



# St. John the Baptist

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## The Hinterlongs Make Stewardship a Way of Life

*“It’s the Little Things that Count”*

A lot has changed in the years since Carol and Jerry Hinterlong first moved to Somonauk in 1971. At that time, the young couple had one baby and another on the way – Carol still remembers bringing her small children to St. John the Baptist when she participated in the Rosary Ministry, providing them with coloring books to keep them occupied while she helped out. Now, their three children are all grown, but the Hinterlongs have certainly not outgrown their desire to stay active in parish life!

Carol currently serves the parish as a Eucharistic Minister, a role that Jerry has filled in the past. Over the years, Carol has sung with the choir, served on the board of the Women’s Society, and helped out with the CCD program. And Jerry has helped with the annual corned beef and cabbage dinner for over 30 years.



*Jerry and Carol Hinterlong*

One of Carol’s favorite ways to stay involved in the parish and nurture her faith life is to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration on First Fridays.

“It’s just a silent time with God, you’re in there and you feel this awesome presence and you’re just at

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# St. John the Baptist

## Stewardship Living in Love

“God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him” (1 Jn 4:16). As Christ’s disciples, we are called to live lives of love. When asked which commandment is the most important, Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.” He immediately followed this command with, “Love your neighbor as yourself. No commandment is greater than these” (Mk 12:29-31).

The life of a Christian is, essentially, all about love! This doesn’t mean that Christ preached an abstract Gospel, or that we need to love simply because “it feels good.” The reality is quite the opposite. Indeed, Christ’s Gospel of love is one of dramatic action, and living in that love calls each of us to action.

What is this love, then, of which Christ speaks? How are we to live it out today?

Christ, the God who, as John tells us, “is love” Himself, came to Earth out of pure love for us. So that we might have everlasting life, Christ took the punishment for our sins. He, the Lord of all creation, was mocked, scourged and ultimately murdered on the cross to atone for the sins that we, His creatures, have committed. Now, that’s love! And it is the love that we are called to imitate throughout our lives.

Notice the selfless nature of Jesus’ act. He gained nothing in return for what He did, and He calls us to love in the same manner. How do we do that here and now? Do we die on our own personal crosses? The answer, in a way, is “yes.” We don’t necessarily die on the wood of the literal cross as Christ did, but we must die to self for the sake of others. That is the love of Christ, and that is the love He calls us to every day. If we want to truly love God, we must love others. God Himself showed us the reality of this need when he commanded that we love our neighbor just as we love Him. And then Christ explained, “Whatever you do to the least of those, you do to me.” If we are called to love God, then we are called to love our neighbor, for Christ resides in each one of us. It must be a love like

Christ has shown us – one of selflessness. We should want for nothing more than the good of our neighbor.

There are many ways that we can show our love to others, particularly through prayer and service. Here at our parish, there are many ministries that offer us the opportunity to serve our neighbors. If we offer a little bit of time, we can help out in the parish office doing seemingly menial yet important tasks, such as stuffing inserts into the bulletins so that fellow parishioners are aware of news and events within the parish. Those of us with an aptitude for teaching may be called to serve others through RCIA or our Religious Education program. There is also always a need for more lectors and Eucharistic Ministers to aid the priest in bringing Christ to other parishioners at Mass.

These are but a few of the countless opportunities we have to serve our parish and local community. However we are called to do so, one thing is for certain: the love of Christ calls us to action. How will we show our love for God this year? Remember, “Whatever you do for the least of those, you do for me.”





A Letter From Our Pastor

## “Here I Am, Lord.” But Are You Really There? Are You Responding to God’s Call?

Dear Parishioners,

Throughout the Bible we hear people say, “Here I am, Lord,” or something similar. Normally, it is a response to a communication, a call, from God. In the Old Testament Book of Exodus, for example, it states, “God called out to him from the bush: ‘Moses! Moses!’ He answered, ‘Here I am!’” (Exodus 3:4). We often speak in the Church about the fact that we have each received a calling from God. We also regularly say that one way to respond to that call is to live a life of stewardship.

Of course, the truth is that many do not hear God’s call because they are either not listening or they do not want to hear it. Of course, that is not how we should feel. I could write about my own call, but right now, I would rather address your call.

This is a time of year when there are calls from those in need all around us. Some of those calling are ministries right here in our parish. Before I address our response, it is important to emphasize that we need to hear the call. To hear something, we have to be listening.

The second issue is our response to the call. Do we indeed say, “Here I am”? Or, do we choose to say and do nothing? Stewardship is a call to action, a call to do something to share with and to help



others. In the Old Testament passage cited above, Moses responds, “Who am I?” (Exodus 3:11) – meaning he feels unworthy and unable to fulfill this call from the Lord. God’s answer is everything, as He says to Moses simply, “I will be with you” (Exodus 3:12). Thus, when we receive the call; we are to respond to God making it clear that we are ready. We may quite likely feel (as Moses did) that we are unprepared for what God may be asking us to do, but His response to Moses was

the same as His response to us – “I will be with you.”

That is enough to empower us and strengthen us to try to serve God and fulfill His desires for us. Of course, there is one other call to which we need to respond. It is, as Christ said many times, “Come follow Me.”

As we enter this part of our personal year, this part of our calendar year, and this part of our Church year, may we be ready to listen, to respond, and then to do – full with the knowledge that the Lord is with us always!

In Christ,

*Fr. Butler*

Fr. Butler, Pastor

*That is enough to empower us and strengthen us to try to serve God and fulfill His desires for us. Of course, there is one other call to which we need to respond. It is, as Christ said many times, “**Come follow Me.**”*

# St. John the Baptist

## A Look Back: Our Lady of Fatima

After the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Aug. 19, we processed through the neighborhood with the Our Lady of Fatima Statue as we prayed the Rosary and sang hymns on the 100th anniversary of her fourth apparition in Fatima. It was a nice evening and a beautiful witness to our love for Mary! Several parishioners were able to participate.

We will process again with the Our Lady of Fatima Statue on Oct. 13, after a 6:30 p.m. Mass on the 100th anniversary of her sixth and final apparition in Fatima.





# of Fatima Statue Procession



## The Vocation of Marriage:

**K**ristine (Strever) Chadwick remembers fondly the homily given at her wedding to her and her husband, Bobby.

“[Father] said that whenever you have hard times, whenever you need anything, you ask God for the grace, and you are going to get it because that’s the promise that He made – that He was going to be the one to hold you together, and be that glue, and give you the graces you need to get through,” Kristine recalls. “He said, ‘You have a right to ask for as much grace as you need and you want. The Lord has said it’s your right, when you come to the Sacrament.’”

Baptized and raised at St. John the Baptist, Kristine – who now lives in Rochelle – returned to her home parish to be married. Kristine and Bobby will celebrate two years of marriage on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In their 30s, when they met through a mutual connection, Kristine and Bobby had both experienced years of trying to discover God’s plan for their vocations.

“We were both in a spot where we were finally comfortable with being single and accepting God’s will for our lives,” Kristine says. “But when we met, it was really relaxed and wonderful. We knew right away that we were going to be married, and we were married within a year of our first date.”

And while the journey to finding each other may have been a bit challenging, the decision to have a Catholic wedding in the Church came much more easily.

“Ultimately, you’re making a covenant of love, and the world’s idea of love is much different than the Church’s idea of love,” Kristine says. “The Church’s idea is much deeper. It’s what the love of Christ shows us, it’s the crucifix. It’s much deeper than what the world says. God’s grace is so real, it’s so needed.”

The Chadwicks found the marriage preparation process to be a blessing during their engagement.

“Marriage preparation made us understand each other so much more – things that we never



*Kristine Chadwick, who grew up at St. John the Baptist, was happy to be married in her home parish.*

asked one another,” Kristine says. “I can’t imagine a marriage without having asked your partner these life questions, to not know your partner on this deep level that the Church takes you to. We also learned a lot through the *Beloved* series. That was really fruitful. It was really good for us.”

Kristine is also grateful for the witnesses of faith that both she and Bobby have in their families.

“We have beautiful examples of holy love,” says Kristine, whose parents, Brad and Peggy



# .....*Love, Sacrifice and Grace*.....

Strever, are St. John's parishioners, along with her grandparents, Don and Jean Wegener, who recently celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Through it all, Kristine and Bobby have found that, as their vocation, marriage has truly helped them to grow closer to God and bring out the best in each other.

"You go deeper in trust with your husband and also with God," Kristine says. "Seeing how much this man loves me, I'm seeing how much the Lord loves me. He put this man in my life to show me the truth, 'You are lovable and you are worthy. You are imperfect but still lovable.'

"We're called to die for one another, we're called to die to self," she continues. "I see my husband doing that for me, and I in return try to do that for him. It's about putting the other person first, wanting their goodness above your own. The ultimate end is service."

Kristine encourages engaged couples who may be on the fence about getting married in the Church to truly think and pray about it.

"I think a lot of people are probably nervous about getting married in the Church," Kristine says. "But it's something bigger and greater than what the world has to offer. Why would you want to miss out on something like that? To say 'yes' to your spouse

*"To go to the Church, to witness before God and your family, to ask for His assistance and help and to receive the grace you need, it's something that you wouldn't want to miss out on. Aren't you curious as to what questions that can help you go deeper into knowing each other on a more intimate level? It opens your eyes to a lot more and you learn how to love each other more. Who wouldn't want that?"*

*— Kristine (Strever) Chadwick*

that you're going to be faithful forever – how can you make that promise without God's grace?

"To go to the Church, to witness before God and your family, to ask for His assistance and help and to receive the grace you need, it's something that you wouldn't want to miss out on," she adds. "Aren't you curious as to what questions that can help you go deeper into knowing each other on a more intimate level? It opens your eyes to a lot more and you learn how to love each other more. Who wouldn't want that?"

**If you would like more information on getting married in the Catholic Church, at St. John the Baptist, or if you have been married outside of the Church and would like to find out about having your marriage blessed, please contact our parish office, 815-498-2010.**

**Married couples in our parish are also encouraged to dive deeper into their relationships with the Lord and each other through the Beloved video series, available to all parishioners for free on FORMED.org. Simply log in, using the parish code (c40586), click "Study" and follow the link to "Sacramental Preparation," then the "Beloved" link. The Beloved series is designed to strengthen couples in their vocation within the Sacrament of Matrimony.**



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### Mass Times

Saturdays 5:00 PM  
Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 AM  
Weekdays:  
Tuesdays 6:30 PM  
M, W, Th, F 7:00 AM

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesdays 5:00 PM  
Saturdays 4:00 PM  
or by appointment

### Adoration

Tuesdays 5-6 PM and  
First Fridays 7:30 AM-9:00 PM with  
Benediction 9:00 PM

## The Hinterlongs

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peace,” she says. “We’ve had a lot of trials in our life — like everyone does — but I’ve found so much peace just going to adoration and turning to God. Now I look back over how blessed we are. We just keep turning to God, and everything works out.”

Both Carol and Jerry were raised in Catholic families, a blessing that they don’t take for granted. Carol is grateful for the sacrifices her mother and father made to send her and her six siblings through Catholic schools, and she considers it a true gift that she and Jerry each had strong models of faith in their parents.

When the Hinterlongs moved to Somonauk, Carol felt blessed to find a similar foundation of faith among the older women at St. John the Baptist, and she is thankful to have

had their example and support, especially during her first years here as a young mother.

Reflecting on the many blessings the Hinterlongs have received during their time in Somonauk, giving back in service to the parish seems the most natural thing in the world.

“We are God’s hands and feet, and we are in God’s service when we do whatever we do,” Carol says. “I don’t think God needs our help, but serving is a kind of a ‘thank you’ to God for all of His blessings. It just fits — it just feels right.”

These days, Jerry and Carol find that sometimes the small ways of practicing good stewardship are just as rewarding — and just as essential — as the large. Jerry has

been able to help out by dusting the statues in our beautiful sanctuary and by pressure-washing the cemetery statuary. Carol picks up a neighbor once a month so that the two of them can come to the church to help make rosaries.

In the end, every time we act in service to others, blessings are multiplied.

“Some of these things are small things, but as St. Teresa of Calcutta always said, it’s the little things that count,” Carol affirms. “If everybody just picks one thing to do, it helps this beautiful parish family. This is the place where we honor and praise our God, so why wouldn’t we do what we can to support it? The extra gift here is the supportive parishioners that help keep it going!”