order to provide an opportunity to grow in their Catholic faith. Classes are on Monday or Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. Grades 1–6 use the classrooms in the school building for their sessions. The catechists are a wonderful group



of volunteers. Some are parents of students, some are members of the parish who enjoy working with the children, and several aides are high

school students.

All the classes follow a curriculum using the “Call to Faith” series. During October, one class session

was used to pray the Rosary. On another night a special Mass was celebrated with the students and their parents. In addition, this Advent season the students made Christmas and Valentine cards. The cards are distributed to those who are home bound or in assisted living by the parish trained ministers who regularly bring them communion. Each year

Faith Formation tries to do a community service project. This year, our winter project will be collecting layette items for Love Life.

FAITH FORMATION HIGH SCHOOL

This year the 9th and 10th Grade Faith Formation Program took on the mini-course model. This model offers several different five-week courses from which the young people selected three for study during the year. After each course the students complete an evaluation. Overall many of the students enjoyed their catechists and learned new aspects of our beautiful Catholic faith. This year twelve catechists taught either by themselves or in pairs. The catechists remarked that they have been blessed by what they learned about their faith as teachers and by the confidence gained in their faith.

Here are some wonderful thoughts from the students about some of the courses:

The Message and Mission of Jesus Course

✠ *This is the course that I have learned the most from in all my years at St.*

John's. I learned a lot. I loved the course.

✠ *It was a wonderful course to get you thinking about your faith and the life of Jesus and His disciples.*

✠ *It was too short! More on the Gospels.*

✠ *I learned about the Bible and how Jesus relates to it. I have a lot to learn about my faith, but it will be a wonderful journey.*



Praying All Ways Course

✠ *I now see how easy it is to pray. It raised my awareness of how praying*

can influence my life.

✠ *I didn't think it would be fun, but it actual was. I think I learned a lot about prayer that I never knew. I hope to pray more.*

✠ *I want to pray more now.*

✠ *I think more highly of praying now. Good class.*

The Two Great Disciples Course on Peter and Paul

✠ *I thought it was interesting and cool to learn so much about two different Bible characters.*

✠ *Peter & Paul are very interesting individuals and I learned a lot about their journeys.*

✠ *I found Paul's conversion and Peter's relationship with Jesus interesting.*

Heroes and Heroines of the Catholic Faith Course

✠ *I didn't know anything about how to become a saint or who is a saint before this course.*

✠ *I now know the true definition of a saint.*

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SHARE YOUR FAITH

Longing for the Holy

Everyone is spiritual. Whether or not we are fully conscious of it, our spirits long to be united with a greater good, a deeper meaning, a wider love than we experience in our everyday lives. In our Lenten small faith-sharing groups, our parish will explore the implications of the central mysteries of our faith for our spirituality. –Renew International



We know from the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul that the earliest Christians gathered as small groups in people's homes. Small groups today still build community by fostering deeper and more meaningful relationships with God and with other parishioners.

This year, St. John's will offer "Longing for the Holy." Sponsored by Renew International, Fr. Ron Rolheiser, best-selling author, will enliven our spiritual life by gently guiding us with practical wisdom and enriching our sense of the presence of God in all we do.

The only criterion is openness to the process and a desire to participate. This makes "Longing for the Holy" a very appropriate choice for a variety of groups such as young adults, committees, faculty, bible study, or anyone who is interested. "Longing for the Holy" offers something for everyone.

Whether you were in a Renew group in the past or not, we hope you'll join us this Lent for a small-group adaptation of Fr. Ron Rolheiser's best-selling book of spirituality, "The Holy Longing".

Would you like to facilitate a group in your home? Please contact Ruth Holloway at rholloway@sjbh.org or call 434-2145 ext. 209. Sign up weekends are February 12 – 13 and February 19 – 20.