



St. Luke Parish Newsletter

January, 2018

Dates to Remember....

FROM THE DESK OF FR. JOHN

January 28- February 3 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
February 3 & 4 %SOUPER BOWL+COLLECTION AT BOTH PARISHES
February 14 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30am Mass, St. Luke Church 8:30am Mass, St. Luke Church 10:00am Mass, Greenway Manor 6:30pm Mass, St. John Church
February 17 ST. LUKE'S CUPID'S GALA at Wisconsin Riverside Doors Open at 6:00 PM
March 3 & 4 ACA (Annual Catholic Appeal) COMMITMENT WEEKEND
March 26- April 3 SPRING BREAK
March 25- 30 HOLY WEEK Check Church bulletin for times and locations of services
April 1 EASTER SUNDAY Check Church bulletin for Mass times and locations
April 29 FIRST COMMUNION at St. Luke's, 10:00am Mass
May 9 EDUCATION FAIR at St. Luke School
May 20 @ 10:00 AM GRADUATION RECOGNITION MASS AT ST. LUKE'S
May 31 8TH GRADE GRADUATION Mass at 2:00 PM
June 1 FISH FRY 5:00 - 8:00 PM Proceeds go to Sommerfest
June 9, & 10 SOMMERFEST WEEKEND Saturday and Sunday Only (Mark Your Calendars NOW)

Dear parishioners,

As we strive to live as grateful stewards, we must remember that each of us has a responsibility to help our youngest parishioners learn what it means to live as a disciple of Christ. Jesus Himself told the disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Mt 19:14). Christ wants children to grow closer to Him and to become His disciples, and parents are responsible for helping to lead their children to this end. The Rite of Baptism reminds us that parents are "the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith."

An important part of faith involves living a life of stewardship, as the proper response of a Christian disciple. So, it follows that parents bear a great responsibility that comes from Christ Himself to raise their children as grateful stewards. However, it may already be difficult for adults to grasp the concept of stewardship and put it into practice in their own lives. How can parents teach their children to do the same?

First and foremost, parents can teach stewardship by setting a good example. Indeed, the example of our lives is so powerful that it can and should be a witness to the Gospel. As parents live the life of stewardship, their children will see the beauty in the stewardship way of life, and they are bound to follow suit. If parents live in thanksgiving to God for all He has given them, their children will grow to see that all we have is a gift from God. And when parents offer gratitude to God, it will surely impact their children.

Eight-year-old Suzie has watched her dad usher at Sunday Masses throughout her young life. When asked why she thinks he does this, she responds, "We need to help the priest." Meanwhile, her older sister, Jane, responds to the same question by explaining, "We need to serve God. He does so much for us. We should appreciate it and give back to Him."

It is clear that by witnessing their dad's example, the girls are beginning to understand . each in her own way . that the life of a Christian disciple involves selfless service in gratitude to God. However, it is not just their father's example that has helped them develop this understanding. Both their father and their mother emphasize stewardship as a family practice. They spend time in family prayer, go to Mass together, bring up the offertory as a family, and participate in other acts of service. Such involved participation in the faithful life allows the girls to bear witness to the power of serving others in thanksgiving, even at their young ages. So, it is essential that parents help their children develop a true understanding of stewardship, and encourage its practice through the example of an active faith life.

May all Christian parents be not only the first, but also the best teachers of faith to their children, in what they say and in what they do.

Father John

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stlukecatholicchurchplain.com

PLEASE NOTIFY US IF YOU MOVE or if you no longer wish to be a member of St. Luke's Parish:

1240 Nachreiner Ave., Plain, WI 53577
 (608) 546-2482
stlukesplain@charter.net

We returned from our Christmas Break to some very frigid weather! We are hoping for some sledding snow and milder temperatures in the near future!



Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 28th and goes through Saturday, February 3rd. **We will begin this special week, with a 10:00 AM Children's Mass on Sunday January 28, followed by fellowship and an Open House at school until noon, featuring the technology we have been using with our students.** This is an opportune time to visit the school, and see some technology in action. This would be a great time for parents considering St. Luke's to check us out! The rest of the week will be filled with educational and fun activities, along with some outreach projects to serve others. We will also be including some multi-age activities to build community among our students.

St. Luke's Cupid's Gala will be held at the Wisconsin Riverside Resort, on



Saturday, February 17th. Piano Fondue will provide entertainment. There will be beverages, food, a live and silent auctions as well as raffles and games. Consider joining us for the social event of the season! Contact the School or Parish Office if you would like to purchase tickets, or for more information.

In March we will be hosting a Visiting Team of five teachers and administrators representing the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools to determine reaccreditation for our school. Reports are required yearly to maintain the accreditation, however every seven years we are required do an in depth self-study of our school followed by a team of five teachers and administrators who visit our school to observe and speak to teachers, students, and parents. They tour the facility, look at curriculum and paper work, and then make recommendation to accredit

our school if they feel it's appropriate. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for this visit.



We are accepting registrations for the fall of 2018!!!! We are also adding a 5th day option to our 4-year old Kindergarten. If you would like some information, a tour or have questions please give us a call. If you know someone you think should be on our mailing list, please let us know. Our educational program provides students from 3 year-old preschool through 8th grade a quality education, a spiritual foundation and the security and confidence that comes from continuity of location, friends and staff. Come and see the good things that are happening at St. Luke's School!

As we join in prayer during Catholic Schools Week we will be certain to keep our benefactors, supporters, and parish family in our prayers.

Religious Education—Youth Ministry



Our Confirmation Program continues to make changes, as Bishop Morlino has given us additional mandates. We are requiring students to choose an adult (*mentor*) who will accompany them while they continue to learn and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. The person they choose may or may not be their Confirmation Sponsor. The mentor will be asked to attend some classes/events with their student. Not all sponsors live near enough to accommodate that, so students will then ask another Catholic adult to journey with them. We will offer one-on-one discussions, small and large group discussions, activities and events; along with opportunities for diocesan events and a Mission Trip.

It is so important for the teens to witness and participate beyond the parish; introducing them to a wider community of teens serious about becoming disciples for Christ.

Our goals for High School Youth Formation is the same as the Diocese and the United States Council of Catholic Bishops:

- ◇ to empower people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ;
- ◇ to draw disciples into the life, mission, and work of the Catholic Community;
- ◇ to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each person.

We ask for support from you, the parishioners. Prayer Support - that this endeavor will evangelize us and provide opportunities for conversion, study, prayer, and the formation of disciples.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Bean Bag Tournament & **Family** Board Games . Sunday, Jan. 21st . St. John's Parish Center 2-5 p.m.
- ◆ First Communion Parent Meeting - Tues., January 30th 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Parish Center
- ◆ Kalahari - Friday, Feb. 16th for 6th Graders & Up
- ◆ *Minute-to-Win-It* - Saturday, March 17th 7:00 p.m. for 6th Graders & up
- ◆ Spring Green Food Hunt . Wed., March 21st by St. John's Confirmation students
- ◆ *Lasagna Project* . Palm Sunday/ March 25th Confirmation students; directed by Chuck & Vicki Fenske



Season's Greetings to you all. It seems standard protocol this time of year to make a resolution on how to better oneself. I find it equally important to reflect on the past year and give thanks for all the experiences that we've had.

I myself am grateful for all the musicians that choose to be a part of the music program. Getting to work with so many people of diverse backgrounds is a great learning experience on both sides. Whether working with individual cantors or with larger groups of people, I always find myself in a better place for having had the opportunity to both teach and learn. What a great little set of communities we have, and we are always looking to grow!

There are many ways you can help out. Do you play an instrument? Do you sing? Do you compose? Are you good at marketing and

advertising / event planning? Do you bake / cook? Are you a skilled writer? Can you oversee or help direct people at events? We all have gifts and sometimes the most rewarding thing we can do is step outside our comfort zone and give something new a try. Perhaps you will find that it's more rewarding than you had originally thought.

I'm also interested to hear about what you would like from the music program in the coming year. Maybe you'd love to hear a brass band concert, or a Bach cantata. Maybe you love organ recitals, or would like to hear a wind ensemble. Unfortunately, I don't have the ability to read minds, so I rely on you to let me know what your interests are, and hopefully in 2019, I'll be able to look back and give thanks that so many were willing to give volunteering a chance.

In the meantime, here are a few items to look for in 2018, some of which were already ideas from others who reached out. Keep in mind, the more people I

hear from, the more I'll be able to offer.

- ☛ **February & March:** Lenten Noontime Recital Series
- ☛ **April:** People's Community Bank, Food Bank concert
- ☛ Spring Organ Demonstration
- ☛ Organ History: Building and Design Class
- ☛ Adult Music Education
- ☛ Summer Organ Recital

To those of you who are already involved in the music program, my sincere thanks to you for all you have done and continue to do. For those who would like more information, please feel free to contact either parish office, or you can reach me at: michaeldavidson84@gmail.com

May God continue to bless you and yours this new year!

Michael Davidson
Music Director



12/31/2017 Account Balances/Values:

\$ 60,224	General Checking/ Money Market
\$ 29,153	Parish CD
\$ 183,724	Catherine Alt Estate
\$1,126,107	School Endowment Fund
\$ 294,146	Cemetery
\$ 76,978	School Grant
\$ 40,543	School Technology Fund

Thank you to all who have returned their time, talent and treasure forms! So far, we have received 161 forms. Our pledge cards total \$241,345. If

you have not completed your form, we encourage you to do so and return it to the parish office.



We will again participate in the diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal, which takes place during the Season of Lent. Look for the direct mailing coming from the Diocese in February. **Our goal this year is \$31,358.**

The "Priests for the Future" campaign continues to go well for St. Luke's. As of December 31, 2017, St. Luke's pledged \$408,290 and has paid \$312,381. We

have received \$25,487 in rebates from the Diocese.

A special "thank you" to the anonymous donors who gave the marble floor, the sound system and the CDs that were mailed to parishioners during Advent.

Your Year-End Statements are enclosed with this newsletter.

Thank you for your generous commitment to and support of St. Luke's Parish!!

Faith Formation



Lighthouse Catholic Media

New material has arrived for the kiosks that are located in the greeting area of both St. Luke's and St. John's churches. You will find CDs, Spiritual Books and pamphlets available at a low cost. These materials deal with various topics relating to our

Catholic faith. Please take time to check out the materials. We will continue to update this material as needed.

Dynamic Catholic Resources

Our bodies need nourishment every day. So we feed them. We give them water. We make sure we get enough rest. Our souls need nourishment every day, too.

With spiritual wisdom from Matthew Kelly and other leading Catholic authors of our time, Daily Reflections will help you focus on what really matters so you can become the-best-version-of-yourself.

Sign up for free at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/daily-reflections>.