

Fr. Stan Mader

This weekend and next we encounter the activities of John the Baptist in heralding the Messiah (Jesus) and John's basic message of repentance. We celebrate only three births in the Church year: that of Jesus, Mary, and John the Baptist. The nativities of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ intertwine in the Gospel of Luke, emphasizing their divine missions. John's birth was announced by the angel Gabriel to Zechariah and Elizabeth, a barren couple of advanced age. Gabriel declared that John would prepare the way for the Lord and be filled with the Holy Spirit even from the womb. During Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth, the unborn John leaped in recognition of Jesus, signifying his role as the Messiah's forerunner (*Luke 1:41*).

John's birth was marked by his father Zechariah's prophecy, proclaiming him as "the prophet of the Most High" who would prepare hearts for the coming Savior (*Luke 1:76*). This parallels Jesus' miraculous nativity, heralded by angels and celebrated as the arrival of the promised Redeemer. John's mission as the herald of the Messiah began even before birth, emphasizing his role in pointing others to Jesus and preparing the way for His ministry. It is hard to overestimate the importance of John the Baptist in scripture. He was also well-known to contemporary historians, such as Josephus in his writings about the middle part of the first century A.D.

Monday is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, normally a Holy Day of Obligation because it is the patronal feast day of the United States, but this year there is a dispensation from attending, partly because there was an error in the Ordo, the "rule book" for what to do for liturgies throughout the year. We will celebrate the Immaculate Conception on Monday at the daily Mass time of 6:30 pm. All are invited to join in celebrating the mother of our Lord even though the dispensation has been granted. Following Mass will be a Bible Study about the infancy narratives.

Thank you to all who helped with decorating for Advent. People have been expressing their appreciation of the result. We had a young child, some teens, and some adults assisting. All was done within an hour! Christmas will be a bigger job, and we will need your help. We will do that at 9:00 am on Monday, December 23. This will involve bringing in trees from storage, placing poinsettias, swapping Advent purple for Christmas white/gold, and setting up the manger, among other things. If you enjoy decorating a large space, this is for you!

Fr. Stan's article continued on page 2...



"John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness" by Anton Raphael Mengs, 1775

**MASS TIMES**  
Mon: 6:30 pm | Tues, Wed, Fri: 8:15 am  
Sat: 5:15 pm | Sun: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

**RECONCILIATION**  
Mon: 5:30 pm | Sat: 4:00 pm  
or by appointment

**ADORATION**  
Mon & Thur: 5:00pm - 9:00 pm  
Tues: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Wed: 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**ROSARY**  
Half hour before every daily Mass  
Sat: 4:45 pm  
Sun: 8:00 am

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New to the Parish? WELCOME!  
Contact Cheryl Salz  
952-442-3712  
csalz@stjosephwaconia.org

**PARISH OFFICE**  
www.stjosephwaconia.org  
(Located in the Education Center)  
Mon - Fri, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sheila Wald, Parish Office Coordinator  
952-442-2384  
churchoffice@stjosephwaconia.org

Fr. Stan Mader, Pastor  
952-442-3700  
frstan@stjosephwaconia.org

Deacon Greg Miller  
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gmiller@stjosephwaconia.org

Chris Parker, Administrator & Cemetery  
952-442-3702  
cparker@stjosephwaconia.org

**FAITH FORMATION**  
Julie Loscheider • 952-442-3703  
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Peg Schmaltz, Pastoral Care  
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**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**  
www.stjosephwaconia.org

**PRAYER CHAIN**  
952-442-3718  
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Sarah Richards, Communications &  
Safe Environment Coordinator (VIRTUS)  
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srichards@stjosephwaconia.org

**SCHOOL OFFICE**  
952-442-4500  
schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org  
school.stjosephwaconia.org

Amy Gallus, Principal  
agallus@stjosephwaconia.org

Deacon Bruce Richards, Head of School  
brichards@stjosephwaconia.org

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
Chuck Walerius • 952-270-4706

(Fr. Stan's message continued...)

The Advent Fair is on Friday, December 13. Fun for the family - many things to do, like have your family picture taken in costume at a manger scene! Open from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm in the St. Joseph School gym and commons area. *This is a free event!*

Thanks again to everyone who is working on the house at 4 South Pine. I am not sure when I will move in, but some things have already moved and when you read this, we will already have had an event there. I expect there will be more events coming up, some of them regarding the Lord, Renew Your Church Capital Campaign. I hope to have a general open house shortly after Easter so everyone can see the final touches.

There is still some room on the June trip to Greece to follow in the footsteps of Paul, with some additional port calls just for fun. Three nights in Athens, then 7 nights on a ship (*Celebrity Cruises*), and a final night in Athens. We will visit Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki, and Ephesus. There will also be ports of call at Santorini, Kusadasi, Mykonos, and Volos. Learn about the spiritual, historical, and cultural significance of Greece. Andrea Grasse (*and her husband, Kurt*), the director of music at St. Joseph of the Lakes in Lino Lakes will join as co-hosts. They are delightful. Go to [magitravelinc.com](http://magitravelinc.com), search for Greece trips, and select the one with my name on it. Eucharista! (*Thank you, in Greek.*)

*Fr. Stan Mader*

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## NEWS & EVENTS

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**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - Monday**  
You are invited to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with us! Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 pm. *\*The obligation has been dispensed by Archbishop Hebda for this year.*

**INFANCY NARRATIVE - Monday**  
Join us for a 3-part Advent series on Mondays, December 9 and 16 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. Explore the history, theology, and key moments of the first Christmas through Scripture, including the nativity stories and Old Testament parallels.

**TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE - Tuesday**  
We invite you to participate in a Taize prayer service at the Church this Lent. Join us on Tuesday, Dec 10 at 8:00 pm, as well as Wednesday, Dec 18, and Friday, Dec 20 at 6:00 pm.

**PRAY.VENT.LAUGH. - Thursday**  
Are you a mom, dad, or grandparents with young children? Bring your kids and join us for prayer & fellowship on December 12 at 8:45 am in the Parish Center (*lower level of the church*).

### ADORATION with BENEDICTION

On Fridays during Advent, adoration with benediction will be offered following morning Mass. Please join us to celebrate Mass at 8:15 am. Adoration will begin at 9:00 am and conclude with Benediction at 10:00 am.

### MORNING PRAYER

On weekdays during Advent, Monday through Friday, we invite you to pray the Morning Prayer of the Church at 7:00 am in the Charity Chapel (*Lower Level of the Church*). Resources will be provided for all who attend.

### CANA EXPERIANCE - Next Sunday!

Young families, you are invited to "Come & See"! Come and enjoy coffee, juice and cookies while meeting other young families! Next Sunday, Dec 15, after the 8:30 am & 10:30 am Masses in the Parish Center (*lower level of the church*). Learn about the Cana Experience offered in our community starting with "The Temperament God Gave You" small group in January 2025 by coming on December 15 and by scanning the QR Code!



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## MASS INTENTIONS

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MON	DEC 9	6:30 pm	Ruby L. Menzel †
TUE	DEC 10	8:15 am	Alice Wickenhauser †
WED	DEC 11	8:15 am	Collective: Margaret Eiden † Aaron Davis † Pam Richards ( <i>Silent Saint</i> )
THU	DEC 12		No Mass
FRI	DEC 13	8:15 am	Living & Deceased Members of the John & Regina Pieper Family
SAT	DEC 14	5:15 pm	Collective: Tom & Annette Williams † Carol Stahlke † Kathy, Brian & Eric Johnson †
SUN	DEC 15	8:30 am	St. Joseph Parishioners
		10:30 am	Collective: Living & Deceased Members of the Alex & Clara Storms Annmarie Hernandez †

\* Indicates the family has requested to take up the Gifts.

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## PRAY

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Please pray for the following: Mia G, Joyce J, Shawn S, Julie W, Art W, Paul T, Joan H, Rene F, Jeff E, Chuck P, Nathan D, Stella W, Jeremy P, Marilynn P, Marilyn B, Diane V, Rick S, Barbara S, Jake W, Theresa L, Sandy M, Brian N, Sarah R, and Ryan P. **And for St. Joseph loved ones in the Military:** Airman Riley M, Sergeant Ryan H, Sergeant Allyna S, PFC Dalton W, Sergeant Robin L, Staff Sergeant Weston H, Staff Sergeant Sean W, Tech Sergeant Michael S, Major Leah M, First Lieutenant Samuel M, Col. Mitch D, Lieutenant Commander Philip L, and SPC Justin S. **And for those in Law Enforcement:** Logan H, Adam M, Alex W, Andy F, Dennis F, Fred R, Tyler S, Eric W, Adam H, and Cory W. **And for those Discerning a Religious Vocation:** *Seminarian:* Mónico H.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

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DEC 13	Family Advent Fair 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm   <i>School Commons &amp; Gym</i>
DEC 16	Infancy Narrative: <i>Second Talk</i> 7:00 pm in the <i>Parish Center</i>
DEC 17	K-8 School Christmas Pageant 1:30 pm & 6:00 pm in the <i>School Gym</i>
DEC 18	Taizé Prayer   6:00 pm in the <i>Church</i>
DEC 20	Taizé Prayer   6:00 pm in the <i>Church</i>
DEC 22	<i>Parish Reconciliation Service</i> 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

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## THIS WEEK

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 *Immaculate Conception*

7:00 am: Morning Prayer (*Chapel*)  
5:00 pm-9:00 pm: Adoration (*Chapel*)  
5:30 pm: Confession  
6:00 pm: Parish Rosary (*Church*)  
6:30 pm: Mass  
7:00 pm: Infancy Narrative: *Second Talk* (*Parish Center*)  
7:15 pm: School Board Meeting (*School Media Center*)

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00 am: Morning Prayer (*Chapel*)  
7:45 am: Parish Rosary (*Church*)  
8:15 am: Mass  
9:00 am: Scripture Study (*Parish Center*)  
9:00 am - 9:00 pm: Adoration (*Chapel*)  
6:00 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Loft*)  
7:00 pm: OCIA/Catholicism (*Choir Loft*)  
8:00 pm: Taizé Prayer (*Church*)

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00 am: Morning Prayer (*Chapel*)  
8:15 am: Mass with the School  
9:15 am: Parent's Coffee & Conversation (*Parish Center*)  
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm: Adoration (*Chapel*)  
6:00 pm: Family Formation (*Church*)  
6:00 pm: EDGE (*School*)  
7:00 pm: Confirmation (*School*)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

No Mass | *Fr. Stan's Day Off*  
7:00 am: Morning Prayer (*Chapel*)  
8:45 am: Pray.Vent.Laugh.  
4:00 pm: Holy Hour (*Chapel*)  
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Adoration (*Chapel*)  
7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Loft*)

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00 am: Morning Prayer (*Chapel*)  
7:45 am: Parish Rosary (*Church*)  
8:15 am: Mass  
9:00 am-10:00 am: Adoration with *Benediction* (*Church*)  
5:00 pm-7:00 pm: Family Advent Fair (*Gym & Commons*)

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00 am: Saturday Rosary (*Church*)  
9:30 am: Coffee & Conversations (*Parish Center*)  
3:00 pm -5:00 pm: Confession  
4:45 pm: Parish Rosary (*Church*)  
5:15 pm: Mass

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:00 am: Parish Rosary (*Church*)  
8:30 am: Mass  
10:30 am: Mass  
1:00 pm-2:30 pm: Christmas Cheer Parade (*Starts in Parking Lot*)

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## YOUTH GROUP

*Sandwich Project*

On the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, our parish was blessed to witness the generous hearts of our youth and families in action. Approximately 25 middle and high school students, along with their parents, gathered to prepare an incredible 300 sandwiches for Waite House, a community resource in Minneapolis.

This act of service not only provided meals for those in need but also reminded us of the importance of living out our faith through compassion and action. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all the students, parents, and volunteers who participated. Your efforts brought the love of Christ to those in our extended community.

Let us continue to support and pray for those in need as we seek ways to serve together as a parish family!



Know

Love

Serve

## SILENT SAINT

*Pam Richards*



## Silent Saint

The recipient of St. Joseph's December 11 Day of Prayer is:

**PAM RICHARDS**

**Thank you Pam**  
for your kindness,  
generosity & support!

*We are blessed to call you friend!*



## GIVING

*Christmas & Year-End Giving*

As you consider your year-end charitable contributions, we hope that St. Joseph will be at the top of your list. Your contributions directly support the various ministries and liturgical life at our parish. A reminder that all 2024 contributions must be postmarked by December 31, received in the collection on December 29, or received at the parish office before December 30. Any donations post-marked or received on January 1, 2025, or thereafter will be considered 2025 donations. *Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish community!*

### Questions? Contact:

Chris Parker at [952-442-3702](tel:952-442-3702)  
or [cparker@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:cparker@stjosephwaconia.org).



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

*Drop donation envelope in the Drop Box, Offertory Basket, or at the Parish Office.*

## Christmas FLOWER DONATIONS

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \$: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE #: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to the parish office,  
or place in a collection basket or drop box.



# Christmas PARADE

While we wait in joyful hope of the birth of Savior we want to bring joy to others through decorating our vehicles in Christmas theme and driving them around the Senior living facilities in the town of Waconia.

**DECEMBER 15**

Starting at St. Joseph School Parking Lot at

**12:45 pm**

To get lined up and place the finishing touches on vehicle decorations.



**SIGN UP  
HERE!**

**Interested?**

**Every vehicle MUST SIGN-UP.**

*Space is limited to 25 vehicles, so don't delay your sign-up!*

The parade will start at St. Joseph School and then go to: the Crossings, Good Samaritan/Westview, New Perspectives, & Auburn. We will do 2 laps at each place (same as last year).

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Julie Loscheider  
952-442-3703 | [jloscheider@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:jloscheider@stjosephwaconia.org)

# SAINTS gala

THE STARS ARE OUT AT THE GALA

## **Saints Gala | Early-Bird Tickets Available Now!**

Preparations for the Saints Gala are in full swing! Get ready for an unforgettable evening in support of St. Joseph Catholic STEM School and see the new information below!

### **Early-Bird Pricing:**

Take advantage of our early-bird tickets at a special price now through **December 31!** Don't miss your chance to secure your seat our school's biggest event!

### **Sponsorship Opportunities:**

Make a lasting impact by becoming a Gala sponsor! We offer various sponsorship tiers to match your business's or family's giving goals, and each sponsor will receive recognition at the Gala and in our program:

- **Diamond Sponsors, \$10,000:** As a Diamond Sponsor of the Saints Gala, you'll receive a VIP table for 8, a limousine tour of Waconia that brings you and your guests to and from the Gala, and a banner displayed at the Gala with your company logo or family name.
- **Gold Sponsors, \$5,000:** As a Gold Sponsor of the Saints Gala, you'll receive 6 VIP tickets, a banner displayed at the Gala with your company logo or family name.
- **Silver Sponsors, \$2,500:** As a Silver Sponsor of the Saints Gala, you'll receive 4 VIP tickets.
- **Bronze Sponsors, \$1,000:** As a Bronze Sponsor of the Saints Gala, you'll receive 2 VIP tickets.
- ... *And new this year*, our Constellation Sponsors will have the opportunity to help fund our games, desserts, hors d'oeuvres, our band and more. These sponsorships range anywhere from \$500-\$5000 and will feature your company logo or family name on or near the item you sponsor.

### **Special Thanks to our Early Sponsors!**

- **Brush Dental**
- **Hometown Bank**
- **Iron River Construction**

To learn more about sponsorship or to donate, scan the QR code below:

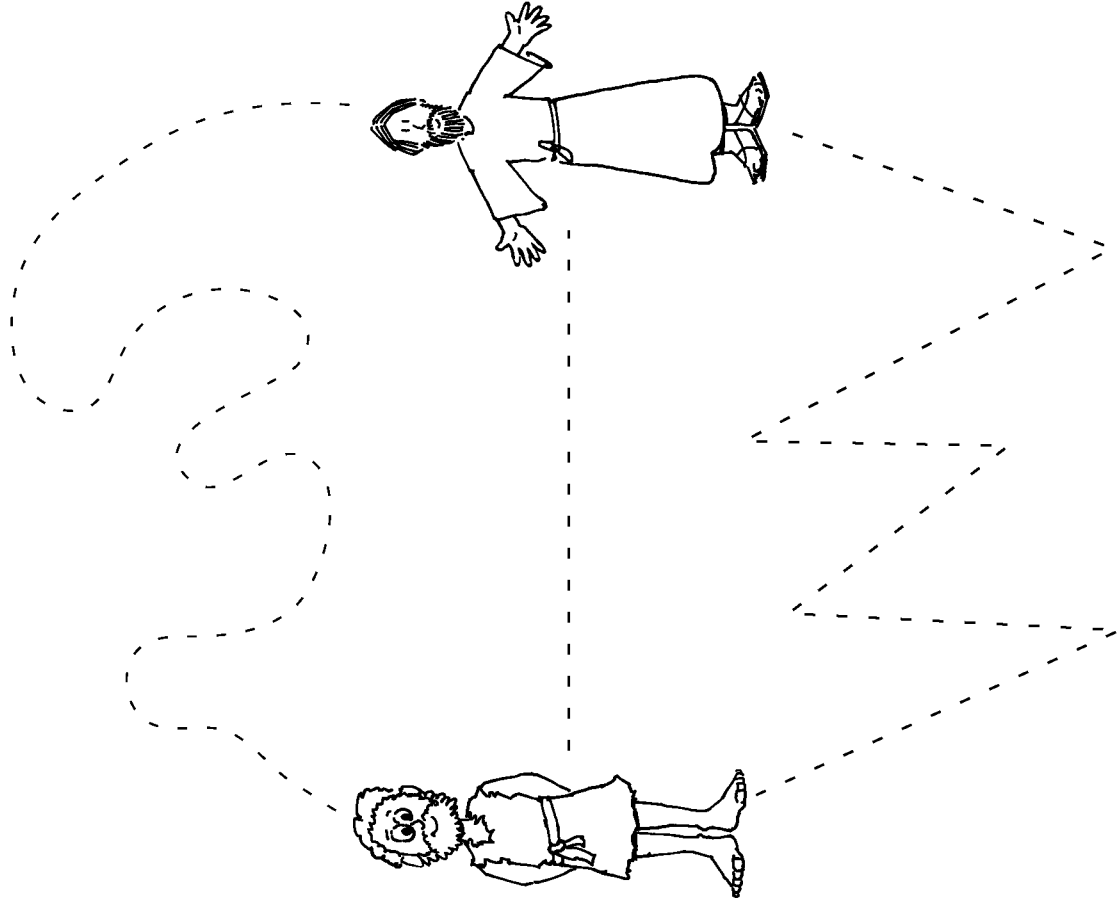


**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT THE SAINTS GALA!**

For questions or interest in sponsoring the Saints Gala in any capacity, please contact Tim Jantzen at 952-442-3717 or [tjantzen@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:tjantzen@stjosephwaconia.org)

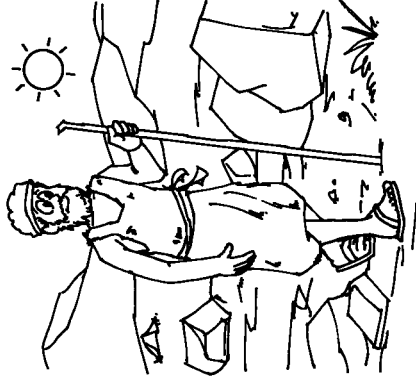
The book of Isaiah said, "Prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight paths for Him."

Follow the path that has a straight line.



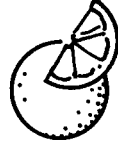
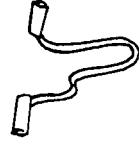
# John Tells People to Repent

The Word of God came to John.



Write the beginning sound for each picture.

J				
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John went into the country around the Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Circle these items:

