

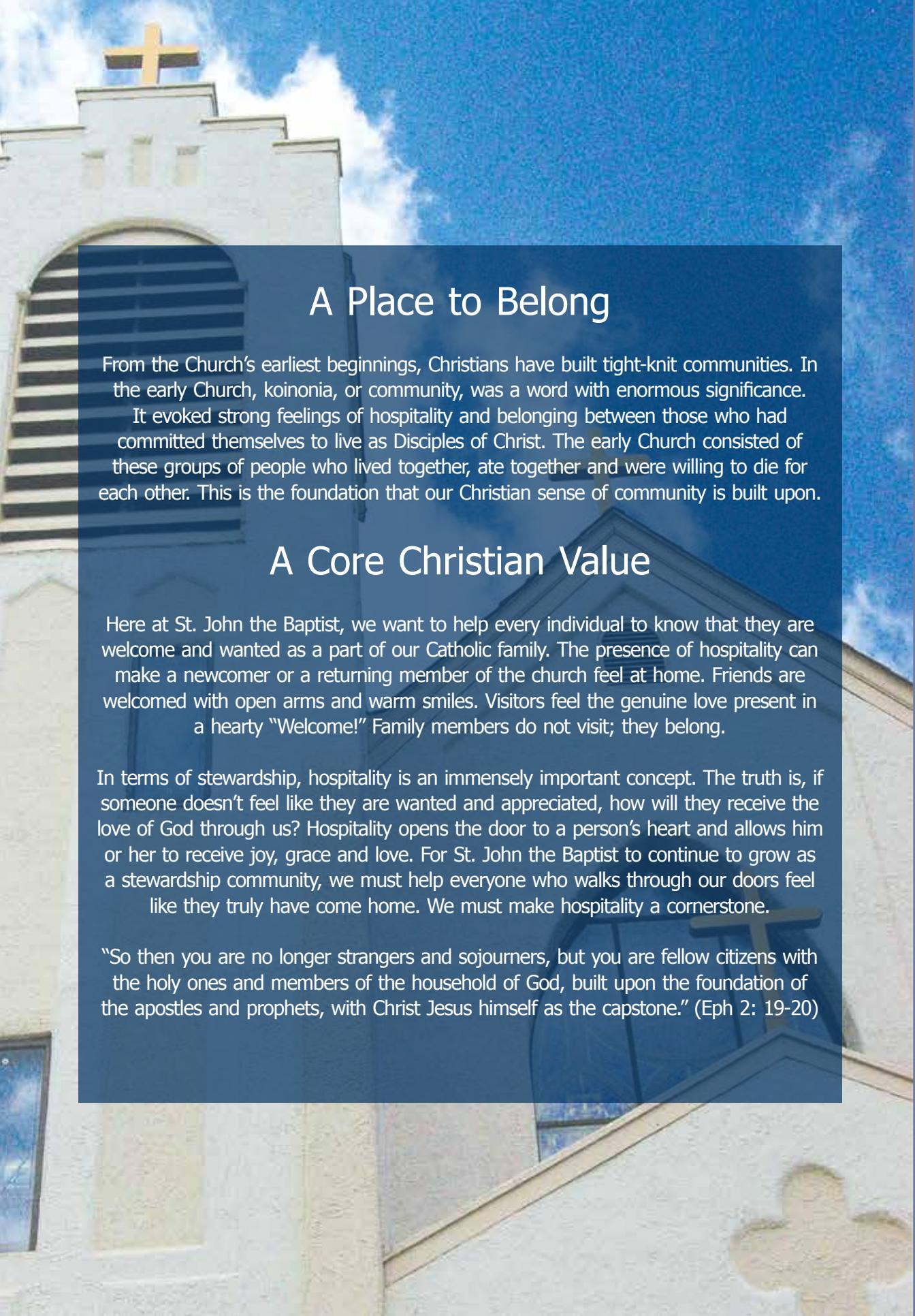
A Place to Belong

2016 RENEWAL BROCHURE

Our Time • Our Talent • Our Treasure • Our Faith • Our Family • Our Prayers



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



A Place to Belong

From the Church's earliest beginnings, Christians have built tight-knit communities. In the early Church, *koinonia*, or community, was a word with enormous significance.

It evoked strong feelings of hospitality and belonging between those who had committed themselves to live as Disciples of Christ. The early Church consisted of these groups of people who lived together, ate together and were willing to die for each other. This is the foundation that our Christian sense of community is built upon.

A Core Christian Value

Here at St. John the Baptist, we want to help every individual to know that they are welcome and wanted as a part of our Catholic family. The presence of hospitality can make a newcomer or a returning member of the church feel at home. Friends are welcomed with open arms and warm smiles. Visitors feel the genuine love present in a hearty "Welcome!" Family members do not visit; they belong.

In terms of stewardship, hospitality is an immensely important concept. The truth is, if someone doesn't feel like they are wanted and appreciated, how will they receive the love of God through us? Hospitality opens the door to a person's heart and allows him or her to receive joy, grace and love. For St. John the Baptist to continue to grow as a stewardship community, we must help everyone who walks through our doors feel like they truly have come home. We must make hospitality a cornerstone.

"So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone." (Eph 2: 19-20)



Stewardship of Time

While many of us understand that prayer is an important element of the Christian life, most of us admit that it's difficult to find a quiet moment to spend with God.

As Christians, we must remember that we cannot give what we do not have. In order for us to welcome others into the life of the Church, we need to make sure that our spiritual lives are properly in order. To become a more prayerful person, take inventory of how you spend the 168 hours in the week. Are you taking time to talk to God in prayer, to speak with Him as you would a friend? Are you seeking His truth through reading the scriptures? Will you make Him first on your priority list so that you are able to give to others from the graces He has given you?

Maintaining A Healthy Prayer Life:

- Pope Francis encourages all Catholics to spend time in daily prayer, thanking God for His blessings, asking for His help in difficult circumstances and reading scripture.
- Receive spiritual nourishment in the Eucharist at least every Sunday.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis and ask God for the grace to live a life of holiness.

HELPFUL PRAYER RESOURCES

Catholic phone or tablet apps: iBreviary, Magnificat, Divine Office, Laudate or The Pope App (news and homilies from Pope Francis)

Websites: usccb.org/bible/readings (daily readings of the Catholic Church), Vatican.va (The Vatican and Holy See), stjbsom.org (St. John the Baptist's parish website) or formed.org (use parish code c40586)



Stewardship of Talent

“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). Each of us has received gifts from God that we are to use in humble service. While many of us may not recognize the skills or abilities we have as gifts, they are a means by which we can give glory to God through serving each other. At St. John the Baptist, our ministries provide opportunities for us to serve God and others. From a warm smile to giving someone a warm meal, we are able to welcome others into the family of God by being Christ to them. Reaching out in love, while sometimes difficult, can be quite spiritually enriching! Will you take the time to ask God how you can best serve Him through the service of His children?

Ways to Welcome and Serve Others:

- Pray about how your gifts can best be used to help others feel welcome.
- Sign up for a parish ministry that challenges you to put others’ needs before your own.
- Greet our fellow parishioners before or after Mass, introducing yourself to unfamiliar faces.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service, but the same Lord... To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-7



Stewardship of Treasure

Throughout Scripture, we are taught to give to God our “first fruits” or the “choicest portion.” In modern speech, we might say that the first “line item” in the family budget should be returning a portion of our income to God. Both symbolically and in actuality, this is a powerful expression of God’s place in your life. “Where your treasure is, there also lies your heart” (Matthew 6:21). Will you take some time to reassess how you prioritize God in your finances?

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” 2nd Corinthians 9:10-11

Reasons to Tithe: Why Give a Percentage of Income?

We give the tithe (which means 10% of one’s harvest or income) because it is a Scriptural benchmark that has been honored since the early Church (see Malachi 3:10).

If you have difficulty reaching your goal of the tithe, try increasing your giving incrementally, by one or two percent of income each year. Over time, you will find that the tithe is a reasonable goal that can be reached. Most importantly, you will know that you have been faithful in placing God first in everything, even in your finances.

WORKING TOWARD GIVING THE TITHE:

5% to the parish offertory

1% to the diocese and **4%** to other charities

2016 Ministry Catalog

Hospitality

Funeral Lunch

This committee works together to prepare and serve a luncheon after funerals for the grieving family, their friends and for all who attend the funeral Mass.

Contact: Delores Devine, 815-498-2040 or funerallunch@stjbsom.org

Lay Ministers to the Sick

Members of this ministry bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are unable to attend Sunday Mass due to age, illness, or other circumstances.

Contact: Jackie Rucinski, 815-496-2906 or ministertosick@stjbsom.org

Loss and Transition Ministry

Members of this ministry meet with families of parishioners who have endured the death of a loved one to express sympathy on behalf of the parish and to help them plan the funeral liturgy.

Contact: Chuck and Linda Hickey, 815-498-2064 or lossandtransition@stjbsom.org

Mending One Heart at a Time

These women create quilts and other items for the comfort of the sick and elderly. They also raffle and sell some items to fund the ministry. This committee meets Thursday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Contact: Mary Rohrer, 815-498-9095 or mendingoneheart@stjbsom.org

Ushers

Ushers greet parishioners at weekend Masses, take up the collection, distribute bulletins, and perform other duties to ensure the Mass progresses smoothly.

Contact: Bud Short, 815-498-2747 or usher@stjbsom.org

Prayer

Adoration

This group promotes and participates in Eucharistic adoration at the parish.

Contact: Cathy Certain, 815-997-5541 or adoration@stjbsom.org

Adult Altar Servers

Assist the priest celebrant during daily Mass and for exposition and benediction and funerals.

Contact: Chuck Hickey, 815-498-2064 or adultaltarserver@stjbsom.org

Altar Servers

Boys and girls assist the priest at all liturgical services that require servers, such as weekend Masses, funerals, and weddings and processions. Altar Servers must be in the fourth grade or older and have received their First Communion.

Contact: Fr. Kevin Butler, 815-498-2010 or altarserver@stjbsom.org

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers are entrusted with the special responsibility of assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Training is provided.

Contact: Fr. Kevin Butler, 815-498-2010 or communionmin@stjbsom.org

Funeral Choir

This choir sings at funeral liturgies, usually in the morning. It is open to all parishioners and has no regularly scheduled rehearsals.

Contact: Mark Mackeben, 815-498-2010 or sacredmusic@stjbsom.org

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the Word of God at Mass in an inspiring and meaningful way. Training is provided.

Contact: Fr. Kevin Butler, 815-498-2010 or lector@stjbsom.org

Sacred Music

There are opportunities for musicians of all levels and ages to be involved in the Sacred Music Ministry at St. John the Baptist. These ministries include: • Choirs • Cantors • Bell Ringers • Instrumentalists

Contact: Mark Mackeben, 815-498-2010 or sacredmusic@stjbsom.org

Formation

Baptismal Preparation

This committee meets with parents to prepare them for the baptism of their children by educating them about their Catholic faith and this sacrament.

Contact: Peggy Strever, 815-498-3652 or baptismprep@stjbsom.org

Followers of the Truth

This group promotes the knowledge and understanding of Catholic beliefs through scripture, prayer and discussion on a regular basis. Parishioners of all levels of catechetical knowledge are welcome to the meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Contact: Chuck Hickey, 815-498-2064 or followeroftruth@stjbsom.org

Religious Education

Religious education teachers help children grow in their knowledge and love of Christ and the Catholic Church and help them to grow in their Catholic faith, as well as prepare them to receive the sacraments. Pre-K thru 7th grade meets on Sundays, 9:00-10:15 a.m., and Confirmation (8th and 9th grades) meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Contact Director of Religious Education: Carol Shelton, 815-970-1928 or RE@stjbsom.org

Respect Life

This group gives witness to the sacredness of every human life, raising awareness in our parish and community through prayer and education on the important pro-life issues of today. They also provide ways for parishioners to get involved in the pro-life movement.

Contact: Alice Weissensel, 815-786-7924 or respectlife@stjbsom.org



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is primarily for the education of those who are considering joining the Catholic Church. Weekly classes introduce the teachings of Catholicism and integrate prospective new Catholics into the life of our parish. All parishioners are welcome to attend the weekly classes to learn more about their faith. Meetings are held September through April on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: John and Sara Stutzman, 815-496-2975 or RCIA@stjbsom.org

Scripture Study

Several weekly Bible studies are offered, which look into the depths of and glean spiritual fruit from Sacred Scripture. Join us to dive deeper into God's Word!

Contact: Parish Office, 815-498-2010 or scripturestudy@stjbsom.org

Symbolon

Adults in small groups come together to learn about the various facets and teachings of the Catholic faith through engaging videos and discussions.

Contact: Chuck and Sandy Durancik, 815-498-1354 or symbolon@stjbsom.org

Vacation Bible School

VBS catechizes our youth through song and activities in an engaging, fun way for one week in the summer. Adult volunteers are needed for planning and facilitating the various activities.

Contact: Beth Westbrook, 815-498-2627 or VBS@stjbsom.org

YDisciple

This is our High School Youth Ministry where teens gather weekly in a casual setting to meet other youth and to grow in their Catholic faith. The youth are mentored in the Faith through the adult leaders, compelling videos and thought-provoking discussion in an environment of trust. Those out of high school are invited to be small group mentors.

Contact: *Carol Shelton, 815-970-1928 or YDisciple@stjbsom.org*

Service

Blessings in a Backpack

This group works with a national organization to provide food to grade school children in Somonauk who receive state food assistance during the school year. Blessings in a Backpack provides the student with food for the weekend during the school year.

Contact: *Denise Ramos, 815-498-9163*

Church Cleaners

The most sacred areas of the church (Sacristy and the Sanctuary) are cleaned by a dedicated group of servants. These special people share their time, talent, and treasure as needed in keeping the Lord's house clean and beautiful.

Contact: *Nick Cinfio, 630-918-4541*

Church Decorators

This group assists the pastor by ordering, placing and caring for flowers and other decorations during the various church seasons with a special emphasis during Christmas and Easter.

Contact: *Laura Short, 815-498-2747 or decorator@stjbsom.org*



Corned Beef Dinner

This is a committee of men of the parish who plan, coordinate and prepare our annual Corned Beef Dinner. We typically prepare over 2,000 pounds of corned beef, 650 pounds of potatoes and 1,200 pounds of cabbage, and serve around 1,100 people.

Contact: *Chuck Kessler, 815-786-8064 or cornedbeef@stjbsom.org*

Garden Club

This group cares for plants and flowers outside around the church, rectory and parish center.

Contact: *Pat Werner, 815-498-3067 or garden@stjbsom.org*

Knights of Columbus

This is a group of men who come together to serve the parish and community with different events during the year. They especially focus on family, youth, vocations to the priesthood and pro life issues. The men develop fraternity and friendship with each other and greater love for Christ and the Church. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:15 p.m.

Contact: *Chuck Durancik, 815-498-1354 or knights@stjbsom.org*

Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto

This group helps to keep our grotto a beautiful place of prayer by taking care of the plants and flowers through regular watering and weeding and caring for the other needs of the grotto.

Contact: *Dolores Devine, 815-498-2040*

Photography

In this ministry, parishioners who have photographic skills take high-quality pictures at various parish events.

Contact: *Anne Novey, 815-822-0518 or photo@stjbsom.org*

Prison Ministry

The members work under the direction of the Prison Ministry in the Rockford Diocese, sharing our faith with inmates in prison through letter writing, visits and as prayer partners.

Contact: *Joe Dillett, 815-498-9290 or 815-498-3039 or prison@stjbsom.org*

Rosary Makers

Supplies and instructions are provided for this group that gathers to assemble rosaries for those in need. This group meets one Tuesday each month at 9:00 a.m.

Contact: Kathleen Carr, 312-303-0869

Women's Society

These women of the parish organize various projects and social events during the year, such as the chili supper, parish garage sales, and the mother-daughter banquet. They also provide for the spiritual well-being and fellowship of the women of the parish.

Contact: Kathleen Carr, 312-303-0869 or womenssociety@stjbsom.org

Commissions/ Committees

Buildings and Grounds Commission

This group helps to manage the upkeep of church property while advising the pastor and Pastoral Council on issues regarding the maintenance or improvement of parish buildings and grounds. In addition, they provide assistance with hands-on maintenance projects, which include carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, and landscaping.

Contact: Bud Short, 815-498-2747 or buildingsandgrounds@stjbsom.org

Evangelization Committee

This committee focuses on providing the latest engaging materials, speakers and study groups to help parishioners grow in their knowledge and love of their Catholic faith and love of Christ in order to help them be formed in discipleship.

Contact: John and Sara Stutzman, 815-496-2975 or evangelize@stjbsom.org

Finance Council

Members of the Finance Council advise the pastor regarding the management of parish finances and property, review parish business operations, prepare budgets, and identify needs and expenses for upcoming facility maintenance.

Contact: Rick Ramos, 815-498-9163 or financecouncil@stjbsom.org



Liturgy Commission

This group helps the pastor plan for the liturgical celebrations during the year including Christmas, Easter, Corpus Christi, May Crowning, Cemetery Sunday, All Souls remembrance Mass, Healing Mass, etc. This group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Contact: Fr. Kevin Butler, 815-498-2010 or liturgy@stjbsom.org

Parish Life Commission

This is our parish social committee. They organize and lead events and activities at the parish. This commission meets as needed.

Contact: Denise Ramos, 815-498-9163 or parishlife@stjbsom.org

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is an advisory group for the pastor for the direction of the parish. It seeks to foster unity, assess needs, encourage parish participation in spiritual and apostolic life, and provide a forum for parish dialogue.

Contact: Joe Dillet, 815-498-9290 or pastoralcouncil@stjbsom.org

Stewardship Commission

Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor. The Stewardship Commission works to broaden our opportunities for growth as a Disciple as we share our gifts in the areas of Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service. "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)

Contact: Chuck and Sandy Durancik, 815-498-1354 or stewardship@stjbsom.org

Welcoming Committee

Committee members visit new parishioners and welcome them to our parish community.

Contact: Chuck and Sandy Durancik, 815-498-1354 or welcome@stjbsom.org

Potential Ministries

If you are interested in helping to start or lead one of these new ministries, please make note on your commitment card.

Childcare

These ministers watch the children of the participants of our various Adult Faith Formation opportunities and classes. This is a great ministry for those who love children.

Retreat

This group will help plan and present our two retreats during the year. This would include our one day "God is" Retreat and our 1.5 day Stewardship Retreat.



A Steward's Prayer

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, I know that all I have received is from Your hand. Gracious and loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name.

Amen.



Time to Commit

CALL TO ACTION

The famous Christian author, C.S. Lewis, once wrote,
“A person whose hands are full of parcels cannot receive a gift.”
Stewardship is a life-long conversion of heart, mind and soul, so that we are able to receive God’s love and return that love to Him. The better we understand our Catholic faith and our personal role within God’s kingdom, the better equipped we will be to share God’s love and resources – our time, our talent, and our treasure – with others. This year, how will you take the next step in your journey of sharing God’s love through your time, talent and treasure?



PLEASE KEEP UNTIL FALL 2017

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

320 S. DEPOT ST. • PO BOX 276 • SOMONAUK, IL 60552 • 815-498-2010 • WWW.STJBSOM.ORG