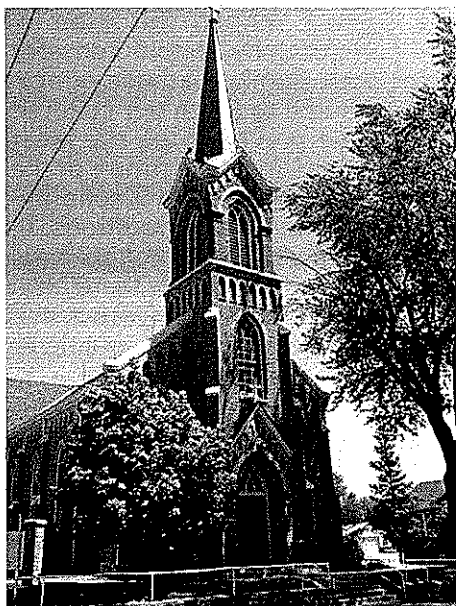


10TH & 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 10 & June 17, 2018

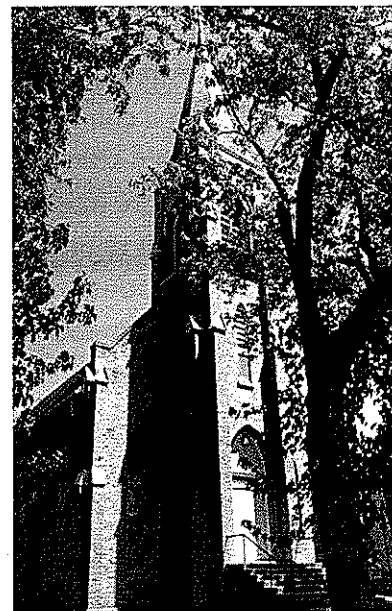
All are Welcome!



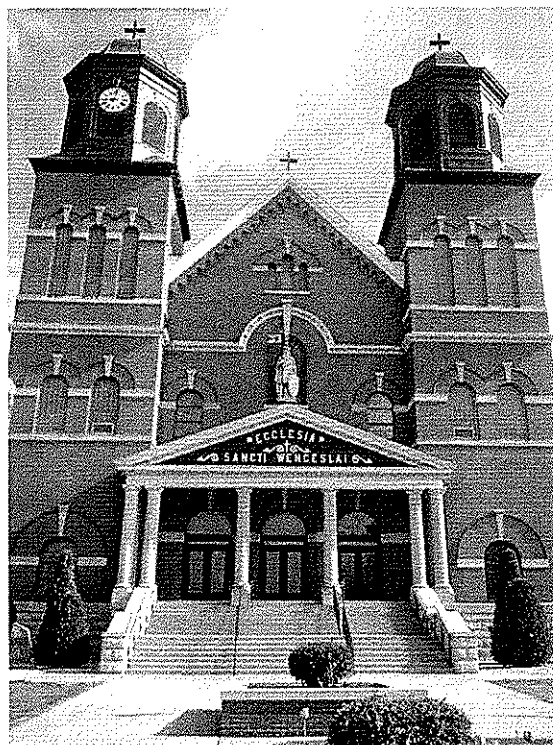
St. John the Evangelist

Parish Mission Statement

We are a Catholic community forming disciples of Jesus Christ dedicated to loving God through our worship, sharing the Good News, and loving service to others.



St. Scholastica



St. Wenceslaus

NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Three Sites of Worship, One Faith Community

**Including St. Wenceslaus &
The Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica**

215 MAIN STREET EAST ■ NEW PRAGUE, MN 56071 ■ 952-758-3225 ■ NPCATHOLIC.ORG

We welcome you...

Welcome to the greater New Prague Area Catholic Community which includes the Church of St. Wenceslaus and the Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica. We are happy you are here. Should you be visiting just for today, WELCOME! If you are seeking a church home, we would be honored to have you consider joining our faith community. If you are interested in a membership, please phone the parish office for assistance and registration. If you are over the age of 21, we ask that you register. Please feel free to stop by the parish office during office hours to register or you may do so online. Again, we are happy you are here.

At the Church of St. Wenceslaus**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE**Weekend Masses**

Saturday..... 5:00 pm

Sunday..... 8:30 & 10:30 am

Morning Word & Communion

Monday & Tuesday..... 8:00 am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday..... 8:00 am

SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**Anointing of the Sick**

Available to those who are seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call 952-758-3225

Confirmation

Preparation required. Call 952-758-5131

Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4 pm in the church.

Baptism

Preparation required. Call 952-758-3225

MarriageSix months to one year preparation time required.
Call 952-758-3225**Rosary**

Monday – Friday 7:30 am & Saturday 8:00 am in the church.

Fatima Prayer Cell

Monday – Wednesday after 8 am service in the chapel.

Adoration

Friday 9:00 am to midnight in the chapel

Early Morning Scripture Study

Wednesday 6:45 to 7:50 am - Pius X Room in church basement.

Fr. Kevin's Bible Study

Saturdays 9:30 to 11 am - Pius X Room in church basement.

Prayer Chain

Judy: 952-758-2220 or Arnita: 952-758-4943

From the Desk of Kim Doyle**Wonderful Opportunity for All
In the New Prague Area
Catholic Community**

Our parish is blessed to have a Catholic School. This is an incredible opportunity that every parish family should consider as they are making decisions for their family. Catholic education is based on the mission of the Church to teach our children their faith. Catholic schools have been proven to be the most effective tool in instilling the faith and assuring the future of the Catholic Church with good leaders and people with a solid understanding of our faith practices, teachings, and traditions. In our parish community, we have St. Wenceslaus Catholic School for students beginning in preschool (age 3) through the eighth grade. For 140 years, we have witnessed many generations of students graduate and go on to become successful people in our world who work with love and compassion for others.

Today, our school is going strong. We have excellent teachers who are committed and dedicated to making the school an outstanding virtuous environment with high academic standards that build the soul and also the mind. Our school has become an innovative STEM school focusing on training our students to collaborate and work with each other, to creatively problem solve, and to challenge their learning above and beyond the regular curriculum standards. Our students are focused on God's world as they learn science and the wonders that have been created. They appreciate the possibilities of the future with technology, engineering, and math challenges. St. Wenceslaus students engage heavily in the skills of public speaking, drama, music, photography and movie making, and a variety of art forms. Communication is critical to success; thus the students at SWS learn the skills of grammar and how to compose good written work. Numerous service projects and activities that teach students to be aware and act positively to make changes for the good of society are promoted. Put it all together, and you will find an excellent well-rounded school experience that's worth being very proud of.

Parents and students of the school claim that one of the best features is the close relationships that are built along the way. The school intentionally strives to create a family-centered environment where the students get to know each other from the littlest to the oldest each year. The staff members develop solid relationships with all students. Each student matters and receives attention, support, and encouragement where they need it most. Parents spend lots of time together helping as volunteers and working on school projects. It is comforting to be surrounded by others who are working towards the same goals. Friendships are built on all levels.

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School indeed is a blessing.

Kim Doyle*St. Wenceslaus School Principal*

Western Catholic Community

From the Desk of Deacon Bob

Why is there evil in our world? Greek mythology blames Pandora for opening up "the box". The Judeo-Christian tradition lays the blame on Adam and Eve. Flip Wilson's comedic character, Geraldine, use to say, "The devil made me do it!" In the story of Adam and Eve, the serpent (personifying evil) didn't make Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit. The serpent told them that in eating the fruit, they would become Gods. Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit, and, boy, did that plan backfire on them! We have, within our own DNA, the genes of our first parents. We want to become Gods, and, as a result, we commit sins.

Breaking things down to their most elemental state, scripture tells us that all human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Mixed within our DNA is not only that of our ancestors, but the DNA of God. God's presence resides in all of us. The sins we commit against another person we commit against God. When we tell someone a lie, we lie to God. If we cheat or steal from another person, we cheat or steal from God. St. Paul writes in the 2nd reading that as we get closer to death, we begin to see with our eyes that which is truly real and discover that everything we have seen up to that point has been not real. Imagine for a moment we are given the eyesight to see the presence of God in all human beings. How could we ever cheat or steal or even think of causing violence, much less kill another person, knowing and seeing God's presence in that person?

To remedy the sinful flaw in our nature, Jesus appeals to God's presence within us, telling us to "love one another as I have loved you." "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?" "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." The more we see and react to God's presence in others, the less sin we will commit and the more peace we will know in our lives.

Deacon Bob Wagner

Pastoral Associate

New Prague Area Catholic Community

Important Information

Weekend Masses

Saturday.....	8:15 pm	St. Scholastica
Sunday.....	8:00 am	St. Scholastica
Sunday.....	10:00 am	St. John's

SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

Baptism & Confirmation

Preparation required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett

Anointing of the Sick

Call Fr. Dave Barrett

Marriage

Prep required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett

Adoration

Fridays 9:00 am to midnight at St. Wenceslaus Daily Chapel

WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OFFICE

20087 Hub Drive, New Prague 56071

952-758-4642

Rev. Dave Barrett

Regional Associate Pastor

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Dave.Barrett@npcatholic.org

Deacon Bob Wagner

Pastoral Associate

952-758-3225 (O) 612-703-0808 (C)

Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

Hall Rental:

Patty Giesen 952-758-3008 or email:

kpgiesen003@gmail.com

Prayer Chain WCC:

Carol Bauer 952-457-4057

Noreen Giesen 952-758-2608

Marlene Dohmen 952-492-6879

Mass Schedule Volunteers - St. John's & St. Scholastica

June 16 & 17, June 23 & 24, 2018	Saturday St. Scholastica 8:15 PM	Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM	Sunday St. John's 10:00 AM
Lector	MaryCarol Wolf ~ Jim Widmer	Jim Walker ~ Becky Colwell	Jonila Weiers ~ Angela Sticha
Eucharistic Ministers	Kevin Giesen ~ Carol Weiers	Jenna Heimer, Geraldine Odenthal & Marlene Dohmen ~ Ann Prochaska, Ted Odenthal & Millie Odenthal	Lori Wooten, Jill Holden & Jonila Weiers ~ Megan Giesen, Dave Webb & Kaylynn Solheid
Servers	Mitchel & Hunter Pomije ~ Craig & Katelynn Brezina	Lydia Schmitz & Mathew Schoenecker ~ Steven Odenthal & Sarah Colwell	Katelynn & Craig Brezina, Teagan Lambrecht & Abby Bissell ~ Brenna & Samantha Solheid, Mitchel & Hunter Pomije
Gift Bearer Family		Judy Hauer Family ~ Brad Heimer Family	Tom Fahey Family ~ Anthony Brezina Family

Bulletin E-mail: info@npcatholic.org

Website: <http://www.npcatholic.org>

PARISH AND AREA NEWS

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Assn. Br. W001

will hold their quarterly meeting on Tues., June 12th at 6:30 pm at First Bank & Trust Meeting Room.

Have you heard of the new and powerful prayer people are praying?

The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** was given to St. Faustina Kowalska in 1935 through a vision of our Lord. Jesus encouraged Sr. Faustina to spread this prayer across the world and to promote its recitation in petition for those who are dying. Want to learn more about the Divine Mercy Chaplet? Come to the Church basement on June 14th after the 8 am Mass. All are welcome.

Area Separated & Divorce Support Group

Area Separated & Divorce Support Group will meet Tues., June 19th, 7-8:30 pm, in the Parish Office Building. The topic will be "God Speaks to Us in Many Ways". If you or a loved one is experiencing the loss of a long-term relationship, married or unmarried, you may desire to connect with this group since they understand what you are going through at this time in your life. Questions? Please call Deacon Bob Wagner at (952) 758-0463 or Mary Pieper at (952) 873-6781.

Meals Continue to Be Served

On Saturday, another group of volunteers from NPACC spent their afternoon helping prepare and serve an enchilada meal to those at the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul. This ministry not only reaches out to those who we serve, but I believe we as volunteers may feel how God is showing us how to live the gospel with others. I feel very fortunate to be able to offer this ministry with the support of many. No special cooking skills required only a willingness to serve. Please consider this opportunity. Questions or comments, please call Norb Sticha at 758-3888.

Remember to Pray for Our Priests and Seminarians!

Pick up the Prayer/Calendar, available on the credenzas in the back of church, with the names of priests and seminarians listed to pray for daily.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." ~ Henry Ward Beecher. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a private weekend for

a married couple to grow in their love. The next available Weekends are July 13-15 in Buffalo, MN, and July 27-29 in EAGAN, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org or (612) 756-8720.

Weekend Help Wanted

We are still in need of a weekend custodian to make sure the church is ready for weekend activities and Masses. Wages are competitive. If interested, contact Peter Guzulaitis at (952) 758-3225 or peter.guzulaitis@npcatholic.org.



God Bless the Newly Baptized

Welcome and congratulations to *Colton Daniel Pint*, son of Troy & Marie Pint. We rejoice with your family on this joyful occasion!

Masses Will Be Moving

All Masses and Word and Communion Services will be moving to the PAC beginning the weekend of June 30th/July 1st.

Summer Bulletin Schedule

Please note the summer schedule of the NPACC's bulletin printing changes to every other week beginning with this issue. Combined issues will be printed June 10 & 17, June 24 & July 1, July 8 & 15, July 22 & 29. Weekly printing resumes on Sun., Aug. 5th. Announcement deadlines are 4 pm Mondays. Email information to info@npcatholic.org or call the parish office at (952) 758-3225.

LAST CALL: next week June 12-14

(Tuesday at 7:30 pm ~ Thursday)

Only a few spots remain!

Restore body and spirit among the springtime beauty and blossoms of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center at our **June Women's Mid-week Retreat. Theme: Towards a Spirituality of Joy: Love More ~ Laugh More ~ Be Not Afraid.** Experience a generous blend of scheduled time to open time. Four talks, prayer sessions, holy hour, one on one spiritual direction, and opportunity for unhurried confession or anointing. Bring back that springtime bounce in your step! All meals cooked lovingly on site. Register by calling: (952) 447-2182 or online at www.franciscanretreats.net/register ~ explore our new website too!

St. Nicholas Chicken Cookout

St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Elko New Market invites you to their 49th Annual Chicken Cookout on Father's Day, Sun., June 17th, from 10:30 am-3 pm. Masses are at 8 and 10 am. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$7 for children under 12 and adults over 65. Shuttles to the church are available around town. Enjoy bingo, children's games,

SUPPORT OUR PATRONS

who make this bulletin possible by their advertising.

This week we thank

**REMAX, MARLENE MUSHITZ
& MATT SAXE CHEVROLET BUICK**

craft and baked goods, fresh baked pies, burgers, malts, cotton candy. Raffle drawing at 3 pm ~ \$52/ticket ~ Cash prizes totaling \$8,500. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors!

National Catholic Youth Choir (NCYC)

is coming to The Cathedral of Saint Paul, Fri., June 22nd. This free, family-friendly concert begins at 7 pm and will include our very own local, young singers, as well as more than 30 young choristers from across the U.S.! The concert, conducted by André Heywood, is open to the whole community! Learn more about NCYC at www.CatholicYouthChoir.org.

Silent Retreat June 21-24

Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, Prior Lake
Open to both men and women ~ limited to 27 fully private suites. Restore your energy for and outlook on life as you experience three thought provoking retreat conferences (talks) in the sacred, spiritually stimulating setting of the chapel. Ample unscheduled periods of time allow you to rest, journal, or attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Meet one on one with a Spiritual Director, review your priorities, or just enjoy the retreat center's flowers and trails as you restore your energy for, and outlook on, life. Register by calling the Retreat Center office at (952) 447-2182 or online at www.franciscanretreats.net/register.

St. Mary's Church Festival

Where: St. Mary's Church, Le Center

When: Sun., June 24th

Polka Mass at 10 am featuring the Wendinger Band from New Ulm. Roast Beef Dinner served Family Style in air-conditioned social hall with seating from 11:15 am-1:30 pm. Adults \$12, children 5-9 \$5, and 4 and under free. Outdoor activities include: Live Music, Country Store, White Elephant, Silent Auction, Bingo, Children's Games, Wall of Wine, Beer Garden & Food Court with a wide variety of foods.



FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Steubenville Conference Spots Remaining!

For the past 40 years, high school youth from across the United States have had their faith awakened and their hearts set on a fire through a personal encounter with Jesus at a Steubenville Conference. This summer over 54,000 teens and their leaders will be a part of this movement of grace at one of our 25 conferences. For more information contact Pamela at pamela.sherlock@npcatholic.org or (952) 758-0477.



SCHOOL NEWS from SWS

SWS STAFF SHOWCASE

Annie Schmitz ~

**Assistant Teacher,
Little Spirits Preschool**



Annie Schmitz has just completed her seventh year as an

Assistant Teacher with Little Saints Preschool. She loves spending her mornings with preschoolers and feels truly blessed to be a part of the St. Wenceslaus School Staff. Additionally, she is part of the St. Wenceslaus School "family" as a school parent. Her older daughters, Ellie (18) and Olivia (16) are alumnae of SWS and her daughter, Lucy (12) will be in seventh grade in the fall. Annie was born and raised in New Prague and is a St. Wenceslaus alum.

"It is amazing to watch these little people grow over the course of the school year," she said. Annie believes that Little Saints Preschool has an excellent, faith-based curriculum while also allowing the children to develop important social skills and grow academically. She is grateful for all the wonderful preschool parents entrusting the Little Saints Staff to be a part of their children's lives. In addition to the parents, she could not ask for better colleagues. The Little Saints Staff are committed to giving the children the best possible preschool experience.

In her spare time, Annie enjoys reading and spending time with her husband, Gordie, and their three girls.

WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY St. John's & St. Scholastica

Catholic United Financial Meeting

Join us for the meeting on Mon., June 11th. We will begin with the Rosary at 6:45 pm with the meeting to follow at 7:00. The Lunch Committee is: Noreen Seurer and Geri Odenthal.

A few words from Deacon Bob...

~ Father's Day, June 17th. It is a tradition that at the 8 am Mass at St. Scholastica on Father's Day, the "dads" at the parish join in the opening procession. We encourage the dads to be part of this procession that day and to bring up some canned goods, or non-perishable food items, that will be given to one of the food shelves serving the needy families of our area following the Mass.

~ I wish to express my great thanks to Catholic United Financial and all the many people who made our celebration of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ so very special. Ron and Shirley Pint, thank you again for lending our community your home as the site of one of the outdoor altars. A big thank you to Carol Weiers and her staff at NPCL for running off our worship aides for the Mass, to MaryCarol and all the other women who prepared and decorated the worship spaces around the church, to Brian Rynda and members of the St. Scholastica choir, who not only sang the 8 am Mass but showed up to sing at the 10 am Mass, along with many former members of the choir at St. John. My thanks to our altar servers, our liturgical ministers at the Mass, and the Knights of Columbus. And a big thanks to Fr. Mike Tix for being present to celebrate the Mass with us.

Enroll Now at St. Wenceslaus Catholic School for Preschool through 8th Grade
 Call for a tour 952-758-3133 or check out more information at www.swsaints.org

SWS STATS

3831 ALUMNI

Average Class Size: 18 STUDENTS



Learning Without Limits

1:1 Device Access Grades 4th-8th



C-STEM and Growth Mindset Education



MONTHLY
 Family Group
 Leadership
 Opportunities

32% Acceptance
 National Honor Society
 Compared to 12% other schools.



STAFF

9 GRADUATE
 DEGREES

9 GRADUATE
 CERTIFICATES



AVERAGE
 YEARS OF
 TEACHING
 EXPERIENCE
20

1470 Service
 Hours Performed
 Outside of School
 Grades 5th-8th

**Weekly
 Student
 Led Mass**

Weekly Art, PE, and Music courses with additional opportunities for piano, band and voice lessons!

LITURGIES & PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS JUNE 11-24, 2018

Monday, June 11

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

Tuesday, June 12

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

Wednesday, June 13

8:00 am..... Roger Zaun,

..... Rosella Riesgraf – Mass – SW

Thursday, June 14

8:00 am..... Tom Hudspeth – Mass – SW

Friday, June 15

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

Saturday, June 16

4:00 pm..... Confession – SW

5:00 pm..... Rosella Riesgraf, Adeline Schneider,

..... Lisa Pany, Joe, Randy &

..... Mike Lambrecht – Mass – SW

8:15 pm..... Mass – SS

Sunday, June 17

8:00 am..... Marcella Kaufenberg,

..... Lloyd Ambroz – Mass – SS

8:30 am. Living & Deceased Members of FCSLA,

..... Ralph Weiers, Bernice Lambrecht,

..... John Siemon – Mass – SW

10:00 am..... Edwin & Martha Hrabec,

..... Joe & Marcella Koenig – Mass – SJ

10:30 am..... Dr. James O'Rourke,

..... Jan Retka – Mass – SW

11:45 am..... Baptism – SW

Monday, June 18

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

Tuesday, June 19

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

Wednesday, June 20

8:00 am..... Bob, Geraldine & Jim Dohmen,

..... Rosella Riesgraf – Mass – SW

Thursday, June 21

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

11:00 am..... Mass – Mala Strana

Friday, June 22

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

Saturday, June 23

4:00 pm..... Confessions – SW

5:00 pm..... Adeline Schneider, Severin Riesgraf,

..... Bob Rynda – Mass – SW

8:15 pm..... Mass – SS

Sunday, June 24

8:00 am..... Ronald Kaufenberg – Mass – SS

8:30 am..... Arnie Schoenbauer, Doris Kubes,

..... Alvin O'Malley – Mass – SW

10:00 am..... Rosella Riesgraf,

..... Ralph Weiers – Mass – SJ

10:30 am..... Andrew Sauber – Mass – SW

STAFF DIRECTORY NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Rev. Kevin Clinton

Pastor

952-758-3225

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Rev. Dave Barrett

Regional Associate Pastor

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Parish Business Administrator

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Ruth Weinandt

Parish Accountant

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Faith Formation Assistant

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Laura Schoenecker

Faith Formation Director

Pre-K through Adult

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Pamela Sherlock

Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator

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Pamela.Sherlock@npcatholic.org

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St. Wenceslaus School Principal

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Jolene Busch

Preschool Director

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Jolene.Busch@swsaints.org

Debbie Gregor

Director of Liturgical Music at SW

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Debbie.Gregor@npcatholic.org

Lisa Levenson

Parish Administrative Assistant

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Lisa.Leverson@npcatholic.org

PARISH BUSINESS OFFICE

215 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071

PH 952-758-3225 FAX 952-758-2960

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

On campus in Parish Activity Center

ST. WENCESLAUS SCHOOL

227 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071

PH 952-758-3133 FAX 952-758-2958

LITTLE SPIRITS PRESCHOOL

On campus of SWS ~ 1950's building

952-758-0480

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

952-758-2327

NPACC MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 11-24, 2018

VBS June 18-22, 9 am-12 pm, Campus Wide

Wednesday, June 13: Early AM Scripture Study,

7-8 am – Parish Office, Dining Room

Morning Scripture Study, following 8 am Mass

– Parish Office Building, Deacon Bob's Office

Thursday, June 14: Divine Mercy Chaplet,

following 8 am Mass – Church Basement

Friday, June 15:

Adoration, 9 am-midnight – Daily Chapel

Saturday, June 16:

Scripture Review w/Fr. Kevin, 8:30-10 am

– Pius X Room, Church Basement

Monday, June 18: Preschool Open House

Lemonade Stand, 6:30-7:30 pm – Playground/Gym

Tuesday, June 19: Preschool Music Event, 6-7 pm

– PAC Atrium/Outside

Separated & Divorce Support Group, 6:45-8:30 pm

– Parish Office Building

Wednesday, June 20: Early AM Scripture Study,

7-8 am – Parish Office Dining Room

Morning Scripture Study, following 8 am Mass

– Parish Office Building

Thursday, June 21: NPACC Book Club, 6:30-8 pm

– Parish Office Dining Room

Bereavement Support Group, 7-8:30 pm

– Parish Office Building, Deacon Bob's Office

Friday, June 22: Adoration, 9 am-Midnight

– Daily Chapel

Marriage Encounter Meeting, 7 pm

– Parish Office Building

Saturday, June 23: Scripture Review w/Fr. Kevin,

8:30-10 am – Pius X Room, CB

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

During the summer, please look for the daily scripture readings at:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>

ST. WENCESLAUS CALENDAR CORNER

Thank you to the Following Sponsors:

David G. Barta Construction LLC,

New Prague Mini Storage, Inc &

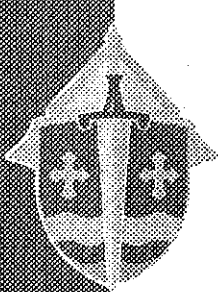
Bruzek Funeral Home

Date:	Date:	Date:
May 28, 2018	May 30, 2018	June 6, 2018
Number:	Number:	Number:
2119	1281	0276
Winner:	Winner:	Winner:
Camilla Hartmann	Paul & JoAnne Maruska	Julia Busch

Prayer for Summer

Father, creator of all, thank you for summer! Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank you for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy your creation. Thank you for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to you this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of your presence and light my path with your word and counsel. As I enjoy your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and thirst for you. Amen.





ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 31, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By now, I hope you have heard the good news that an agreement has been reached to resolve the bankruptcy of the Archdiocese. Thank you for your prayers.

The consensual agreement, reached after much hard work, establishes a trust fund totaling approximately \$210 million that will be available for the resolution of the bankruptcy claims. It also includes a provision that will enable the parishes of the Archdiocese and related Catholic institutions to avoid further litigation stemming from these claims, thereby enabling us to carry on our mission of spreading and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am particularly grateful to the victims/survivors who have bravely come forward. Without their courage and persistence, this resolution would not have been possible. The Church let them down, and we are humbled that they now allow us to begin to make amends. We will all need to do more to let them know that they are always truly welcome in our parishes.

I am also grateful to Judge Robert Kressel for the direction he provided, which led to this settlement, and to Magistrate Arthur Boylan and Paul Van Osselaer for their extraordinary efforts as our mediators. They were true, honest brokers in working with all parties.

Gratitude is owed as well to the many advocates who worked so passionately on behalf of survivors. They, along with the legal counsel representing the parishes, played a vital role in helping us all find a path to a just and fair resolution.

I am especially grateful to our legal team from Briggs and Morgan, who worked tirelessly to analyze, address and advance this matter for over three years, while respecting our Gospel values and objectives. Also, I would be remiss if I failed to thank Tom Abood, the chair of the Archdiocesan Finance Council, who, as chair of our Reorganization Task Force led the negotiations on behalf of the Archdiocese. The advice given by the Finance Council, our Corporate Board, and the College of Consultors proved to be of inestimable value and once again highlighted the importance of consultation.

I realize that many others deserve gratitude, especially those of you who have been so faithful throughout these most difficult of times, relying on our Lord in the Eucharist and on your families, friends, and clergy for strength during these challenging months. I

am grateful that you enabled our parishes to continue to be vibrant centers where all can encounter Christ. Please continue to reach out in love and generosity to those around you who are hurting and are in need of healing.

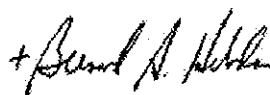
Even as we take this important step forward in providing justice to survivors of abuse, we know our work in this regard is not complete. Our Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment team – under the direction of Judge Tim O'Malley – will continue its work on demonstrable actions to ensure our churches, schools and communities are safe places for all. Our December 2015 Settlement Agreement with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, establishing what County Attorney John Choi called "unprecedented" child safety policies, continues to be the national standard for maintaining safe environments. Our progress reports to the court since that time give continued evidence of our commitment to permanent change. The bankruptcy settlement gives us yet another opportunity to reaffirm our efforts to protect children and vulnerable adults.

While this agreement marks the end of a difficult period for many, it also signals a new beginning. The completion of the bankruptcy process allows us to pursue a new day that has many realities – atonement, healing and restoration of trust.

In closing, I ask that you continue to pray for those who have been harmed, for your pastors and all the priests who faithfully serve this Archdiocese, and for the faithful men and women who strengthen this local Church by their perseverance, their example, and their generous service.

With every personal best wish and prayer, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ Bernard A. Hebda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

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