



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

FAITH · FAMILY · FRIENDSHIP

March 17, 2024 ♦ Fifth Sunday of Lent

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are called together in fellowship to witness to our Catholic faith through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments. We give testimony to Jesus Christ by reaching out with compassion to others.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Sharon Williams

Cemetery Manager:

Steve Bebeau

TRUSTEES:

Lynn Eggert Russ Ray

PARISH COUNCIL:

Adam Benney Angie Haggerty
Lisa Crosby Marilyn Nordine
Cindy Gibbs Jim Penick
Stacy Glass Jake Reining
Clark Grotte



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/
Jn 12:20-33
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-
3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18,
19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will make a new covenant; I will write my law upon their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
Psalm — Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51).
Second Reading — Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:7-9).
Gospel — If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33).

CELEBRATIONS OF EUCHARIST:

Wednesday thru Friday 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Friday: 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 - 8:40 a.m.

Other times by appointment.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Monday by 9:00 a.m.

PARISH REGISTRATION:

We warmly welcome new parishioners and request that they register by calling the parish office.

BAPTISM:

Congratulations! We are excited to help you welcome your child into the Church. Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to their child's baptism. Please call the parish office to register.

MARRIAGE:

Couples should contact the parish office as soon as possible after their engagement is announced. The preferred preparation period is 12 months. You must be a registered parishioner before setting a wedding date.

♿ **HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

18 Mon. **No Mass**
19 Tue. **No Mass**
20 Wed. 8:00 a.m. Erwin Bourgeois †
21 Thu. 8:00 a.m. Merlin & Mildred Dahlheimer
Family - Living and Deceased
22 Fri. 8:00 a.m. Bev Lahn †
23 Sat. 5:00 p.m. Jim Corrow (1 year anniv.)
24 Sun. 9:00 a.m. St. John the Baptist Parishioners

LITURGICAL ROLES

Next Weekend - March 23 and 24

5:00 P.M.

Ushers: Lynn Eggert and Stacy Glass
Readers: Sheila Long
Mike Gilman
Server: Thomas Bouley
Communion Minister: Ed Barder

9:00 A.M.

Ushers: Russ and Teri Ray
Readers: Dan Lefebvre
Terry McAlpine
Servers: Brooks McAlpine
Austin and Logan Crosby
Communion Minister: Lisa Crosby
Children's Liturgy: Lead: Sarah Moylan
Assistant: Jackie Penick



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS . . .

Bena Bourgeois, Dick Bukosky, Marie Corbin, Ken Croteau, Tammie Dahlheimer, Mary Eull, Donna Rivers Hauan, Bob Huss, Martha Killian, Wayne Lahn, Jane Lenz, Rick Marion, Nikki Miller, Barbara Mulcahy, Alanna Neutgens, Tim Neutgens, Phil Novack, Anné Otremba, Viola Plante, Jodi Playle, Chris Rickart, Dennis Sack, Catherine Schumacher, Rosemary Steer, Billi Jo Weekley, and Sandi Weekley. Raymond Bernard (brother-in-law of Joan Playle), Terry Bukosky (son of Richard and Vonnie Bukosky), Linda Chase (daughter of Jim and Bonnie Haberer), Jeff Chouinard (son of Joanne Chouinard), Tammy Courtright (sister of Sue Harff), Matt Deal (brother of Robyn Bernens), Marge Dellwo (friend of Mary Eull), Julie Corbin Dray (niece of Joan Playle), Gregg Dzubay, Lynette Jenkins, and Jan Laudenbach (friends of Kathy Bennett), Beatrice Eull (daughter of Mary Eull), Mett Hennen (nephew of Kathy Bennett), Carl Junker (cousin of Mary Eull), Wayne Jurmu (father of Barb Carnes), Gregory Killian (son of Martha Killian), John Novack (brother of Phil Novack), John Reining (father of Jake Reining), Dawn Schmidt (friend of Joanne Chouinard), Dave Stasson (brother-in-law of Lucy McAlpine), Carol Ticky (sister of Mary Dahlheimer), Bob Wirtz (friend of Dan Fodstad-Bouley), Hudson Wright (cousin of Kathy Timm), and Dan Zapf (grandson of Earl and Elaine Schulenburg).



Notes from the Pastor

We are in the home stretch of Lent! This week, we begin a period of time called Passiontide. Just as Advent is divided into unequal two parts - one focusing on the second coming of Christ by looking forward to his first coming and one part focusing on the immediate circumstances of Christ's birth - so Lent is divided into two even more unequal parts, with the first focusing on the general theme of turning away from sin and repenting, and now this second part focusing on the immediate circumstances leading to Holy Week - the Lord's triumphant entry, the betrayal, the Passion, and finally the Resurrection.

During these two weeks, particularly in Northern Europe, it has been custom to veil statues and images in churches. There are lots of historical theories as to why, but references to the practice date back to the 9th century, and so like all things liturgical there have been lots of explanations built up over the years. My personal favorite explanation, though a very unlikely candidate to be the original reason for the practice, is that most years we read the gospel of the raising of Lazarus on this Sunday, and in the conclusion of that section of the Gospel of John it says that Jesus withdrew from the public since the Jewish leaders were trying to kill Jesus, and so covering statues is designed to represent this withdrawing. Whatever the true origin of the custom is, I personally find that it makes me more aware that we are entering the end of Lent, and so if there are things we still want to do as part of our pray, our fasting, our almsgiving, now is the time.

- Fr. John Powers



BAKE SALE NEXT WEEKEND

The CCW will be sponsoring a Bake Sale next weekend, March 23 and 24. We need your help to fill the Bake Sale tables with wonderful goodies and snacks!

Get out your recipes and find something special . . . maybe your favorite breads, cookies, bars, coffee cakes, candy, pies, muffins, snacks (salty or sweet), cupcakes, jams, jellies, or anything else you love baking. Please **label and price your items** and if ingredients include nuts please note what kind on the label for those with allergies. The Bake Sale will be held in the social hall after both Masses next weekend.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY THANK YOU

Last weekend's collection for Global Solidarity totaled \$335.00. Our brothers and sisters in Africa, Latin America, and especially Central and Eastern Europe, and all those who receive much needed assistance through Catholic Relief Services thank you for your support and generosity.

TRAVELERS For nationwide Mass times and locations visit www.Masstimes.org.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"I will be their God and they shall be my people."
- Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

LOOKING AHEAD → HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, March 28 - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29 - Stations of the Cross will be held at 3:00 p.m. Evening service of the Lord's Passion will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30 - The Easter Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31 - Masses celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord will be at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

MINISTERS NEEDED - We are still in need of additional altar servers for Holy Thursday and Easter (all Masses), Ushers for the Easter Vigil, a Communion Minister for the Easter Vigil and for Easter 7:00 a.m., and Scrip Sellers for both Easter Sunday Masses. Please call or email the parish office if you can help.



OFFERTORY • MARCH 3, 2024

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Adult Envelopes (52) | \$ 2,935.00 |
| Plate and Non-Parishioners | 343.00 |
| Automatic Deposits (28) | <u>1,201.00</u> |
| TOTAL RECEIVED | \$ 4,479.00 |
| | |
| Projected Need | \$ 4,800.00 |
| Received Last Week | 4,479.00 |
| Projected Need to Date | 182,400.00 |
| Amount Received to Date | 176,713.00 |
| | |
| Deficit - Last Week | \$ 5,366.00 |
| - This Week | 5,687.00 |



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Fridays of Lent. This week the Stations of the Cross will be led by the youth of the parish. Please join us for this traditional Lenten Devotion.

LUNCH AND CARDS

Join with fellow parishioners this Monday, March 18 in the social hall from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. A light lunch will be served (free will offering appreciated). Cards to follow. Bring a friend. We hope to see you there! Hosted by Angie Haggerty, member of the Evangelization Committee and Parish Council.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Because of the early publication deadline for Easter, all bulletin information for the Easter bulletin (March 31) must be submitted by this Wednesday, March 20. Thank you.

COME AND SEE BY JOINING A PECS GROUP

We are so excited to see that the small groups are filling and a couple have already begun. There is still time for you to join, and we encourage you to do so. Here are your group topics!

How to Reach Heaven Leader - Jim Penick
A Greater Devotion to Mary Leader - Pat Gill
Lord, Teach Us to Pray Leader - Barb Carnes
The Lord's Prayer Leader - Sharon Williams - GROUP NEARLY FULL
Healing Prayer Leader - Russell Ray - GROUP NEARLY FULL
Bible Timeline Leader - Sarah Moylan - GROUP FULL

Click on the QR code to join, or reach out to one of the ECT members:

Cindy Gibbs 763.442.1980
Scott Theisen 612.750.3473
Pat Gill 763.248.2386



Testimony: *"I am joining your parish small groups because I like the small town feel and prefer smaller group sizes. I think I will be more comfortable speaking up in this small group environment at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church."* - TP

CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN UP

We ask that all wreaths and old flowers be removed from St. John the Baptist Cemetery as soon as possible. Beginning April 1, we will begin removing any wreaths and unsightly flowers that remain in the cemetery.

EASTER PLANTS

If you would like to have one or more of the Easter plants which adorn the sanctuary area for the Easter season as a memorial for a deceased loved one, please put your name and the name(s) of the one(s) being remembered in an envelope along with \$13.00 for each plant and drop it in the regular Sunday collection basket or mail it to the church. **Deadline is next Sunday, March 24.**

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

TLC KIDS - THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Our Pre-K through Confirmation age students will meet this week for TLC Kids on Wednesday, March 13. We have sessions from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., and from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. If any of your children are unable to attend, please email Sarah at sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS - We are looking for readers and servers to help with The Way of the Cross for Children. Children's Stations will be led by the youth of the parish this coming Friday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. We need fourteen readers ages first grade and up to each read one Station of the Cross along with two or three altar servers to process from Station to Station with Father. Practice is at 6:30 p.m. just before Stations begin. Please contact Sarah Moylan at sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com if you are able to help.



SPRING PLANTING FUNDRAISER

St John the Baptist is sponsoring a Spring Planting Fundraiser featuring annuals, vegetables and perennials. Order forms are available at the tables located at both exits of the church - be sure to include your name and phone number when ordering. Place your order forms in an envelope along with payment and drop them in the regular Sunday offering basket. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 14 for delivery Wednesday, May 8. Proceeds will benefit our church and its vital ministries.



OPERATION RICE BOWL

Embodying the Love of Christ by Caring for One Another - Reflect on

your Lenten Journey thus far: What have you learned from our global family members in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia? How does the Eucharist unite us with our sisters and brothers around the world? Consider how Christ is present in these people. Learn more at crsricebowl.org.

OLD PALMS COLLECTION

Please bring your old palms to church with you from now until Holy Saturday evening and place them in the collection bins located at the exits of church. We will burn them in the Easter Fire at the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

We wish to thank everyone who stopped by the kitchen last weekend to have a donut and a beverage. The Social Hall had tables full of people chatting and enjoying a nice time to communicate with others about all the activity that's happening here at St. John the Baptist. We also extend a special Thank You for the offerings that were put in our C.O.F.F.E.E. glass block.



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SAINT PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS
CATHOLIC
SERVICES APPEAL

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Thank you to all who have given to the Catholic Services Appeal already! Your generosity is helping us to reach our goal of 100% participation. If you haven't donated yet, there is still time to make your gift, no matter how large or small. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Catholic Services Appeal to help make Jesus known and loved through ministries supported by the CSAF. You can complete and return your pledge card (extra pledge cards available at the exits) by dropping it in the Sunday collection basket, mailing it directly to CSAF, or make a secure gift online at love.archspm.org or use the QR code.

Scan here to
donate to the 2024
Catholic Services Appeal



Or visit love.archspm.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AWAKEN: WOMEN'S RETREAT - Saturday, April 13, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Holy Name of Jesus in Medina. Calling all women, ages 22-102! You are invited to reflect on God's specific call in our lives as women. The day will begin with 8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by talks, group discussion, personal reflection and prayer. Adoration and an opportunity for Reconciliation. Featured speakers are Annie Grandell and Sister Amelia, O.P. Breakfast and lunch are both included. Learn more at hnoj.org/awaken.

PARISH MISSION WITH JESSE ROMERO - Wednesday, March 20 - Friday, March 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Epiphany, Coon Rapids. With the same passion and commitment that made him a three-time World Police Olympics boxing champion, a former U.S.A. middleweight kickboxing champion and a retired veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Jesse shares Catholic teaching with an exciting style that is guaranteed to strengthen, edify and fortify you with a deeper love for God! Learn more at epiphanymn.org/epiphany-studies-and-events.

CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE: SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP - Thursdays, April 4 - May 16, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker, Maple Grove. Taught by Jeff Cavins, this seven-week course is open to all adults and teaches the basics of discipleship, how to share your faith with confidence, and how to cultivate a deeper life of prayer. In this course, students become "activated disciples" and put what they learn into practice. This course includes the small group dynamic, and takes you through a life-transforming 40-day discipleship challenge beginning on the Feast of Pentecost. Learn more and register at cistudent.com/the-experience.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL: STAY CONNECTED WITH THE MOVEMENT! - For beautiful reflections and resources on the Eucharist, as well as updates on the Revival, subscribe to receive the "Heart of the Revival" weekly newsletter at eucharisticrevival.org.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 17

- St. Patrick's Day
- 8:00 a.m. Confessions (till 8:40 a.m.)
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 9:00 a.m. Mass

Monday, March 18

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch and Cards (till 2:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, March 19

- Solemnity of St. Joseph
- First Day of Spring
- 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting, Social Hall

Wednesday, March 20

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 5:00 p.m. TLC Kid's Session (till 6:00 p.m.)
- 6:00 p.m. TLC Kid's Session (till 7:00 p.m.)
- 6:30 p.m. Confessions (till 7:30 p.m.)
- 7:00 p.m. TLC Kid's Session (till 8:00 p.m.)

Thursday, March 21

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 6:00 p.m. Sub-Committee Meetings, Social Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting, Social Hall

Friday, March 22

- Day of Abstinence
- 7:30 a.m. Confessions (till 7:50 a.m.)
- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration (till 6:30 p.m.)
- 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross led by the Youth

Saturday, March 23

- 4:00 p.m. Confessions (till 4:30 p.m.)
- 4:30 p.m. Rosary
- 5:00 p.m. Mass
- CCW Bake Sale

Sunday, March 24

- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
- 8:00 a.m. Confessions (till 8:40 a.m.)
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 9:00 a.m. Mass
- CCW Bake Sale

NEW IN THE COMMUNITY? WE WELCOME YOU!

Please call the parish office at 763.428.2828 to register.



SCRIP NEWS

Easter Shopping - Use Scrip gift cards for all your Easter shopping needs. For filling your Easter baskets and purchasing dinner supplies, we carry Coborn's, Cub Foods, Walmart, Walgreen's and Target plus we have many other merchants for your Easter decorating and Spring wardrobe purchases.

Scrip Sellers for Next Weekend

- Mar. 23 5:00 p.m. Rena Hales and Maraline Virnig
- 24 9:00 a.m. Lisa Crosby and Jim Penick

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Always Near

Loving Father,
you who answer when I call,
who continue to love me,
even when I fall,
you are ever present and merciful.
May I be a mirror of your promises.
Never let me stray too far
from your gaze.
May your hand never be far
from mine.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 17, 2024
Covenant of Love



Today's readings: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15, (12a); Hebrews 5:7–9; John 12:20–33. On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the readings begin by recalling the covenant God made with the chosen people. The Lord tells the prophet Jeremiah, “I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” In the covenant that God keeps with us today, he offers us eternal life. Jesus refers to that life in the Gospel reading, saying, “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.”

The first reading explains that all shall know God, for he “will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no

more.” In the second covenant, Jesus lays down his life for us on the cross, erasing our sins and reconciling us with God. The Letter to the Hebrews explains that Christ “became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”

To obey God, to have a place for him in our hearts, we seek a pure heart, praying from Psalm 51, “Create a clean heart in me, O God.” In this psalm, we ask not only that our souls be cleansed of sin but for a steadfast and willing spirit. How will you carry this psalm with you through this week so that you can be true to the love God offers? How can this psalm turn you to God’s presence so that you might be a walking testimony of his love?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 18 Traps for Kindness

Even though Jesus was without sin, he did not condemn. How much more should we, with our failings and shortcomings, follow his example and offer a kind word instead of judgment. As we live these final days of Lent, let us practice kindness by complimenting others and refraining from critical words. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; John 8:1–11.*

Tuesday, March 19 Feast of St. Joseph

“It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants that he would inherit the world, but through the righteousness that comes from faith,” we hear in today’s reading from Romans. The phrase “righteousness from faith” personifies St. Joseph, who was inclined to quietly divorce the pregnant Mary but followed the angel’s instruction and took her into his home. Have you considered looking to St. Joseph as a model of faith? *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.*

Wednesday, March 20 Becoming Better

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells his listeners that to be his disciples, they are to remain in his Word. Only by remaining in his Word will they know the truth and be set free from sin. Reading and meditating on Scripture is a regular practice of many to come closer to God during Lent. During your prayer time, ponder how you act out your discipleship. Are the people that you encounter aware that you are a Christian by the way you live? *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14–20, 91–92, 95; Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31–42.*

Thursday, March 21 Beyond Imagination

Abraham surely never imagined that God would come to him to make a covenant. It is beyond imagination that God would come to make “an everlasting pact.” Yet God promised the childless Abraham that he would be “the father of a host of nations.” God has a plan for each of us too. In the Gospel, we hear, “Whoever keeps my word will never see death.” To keep God’s Word is the work of each disciple. For that work, the reward is eternal life. *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3–9; Psalm 105:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 8:51–59.*

Friday, March 22 Do You Believe?

In the first reading, we hear the prophet Jeremiah say, “All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine.” Jesus, too, knew that people who practiced their religion looked for reasons to arrest or stone him. Reminding them of the Father’s good works he had performed, he asked, “For which of these are you trying to stone me?” In the world today, who is being punished for their good works? How do you recognize the work and action of Jesus around you? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10–13; Psalm 18:2–3a, 3bc–4, 5–6, 7; John 10:31–42.*

Saturday, March 23 All Praise to God

As we stand at the precipice of Holy Week, reflect on a time when you turned away from God. Perhaps you felt persecuted or ashamed of your relationship with God. Many young people face this problem; they hide their faith because it is unpopular, yet our faith in God is not about popularity. How can we be examples of hope to the younger generation? How can you turn a tense moment into an opportunity to share God’s love and mercy? *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21–28; Psalm: Jeremiah 31:10, 11–12abcd, 13; John 11:45–56.*



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