

July 27, 2003 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St
John^{the}Baptist
CATHOLIC CHURCH

835 2nd Avenue Northwest
New Brighton, MN 55112-6842
Phone: 651-633-8333
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Internet: www.stjohnnb.com

"A Community called and formed by the Gospel"



As a Catholic Community, we joyfully proclaim and grow in the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, service, and lifelong faith formation.

PARISH STAFF

PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-633-8333
 Fr. William Murtaugh, Pastor ext. 1213
 Fr. Michael Keating, Associate ext. 1214
 Michael Winn, Deacon ext. 1216
 Tom Quayle, Deacon ext. 1229
 Anne Marie Bartlett, Pastoral Minister ext. 1237
 Judy Quayle, Director of Marriage Program ext. 1229
 Rod & Susan Amos Palmer, Deacon Couple ext. 1298

SCHOOL 651-633-1522
 Mrs. Clausen, Principal ext. 1117
 Ellen Stanslaski, Secretary ext. 1118

LITTLE LIGHTS PRESCHOOL 651-633-8333
 Mary Walus, Director ext. 1227
 Mary Ann Dircks ext. 1207
 Debra Cherney ext. 1209

FAITH FORMATION 651-633-1540
 Sr. Clarinda Coffel, O.S.F., Director ext. 1228
 Brad & Libby Dupont, Junior High ext. 1218
 Teresa Neuman, Elementary Coordinator ext. 1234
 Mary Walus, Early Childhood (Pre-K) ext. 1227
 Sandy Wadzink, Secretary ext. 1211

YOUTH MINISTRY 651-633-8333
 Brad & Libby Dupont ext. 1218

CAMP TNT 763-754-7666
 Rick Craig

WORSHIP & MUSIC 651-633-8333
 Jay Hunstiger, Director of Liturgy ext. 1212
 Cheri Sykes, Director of Music ext. 1231
 Mary Anne Bennek, Director of Youth Music ext. 1220

ADMINISTRATION 651-633-8333
 Robert Mike, Parish Administrator ext. 1215
 Pat Keyes, Community Life ext. 1217
 Maurice Prater, Director of Communications ext. 1224
 Ruth Lapinski ext. 1233
 Miki Sebesta ext. 1239
 Teri Shea ext. 1210

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Monday-Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Friday* 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 *Administrative Suite closes at 1:00 p.m. on Friday
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to St. John's! We're glad that you are here! Registration takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in Room 211 of the Pastoral Center.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

7:30am Mass (Cantor & Organ)
 9:30am Mass** (Choral)
 11:30am Mass** (Contemporary)
 6:15pm Mass (Instrumental Only)

MONDAY, JULY 28

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)
 8:30am Mass (Chapel)
 7:00pm Earthen Vessels Rehearsal

TUESDAY, JULY 29

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)
 8:30am Mass (Chapel)
 9:00am Camp TNT
 7:00pm Engaged Couples Retreat (St. Joe's)
 7:15pm *Wild Honey & The Locusts* (St. Cecilia)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)
 8:30am Word/Eucharist (Chapel)
 7:00pm Fallfest Meeting (St. Clare)

THURSDAY, JULY 31

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)
 8:30am Mass (Chapel)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

8:00am Rosary (Chapel)
 8:30am Mass (Chapel)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

3:30pm Reconciliation (or by appointment)
 4:30pm Mass (Cantor & Organ)
 6:30pm Open Doors Game Night (St. Joe's)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

7:30am Mass (Cantor & Organ)
 9:30am Mass** (Choral)
 10:30am New Parishioner Registration
 11:30am Mass** (Contemporary)
 1:00pm Baptisms
 6:15pm Mass (Instrumental Only)
 7:15pm Beyond JustFaith Class (Room 204)
 **Nursery Available

Perpetual Adoration

Open every week in the Cenacle Chapel from 7:00 p.m. Sunday through 4:00 p.m. Saturday.

Adorers are needed for the following hours:

2 AM – 3AM Tuesday

12 noon – 1 PM Saturday

2PM – 3PM Friday

Please call Dorothy at (651) 636-1660 or Jerry at (651) 636-2054 to sign up. Substitutes are available!

The next Adoration Committee meeting will be on August 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Clare meeting room. Hourly coordinators are encouraged to attend. Everyone is always welcome.

The NEW deadline for all bulletin items is 12:00 noon on Thursday, 10 days before the Sunday publication date.

All submissions will be edited for length & content and are subject to final approval. Please remember that space is limited!

Thank you for your cooperation.

Before I Forget...

In a few weeks, many of our younger members will be going off to college or to a technical school; maybe some will be entering the military, while others take a year off to work and think about their future. This column is for our young adults who have called St. John's their parish. Many of you were baptized here, made your First Communion here, were confirmed as freshman at the Cathedral, and now it's time for new changes in your lives.

No matter where you are going or what you do, I promise to hold you in prayer to our loving God. I ask all parishioners to pray for you because you are important to us, you belong to our parish; you are part of our community. When you have a rough day, maybe a little "homesickness," remember that there are people back at St. John's praying for you. Go with God as you leave and begin "an exciting new time in your life".

If you are leaving for the first time or for your second, third or fourth year, here are a few thoughts from your pastor who remembers starting college forty years ago in 1963.

Respect yourself, always. With new independence, don't do anything that will be self-destructive. Be true to yourself, no matter what others think. Be faithful to your spiritual beliefs, to the values you've learned that are very important to your identity as a Christian. Make healthy decisions with courage. It is more than okay to say "No" to people when you know that "No" is the right response.

Make every effort to keep Jesus Christ as the center of your life. Pray daily. Attend Mass on Sunday. Find time to be of service to others. A true follower of Jesus imitates the Master who was a Servant. Don't be so absorbed in yourself, your studies, or your job that you forget others. Think about volunteering in a shelter for children at risk, or a nursing home, a shelter for the homeless, or a "soup kitchen" for the poor. Some of your greatest learning will take place in places like these. Being with the poor and the elderly will teach you what is really important in life! Your Master, Jesus Christ, expects you to be a servant.

You will meet new people who are different. Respect others and affirm them. Avoid being critical of others who are different. Open your mind, be a good listener, and be flexible. Be sensitive to all that is human and divine. Watch your language; avoid mean and hateful words.

Be open to the beliefs of others, and ask them to be open to your beliefs and values.

Be honest with others, no matter how difficult. There will always be conflict in our lives, people who upset us, or we upset them. Try to find peaceful solutions to conflicts. Forgive others and be big enough to apologize if you hurt someone. And, don't hold grudges...it's a real waste of time.

Celebrate life and have fun, lots of fun. Does that mean everything is acceptable behavior? Obviously, no. Make good value judgments for yourself as a disciple of Jesus. As you have fun, don't hurt others and don't hurt yourself.

Have the courage to stand with those who are being treated unfairly or are being ridiculed for being different from the "crowd." Everyone has dignity as a child of God and deserves to be respected. Challenge people who belittle or disrespect others. Being a Christian, doing the right thing, is not always easy; it's not just about feeling good.

Be a gentle person. The world needs more gentlemen and gentlewomen. Be gentle with yourself and others. Don't beat yourself if you experience failure. At times we learn a lot from failure, but nothing from being mediocre. All of creation should be treated with respect and gentleness.

Be open to surprises. Our God is a God of surprises. Use your God-given imagination and creative gifts wisely. Be a seeker of God. Stay close to God. Be a peacemaker, always. Appreciate the gift of yourself.

Life is a great gift. We are visitors on this earth. The "big picture" reminds us that we are on a journey to eternal life with God. Don't settle for the "little snapshots" that others think life is all about.

Always, *Go With God!*

Fr. Bill

Fallfest 2003: "A Harvest of Memories" September 19, 20, 21

Friday: *Timeless Hollywood*, a Gala Dinner Event. Casino for the high rollers! Music by Wild Honey & the Locusts. Relive the Golden Age of Hollywood.

Saturday: Street Dance featuring *The Rockin' Hollywoods*

Sunday: Booyal, Games for all ages, Raffle, Entertainment Stage, Food, Beer and Lots of Fun.

Volunteers needed for many areas and Sponsorship & Donation Opportunities are available.

Can you help? Call (651) 633-8333.



The question sometimes comes up, whether in reading, or conversation or personal reflection, "Who is a Catholic?" This is not an unreasonable question. Any group of people organized for a purpose need to have enough self-understanding to know what it means to be a member. If we want to know who is an American, we can look to citizenship guidelines. If we wonder who belongs to a certain organization or club, or works for a certain company, or is a member of a particular family, we can find out. The point of knowing such things is not, or should not be, to hold others at a distance or to think oneself better than others; it is rather a question of having a healthy sense of identity.

This is all the more true for the Church, which has been given an all-important mission by its founder. The Church is to be salt and light for the world, and we have it from Jesus Himself that we need to be concerned to see that our saltiness does not lose its flavor and our light does not become darkness. So who is a Catholic? Who are those who can reasonably lay claim to that title?

As it happens, the answer to this question is fairly simple, and has been in place since apostolic times: a Catholic is someone who *believes* with the Church, who *prays* with the Church, and who receives and lives the *moral vision* of the Church. Believing with the Church: We have a Creed, and a clear body of authoritative teaching. This doctrine of ours does not change: it is based upon God Himself, the Unchanging One. Of course it needs to be retranslated into every age and every culture, and so it makes itself present in many different forms, new in every generation. And the Church gains greater insight into these truths as time goes on, so that our understanding of them develops and grows.

But the Creed embodies that faith "once delivered to the saints," and can no more be changed than God Himself can be changed. This is why we still recite a Creed every week that was formulated over fifteen hundred years ago.

Praying with the Church: The Church has in her keeping her greatest treasure, the Divine Liturgy, and it is her solemn and most important task to celebrate that Liturgy, to draw the human race to it, to keep bright and burnished this participation in the saving act of Christ from generation to generation. The Mass belongs to no individual, to no congregation: it is the possession of the whole Church. The liturgy changes outwardly in certain ways over the years, but it does so organically, and the change is always in keeping with its inner essence.

Embracing the moral vision of the Church: Christians are the people of the Way; we live the way of love embodied in the commandments. Every command of Christ is only a signpost toward love, a royal road to the full gift of ourselves to God and to one another. "If you love me," said the Divine Master, "you will keep my commandments." The Church embraces this moral way, founded in the Ten Commandments, completed and taught by Christ, and insists upon it no matter how inconvenient or unpopular it may be in a given time or place.

This people, who pray as one, who believe as one, who live the way of love in unity, is the seed of the new humanity, the Body of Christ, the sign and sacrament of God's presence in the world. To be such is not to be a liberal Catholic, or a conservative Catholic, or a progressive Catholic, or a reactionary Catholic. It is simply to be Catholic, to continue the living witness to Christ in our age.

Connections: July 27, 2003 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" (John 6: 1-15)

INFECTIOUS-GIVING TRUE STORY:

When Melissa and Lee were planning their December wedding, they could have spent a lot of money - according to the Conde Nast, the average wedding in America costs \$22,000. The couple who were paying for the wedding themselves, both have good jobs - she is an interior designer, he is a web site designer. But they wanted to use their wedding funds for something special and lasting.

So, after a simple church wedding followed by cake and refreshments at the church, Melissa and Lee took their 70 guests on a shopping spree at Toys R' Us to buy holiday gifts for needy children. They gave each guest \$15 to spend, although many spent more of their own money. The couple's philanthropic spirit spread throughout the store. Other shoppers started buying and donating toys to the wedding party. When the store rang up the last purchase, the wedding revelers had bought \$2,400 worth of toys - enough to fill three trucks, which drove the bounty to the local Toys for Tots center.

That was two years ago. Melissa and Lee celebrated their second anniversary collecting groceries for a food pantry.

CONNECTION: *Melissa and Lee's wedding shopping spree mirrors the miracle that takes place in today's Gospel. Because of their generosity of spirit, the couple enables a miracle to take place for needy children in their community, just as the little boy's willingness to share his small lunch gives Jesus what he needs to miraculously feed the 5,000 who have come to hear Him; as Melissa and Lee created a spirit of giving at Toys R' Us, Jesus prompts a generous sharing by all on the hillside. In both "miracles," the selfish tendencies of human nature are overcome in love. That same "miracle" is realized every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist: the one bread and one cup make one family of us. We are called by Christ to become the Eucharist we receive at this altar: giving thanks for what we have received by sharing our gifts - our talents, our riches, ourselves - to work our own miracles of creating communities of joyful faith.*

Weekly Collection

Actual	Goal	Capital Campaign II
July 6, 2003:		
\$26,189	\$27,740	\$8,249
Children's		
\$10.00		
July 13, 2003:		
\$26,014	\$25,650	\$9,883
July 20, 2003:		
\$22,452	\$24,649	\$7,068
Since July 1, 2003:		
\$74,655	\$78,039	\$509,151
Children's		
\$13.00		
Peter's Pence		
\$115.00		

Thank you for your generous support!

Fiscal Year 2002-2003

Thanks to your generosity in giving over \$65,000 to the Closing the Gap Collection, the parish was able to end the fiscal year 2002-03 on June 30 in the black. Preliminary figures indicate that we will end the year with a surplus of \$4,500.00. A detailed report for the fiscal year will be given to all the parishioners in November. Again, thank you for your generosity, and we ask for your continued support as we begin our new fiscal year.

School News

ST. JOHN'S GRADUATING CLASS OF 2003:

The pictures from Bruce Lee Photography of the 8th grade graduation group and individual pictures are available. The pictures will be placed on the large harvest table in St. Paul Plaza right outside of St. Joseph's Hall. Please pick them up as soon as possible. Thank You!

Seniors

QUILTERS St. John's Quilting Group will meet on Friday, July 25, at 1:00 pm in the Seniors Room. We will not be meeting in the month of August, but will resume again on Thursday, September 11, and continue our usual second Thursday and fourth Friday of each month.

Seekers Book Club

SEEKERS is an Adult Theological Book Club, and our book for August is *Why I am a Catholic* by Garry Wills, Houghton Mifflin. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 28, 7:00-8:30 pm in St. John's Pastoral Center, St. Vincent de Paul Room (#210). We invite you to join us and explore your faith and expand your vision.

Pastoral Ministry

Nursing Home Schedule for the week of July 27:

Tuesday, July 29

Word/Comm. 11:45 AM Presbyterian Homes

Thursday, July 31

Word/Comm. 10:15 AM Innsbruck

Word/Comm. 7:00 PM St. Anthony

Word/Comm. 2:15 PM Trevilla

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING is again available to all St. John's parishioners on a no-fee basis. Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call Teri, (651) 633-8333.

JustFaith

Explore the social justice tradition of your faith and learn about the spiritual journey of Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa, Oscar Romero, and the prophets by taking part in our powerful JustFaith program at St. John's. Covering difficult topics such as Christian activism and encounters with the poor, the program will run from mid-September to mid-May. For more information, call the Parish Office, 651-633-8333.

PARISH DIRECTORY PICTURES??? Check the box near the harvest table in St. Paul Plaza for your pictures!

PRAYER LINE

Call one of these numbers with your prayer requests.

All requests are confidential.

651-633-1618

763-784-5254

651-636-5251



Those in our community who have entered eternal life:

Sharon Burris, Joan Cassidy

Those in our community who are ill:

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

Respect Life



THE BABY BUSH IS COMING! St. John's Baby Bush will be "planted" in St. Paul Plaza for the next two weekends, August 2/3 & August 9/10. Please pick up a baby gift card listing a needed item for donation, and then return the gifts the following weekend. All baby items will be given to Northside Life Care Center and Birthright.

Birthright

Caring help for pregnant women.

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

Shared Ministries

WANTED: LOAVES & FISHES COORDINATOR

St. John's prepares and serves an evening meal for the homeless on the first Monday of each month at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in North Minneapolis. We invite everyone to consider volunteering as a coordinator. Call Mike Winn for details, 651-633-8333 (ext. 1216).

ST. JOHN'S WELCOMING MINISTRY

We are looking for friendly and enthusiastic individuals to staff the new receptionist desk in St. Paul Plaza. Volunteers will greet and direct visitors coming into the Pastoral Center. Several people are needed to serve one morning or afternoon per week. Training will be provided. Call Pat Keyes for details, 651-633-8333 (ext. 1217).



ST. JOHN'S RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Drive is at St. John's on Tuesday, August 12, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Appointment time sign-ups will be after all Masses next weekend, August 2/3. If you would like to sign up, but you will not be here next weekend, please call Rita, 651-636-9124.

"Together, we can save a life!"

Everyone is invited!

**Please join us on Wednesday
Aug. 6, 6:00 p.m., East Pkg Lot
to build St. John's Float for
Stockyard Days!**

Open Doors is...



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. The door is open -- you're always welcome!! Call Anne Marie with questions, 651-633-8333 (ext. 1237).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Every Wednesday - Walking and Jogging Groups will meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the boat launch area at Long Lake Regional Park. Call Barb, 763-784-6399.

Aug. 2 - Mini-Golf - 7:00 PM at Spring Lake Amusement Park, 1066 NE Hwy 10 in Spring Lake Park. Look for the "Open Doors" sign. \$5.00/course; drinks after golf. Call Sharon with RSVP or questions by July 31, 651-633-2083.

Aug. 5 - "2 for 1" Swing Dance Lessons - by TC Swing at Heart Alive, 5801 John Martin Dr., Brooklyn Center; 6:15 p.m. Look for "Open Doors" sign to get special price (\$5 for lessons and dance!). East Coast Swing lesson at 6:30, Lindy Hop lesson at 7:30, and dance at 8:30. No partners or experience needed! Call Jan with RSVP and questions by August 4, 651-780-2142.

Aug 9 - Saints Game - For those who have signed up, meet at St. John's parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to carpool. Call Kathy with question, 763-712-0659.

Aug. 12 -Monthly Planning Meeting - 7:30-9:00 p.m. at St. John's in St. Vincent DePaul Room. Bring suggestions for future events; will focus on Fall Fest - volunteers needed! Optional: bring an item for Open Doors' "singles basket" for the St. John's Fall Fest silent auction.

If you, or someone you know, would like to be added to our mailing list, or if you would like to receive an invitation to visit our new web site, please call Jan, 651-780-2142.

Faith Formation News

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? There is a program at St. John's called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) that will answer these questions. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office for details. The faith Formation Director will contact you in August. RCIA is held each Monday evening from September through May.

ALL FAITH FORMATION PARENTS AND STUDENTS Registration for all Faith Formation Programs (Sunday School, Elementary, Odyssey, Confirmation): **Please return forms immediately!** If you did not receive a registration form, please call the Faith Formation Office and leave a message, 651-633-1540 (ext. 1211).

CARIBBEAN MISSION TRIP 2004 Workers are needed to build houses and work with the school children in the Dominica and Union Island which are part of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The trip will take place January 30 to February 14, 2004. For information, contact Tom Quayle, 651-633-0459, or see website: <http://unionisland.com> or www.goodnewswi.com.