



July / August 2021

# YOU ARE CHOSEN

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“In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us...” (1Jn.4:10) “It was not you who chose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain...” (John 15:16)

Every year we spend time in our planning meeting, for the year, to pick a theme that speaks to the staff. This year our new theme is: “We are chosen.” The two quotes that began this article are from the 6th Sunday of Easter. They struck me, and still do, about the great sense of humility in our relationship with God and Jesus. I think it reminds us that we are not in charge. It also speaks about being chosen, being called by Jesus to be his disciples. With that call comes a sense of God’s love guiding us on our journey. God is the one who has initiated the relationship and has loved us first, unconditionally. The best we can do is appreciate the gift and share it with others.

Jesus calls us to bear fruit. He has given us the gifts we need to be successful in bearing good fruit. Jesus’ calling gives us a purpose in our life. We are called to humbly respond to this call and live out our life in his light. So, we are chosen to live in the light of Christ. Each of us has a vocation to live out and bring the gospel message into the world. No one’s gifts are more or less important than the next person’s. We are all part of the Body of Christ, chosen to play a role in that body.

We are chosen. Chosen to do what, one might ask. How do we know we have been chosen? Well, I think it began with our Baptisms. As we came to the waters of baptism we were washed into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. By the saving waters, we belong to Jesus. As we were called to the waters, we began a sacramental journey to grow closer to God. We were confirmed in the Spirit at Confirmation and we are all Eucharistic people with the one Bread and one Cup. Being immersed in the sacramental life of the Church allows us to clearly see our calling from the Lord. It was God

who has called us unto himself. We belong to him and he cares deeply for us.

Once we accept that we are chosen we must put into action the gifts that have been placed in our hands. No matter how large or small the gifts happen to be, they are for the good of the Church. The church can only grow if we are willing to put our time, talent, and gifts to good use. Whether we turn and use our gifts for ministries in the liturgy, minister to the sick, volunteer for a project at the church, work for the minister, create meals for those in need, the list is endless for us to respond to being chosen.

You might be reading this and saying, “I’m not sure I am called.” Well, I am here to tell you no one can escape being chosen by God. You may try telling yourself that God does not want or need you. But the truth is, he does want you and loves you deeply. There is no use fighting it. We are all chosen by God. God has a plan for each of us in the larger scheme of things. We belong to God and God wants us to be fruitful in our lives.

So, spend some time this upcoming year deciding how you are chosen. We are chosen to build up our parish church, to reflect how we are Christ to others. We are coming back to church and it is time to renew our commitment to the Lord. We are all in this together and that is truly exciting. Do not hold back, let us all respond to God’s call. I am glad to be chosen to be part of this awesome family of St. John. Come celebrate together the gifts we have among us. Have a great summer!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Don West".

FR. DON WEST  
PASTOR

## UPCOMING DATES ON THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 6: THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 15: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Print your own Liturgical Calendar here: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/2021cal.pdf>

# SHARING OUR FAITH WITH OUR CHILDREN

Our parish theme for at least the next year is, “we are chosen.” There is so much joy and hope in those three words as we slowly recover and reconnect from the pandemic-related health and safety protocols of the past year or so. When I reflect on the word “chosen,” I was immediately grateful that God chose me to be a mother, to be part of a family. I was also very grateful to be in good health and at peace in my life. Not that my life is perfect; but I certainly have much to appreciate. And being “chosen” is my cue to be present to those in my life. When I am fully present to others, it is as though they are in crystal clear focus to me, and I am giving the fullness of myself in the moment.

In 1989 I became a parent. The notion of parenting was daunting at the time, but I fully embraced motherhood as well as the ability to love a new little life so much. I admit in hindsight that most of my parenting knowledge was formed on a “learn as I go” basis, despite reading and researching current parenting tips. A few years later our daughter joined an early childhood religious education program and I agreed to be an assistant catechist. (I say “agreed” because I was hesitant, terrified that I would fail the children.) What I discovered was that young children have a remarkable desire to talk about Tonka trucks and butterflies as well as an equally remarkable willingness to listen, imagine, and respond. As I became more comfortable with the idea of sharing faith I continued to draw upon the children’s innate joy and wonderment. Through the years I adapted to the life stages of my children and the children with whom I was sharing faith; it did not take long for me to draw many parallels between parenting and catechizing. Both take a humble heart willing to be open to new experiences and the working of the Holy Spirit.

Fast forward to the present day: after more than a year of distancing and virtual connections in our lives, many among us are beginning to feel a sense of longing to rebuild our communities. Our children have taught us adults the virtue of patience as they accepted the needed health protocols that turned their lives nearly upside down; now it is our turn to rejoin and give back to our children. Much like parents will support and nurture their children through happy and sad moments, catechists are called to open their hearts to accompany our young people back into a sense of belonging to their parish community. It is time for us to dust ourselves off and boldly smile, to listen and respond with the same presence and vitality that Jesus brought to us. We are all chosen to use the gift of grace that compels us to reconnect and share our stories.

I learned through many years as a catechist that learning is never finished; the children and peers with whom we interact help us to broaden our journey through life. My children are adults now, they have moved on to their own journeys of living and sharing with others. I feel confident that when we accompany our children, they in turn walk with us. Full competence with parenting and catechizing is not a requirement for sharing our stories with young people; it is more a willingness to listen and respond with Christ at the center of our focus. I encourage any adult who is willing to turn your own worthy and valuable life into a witness for our children, to consider becoming a catechist with St. John’s Parish School of Religion. The connections are priceless, the mutual learning is immeasurable, and the shared joy must be felt and experienced to become a part of who we are as the chosen people of God.



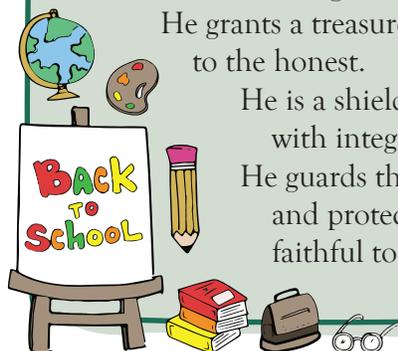
*Mary Montour*

MARY MONTOUR  
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

## Proverbs 2:1-11

My child, listen to what I say,  
and treasure my commands.  
Tune your ears to wisdom,  
and concentrate on understanding.  
Cry out for insight,  
and ask for understanding.  
Search for them as you would for silver;  
seek them like hidden treasures.  
Then you will understand what it means  
to fear the Lord,  
and you will gain knowledge of God.  
For the Lord grants wisdom!  
From his mouth come knowledge and  
understanding.  
He grants a treasure of common sense  
to the honest.  
He is a shield to those who walk  
with integrity.  
He guards the paths of the just  
and protects those who are  
faithful to him.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR REFLECTION



Basket Bonanza will be as amazing as it is during our festival! There will be around 65 baskets to choose from. Tickets can be purchased for \$1 per ticket, 60 tickets for \$20 and 175 tickets for \$50. Each ticket is placed into a box for a chance on that basket. You can fill out an online form telling our basket workers where to place your tickets. Online ticket sales start on June 1 for the Grand Raffle and July 1 for Basket Bonanza. Both end August 7 at noon.

July 31 through August 8, we will have Basket Bonanza open house hours. There will be lots of time to come in, view the baskets and choose where to place your tickets, if you want to in person.

Saturday, July 31 from 4pm-7pm  
Sunday, August 1 from 10am-1pm  
Friday, August 6 from 4pm-8pm  
Saturday, August 7 from 4pm-8pm  
Sunday, August 8 from 10am-5pm

Basket and Grand Raffle winners will be announced August 8 at 5pm.  
Ticket sales close at 4pm on August 8.

As a part of the 2021 Mini Fest, Bid & Buy will be holding an in-person and online auction. The online portion of the auction will be done on Facebook. You do not have to have a Facebook account to access the online auction. The link to the auction is available on our website and our Facebook page.

Auction bidding begins July 31 and ends on Sunday, August 8. Winners will be notified and must make payment by Tuesday, August 10. Viewing of Bid & Buy Auction items is open during all Basket Bonanza hours in the parish Center. Bid & Buy representatives will be available during those hours to assist you with any questions. We will have sports memorabilia, Mass parking spots, gift cards, jewelry and more!

Come visit us in the Bid & Buy rooms. Bid early and often! We are excited to see you win something great!

*Basket Bonanza*

St. John the

*Mini*

[www.stjohnwc.org](http://www.stjohnwc.org)

*Bid & Buy*

Grand Raffle is back! There are three prizes: \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$10,000! Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50. Tickets were mailed to parishioners in late May and are also available online! Just click on the 'Donate/Purchase' link on our website homepage to buy tickets online.

There are two early bird drawings. The first was on June 21 and the next is on July 19. Tickets received by noon on the early bird drawing dates will be included in these early bird drawings. The lucky winners will receive \$250 cash! Early bird drawings are done live online. All winners will be posted on the parish website, Facebook page and in the bulletin. Both Grand Raffle and Basket Bonanza winners will be announced on August 8 at 5pm. Ticket sales close at 4pm that day.



Grand Raffle

Evangelist



Fest  
2021

rg/mini-fest-2021



Parish Picnic

## FOOD • GAMES • COMMUNITY

When: Sunday, August 8 from noon to 5pm

Where: Lot between the Parish Center and Favret Hall

Join us for a celebration like no other! After so long at a distance, we are ready to spend the afternoon with our parish family! Enjoy some of your favorite family festival games like duck pond, ring toss, ping pong toss, split the pot and more! There will be activities for the whole family from 4-5pm including races, balloon toss and crafts. There will be delicious food available for purchase: burgers, hot dogs and chips are on the menu, as well as a variety of soda, beer, water and deserts. Be sure to come out and enjoy a beautiful day of fellowship and fun!

# CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

## BAPTISM

Jane Amelie Aldrich  
Melanie Michelle Baver  
Adelia Maria Benedetti  
Lachlan Dale Brander  
Blake William Brockhoff  
Elaina Mae Elrod  
Oliver Lee Fisher  
Lucas James Fontaine  
Graeme Bennet Harnish  
Tripp James Keegan  
William Henry Koraker  
Sarah Anastasia Minutillo

Abigail Renneker  
Adam Renneker  
Adeline Grace Scheurer  
Martin Alexander Smith  
Olivia Eileen Stelletell  
Andrew Joseph Stelletell  
Mila Rosemary Valerius  
Gideon Kai Walker  
Kayla Marie Whelan  
O'Ella Williamson  
Aelin Grey Wolf  
Jane Celin Woodard

## MARRIAGE

Jessica Urban and Martin French  
Krista Bencze & Mike Hudak  
Claire Feyche & Nick Wicher

## *Our Sympathies Go Out To...*

Jacqui Thomas on the death of her husband Albert Thomas  
Johanna Braciak on the death of her father  
Sue Adick on the death of her husband Don Adick  
Kimberli Meisner on the death of her husband Mike Meisner  
Laura Lejeune on the death of her mother  
Patty Carpenter on the death of her husband Rick Carpenter  
Steve Neitzel on the death of his father  
Joan Baldasare on the death of her father  
Sandy Kelly on the death of her husband Martin Kelly  
Kimberli Meisner on the death of her husband Mike Meisner  
The family of Florence Stefanski  
The family of James (Cliff) Lowe  
Cheryl Carroll on the death of her husband Ken Carroll  
Sharon Schwietert on the death of her husband John "Jack" Schwietert  
Laurie Pfennig on the death of her husband Paul Pfennig  
Janet Neton on the death of her mother  
Dan Koenig on the death of his mother and aunt  
Julie Brankamp on the death of her aunt  
Kevin Mulcare on the death of his mother  
Phyllis Poeppelmeier on the death of her husband Dave  
Laureen Rieder on the death of her brother



# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

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As I write this article, we have just lifted social distancing and mask mandates at our Masses. Our Sunday obligation has been become official again and across the Archdiocese, things are beginning to feel normal. But I think “normal” will hold a whole new meaning for all of us who have lived through this pandemic. I continue to pray for anyone who lost a loved one to COVID. We are a changed people, but perhaps our hugs and time together will take on new meaning for all of us.

I want to truly thank our parishioners. As we enter a new fiscal year, I am just amazed at your generosity. We started a “wish list” within the parish for items and repairs that we needed. You stepped up in such a big way. Make sure to check our wish list page on the parish website to appreciate the depth of giving that has occurred. Also, our weekly income (as of May 31) is \$1.21M and the YTD budget is \$1.264M. That is only 4.2% below budget, which is pretty impressive for an entire year under pandemic restrictions! Also, we have had so many special donations (stock, large gifts and wish list items), that our overall income (including our 2020 Basket Bonanza and Grand Raffle) is \$1.71M. We continue to control our expenses and should end the year on a positive note. So many parishes are in a much more difficult place than ours and it is because of our parishioners. We cannot thank you enough and I pray that the giving will be sustained.

We have continued to improve our buildings and grounds this past year. A new HVAC system was installed in the Pavilion and we finished all HVAC replacements in the Center. We had emergency repairs on the boiler, the generator, etc. We replaced signs all over campus and bought new computers and replaced some aging furniture. We are in the midst of replacing the upper roof on Favret Hall as well. We have done so many improvements over the past three years,

that we feel confident in where we stand with our buildings, more than any other point of time. With aging buildings, that says a lot. Thank you to our maintenance staff, our Finance Committee and our Pastoral Advisory Committee for their dedication and decision making. You are truly appreciated.

As you know, our Family Festival will not be taking place again this year. However, I hope you will join us for our Mini Fest that will include our Basket Bonanza, Bid & Buy and Grand Raffle. The weekend will culminate with a Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 8 from 12-5 pm. We are truly looking forward to spending time with all of you in person! If you have not bought your Grand Raffle or Basket Bonanza tickets yet, please do! They are available online and we look forward to calling out the names of the winners! Our Bid & Buy will be open over the Mini Fest weekend as well. I hope you win something amazing!

If you ever have questions about our parish finances, please feel free to call or email! We work diligently to save money everywhere we can. I will continue to keep you up to date on improvements and work that is being done around our campus. If you ever notice something that needs work, please let me know!

Have a blessed summer. Keep our parish staff in your prayers and we will pray for you daily!



JOAN SEIBENICK  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

## STAFF SUMMER READING PICK: LIFE OF THE BELOVED BY HENRI NOUWEN

This book is a life changing read, so be ready for a change of heart when you open the pages. This book revolves around the concept of our belovedness by God. Nouwen explains how being beloved is a great gift and responsibility. He dives into the truth that we are beloved as much as we believe others are be-

loved. It rejects society’s attack on our self-worth, self-image and sense of reality. Overall, the spiritual and practical life lessons Henri Nouwen teaches us in his book Life of the Beloved cannot help but leave a lasting impact on the soul.

*Recommended by Annie Mesewicz, Director of Adult Faith Formation*



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