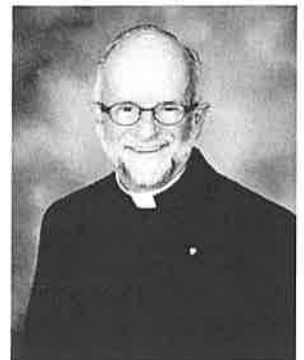


The Evangelizer

St. John the Evangelist
115 Second Street North
Wahpeton, ND 58075-4505
701-642-6982
Fall 2021

Dear Parishioners,

My good friend, Fr. Gerard Braun, and I were vacationing in Glenwood Springs, Colorado where my cousin has a home. On a Sunday morning, we were ready to begin the ten o'clock Mass at Saint Stephen's. Down the aisle comes a young man in his late teens followed by two look alike teens and a young woman holding a small girl by the hand with a little boy trailing behind. Bringing up the rear and taking the last space in the front row was a man in his forties, their father for sure. The little guy immediately tugs on the man's shirt and whispers in his ear. Then he carefully steps over the legs of each kneeling person and slips down the side aisle. Minutes later he's back. He crawls in next to the third boy only for a minute and quickly scoots to the second. An arm carefully pulls him close. As Mass proceeds to the homily, he's on his brother's lap. The little girl is next to her father. She leans in close as his arm draws her to his side. This quiet inter-communion happens as all eyes in the front row are on the action of the Mass.



Fr. Dale Lagodinski

What a witness to everybody in the church!

After Mass, I mentioned to the usher how impressed I was with that front row. "Oh," she smiled, "That's only half of them! The rest of the family will be at the next Mass with their mom. It's such a challenge these days to get ourselves to Sunday Mass. I sure admire that family a lot. They're great kayakers too!" Glenwood Springs is blessed with the white waters of the Colorado River.

As we gear up for the return of fall activities, our adventure is on. What will all the mutations of covid-19 have in store for us as we try for some sort of normal? Well, that Colorado family inspires me. Maybe most of us can't manage what they do just yet. It's going to take some effort to get our pews overflowing. But, we have some ideas and lots of wonderful parishioners already making progress. It's great for us priests to see more and more pews being filled and to be back in the regular confessionals welcoming more and more back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We're excited about our regular Faith Formation sessions for grades 1-12. Be sure to get your family signed up.

I'm still thinking of what a powerful witness that Glenwood Springs family in the front pew at St. Stephen's was to me. I'm thinking about the witnesses that our St. John's Parishioners are and can be.

We have been hearing about parishes who are inviting families to try a special Sunday family faith formation adventure. Could we come before Mass to the Mehok center for a gathering of families around tables for a Faith adventure?

Then, down the aisle for Sunday Mass we come with a bit more to our step because of what we just witnessed.

Could it be that the more we priests and parishioners, our eyes on the action of the Mass, give witness to our young, the more our young will be drawn in and become witnesses to their friends? Just last week at Mass, a young parishioner introduced me to an international student who will be with us for a while. Now, that's a witness!

Fr Dale

On the Virtues of the Human Heart

I'm excited for the new school year, and one thing I am particularly excited about is the introduction of the Disciple of Christ: Education is Virtue program into our education here at St. John's.

Virtue is a word that is widely used but poorly understood. Many people tune out the word virtue because they think it is only going to be used as irritating moralizing.

But the Catholic Church has a firm idea about what virtue is. She says, "A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good," (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1803). All of our lives, every action we do, should be good. God has revealed to us what is good, and being a disciple means aligning ourselves to the good God shows us.

The ancient Greek philosophers came up with a list of 4 Cardinal (or Moral) virtues. These are dispositions that make for an excellent human being, dispositions that make good activity pleasing and easy. If you do not have these virtues, then doing good will be harder. Over time, if you practice acting according to these virtues, doing good will become easier and easier.



- Prudence: "the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it," (CCC 1806). Prudence holds pride of place among the Cardinal virtues, since without prudence directing them, the other virtues will not be able to function at the right time and the right place.
- Justice: "the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor," (CCC 1807). This is the simplest in theory, and one of the most complicated in practice.
- Fortitude: "the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good," (CCC 1808). This is toughness, grit, what carries us through difficulties.
- Temperance: "the moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods," (CCC 1809). This virtue helps us to keep our diet and entertainment consumption in check, among other things.

As you can see, you don't have to be a Christian to recognize these virtues as good, which is why the Church adopted this list of the Cardinal virtues from the Greeks. But there are virtues that are specifically Christian. These we call the Theological virtues, because they are gifts from God (*theos* is Greek for "god") and they help us connect to God. The Church teaches there are 3 Theological virtues.

- Faith: "the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself," (CCC 1814). Most of what we know, we know because somebody else has told us, and we believe that person. Faith extends that trusting relationship up to God.
- Hope: "the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit," (CCC 1817). Hope is the bridge between God's promises and our attaining these promises.
- Charity: "the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God," (CCC 1822). Our hearts are too small to love God as he ought to be loved, so the grace of the Holy Spirit strengthens us to love well.

These virtues are gifts to us, and they help us to live well. Thank God for calling us out of darkness into his wonderful light.

God Bless,

Fr. Eric Seitz



212 DAKOTA AVENUE
WAHPETON, NORTH DAKOTA 58075
www.stjohns-wahpeton.org/school
701-642-6116

"A Community inspiring Excellence through Faith, Learning and Service"

St. John's School

Educators & Support Staff

St. John's School staff and teachers are very excited for the start of another year. We are happy for the many returning teachers and staff: Our year of fun and faith-filled learning begins August 25. Assignments for the new school year are:

- Angie Picken, Preschool
- Renae O'Meara, Kindergarten
- Kaja Kaste, 1st grade
- Jennifer Shockley, 2nd grade
- Connie Madsen, 3rd grade
- Marsha DeVine, 4th grade
- Sharon Terfehr, 5th grade
- Lori Matejcek, 6th grade
- Samantha Daily, teacher aide
- Bobbi Jo Spellerberg, teacher aide
- Alyson Jezusko, Music Education
- Jennifer Conzemius, Library
- Kelly McNary, PE
- Alyson Jezusko, Computer
- _____, Counselor
- Lacey Hodny, Secretary
- Kathy Leinen & Apryl Loll, Cooks
- Butch Nelson, Maintenance
- Renee Langenwalter, Principal

Why Catholic Education?

A wonderful and faith-filled opportunity awaits all families at St. John's School. In addition to a dedicated and hard working staff, St. John's is a competitive school academically. But, more importantly, St. John's puts our Creator first in the lives of the students each and every day. Jesus is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever present teacher. He is the model of our faculty and inspiration of our students. We all know God's love for us to be the truth and the light. Why not share your love and faith in our heavenly Father by participating in your local Catholic school.

Did You Know?

- St. John's School, the oldest Catholic school in North Dakota, provides children with a GREAT foundation in education within a CHRIST-CENTERED school!
- Class sizes are built for success. SJS currently averages 17 students per grade serving PK through 6th grade!
- 87% of St. John's 4th grade students achieved proficient or advanced scores on the North Dakota State Assessment for Science - 20% higher when compared to all 4th grade students across the state of North Dakota!
- St. John's 6th grade students' Math Olympics 2016 team finished 2nd place and came home with a 3rd place in the 2015 competition! In addition to these team finishes, two students finished 3rd place and 5th place among all 4th grade students (75 STUDENTS) competing in the 2016 Math Olympics! All 2018 graduates were placed in advanced math in the public school.
- St. John's School was rated #4 across North Dakota in the North Dakota State Assessment for Math in the year 2015 and #27 for English Language Arts. These are GREAT results!
- Each day starts and ends with prayer!
- Teachers of St. John's School average 20+ years of experience.

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. Tell us again: "Do not be afraid" (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us" (1 Pet 5:7)

- **Pope Francis**
Strong in the Face of Tribulation:
A sure Support in Time of Trial



What's this Adventure??

Last week as we searched directions, Miss Google said, "It's Sunday. St. Bonaventure Catholic Church may not be open." Google, I'm pretty sure it is! Whether we have been at Mass in NE, KS, SD, MN or here at home, Wow everyone has a lot going on in life! People are getting married. Babies being baptized. Schools starting.

Surprises dropping into our lives. I've enjoyed seeing moms and dads with their hands full of active little ones. Parents and teens. Singles and empty nesters. The one thing in common with all these is everyone trying to put their families first! I applaud you & encourage you.

This exactly fits with our new focus of Family (Whole Parish) Catechesis. When we want the best for our family, asking if Faith is first is right for our

families, no matter its age, state in life, or number of members. Many scientific studies show having faith increases our joy, resilience, sense of security and so much more.

Even if we are completely satisfied with the place spiritual matters have in our lives, each of us can ask does my life witness my faith? Children learn through imitation. What are we offering them to imitate? Is my faith evident, visible, tangible? How do they know they are in a Catholic home? How do we pray together? How do we worship God together? How do we practice charity together?



With Family Catechesis, each of us are invited to one thing we can do that draws us [our family/work/lives] closer to Christ so we can be a better Witness.

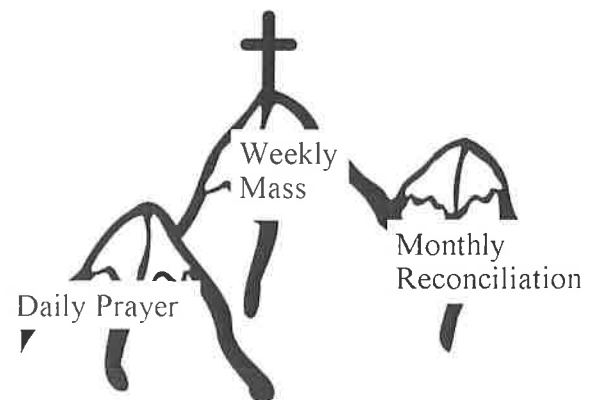
Am I willing to let my faith grow? Could we commit to an openness to be curious? This is all it takes for something incredible to take root and grow. **Check out this short Youtube about another family's experience: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ-G3Yd98mo&t=18s>**

Joe Paprocki recently offered 6 strategies to build our homes (domestic churches): Practice virtues. Engage in Catholic practices. Take time to listen to your children. Live the truth that God is here to rescue, restore and reassure each of us. Engage in works of mercy together. Nurture your own faith. And finally, "going to Mass is the single most important factor in passing on faith to your children."

How do we start? Just think of some positive movement in the direction you want to head.

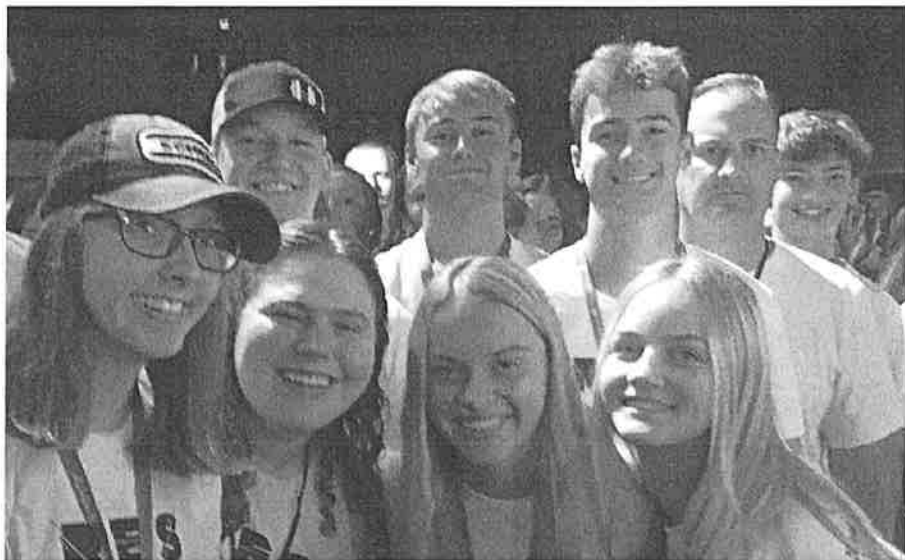
Maybe one of the 6 above. How can we the church support you? We are planning on our regular Faith Formation sessions for PK-12 and watch for other ideas we'll invite you to consider for your family and yourself like Family Sundays, Virtue Corner in the bulletin and more.

Think of it as an adventure because Jesus walks with us no matter what life brings. If we show this to our kids, through our WITNESS of faith, their own adventures with Jesus will bring them more joy, peace, resilience, More life!



RESTORED

PSALM
80:3



Steubenville 2021

“Put on this earth for a glorious purpose”



MIDDLE SCHOOL BONFIRE NIGHT



Mark your calendars for
Middle School Rally
Oct. 21st

Mass with Bishop, Inflatables & More
Let Audrey know you are interested.



Formed in faith, we form our children.

Faith Formation Registration 2021-22



Family Faith Formation

Age 4—Kindergarten (Sunday mornings 9am Mass).....\$7 per child

Grades 1-12.....\$55 per student

Please make arrangements with Michelle or Father Dale if finances are a concern. If you need to pay in several installments or have other options, we will gladly accept those arrangements if you let us know.

We may display photographs and the first name of your child on our youth bulletin board or our Youth Group Facebook. **If you do NOT want your student's photo used, sign in the box to OPT OUT.**

We want to OPT OUT of posting our student's picture:

ALL INFORMATION ON THIS REGISTRATION IS HELD IN CONFIDENCE.

Family Name: _____ Parents: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Parent Cell #: _____

Email Address: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Student Cell #: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Student Cell ##: _____

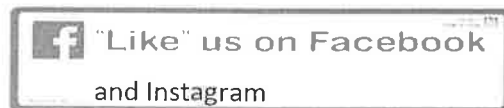
Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Student Cell #: _____

I would be willing to assist by:

- Helping with Younger Children Supervising Open Gym / Youth Room
- COR Team Member for Youth Group Plan Youth Events Chaperone Youth Events
- Provide for food for Youth Suppers Help Serve/Clean Up at Family Suppers Willing to Call Students
- Help at Fundraising Breakfast Help or Organize Fundraising

Our Student, 4th grade or older would like to Serve at Mass YES NO

Check here to be contacted for server training



Our family prefers to attend the following Sunday Mass time:

- Sat. 5:30pm Sun 7:30 am Sun 9am Sun 11am Sun 7:30pm

The church could help or support our family by :

***Per Wahpeton School Activity handbook, "Students must be excused from extra-curricular activities to attend religious functions without repercussions for the absence or early departure from practice". ***

May we offer all our thoughts, words, deeds & actions for His glory.



Walking with
Moms in Need



Can You Help Walk with Moms in Need? Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be “islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference.” Everyone in the parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need. Inspired by St. John Paul II’s papal encyclical *Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life)* to assess our efforts in building a culture of life, the intention of *Walking with Moms in Need* is to increase our outreach to pregnant and parenting women facing difficulties.

To learn more about how to participate in this joint effort, please contact Tim Mosser, Respect Life Director at the Dioceses of Fargo, at 701-356-7900 or tim.mosser@fargodiocese.org. Or to learn more about services to pregnant women in need, contact Kris Haycraft, Director of Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption Services at Catholic Charities North Dakota, at 701-235-4457 or ppas@catholiccharitiesnd.org. Thank you for helping support moms and their children!

PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES IN NORTH DAKOTA

Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Women’s Care Center
103 University Dr.
Fargo, ND 58102
701-237-6530

Women’s Care Center
614 N 4th St.
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-751-4575

Women’s Care Center
406 4th St NE
Devils Lake, ND 58301
701-662-2229

Pregnancy Help Center
Kensington Ave.
Park River, ND 58270
701-284-6601

Women’s Pregnancy Center
1726 S. Washington St. #3
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4733
701-746-8866

Maternity Homes

Saint Gianna’s Maternity Home
15605 County Road 15
Minto, ND 58261
701-248-3077
Perry Center
2355 Meadowridge Parkway
West Fargo, ND 58078-2383
701-241-9289

Catholic Charities ND

600 S 2nd St
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-244-1793

5201 Bishops Blvd, Suite B
Fargo, ND 58104
701-235-4457

311 4th ST S Suite 104
Grand Forks, ND 5821
701-775-4196 / 701-775-0129

216 S Broadway Suite 202
Minot, ND 58701
701-852-2854

Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead

715 11th St N Suite 103C
Moorhead, MN 56560
218-477-1977

Thank you to Tom Schmaltz, Kathy Diekman, Greg Gerou and Nancy Muehlberg and the kitchen crew for providing a wonderful to go meal for St. John's Mardi Gras. Thank you to the Mardi Gras Committee for all their time and work creating a to go meal for St. John's Mardi Gras. Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and purchased the Mardi Gras to go meal.

MARDI GRAS

Revenue:	Raffle	\$9,980.00
	Donations	695.00
	To Go Meals	2,292.00
	Mystery Boxes	164.00
	Bake Sale	<u>155.00</u>
	Total	\$13,286.00
Income:	Raffle Prizes	\$2,000.00
	Fees	82.00
	Food	1,353.46
	Ticket Printing/Games	<u>494.34</u>
	Total	\$3,929.80
	Net Income	\$9,356.20

St. John's Church is now part of **Amazon Smile**. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic method to support St. John's Church every time you shop on Amazon.com. You only need to select St. John's Church on your initial visit. You can log into your Amazon account and select St. John's Church to received donations. Or enter <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-0227392> and login to your Amazon account, St. John's Church will automatically be selected to receive donations from eligible purchases on Amazon.com. After your selection, a percentage of all your purchases at Amazon.com will be donated to St. John's Church. Please contact the parish office at 642-6982, if you have any questions.



MUSICIANS: We need you!! We are looking for accompanists, singers for our choirs, cantors and choir director. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to share your talents with us.