

# Connections...

January 19, 2003 Second Sunday of the Year

† John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." Andrew found his own brother Simon and told him, we have found the Messiah..."  
-John 1:35-42

† Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth... Come and see."  
-John 1:43-51

## Behold, the Lighthouse

A fleet of battleships was out on night maneuvers. The weather was terrible, pea soup fog, high winds and seas. The second night was even worse. The captain of one of the ships stood on the bridge all night, wary of just secondhand reports. He didn't want to chance colliding with another battle ship in the open seas. All night he surveyed the night skies and the dark sea.

Toward dawn, the executive officer shouted, "Light on the starboard side, sir!"

The captain yelled back, "Is she steady or moving?"

A pause and the reply, "She's steady, sir!"

"Send a message ASAP," The captain roared. "Change course 20 degrees immediately."

The message was relayed and sent. Then back came a reply on the radio that was passed on to the captain, "Sir, they suggest you change course."

The captain was furious. "You tell them that I am a captain and I'm ordering them to change course, 20 degrees hard NOW. Don't those fools know that we're on a collision course?"

The message was sent. Then the reply came back. "I am an ensign second class, and I suggest you change course now."

The captain was enraged. The light was fast approaching. "Damn it, you tell them I'm the captain of a battleship and they'd better obey my orders immediately!"

The message was sent—and back came the reply.

"I'm a light house."

**CONNECTION:** *Possessing that lethal combination of arrogance and fear, the captain was unable to recognize the light in his midst. In today's Gospel, John and the disciples are able not only to recognize the light but welcome the light that is Christ into their lives and bring others into that light. The light shines within our own lives, as well, in the most hidden acts of compassion, the humblest acts of reconciliation the simplest acts of justice. To "behold" Christ, to "come and see" the Messiah, is both an invitation and a challenge. Jesus dares us to come -to abandon the things that deter us from the things of God; to see -to focus our attention on the needs of others rather than on our own needs, to find our lives purpose in bringing joy into the lives of others rather than in the pursuit of the things the world deems as important; to behold -to realize the presence of God in the goodness and generosity around us.*

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

7:30am Mass

9:30am Mass

9:30 & 11:30 am Sunday School

11:30am Mass

1:00pm Sr. High Basketball League (Gym)

6:15pm Mass

7:00pm Just Faith Class (St. Clare)

## MONDAY, JANUARY 20

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

#### OFFICE CLOSED

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)

8:30am Mass (Chapel)

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)

8:30am Mass (Chapel)

4:00pm CIC Class (Bl. Kateri)

5:00/ 6:30pm Elem. Faith Formation

7:00pm Retreat for Engaged Couples (Rm. 206)

7:00pm Sst. Vincent de Paul Society (St. Clare)

7:15pm Jazz Rehearsal (St. Cecilia)

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)

8:30am Communion Service (Chapel)

9:45am School Mass (Church)

4:15pm Hallelujah Chorus (St. Cecilia)

5:00/6:30pm Elem./Odyssey Jr. High FF

6:00pm Respect Life Mass (Chapel of the Angels)

6:30pm MN Talking (St. Clare)

7:00pm SJB Kindergarten Round Up (St. Joe's)

7:15pm St. John's Adult Choir (St. Cecilia)

7:30pm JHL (St. Francis Youth Room)

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)

8:30am Mass (Chapel)

4:30pm Sr. High Service Club

6:30pm Franciscan Gala Committee (St. Joe's)

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)

8:30am Mass (Chapel)

1:00pm Quilters (LL108)

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

4:30pm Mass

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

7:30am Mass

9:30am Mass

9:30 & 11:30am Sunday School

11:30am Catholic Schools Week Kick Off Mass

11:30pm SJB School Open House

6:15pm Mass

7:00pm JustFaith Class ( Rm210)

Looking Ahead

The Parish offices will be closed January 20, 2003 For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## *Before I Forget...*

- When one dies thousands rise  
For Martyrs are made to multiply  
The stars catch the sound  
The wind carries the word... -N. Ellsworth Bunce
- Jesus was neither a revolutionary nor a defender of the existing order. What Jesus stressed, rather, was individual change of character.-Oscar Cullman

It is said that we are formed by what we admire. Hopefully, our young will be formed by what is good, true, and choose a morality that will serve them, and society, well. There is so much in our culture that is merely glib or successful to mislead them on their journey. They are bombarded to admire superficial beauty, power, and flash-in-the-pan celebrity.

How are the young, and not so young, to learn what is right? Is reading and formal education enough? Don't all of us learn from the courage, goodness, and selfishness of human beings? In my own life I've studied the great books, philosophy, ethics and hours of theological and scriptural commentaries. But it has been people, good human beings, who have inspired me the most. What about you? Who are the people who inspired you on life's journey? Maybe it was a teacher, a neighbor, or the parent of a friend. More often than not, we learn the most, not from textbooks, but from other human beings.

As Catholic Christians we try our best to live by the gospels. Once again, I have learned more about gospel living from the lives of others than by just studying sacred scripture. Christianity lives in people who are witnesses to us that it is possible to take Jesus Christ and his teachings seriously and live our lives accordingly. Even though we are surrounded by non-believers, we believe and "live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist." (Cardinal Suhard).

For 2000 years, ordinary human beings have followed Jesus Christ. Like you and me they had their weaknesses, doubts, fears, limitations and human flaws. They were not perfect, but they became authentic human beings. Who are some of those authentic Christians that you admire and who excite you about being a Christian in 2003? When you talk with your children, or any young person, is there someone who excites them about being a Catholic Christian? Many of our young people respect and admire John Paul II and Mother Teresa. Tonight at your evening meal, how about talking about the man Americans honor tomorrow Martin Luther King, Jr. Why is tomorrow a national holiday? What was so special about Dr. King the almost 35 years after his death, we have a holiday in his memory?

Dr. King had a dream, a vision, that even to this day stirs up controversy, upsets some people, and questions the status quo of American life. He was a champion for the people who were hardly noticed in our society just 35 years ago. He preached that all people have dignity. Dr. King received a PhD. From Boston University then went back to Atlanta to be a pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in 1954. Was Dr. King a perfect human being? Hardly, He struggled to be a faithful child of God, a disciple of Jesus Christ and like all of us he had his wounds and flaws. He was born in this great country. Some believe that he was America's only true spiritual genius. What do you think is MLK's place in our "religious" and "political" history? Assassinated in 1968, is he still relevant for the times we live in? What do you think he would say to President Bush about the war on terrorism, AIDS in Africa, the poor in the USA, oppressed people here and abroad, race issues, materialism, non-violence, American values, civil disobedience, education, children, abortion, the brother-sisterhood of all humanity, corporate avarice, the prison system and death penalty in the US, a vision for a new world, and should this great country become the good Samaritan to those who have been abandoned on the side of the road to Jericho? Dr. King always spoke about love... loving the enemy... loving those that hate us. The love he spoke about is the opposite of fear. It is the ability to stand up, speak the truth, to seek justice in the face of those who have harmed you, knowing that they will probably hurt you again.

Do you believe that MLK has something good to teach your children about being a child of God, a disciple of Christ, and an American---in that order? Dr. King took great risks, challenged himself, the Church, and society. Do we challenge ourselves, our young, our friends, our faith community to upset the status quo as Dr. King did?

Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis where he went to lend support to the city's sanitation workers who were on strike, even though colleagues told him not to go. On the night before his death he addressed a rally and ended with these words:

*Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine have seen the coming of the Lord.*

Dr. King, April 4, 1968, was still evolving. His conduct wasn't always perfect...he said of himself... "I want you to know... that I am a sinner like all God's children. But I want to be a good man. And I want to hear a voice saying to me one day, 'I take you in and I bless you, because you tried'" Dr. King struggled to be his best despite his weakness. Oh, that the same could be said of each one of us.

Enjoy Monday!  
Fr. Bill

## School News...

Monday, January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday-NO CLASSES

Thursday, January 23, R2 early dismissal @ 12:25, PM Kindergarten class attends in the AM

Friday, January 24, R1 early dismissal @ 12:25, no classes for PM Kindergarten.

Catholic Schools week is coming -- January 26th through 31st 2003. "Catholic Schools-Making a World of Difference"

On January 22 we are conducting our kindergarten **round up** at 7:00 p.m. in **St. Joseph Hall**. This is the time to discover information about St. John's School and Kindergarten in particular. You will have an opportunity to learn about the programs available to you as parents. The use of Power Point will introduce you to our kindergartners in action. You will learn about St. John's Mission and Philosophy.

In addition we are providing registration papers to all who attend. You may take them home to fill out. Please join us on January 26 for 11:30 a.m. Mass followed by open house in the school from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Return registration forms to the school office on January 26.

Please bring the following with the registration form:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Baptismal Certificate unless baptized at St. John's
3. A fee of **\$100** paid at time of registration. No student is considered registered unless the fee accompanies the form.

Come join us and we will answer your questions.

**SPAC UPDATE** The School Principal's Advisory Committee met January 8. Sr. Gwendolin reported a successful Christmas program. Students are back in school after vacation and working hard. Preparations are underway for Catholic Schools Week, and registration is underway for the 2003-2004 school year.

Please plan to attend the Catholic Schools Week Mass and open house on January 26th.

Parents with questions or concerns about the day-to-day operations of the school are asked to call Sr. Gwendolin at (651) 633-1522.

January 2003

Dear Friends,

This communication is to let you know that I am retiring from education in June, 2003, and plan to enjoy a sabbatical year as granted by my religious community. Since 1982, I have been with you to share the dreams you have for your children and their future. It does not seem that long and the time is filled with happy memories for me. I have met wonderful people during this time and enjoyed working along with the faculty to make St. John's a learning and growing center for your family.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Mary Gwendolin

## Youth Newz...

**ODYSSEY (JR HIGH FAITH FORMATION)** will meet January 22nd at 5:00 and 6:30 pm.

**JHL** will also meet January 22 from 7:30-9:00 All 7th and 8th graders and their friends are invited to attend.

**VOLUNTEERS** There is an ongoing need for adults and peer ministers with IIB training to facilitate small groups in the Jr. High Odyssey (faith formation) program. Volunteers need only commit to one unit, 5-7 sessions, at a time. The next session begins January 15. Substitutes are also needed. All materials and support are provided. Our 7th and 8th graders appreciate your participation. Please call Kate Roush if you can share your time and talents! 763-754-7666.

**SERVICE CLUB III** begins January 23rd and will meet on five Thursdays, 4:30-7:30 pm. Students will perform service in the community for the first 4 weeks and will participate in a social activity on the 5th Thursday. This is a great way to earn service hours for school or Confirmation. You may call Sara Riehle for more information 763-754-7666.

**ALL 7TH -12TH GRADERS** and their friends, planning to join us at Afton Alps on Monday, January 20: Please meet in the Youth Room by 10:00 am. Plan to be picked up at 7:00 pm at the entrance between the church and school. Be sure to bring Money for equipment rental and food (or bring a bag lunch). If you have questions call Sara Riehle (763) 754-7666,

**CONFIRMATION** The next Confirmation session will be held Sunday, February 2, 7:15-8:30 pm.

## Music Notes...

**11:30 MASS ATTENDEES:** Wild Honey and the Locusts will be doing without our trumpeter, Harry Reiner, while he snowbirds in Florida until April. We'll all miss him!

**CALLING ALL FORMER CHOIR MEMBERS (AND NEWCOMERS):** Sing with us for our upcoming event, **100 Years of Music at St. John's**, Sunday, March 3! We will be resurrecting favorite anthems from past decades, as well as classic and memorable hymns and liturgical pieces. Renew fond memories of music and friends as you rehearse with us through January and February, Wednesdays at 7:15 in the choir room. Contact Cheri Sykes at 651-633-8333.

## Liturgy...

**ALL LECTORS PLEASE PICK UP YOUR WORKBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE UPPER SACRISTY.**

**A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!**

The Arts and Environment Committee would like to thank everyone who donated money towards the flowers and trees. Your continued generosity makes possible such a beautiful setting for worship. Many thanks also to the legions of folks who helped Green the Church and Pastoral Center and a special thanks to all those who helped undecorate this past Sunday evening!

## Seniors...

**CASINO TRIP** Don't forget our Hinckley Casino trip coming up on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Your reservation and money (\$6.00) must be turned in by January 21<sup>st</sup>. A voucher for \$5.00 will be returned to you at the casino. For more information, Contact Ginny Petro (763) 784-5254. Open to all parishioners over 18 years. See you there!

## Respect Life

Father Michael Keating will say a Mass of Reparation at 6:00 pm on January 22, the 30th Anniversary of the Roe V. Wade abortion decision. Mass will be held in the Chapel of angels and will be followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We need to storm heaven with our prayers that the lives of our people will again be protected; especially those of our smallest, most innocent children.

## Adoration

Adorers are reminded that the Pastoral Center will be closed on Monday, January 20th for MLK day. Entrance to the adoration chapel will be through the **night entrance only**.

**TEMPORARY COMMITTED ADORERS NEEDED:** The Adoration chapel has a number of openings that need to be covered for the next three months until the regular committed adorers can resume their adoration. Openings are :

Mondays 11 pm -12 midnight

Tuesdays 1-2 pm

Thursday 9-10 am and 1-2 pm

Friday 6-7 am, 7-8 am, 11-12 noon, noon- 1 pm

Please call Dorothy at (651) 636-1660 or Jerry at (651) 636-2054 if you are able to help.

## Circle of Women...

We will not be meeting this week on January 23, due to end of the quarter reporting in our school district.

We welcome women of all ages to our next regular Thursday Morning meeting on January 30, 2003 from 9:15-11:30 am. Our speaker will be Julie Firkus. She will outline the Moms in Touch program at St. Johns and other district schools. Come join the Circle and bring a friend...

## Seekers (Adult Theological Book Club)

You are always welcome to join us, we ask only that you read the book or at least a good portion of it! Our next selection is The Battle for God by Karen Armstrong. We will read the first 132 pages for January. The meeting is Thursday, January 30, 7-8:30 pm in the St. John Pastoral Center, St. Vincent de Paul Room (#210) We are seeking an adult faith. You are invited to explore your faith and expand your vision.

## Cana Dinner

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2003**

All Couples are invited to a wonderful evening of dinner, entertainment and dancing. Invitations have been mailed. Please call the parish office for additional reservation forms. Mary Walus (651) 633-1540 ext. 1227

## Pastoral Ministry...

### NURSING HOME SCHEDULE

#### Tuesday, January 21st

Word/Comm 2:15 pm

New Brighton Care Center

Word/Comm 2:00 pm

Presbyterian Homes

#### Thursday, January 23rd

Room Visits 7:00 pm

Innsbruck

Mass 2:00 pm

St. Anthony

Word/Comm 7:15 pm

Trevilla

**RIDE NEEDED:** to church on weekends for a parishioner. Flexible lives in the vicinity of 37th Avenue and Silver Lake Road. If you can help, call Mary Kay (612) 782-3872.

### Celebrating the Partial

O God, when wholeness is too large for our hearts and minds to encompass, we celebrate parts. One bird call, one whiff of cinnamon, one child's face, one word of love, can set our spirits dancing. Help us not to dwell too heavily, however, on any single portion. Otherwise we might miss the wonder of yellow in longing for purple, we overlook the beauty of winter stars in our eagerness for summer nights, we ignore the salty truth in our taste for sweet knowledge. Give us the grace to treasure each slice of our world briefly, lightly, gratefully, Then shall we never be without your presence. Amen.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### Those in our community who are ill:

*Beau Anderson, John Battmer, Donald Beaubien, Marcelline Beseler, Marcella Boomer, Karen Bona, Wayne Carlson, Helen Cmiel, Ann Czech, Louis Czech, Lenore Dougherty, Joe Fellner, Linda Franklin, Bernice Hopkins, Anna Horbatuck, Henry Horbatuck, Mike Kallok, Kevin Keenan, Br. Joseph Katzmarek, Michael Kavanagh, Esther Knapp, Mary Krenik, Linda Leier, Herb Loscheider, Nancy Mehrer, Rupert Meyer, Irene Mitchell, Lance and Ann Moe, Corliss Moore, Donna Murphy, Ray Nelson, Ben Rubelke, Cynthia Schwall, Frances Svontek, Ted Spiess, Ed Stich, Richard St. Germain, Sr., Bob Sorem, Robert Tharaldson, Fr. Greg Tolaas, Frances Vonacek, Donna Waldoch, Mildred Werner, Linda Zappa.*

#### The souls of those who recently have died:

*Mitchell Gast, husband of Robyn and Son of Mel.*

### PRAYER LINE

Call one of these numbers with your prayer requests.

All requests are confidential.

**651-633-1618**

**763-784-5254**

**651-636-5251**



Dear Parishioners.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2003, we join with 2.6 million students in more than 8,000 other Catholic schools nation wide to recognize the supporters and volunteers who work tirelessly to provide a faith based education for youth.

The theme we celebrate this year is "Catholic Schools: Making a World of Difference." As a parishioner of St. John the Baptist, you are one of the people who make a difference in our world. Your support throughout the year enriches not only our school but the community as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Staff at St. John the Baptist School



**OPEN DOORS** - A social group for divorced, widowed, and single men and women -- meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the St. Vincent De Paul Room for socializing and snacks. Come to the meetings or just the events. You're always welcome!!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**January 23** - Restaurant of the Month -- Group will meet at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's parking lot to car-pool to "The Machine Shed Restaurant." (Address/Directions: 8515 Hudson Blvd. No. in Lake Elmo. Take 694 east to 94 east and exit at Radio Drive north - exit #250. Go across bridge -- restaurant is the NW corner - Phone: 651-735-7436). Reservations will be made for 6:45 p.m. **Please RSVP by no later than January 20 to Mary Kay at 612-782-3872.**

**January 25** - St. Paul Winter Carnival Grand Day Parade - 12:30 p.m. Watch the bulletin for additional information!

*Bulletin Board*

**INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE**

Voluntary Income Tax Assistance will be offered every Monday beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup> and continuing through April 14<sup>th</sup> at the new Family Service Center. Appointments will be taken between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:30 PM. This free service is provided for senior citizens, low income and handicapped taxpayers. Volunteers are trained by the IRS and the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Complicated tax returns or returns involving large amounts of income will not be prepared. **PLEASE CALL THE PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE 638-2130 TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT OR TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

**NEWLY MARRIED RETREAT DAY**

The Office of Marriage and Family Life invites all newly married couples, 0-7 years to the Second Annual Retreat Day for the Newly Married on Saturday, February 1, 2003, at the Church of St. Charles Borromeo in St. Anthony, Minnesota.

Mr. James Stenson, education consultant and internationally recognized leader in child rearing will present the key note presentation. Other topics during the day include: Holiness in Marriage, Theology of the Body, Family Spirituality and Christian Financial Management. The retreat is from 8:45 am- 2:30 pm. Cost is \$30.00 per couple/ \$15.00 per person and includes a continental breakfast and a catered lunch. For more information call: (651) 291-4553 or download a registration from the Office of Marriage and Family Life's web site: [www.archspm.org/family/](http://www.archspm.org/family/)

**"Preserving Your Cloth Heritage"  
Sunday, February 2: 2:00  
New Brighton Family Service Center**

The New Brighton Area Historical Society and the Shoreview Historical Society will hold an interesting program on fabric preservation on Sunday, February 2, at 2:00 PM, at the New Brighton Family Service Center. Nancy Cyr, a certified fabric preservationist, will host the program. She is able to date clothing and accessories and give help in how to properly display and store collectables and antiques. After a short presentation, Cyr will then invite participants to bring up the items for restoration or storage suggestions. Items may include vintage clothing, wedding dresses, baptism dresses, flags, quilts, etc. Members and the public are invited to this program. Refreshments will be served.

**Birthright**

*Caring help for pregnant women.*  
651-646-7033 – St. Paul  
763-757-0715 – Coon Rapids

*Weekly Collection*

	Actual	Goal	Capital Campaign
1/12/03	\$22,749	\$24,608	\$8,208
Since July 1, 2002	\$821,258	\$846,750	\$254,291*
Children	\$23.00		
		Goal	Pledged
Capital Campaign		\$3,000,000	\$2,100,000
* Total adjusted to include 2002 pledges to Capital Campaign II			