

December 2019
MONTHLY DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER



LINKS

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[2020 Special Collections \(PDF\)](#) **UPDATED**

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CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

December 6 ♦ Advent and Christmas Open House – Come and join us for

some tasty treats; beautiful and unique fair trade food, coffee, chocolate and craft items; and 10% off everything from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the St. Cloud Mission Office.

December 9 ♦ Immaculate Conception – The Office of Worship has received several inquiries about the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. In the new Liturgical Year, the feast is transferred to Monday, December 9 and is non-obligatory. The Sundays of Advent have a higher ranking on the Liturgical Calendar, therefore, this feast is moved. Masses celebrated on December 9 should use the orations as prescribed for Immaculate Conception. Masses celebrated on December 7/8 should be for the Second Sunday of Advent.

December 12 ♦ Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Thursday, December 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, unborn children, and the New Evangelization.

December 25 ♦ Merry Christmas – See the Office of the Vicar General for the Curial offices' schedule.

December 30 ♦ Christmas Open House for Clergy – The Christmas Open House for priests, deacons/wives, seminarians, will be at St. Mary Help of Christians Parish in St. Augusta on Monday, December 30 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Invitations will be forthcoming.

January 1 ♦ Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God – January 1 is the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Chancery and all curial offices will be closed January 1 and will reopen on January 2.

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



The Chancery

Office of the Vicar General ♦ Fr. Robert Rolfes ♦ (320) 251-2340

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



All diocesan offices will be closed for the following holidays as follows:

- Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29.
- Christmas: Beginning at noon on December 23 until Monday, December 30 at 8:30 a.m.
- New Year's Day: Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

NOTES FROM THE DIOCESAN OFFICES



Catholic Education Ministries



Linda Kaiser ♦ (320) 251-0111

Catholic Schools Week is January 26- February 1. The theme is "Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed." Catholic Schools are a gift to the Diocese of Saint Cloud and to our nation. We especially thank all those who dedicate their lives to work in Catholic Schools.

Faith Formation Advent resources: Here are a few resources for Advent that you may find useful.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcravEG2ATE>
- <https://bustedhalo.com/video/watch-advent-two-minutes>
- <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/advent-reflections>

Lay Leadership Formation:

Emmaus Institute Update – We have completed the first fall term of the Emmaus Institute and have received some great feedback from students on how things are going. They answered the question, "What are the strengths of the Emmaus Institute?"

- "Challenges us to 'up our game,' so to speak, in various ways."
- "Affordable!"
- "I like the layout thus far. The different classes have fed off of one another well."
- "Hours/time being on the weekend make this doable for a busy workload and family life."
- "Support from the Bishop and the diocese."
- "Provision of adequate material and facilities for learning."
- "That the people who are giving the course [instructors] are very well trained."
- "That the teachers empathize with the needs of 'adult' students..."
- "Excellent organization, good communication, patience."
- "Strengthen and train servers [volunteers] committed to the community."

Thank you to all those who are supporting the Emmaus Institute. Please keep the students, faculty, and staff of the Emmaus Institute in your prayers as we continue forth on our journey. If you have any questions or are interested in starting at the Emmaus Institute in fall 2020, please contact Kristi Bivens at

kbivens@gw.stcdio.org or 320-251-0111.



Communications & Development Office



Joe Towalski ♦ (320) 258-7624

The Diocese of St. Cloud has entered into an agreement with Diocesan (a company that assists parishes with communications resources) to provide a software platform called **Evangelus** and develop a **customized app** for all Area Catholic Communities — for the cost of \$60 per month per ACC.

Evangelus would allow ACCs to easily reach parishioners through email, text, app, social media and websites. The app can be designed to match the needs of your specific community, providing your parishioners and community with news, messages, homilies, reminders about events, calendars, Mass times, readings, videos, a connection to all online giving solutions, and many other faith-building resources.

Pastors and ACC planning council chairpersons were recently invited to participate in a webinar about the app and Evangelus to explain more about how they work. You can view the recorded webinar here: <https://diocesan.com/evangelus/stcloud>. The combined use of Evangelus and the app can be valuable tools for helping to facilitate communications among parishes and parishioners as your ACC forms.

If you have questions, please contact communications director Joe Towalski at jtowalski@gw.stcdio.org, or 320-258-7624.

Bishop's Annual Appeal update – As of November 13, the Bishop's Annual Appeal has raised cash and pledges totaling \$1,260,615 toward this year's goal of \$1,300,000 (97%). This is made possible through the donations of 7,488 people throughout the 16 counties of our diocese.

If you would like an update on your parish's progress toward your Appeal goal, you can contact Anna Kampa at 320-258-7654 or akampa@gw.stcdio.org.



Continuing Education for Clergy



Fr. Joe Herzing ♦ (320) 251-3260

Annual Priest Retreat – Please mark your calendars for the upcoming 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.



Human Resources Office



Bailey Ziegler ♦ (320) 258-7655

There are new Minnesota and Federal laws in effect for your parish and/or school to follow. Please read over this information and be sure that your parish and/or school are in compliance. If you have questions, please contact Bailey Ziegler at 320-258-7655.

202 HR Information and New Laws

Information includes:

- Wage Theft Notification (must be included in all employee personnel files)
- Federal and State mandatory postings
- 2020 minimum wage (be in compliance in payroll as well as your postings)
- 2020 403b contribution limits

Link: <http://humanresources.stcdio.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2019/11/Human-Resources-Information-2020-laws.pdf>



Marriage & Family Office



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.

Fully Engaged Sponsor Couple Training, Saturday, January 25

SAINT CLOUD: English - Fully Engaged Sponsor Couple Training 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).

Sunday, January 19 – Vespers for Life will be held at the Church of St. Anthony, 2405 N 1st St, St. Cloud. The event will include the 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. Visit: http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/vespers-for-life-2020/.

March for Life, Wednesday, January 22 – Join us on the bus for a prayer service and the March for Life on January 22 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. We'll be back at St. Anthony's at 4:00 p.m. Check our 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 or contact the Office of Marriage & Family at 320-252-4721 Visit: http://omf.stcdio.org/th_event/march-for-life-2020/.

Catholic Men's Conference – This event will be held on **Saturday, February 22** at St. John's University from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This year's theme is "The Real Presence: Bringing Christ to the World." Our keynote speaker will be Michael Havercamp, D.Min. Michael is the national liaison between the Catholic Church and Young Life. He has a phenomenal conversion story and is a skilled Catholic evangelist. For more information, visit: 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 p.m. 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 (Safe Haven Sunday weekend) is dedicated to bringing awareness of pornography's negative effects on individuals, marriages, families, and society. 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 from pornography. It is inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' formal statement *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*, as 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." Resources can be found at the [CovenantEyes](#) website.

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 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

Please send all your collections, Mass intentions and individual missionary contributions to the Mission Office **before December 16**. We will be working on our year ends for distribution to our missionaries and

mission connections for 2019. Thank you!!



Social Concerns Office



Kateri Mancini ♦ (320) 229-6020

Rural Life Leadership Initiative – It's not too late to get your parish involved in the Rural Life Leadership Initiative for 2020! Bishop Kettler has expressed his desire that every Area Catholic Community have a parish social ministry or social concerns team. If you do not yet have one, or if you would like to strengthen your parish's existing ministry, we can help! We offer a series of formation sessions free of charge for parishes of the diocese, which includes the option for participants to be certified in Parish Social Ministry. The first session will be held in January. Any pastors, parish staff or parishioners interested in learning more, or aware of someone with a heart for service and social ministry who would be a good fit, should contact the social concerns staff *as soon as possible*.

USCCB National Migration Week, January 5-11 – The United States bishops have once again named the first week of January (January 5-11, 2020) as National Migration Week. It is important for us as Catholics to recognize the role that migration plays in our faith tradition and salvation history – from the Israelites flight out of Egypt, to the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, to the founding of Catholic Schools and services to help the marginalized immigrant Catholics of the U.S. 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 us](#) at social concerns.

Catholic Century Farm Awards – We are now taking applications for the diocese's second annual Catholic Century Farm Awards. If your family or others in your parish have been working the same land for 100 years or more, please visit the following link for requirements and application form: https://ccstcloud.formstack.com/forms/catholic_century_farm_award Recipients will be honored at the annual Rural Life Celebration in August.



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

Great Totus Tuus News– We've had an awesome response with additional locations (three confirmed, two considering) holding Totus Tuus this summer. We will need 12 fabulous college students who are ripe for taking their faith to the next level. How about inviting them 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/>.

Archbishop's Discernment Retreat for Priestly Vocations – December 28 – 30 at Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo. Retreat includes: conferences by Archbishop Hebda, rosary, liturgy of the hours, Mass, reflection time, confession, meet seminarians and overview of seminary formation. For more information, visit www.1000vocations.org/all-events.

Andrew Dinner – The next Andrew Dinner with Bishop Kettler will be February 7. Do you have young men 8-12 grades 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!

Vianney Visit – Our next “Vianney Visit” to Saint John Vianney Seminary will be February 13-15, 2020. 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.

2020 Vocations Events:

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

Registration open at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020EventRegistration>.

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

Vocation Materials – Check out great vocational materials at Vianney Vocations at <https://www.vianneyvocations.com/store/>.



Worship Office



Aaron Carpenter ♦ (320) 255-9068

TV Mass Presiders and Musicians – We are in need of musicians and presiders for the two tapings on December 17. If you can help, please sign-up [here](#) or contact the Office of Worship.

Diocesan Liturgical Calendar Overview – You can access a document containing an overview of the Diocesan Liturgical Calendar. Click [here](#).

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

Additional Extraordinary Ministers needed on Sundays – The Saint Cloud Hospital Spiritual Care Department is accepting applications for individuals to be

part of our volunteer team. Additional Extraordinary Ministers are needed on Sundays to bring Holy Communion to Catholic patients during their hospital stay. We invite you to prayerfully consider if you are being called to this ministry. Minimum availability is one Sunday per month and the time commitment that day varies due to patient census. For questions or to learn more about this ministry, please contact Anita Fischer, Chaplain, at 320-251-2700 ext. 54621.



Health Care Ministry



Annette Jesh ♦ (320) 249-0280

Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Classes for 2020.

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 from a variety of organizations, such as the Central MN Faith Community Nurse Committee, Diocese of St. Cloud, Catholic Education Ministries, MN Methodist Parish Nurse Assoc, Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Assoc., ELIM Faith Community Nursing of MN, St. Cloud Hospital Alumni Assoc., churches and work-related support.

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. Call 320-249-0280 for more information. **More information on Faith Community Nursing can be found on our website.* <https://www.centracare.com/services/spiritual-care/faith-community-nursing/education-events-news/>

You can use the CentraCare Find A FCN Online to see the list of 54 FCNs by denomination in 35 cities and connect to them and their pastors about the ministry.

January 8 – Faith Community Nurse Ministry Committee meeting held at CentraCare Plaza from 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. **A calendar of meeting dates and times can be seen on our website.*

**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 in-house 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](#)



Catholic Charities

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.


Leadership Day Follow-up

D I O C E S E O F S A I N T C L O U D

LEADERSHIP DAY
for all parish staffs and parish leadership

EUCCHARIST:
*One in Mission
and Ministry*
(Part 1)

with
DOUG
TOOKE



Watch the video, 'The Bridge' (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_X_AfRk9F9w), with other staff members, team members, councils, boards, etc. Following the video reflect on these questions and share your insights with one another.

1. When you are part of a team or come to a meeting thinking you know the outcome, how does this hinder productivity?
2. Christ is the greatest example of sacrifice. How, in working with others, does sacrifice help with collaboration or prevent good collaboration? Share about each character in the video. Share about your experience being one of the characters? How did that impact the outcome of the team's work?

Happy Birthday to our Retired Priests

Reverend Nicholas Zimmer will celebrate his 88th birthday on December 9.

Elmhurst Commons Apt 212

400 Third Street SW
Braham, MN 55006
Telephone (320) 396-2293

Reverend Paul Folsom will celebrate his **80th** birthday **December 12.**

39880 Crane Lake Drive
Battle Lake, MN 56515
Telephone (218) 864-5916
E-mail: pauld.folsom@gmail.com

Reverend Andrew Marthaler will celebrate his **86th** birthday **December 29.**

750 Railroad Avenue Apt 132
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
Telephone (218) 639-1356
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Connect with us

