

Connections...

October 218 2001 – 30th Sunday of the Year

† “The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity – greedy, dishonest, adulterous – or even like this tax collector...

“The tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’”

Luke 18:9-14

God doesn't play games

Four years ago, after leading the Jacksonville Jaguars to a playoff victory in Denver, quarterback Mark Brunell suggested—live, on national television—that his team won because it was filled with devout Christians. The sideline reported nodded, as sideline reporters do.

NBC sports anchor Bob Costas, who watched that postgame interview at his home in suburban St. Louis, was asked about his reaction to the scene by *Sports Illustrated* columnist Steve Rushkin.

“So many of these absurdities are just accepted in sports,” Costas said.

“If I had been doing that game and had a minute to fill, I would have been like Howard Beale in *Network* [the exasperated anchorman who blew a gasket on the air]. How many devout Christians fell before the fists of devout Muslim Muhammad Ali? How many devout Christians swung and missed the high heat of devout Jew Sandy Koufax?

“I understand the concept of the mystery of faith, but it's a strange God indeed that would answer prayers for a free throw and not the prayers of a sick child.”

[*Sports Illustrated*, October 18, 1999.]

CONNECTION: In many of our prayers, we ask God to come around to doing our will; but true prayer is to discover God's will for us. We often approach prayer as making our case before God that we deserve certain blessings—often implying that others do not. Prayer, Jesus teaches, is centered in the grateful humility of the tax collector, not the self-congratulatory praise of the Pharisee. Authentic prayers asks for the things of God and not mere things. Prayer worthy of God's ear seeks the grace to do the work God calls us to do (forgiveness, charity, justice) and to become the people God calls us to become (brothers and sisters under the one heavenly Father). May the prayer of St. Thomas More become the heart of our prayer life: “O God, give us the grace to work for the things we pray for.” ■

Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 7:30am Mass (Cantor & Organ)
- 9:30am Mass (Choir & Organ)
- 11:30am Mass (*Spiritu* Contemporary Group)
- 1:00pm Hallelujah Chorus (Choir room)
- 2:00pm 7th & 8th Grade Schola (Choir room)
- 3:00pm *Hosanna* (Choir room)
- 6:15pm Mass (No music)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 9:30am Word/Eucharist

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

- 8:30am Mass
- 7:15pm *Spiritu* Group (Choir Room)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

- 6:30pm Cantor Rehearsal (Church)
- 7:15pm Choir practice (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – ALL SAINTS

- 8:30am Mass
- 10:15am Script/Comm (Innsbruck)
- 2:00pm Script/Comm (St. Anthony)
- 2:15pm Mass (Trevilla)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – ALL SOULS

- 8:30am Mass
- 7:00pm Mass

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- 4:30pm Mass (Cantor & Organ)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- 7:30am Mass (Cantor & Organ)
- 9:30am Mass (Choir & Organ)
- 11:30am Mass (*Spiritu* Contemporary Group)
- 6:15pm Mass (No music)

St. John's Annual Turkey Dinner Sunday, November 4, 2001

Sit-Down dinner begins at 11:00 a.m.
Adults \$7 Children (10 and under) \$3.50
Take-out begins at noon.

WORKERS are needed, both men & women!
Sign up for your favorite job after Mass this week!
Confirmation students are invited to sign up for 'hours'. Look for check in sign for location.

ALSO NEEDED are items for 'Auntie's Attic' crafts, collectibles, jewelry, paintings, and knick knacks (gently used items also accepted). All types of 'food stuff' are acceptable.

Bring your homemade apple or pumpkin pie to St. Joseph Hall before Mass.
For more information call Loretta at 651-633-2857

Before I forget...

Remember your childhood prayer at bedtime: "Now I lay me down to sleep..." It seems that someone has taken that prayer and given it a new twist. Here's the modern version:

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray my Cuisinart to keep
I pray my stocks are on the rise
And that my analyst is wise
That all the wine I sip is white
And that my hot tub's watertight
That raquetball won't get too tough
That all my sushi's fresh enough
I pray my cordless phone still works
That my career won't lose its perks
My microwave won't radiate
My condo won't depreciate
I pray my health club doesn't close
And that my money market grows
If I go broke before I wake
I pray my Volvo they won't take.

Great prayer, isn't it? Even though it was obviously written with tongue in cheek, it probably reflects our true feelings. We like what we have and wouldn't mind a little more! Maybe we play the lottery, go to the casino, make a bet on the Vikings, and hope we win some extra cash. Or, we watch *Who Wants to Be A Millionaire* and picture ourselves on the show with Regis answering all the questions correctly. What would we do with all that extra cash? Pay off the debt for our new Pastoral Center? Sure! G. K. Chesterton wrote: "There are two ways to get enough: One is to accumulate more and more, the other is to desire less."

Recently I read that "The only reason a great many (North) American families don't own an elephant is that they have never been offered an elephant for a dollar down and easy weekly payments." Do we really need an elephant? What do we really need? If you could ask the Lord for one thing, what would it be?

While you are talking to the Lord, I would ask for your help. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life and lay ministry in the Church. If ever prayer was needed for vocations, it's now. If you know young people, and not so young, who would be good for Church Ministry, lift up that person in prayer. Do we encourage women and men to look at a vocation as a possible career, or second career? Maybe you, the reader, feel such a call. Don't hesitate to call Fr. Michael or myself. We both would be happy to talk with you.

Priests are not all alike. We come in all shapes, sizes, races, ages, political persuasions and theological learning to the left and right. Some think Vatican II went too far; others are waiting for Vatican III. But what is really important we all share. All of us realize that we need conversion, a lifelong process of turning our hearts to God. We take seriously the Gospel of Jesus Christ and try to live it each day. The Eucharist is the center of our lives. All of us have our unique devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. As disciples of the Christ we must commit ourselves to justice, to stand in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed. We defend the sanctity of every human life and raise our voices on behalf of the voiceless. Hopefully, we share what we are and have with friends and strangers. We need to be flexible, remembering that the Holy Spirit is full of surprises. And, after all the prayers, meetings, acts of charity and justice, we do our best, only to discover that it isn't good enough, we need to have a sense of humor and laugh.

Interested?

Fr. Bill

Next Sundays Readings:

Wis. 11:22 • Psalm 145:1-2,8-11,13-14 •
2 Thes 1:11 • Luke 19:1-10

PLEASE NOTE:

Beginning October 14, 2001 the parish
office will be open on Sundays
from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Youth Newz...

Sr. High (9-12th grade) students... Did you miss Peer Ministry Training? New training materials are now available. We still want you! Contact Sara Riehle for more information, 763-754-7666.

Confirmation class will meet this Sunday, October 28 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the new youth room.

Odyssey, junior high faith formation, will NOT meet Wednesday, October 31 at St. John's. All Faith formation students are expected to attend the All Saints' Day Mass at St. John's on November 1 at 7:00 p.m. Classes will meet again on Wednesday, November 7. All students are reminded to bring their Bibles!

JHL will NOT meet on October 31. See you again on November 7!

JHL is still in need of snack donations for the year long program. If you would like to contribute please contact Sara @ 763-754-7666.

All adults interested in learning skills for working with teens are invited to attend "Adults in Youth Ministry Training" being offered at Highland Catholic Community in St. Paul, on October 30 and November 6, from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Materials for these training sessions are provided and there is no cost to participate. Adult volunteers in youth ministry are encouraged to attend. Please call Sara to pre-register. Consult the *Newzpaper* for further details or call Sara at 763-754-7666.

Senior High Service Club II will meet Wednesday, November 7 from 6-9 p.m.

Jr. High students registered for the overnight retreat November 10-11, should meet at Silver Lake Camp by 10:30 a.m., Saturday morning. The retreat will end after the 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. John's on Sunday. Please call Rebecca Janicke if you have any questions at 763-754-7666.

Circle of Women...

The Circle of Women invite women of all ages to join us in our new setting on the second level of the St. John Pastoral Center on Thursday, November 1 from 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Julie Goldstein, storyteller, who will speak on "Women's Lore: Strong Heroines and the Transformation in Multicultural Folktales." As a storyteller, Julie is a time traveler, purveyor of magic, and transformationist. Her tales empower, heal, teach, inspire, enchant and entertain. Bring a friend and join us for fellowship! Childcare is provided by Kari Gill (please pre-register your child by calling 763-785-6947). For more information on Circle of Women please call Carrie Pomeroy at 763-780-5160.

Faith Formation...

MISSION POSSIBLE – 5TH/6TH GRADE RETREAT

Tuesday, October 30, 4:45 – 7:30 p.m. in St. John's NEW youth room! Join us for snacks, friends and fun during this mini-retreat. All 5/6th graders are expected to attend. Call Teresa Newman at 651-633-1540 if you have questions. Hosted by St. John's Youth Ministry.

CELEBRATE THE WORD

Children who have registered will not have their own liturgy until the beginning of November when the new chapel is complete. Training for volunteers will be in late October. Thank you for your patience. Questions? Call Teresa Nueman at 651-633-1540.

SEEKERS: Adult Theological Book Club

We are seeking to form an adult faith. We read a variety of books, and raise a variety of questions. You are always welcome to join us, we ask only that you read the book. The book for November is **A History of God** by Karen Armstrong, (Ballentine Books, New York). It gives a good background in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Plus chapters on Philosophy, Mysticism, the Reformation, the future. We will meet Thursday, November 29, 7-8:30 p.m. in the St. John Pastoral Center, St. Vincent de Paul Room. Explore your faith, expand your vision. Questions? Call Mary Ann Zervas at 651-633-1540.

School News...

On Friday, November 2, there is early dismissal for students at 12:25 p.m. Kindergarten AM class is in session but there are NO CLASSES for the kindergarten PM class.

The "One to One" program at St. John's helps children that are struggling with reading and/or math. The program is seeking volunteers, you don't have to be a teacher. Your commitment is to helping children for 60 minutes one day a week. We provide materials and ideas. If you are available during the school day one hour each week call Joan Grieman at 651-633-6707 or Jackie Bilski at 763-571-5609.

Monthly Adoration...

"Through adoration the Christian mysteriously contributes to the radical transformation of the world and to the sowing of the Gospel. Anyone who prays to the Eucharistic Savior draws the whole world with him and raises it to God."

(Pope John Paul II – Letter to the Bishop of Liege.)

Because of the celebration of All Saints Day on Thursday, we will have our adoration of Friday (November 2) from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The southwest door of the church will be open during vigil hours.

Pastoral Ministry...

GROWING THROUGH LOSS

Meets for a final speaker, and healing service this Thursday, November 1. "Where is God in my suffering?"

Roseville Lutheran Church 6:45-9:00 p.m.

If you've not attended before, you are still welcome to come for the final night of the series.

Call Anne Marie at 651-633-8333 for more information.

The Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is offering for the sixth year, a liturgy service for the Naming of Children and the Commending of those children who have died before birth. Please join other families in this meaningful service on Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m. — for more information call 651-777-6041.

On Friday, November 2 we will have 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Mass for All Souls Day — all are welcome to pray and honor those who have died and have found their place at God's eternal banquet. Hospitality after both Masses.

ATTENTION NURSING HOME MINISTERS!

November 11 you will be honored at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Please pick up a corsage before the liturgy begins — in the gathering space.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those in our community who are ill:

Beau Anderson, John Battmer, Donald Beaubien, Marcelline Beseler, Leonard Bles, Marcella Boomer, Helen Cmiel, Ann Czech, Louis Czech, Leona Doroff, Lenore Dougherty, Joe Fellner, Bernadette Hearn, Bernice Hopkins, Henry Horbatuck, Michael Kavanagh, Kevin Keenan, Herb Loscheider, Joe Maciaszek, Nancy Mehrer, Rupert Meyer, Irene Mitchell, Corliss Moore, Howard Morris, Donna Murphy, Georgianne Myers, Norman Petri, Paul Pojar, Ben Ruebbelke, Dennis Ryan, Ed & Eleanor Stich, Richard St. Germain, Sr., Dan Sebesta, Mary Shea, Bob Sorem, Frances Vonacek, Mildred Werner, Patty Wirth, Linda Zappa,

The families and souls of those who recently have died:

James Beeson, Veronica Flaherty, Robert Johnson, Evelyn Weims, Mary Campbell.

PRAYER LINE

Call one of these numbers with your prayer requests.

All requests are confidential.

651-633-1618

763-784-5254

651-636-5251

Seniors...

Seniors, come join us for coffee, juice, and a donut after weekday Masses on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Coffee will be served after each Mass in the Jeanne Jugan Senior Leisure Center on the lower level of the Pastoral Center. Take the time to come to have a light breakfast and visit with friends and fellow parishioners.

CHAIR AEROBICS

Classes will be offered in the Senior Leisure Center each week on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:15 a.m. Classes will begin on Tuesday, November 6. Chair Aerobics is a low impact exercise program for people of all ages, but particularly helpful for older adults and those with physical limitations. Classes are open to everyone, regardless of age. There is charge for the classes but a free-will donation of \$1 per class will be welcome. Any contributions will be used to defray the cost and help fund future activities. Reservations are not necessary but a call to Joe Kenney at 651-633-8333, will be helpful to ensure adequate space arrangements. Come give it a try!!

NEW MONTHLY MEETING FORMAT

Beginning with the November Seniors meeting we will follow the new format. We will meet at 10:45 (following the School Children's Mass at which we are all welcome) in the Jeanne Jugan Senior Leisure Center on the lower level of the new Pastoral Center. The Silvertones meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. A hot lunch will be served at 11:30. Following lunch we will have either recreation or entertainment. At the November meeting we will play "Buck Bingo". At the December 19 meeting the New Brighton Kitchen Kutups Band will entertain with their special Christmas program. **ALL ARE WELCOME** You are an eligible senior when you decide you are. The charge for lunch is \$3.00. Please call Kitty Collins, 651-639-1091 to make a reservation. For questions or further information, call Joe Kenney at 651-633-8333.

GRAND CASINO HINCKLEY

Join us on Tuesday, November 13 for a day at Grand Casino Hinckley! Cost: \$6 (you receive a \$5 voucher at the door) Reservation forms available in the parish office. For more information call Ginny Petro at 763-784-5254.

Barnes & Noble

Rosedale Marketplace Location

2401 Fairview Ave N

(across from Rosedale)

Friday, November 9, 2001

5:30 — 8:30 p.m.

Holiday Cookie Demo/Fall Floral Arranging/St. John's Merry Minstrels/Harry Potter

A percentage of sales — during these hours — benefit St. John's School & Circle of Women

Social Justice...

METRO WIDE ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR PEACE

A metro-wide prayer service for peace will be held on Sunday, October 28 (today), 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul. This service is sponsored jointly by ISAIAH, the Islamic Center of MN, Jewish Community Action, the Islamic Institute of MN, Jewish Community Relations Council, and the Archdiocesan Office for Social Justice. We are attempting to bring persons of all faiths together to offer our prayers for an end to terrorism. While we may feel helpless in the face of the terrorism we have experienced and the fear of future terrorist acts, we can come together to pray for an end to terrorism. This is an ideal opportunity to come together as Christians, Jews, and Muslims in peace and prayer. Please join us if you can.

Bulletin Board...

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who participated in the Living Rosary. A special thank you to Fr. Michael and Jay, John and Larry, who helped us honor Mary with such a beautiful ceremony.
Barb Dufault & Lois Hoium

THANK YOU

We are overwhelmed by the love, prayers, support, compassion and generosity of St. John's community. God gave our family the wisdom to express our love to Jean before his death. Fr. Bill, Fr. Michael and Deacon Joe your love, compassion and kindness touched Jean and made him feel special. Anne Marie Bartlett, Cheri Sykes, Ann Noble, the funeral luncheon committee, and the Prime Timers all contributed to the celebration of Jean's life. Ron Barrows, our wonderful neighbor, who voluntarily helped with yard work these last two years, you are an angel of mercy. Thank you everyone and may God bless you.

The Jean Velander Family

NEEDED: CHILDCARE WORKERS Thursday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45 for Circle of Women. This is a paid position. All interested applicants should call: **Kari Gill at 763-785-6947.**

Weekly Collection

Last Week	ACTUAL	GOAL	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
	\$23,357	\$21,980	\$8,012
SINCE: July 1, 2001			To Date
	\$407,550	\$407,083	\$3,267,075
Children	\$132.00		
Mission	\$1,446		

Thank you for your support!

WANTED: BIRTHRIGHT VOLUNTEERS FOR COON RAPIDS OFFICE

"A volunteer opportunity with no pay but great benefits!" Committed, compassionate people are needed to volunteer two hours, 1-2 times per month to help others experiencing a crisis pregnancy or who just need someone to talk to.

Birthright offers free pregnancy testing, and educates and supports people in making alternative choices to abortion. Volunteer training will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 11 from 11:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please call Judy Quayle at (651) 633-0459 for more information.

THANK YOU

The family of James Beeson would like to thank Fr. Bill Murtaugh for your wonderful homily and funeral Mass, Amy Howard & Jay Hunstiger for the music and the funeral luncheon committee.
Elsie & Family



OPEN DOORS (divorced/widowed/singles group) meets the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. in the St. John Pastoral Center for socializing and snacks (next date: Nov. 13) All are welcome!

We had a wonderful turnout for our October 20 dinner party—our largest event yet! It was great to see so many of you there— both old faces and new! You helped make it a success by your presence! Also, a special thank you to our fearless leader, Anne Marie Bartlett, for making this night happen for us!

Upcoming events:

Saturday, November 10— Acme Comedy Club (708 N. 1st St., Minneapolis Warehouse District). Show begins at 8pm. Cost:\$10 per person. Meet at St. John's west parking lot at 6:30 p.m. (we need to arrive early seating is 1st come/1st served). Car pooling will be available for those interested. Call Teri at 651-633-8333 to RSVP by November 5 (indicate if you are interested in car pooling).

December - Holiday Pot Luck Social. Watch the bulletin for further details!!!

Birthright

Caring help for pregnant women.

651-646-7033 – St. Paul
763-757-0715 – Coon Rapids