

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Eric and Mary Jacobson

A Minnesota Vikings game on a cold Christmas night in 1989, has been long forgotten by everyone except parishioners Eric and Mary Jacobson. The couple had been talking about getting married for a while, so that day Mary said “let’s make a bet that if the Vikings win we’ll get married.” Final score: Vikings 29, Bengals 21. They exchanged vows the next year.

Eric and Mary joined Saint Rose in 1996 and after serving at Mass for more than 20 years Eric says the experience has been “gratifying and humbling. As a Eucharistic minister sharing the Body and Blood of Christ is incredible.” Kelly, their youngest daughter, recently joined her father distributing Communion.

Mary is a Eucharistic minister and RCIA sponsor. She is also a regular Lector, a ministry she has been devoted to since she was 18 years old at Maternity of Mary Parish. And one she takes very seriously.

“I spend a lot of time preparing,” she says. “My goal is to emphasize words and phrases so people can get a little better understanding of the Word of God.”

Eric says she practices so often at home that when they go to church “I can practically recite the readings myself.”



Others things to know about Eric and Mary:

- Growing up in Ely, Eric thinks he may have set a record for times being an altar server. He did it from grade four through senior high school, and since his church had two daily Masses, “it felt like I was serving all the time.” After graduating from St. Cloud State University with a degree in accounting he went to work for the State of Minnesota. Thirty-one years later he’s still employed by the State as business manager for the Office of the Legislative Auditor. He was a long-time basketball coach for the Roseville Youth Basketball Association.

- Mary was raised in the Maternity of Mary Parish, the 10th of 11 children. She graduated from St. Catherine University with a degree in business administration and a concentration in accounting. Her first job was at the Office of the Legislative Auditor, where the couple met. Later she worked in project management and business analysis for Land O’Lakes, Cenex Harvest States and currently Ecolab. Mary’s family began going to Viking games in 1961 and she started attending in 1976. “She lives and breathes purple,” says her husband.
- Daughter Kathryn graduated from the College of St. Benedict and is pursuing a PhD in Agricultural Biological Engineering from Purdue while currently living in Colorado. Kelly has an education degree from St. Cloud State University and is a pre-K teacher at St. Alphonsus School in Brooklyn Center.
- All four of the Jacobson’s were born at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Paul (Eric while his father was a graduate student at the University of St. Thomas).