

St. John the Baptist

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**CONTACT: Deb Ludowese
651-633-8333**

Special Requests:

Connections...

December 2, 2001 – First Sunday of Advent

It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep. The night is advanced, the day is at hand.

Romans 13:11-14

† *“Stay awake! For you do now know on which day your Lord will come.”*

Matthew 24:37-44

‘All night long...’

Remember pulling “all-nighters” in college—cramming all night for that 8:30 exam, finishing that term paper due to your professor by 10 a.m.? Before you realized it, the 14 weeks of the semester were over—and a mountain of papers had to be completed and exams passed. So, compelled by the fear of flunking out and fortified by caffeine, you read and memorized and typed and highlighted until dawn.

Did you ever find yourself driving all night for an important meeting or event? Last minute complications or a canceled flight meant driving all night to be there in time. Or maybe you’ve had to be up early for an appointment or meeting. You’re so concerned about the outcome, about your presentation, about oversleeping that you wake up every 15 or 20 minutes. You eventually accept the reality that you will not be getting much sleep this night until all is completed and finished.

And many of us know the anxiety of keeping vigil all night at the bedside of someone we love: the couple awaiting the birth of their child, the spouse pacing anxiously in the hospital waiting room, family members offering what comfort they can as a loved one slipped into eternity. After a long night, life is transformed as morning dawns.

CONNECTION: These “short nights” we have all kept are all experiences of Advent, the first season of the liturgical year that focuses on the last days. Our lives are a constant Advent: The precious and limited time we live is but a “short night” in which we have much to do and complete before the morning of eternity dawns. Advent calls us to “stay awake” and not sleep through the opportunities life gives us to discover God and the things of God. Advents calls us to “watch,” to pay attention to the signs of God’s unmistakable presence in our lives, to live life expectantly not as a death sentence but as a gift from God. ■



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 7:30am Mass (Cantor & Organ)
- 9:30am Mass (Choir & Organ)
- 10:30am New Parishioner Registration (PC)
- 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)
- 7:00pm Confirmation candidates (Youth Room)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 9:30am Word/Eucharist
- 7:00pm PTO Board Mtg. (St. Clare)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 8:30am Mass
- 9:15am Chair Aerobics (Seniors Room)
- 1:30pm Mass (Presbyterian Homes)
- 2:00pm Script/Comm (New Brighton CC)
- 7:15pm *Spiritu* Group (Choir Room)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 8:30am Word/Eucharist
- 9:45am School Mass
- 6:00pm Sr. High Service Club II
- 6:30pm Cantor Rehearsal (Church)
- 6:30pm Befrienders Holiday Dinner (St. Martin)
- 7:15pm Choir practice (Choir Room)
- 7:30pm Jr. High Live (JHL) (Youth Room)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 8:30am Mass
- 9:00am Monthly Prayer Vigil (Church/Chapel)
- 9:15am Chair Aerobics (Seniors Room)
- 9:15am Circle of Women (PC Upper Level)
- 10:15am Script/Comm (Innsbruck)
- 2:00pm Room Visits (St. Anthony CC)
- 2:15pm Mass (Trevilla NB)
- 7:00pm School Band Concert (Church)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 8:30am Mass
- 9:15am Chair Aerobics (Seniors Room)
- 7:00pm Vigil Mass (Immaculate Conception)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 9:00am Mass (Immaculate Conception)
- 4:30pm Mass (Cantor & Organ)
- 6:30pm Open Doors Pot Luck (St. Joseph Hall)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

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

Looking Ahead

Birthright

Caring help for pregnant women.

651-646-7033 – St. Paul

763-757-0715 – Coon Rapids

Before I forget...

Can you believe it? Christmas is right around the corner. What to give? To your parents who have everything. To your kids who want everything. To your friends who would like anything. Sometimes we spend a lot of energy on things that will have little meaning in the not too distant future. Christmastime always brings out the "gimme's" ... - "I want this" ... "Get me that." Of course you'd like to give your kids everything they desire, but finances and your better judgment keep you from doing that.

As we look to Christmas and a new year, let's look back over 2001. What do we see? Terrorist attacks, international unrest, renewed patriotism, return to prayer, an uncertain stock market, soaring house prices, gas price hikes, layoffs. This past year has people questioning what's important and what isn't. What are the gifts we are leaving with family, friends, and people who share the spiritual journey with us at St. John's? Not the gifts we wrap and put under the tree, but the ones given from the heart.

The Advent readings and hymns speak of Emmanuel, which translates, "God with us". The events of 2001 are a reminder to me that God is with us... I sincerely believe that, and I hope you do too. God calls us to be a light in the darkness, a light to people who are searching for answers and who are looking to us for the real meaning of life. God gifts each one of us and wants us to give these gifts to others. As we live together in families, parishes, civic communities, etc., are we giving people what they really need, or what we think they need? What does God want us to give to one another?

People are seeking authentic answers to unexplainable (and often unanswerable) life questions. Beginning December 25, we celebrate the birth of the Son of God for 12 days. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth is our Savior. We worship God through him. We are His followers. We call ourselves Christians. What are the gifts we are giving as followers of Christ? How are we affecting the world for Christ? Do we use the gifts that will really make a difference in the lives of those receiving them?

The older I get, the less I need. Every year I realize more and more that our wonderful God has lavished each one of us with incredible gifts. Do you believe that God has given you special gifts to give away to others? And somebody might need you to offer your gifts to them this Christmas season or in 2002.

During this Advent season, reconnect with God as a child connects with a parent. Allow yourself to be excited again about God's gift of love. Learn to rest in God's safety and security. Simply sit in the presence of God and be surrounded by God's love. Open yourself to God and recapture the gift of childlike love and trust for a parent... for God is our parent.

Some gifts only a parent can give to a child. And some gifts only God can give us... like God's unconditional love. Once we realize how much God loves us, we invite our family members, friends and others to experience the love of God, the God Jesus called Abba, "Daddy". No one has all the answers to the mystery of life. It is meant to be lived in love.

This season, give the gift of real love... a love that comes from God... a love you live in.

Fr. Bill

Little Rock Bible Study

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." Mt 1:23

Join us in January on Monday evenings as we look at the Gospel of Matthew. Explore the Word of God in a small group setting. Come and see... For more info contact Darlene @ 651-582-1268 or the Pastoral Center @ 651-633-8333.

Bake Sale

Seniors Christmas Bake Sale

December 8 & 9, 2001

Anyone with is welcome to bake and bring your goodies to contribute to the sale. Package your offerings in small quantities, price reasonably, and bring them to the sale before any Mass. Proceeds will be used to purchase furnishings for the Senior Leisure Center.



Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 7

7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Saturday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist

Pancake & Sausage breakfast following

Free Will Offering

Advent Vespers

Evening Prayer of the church with readings, psalms & music

Sunday, December 16

4:00 p.m.

Hospitality following in St. Joseph Hall

Reconciliation Services

Thursday, December 20 – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 23 – 4:00 p.m.

Private Reconciliation

Saturday, December 15 – 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 22 – 11:00 a.m.-noon

(or by appointment)

Greening of St. John's Church

Sunday, December 23

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Mass on Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m.** Festival Eucharist

7:00 p.m.** Festival Eucharist

11:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist

(11:00 p.m. Mass Prelude music beginning at 10:15 p.m.)

Mass on Christmas Day

8:00 a.m.** Festival Eucharist

10:00 a.m.** Festival Eucharist

** Prelude music for organ & brass begins thirty minutes before Mass

School News...

Tuesday, December 4 and Wednesday, December 5, Santa's Secret Shop will be open—a good place for children to buy their Christmas gifts—Room 1. Thank you to all who are helping with this event.

On Thursday, December 13, you are invited to attend our Christmas Program, "Santa's St. John's Search" at 7:00 p.m. in Church. We encourage all of you to participate and enjoy our gift of love to you.

Christmas Vacation begins Friday, December 21, with early dismissal at 12:25 p.m.

Monday, December 3—PTO Board Mtg.—7:00 p.m. – St. Clare Conference Room (Pastoral Center Upper Level)

Celebrating 50 Years

Did you know that the parish school is celebrating 50 years of quality education?

Did you know that the children celebrate on the 24th of each month or close to it, in honor of St. John the Baptist, school patron whose feast is on June 24?

Did you know that thus far we have celebrated—September 24—Ice Cream Social, k-8, hosted by Kindergarten October 24—each child received a T-shirt with everyone's name on it, sponsored by Grade 7.

November 20—golden kisses wrapped in blue net and tied with gold ribbon to celebrate this special event—sponsored by Grade 2

Congratulations Students at St. John's Parish School!

St. Vincent De Paul...

Our homeless shelters in downtown Minneapolis give out approximately 300 pairs of socks in one month—per shelter. When you're homeless you don't have laundry facilities, try wearing the same pair of socks every day without washing, how long will they last? Two weeks, maybe three?

When a homeless person is sent back out on the street—their coats don't always stop the cold so the shelters give them blankets for further protection. This year many shelters have no blankets to give—as the army surplus blankets are going to the refugee camps in Afganistan. If you have any used blankets, pillows or sleeping bags you'd like to contribute—please drop them in the sock collection boxes, they are desperately needed! We are also still accepting donations of adult white sport socks. Drop boxes are at the entrances to church.

Circle of Women...

The Circle of Women invites women of all ages to join us Thursday, December 6 when Paula Turenne Molnau will present "Feng Shui in Our Lives." Paula is a Feng Shui consultant and teaches related classes. Join us for this hands-on presentation. Circle of Women invite women of all ages to join us in the St. John Pastoral Center (upper level) from 9:15—11:30 a.m. Childcare is provided by Kari Gill (please pre-register your child by calling 763-785-6947).

Pastoral Ministry...

BEFRIENDERS HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Wednesday, December 5—6:30 p.m.

St. Martin De Porres (upper level).

Bread, beverages and “empty cups” will be provided.

OPEN DOORS HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Saturday, December 8—6:30 p.m.

Open Doors has been in motion at St. John’s since March of 2001. This group is primarily social and is for widowed, divorced and single folks. This evening would be a good time to try us out—the mood will be festive, the company excellent. Bring a friend! RSVP at 651-633-8333.

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, 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, Mary Buscher

The families and souls of those who recently have died:

Richard Hage

Monthly Prayer Vigil...

The Eucharist is the focal point of the Catholic faith because it is Jesus present with us here today. In the Eucharist, Jesus prolongs His presence on earth and most completely fulfills His words: “Behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world.” - Mt. 28:20 (Father V. Warkulwiz, M.S.S)

Come and spend an hour with Our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel on Thursday, December 6 from 9 a.m.—9 p.m. The southwest door of the church will be open during adoration hours.

Employment Opportunity

Full-Time Janitorial Position

St. John’s is now hiring a full-time janitor to clean Pastoral Center.

Evenings/weekends, competitive salary, full benefits package.

Please call 651-633-8333 if interested.



OPEN DOORS (divorced/widowed/singles group) meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (next meeting date: Dec. 11) in the Pastoral Center for socializing and snacks. All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 8—Holiday Pot Luck to be held in the Pastoral Center. Social hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped “white elephant” gift. Entertainment and games following dinner. Beverages will be provided—donations will be appreciated. Details to follow regarding a holiday service opportunity in connection with St. John’s. Please RSVP for Holiday Pot Luck by calling Teri Shea at 651-633-8333.

December 11 — The regular monthly meeting for December will be focused on “Getting Through the Holidays.” If you need support, or can offer support, please come to the parish center at 7:30 p.m.

For more information about Open Doors please call Anne Marie Bartlett at 651-633-8333 ext. 1237.

PRAYER LINE

Call one of these numbers with your prayer requests. All requests are confidential.

651-633-1618

763-784-5254

651-636-5251

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS



If you would like to remember someone you have lost, or honor someone special in your life, during the Christmas Season, we invite you to donate, in their name, to the Christmas plant, wreath & tree fund. We have much additional space to decorate this year! To participate, please complete the form below and send it with \$20 (suggested amount) to the pastoral center or drop in the Sunday collection. We will accept donations through Christmas & will acknowledge them in January bulletins.

In Memory Of / In Honor Of (circle one):

From: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Faith Formation...

CELEBRATE THE WORD

Celebrate the Word is happening at the 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Mass. Please get your child a nametag and calendar/information sheet from the table in the west entrance to St. Paul Plaza. Volunteers are still needed for this program. Please call Teresa Nueman at 651-633-1540 ext. 1234.

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Faith Formation Committee (FFC) met on November 15th. The following issues were discussed:

1. Specific improvements to the registration process was tabled until the January meeting.
2. Communication issues, including lack of clarity for written material and the failure of these materials being read, inadequate website and Internet information, and inadequate advertising and marketing; as well as possible solutions were discussed.

The next meeting of the FFC is scheduled for January 18, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

Council of Catholic Women...

The CCW Annual Christmas Party will be held December 17 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with time to greet your neighbor followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 and are being sold the weekends of December 1/2 & 8/9. It has been the tradition of the CCW to support Our Lady of Good Council Cancer Home. Please be generous this holiday season.

Seniors...

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The monthly seniors meeting for December will be a Christmas luncheon. The luncheon will be followed by a special Christmas performance of the New Brighton Kitchen Kutups band. We are told the Christmas program includes a special rose for Deacon Joe Kenney. The event is open to all seniors (you know who you are). If you wish, start your day with the school children's Mass at 9:45 a.m. Silvertones meeting begins at 10:45 a.m, followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. The Kutups follow lunch. Reservations are required. Please call Kitty Collins at 651-639-1091.

SILVERTONES

I wish to thank everyone who helped me with the Hinkley Casino trip and you kind words of sympathy on the death of my brother, Ron Wolter. Thanks for the cards and especially the prayers. The next Casino trip tentatively set for January 23, 2002 at Grand Casino Hinkley. Cost \$6—\$5 cash voucher at the door. Sincerely & with love, Ginny Petro

Music Notes...

This weekend at the 4:30 p.m. Mass music is lead by the Hallelujah Chorus. It is NOT TOO LATE to join this group! We will be singing for mass at Christmas as well as other occasions throughout the year. Don't miss out! Call Mary Anne Bennek at 651-633-8333 ext. 1220.

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.

Odyssey, junior high faith formation, will meet Wednesday, December 5. All students are reminded to bring their bibles! Bible assignments are due on Wednesday, December 12. If you have questions about the assignment, ask your group leader or Rick Craig. You may also call Rick at 763-754-7666.

Junior highers, JHL will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 5 in the youth room from 7:30—9:00 p.m. See you there!

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.

Senior High Service Club II will meet Wednesday, December 5 from 6-9 p.m.

Junior and senior high students are you interested in doing service? Do you feel like "giving back" over the holiday season? There are lots of service opportunities in the community like donating gifts, packaging gifts, caroling, or playing games with kids or elderly. Call Sara for more information, 763-754-7666.

Confirmation Candidates' next session will be Sunday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the youth room. Questions? Call Sara Riehle, 763-754-7666.

Weekly Collection

Last Week	ACTUAL	GOAL	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
11/19	\$24,184	\$28,266	\$10,020
11/26	\$26,943	\$26,944	\$17,286
SINCE: July 1, 2001			To Date
11/19	\$516,510	\$517,774	\$3,314,941
11/26	\$542,513	\$544,718	\$3,332,227
Children			
11/19	\$94.00		
11/26	\$186.00		

Thank you for your support!