

ST. MAX NEWSLETTER★

FEBRUARY 2025



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a new look!





NOTE: a few years ago, I banned the word “volunteers” because we are not God’s “volunteers” we are his servants, as Scripture and Liturgy testify.

Pastor’s Page

FR. KYLE KOWALCZYK

SERVANTS OF THE LORD

The first time I ever thought of doing something to serve in my parish back in Michigan was when I was 22 years old. It never happened because I didn’t know how to do it—who was I supposed to tell that I wanted to help out? Plus I figured, “They probably have everyone they need already.” (Looking back, that’s hilarious!)

Eventually I found myself in Minnesota and finally had another chance to get involved at my local parish. It happened quite by accident. One day I went up to the sacristan and just thanked him for his service. He turned it right back on me and said, “We need more sacristans, do you want to help?” Without giving it too much thought I said, “Sure!” He trained me in and soon I was a full fledged sacristan. I quickly found that once I had an official “job” at the parish, I felt much more like I belonged there, like I had some ownership of it. I started noticing new people and introducing myself to them, welcoming them, and connecting them to others. I was even adopted into the old-timers post-mass breakfast with all the other sacristans, where I was easily the youngest member by about 60 years! But these were my people, because this was my parish, and we were all contributing in the ways we were able.

NOTE: I was a parishioner but I never actually registered as one, partially because I didn’t know how, partially because it seemed like a lot of work, but mostly because at the end of the day I was still just a 20-something Millennial, and we don’t do that sort of thing.)

As a pastor, I can say with full confidence that no parish ever has enough servants!

“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38

Even at the really big parishes, there are still not enough people who step up to serve. Once when I was at Epiphany (which is one of the largest parishes in the Archdiocese) we didn't have enough ushers to take up the collection. So I made an announcement before Mass. By the time the Creed rolled around we still didn't have enough, so I paused and said, "I need 5 people to go to the back of the church right now to take up the collection. We will wait." That's a little embarrassing in a parish of 3,000+ families!

WHY DO WE LACK SERVANTS?

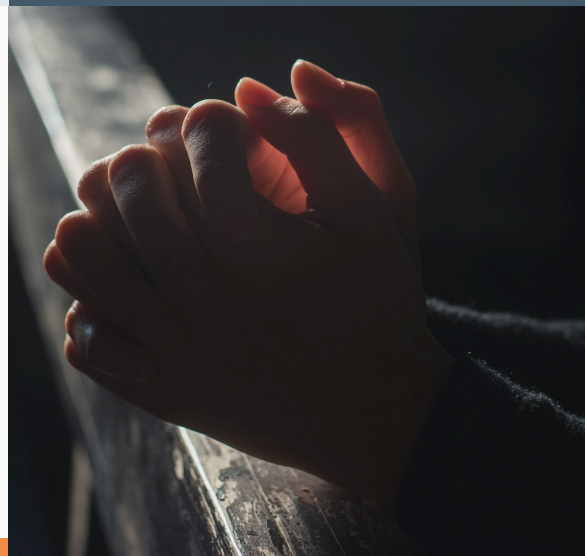
I think there are several reasons why people don't serve. Here are some of them.

- Some people assume all the needs are filled or don't know what rolls are open (like I did when I was a young man)
- Some people don't know how to get plugged in or who to ask
- Some people don't have time to serve right now
- Some people don't want to serve

Clearly, some of the fault falls to the parish for not communicating the needs adequately. We can certainly be guilty of that here. It can take a lot of work to get organized enough to communicate all the open areas of service in a parish. It can feel easier for the pastor and his paid team to just do it themselves, rather than finding, organizing, and training others to do it. Plus, some tasks and needs are so menial or random that it doesn't seem like it's worth the time. That said, there are literally dozens of those things that add up to way more than a paid staff can handle.

As each one
has received
a gift, use it
to serve one
another
as good
stewards of
God's varied
grace.

1 PETER 4:10



“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight: I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.”
Mathew 12:18

WHO SERVES?

Of course, we do have many wonderfully dedicated servants who take care of so many things around the parish without whom we would simply not be able to function. Some jobs are things that just wouldn't get done without servants, and some jobs are things that we would have to pay a lot of money to have an outside company or professional do. I am grateful for all of our servants, but allow me to highlight some of the servants whom you may be unaware of.

- *Did you know that our head decorator is a 21 year old man who joined the parish a couple years ago? He has a team of other servants who clean linens, shine candles, order flowers and all sorts of other things in the church.*
- *A few years ago a new family moved to the parish and said, “I mowed the lawns at our last parish, can I mow the lawns here? I have my own equipment.” Obviously that is a huge gift to the parish!*
- *All of our meals for Ars Vivendi, Rescue, and other events are made by parishioners who love to cook!*
- *Almost all of the work to refurbish the rectory was done by a handful of handymen (and women). From lights, to toilets, to painting, to cleaning—we even have a professional floor guy putting in new floors—all with no charge to the parish*
- *Speaking of professionals, our parish podcast, Ever Ancient, Ever New, is mixed by a parishioner who has mad skills there, and the logo for it was done by another parishioner who does graphic design for a living.*

I could go on and on; and again, I am super grateful for all of our servants. And yet... there is still more need. More ways for more parishioners to use more of their gifts and truly be servants of the Lord!

The Lord truly is calling each of us to be his servants. We are all one body with differing gifts and talents, all of which can be used for the greatest glory of God! In order to help give you the opportunity to serve the Lord, we at the parish office have decided to conduct a Servant Boost.

First we collated who we already had serving in various roles.

(We are probably still missing people.) We categorized the various areas and added to the list the areas that need more help. We also updated the website with the list and a little inventory that helps one to determine their various gifts and talents so they can better discern where they should serve.

This weekend, I will preach about being servants. Cards and pencils will be in the pews so you can sign up. Some staff members will also be available following Masses to answer questions. Of course, if you happen not to be here that weekend, you can still check the website or call the office to find out how you can serve. ~ Fr. K



WHY SHOULD WE SERVE?

- GOD CALLS US TO BE HIS SERVANTS
- WHEN WE SERVE WE FEEL MORE CONNECTED TO OUR PARISH AND FELLOW PARISHIONERS
- IT GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE OUR GIFTS, SKILLS AND TALENTS FOR THE LORD AND OTHERS
- OUR PARISH CAN'T FULLY FUNCTION WITHOUT AN ARMY OF FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Servant Boost

FEBRUARY 8-9

WHAT ARE YOUR GIFTS?

WHAT ARE YOUR TALENTS?

HOW DO YOU WANT TO
SERVE THE PARISH?

Going to miss it?

Check out our Servant Boost
Webpage here →





THE CHURCH OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

WHAT DOES OUR NEW LOGO REPRESENT?

Saint Maximilian Kolbe was known for his promotion of the Miraculous Medal which was created from the direction of Mary in a vision to St. Catherine Laboure in the year 1830. Many miracles and conversions are attributed to the Medal. The image in our logo has similarities to the back side of the Medal which is also engraved on the side of the main altar in St. Peter's church.

The "M" in the image on the Medal is for Mary and the cross in the image is the Cross of Christ. On the medal, the two interlaced symbols represent the everlasting bond that ties Christ to his Holy Mother.

The twelve stars around the M and the cross correspond to the 12 apostles and represent the Church.

While our logo is inspired by the Miraculous Medal, you will notice some differences. For example, the cross in our logo is different from the cross you see in the Miraculous Medal. This is because our logo cross was taken from the shape and outline of the cross on our beautiful church spire (we were able to get a close picture of it when the roof was being replaced).

logo (n.)

"simple symbol or graphic meant to represent something," 1937; probably a shortening of logogram meaning "sign or character representing a word." A modification of Greek *logos*, word, where in the Greek translation of scripture refers to God the Word, *Logos*, Jesus Christ.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God
John 1:1*

The previous logo was intended to be the same cross from the spire so it is an intentional decision to keep it.

Many of the crosses inside St. Joseph and St. Peter churches have an ornate circle design in the middle. We added a circle in our logo connected to, but distinct from, the cross – to emphasize and represent the Eucharist.

If you look closely, you will also see that the base of the cross has a subtle difference from the Medal – the subtle addition of barbed wire – symbolizing St. Maximilian's great love and sacrifice in Auschwitz.

While the M is for Mary, it is also a nod to our patron St. Maximilian.

St. Max Logo Timeline



2014-2021



2021-2025



2025

Coming to St. Max
MARCH 2 - MARCH 9, 2025

The Man of the Shroud

E X H I B I T



"One of the most perplexing enigmas of modern times"

—National Geographic

"A distinguished relic linked to the mystery of our redemption."

—Blessed John Paul II

"An icon written with the blood of a whipped man, crowned with thorns, crucified and pierced on his right side."

—Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI

The Shroud of Turin has long been venerated by the faithful and is believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth. The Shroud is one of the most scientifically studied religious icons in history. As science has progressed, so has the speculation on how the image of the crucified man of the Shroud was made.

After decades of exhaustive and medical, historical and scientific research, the Center for the Study of the Passion of the Christ and the Holy Shroud has developed a moving and informative mobile exhibit on the Shroud of Turin. The centerpiece is a full length canvas replica of the Shroud made by the *Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Inc.* In addition, the mobile exhibit contains a large crucified corpus showing the wounds of Christ corresponding to the passion narrative in the Gospel accounts and the wounds shown on the Shroud. The exhibit contains over 31 pop-up display banners detailing the history and science of the Shroud.

ST. MAX SHROUD EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

ST. MARTHA HALL, ST PETER CAMPUS

March 2, Sun: After Sunday Masses

March 4, Tue: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

March 5, Wed: 7 am – 7 pm

March 6, Thu: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

March 7, Fri: 9 am – 11 am

March 8, Sat: 9 am – 11 am; After Saturday Mass

March 9, Sun: After Sunday Masses

Parishioner Spotlight

Alan and Andie Bear



How long have you been parishioners? We've been parishioners since 2017.

What drew you to St. Max? After moving away from the twin cities, we became parishioners in Watkins, but we drove to the cities for 1st Saturdays, and we just love the Latin Mass, and how Fr. Kyle does Mass ad orientem, so after 2 years we decided to accept the fact that our Sundays were gonna be a 3 hour drive, but we feel it's right and couldn't have it any other way.

Tell us a little bit about your family. We have 5 children, all boys! Ages 22, 16, 14, 9 and 7. Andie is a stay at home mom (and a former nurse) and Alan is a commodities buyer. We moved to a rural area by Paynesville, where we enjoy nature, a quiet community, and plenty of room for the boys to run and play. Andie was born in Santiago Chile and moved to MN in 1996. Alan is from Grand Rapids Michigan and moved to MN in 1992.

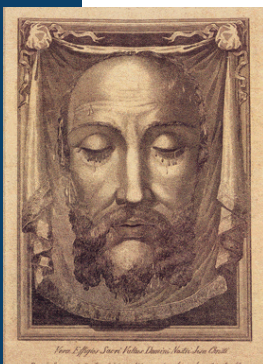
How are you involved in the parish? We founded the local chapter of League of St. Martin (through Fr. Altier. in St. Paul) We were introduced to Fr. Carney who is the founder of the League. Our meetings consist of prayers for the reparations to the Holy Face and Holy Name of Jesus, and we pray against communism, and blasphemies. We start our meeting with a Rosary, followed by the chaplet of the Holy Face, and the Golden Arrow prayer.

What do you appreciate about St. Max? We appreciate tradition, and reverence.

How have you been growing in your faith? We've been growing our faith through the devotion to the Holy Face, we have helped other groups to start their meetings, and we get to join the one in our community once a month. Andie is working towards becoming a lay Carmelite, and she spends the first hours of her mornings in prayer in daily Adoration.

What is interesting about your faith journey? We are converts. For the past 5 years we have grown from only attending Mass on Sunday, to where we are now.

The League of St. Martin meets once a month, right after the First Saturday Mass at St. Peter Campus.



THE "GOLDEN ARROW" PRAYER

MAY the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified, in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Maximilian Kolbe Academy partners with families in the development of the whole child by nurturing our students in holiness and academic excellence to live the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic Faith.

VISION STATEMENT

Under the protective mantle of the Immaculata, St. Maximilian Kolbe Academy is dedicated to faithfully imparting God's truth and love for His greatest glory, as we equip our students with the knowledge and moral virtues essential for advancing the common good, growing in holiness and achieving everlasting happiness.

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2nd Annual
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

GALA

SUPPORTING
ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Saturday
MARCH 15TH
5:30 PM

The Jerome Event Center
DELANO, MN

5:30PM SOCIAL HOUR

SILENT AUCTION

WINE PULL

WHISKEY PULL

HEADS AND TAILS GAME

6:30 INVOCATION AND DINNER

LIVE AUCTION

**TICKETS ARE
NOW ON SALE**

To purchase individual tickets or to
sponsor a table, visit our website at:
<https://stmaxgala.cbo.io/donate-item>

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Lenten Liturgy

Lent is a season of penance. The liturgy sets the atmosphere of how we should be living during these holy days *outside* of the liturgy. Of course, we wear purple vestments, the Alleluia is not sung, the Gloria is omitted except on the Solemnities, flowers are scarce, and there is no instrumental music. Some of our local customs at St. Max also include a **more simplified chant tone for the prayers, a different version of the Kyrie, no response on the petitions, Mass on the low altar facing the crucifix** (Ad Dominum), **not illuminating the apse**, and **more silence during the various parts of the liturgy** including the Eucharistic Prayer.

Additionally, the Church invites us to penance outside of the liturgy as well, calling for no meat on Fridays or Ash Wednesday, and Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is also recommended to increase your personal Prayer, Fasting, and Alms Giving. The better we enter into Lent the more fully we experience the joy of Easter!

Lent Schedule

Father will be
back for Ash
Wednesday!

Paschal Triduum

All at Main Church

ASH WEDNESDAY 3/5

6:30 am Service

8:30 am Mass (School Mass)

5:30 pm Mass (High Mass)

EXTRA CONFESSIONS

Sundays in Lent: 7:30 am

Wednesday April 9: 7:15 pm – 8:15 pm

Friday April 11, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Saturday April 12, 3:30 pm

Sunday April 13, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday April 15, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

HOLY THURSDAY 4/17

7:00 pm Holy Thursday Mass

8:00–10:00 pm Altar of Repose
in St. Martha Hall

GOOD FRIDAY 4/18

3:00 pm Good Friday Service

HOLY SATURDAY 4/19

8:36 pm Easter Vigil in the Church

10:00 pm Easter Vigil Reception

EASTER SUNDAY 4/20

8:00 am Mass

10:00 am Mass

THE LAMB OF GOD, HE TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

Father K will be in Europe

February 18 – March 4

As many of you know, I have a priest-cousin who is a pastor in St. Paul. In fact, we grew up together in MI and somehow both ended up here. Whereas I am a few years older than him, he was ordained a few years before me. He also happens to be my closest friend. This year he is on sabbatical for seven months in Poland. (Our mothers are sisters, so he doesn't actually have any Polish blood in him.) So, if I want to see him this year—which I do—to Poland I must go! It will be part vacation and part pilgrimage. Although, I really don't like being away from the parish, and I've never been away for more than about 8 days, I will be gone for a full two weeks.

It was very difficult to find priests to cover the weekend and school Masses but in the end I was able to piece it together with some good priests. For the other daily Masses, I would direct you to our neighboring parishes. My cousin and I will be visiting many of our patron's sites, such as the friary he founded, and the cell in which he died. Additionally we will hit some of the JP II sites, and maybe some Faustina sites as well. We are also going to take a little side pilgrimage to Fatima. I will be remembering you in prayer in these places, and ask for your prayers as well. I look forward to sharing my journey with you when I return.

~ Fr. K



Mass Schedule

Feb 18-20 - No Weekday Masses

Feb 21 - Friday School Mass at 9:30 with Fr. Kubista

Feb 22-23 - Weekend Masses with Fr. Aric Aamodt

Feb 25-27 - No Weekday Masses

Feb 28: - Friday School Mass at 9:30 with Fr. Kubista

Mar 1 - First Saturday Mass with Fr. Kubista

Mar 1-2 - Weekend Masses with Fr. Wratkowski and Fr. Skluzacek

Mar 4 - No Mass



Fr's Itinerary

Feb 19 - Land in Warsaw

Feb 20 - Niepokalanow (Fr. Kolbe's friary)

Feb 21 - Częstochowa; Kraków

Feb 22 - Auschwitz; Wadowice (Birth place of JP II)

Feb 23 - Divine Mercy Shrine

Feb 24 - Warsaw Rising Museum

Feb 25 - Lisbon, Portugal; Fatima

Mar 1 - Back to Warsaw

Mar 4 - Return to Minnesota after eating a genuine Polish Paczki on Fat Tuesday

UPCOMING *Events*



Sunday, 2:00 pm; St. Martha Hall (SP)

St. Max Family Movie

Come watch the Peanuts Movie – no cost! Popcorn and Candy available to buy. Pillows and blankets are encouraged. Hosted by St. Max Academy PTO.

Feb
9



Sunday, after both Masses

Donut Sunday

Join us for donuts, coffee and fellowship after both Masses on this third Sunday of the month. Hosted by the League of St. Martin.

Feb
16



Wednesday, 5:00 pm

Ars Vivendi

All parishioners and school families are invited for an evening with dinner, prayer, and learning sessions. Join in fellowship with others from our community! RSVP on parish website.

Feb
19



Sunday, 12:00 pm

Family Snow Tubing

Join us for a fun day of snow tubing at Powder Ridge in Kimball, MN – 45 minutes away from Delano. Sunday, February 23 from 12 pm to 2 pm. Meet at Powder Ridge! RSVP on website.

Feb
23



Sunday, 4:00 pm

Family Holy Hour

All parishioners are welcome to the Adoration chapel for an hour of prayer for our school. Adoration materials for parents and kids will be available. 1st Sunday of every month.

Mar
2



February Saint

St. Valentine

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love."

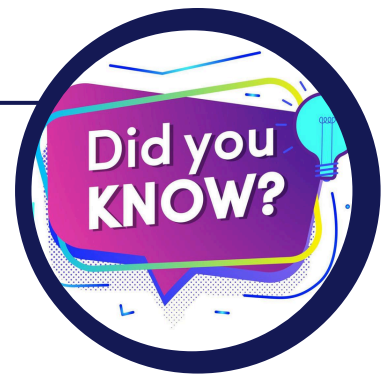
Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome.

In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church removed St. Valentine from the General Roman Calendar, because so little is known about him. However, the church still recognizes him as a saint, listing him in the February 14 spot of Roman Martyrology.

The legends attributed to the mysterious saint are as inconsistent as the actual identification of the man. One common story about St. Valentine is that in one point of his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the Judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put Valentine and his faith to the test. St. Valentine was presented with the judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for Valentine. Placing his hands onto her eyes, Valentine restored the child's vision. (catholic.org/saints)



Lost something at Mass? We have a Lost and Found shelf at St. Peter Campus! Right as you walk out of the church into the Narthex, you will see a three tiered shelf against the wall. Our ushers place any items left at weekend Masses on this shelf. We keep them for four weeks, and if any item is unclaimed, we donate what we can and we dispose of the rest.



Fred Swanson, Member Advisor

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BRING A SOUP!



SOUP DINNERS

Fridays In Lent*

FOLLOWING STATIONS OF THE CROSS
IN ST. MARTHA HALL (SP) *

STARTING MARCH 7

5:30 PM

STATIONS
OF THE
CROSS

6 PM

SOUP
SUPPER



* NO SOUP SUPPER ON MARCH 28

* MARCH 7 LOCATION IS IN SCHOOL CAFETERIA