



The Good News

“As a Catholic faith community we strive to unite as a people of God whose life is centered in the Eucharist. We seek to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, called to be faithful stewards of God’s gifts, growing in faith and attending to the spiritual and social needs of all.”

SEEK

BY DEACON VIC DESLOOVER



When formation for the diaconate started more than 20 years ago in Waterloo, I had no idea where the road would lead me. I guess I depended on God to lead me to the place where I am now. It is a place where I am filled with much joy and happiness because I have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people. Before you start to get the idea that I am going to announce my retirement, I am not quite there yet. God has blessed me with good health and with the blessing of Archbishop Zinkula and Father Jim, I will continue as long as I am able. I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with several priests since being ordained 16 years ago. They have been awesome mentors for me. I would be the first to admit that I was pretty rough around the edges when I came to New Hampton. Everyone of you had a role in smoothing out the edges, being patient with me, and teaching me so much. Thank you for that.

When deacons turn 75 years of age they can retire. I reached that milestone last May. After retirement age, each year a deacon needs the permission of the local priest and their archbishop to continue his ministry in the parish. With their blessings and approval, I continue my ministries. In order to continue duties, a deacon must have outside parish responsibilities. I have for many years been involved with marriage ministries like Pre-Cana, Men's ministries, and the Diaconate council. With the exception of men's ministries, all these are done with my wife, Nancy, as a team. She has been a blessing to me and has been very supportive of my endeavors. We are also grateful for the support of this awesome faith community.

If you combine Deacon Bob Baltes wonderful service to this community with my time, we have had a deacon in this parish over 38 years. Many attempts have been made within this community to recruit a man who would prepare to become a deacon. We wait patiently for God to provide such an applicant. Please continue to pray, as I have, that a deacon is waiting in the wings.

BY GLADYS CHRISTOPH

When I was still teaching at St. John School of Religion, a comment from a student stuck in my memory and has troubled me ever since: "You can give me all the information you know, but if my folks never talk about it again, I'm not going to remember it". That's where Generations of Faith comes in. These evenings, set aside twice a year, give parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends a chance to share experiences of their faith with the next generations of believers. It demonstrates the importance faith has in the lives of people they love and respect. These are experiences that raise the importance of Faith in their lives. The Generations of Faith event this past February 7 was titled Called to Serve. We did a modified scavenger hunt focusing on identifying 12 main elements every Catholic Church has. There were 5 areas in Church and the Gathering Space where small groups of cluster members shared information and experienced each holy item. The participants got to look into the empty tabernacle, ring the liturgical bells, stand behind the lectern, gaze into the eyes of Jesus in the sculptures of the stations, see where Fr. Jim hangs his fancy vestments, touch the altar stone containing the relic of a Saint, and participate in an activity to identify their spiritual gifts. It was so rewarding to see the interest in everyone's faces and hear the presenters tell me how exciting it was to hear so many questions from young and old alike. Having people question what you're showing them is the most rewarding thing that can happen to a teacher. It means they are interested and care about the topic. Since then more than 20 people have volunteered to serve our parishes as lectors, altar servers, ushers, choir members, catechists, etc. Join one of these ministries and invite others to join, too. It's an extra layer of belonging and helps us get to know our fellow cluster members.



SERVE

Grow



BY JAYDEN BURKE

As Catholics, the Eucharist is a vital aspect of our Faith. The Eucharist is more than bread and wine. We believe that Jesus is truly present: body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist. Jesus makes this bold claim in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes will never thirst."

Our First Communion program forms our First Communicants and their families to cherish the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and everything which radiates from the Blessed Sacrament. The primary encounter with Christ is at home within our families, which is why we use The Eucharist series by Loyola Press. Parents are given the opportunity to share their knowledge and learn with their children about the Eucharist. The Eucharist primes our First Communion families by focusing on the word Communion. Jesus desired the unity of all peoples, hence why the reception of the Eucharist is called communion. We profess that we are one Church in the unity of Jesus Christ when receiving the Eucharist. The Eucharist series closes by reminding us the Blessed Sacrament is the bread of life that provides the grace to share Christ with all peoples.

There is also the chance to come together as a First Communion Class at our retreat where students can practice the communal aspect of the Eucharist and prepare to receive. First Communions hear the story of St. Imelda, the patroness of First Communions. They also have the opportunity to practice receiving with Father Jim and to make their banners. We celebrated First Communion at St. Boniface and Holy Family on Divine Mercy weekend and April 13th at Immaculate Conception.

Upcoming Events

MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

May 19 - Baccalaureate Mass

May 25 - Five Year Anniversary of Father Jim being Ordained

June 24 - St. Joseph Community School Golf Outing

July 14 - 19 - Totus Tuus

August 4 - Pre-Cana: at Holy Family

August 25 - Holy Family Fall Festival

October 26 - 125 Year Anniversary St. Boniface Celebration





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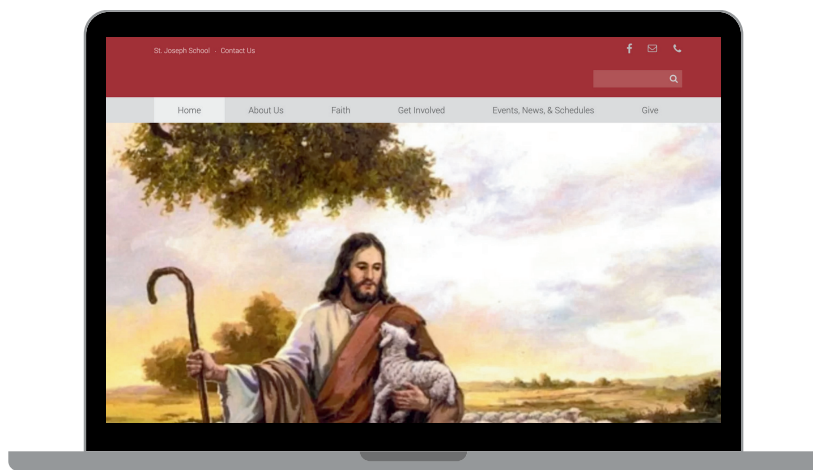


Good Shepherd
CLUSTER

SEEK. SERVE. GROW.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Whether it is checking on what has been happening around our cluster, looking at upcoming events, or even checking when mass times are you can find it all on our social media and website!



GIVE US A FOLLOW



MEET CALLIE

I know, I know, you have heard so much about me. I thought I should introduce myself.

I'll be around. You'll just have to look for me.

There is going to be some exciting news that is coming up in the future so stay tuned!

