

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue #306
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WELL... FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE

A change of perspective. A leading photographic artist was known for always finding unique perspectives. Once he photographed a pool of muddy water – admittedly not very attractive. By changing his perspective, he was able to capture the reflection of the wondrously clear sky. All was different. Sometimes, when we change our perspective everything looks different. Our spiritual lives are no different.

We could all benefit from breaking our routines to get a fresh perspective of our faith and spirituality. That



is what a parish mission is designed to do for us: to REFRESH, RENEW, and INSPIRE.

With a strong spiritual life and prayer life we are prepared to face the obstacles and joys of life. One way to grow spiritually is to attend Mass and pray as a community. We may also pray privately or in small groups. However, even a strong spiritual life needs to be renewed from time to time. Often those grappling with problems and questions of faith may need a change of perspective to boost

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STEWARDSHIP TREE

A common notion is that stewardship requires a major commitment and lots of time, which seem to be in short supply in today's busy world. Notions like "I'd like to do more for the parish, for the community, for the poor, but I just don't have time." or "I see the need for someone to help others, but I can't right now."

It is understandable that everyone doesn't have the time required to be on a committee or to make a commitment on a regular basis. But most of us do have a desire to reach out and give back some of the many gifts God has given us. We want

and need to pray "Lord, thank you for the gifts you have given me. Now I will give back in gratitude of your gifts." That Attitude of Gratitude is what the Stewardship Tree is all about.



Beginning the weekend of October 15-16, a parish "Stewardship Tree" will be in the narthex of the church. Hanging from the branches will be shaped tags with small acts of stewardship written on them. The acts of stewardship are things that can be done in a small amount of time. For children, the tags are in the shape of a present. For

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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| ✠ <i>New Member Sign up – Oct 4 & Nov 8 @ 7:00 p.m., Fireplace Room, Oct 23 after Masses, Nov 20 after Masses</i> | ✠ <i>Date Night – Oct 14, Dec 2 @ 6:30 p.m.</i> | ✠ <i>All Souls Day – Nov 2, Vespers @ 6:30 p.m.</i> |
| ✠ <i>Adoration – Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1</i> | ✠ <i>Welcoming for New Members – Oct 15 & 16</i> | ✠ <i>Leadership Night – Nov 10 @ 6:30 p.m., Narthex</i> |
| ✠ <i>Parish Mission – Oct 8 & 9 at weekend Masses and Oct 10 through 12 @ 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.</i> | ✠ <i>Anointing of the Sick – Oct 21 after 8:30 a.m. Mass, Dec 3 after 4:30 Mass</i> | ✠ <i>Family Night – Nov 18 @ 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.</i> |
| ✠ <i>Coffee & Donuts – Oct 9 & 23, Nov 6 & 20, Dec 4</i> | ✠ <i>Fall Harvest Fest – Oct 21</i> | ✠ <i>Advent Vespers – Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, & 20 @ 6:30 p.m.</i> |
| ✠ <i>Vertus Training - Oct 13 @ 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Commons</i> | ✠ <i>Baptisms Class – Oct 27, Dec 29 @ 7:00 p.m. Fireplace room</i> | ✠ <i>Parish Reconciliation Service – Nov 30 @ 6:00 p.m.</i> |
| | ✠ <i>All Saints Day – Nov 1, Masses @ 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.</i> | ✠ <i>Immaculate Conception – Dec 8, Masses @ 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.</i> |

MEET SISTER GRETCHEN

Sister Gretchen Krueger, SOP, a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa, is the new Faith Formation director at St. John's. She is responsible for the operation and administration of the parish faith formation program (Grades 1-10), the sacrament programs for First Eucharist, First Reconciliation and Confirmation, early childhood (Churchtime program), and middle school and high school youth ministry. She also works with the faith formation coordinators and faith formation advisory board developing programs and activities that support the mission of the parish.

"I am so impressed with the life and spirit of the staff and those I have met in the parish. I always wanted to minister with a collaborative TEAM where the presence of a Sister would add another dimension to the faith life of the community. I have found that here," stated Sister.

Sister Gretchen was born in Germany at the end of World War II. She came to the United States in 1950 with her grandmother to join with her mother and two sisters in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Sister Gretchen attended Catholic grade school and high school. She entered the convent after high school. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Edge-



wood College in Madison. From there she acquired a graduate degree in Catholic School Administration from the University of San Francisco.

Her ministry has taken her to many places. She has worked in California, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Wyoming, and Colorado as well as Chicago's inner city. She has been a teacher, a principal, a Director

of Religious Education, and a Pastoral Associate.

"After thirty years west of the Mississippi, I decided to come back to my Wisconsin roots and be closer to family," explained Sister. "I was looking for a position in the Milwaukee or Green Bay Dioceses."

She and her faithful friend Maddie (a Beagle) came to interview at St. John's in June. "As I was driving here for my interview I thought to myself, 'If there is a Dairy Queen nearby that is a good sign!'" Luckily for those of us at St. John's, there is a Dairy Queen across the street from the church! Some things are just meant to be. She lives in Suamico.

**Welcome to St. John's
Sister Gretchen Krueger
and Maddie!!**

WELL... FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE cont'd

their faith and connection to God.

St. John the Baptist is sponsoring a parish mission October 8th to 12th (see schedule below). This year Father James, Brother John, and Brother Pierre of the Franciscan Friars of Renewal are leading the Mission. These men carry the goal of their order: to be “on fire for the Lord” and bring that fire of renewal to our parish and to you.

Monday’s theme is *Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist*. Tuesday focuses on *The Divine Mercy of*

Christ. On Wednesday the mission concludes with the *Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*.

With all the problems of the world, our country, our state, our community, and our family and friends, we sometimes are weighted down and lose our perspective. There is nothing more powerful than to know the healing powers of the Eucharist.

The goal of our Mission is to view our lives from a different perspective - an enriched Christian perspective. It could make all the difference

in the world for each of us.

The mission welcomes everyone: members of other parishes, members of other churches, and those who have no church affiliation. Perhaps this is the time to reach out and invite someone who has drifted to join us in our Mission.

Our presenters will be at the Masses on October 8th and 9th. In addition, they will be visiting St. John’s School and presiding at the All School Mass on Wednesday.

PARISH MISSION SCHEDULE

St. John the Baptist Parish - Howard – October 8 to 12, 2011

Sponsored by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

- Masses October 8 & 9: Saturday 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, October 10: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration – Mission Talk
Theme: *Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist*
- Tuesday, October 11: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Adoration with Reconciliation and Eucharistic Healing Service
Theme: *The Divine Mercy of Christ*
- Wednesday October 12: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Theme: *Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*



STEWARDSHIP TREE cont'd

adults and teens the tags are in the shape of a hand; however, the teen tags have a green dot on them.

Take a tag from the tree and perform the act of stewardship written on it. When you completed the act, drop the slip in the collection basket as your offering. You need not identify yourself as you offer your stewardship to God. Then don’t be afraid to take another tag.

Giving back tends to become a habit. Most of the time, you will find you have received more than you have given, and you will look

forward to taking another tag. Scott Adams once said, “...there’s no such thing as a small of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.”

Most of us have a generous nature and want to help others in need. Sometimes, we may not know how to go about doing it. The Stewardship Tree offers us an opportunity to share our blessings in a specific way. Take advantage of this opportunity to take a small step toward recognizing that you are a good steward and desire to be a better one.

If the tree doesn’t have an act of Stewardship that fits you, then take a tag and write something that works for you on it.

Remember the words of Neil Armstrong when he first stepped foot on the moon, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” That’s what the Stewardship Tree is all about. If we each do something small, together we can make a big difference.

The Stewardship Committee hopes the parish embraces this new way of expressing stewardship.

BAPTISMS

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



- † *Madelyn Rose Weyenberg* – Daughter of Eric & Rachel
- † *Nolan Ryan Haertl* – Son of Ryan & Kerri
- † *Marek Wayne Brockman* – Son of Clinton & Danielle
- † *Marley Ann Brockman* – Daughter of Clinton & Danielle
- † *Natalie Denise Hendrickson* – Daughter of Jason & Tiffany
- † *Caleb Paul Thompson* – Son of Derek & Jessica
- † *Kendall Emma Gaecke* – Daughter of Jeffrey & Jennifer
- † *Brody Lee Kamps* – Son of Jeffrey & Nicol
- † *Abigail Jean Del Marcelle* – Daughter of Clinton & Dana
- † *Eric James Machut* – Son of James & Mary
- † *Mara Lynn Schertz* – Daughter of Scott & Kristi
- † *Jordan Allen & Jackson Raymond Allen* – Sons of Jonathan & Jenifer
- † *Kai Jacob Holtz* – Son of Kristopher & Kelly Jo
- † *Alexander Michael & Nicholas Charles Schnaubelt* – Sons of Michael & Renae
- † *Raine Ann Burns* – Daughter of Eric & Kristina
- † *Nathan Lee De Grand* – Son of Brandon & Elizabeth
- † *Aubrey Claire Omernik* – Daughter of David & Sheri
- † *Brody Anthony Rogers* – Son of Todd & Jennifer
- † *Arianna Elizabeth Roycraft* – Daughter of Shaun & Jessica
- † *Angelina Arvilla Wagnitz* – Daughter of Thomas & Melissa
- † *Ethan Todd & Kyler JP Kremplewski* – Sons of Todd & Megan
- † *Kortnee Michael Deavers* – Daughter of Michael & Kandice
- † *Addison Rose Hebel* – Daughter of Michael & Sara
- † *Megan Elizabeth Bertrand* – Daughter of Michael & Laurie
- † *Sophia Rose Glinski* – Daughter of Benjamin & Sara
- † *Ashlyn Grace Smith* – Daughter of William & Nicole
- † *Alanna Kathryn Bodwell* – Daughter of Donald &Carolynn
- † *Evelyn Marie & William Henry VI Story* – Children of William & Kimberly
- † *Autumn Rose Jillaine Loch* – Daughter of Shad & Allyson
- † *Kellen Terry Lofdahl* – Son of Anders & Kimberly

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Pandamania Vacation Bible School was held July 25 through 29. 110 children ages four through fifth grade discovered that “God is wild about us.” Seventy middle and high school students and adult volunteers assisted the children in singing, praying, watching skits of Bible stories, making crafts, playing games, and, of course, eating fun snacks. The children learned that God made us, God listens to us, God watches us, God loves us no matter what, and God gives good gifts. Each family received a CD with the music from the week. Vacation Bible School participants attended 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, July 31 to sing for the parish.



REST IN PEACE

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

May they rest in peace.

- † Alvin J. Gerczak
- † Dorothy M. Bostedt
- † Evelyn Poels
- † Floyd J. White
- † Valeria M. Motiff



- † LaVerne Wilinski
- † Dean Hill
- † Madeline M. Wery
- † Glen R. Williams
- † Carol M. Pamperin
- † Marion M. Stachura
- † Richard "Dick" Melotte
- † Dr. Roy John LeRoy
- † Angelia "Angela" Powers

Our love and support to their families and loved ones.

AN INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

The Tappen family has lots to be grateful for. Several years ago, Chris and Rebecca decided to adopt a child and provide him/her with a good Catholic life in a faith-filled family. This past year their wish came true. The Tappens are the proud parents of three year old MacKenzie Tappen.

As Chris and Rebecca studied the options for adopting, they looked at the potential avenues of foster child adoption, domestic adoption, and international adoption. After much thought and prayer, they decided they would pursue the international adoption route.

With assistance from an adoption service and additional research, they decided to adopt a child from Ghana. "We filled out tons of paper work and had to go through a screening for an international adoption just as we would with a domestic one. This of course took time; time to fill out paperwork, to work through the process, and to exercise

our patience," remarked Rebecca.

After the paperwork was sent to Ghana, they received information back on a possible child for adoption. "We fell in love with MacKenzie when we saw her picture and read about her! We just knew she was the one that would complete our family," Rebecca told us. "We went from a hypothetical child to a real tiny person who needed us."

The Tappens accepted MacKenzie's referral in January. Then they had to wait for the adoption to occur. Rather than have an attorney represent them, Rebecca took a leave of absence from her job as Young Adult Coordinator at St. John's in April to fly to Accra, Ghana for the adoption hearing. Once MacKenzie was officially theirs, the process was not over as they had to wait for a VISA to be granted to MacKenzie. This process took almost three months. Rebecca stayed in Ghana with MacKenzie during that time. As she reflected, "This was really a blessing, as it gave me a chance to learn her culture, a little of her language, a chance for her to learn English, and a chance for us to bond." Chris was able to join them for ten days to

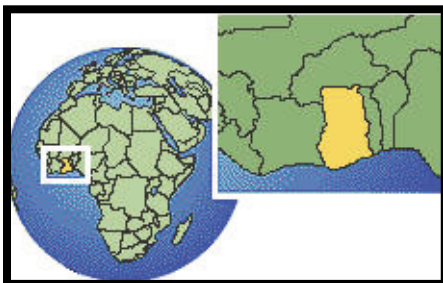


do some bonding also.

While in Ghana Rebecca and MacKenize stayed at the Fern House, a crisis pregnancy resource center in Accra. "We were so blessed to have them allow us to stay there. I met some wonderful people who I will carry in my heart forever," Rebecca stated.

At the end of July, Rebecca and MacKenize arrived in Green Bay. The next morning MacKenize was introduced to her new church family as she attended her first Mass at St. John's. "She slept through most of it," laughed Rebecca.

When asked what her favorite American food was, MacKenize gave a big smile and shouted, "Pizza!!" MacKenize will be baptized at St. John's in November.



MEET KELLEY BOTTEI

Kelley Bottei is a new first grade teacher at St. John the Baptist School. When interviewed in August about her new position, Kelley enthusiastically said, "I can't wait!"

Kelley's career as a teacher began after working as a pediatric nurse practitioner and later as a stay at home mom for fourteen years. She received her degree from St. Norbert College and student taught at Doty School in Green Bay and Hemlock Creek School in West DePere.

"I love working with kids," she stated, "but as a pediatric nurse practitioner I didn't spend as much time with the kids as I liked."

While her children were younger she was a classroom volunteer and



witnessed some wonderful teachers. She thought to herself, "I can do that!"

Kelley is hoping to bring each student as far as they can personally come in the year they spend with her. "I want the children to have fun in the classroom. I also want to

learn from the other teachers around me," she stated. Parents can expect from Kelley good communication, openness, and a willingness to admit when she is wrong. "I want to give my very best," she emphasized.

Kelley has two children, Laura who is in seventh grade, and Brian, who is loving his first year of high school.

She enjoys exercising, especially with her beagle, Dash, and watching her children do their activities. "I also enjoy dinner with friends, the farmers' market, healthy eating, and treats," she emphasized.

**Welcome to First Grade
Kelley Bottei!!**

MEET ABBIE WITHBROE

Abbie Withbroe is the new sixth grade homeroom teacher at St. John the Baptist School. Along with that she is teaching the seventh and eighth grade literacy block which consists of language arts and social studies.

"I have always loved school and have had a passion for working with kids. Teaching seemed like a natural profession for me. I had some great teachers growing up who helped to show me the way," she stated.

Abbie is a native of Green Bay and attended St. Bernard. She graduated from UW-Eau Clair with a degree in broad field social studies in



2008 and is currently enrolled in the UWGB Masters Program.

Abbie student taught in the school districts of Altoona and Durand. She was a teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas

Academy in Marinette teaching seventh through twelfth grade social studies. "I loved teaching at St. Thomas, but really wanted to get back to Green Bay so when this opportunity came up I jumped at it," she stated. "I want to show my students the excitement of social studies and the importance of language arts!"

Abbie is an avid Packer and Brewer fan. She enjoys running, reading, and watching

movies.

**Welcome to St. John's
Abbie Withbroe!**

OUR NEW FAITH FORMATION SECRETARY

Shelly Stratman is the new Faith Formation secretary. She is very familiar with the parish and the school as she and her husband, Mike, have been parishioners for fifteen years. Her children have attended St. John's and she taught fifth grade here for seven years. "I am very excited about my job!" she said. "Keeping up with computer registration input was a real challenge my first week. It was great to see all the people who came in to register their children for faith formation classes."

Shelly grew up on a dairy farm in Bear Creek which she proudly points out is also the hometown of Bishop Morneau. She attended St. Mary's Catholic School, Clinton-



ville High School, and is a graduate of Carroll University with a degree in elementary education. She taught fourth grade at St. Rose in Clintonville before becoming a teacher at St. John the Baptist. Within the parish Shelly volunteers as a Eucharis-

tic Minister and lector. She also sells SCRIP and works the school auction and the Packer Booth. She and Mike have three sons, Ben (freshman at Bay Port), Jacob (7th grade at St. John's) and Eric (6th grade at St. John's).

"I always felt that my jobs have really allowed me to spread God's word," stated Shelly. "As a teacher, I was definitely doing that every day in the Catholic school. Now, I have the opportunity to be part of His mission to

a broader group of children. It is a different avenue, but is similar. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity!"

Welcome to your new mission within our parish Shelly!

THE HANDS OF ST. JOHN'S

So what do we do as a parish? Listed below are a few ways our parish makes a difference.

For Youth:

- ✠ *Churchtime: Each week about 60 children 4 to 7 years old attend this program at the 10:00 Mass.*
- ✠ *Vacation Bible School: 110 children ages 4 through 5th grade are taught by 70 volunteers adults and middle and high school students.*
- ✠ *Faith Formation - Grades 1-6: 245 children were taught by 34 volunteer catechists.*
- ✠ *Faith Formation - Grades 7-8: 53 students were taught by 7 catechists.*

- ✠ *Faith Formation Grades 9-10: Volunteers and staff taught several mini-courses.*
- ✠ *Confirmation Program: 56 parish youth were confirmed by Bishop Ricken.*



For Adults:

- ✠ *New Member Registration: 121 families joined the parish in the last year.*
- ✠ *Liturgy: 48 Lectors, 58 Ushers, 95 Eucharistic ministers, 50 altar servers, 92 greeters, and 60 Musicians serve at weekend*

Masses.

- ✠ *Christ Renews His Parish Retreats: 206 men and women have participated since 2009.*
- ✠ *Elizabeth Ministry: 57 bags of supplies were delivered to pregnant or adopting parent(s).*
- ✠ *Prayer Shawl Ministry: 27 women and men knitted or crocheted and gave away 123 shawls.*
- ✠ *Visitation: 11 parishioners hold Sunday Communion service at two assisted living facilities. 7 people visit about 37 home bound people per month.*
- ✠ *Helping Hands: About 32 volunteers have provided 95 rides and meals this year.*

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SHARE YOUR FAITH

During October, Green Bay will be one of more than 154 cities joining together for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history – *the 40 Days for Life* campaign.

St. John the Baptist Parish Community will be one of nearly fifty church groups uniting to defeat abortion. The parish will have volunteers at the Medical Arts Building and Bellin Hospital during October's Respect Life Month each Thursday from noon until 2:00 p.m.

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life effort that consists of:

- ✠ **40 days of prayer and fasting**
- ✠ **40 days of peaceful vigil**
- ✠ **40 days of community outreach**

The group's goal is that through prayer, and with God's help, this on-going effort will bring an end to abortion. The most visible component of this ongoing effort is the peaceful prayer vigil outside the clinic and hospital.

Parishioners who are not available on Thursdays between noon and 2:00 p.m. are invited to stop by and join the walk and prayer at any time during the month.



With Open Hands

