

January
MONTHLY DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER



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CALENDAR

January 1 ♦ Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God – January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. This is a Holy day of obligation.

January 20 ♦ Vespers For Life – Held at the Church of St. Anthony, 2405 N 1st St., St. Cloud Rosary at 3:30 p.m. and Vespers at 4:00 p.m. Bishop Donald Kettler will preside. The service includes music, prayer, scripture and reflection for the over 60 million children who have been aborted since 1973. Monetary donations accepted to Mother Mary's Fund to assist crisis pregnancy centers in the Diocese of St. Cloud. http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/vespers-for-life-4/.

January 22 ♦ March For Life – Join the bus for a Prayer Service and the March for Life on January 22nd at the Cathedral of St. Paul. The bus will leave after the 7:15 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony Parish parking lot in St. Cloud, picking up at several locations in the diocese. Check The Office of Marriage and Family's website for the most up-to-date information. A free-will offering will be accepted to help defer the cost of the bus. To reserve a space for the bus ride, register online at http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/march-for-life-3/ or contact the Office of Marriage & Family at 320-252-4721.

January 23 ♦ Diocesan Regional Ministry Gathering – Our second gathering will be at St. Mary Church in Mora from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. There will be three topic areas: "Would YOU come back?" with Aaron Carpenter, "Becoming Who We're Called to Be, at Work: How the Workplace Forms Disciples" with Bailey Ziegler and "Crisis communications: Is your parish ready?" with Joe Towalski. For more information visit: www.stcdio.org/regional-ministry-gatherings.

January 27 ♦ Middle School Youth Rally will be held at Cathedral High School in St. Cloud from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The event includes a keynote by Luke Spehar, speaker and musician, as well as workshops and Mass with Bishop Kettler. Promotional and registration materials were sent to parishes. More information, extra posters and registration materials are available [here](#).

January 27 – February 2 ♦ Catholic Schools Week – The theme is "Catholic Schools: *Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.*" Schools typically observe the annual celebration with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members to highlight the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. For more information and free downloads, click [here](#).

NOTES FROM THE CHANCERY



The Chancery

Office of the Vicar General ♦ Fr. Robert Rolfes

The Chancery and curial offices will be closed December 31 and January 1 and will

NOTES FROM THE DIOCESAN OFFICES



Catholic Education Ministries



Linda Kaiser ♦ (320) 251-0111

Leadership Formation – The Diocesan Education Council is looking at various parish and school ministries and the qualifications needed for folks serving in these positions. The Catholic Church is filled with many people who are ready to serve, but it is important that the church and, in this case, our diocese provide training for people in ministerial roles so they understand the importance of their positions. Remember the saying, “God doesn’t always call the equipped, he equips the called.” As the diocese looks at Area Catholic Communities, the diocese needs to provide training for the various ministerial roles that enhance the faith life in our parish and school communities.

The first step is to have an expectation for people who currently serve as ministerial leaders to attend trainings and in-services provided by the diocese, such as youth ministry/faith formation meetings, principal meetings, pastoral associate meetings, liturgy meetings, etc. Parishes need to build this into parish budgets and work agreements. I urge parishes and schools to look at this as they create their budget for 2019-20. Remember, Catholic Education Ministries has scholarship funds for ongoing theological formation. Scholarship requests are due January 15, May 15 and September 15. Contact CEM at 320-251-0111 for more information.

Castaway – Monday, January 7 is the first Castaway Planning meeting at St. Benedict’s in Avon from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Any parish who wishes to attend either Castaway weekend, March 29-31 or April 5-7, should have already submitted their intention to participate. If not, please contact Kent Schmitz at kschmitz@gw.stcdio.org. Every participating parish is expected to have a parish leader present at the meetings because Castaway is a collaborative effort. If you have questions or concerns, please contact kschmitz@gw.stcdio.org. More information about the retreat weekend can be found [here](#).

Virtual Principals Meeting – The principals from the Catholic schools in our diocese will participate in a GotoMeeting virtual principals’ meeting on Tuesday, January 15 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is great for ‘gathering’ without winter driving. Please share any questions or concerns with your principal before January 15 so they can bring them to the meeting.

Study Group – St. Paul’s in Sauk Centre is graciously hosting our next Study Day on Thursday, Jan. 17 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The focus of this session will be, “*Memory*

and Narrativity." More information about this event, including registration, can be found [here](#).

"In the Ministry of the Word" is a catechist formation program sponsored by Catholic Education Ministries at no charge. Each two-hour session focuses on a different aspect of basic formation that helps catechists become more effective and confident in their ministry. Upon completion of all 16 sessions, the catechist will receive a certificate. For more information or to schedule training in your parish or cluster, contact Kristi Bivens at 320-251-0111 or kristi.bivens@gw.stcdio.org. Visit <http://cem.stcdio.org/faith-formation/in-the-ministry-of-the-word/> for details.



Office of Communications



Joe Towalski ♦ (320) 258-7624

The official publication of the diocese has now transitioned from a newspaper to a magazine format. The first edition of The Central Minnesota Catholic should be arriving in mailboxes during the first week of January.

Please note, we have new social media accounts for the magazine for you to follow:

- Twitter: [@CentralMNCath](#)
- Facebook: The Central Minnesota Catholic ([@CentralMNCatholic](#))
- Instagram: [centrilmncatholic](#)

Other resources for information and inspiration are our Weekly Update e-newsletter (sign up at <http://thecentralminnesotacatholic.org>), Minnesota Catholic Podcasts at <http://minnesotacatholicpodcasts.libsyn.com/> (subscribe on iTunes or Google Play) and our blog "From the Heart" at <http://fromtheheartmn.com/> (subscribe on the site).

For information about advertising rates and deadlines as well as deadlines for the calendar section of The Central Minnesota Catholic, go to <http://thecentralminnesotacatholic.org>, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "The Central Minnesota Catholic magazine advertising/print schedule."



Marriage & Family Office

Chris Codden ♦ (320) 252-4721

Fully Engaged Sponsor Couple Training – SAINT CLOUD: English
- Fully Engaged Sponsor Couple Training will be Saturday, January



26, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Pastoral Center in St. Cloud. Registration for couples (names, address, phone number, parish and email address) should be made at least one week (January 18) before training. Call Janet at 320-252-4721 ext. 320 or email jdusek@gw.stcdio.org to register. The parish will be billed \$110 per couple for the cost of training (which includes Fully Engaged supplies).

Catholics at the Capitol, Tuesday, February 19 – Want to make your Catholic voice heard at the Capitol? Minnesota Catholics will be gathering at the State Capitol to learn about the issues impacting our faith and daily life. You'll have the chance to hear from and meet with legislators, pray with fellow Catholics, and get a window into the legislative process. These are opportunities for you to share your story and make your voice count. Preregistration is required for this event and **space is limited**. Children and students under the age of 22 can register at no cost. A free-will offering will be accepted if you ride one of the buses provided by the Diocese of St. Cloud. Register for the event and for the diocesan bus. For bulletin, pulpit announcements, flyer and parish marketing kit, visit: <http://omf.stcdio.org/from-the-director/clergy-resources/catholics-at-the-capitol-2019/>.

Catholic Men's Conference, Saturday, February 23 – **New location:** Sacred Heart Church in Sauk Rapids. This year's theme is "Men of Integrity, Mentoring Disciples," with an emphasis on evangelizing youth and young adults. Our keynote speaker will be Deacon Ralph Poyo. For more information, visit: http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/catholic-mens-conference-2019/. *We are in need of priests to hear confessions at the Men's Conference.* Confessions will take place from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. As a volunteer, you are invited to attend the entire conference at no cost. Before hearing confessions, lunch will be provided at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. To have an accurate count for the conference and lunch, email Janet directly at jdusek@gw.stcdio.org by February 1.

Safe Haven Sunday, March 2/3 – Safe Haven Sunday weekend is set aside by dioceses and parishes to directly address the harms of pornography in an appropriate way. Within the context of the Mass, dioceses and parishes are able to provide teaching and resources that will support and protect individuals, marriages and families in making all homes a safe haven. It is inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' formal statement "Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography." Information can be found at: <http://omf.stcdio.org/from-the-director/clergy-resources/safe-haven-sunday-march-2-3-2019-resources/>. If you need assistance, please contact Chris at ccodden@gw.stcdio.org.

Honoring Marriage Day, Saturday, May 4 – This event will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Mary in Saint Cloud at 1:30 p.m. for couples celebrating their 5th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60-plus anniversaries in 2019. *Parishes are asked to send names and addresses of parishioners celebrating 5, 25, 40, 50, 60 & 60-plus years of marriage in 2019* to the Office of Marriage & Family, 305 7th Avenue North, Suite 100, Saint Cloud, MN 56303 or via email to Jan at jzylia@gw.stcdio.org or fax 320-258-7658 as soon as possible. Invitations will be sent to the celebrating couples.



Mission Office



Elizabeth Neville ♦ (320) 251-1100

Thank you to all for your gifts, contributions, collections and prayers for another successful year at the Mission Office! We couldn't do it without you!

Please continue to keep our 16 delegates journeying to our partner diocese of Homa Bay Kenya, March 3-19 in your thoughts and prayers.

We still have openings in the calendar for our office to come visit and promote our call as baptized Catholics to live out our lives in mission with your school, staff, parish councils, youth groups and faith formation programs. Please call 320-251-1100 or visit our website at stcdio.org/mission.



Planning Office



Brenda Kresky ♦ (320) 529-4611

If you have not yet turned in Mass counts for October, please do so ASAP. These numbers are used for planning purposes and viewing trends. Recently, we have shared ten-year trends with some parishes. If you are interested in seeing a ten-year Mass count trend, let the planning office know and we will get one to you.

January 30 – Attention all priests – We will be gathering from 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at St. Mary Help of Christians to talk about the 2019 pastoral plan. This will be an opportunity to talk with each other about a new reconfiguration draft, structuring Area Catholic Communities, brainstorming ideas about sharing resources and what information to share and with whom. An agenda will be forthcoming mid-January. Lunch will be provided.



Office of Stewardship & Development

Bishop's Annual Appeal Update – As of December 14, the Bishop's Annual Appeal has raised cash and pledges totaling \$1,178,293 toward this year's goal of \$1,300,000 (91%). The total compares to \$1,147,689 (88%) in cash and pledges at this time in 2017.

The insert in the November 30 edition of the Visitor was a new initiative this year. So far it has raised \$11,215.

Parish kits for the 2019 appeal will be distributed on January 16.

If you have questions, or to learn more about how your parish performed toward its goal for 2018, you can contact Anna Kampa, Office of Stewardship and Development, 320-258-7654 or akampa@gw.stcdio.org.



Social Concerns Office



Rural Life Initiative cohort starting this month – Parishioners and parish leaders still interested in making a positive difference and empowering those in poverty or on the margins are invited to join in the Rural Life Initiative training series. Sessions focus on community-building, Catholic social teachings and the four pillars of parish social ministry, as well as include prayer, meal and fellowship with participants from other parishes. It is available free of charge, and participants also have the option to receive certification in parish social ministry by Bishop Kettler following the training series (in May). The next session is on **Tuesday, January 15 at St. Ann's Parish in Wadena from 5:30-8:30 p.m.** All are welcome! Contact any member of the social concerns staff for more information.

JRLC Day on the Hill – Mark your calendars! February 7 is the annual Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC)'s Day on the Hill. This is a chance to join with our Minnesota neighbors from all faith traditions and across all districts to reflect on issues of peace and justice that are important to us all. The day includes prayer, keynote speaker, updates on key issues in the current legislative session, and the chance to meet with our legislators to speak about what matters to us and encourage their support in areas of potential positive change for our state and communities. For event details or to register, visit: <https://jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill>. **Transportation is also available free of charge.** The bus will depart Catholic Charities in St. Cloud at 7:00 a.m. the day of the event, and return from the capitol around 3:00 p.m. Sign up for the bus on the Catholic Charities website: <https://www.ccstcloud.org/events> or by emailing Kateri: Kateri.Mancini@ccstcloud.org or MiLee: Milee.Peavey@ccstcloud.org.



Tribunal Office

Fr. Virgil Helmin ♦ (320) 251-6557

All divorced persons who want to now marry in the Catholic Church



need an annulment. There are three different annulment processes to determine the validity/invalidity of marriage.

1. **Lack of Canonical Form** – this annulment process is used when a baptized Catholic marries without a dispensation from form in a setting other than a priest and two witnesses.
2. **Previous Bond** – this annulment procedure is used when a person enters a marriage with another who has been previously, presumably validly married and is not divorced.
3. **Formal Process** – this annulment procedure is used when a Catholic is married in a Catholic ceremony or a Protestant is married in a ceremony that is accepted by the state. [With the timely cooperation of the petitioner, this process is normally complete within twelve months.] **DO NOT SET A WEDDING DATE UNTIL THE ANNULMENT PROCESS IS COMPLETE.** It can take up to 9 months to be completed.

Information concerning annulments and printing of these forms are available on the diocesan website: The forms necessary to apply for an annulment are on this website. <http://tribunal.stcdio.org/>. *Please print your forms from the above website.*

If you are uncertain about which annulment process should be petitioned for, you can call our office at 320-251-6557 from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

As of July 1, 2016, the Tribunal of the Diocese of St. Cloud no longer charges a set fee for annulments. If anyone wishes to make a donation to help defray the cost(s) of the work of the Tribunal, it would be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to: Tribunal of the Diocese of St. Cloud or you may go to: www.stcdio.org/pay to make an online donation, under "Tribunal – Annulments". Thank you for your kind donation.



Vocation Office



Fr. Scott Pogatchnik ♦ (320) 251-5001

Totus Tuus – Still looking for some fabulous college students to apply to be a Totus Tuus Team member! Totus Tuus offers them an intense summer of growing in their faith and sharing it with the younger generation. Application deadline is February 1. For more information, visit: <http://vocations.stcdio.org/totus-tuus/leaders/>.

Andrew Dinner – The next Andrew Dinner with Bishop Kettler will be February 1. Do you have young men in your parish grades 8-12 who have potential for a priestly calling? Fr. Doug would love to hear from you! This simple and powerful night consists of evening prayer and dinner with Bishop Kettler while priests share their vocation story. Young men find it very meaningful and special to have a night with the Bishop and priests!

Vianney Visit – Our next "Vianney Visit" to Saint John Vianney Seminary will be

February 14-16. Do you have men seriously thinking about priesthood? Men ages 16 and up are invited to join these impactful days with seminarians to engage in daily Mass, adoration, discernment talks, visits to a classroom, listening to seminarians, open gym, and a night out with the seminarians of St. Cloud! When men actually meet real seminarians, all of the stereotypes break down! It is a game-changer for their ongoing discernment. Please contact Fr. Doug!

Blessed Marmion House – We are accepting young Catholic adult men ages 18-25 who are studying in college or working that are interested in living in community, growing in their prayer life, learning about their faith, and giving Christian witness and hospitality to those they encounter! Would you know of men who might really benefit from this? Fr. Doug would appreciate hearing from you!

The Marmion House is located in the rectory home of St. Augustine parish in St. Cloud. Please check out our Marmion House website at: www.stcdio.org/marmionhouse or catch us on Facebook at “Blessed Marmion House.” Application, contract, contact information are on the website.

Seminarian poster/trifolds – If you need additional posters and trifolds, please contact Julie at jjacobs@gw.stcdio.org or 320-251-5001. Thank you.

Vocation Materials – In need of great vocational materials, check out Vianney Vocations at <https://www.vianneyvocations.com/store/>.



Worship Office



Aaron Carpenter ♦ (320) 255-9068

2019 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion – This liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Mary. All catechumens, as a part of their faith journey to the Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil in 2019, *must* be present at the Rite of Election. The Church has gifted us with this wonderful rite and we are called to celebrate it to its fullest. If for a **serious** pastoral reason, a catechumen is unable to participate in this liturgy you must contact the Office of Worship to discuss the options available. You are asked to register all catechumens and candidates by completing the forms on the Office of Worship webpage: <http://worship.stcdio.org/catechumenate-rcia-process/riteofelectionandcall/> Please register by February 22, 2019.

One with the Body of Christ in Prayer – Please feel free to utilize the intercessions for the diocesan planning process found on the Office of Worship webpage: <http://worship.stcdio.org/liturgical-resources/> New intercessions for Lent and Easter have been posted.

Global and Multicultural Music Presentations at St. John's School of Theology, Andrew Donaldson will be in residency at the SOT, February 21-22. Mr. Donaldson is an internationally-known specialist in global and multicultural liturgical music. He

has a diploma in classical guitar from the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto), has long been active in church work as music director, hymnal editor, and presenter, and has served as worship consultant to the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. For details, visit the Office of Worship webpage:

<http://worship.stcdio.org/>.

Let's Get Together

You are invited to a gathering of musicians and liturgists on **January 15**. This is a rather informal gathering for lunch, prayer and conversation. Thank you to Jody Martinson, Holy Spirit, for hosting this event.

Date: January 15

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10/person to cover the cost of lunch

Location: Holy Spirit Church, 2405 Walden Way, St Cloud, MN 56301

RSVP by January 8

Click [here](#) to RSVP



Health Care Ministry



Annette Jesh ♦ (320) 249-0280

Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Classes are being planned for 2019. 16 new FCNs were trained in 2018.

FCN Online Directory. 54 Faith Community/Parish Nurses in 32 cities of all denominations in the diocese have signed up for our new online Faith Community/Parish Nurse Directory. Your church phone number or the FCN's email will be the contact point. The FCNs/PNs will take calls and evaluate what church and community services they can provide and connect people to. Service providers can look at and refer people to the Faith Community Nurse.

*For those churches without a FCN/PN we continue to encourage them to ask the client if they have a faith community they belong to and then call the church for any outreach or inhouse services they offer. *If you have agencies in your area, please let them know of this way to connect to your faith community resources.

[Find an FCN By City](#)

[Find an FCN By Denomination](#)

Save the date – June 19, 2019, 9-4 p.m. will be the annual Central MN FCN Workshop at the CentraCare Plaza in St. Cloud. Topics will be mental health related. Barbara Skodje-Mack, MS, LMFT, integrated behavioral health, CentraCare Health Plaza, Pediatric Clinic, will be one of the speakers. Her topic is Suicide in Children/Adolescents/Young Adults. Objectives: know the prevalence, facts, and statistics about suicide in the youth population; recognize suicide warning signs in addition to risk and protective factors; gain skills for how to respond to suicide concerns and access crisis resources. *Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for

youth age 10-24 (CDC, 2016). 6+ die by suicide each year in US.

In October, we had a workshop on Courage for Caregivers, based on the work of Henri Nouwen. I highly recommend the book **Hope for Caregivers, A 42 Day Devotional in Company with Henri J. M. Nouwen**. It starts each day with insight from Henri Nouwen's writings, a Scripture passage to meditate on, a reflection, a series of questions to reflect on and ends with a prayer. Henri Nouwen was a caregiver for 10 years and wrote hundreds of letters of support to other caregivers and this is based on his insight and reflection. It is available from Church Health Resources for \$20, less if you order 10 or more.



Regional Ministry Gatherings

The first Regional Ministry Gathering (RMG), held in Fergus Falls this past October was a huge success. This new ministry initiative aims to build relationships between parishes and the diocese and between parishes and other parishes while sharing information on topics that are relevant to people serving in parish leadership. Parish leaders across the diocese were surveyed, and those results were put into consideration as 11 more regional ministry gatherings were planned, leading up to Diocesan Ministry Day (DMD) on September 30, 2019. The theme of these events and DMD19 is "Called to Be... Prepared to Do..." and centers on all of our baptismal call to leadership and discipleship. The next 11 events will be in various locations across the diocese and focus on topics such as youth and young adult engagement, leadership skills, music ministry, elements of a vibrant parish, and many more. Participants will engage with diocesan and other parish leaders to learn about, have discussions about their experiences with, and ask questions about the topic of the workshops attended. Parish leaders (priests, parish staff, parish volunteers, parishioners) are invited to attend as many RMGs as they would like. If your parish wishes to explore a topic further, or bring the topic into a parish or cluster of parishes, please contact any of our presenters, who will be happy to set up a time to come out and work with groups further. Visit www.stcdio.org/regional-ministry-gatherings for the schedule of regional ministry gatherings and more information.

Happy Birthday to our Retired Priests

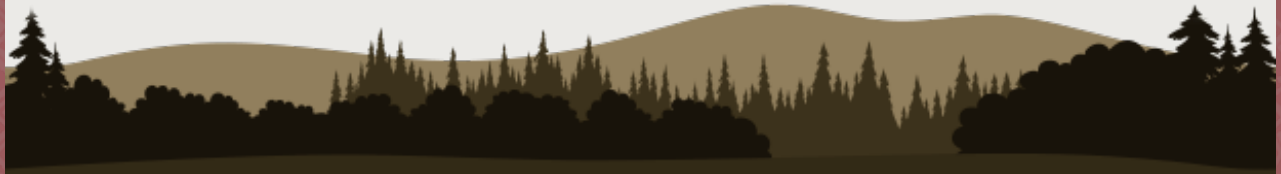
Reverend William Vos will celebrate his 81st birthday on **January 5**.
1664 Payton Court NE
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Telephone: 320-217-2910

Reverend Gerald Mischke will celebrate his 81st birthday on January 8.

28 Eighth Avenue South

St. Cloud, MN 56301

Telephone: 320-232-0794



Diocese of Saint Cloud
320-251-2340
www.stcdio.org

Connect with us

