

Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:30am Word/Eucharist
7:00pm Perpetual Adoration Mtg. (Cafeteria)
7:00pm CCW (Cafeteria)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:30am Mass
1:30pm Script/Comm (Pres. Homes - Roseville)
7:15pm *Spiritu* Contemporary Group (Church)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:30am Word/Eucharist
6:00pm Service Club
6:30pm Cantor Rehearsal (Church)
7:00pm Script/Comm (New Brighton Care Ctr.)
7:00pm Respect Life Committee (Parish Center)
7:15pm Choir practice (Church)
7:30pm Jr. High Live (School)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:30am Mass
2:00pm Mass (St. Anthony Care Center)
7:00pm Room Visits (Innsbruck)
7:00pm SEEKERS Book Club (Parish Center)
7:15pm Script/Comm (Trevilla)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

8:30am Mass

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

4:30pm Mass (Cantor & Organ)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

7:30am Mass (Cantor & Organ)
9:30am Mass (Choir & Organ)
11:30am Mass (*Spiritu* Contemporary Group)
1:00pm Hallelujah Chorus (Church)
2:30pm Hosanna (Church)
6:15pm Mass (No Music)
7:00pm Confirmation Orientation (Church)

Connections...

September 23 – 25th Sunday of the Year

+ *The parable of the unscrupulous manager:*
No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

Luke 16:1-13

The best Christmas letter

Every Christmas we receive them - those holiday letters from family and friends with the latest news from their households since last Christmas. While many of us detest these Christmas letters, Kay Bessler Northcutt, a Disciples of Christ minister, confesses that she actually like them - but, as she writes in *The Disciple* (April 2000), something important is missing in those letters:

"Products of our own raising in this American culture of acquisitiveness and achievement, we encourage and praise our children for what they accomplish... But every year I hope that this will be the year I open up one of those letters and the opening line will be: 'Merry Christmas! Great news! Our child is consistently KIND to people at home, church, birthday parties - AND at school!'

"Imagine what would happen in this world if we assigned the same value to gentleness, self-control and compassion in our children as we give to their winning a piano competition, bringing home A's, or landing that place in the show choir. What if we bragged about their kindness and generosity the same way we brag about their soccer trophies and report cards?

"Our kids spend 99 percent of their waking hours being shaped by a society that tells them their value is determined by how they look, what they buy, and what they achieve. The other one percent of the time, they're in church, where we reassure them of a God who loves them unconditionally. In church, we tell them that how they look is already perfect - without the right label clothes or latest hairdo - because they are made in God's image. Maybe those are the messages we can learn to re-inforce at home."

CONNECTION: In today's Gospel, Jesus asks, in the parable of the shrewd manager, why we are not as industrious or as dedicated to pursuing the lasting things of God as we are to the impermanent and far less important things of the world. Our faith should challenge us to be as eager and as ingenious for the sake of God's reign, to be ready and willing to use our time and money to accomplish great things in terms of the Gospel as we are to secure our own security and happiness. Christ calls us to use the cleverness, skill and ingenuity of the manager to build the kingdom of God in our time and place. ■

We need Bases!

Tempted but uncertain?
GIVE THE CHOIR A TEST DRIVE!

Sing with us at the 9:30 Mass
Sunday, September 30

Rehearse one hour prior, 8:30 a.m., in the church.
Experience the satisfaction of singing in a group.
After Mass we'll answer all your questions

Check us out... no strings attached!

Before I forget...

- Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor.

-- Psalm response for September 23

Since Tuesday, September 11, when terrorists struck New York City and Washington, D.C., we Americans have stood together in a powerful way. Across this great nation we have come together to pray, to give blood, to offer assistance. We truly are an "United" people who are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, black, white, rich, poor, liberal, conservative, young and old.

As Roman Catholic Christians we are called to serve God's kingdom and to bear witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. In a world full of poverty, evil and harshness, prayer is our anchor. God helps us be good neighbors to all those we meet. Often we say, "How can I help my neighbor?" I don't like to say that I am here to help. That sounds like I am above another person. Christian service and aid is about SHARING, MUTUAL RESPECT, and LEARNING.

St. John's is just one of 222 parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. We are 800,000 Roman Catholics in the twelve county metropolitan area. Can you imagine the powerful presence we can be in a world that often lacks hope? Every parish community is a sign of God's presence and love in our world. We welcome people into the parish not to be triumphalistic - we're bigger and better than you - but to journey together so that now one has to journey alone or carry their cross of pain and suffering all alone. In a faith community great things are happening that we can only see with the eyes of faith.

We can do great things for our society, and so our Archbishop, Harry Flynn, is conducting a Capital Campaign. Each parish is being asked to contribute, above and beyond their normal giving. Yes, all of us are being asked to make a sacrifice for the good of this local archdiocese. Even though we now have a substantial debt of our own, and another debt reduction campaign coming next year, we are asked to take part in the Archbishop's campaign, just like every other parish in the archdiocese. All the parishes, be they in wealthy suburban areas, struggling rural parishes, or in the poor inner-city areas, are being assessed by the same formula.

Our parish assesment is \$1.2 million. We can grumble or we can do it. We can find all types of reasons why we need to keep our monies for ourselves, our children, our fears about the economy, or we can say, "I've been very blessed. I live a good life. I am quite comfortable. I have enough to eat and I enjoy many past times. I am wiling to sacrifice just like others are doing in this archdiocese."

As I read and reflect on the teachings of Jesus, found in scripture, I believe Jesus Christ gets weary with followers who look at the sky and want God to do everything for them, like spoiled chikldren who expect their parents to do everything and buy everything they want. Jesus surely gets tired of Christians who are continually looking to God to solve their problems for them when God has given them good minds to solve their own problems. And Jesus surely gets frustrated with Christians who look at a world filled with misery and say, "Oh my... poor me," but do not lift a finger to improve the world.

You and I are called to be "people of the light" that Jesus talks about, and wants as his followers. We know there are some problems in life that we need to depend on God to solve, because we can't. But in a world of real problems, we need to roll up our sleeves and seek after real-life solutions. We need to be the shrewd, effective disciples Jesus has called us to be.

Our local leader, Archbishop Flynn, is a very pastoral leader. He is asking you and me to be Church, a Church bigger than just St. John's. Everyone of us can give something to this campaign. I know that I will give over the next three years. God has blessed me as a Roman Catholic in countless ways. I want to share what I can with others, because God calls me to give of my time, talents and treasure.

As you receive mailings or visits from parishioners who are representing the Archbishop, please pray about this with your God and please be civil. In our last parish campaign, some volunteers were treated meanly and without respect. There is no reason to be unkind. If money is more important than an individual's feelings, we better start over with the basics of Christianity.

Fr. Bill

Thanks to everyone who came to this year's Fallfest! It was great to see all of you at the Gala, on the Golf Course, at the Street Dance, or at the Booya & Festival. It's great to be able to gather as a community and celebrate together.

Next Sundays Readings:

Amos 6:1,4-7 • Psalm 146:7-10•
1 Tim 6:11-16 • Luke 16:19-31

From the Associate...

The Father

Let us return to the question of an authentic development of doctrine, concerning the first person of the Trinity. Some feminists have argued that the language of God and the Catholic liturgy is too patriarchal. Some priests, deacons, music and liturgical ministers, in agreement, choose to alter liturgical language to be more "inclusive" of sex genders with reference to God, or to eliminate gendered language altogether: for example, when I arrived at this parish, St. John the Baptist, two and one half years ago, the parish was not used to praying the Gloria or the Nicene Creed, both of which refer to the first person of the Trinity as Father. Many contemporary songwriters also eliminate language, which refers to God as Father, most often replacing it with the neuter title: "God." In my home parish in St. Cloud (St. Paul's), where I grew up, one might hear the petitions introduced and prayed in this way: (1) "Let us pray to God for those who are hungry." (Brief silence) (2) "God provide food for the world; may every Christian see and respond to the needs of all peoples, especially those who go without food . . . (3) we pray to God." And the people respond, (4) "God hear our prayer." Each petition follows the same pattern, so that 'Father' and 'Lord' (also considered a masculine term) are never mentioned, the neutered title of God used redundantly (4x above). Is this a true development of doctrine?

The attempt here to be inclusive is goodly motivated, but theologically vapid. St. Paul says, "You have received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, 'Father!' The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:15, 16). The word, Father, in the Scriptures, is close to the English, "Daddy." It is an address filled with intimacy, and in fact it is the Holy Spirit within us Who teaches and inspires us to call God our Father. Sadly, those who would eliminate the name of Father, exchange the beauty and intimacy of God's self-revelation for a human construct. They have reasoned that God is not male (which is true, "God is [pure] Spirit" (John 4:24)); therefore He should not have a male title. But an authentic doctrinal development would not eliminate the Trinity (in favor of some idea of God such as 'Thea,' or a goddess called 'Sophia'), nor ignore the first person of the Trinity. There are many metaphors for God, both masculine and feminine, which give us insight into the nature of God. I love some of the beautiful feminine Scriptural metaphors for God: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings" (Luke 13:34; Jesus speaking of Himself); "Thus says the Lord . . . like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13), and my favorite, "From the womb before the dawn I begot you" (Psalm 110:3, the Liturgy of Hours translation; Jesus interprets this Psalm as speaking about the Messiah - cf. Matthew 22:41-46, Whom we know as Jesus Himself, an eternal priest like Melchizedek; the feminine image portrays the begetting of the Son by the Father). Still, not every metaphor is equal, or the same.

The metaphor of the first two persons of God as 'Father' and 'Son,' is a metaphor and a **name** (however we wish to understand this concept, of name, in the analogy of being): we begin each liturgy, "In the **name** of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," and we baptize every Christian in the same **name**! It is Jesus Christ Who has revealed the Father to us, and taught us to call God our Father: "Pray then in this way: 'Our Father in heaven' . . ." (Matthew 6:9). The idea of Father does not eliminate the feminine metaphors for God, but incorporates them, and no true doctrinal development would eliminate Mary either: as our mother (a subject about which many feminists are silent). It is God Who has ordained for her to be our mother (John 19:26,27; Revelations 12:17), and we have the incredible joy of possessing her as mother for all eternity!

In conclusion, (1) to eliminate the name of the first person of the Trinity as Father is heretical, and a testimony that one has yet to be awakened by the intimacy and knowledge of the Father, which the Holy Spirit brings. (2) Feminine images of God can provide insight into the Divine nature; they are most obvious and beautifully displayed in the icon of Mary, who is our mother for all eternity: she brings us compassion, sweetness and life, flowing from the heart of God.

Fr. Michael

Seniors...

FANNY HILL DINNER THEATER, EAU CLAIRE, WI.

We will have a bus trip to Fanny Hill Theater for lunch and a show on Thursday, October 25. We will leave St. John's at 10:15 and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. Price is \$42/each and includes coach transportation, lunch and dinner theater show. More information and reservation forms are in the senior slots at the east and west entrances to the church.

Prayer Vigil...

The St. John the Baptist Adoration Committee will be presenting the first of their information meetings on September 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. After a short introduction a video entitled, "In the Presence of Our Lord" will be shown, with a short question/answer session to follow. Hand-outs and sign-up cards will be available for those present who are interested in helping organize Perpetual Adoration when the chapel is complete. This presentation is sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women **ALL PARISHIONERS** are invited to attend.

Council of Catholic Women...

All women of the parish are invited to join us for our first meeting of the year on September 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. We will open our year with a presentation on perpetual adoration followed by our business meeting. **Please note the change in date for this meeting only.**

Pastoral Ministry...

As a nation, a state, a community, a parish, we have been brought to our knees this past week before a God who speaks love, peace, forgiveness, healing, hope. A God whose arms are big enough to embrace us all. In the days ahead may we not become complacent or vengeful, but pray for God's hand in the healing of a nation... so in need of peace.

NEEDED: Volunteers to help at Open Arms the fourth Friday of the month. We pack meals for those home-bound because of HIV. Call Anne Marie at 651-633-8333, if you are interested.

GROWING THROUGH LOSS SERIES BEGINS

Begins this Thursday, September 27 at Roseville Lutheran Church. This series is for anyone experiencing losses of many kinds (death, job, divorce, life transitions), many kinds of life experiences trigger a grieving process.

Registration at 6:45 p.m. Program 7 - 9 p.m. Topic: "Realities of the Grief Process: An Overview"

Gail Naller, grief counselor, is the presenter.

Thursday, October 4, Sr. Joyce Rupp will be speaking at St. Olaf Catholic Church, 7:00 p.m. "Discover and Celebrate Sophia, a lost Biblical treasure." Should be a wonderful evening. Call Ticketworks at 612-343-3390. \$12 in advance \$15 at the door.

Music Notes...

Earthen Vessels our acoustic folk group, leads music twice monthly at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. Our First rehearsal is Monday, September 24 at 7:15 p.m. We still need more singers and percussion, bass (keyboard or electric), and a synth player (we have the synth). This is a fairly light and highly enjoyable commitment, join us!

HOSANNA the 7-12th grade choir/ensemble is beginning another exciting year! All students who enjoy music are welcome and encouraged to join. Talk to your friends and give it a try! For more information call Mary Anne Bennek at 651-639-1136.

THE ALL NEW "HALLELUJAH" CHORUS

Open to all 3-6th graders of the parish. Our goal is to **PRAISE GOD** with **BEAUTIFUL** sounds, learn music within the liturgy, and of course, to have fun! For more information call Mary Anne Bennek at 651-639-1136.

School News...

The Marathon for Nonpublic Education on October 6 is drawing close. The children have been busy raising pledges for a number of projects that are not otherwise in the budget. Parents have spent hours calling throughout the parish asking for help. If you would like to contribute and have not been contacted, please call Sister Gwendolin, principal, at 651-633-1522.

Youth Newz...

Service club meets Wednesday, September 26, 6-9 pm.

7-8th graders are invited to JHL (Jr. High Live) on Wednesday, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Visit with friends, enjoy snacks and pop, play football and more! Bring a friend! There is no charge.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

Sunday, September 30, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (after 6:15 Mass). Confirmation students, parents and sponsors are asked to attend. Contact Rick Craig for details at 763-754-7666.

Bulletin Board...

THANK YOU

Our heartfelt appreciation for the sympathy of the parish and especially the support of Fr. Bill, Deacon Joe, the music ministry and Funeral Luncheon Committee following the death of our son & grandson, Christopher Mattis.

Donna & Alan Mattis
Myrtle Duffy

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those in our community who are ill:

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

The families and souls of those who recently have died:

John Thoeny

PRAYER LINE

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

651-633-1618

763-784-5254

651-636-5251

Circle of Women...

Circle of Women invites women of all ages to join us in the lower level of the parish center on Thursday, September 27 from 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. Our guest will be Jane Kise, principal of Writing Matters. Jane is a management consultant and freelance writer, with extensive experience in the fields of strategic planning, team building, employer/employee relations, and finance. Jane enjoys helping individuals and teams reach full potential, providing them with tools and models to continue the process on their own. Jane is the co-author of eight books and has designed related seminars. 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...

FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1-8)

Calendars have been mailed to all families that are registered for classes. Extra calendars are available on the table outside the nursery.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Ages 3 - Kindergarten)

Classes start Sunday, September 30 during the 9:30 or 11:30 Mass. Volunteers still needed, call Mary Walus at 651-633-8333.

CIC Grades 3-8

All students are welcome, regardless of their age, for sacraments of initiation. This program is designed for students seeking any of the sacraments: Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, and/or have not previously attended religion classes. Classes begin Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Theresa Neuman at 651-633-8333.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

The process for a person to become a member of the Catholic Church is through their participation in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). This journey is for: Those who were never baptized. Those who were baptized in another Christian tradition but now seek full communion in the Catholic Church. Those who are Catholics by baptism and are now seeking Confirmation and/or Eucharist. RCIA begins Sunday, October 7. 10:30 a.m. with coffee & donuts in the back of church (pick up your name tag) and from 10:50 - 12:20 p.m. in the parish center basement. Questions? Call Mary Ann Zervas at 651-633-8333. **Sponsor Training - Sunday, Sept. 30 after 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Center.**

SEEKERS: ADULT THEOLOGICAL BOOK CLUB

Meets this Thursday, September 27. We will discuss the book **The Birth of Christianity** by John Dominic Crossan. SEEKERS meets from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the parish center. Questions? Call Mary Ann Zervas at 651-633-1540.

Respect Life...

Respect Life Committee meeting Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Members and others are invited to come and plan up-coming activities.

Items contributed to the Baby Bush were gratefully received by Northside Life Care Center and St. Paul Birthright.



OPEN DOORS (divorced/widowed/singles group)

We meet the second Tuesday of each month for socializing our next meeting date is October 9. ☆☆☆

September 29 - Lawn bowling at Brits Pub, located in downtown Minneapolis on Nicollet Ave. RSVP to Teri at 651-633-8333 or arrive between 3:00-3:30 p.m. to sign up. Game begins at 4:00 p.m. Approximate cost per person: \$5 plus food & beverage.

October 20 - Large group dinner and social event in the new parish center. RSVP to Teri at 651-633-8333 by October 12.

Birthright

Caring help for pregnant women.

651-646-7033 - St. Paul

763-757-0715 - Coon Rapids

ATTENTION: ST. JOHN'S ALUMNI

St. John the Baptist School requests to know the whereabouts of its alumni for the 50th Anniversary Celebration! **Alumni of SJB are asked to send their name, address and graduating year to: Debra Sultentic Zeien, 3264 N. Innsbruck Drive, New Brighton, MN 55112.** A wonderful celebration is in the planning stages! If you know the whereabouts of an alumnae please pass the word to them.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Last Week	ACTUAL	GOAL	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
	\$24,832	\$25,723	\$7,883
SINCE: July 1, 2001	\$286,141	\$284,565	To Date \$3,215,346
Children's	\$53.00		

Thank you for your support!