January 5-11 ♦ USCCB National Migration Week – The U.S.bishops have once again named the first week of January (January 5-11) as National Migration Week. Our churches are invited to join in “Promoting a Church and a World for All” (this year’s Migration Week theme) in a number of ways – story sharing, group studies and discussions, homily reflections, prayer, relationship building and
advocacy. To find out how your parish community can be involved in any or all of these ways of honoring Migration Week this year, check out the National Migration Week toolkit from the office of Migration and Refugee Services of the USCCB. The toolkit can also be found online at: https://justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action/national-migration-week/. If you would like more information or to be connected with immigrant and refugee neighbors right here in our diocese, please contact Kateri Mancini in the Social Concerns office at 320-229-6020 or Kateri.Mancini@ccstcloud.org.

January 5-9 ♦ Annual Priest Retreat – The retreat will begin Sunday evening, January 5 and end with lunch on Thursday, January 9. It will be held at Christ the King House in Buffalo, MN.

January 19 ♦ Vespers For Life, Sunday – 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 at the Vespers service. 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-2020/.

January 22 ♦ March For Life, Wednesday, January 22 – Join us on the bus for a Prayer Service and the March for Life 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 website at omf.stcdio.org 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 or contact the Office of Marriage & Family at 320-252-4721 http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/march-for-life-2020/.

January 26 ♦ Middle School Youth Rally – Join middle schoolers from around the diocese at St. John’s University. Registration materials were mailed out in December and are available at www.stcdio.org/youth.

January 26 -February 1 ♦ Catholic Schools Week

Future Dates

Priest ordinations: June 6, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Mary, St. Cloud
Diaconate ordinations: June 13, 2020 at 10:30 at the Cathedral of St. Mary, St. Cloud
Letters of Suitability – Please email requests for letters of suitability to Kate Steinbach, the Chancery receptionist at ksteinbach@gw.stcdio.org. Make certain to include information about the event or ministry, including the date, the location (parish and diocese) and purpose. Please submit your request in a timely manner, with funerals being an exception.

Priest substitution – Please email weekend substitution requests to Kate Steinbach, the Chancery receptionist at ksteinbach@gw.stcdio.org. Be sure to provide the schedule for weekend coverage, including the location, mass and confession times.

Welcome to David Fremo, the new director of Catholic Education Ministries. His first day will be January 6. He can be reached at 320-251-0111 ext 386 or dfremo@gw.stcdio.org.

Thank you to all of you who so successfully completed the information for the Official Catholic Directory. You will never know how much it is appreciated!! Have a Blessed New Year, Jane.

Virtual Principals' meeting – January 14 – Topics will include the upcoming book read of Ann Garrido’s book, “Redeeming Administration”.

Castaway Weekend – March 27-29 – Planning will be Monday, January 6 with a Castaway meeting at 9:00 a.m. at Holy Spirit Parish in St. Cloud.

Study Day: January 16 at 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. is a Study Day at St. Francis Xavier
Parish in Sartell. We will be concluding our study of Pope Francis’s exhortation, “Christ Is Alive.”

**Resources:** There have been some requests for information on “Active Shooter on Church Premises”. Catholic Mutual has a great resource on the CMGconnect platform. If you need help accessing it, contact Linda Kaiser at lkaiser@gw.stcdio.org. There was a presentation for parish nurses that was well received. The presenter was Rachel Mockros, Coordinator Emergency Preparedness. Her contact information is rachel.mockros@centracare.com or call 320-492-0890.

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**Communications & Development Offices**

**Joe Towalski ★ (320) 258-7624**

The Diocese of St. Cloud now has its own app. You can access it by downloading the “myParish” app in the App Store (iPhones) or on Google Play (Androids). Once you have myParish app downloaded, click on “find a parish” and then search for “Diocese of St. Cloud.”

Buttons on the app include:

- Diocese info: links to the diocesan website, Facebook page, find a parish, Catholic schools and safe environment info
- Magazine: link to The Central Minnesota Catholic magazine
- Podcast: link to the diocese’s Minnesota Catholic Podcasts page
- Calendar: link to online Calendar section of the magazine
- Espanol: link to Spanish articles in magazine
- Readings: Mass readings of the day
- Inspire Daily: Spiritual reflection of the day
- TV Mass: Link to Diocesan TV Mass
- Discover Mass: Find Mass times at area parishes
- Prayers: List of classic Catholic prayers with the option to set reminders or submit prayer requests
- Learn the Mass: Link to the diocesan video series, “Engaging the Mystery: Catechesis on the Mass”
- Giving: Link to information and giving opportunities for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal
- Press Releases: Official statements from the diocese and bishop

Please encourage others to download and use the app. We will promote it more widely and vigorously in the lead up to the Lenten season.

The office also continues to work with myParish App to help ACCs/parishes develop customized apps of their own that can be used in conjunction with the Evangelus messaging software. If you have questions or need more information, please contact me anytime at jtowalski@gw.stcdio.org or 320-258-7624.

**Bishop’s Annual Appeal update** – As of December 16, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal has raised cash and pledges totaling $1,300,544 toward this year’s goal of $1,300,000 (100.04%). This is through generous gifts from 7,751 donors.
Parish kits for the **2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal Launch** will be distributed the week of January 20. They will include instructions, posters, response envelopes, bulletin inserts and CD/DVDs of Bishop Kettler's message. Please review the instructions for parish performance in 2019, a timeline and other helpful information. Thank you to everyone for turning in your parish surveys. Announcement Weekend is February 15 – 16, and Commitment Weekend is February 22 – 23.

Patrick Flynn ♦ (320) 252-4721

**Retrouvaille, January 24** – As a peer ministry of couples helping other couples who are living in hurting marriages, the Retrouvaille program focuses on teaching couples communications skills that can help them work on their differences. For more information visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

**Sponsor Couple Training in English** will be **Saturday, January 25**, from 9 a.m. to 4 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 17) before training. Call Janet at 320-258-7616 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).

**Catholic Men’s Conference, Saturday, February 22** – This year the Catholic Men’s Conference will be held at St. John’s University. The theme is “The Real Presence: Bringing Christ to the World.” Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Havercamp. Michael is the national liaison between the Catholic Church and Young Life. He has a phenomenal conversion story about becoming Catholic. [http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/2020-catholic-mens-conference/](http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/2020-catholic-mens-conference/)

We are in need of priests to hear confessions at the Men's Conference. Confessions will take place from 12:15 to 1:45 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 7/8** – The weekend of March 7/8 is dedicated to bringing about awareness of the negative impacts of pornography on individuals, marriages, families and society. 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, 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*, where they explain, “The use of pornography by anyone in the home deprives the home of its role as a safe haven and has negative effects throughout a family’s life and across generations.” Click [here](http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/2020-catholic-mens-conference/) for more information as well as parish resources.
Sponsor Couple Training for Spanish speakers will be held Saturday, March 21 in St. Cloud at the Pastoral Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Couples should register at least two weeks before the course (March 6) and include the $110 registration fee per couple. For more information contact Janet at jdusek@gw.stcdio.org or 320-258-7616

2nd Marriage Course, Saturday, March 28 – Held in St. Cloud at the Pastoral Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Second Marriage Preparation Course is for couples preparing to marry after the death of a spouse or an annulment. Marriage preparation must be completed at least three months before the date of the wedding celebration. It is recommended you complete the course well in advance (six months or more). Many couples take the course one year before their wedding. For more information, go to http://omf.stcdio.org/marriageprep/

Honoring Marriage Day, Saturday, May 2 – 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 2020. Parishes are asked to send names and addresses of parishioners celebrating 5, 25, 40, 50, 60 & 60 plus years of marriage in 2020 to the Office of Marriage & Family, 305 7th Avenue North, Suite 100, Saint Cloud, MN 56303 or via email to Jan at jzylla@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

2020 Missionary Appeals are being finalized and scheduled for your parish(ies) at the Mission Office January board meeting. Please watch your mail for the missionary group/diocese/order that may be coming to your community(ies).

Mission ed opportunities are still available on our calendar for our office to come to your parish, school, youth group, faith formation program. We love to connect with you and bring encouragement to you on living out our missionary call! Contact Sydney at 320-251-1100 or sydneymission@cloudnet.com.

Planning Office

Brenda Kresky ♦ (320) 529-4611

The deadline for submitting the Area Catholic Community plans is December 31, 2019. Contact the planning office if you need help with the plan. During the months of January and February, different groups of people will be looking at the plans. These groups include
the bishop, senior staff and curia, the planning director, diocesan planning sub-committee and the Diocesan Planning Council. Each of these groups are invited to provide feedback for the ACC plan to strengthen it or encourage a direction to take. Adjustments to the plan, if there are any, are to be made quickly and submitted back to the Planning Office.

**Social Concerns Office**

Kateri Mancini ♦ (320) 229-6020

**Save the Date: Day at the Capitol** – Save the date now for the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC)’s Day on the Hill on Wednesday, April 1. The Catholic Bishops and Minnesota Catholic Conference are a part of the JRLC, and have helped set an advocacy agenda for our April 1 multi-faith, state-wide gathering of prayer and meetings with elected officials at the State Capitol. Keynote speaker will be Archbishop Hebda. Watch for more information coming soon, including schedule and how to sign up for a free bus from the diocese to the event. But be sure to mark your calendars now!

**Tribunal Office**

Fr. Virgil Helmin ♦ (320) 251-6557

**ANNULMENT PROCEDURE**

The Tribunal of the Diocese of St. Cloud has established a policy that the annulment process will not be started until six months after issuance of the final divorce decree.

*No wedding date must be set until an affirmative decision has been rendered.*

The annulment process requires the following:

A) The petitioner contacts his/her parish priest or a Tribunal staff member in order to petition and begin the annulment procedure.

1. The petitioner needs to present the following documents at the time of the application:

   a) Baptismal certificate and/or Profession of Faith of self and of former spouse.
   b) Certificate of marriage and/or Validation and/or Dispensation
   c) Divorce decree (Final Judgment).
   d) Current address of former spouse.
2. The petitioner has a recorded preliminary interview (conducted by a parish priest, deacon, parish minister or a Tribunal Staff Member) -OR- writes a narrative that covers in depth the following factual information about the petitioner and his/her former spouse:

a) Description of childhood and home life of self and former spouse. Alcoholism or chemical addiction in family background?
b) Description of dating process and maturity of self and former spouse.
c) Description of how the decision to marry was reached.
d) Description of ability to communicate and resolve conflicts.
e) Description of problems that developed in the marriage and when they began.
f) Description of attempted solutions to the problems.
g) Description of performance of roles of husband/wife, father/mother.
h) Description of how the decision to divorce was reached.

B) When there are ground(s) for a declaration of nullity, the Tribunal will contact both, the petitioner and the respondent.

C) Prior to the formal hearing, the petitioner must complete and return the witness list. Witnesses include 2-3 adult people who knew them prior to and during their marriage and can give us information about the marriage. At the time of the formal hearing, the petitioner must bring these witnesses in with them. A witness can be a brother, sister, parent, friend, co-worker, neighbor or a member of the wedding party. Witnesses should not all be relatives. We do not interview children of the marriage. At the formal hearing the petitioner and the witnesses will be questioned privately.

D) If the petition comes to formal hearing the following will occur:

1. All testimony is gathered and sent to the Court Members.
2. The defender of the bond presents its brief to the Judge.
3. Judge(s) renders a decision. Petitioner and respondent are notified.
4. Both the petitioner and the respondent have the right to appeal the decision of the Court of First Instance. Also, both are notified of the decision and given 15 working days to review that decision and/or to appeal the decision.
5. If the decision is not appealed by either person, the defender of the bond signs off on the waiver. Once that is returned to the Tribunal office the process is complete and the petitioner and the respondent are notified along with the parish of baptism and parish of marriage.
6. A vetitum (prohibition) may be attached to the decision, requiring that either or both spouses must attend professional counseling with a counselor approved by the Tribunal before being allowed to marry in the Catholic Church.

The average length for the Tribunal to process a petition is 12 months. If the process is appealed by either parties, the process may take longer than 18 months. No wedding date can be set until an affirmative decision has been rendered. The Court could require that the person participate in an evaluation or counseling with their intended spouse. This requirement is made so that the future marriage may be happy and fulfilling.

As of July 1, 2016, the Tribunal of the Diocese of St. Cloud no longer charges a set fee for annulments. If you wish 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

**Vocation office has moved** – The office is now located in the Pastoral Center, 305 North 7th Avenue, St. Cloud 56303. The phone number and email is the same.

**Totus Tuus leaders needed** – We need 12 fabulous college students who are ripe for taking their faith to the next level. Please invite 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. There's more information at [http://vocations.stcdio.org/totus-tuus/leaders/](http://vocations.stcdio.org/totus-tuus/leaders/).

**Andrew Dinner** – Andrew Dinner with Bishop Kettler will be February 7. Do you have young men grades 8-12 in your parish 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! If you have young men wanting to attend this Andrew Dinner, please contact the Vocation Office at 320-251-5001. Thank you!

**Seminary Visits** – 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 at the Vocation Office at 320-251-5001.

- Immaculate Heart of Mary Retreat Weekend – Winona – Retreat weekends are March 14-16 and 21-23.

**2020 Vocation Events:**
- Camp: June 16 – 18 – Avon
- Camp: June 22 – 24 – Belle Prairie
- Paschal Challenge: August 8 – Sauk Centre

Order of Baptism of Children
The Order of Baptism of Children will soon be available from several publishers.
The release date is slated for January 6, 2020. No publisher may ship before this time.
- The first use date is February 2, the Presentation of the Lord.
- The mandatory use date is Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

2020 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion – This liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, March 1 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 2020, 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 14.

Holy Oils – This year we will be adjusting our standard Holy Oil amounts for each parish. As a standard “order” each parish will be receiving 4 oz. of each of the Oil of the Sick, Oil of the Catechumens and Sacred Chrism. If your parish wants to increase the amount received, your request must be submitted to the Office of Worship by February 7. Please make your request through this online form.

All Holy Oils will be bottled and packaged and ready for pick up following the Chrism Mass. Please DO NOT bring your own vessels. If you have any questions, please contact Aaron at aaron.carpenter@gw.stcdio.org or 320-255-9068.

Important Dates
- Rite of Election – March 1, 2020
- Chrism Mass – April 2, 2020
- Confirmation of Adults – May 30, 2020
- Ordination of Priests – June 6, 2020
- Ordination of Deacons – June 13, 2020

Health Care Ministry

NEW 2020 Dates for the Foundation Classes are: May 7-8, 14-15; November 12-13, 19-20. A waiting list for notification is open; contact us at 320-249-0280. This 38-hour class is required for currently licensed Registered Nurses who want to add the specialty of Faith Community Nursing and minister in churches. Scholarships are available.
The next Faith Community Nurse Ministry Committee meeting is Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.. Any Registered Nurse, Pastor or staff member is welcome to come to our meetings to learn more and ask questions. Other meeting dates are on our website.

SAVE THE DATE: The White Mass for Health Care Professionals has been set for Sunday, November 8, 10:30 a.m., 2020 at Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Benedict’s Monastery.

- Find an FCN By City
- Find an FCN By Denomination

Catholic Charities ♦ (320) 650-1550

January 25 – Mardi Gras Celebration—Purchase Your Tickets Today! – Join us for our 2020 Mardi Gras Celebration at the River’s Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. Show your support for Catholic Charities’ and our Central Minnesota community while enjoying great food, friends, and entertainment! This year’s celebration includes a silent auction, wine pull, music by the Vista Jazz Band and the Fabulous Armadillos, and more. We hope to see you there! For more information and to purchase tickets, visit ccstcloud.org/mardi-gras.

January Leadership Day Follow-up

In an effort to provide discussion materials based on Doug Tooke's presentation in October and to keep the conversation going parishes as we look forward with Ann
Garrido in April, we are providing discussion materials monthly for parish staffs, parish councils, leadership teams and ministry groups.

Watch the video, Empathy (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evwgu369Jw), with other staff members, team members, councils, boards, etc. Following the video, reflect on these questions and share your insights with one another.

1. Share a time when you were in the dark hole. Did someone come to your aid? How did they respond and how did it make you feel?
2. Are you willing to get into the dark hole with someone? What tools do you need to express empathy?
3. Have there been times when you would rather answer the need with "at least"? Were you able to change your approach toward the vulnerability of entering into relationship with that person?

Happy Birthday to our Retired Priests

Reverend William Vos will celebrate his 82nd birthday on January 5.
1664 Payton Court NE
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Telephone: 320-217-2910

Reverend Gerald Mischke will celebrate his 82nd 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