



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

2017
**STEWARDSHIP
RENEWAL**

*Lift up Your
Hearts In Prayer*



FOLLOWING CHRIST'S INVITATION TO PRAY

“When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, ‘So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?’” (Matthew 26:40). We know from Scripture that even when Jesus invited individual apostles to go aside and pray with Him, they had difficulty concentrating. Today, it is still difficult to be a prayerful person, but Christ’s invitation is just as persistent. As the *Catechism* puts it, “prayer and the Christian life are inseparable.” During our Stewardship Renewal, how can you re-commit yourself to spend time with Christ in prayer?

“Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

— 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18



PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Prayer is the beginning of stewardship because we must be spiritually prepared if we are to use our gifts in God’s service.

Stewardship of Time

PRAYER: A REGULAR COMMITMENT



Our spiritual journey requires a regular commitment to prayer. We all seem to be so busy getting things “done” that we often neglect the most important things — spending time forming and growing our relationship with God. In the story of Mary and her sister Martha from Luke chapter 10, we are reminded that spending time with God must come first. In opening their home to Jesus, Martha spent the day running around the house preparing dinner and making other arrangements for His comfort and enjoyment, while Mary sat at Jesus’ feet and listened to Him. When Martha complained to Jesus that Mary wasn’t helping, He replied, “You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42).

FOR REFLECTION...

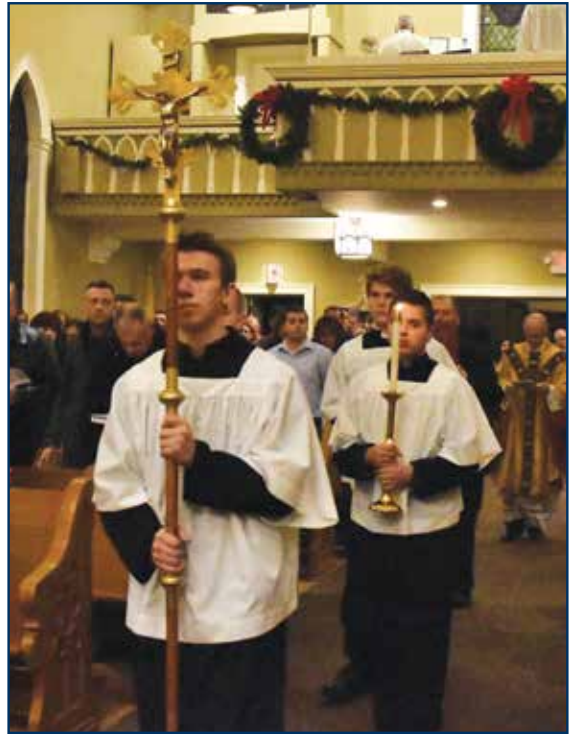
- *When and how can you spend time in uninterrupted prayer? Pope Francis’ encouragement is to start by taking 10 minutes each morning to read the daily Scripture, found at usccb.org/bible/readings or on Catholic phone and tablet apps, such as iBreviary, Divine Office, or Evangelizo, thanking Him for the good and asking for help with the challenges.*
- *Will you try using a new type of prayer — meditation, praise, reading the Bible, or reciting the Rosary? What type of prayer best unites you with God?*
- *How can you pray regularly with your children? Consider praying with your children each night before bed, giving each family member an opportunity to pray for something and concluding with an Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be.*

Stewardship of Talent

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER YOUR ROLE

When St. Paul writes about the Body of Christ, his main point is that every baptized person has a special role to play in the Church. Every one of us is needed for the Church to flourish, each with their own personality, skill set and gifts. This means that without your personal involvement, Christ's church isn't complete! But how do you discover what role to play?

You have a unique set of gifts that you've been given – use them to serve! Consider using our Ministry Catalog to find a ministry in which you can utilize your talents. You can make a difference! And as you begin to serve, trust that God will bless you in abundance for every bit that you give to others.



“For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them.” — Romans 12:4-6a

FOR REFLECTION...

- *Pray and ask God to show you your personal gifts and how best to use them.*
- *Get involved in a service ministry at our parish that stretches you to be more selfless.*
- *Pray for our ministries, our parish leaders, and all parishioners, asking the Holy Spirit to guide our parish community.*
- *No matter what ministry or group you are involved with, always begin and end your meetings or activities by praying with one another.*

Stewardship of Treasure

PRACTICING FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

It's no accident that the fruit of our labor, the offertory, is offered at the same time as the presentation of the gifts of bread and wine. In the same way that the bread and wine are "the work of human hands," in modern society, money represents the result of our work. Our financial gift, then, is a gift of ourselves to God. God accepts our bread and wine, transforms them, and gives them back to us to convey His grace. In a similar way, God accepts our money and transforms it through the work of His Church on earth.

Our parish invites each family to give to God through the offertory in accordance with the scriptural tithe, which literally means 10% of one's harvest or income. We give a percentage of our income to God because it is a standard that has been honored since the early Church (see Malachi 3:10), but we can only do this when we are good stewards of the remaining 90%. What percentage of your life are you currently giving to God? Will you be willing to give Him 100% of your heart?



“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

FOR REFLECTION...

- Consider your current gift to God. Does it reflect a percentage of your income?
- Can you work towards giving the scriptural tithe by increasing your annual offertory gift by 1 or 2% each year?
- Does your spending on entertainment, fast food or casual shopping prevent you from giving according to the scriptural tithe?



2017 MINISTRY CATALOG

OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE YOUR FAITH

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

Corpus Christi

This group helps plan and coordinate the annual Corpus Christi Procession.

Contact: John and Sara Stutzman, 815-496-2975 or corpuschristi@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: Parish Office, 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: Parish Office, 815-498-2010 or lector@stjbsom.org

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.

Contact: Parish Office, 815-498-2010 or retreat@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

Vocations

This group comes together to pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life.

Contact: Parish Office, 815-498-2010 or vocation@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 seventh grade meets on Sundays, 9:00-10:15 a.m., and Confirmation (eighth and ninth 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 classes introduce the teachings of Catholicism and integrate prospective new and returning 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

Small groups welcome anyone interested in learning 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 and teenage volunteers are needed for planning and facilitating the various activities.

*Contact: Michele Runge, 815-498-2627 or
VBS@stjbsom.org*

YDisciple

High school teens are mentored in the faith through the adult leaders, compelling videos and thought-provoking discussion in a casual environment. Those out of high school are invited to be small-group mentors.

*Contact: Lisa Short, 815-826-0282 or
YDisciple@stjbsom.org*

Service

Church Cleaners

These parishioners assist with keeping the Lord's house clean and beautiful.

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

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



Photography

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

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

Prison Ministry

The members work under the direction of the Prison Ministry in the Diocese of Rockford, 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

This ministry makes rosaries for the foreign missions. Supplies and instructions are provided. This group meets one Tuesday each month at 9:00 a.m.

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

St. Vincent de Paul

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads men and women to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in Somonauk and surrounding communities in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

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

Women's Society

These women of the parish organize various projects and social events during the year. 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 maintain parish buildings and grounds. They utilize their talents for hands-on maintenance projects, which include carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, and landscaping.

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

Cemetery Advisory Committee

This group advises the pastor regarding care and upkeep of the cemetery.

Contact: Parish Office, 815-498-2010 or cemeteryadvisor@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

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



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 disciples, 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 this new ministry, please make a 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.

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





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH

320 S. Depot St. • PO Box 276 • Somonauk, IL 60552 • 815-498-2010 • www.stjbsom.org

Please keep until Fall 2018