

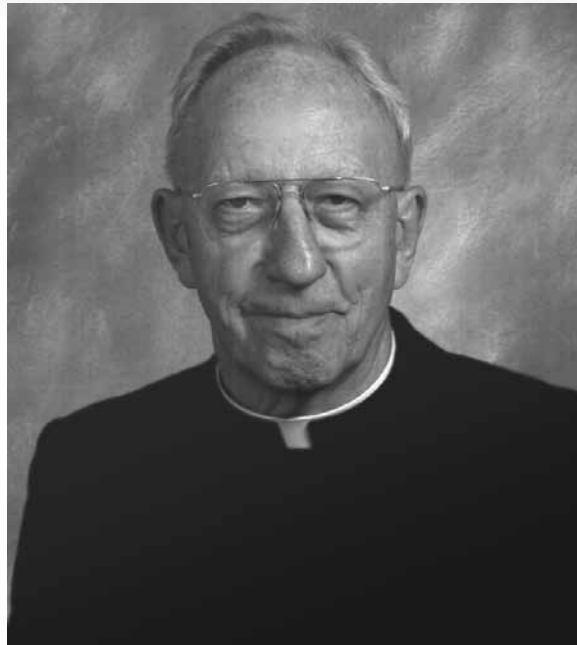
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

632 South Broad Street, Mankato, MN



Photography courtesy of Steve Kleinschmidt

In Loving Memory...



Fr. Francis Kunz

Born: April 17, 1924
Ordained: April 23, 1949
Died: December 24, 2011

Loving God, through Baptism you call us to discipleship; may we be a sign of Your love in our homes, our parishes and our world. Open our minds and hearts to your invitation which will fulfill our baptismal calling.

Help us, O God, to respond to the grace you plant in our hearts. Lead us in serving You and our sisters and brothers... as religious, priests, married couples or single persons. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Jan. 1, 2012 Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Gospel Reading: Luke 2:16-21

Pastor: Fr. John Kunz

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: 8:15 am
Saturday Vigil: 5:15 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Parish Office

632 South Broad Street, Mankato, MN
Office Hours: Weekdays 8:00 am-5:00 pm
Office Phone: (507) 625-3131
Emergency (after office hours): (507) 388-7239
Fax: (507) 625-3270
Email: stjohnch@hickorytech.net

Web: www.stjohnscatholicchurch.com

Check out St. Johns on Facebook!

Sacraments of the Church

Baptism - Expectant parents who wish to present their child for Baptism must participate in Pre-Jordan class. Contact St. John's Family Ministry Director at 387-6928.

Marriage - Contact the parish office 1 year in advance of wedding date. Marriage prep is required.

Becoming Catholic - If you or someone you know are interested in becoming Catholic or Christian Initiation, please contact the parish office.

Sacrament of the Sick - Anointing

If you have a serious illness, are facing hospitalization and/or surgery, please contact the parish office to arrange to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

St. John's Prayer Network -

To submit a prayer request, please call:

Mary Jo Roberts 388-8844 Or

Sandy Roberts 387-1372



From the Pastor's Desk

“As we enter 2012, we carry numerous hopes and dreams for the year ahead. I believe that it will be an exciting year for St. John the Baptist and I pray that the Lord Jesus be more alive and present within us. One person who will not be in our midst this year is Fr. Francis Kunz. Since 1985 he has been a significant part of St. John's - as pastor, as priestly presence in Senior Status, and in recent years as constant prayer for all the needs of St. John's. The faithful dedication to his vocation was an example for all.

As my uncle, he played a significant role in my life - baptizing me, cheering me on through the seminary, and blessing me as a brother priest. But his presence to my family and I was so constant and life-long. When I became pastor at St. John's I was struck by his daily visit to the Adoration Chapel, praying the stations, and just the presence of a faithful man of prayer.

This past week we laid his body to rest at Calvary Cemetery. But the power of his presence in the Diocese of Winona, in St. John's parish and with all those who loved him will go on. Our prayers for each other will go back and forth as we believe he now enjoys the Communion of Saints. Fr. Francis Kunz may you now rest in peace and enjoy the light of Christ forever.”

Peace,

Fr. John

LATIN TRIDENTINE MASS

The traditional Latin Tridentine Mass is celebrated at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church on the first Saturday of each month, the next Mass is scheduled for January 7, 2012. A question and answer period with coffee and rolls will follow on the fourth floor.

ADORATION CHAPEL SCHEDULE

New Years - Closed: Friday, December 30 at 5:00pm

Reopens: Tuesday, January 3 at 9:00am

The Adoration Chapel will be closing January, 15 due to the renovation. Watch the bulletin for reopening date (sometime in March or April).

REFRIGERATOR NEEDED

The St. John's Knights of Columbus are looking for a used refrigerator in good working order for donation or a small fee to replace their current refrigerator which broke down last week. Please contact Dave Sullivan at 345-3662. Thanks!

AROUND THE PARISH

THE WEEK AHEAD . . .

Monday, January 2

Parish Office closed

Tuesday, January 3

Sunrise AA meeting - 6:30 am, Parish Library

Adoration Chapel reopens at 9:00am

Worship Committee - 7pm, John Paul II room

Wednesday, January 4

Legion of Mary - 9 am, Marian Room

Choir for Christ - 5:15pm, church

1st Eucharistic Prep - 6-7:30pm, Parish Life Center

SIX: 7D8 - 6:00pm

Spirit Singers - 6:30pm, church

CONNECT - 7:00pm

Thursday, January 5

Simon Ministry 10:30am-12:00pm, Door 7

Laurels Peak Mass - 3:00pm

Journey to Justice - 5:30pm, Marian room

Biblical Walk through the Mass - 6:30pm, John Paul II room

Marian Prayer Group - 7pm, Adoration Chapel

Friday, January 6

Early Risers AA - 6:30 am, St. Elizabeth room

Al-Anon - 6:30 am, Parish Library

Friday Fellowship - 8:45am, St. Elizabeth room

Saturday, January 7

Confirmation Learning Centers - 6-8pm, Parish Life Center

Sunday, January 8

Children's Liturgy of the Word - 10am, John Paul II room

Nursery during the 10:00am Mass, St. Elizabeth room

Confirmation Learning Centers - 9am-2pm Parish Life Center

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Thank You Good and Faithful Stewards

Adult Env.	\$ 28,388.01
Offertory	\$ 1,728.09
Electronic Giving	\$ 3,859.00
\$1 Youth Envelopes	\$ 15.00

St. John's Young Stewards of Time & Treasure

Children's Envelopes	\$ 70.75
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(Talent comments taken from Children's Envelopes)

I helped wrap presents.

I played nice with my sister.

I went Christmas Caroling.

I helped mom and dad prepare for Christmas.

I played nice with my friends.

2011 Annual Diocesan Appeal

"Spirit And Life" (www.dow.org)

"Your word, O Lord, is Spirit and Life"

~ John 6:68

As of December 27, 2011:

Parish Goal: \$69,280 # of Donors: 364
 Amount Pledged: \$44,137 % of Participation: 26.96%
 Percent of Goal: 63.7 %

"Manifesting our Love for the Gospel Message"

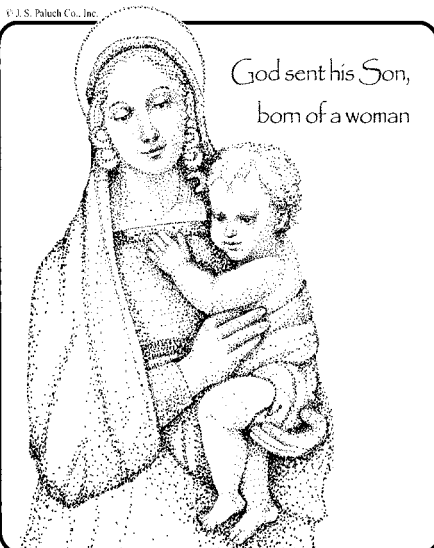
ADVERTISING ON THE BACK OF THE BULLETIN

If you are interested in advertising on the back of the bulletin, call Whitey at 345-1297. The bulletin is a good advertising media to sell your product or service.

Treasures From Our Tradition

On this feast, we can see how devotion to Mary has been a beacon of hope to the sick throughout history. In the new cathedral of Los Angeles, the faithful enter through a single door topped by a striking sculpture of Mary with arms stretched down in compassion. Sculpted into the massive bronze doors are the titles of Mary most treasured by various cultures. Many of them speak of how the sick are consoled by a sense of Mary's presence.

Dorothy Day once recalled St. Bonaventure's remark that after the Lord's long forty days of fasting in the desert, when he was diminished and weak from his struggle, the angels who ministered to him went first to the Blessed Mother's house. There they saw the soup that was on her stove, and took some to the



Lord so that he would delight in it even more since his mother had prepared it. "Of course," said Dorothy Day matter-of-factly.

In praying the rosary and savoring the stories of Mary's steadfast love in the face of all suffering, the sick are strengthened by one of our tradition's most shining treasures, and the whole Church is enriched.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Celebrating the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God

January 1, 2012

It is interesting that today, a day on which we celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, we hear very little about Mary in the readings.

Mary plays a vital role in Salvation History, and today we celebrate a key part of that role. But when we reflect on what it means for Mary to be the Mother of God, when we ponder her importance in the life of the Church, she brings us back to her Son, the focal point of today's readings, the focal point of Salvation History, the focal point of the Church's life.

Indeed, all of the Church's doctrines pertaining to Mary, while they speak of Marian truths, actually emphasize a truth about Christ and bring us into a deeper understanding of

who Christ is, and, we can be sure, that's how Mary would want it to be. After all, when the angel declared to Mary that she would conceive the Lord and she gave him her "yes," she surrendered her will to the Father. She gave Him her



life and became the first disciple — the first steward — living her life in complete selfless service for the Lord.

Her title, "Mother of God," speaks of a profound truth about her Son. It tells us that, from the moment of His conception, Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man. It is a mystery and one we must believe as Catholics. And, today, as we honor Mary for her role in our salvation, we are called to ponder this mystery, to come to a deeper understanding of the reality of the incarnation.

We are also called as stewards to follow in Mary's footsteps. She is the first disciple.

"She gave Him her life and became the first disciple ... living her life in complete selfless service for the Lord."

And, as Christ's disciple, she has given herself in service to Him. May we all follow suit. Like hers,

may our lives be ones that proclaim Christ to others. Through what we say and do, through the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, may we bring others closer to Christ, just as Mary does.

Who are the Capuchins?



The Capuchin Franciscan friars will be holding a weekend in the Milwaukee area for men, ages 18-45, who are interested in learning about religious life and seeing how Capuchins live as Franciscans in our world and in the Church today.

The weekend is **February 3-5, 2012**. If you would like to attend, have questions, or want to recommend someone for the weekend, call (313) 595-2182 or email the Vocation Office at: vocation@capuchinfranciscans.org

Check out the Capuchin website at: CapuchinFranciscans.blogspot.com

Gather the Spirit  Inspire the Faith

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

It's never too late to donate to the campaign!

Every dollar helps us as we begin the construction and remodeling. Thank you to all from the parish who have generously pledged or provided a gift to the campaign. **THANK YOU!**

LITURGICAL CORNER

SOLEMNITIES AND HOLY DAYS DURING CHRISTMAS TIME

Both the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), December 25, and the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1, fall on a Sunday. Because of this – there being no Sunday between Christmas and the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God - the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is celebrated on Friday, December 30, this year with only one reading before the Gospel. The solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord falls on Sunday, January 8 – two days after the traditional date of January 6. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the final day of Christmas Time, Monday, January 9.



CALLED TO BE CATHOLIC

Dr. Peter Kreeft is the featured speaker at the upcoming "The Call To Be Catholic" program, on Sunday, Jan. 8, 3:00 pm, at Sacred Heart Church (Owatonna). His topic: "Determining What's Right & Wrong--Certainty or Opinion?"

Dr. Kreeft, a philosophy professor at Boston College, is a prolific author and much sought-after speaker at numerous Catholic gatherings across the country. No charge to attend, but a free will offering is suggested.

THE JOURNEY'S OF ST. PAUL.

Join Father Robert Schneider on a Pilgrimage tour of the Journey's of St. Paul. October 16-27, 2012.

Greece - Greek Isles cruise - Turkey, Athens, Corinth - Ephesus - Patmos - Crete - Santorini - Seven Churches of St. Paul - Istanbul. For more information click on Pilgrimage www.as-ic.org or call Fr. at 507/469-9979.

WORKSHOP FOR JOB SEEKERS

Amy Klugherz has over 14 years experience providing instruction on the personal skills that transform individuals. Her workshop is full of fundamental tools that will help empower you and make your job search more effective and efficient. Job Seekers Seminar - January 19, at 11 am. Cost \$35. For more information or to register, call 952-334-7502 or amy@forwardbpc.com

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

God gave us the greatest gift of love when He sent His son to redeem us. He asks us to love one another as He loves us. Take the time to grow deeper in love with God, your spouse and your family at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are:

Feb. 10-12, 2012 in Windom, MN

Mar 16-18, 2012 in Frontenac, MN.

For information and/or registration, contact: Jeff and Rondi Kodet at 507-644-3523 or jrek@redred.com or visit our website at www.wwmeSection8.org.

Earn An Extra

\$150-\$200 PER MONTH TAX-FREE.

Become a Senior Companion Volunteer in the Mankato/Amboy area by making friendly visits to older adults in need. Senior Companions must be 55 years of age or older; service of 15 hours or more a week earns a small hourly tax-free stipend, plus receive travel reimbursement. For more information, contact Gail at 507.337.0382 or 507-530-2295

Televised Mass Times

Winona Diocesan Mass on Sundays at 7:30am - KEYC TV (Channel 10 or 12). Recorded Sunday Mass from Good Council on Wednesdays at 3:30pm and Friday at 2:30pm Channel 13 (Charter) or Channel 7 (Hickory Tech).

Mass Moves to Matthews Hall Starting January 16, 2012

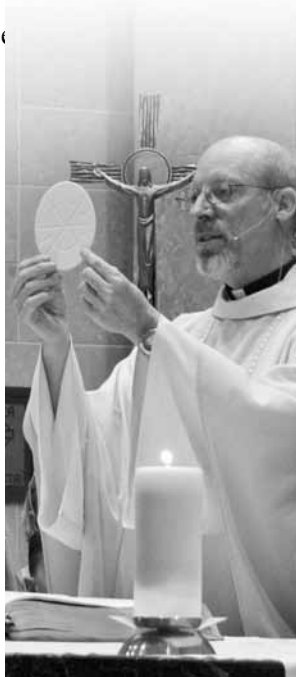
The Renovation of our Church Moves into the Nave and Sanctuary

On Monday, January 16, weekday Masses will be in Matthews Hall and all Masses, weekend and weekday, will be celebrated in Matthews Hall until Easter, April 7/8, 2012.

How fitting that the completion of our church renovation should coincide with Easter. All the sufferings and inconveniences of the construction are good reminders of the sacrifice Christ made for us. And then to celebrate Easter, a rising to new life, in our newly renovated church.

Chairs will be set up in Matthews Hall facing the back wall where the temporary altar will be located. There will be a center aisle and 2 side aisles, the same as in church now. The flow of communion will be the same as in the church. The brides room in the hall behind the altar will serve as a sacristy. The handicap seating will be closest to the elevator and up front by the altar.

Missalettes will be in bookcases by each entrance to



Hall. Everyone is asked to pick up a book and return it to the bookcase after Mass.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be in the Parish Library (at the end of the hall leading to Matthews Hall) and will be at the same time - Saturday from 4:30-5:00pm.

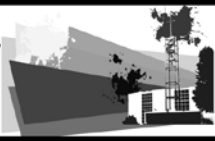
The Nursery will remain in the St. Elizabeth room where it has been.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will move to the John Paul II room (upper floor, first room to the left off the elevator).

The Adoration Chapel will also be closed at this time and will not reopen until further notice.

We will need a crew to set up chairs for Mass and then change back to tables as the need arises such as funeral luncheons or Generations of Faith.

If you are interested in helping to set up Matthews Hall please call the parish office at 625-3131.



Calendar of Events

JANUARY

4—SIX:7D8 (gr 6-8) 6-7pm, PLC Gym

CONNECT (gr 9-12) 7-8pm

7—Confirmation Learning Centers
6-8pm, PLC Gym

8—Confirmation Learning Centers
9am-2pm, PLC Gym

11—Post-NCYC Gathering 5:15pm



Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument?
Use your gifts and passions to help St. John's worship!

Join LIT Band
St. John's NEW Youth Choir/
Music Group
for Senior High youth (gr 9-12)

First rehearsal will be on
Wednesday, January 25 @
6pm at St. John's

Directors: Peter & Lauren Bierer

LIT Band will lead music occasionally at Sunday Masses, St. John's community gatherings, and other events.

For more info, contact Peter Bierer at
387-6928 or
youthmin@hickorytech.net

Peter's Peace

New Year's resolutions are all about trying to become a better person. People resolve to eat better food, lose weight, exercise, watch less television, read more, be a better friend, etc. Our New Year's resolutions are meant to improve our lives, to make us healthier, happier, and more productive people. In a sense, you could call a New Year's resolution an opportunity for renewal, rebirth, or a second chance. It's an opportunity to change, to experience a kind of conversion.

This weekend on January 1st we not only celebrate the New Year, but also the Octave (the eighth day) of Christmas. It is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. On this day the Church recognizes the role of a human being in the Incarnation, the event of God becoming a human. First of all, Christmas is such an important event in the year that we celebrate it over two weeks (give or take a few days depending on the year). Of course, Easter is celebrated for 50 days. The length of these feasts tell us just how important these events are: God becoming human and God sacrificing himself for our sake.

Mary's role in this is vital. Mary is not only the mother of Jesus the human, but she is *Theotokos*, the God Bearer – or Mother of God. This name we give to Mary is not a puffed up title to elevate a human woman to divinity, rather calling Mary the Mother of God explains who Jesus is: Fully Human and Fully God. When Mary said 'yes' to being the Mother of Jesus, to carrying the Creator of the Universe in her womb, she was in a sense saying 'yes' to a rebirth of humanity. St. Athanasius said that God became like us so that we could become like God. In Christ's birth, humanity was 'reborn.'

Mary is for us a model to be imitated, not just a figure to be honored. What does it mean to imitate Mary the Mother of God? Mary carried Emmanuel in her womb for about 40 weeks (A full-term pregnancy). During this time the Word Made Flesh grew and developed within her. However, Mary had to make sure that the baby inside of her was being nourished properly. She had to care for herself in order for the baby to be cared for. When the time was right, the baby wanted to come out, to be born into the world. On that day, something new occurred, God entered the world in a whole new way, and the world changed forever.

How do you carry the Word of God within you? Do you acknowledge the presence of God inside of you? How do you nurture the Word in you? Do you pray, participate in the sacraments, read scripture, and serve the poor? When we do these things, we are able to be reborn, and God is brought into our own world through us. Like Mary, all we have to do is say, "Yes" and trust in God's plan.

This New Year, let's be like Mary and carry the Son of God within us and pray not for resolution, but rebirth.

Peace. Peter.

MASS INTENTIONS AND DAILY READINGS

Monday, January 2 - *1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28*

8:15 am Marion Colby†

Tuesday, January 3 - *1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34*

8:15 am Kevin Meger†

Wednesday, January 4 - *1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42*

8:15 am George & Mildred Vortherms†

Thursday, January 5 - *1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51*

8:15 am Sandra Fitterer†

Friday, January 6 - *1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38*

[23, 31-34, 36, 38]

8:15 am Leon Goebel†/ Florence McGraw†/ Darryl Koll†

Saturday, January 7 - *1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11*

5:15 pm Paul Brockhaus†/Karolyn Fitzpatrick†/ Graydon Kickul†

Sunday, January 8 - *The Epiphany of the Lord*

8:00 am Harriet Krosch†/Dezell Family Living & Deceased

10:00 am Joe Winter†/Dorothy Madigan-Radichel†/Louis Link†

LITURGICAL MINISTERS for Jan. 7 & 8

Eucharistic Ministers

5:15 pm Barb Kluender, Jane Kohler, Joe Kunkel,
Phyllis Maloney, Mary Beth Nygaard, Chuck Pettipiece,
Jeanette Wieskus

8:00 am Katie Homan, Mary Homan, Brian & Jan Hughes,
Dan Kapsner, Donna Kapsner, NEED SUB

10:00 am Sue Baker, Jeff & Laurie Barnett, Lynda Braun,
Miriam Braunhausen, Helen Ward, Steve Ziegler

Gift Bearer

5:15 pm Randy Meyer & Family

8:00 am Chad Witte & Family

10:00 am Sheri Hiniker & Family

Lector

5:15 pm Bonnie Bennett & John Bulcock

8:00 am Terri Prange & Bill Simonette

10:00 am Mark & Lynn Turbes

Sacristans

5:15 pm Clarissa Meissner

8:00 am Doug Homan

10:00 am JoAnn Alfson

Mass Servers

5:15 pm Desmond Gerdes, Mark Kortuem & Megan Kunz

8:00 am Sheldon Price, Meghan Schaub & NEED SUB

10:00 am Hannah Atkinson, Elise and John Braswell

Ushers

5:15 pm - Team 2

8:00 am - Team 6

10:00 am - Team 10

St. John's Nursery (January 8)

Lisa and Kelly Falgren

Weekday Eucharistic Minister (Jan. 2 - Jan. 6)

8:15 am Bonnie Gallagher

Laurels Peak Mass (January 5)

Carol Stott & Mary Lou Fink

AROUND AND ABOUT

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Fr. John Kunz
625-3131 jkunz@hickorytech.net

Parish Administrator Michelle Folk
625-3389 mfolk@hickorytech.net

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper Deb Winch
625-3131 debwinch@hickorytech.net

Parish Secretary/Family Ministry Connie Jean Wallin
625-3131 stjohnch@hickorytech.net

Director of Liturgy/Music Jaci James
625-3131 jjames@hickorytech.net

Faith Formation /Pastoral Care Mary Beth Nygaard
387-6928 mbn@hickorytech.net

Coordinator of Youth Ministry Peter Bierer
387-6928 youthmin@hickorytech.net

Director of Sacraments Kevin Kroeber
387-6928 fammin@hickorytech.net

Stewardship/Bulletin Joan Kellen
625-3131 jkellen@hickorytech.net

Maintenance, Jon Fitterer 625-3131

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Loyola Catholic School 507-388-2997

Website - www.loyolacatholicschool.org

LOYOLA AMBASSADORS ST. JOHN'S PARISH:

Ken Klingsporn 625-8246

Mary Homan 345-1070

Beth Miller 388-6312

ST. JOHN'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS

Pastoral Council:

Bonnie Bennett Laura Dhuyvetter

Betty Widmer Blace Kimberly Giebel

Mark Giebel Dan Kapsner

Casey Hardy Darla Theobald

Brian Hughes Dale Barrie

Jean Clarke Jennifer Hatkin

Finance Council:

Trudy Gustafson Tim Nussmeier

Mike Ulman David Naples

Mike Wells Bill Johnson

Tom Ninneman

Parish Trustees:

Patricia Sullivan Julian Braunhausen

Traveling Trust Box January 7/8:

Rita and Mike Dauw

