



Saints By The Lake



Area Catholic Community



Who Are We?

—
Sacred Heart Church, Glenwood

St. Bartholomew Church, Villard

St. John Nepomuk Church, Rural Lowry,

Lake Reno



What We Have In Common

- We are a lakes area and we draw summer visitors as well as year round residents.
- There are several resorts and RV camps in all areas.
- Our communities employment come from farming and large and light manufacturing companies.

Where we draw Mass goers from

- We draw parishioners and visitors from several area towns: Glenwood, Starbuck, Lowry, Villard, Westport, Grove Lake, Lake Mary, Lake Reno, Brooten, Cyrus and Padua.
- The nearest Catholic churches: To the South: Benson 32 miles and Willmar 48 miles (New Ulm), To the North: Alexandria 17 miles and Osakis 25 miles. To the West: Morris 30 miles, Kensington 20 miles. To the East: Belgrade 24 miles, Sauk Centre 25 miles.

Accomplishments and Building Bridges

- We have a joint Faith Formation Program that goes back several years. Since 2016 we have had catechists from all three of our parishes, we also have 160 students who participate in grades 1-10 and 16 catechists.

Our First Communions are celebrated at all 3 churches. Our Confirmation is celebrated at Sacred Heart.

- All three parishes support one another's special events,; KC activities, Meals/Bazaars and Sunday coffee hours.

Challenges and Struggles

- Communication between parishes.
- Knowing each other more in depth, because of new faces in each church and so many visitors.
- Getting the younger generation to become active members in each of the parishes.
- The smaller parishes concerned about their parish closing.
- Parent involvement for Religious Ed/Mass participation.

How we have addressed our Challenges/Struggles

- We have a combined bulletin
- Combined Facebook page and Instagram
- Combined Webpage (in progress)
- Emails and phone texts to communicate/ Religious Ed emails to parents on a regular basis.
- We plan to incorporate laity from all 3 parishes to help with Eucharistic minister, lectors, ushers, servers at parishes, regardless of the parish they belong to.

How we are listening to Parishioners Concerns

- Each parish has a Parish Life Committee that focuses on areas of Faith Formation, Liturgy, Finance, Maintenance and Parish Life.
- Feedback is collected through the use of surveys.
- We have groups to help us communicate: Mission, Christian Mothers, Knights of Columbus, Befrienders, Communion ministers and visitors and liturgical ministers.

What ways is our ACC nourishing Eucharistic Spirituality?

- We have 2 Saturday Mass times and 2 Sunday Mass times available, as well as weekday Masses available at each parish. Fr. Joe has been instrumental in doing his best to accommodate all of the parishes with Mass times.
- Times for Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament at each parish
- Small group studies, Women's book study, Moms of Faith, Retreats, free literature (monthly devotionals), and access to videos through Formed series.
- Prayer Chain

How are we investing in the call and formation of leaders now and in the future?

- Members are encouraged and made aware of training opportunities provided by the diocese, Education ministries and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
- In house training for Eucharistic Ministers, Befrienders and home visitors, catechists and Liturgical ministers.
- Bulletin announcements and homilies that promote a call to ministry of the laity.
- Fees paid by parishes for those participating in diocesan sponsored workshops, conferences.
- Parishes help with Youth activity fees/trips.

Three priorities of our ACC to build a cohesive and unified mission

1. Continue to build and improve levels of communication.
1. Shared Faith Formation and Sacramental prep programs
1. Greater cooperation between women and men's groups:
KC/meet together, (already do) Christian mothers groups to join together for meetings.