

PAXCHRISTINEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie August 2019

HEALTHY HABITS

...for a stronger
marriage.

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THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Christian marriage is a promise made to and by the whole community.



PAX CHRISTI

Catholic Community

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208
Phone: 952-941-3150 Website: www.paxchristi.com

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8:00am–4:30pm
Friday 8:00am–12:00pm

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm
Nursery available at all Sunday Masses.
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am
Tuesdays 8:30am
Wednesdays 6:00pm
Thursdays 8:30am
Fridays 8:30am

Rosary prayed following weekday morning Masses.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

Mission Statement: As a community of faith nourished by the Eucharist, we are committed in our discipleship with Christ to act for justice, be of generous service, and authentically welcome all to Pax Christi Catholic Community.

Values: God-Centered, Justice, Inclusion, Spiritual Growth, Stewardship, and Lay Leadership.

THE PAX CHRISTI NEWS IS PRINTED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF PAX CHRISTI OF EDEN PRAIRIE. EMAIL COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO MELISSA NAULT, COMMUNICATION ARTS DIRECTOR, MNAULT@PAXCHRISTI.COM, OR 952-405-7221.



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DEAR FRIENDS...



Fr. J. Michael Byron
Pastor

A RECENT front-page story in the Sunday *Star Tribune* highlighted a phenomenon that any Christian pastor would be quick to recognize. It is the apparent demise of church weddings, both here and across the country. The falloff has been dramatic during the past generation, and I've experienced it myself in every parish where I've served. Young adults seem far less attached to churches in general than their parents were, and that trend becomes particularly evident when it comes time to get married (if such a time, in fact, ever comes). Today only about one in four couples becomes united in a church ceremony, and Catholics in particular have seen the sharpest decline. The reasons for that shift are many and varied, but the opinion is often heard that

churches are "less fun" and more demanding of a specific kind of religious commitment than couples wish to engage in. I don't know about the fun part, but the commitment part is absolutely true. It has to do with what we Catholics understand marriage to be, which is something quite distinct from what many others (including many Catholic couples) recognize.

Every engaged couple intends their wedding vows to be a public expression of their commitment to one another, and every county courthouse requires that it be a commitment to the government. In addition, many couples intend those vows to be an articulation of faith in a God who will support them and sustain them. Our Church also holds all that to be true and good, but we hold out

for an additional expectation. Because marriage is a Catholic sacrament it comes (as do all of our sacraments) with the acceptance of responsibility for public witness to the Christian community. And this is where there may be a disconnect in understanding among many. As our tradition teaches, there is no such thing as a marriage that involves only the couple and their friends. Christian marriage is, rather, a promise made to and by the whole community on the wedding day. The bride and groom vow to be the most credible sign of Christ's love as they can be—of course not perfectly, but genuinely. And the community (in church) pledges to support and to encourage that noble effort with every resource we have to offer—prayer, companionship, and hospitality.

Not every couple is willing to sign on for that, which is why not every wedding is sacramental in the strict sense. But for those who are willing, the commitment is truly heroic, which is what makes it so honorable and so properly Christian. Whether or not it is also "fun" will be determined over the years to come. (I remember when my very Catholic mom died after exactly 50 years of marriage,





my very Catholic father said at her graveside, "We just had a lot of fun!"). I believe that Jesus had a good deal of fun in this life, but fun was not what defined His purpose in living amid the sacred community.

We come to know that Christ-like love is possible in this world because of the people (i.e. the living sacraments) who demonstrate that to us day by day, year by year. Marriage belongs to all of us in virtue of our being part of the Church, and we owe a debt of great gratitude to those among us who are willing to offer that gift of witness and responsibility to us all the time. Frequently enough, that ongoing gift is not recognized nor celebrated in a public way. It's just assumed. Which is why this edition of the Pax Christi magazine is such a blessing. We stand in a moment when the rich gift of Christian marriage is at risk of devolving into something that is merely "fun," and the wedding day a personal performance for the entertainment of those who arrive, wherever that may be. That would be a great loss to us, making it worthy of our sustained reflection.

WE STAND IN A MOMENT WHEN THE RICH
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A CATHOLIC WEDDING

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE AND WEDDING PREPARATION AT PAX CHRISTI

The Church plays an essential role in uniting a man and woman in the Sacrament of Marriage. When a couple chooses to be married at Pax Christi, we lay out the many things they will become involved in as they prepare for the wedding and married life that will follow.

Sally Bergum, Wedding and Liturgy Coordinator, is the central point of contact for engaged couples who want to be married at Pax Christi. On average, Sally assists 20 to 25 couples each year with wedding preparations. One of Sally's first tasks is to arrange an intake meeting between the couple and one of Pax Christi's deacons. During this meeting, the deacon confirms that the couple can be married in the Church. To be married at Pax Christi, engaged couples should have some connection to the parish; either they, their parents, or grandparents should be registered members. If not already members, the couple should become parishioners at least one year in advance of the wedding date. Once the deacon has met with the couple, the rest of the preparations can begin. Preparations can be divided into two distinct areas: preparation for marriage and arrangements for the wedding day itself.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Like all sacraments, the preparation for and celebration of the sacrament of marriage is grounded in the life and ministry of the parish. The couple benefits from the experience and support of the community, including the marriage preparation process. Fr. Kennedy, former Pax Christi pastor, said "I am convinced that we here at Pax Christi work very hard to help couples discover and appreciate themselves, the hopes they have as they become engaged, the strength the Church and God can be for them all the days of their married life, and that their wedding day is just one in many they will have together to show their love for each other."

One of the centerpieces of the marriage preparation process is PREPARE. PREPARE is an inventory tool that a couple completes online. After the inventory is complete, engaged couples meet with a trained mentor couple from the parish for two to three sessions to discuss the inventory results, look for opportunities for growth, and share their own experiences. Couples start the PREPARE process right away so they can complete the program at a relaxed pace and then can use the information and skills provided to effectively manage the stress that often happens prior to a wedding. Additional information about PREPARE can be found on page 10.

The retreat, which is the second required component of marriage preparation, sets aside an entire day for couples to focus on marriage. While the archdiocese sponsors various retreat options, Pax Christi hosts its own one-day retreat, a popular option chosen by 90 percent of Pax Christi's engaged couples. The retreat, held once in the spring and then again in November, is capped at 20 couples to provide for a more relaxed atmosphere and the ability to facilitate open discussion. And while the retreat can be completed in the spring or fall, it is best to choose the session that falls closest to the midpoint of the engagement period.

The Pax Christi retreat focuses on communication styles, problem solving, prayer in marriage, the Church community, and relational issues. The retreat staff includes PREPARE mentor couples, a social worker, and a psychologist. The format of the retreat includes talks by mentor couples, separate listening sessions for women and men, time to relate the topic to principles of theology, and then time for the couples to separate and talk through the discussion questions. The program also incorporates *The Five Languages of Love*. Throughout the retreat, attendees can anonymously submit questions which will be answered at the end of the day by a question and answer panel. The day finishes with Mass, dinner, and a closing ritual that includes prayers for the married couples.

Prior to attending the retreat, many couples view the retreat as one more thing that needs to be completed. However, most couples leave viewing the retreat as a time when they were able to take a break from wedding planning to focus on one another. Attendees



enjoy the beautiful setting and time for relaxing activities. The added benefit is that attendees get to know members of their Pax Christi community, with many attendees exchanging contact information before the end of the day. At the end of the retreat, couples receive a certificate which allows them to receive a \$75 discount on their marriage license.

Like many other programs and activities at Pax Christi, the cost of marriage preparation is offered to a select group and thus the cost of that program is expected to be fully supported by the participants. Couples who choose to use the Pax Christi marriage preparation retreat should anticipate a registration cost of \$125 per couple. Engaged couples are asked to pay a \$300.00 fee to Pax Christi at the initial meeting when a wedding date is confirmed. The fee covers the use of the building for the rehearsal and the wedding—including a bride's room and a groom's room—the services of the on-site wedding coordinator, and the PREPARE inventory. Other applicable fees are also collected, including those charged by cantors, instrumentalists, and sound board operators who are available for hire.

WEDDING DAY PREPARATION

Getting ready for the wedding day includes setting dates, wedding liturgy selections, completing necessary paperwork, and the printed program. Sally Bergum assists with many of these details, the first of which is helping the couple secure the wedding date. While June was traditionally the most popular month for weddings, Sally says that couples now favor fall weddings, with October being the most requested month. By starting wedding plans at least a year in advance, most couples find they are able to choose a date that meets their preferences. Weddings can be held Friday evenings at 5:00 or 7:00pm, and Saturdays at 11:00am or 2:00pm. Couples have a two-hour window before each wedding liturgy for pictures and other preparations. The wedding ceremony can take place in the Thomas Merton Chapel (75 seats or less), or the sanctuary.

THE LITURGY

Three to six months before the wedding, couples meet with Sally and the Music Director, Donna Kasbohm, to make reading, prayer, and music selections for the wedding liturgy. The first decision is choosing a Mass or a prayer service. If both the bride and groom are Catholic, the celebration is typically a Mass. If only one person is Catholic, it is general practice for the celebration to take place as a prayer service, around the Liturgy of the Word. Because Scriptures serve as a point of reference for other liturgy selections, the couple makes the reading selections first. The Scriptures are contained in the *Together for Life* booklet which each couple receives at their intake meeting. The Scriptures are a source of prayer and reflection during marriage preparation, and also serve as the foundation for the liturgy. Couples also choose the prayers of the faithful. The prayers of the faithful are an opportunity for couples to focus on intentions that are meaningful to the family and one of the most significant ways to personalize the liturgy.

Donna Kasbohm assists couples in selecting music that complements their chosen readings. While there is some flexibility in the selections, the music should celebrate the sacramental nature of the liturgy. This sometimes means that a couple's favorite song or latest popular hit will need to be left for the reception

or dance. All liturgy and music decisions must be submitted for approval at least four weeks ahead of the scheduled date. To ensure the quality and prayerfulness of the wedding liturgy, Pax Christi requires that couples hire at least one individual from the parish-provided list of approved musicians. However, this does not exclude other musicians from participating. In addition to selecting any additional musicians, planning the liturgy also requires couples to select individuals to serve as readers and Eucharistic ministers.

Prior to the wedding, the couple will also meet with their assigned presider. Because it's likely that the priest or deacon will not be at the rehearsal, the presider will go over the liturgy and answer any questions. This hour-long meeting also allows the presider and the couple to get acquainted before the ceremony. Wedding rehearsals take place on Thursday or Friday afternoons/evenings and are conducted by one of the parish's three wedding coordinators. Wedding coordinators are employed by Pax Christi to make sure that wedding liturgies run smoothly. In addition to conducting the rehearsal, the coordinator arrives at the church two hours prior to the wedding ceremony to offer guidance and hospitality to the couple and their families.

WEDDING PHOTO CREDITS: Kelly Schacht,
Nina O'Leary ~ www.ninafrancine.com,
Glen Stubbe ~ <https://glenstubbephotography.com>



THE DETAILS

In addition to assisting couples with liturgy selections, Sally Bergum also works with couples to make sure that details—such as baptismal certificates, the marriage license, and the worship aid—are completed in a timely manner. The Church requires that Catholics obtain a copy of baptismal certificates (one dated within six months of the wedding date) from the church of baptism. The church of baptism provides a permanent record of sacramental life. Pax Christi sends a notification of a couple's marriage to this church after the wedding. Those baptized in another Christian denomination need only provide a photocopy of the baptismal certificate.

In order to fulfill legal requirements, couples need to apply for a marriage license at a county office. It takes five days from the date of application to be valid and is valid for six months after it's received. Couples should have it signed and turned in to the Pax Christi office four weeks before their wedding date.

Finally, all couples are responsible for creating and printing a wedding program/worship aid. The program serves as a way for guests to fully participate in the prayer and music of the wedding liturgy. To facilitate the process, Pax Christi provides a template and examples. Couples should submit their program four to six weeks in advance for approval and proofreading. Sally's experience is that details like the program and the marriage license, if left to the last weeks, can create additional stress and distract couples from the fun and excitement leading up to the big day. Her message is to get these items completed in advance and enjoy the rest of your wedding plans.

The Pax Christi staff and community supports an engaged couple throughout the wedding and marriage preparation process. At the same time, the couple's love for each other gives the community a glimpse of Christ's love for the Church, and thus is a blessing and support to the parish. The Pax Christi community is grateful to be part of this special milestone in the life of the couple.

Written by Karin Poellinger, Staff Writer and Technical Editor





WHAT IS PREPARE?

A COMMON QUESTION arises when an engaged couple enters into the marriage/wedding process at a Catholic church: "What is PREPARE?". There is much excitement and energy in planning a wedding, from the church to the reception venue. PREPARE is taking time out from the stress of wedding planning and giving the engaged couple time to reflect on their future married life.

"WHAT? Do we HAVE to do this PREPARE thing? Do I have to sit in some stranger's house and talk about my feelings? What's this about an assessment? It looks more like a test. Is this a PASS or FAIL TEST? Will these strangers let us get married? We have nothing in common with these "old" people. What do they know about being young and in love? How many times do we meet?" So many questions!

PREPARE was developed in the late 1970s at the University of Minnesota by Dr. David Olson, family science pioneer, and his wife, Karen Olson. Dr. Olson developed a method that provides facilitators a framework to use with engaged couples. The PREPARE assessment is for engaged couples, and a similar ENRICH assessment is for married couples. According to the PREPARE/

ENRICH website, four million couples have utilized this process to either prepare for marriage or to improve their relationships. The PREPARE assessment or inventory (it's not a test!) is a tool used by the facilitators to guide the conversation to the engaged couple's strength and growth areas. There is no "pass or fail," just guidance on exercises to facilitate deeper conversation.

The PREPARE process of taking the online assessment and subsequent meetings of at least six hours with a PREPARE facilitator (usually in their home) is a requirement for marriage in the Catholic Church. Pax Christi has a PREPARE Ministry that consists of married couples who have been trained in the process to facilitate PREPARE. They are not "counselors," but just people who have been married to each other for at least five years. Their job is not to judge, advise, or lecture, but to listen and steer the conversation between the engaged couple. These volunteer facilitator couples support marriage and only wish to get the soon-to-be-married couple off to a good start.

Written by Lisa Cox, PREPARE Ministry Facilitator and PREPARE Ministry Leadership Team



Jim and Mary Payne's Christmas wedding, December 26, 1961.



Judy and Larry Vorlicek celebrate 50 years on June 28 with a special Pax Christi blessing.



Dennis and Jeanne Straus, June 12, 1971



Brian and Katie Traxler celebrate one year, June 23, by lighting their unity candle and making it an annual tradition.

WORDS OF LOVE AND WISDOM FROM THE PREPARE MINISTRY

Married couples need to have common goals that they create and work on together. They need to bond with each other through their love by focusing on how to help their partner in their daily life. Oh, and having a good sense of humor is a must too.

– Jim Payne

Marriage is "you"—exclusively/you first and "always"—in all ways/ forever. Credit Pope Pius XII for the two words in the language of love and Mary Payne for the words of commitment!

– Mary Payne

It's not 50-50, it's 100-100.

– Phil Trovato

Make each other your top priority.

– Isabel Trovato

Gratitude. Give thanks to God every day for everyone who loves you.

Wisdom. Be wise enough to know that the person you are marrying today will not be the same person in 20, 30, 40, or 50 years. Embrace and love this mystery and give thanks that your relationship has the chance to grow and change as the years go by.

– Deacon Charles Bobertz

Keep a sense of humor and remember that the two of you are on the same team.

– Cheryl Bann

To love someone means to will the good of the other person. So, if necessary, make sacrifices to guarantee the good of your spouse.

– Mark and Susan Huschke

Marriage is an incredible journey that is sustained through constant constructive communication and continuous improvement.

Make time for your marriage. The investment of time will pay incredible and infinite dividends!

– Craig Schmidt

Throughout your marriage, always remember what attracted you to your partner when you first met and while you were dating. No matter what happens throughout your marriage, maintain a sense of humor.

– Dennis and Jeanne Straus

This quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer reads:

Today you are young and very much in love. You think that your love will sustain your marriage. Well, I give you the opposite advice—Let your marriage sustain your love."

After 57 years of marriage I agree. There will always be ups and downs in a marriage (and the good, great times are beyond wonderful) but in the times where one wants to say; "What was I thinking?" My advice is: Do not give up!! Hang in there! Work on it—it will be worth it and if you need to, get help! My experience tells me that I am so very happy that with the help of our loving God—happy we stuck it out and are now enjoying the many fruits of a "lifelong love affair".

– Deacon Al Schroeder



HEALTHY HABITS FOR A STRONGER MARRIAGE

HALL OF FAME basketball coach John Wooden once said, “The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.”

I didn't fully grasp the meaning of this quote until I was leading a seminar on families at a summer camp for high school students. At the beginning of the seminar we opened with a fun game called “Would You Rather?” I gave the group a series of two choices to pick from such as, “Would you rather be invisible for one day, or be able to fly for one day?” If they chose “be invisible,” they had to run to the right side of the room. If they chose “be able to fly,” they would run to the left side of the room.

“Run to your right if you'd like to live in Narnia. Run to your left if you'd rather go to school at Hogwarts.”

“Run to your right if you'd rather hold a snake. Run to your left if you'd rather eat a spider.”

Since we were talking about family relationships, I finished with this: “Run to your right if you could have your deepest wish fulfilled. Run to your left if you could just know that your parents were passionately in love with each other.”

I have to admit I was a little shocked when I saw over 80 high school students and their young adult leaders all run to their left. Every single person in the room preferred “knowing their parents were passionately in love with each other” over “having their deepest wish fulfilled.”

Then I understood what John Wooden was talking about.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loves the church and gave himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25).

Giving of ourselves to our spouse has an incredible impact on our kids. Developing healthy, loving habits can help us grow stronger together. This has been one of the key themes of a retreat that I do for couples called the Marriage Booster Retreat. On this retreat, we often ask couples to brainstorm healthy habits that might help fan the flame of love in their marriage. Then we have them break down the list into things they can do on a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual basis to strengthen their love.

On the following page are some of the most popular habits couples on our retreats have shared. Take a look at these and see if any of these might be a good fit for you and your spouse.

ONCE A DAY:

- Take 15 to 30 minutes of “us time” with no distractions
- Let kids see our affection
- Display an act of kindness toward the other
- Pray together
- Read Scripture together
- Complement each other (especially in front of kids)
- Check in on our daily schedule
- Ask each other how we might serve them today
- Pray for each other
- Kiss hello and goodbye
- Remember to touch—hold hands, hug, back rubs
- Say “I love you”
- Connect throughout the day—text, phone, email
- Show interest in each other’s life
- Find a reason to say thank you to your spouse each day

ONCE A WEEK:

- Date night—either out or at home
- Go to church together
- Create some sort of family time together
- Hold a family devotion
- Cook a meal together
- Do the dishes by hand together (no dishwasher)
- Take things off the calendar if we are feeling overwhelmed
- Talk about shared responsibilities
- Exercise together
- Do one special act of service for the other
- Let each partner have some alone time
- Join a couple’s bible study

Use these examples to come up with your own list of daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly habits that you would like to incorporate into your marriage and family. When you do, you will find that both your marriage and your children will benefit.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:24-25)."

Written by Pete Larson, Pax Christi parishioner and Director of Family Fest Ministries

ONCE A MONTH

- Volunteer together
- Get out in nature
- Go on a special date, such as a concert, the theater, or a romantic dinner
- Experience something new or different
- Go through calendars and compare long-term schedules
- Plan something to look forward to
- Review family finances and budget
- Surprise your spouse with a gift
- Do a fun activity together
- Find a hobby that you can do together
- Write a love note
- Double date with another couple
- Brag about our spouse to someone else
- Review priorities—God, marriage, kids, and then everything else, in that order

ONCE A YEAR

- Go on a vacation without the kids (once or twice a year)
- Attend a marriage retreat (check out the Marriage Booster Retreat at www.familyfestministries.org)
- Discuss your family budget
- Make a tithing plan
- Schedule date nights for the year and put them on your calendar
- Talk about goals and vision for your family and marriage
- Write a long love letter to your spouse
- Evaluate your expectations, needs, wants, and desires
- Try four new restaurants this year
- Read two marriage books and talk about them

FAMILY FEST MINISTRIES: MARRIAGE BOOSTER RETREAT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019 ~ BLOOMINGTON, MN

Put a Little WOW in your Vow! Finding a little time for your marriage can be a challenge. Who has time to go away for a whole weekend anymore? The Family Fest Marriage Retreat is perfect for couples who want to get away from their hectic schedule and just focus on each other. This one-day format is perfect for couples on the go. The day is encouraging, energetic, romantic, faith-filled, and just plain fun.
<https://familyfestministries.org>

2020 PAX CHRISTI CANA DINNER

Save THE DATE ~ SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020

Mark your Calendars for the 15th Annual Cana Dinner—a celebration honoring marriage and commitment. Enjoy a memorable night out with your life partner. Stay tuned for more details to come.

If you are interested in assisting as a planning committee member or event volunteer, please contact Lisa Cox, Community Life Coordinator, lcox@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7204. Planning this annual event is as much fun as attending it!



SHARING FAITH AS PARENTS OF YOUNG ADULTS

THIS SPRING I had the pleasure of attending a workshop on sharing faith as parents of young adults. The workshop, led by Tom East of the Center for Ministry Development, took place at the Religious Education Conference in Los Angeles. I am eager to share what I learned with you.

Who are young adults? The Catholic Church defines young adults as people in the 18 to 39-year-old range. Within this range, they are divided into three categories, along with their likes, as follows:

Emerging adults, ages 18 to 25, are the most mobile and least likely to show up at gathered groups. We reach them where they are through technology and relationships, with their faith supported by parents and grandparents.

Mid- to late-twenties, ages 25 to 30, are most likely to show up at gathered groups. They connect their faith in relationship to Jesus and based on their needs in life.

Those in their 30s make long-term commitments. They are often married and parenting. They are sinking their roots into a parish. They connect through ministries to marriage and baptism preparation.

Young adults are synched with technology, are motivated to make a difference and save the world, and work toward work/life balance. They are more economically conservative. They are interested in service but want to get to the root of the issue. They are not group-oriented and are looking for a customized pathway for belonging. They are multi-taskers. They seek recognition and like being told when they're doing something right. They seek transparency and honesty.

The gap between their aspirations and their abilities is our opportunity to connect. Young adults face issues of identity, intimacy (including best friends), solidarity, competence, contribution, and purpose. This is a very important stage for parenting children—yes, adult children. We can walk with them in their questions.

There are four guiding principles for parenting adult children:

1) LISTENING. Listen, listen, listen. Accompany them by practicing balanced listening and being a safe place for dialogue.

2) EMPATHIZING. Show empathy when your adult child is facing difficulties. Empathy involves:

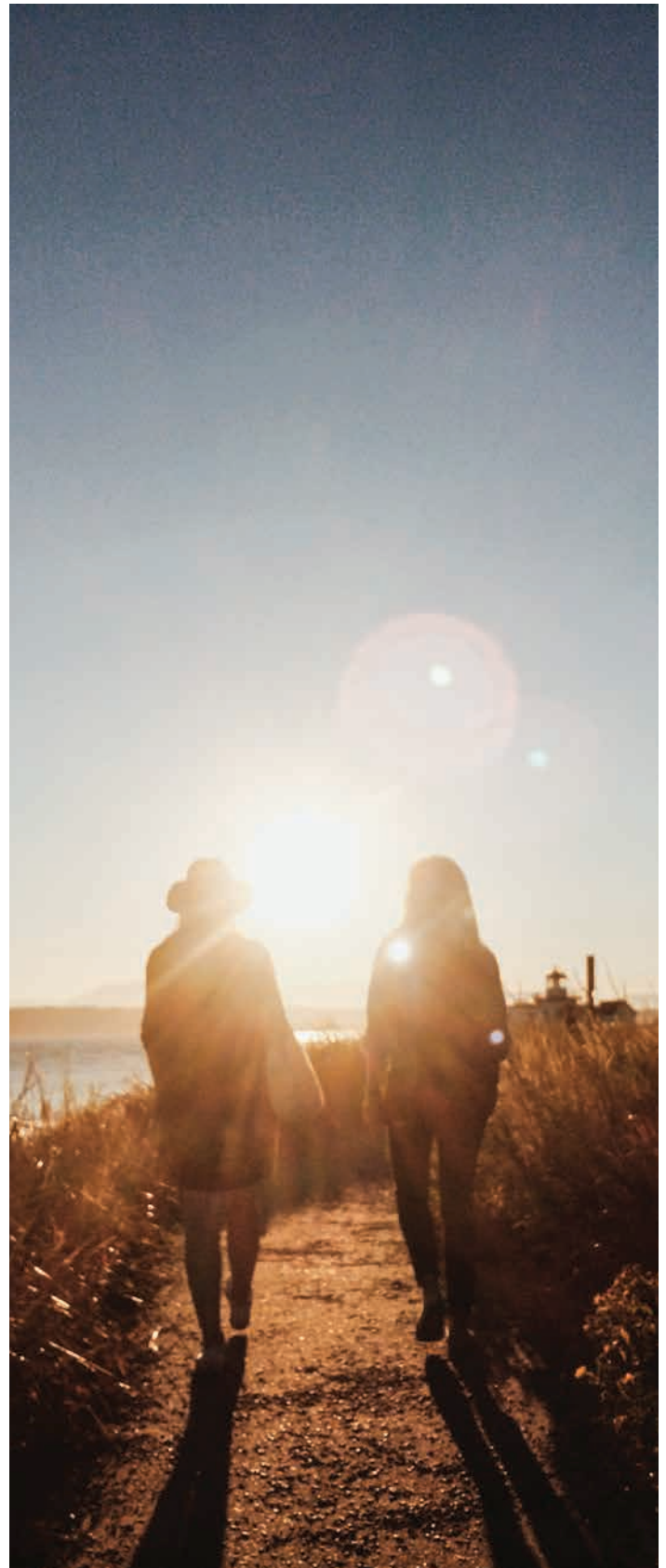
- Making a connection with their situation by sharing examples of times of your own vulnerability. Our crosses become bridges to connection.
- Keeping a non-judgmental perspective. Watch for assuming that you have the answers. This can be tempting as it may seem that it is for their own good, but as parents we represent God who does not coerce.
- Recognizing and accepting their feelings; accompany them in their feelings. Share your feelings of vulnerability by saying, "I don't even know what to say."

3) WITNESSING. Share personal stories of your life. Include experiences of God in your life. Avoid lecturing. Witness through example by caring for them physically and emotionally. Pray.

4) COMPANIONING.

- Invite them to activities that precede or follow going to Mass together. For example, attend Mass together and then go on a hike, or out to breakfast, or out to choose a Christmas tree.
- Talk about faith by connecting it to something else they like to talk about. Find examples of faith such as discipleship in service or morality in values which relate to their favorite topics. Open up dialogue this way and create analogies to faith themes with their favorite topics.
- Be intentional about what you want to share with them as adults and look for opportunities to do that.

Written by Lynn Schelitzche, Former Director of Faith Formation





TRUE NORTH...

MANY OF US spend our summers hiking, camping, or enjoying the cabin up North. It's rare that we rely on a compass for directions. Smart phones have replaced our need for this time-tested navigation tool. But even innovative technology doesn't hold the roadmap. It's up to us to decide where we are going.

As we embark on our summer adventures, perhaps a broader question is, "What is true north?" What guides not only our summer trips and destinations, but more importantly, what guides our lives?

If we were ancient travelers, we would be guided by the stars. My father knew all of the constellations. When I was a child, our family spent summer nights on our porch gazing at the stars that filled the sky over Lake Michigan.

If "true north" is led by our Catholic faith, it not only directs us to look toward heaven, but it also gives us the road map. It is grounded in our values: faith, hope, and love. We lead with "hearts on fire" as disciples seeking ways to share our generosity, gifts and talents to build the world that Christ spoke of: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).

Jesus may not have envisioned a suburban community when He spoke, but I think He would be deeply moved to see the heart of our community, built on justice, generosity, servant leadership, and infused by the Holy Spirit with a place of welcome for all to belong.

We can see the power of generosity blessing the Pax Christi community and beyond. Generous financial support, combined with stewardship, offers us a beautiful campus and a flourishing community. We have dedicated shared ministers who share their gifts and talents. Research shows that when people are connected to passion and purpose, they experience greater health and well-being.

We invite you to join us in our "true north" adventure. Is there some area of shared ministry that is speaking to you? Have you wondered how you can share your faith with others? Do you have a few extra hours that you can give? Check our website for inspiration at www.paxchristi.com/serve or contact Maura Schnorbach, Director of Development and Engagement, 952-405-7220, or mschnorbach@paxchristi.com.

WATCH – LISTEN – LEARN

SEARCHING for a new podcast, TV show, or musical obsession? Want to get to know members of the Pax Christi staff a little better? Look no further! Watch – Listen – Learn is an occasional column where a member of the Pax staff shares their favorite pieces of media with you.

Here are a few media recommendations from our Senior High Youth Formation Minister, Jessie Johnson!

TV SHOW:

Battlestar Galactica. The “new” series aired from 2004–2009, but it continues to confront us with important questions about humanity, survival, politics, spirituality, faith, and what it means to be alive. It’s a really great show—even for folks who wouldn’t consider themselves sci-fi fans! I’m currently on my third watch through. #nerd

MUSIC:

Suite No. 1: Oh Dreamer by The Brilliance. This album is centered around the theme of immigration, weaving the experiences of marginalized people with beautiful instrumental pieces and songs whose lyrics make you stop and think. The Brilliance seeks to create art that inspires empathy, and this album helps us to look for the dignity of all people and examine our own fears and dreams along the way.

PODCASTS:

The Anthropocene Reviewed – Author John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet on a five-star scale.

Harry Potter and the Sacred Text – What happens if we read the books we love through the lens of the sacred?

Today’s Teenager – A licensed professional counselor shares insights for how to understand, communicate with, and positively influence the teens in your life.

Conversations with People Who Hate Me – Host Dylan Marron reaches out to people who have sent him virtual negativity and also moderates calls between strangers who have gotten into it with each other online.



MINISTRIES OF PRESENCE:

CARE CENTER VISITORS

Throughout each week, lives of Catholic residents in area care centers are blessed by the presence of regular visitors from Pax Christi. Some shared ministers bring communion and pray one-to-one, and others lead communion services for small groups at various care centers. Monthly celebration of Mass at three area care centers is also supported by Pax Christi care center visitors.

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY

BeFriender ministers are trained laypersons who are available to offer a listening ear to those who are experiencing a difficult or transitional situation. BeFrienders are here to listen and care; BeFrienders do not give advice or judge, and all conversations are kept confidential.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know is homebound and unable to attend Sunday Mass, we have trained shared ministers who can bring communion and offer prayers of support.

PAX PETS MINISTRY

Pax Pets ministers are a group of animal lovers who know and appreciate the ability of pets to demonstrate God’s unconditional love. Certified pet teams visit area care centers and make hospice visits. Pet teams meet periodically to gain knowledge and build community with one another.

Training specific to each ministry is provided; ongoing monthly enrichment/education opportunities for shared ministers are offered.

**For additional information visit
www.paxchristi.com/careandsupportministry.**

READINGS FOR AUGUST

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4, 2019

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-17; Mt 14:13-21
 Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36
 Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25 -- 14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-23; Mt 15:21-28
 Thursday: Nm 20:1-13; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Mt 16:13-23
 Friday: Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-16, 21; Mt 16:24-28
 Saturday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
 Sunday: Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 [1-2, 8-12]; Lk 12:32-48 [35-40]

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 11, 2019

Monday: Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27
 Tuesday: Dt 31:1-8; Dt 32:3-4ab, 7-9, 12; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
 Wednesday: Dt 34:1-2; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20
 Thursday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28
 Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
 Friday: Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12
 Saturday: Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15
 Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Ps 40:2-4, 18; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 18, 2019

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44; Mt 19:16-22
 Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-14; Mt 19:23-30
 Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16
 Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a; Ps 40:5, 7-10; Mt 22:1-14
 Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-10; Mt 22:34-40
 Saturday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
 Sunday: Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1-2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 25, 2019

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-6; Mt 23:23-26
 Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab, 17; Mk 6:17-29
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
 Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30
 Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

PARISHIONER NEWS

JUNE BAPTISMS

Jordan William Forsyth	6/1/2019
Liliana Jacklyn Muñiz-Vazquez	6/2/2019
Gianna Alise Scott	6/2/2019
Ian Mitchell Williams	6/2/2019
Carson James DeVinny	6/9/2019
Palmer Dawn Lukes	6/9/2019
Callen Richard Cook	6/19/2019
Casson Morris Cook	6/19/2019
Caulder Kenneth Cook	6/19/2019
Sydney Mae Falencykowski	6/23/2019
Thielen Chadwick Schroeder	6/23/2019
Sianna Victoria Martinez	6/30/2019
Willie John Treanor	6/30/2019

JUNE WEDDINGS

Kalani Sebolboro & Bradlee Jordan	6/14/2019
Lauren White & Anthony Nett	6/15/2019

JUNE FUNERALS

Donald P. Norwich	6/03/2019
Debra M. Owens	6/06/2019
Michael 'Jim' Jennings	6/10/2019
Maret Ryan	6/13/2019
Mary Clare (Pierce) Prestrud	6/22/2019
Mary Geraldine Sittauer	6/27/2019

JUNE NEW MEMBERS

Jeffrey and Lynette Anderson
 Christian Berger and Elizabeth So
 Brian Gossett and Alyssa Heimer
 Abbey Larson
 Karen Madrid
 Cathy and Scott Ohser
 Anthony and Chelsea Schmit
 Patrick and Erin Sejkora
 Trevor and Leah Sheveland

AUGUST

PAX DAY AT PROP

Collection weekend August 3/4

Grab a burgundy bag (or any bag will do) and join in our parish effort to respond to those who are facing hunger in our community. If you are a gardener, PROP accepts fresh produce to give healthy options to families. View the food needs online at <https://propfood.org/get-involved/food-other-donations>.

SENIOR HIGH SUMMER SHINDIG **RSVP**

Saturday, August 10, 6:15–9:00pm at THE FIRE PIT

9–12th graders, come on down to the fire pit on the trail behind Pax Christi for lawn games, music, and a bonfire—complete with a gourmet s'more bar and hot dogs over the fire! We'll meet after the 5:00pm Mass. Rain location is the John XXIII Room. RSVP online at www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration.

TWELVE BASKETS BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Weekend of August 10/11

This annual parish event, sponsored by the Twelve Baskets ministry, helps to ensure sure children in need are well-equipped to start the new school year and focused on learning. Shop early and drop off items when you come to Mass. Flyers with detailed lists of needed items are available at the entrances starting July 27/28. Red bins at doors 1 and 3 will be ready to receive your contributions. Items will benefit students at Risen Christ Catholic School in South Minneapolis, Blessed Trinity Catholic School in Richfield, Community of Saints Catholic School in St. Paul, and Gichitwaa Kateri Catholic Church in Minneapolis.

100-MILE DINNER **RSVP**

Tuesday, August 13, 6:00–8:00pm, BUTTERFLY Garden Patio

The Environmental Challenge Ministry invites you to eat locally at our annual 100-Mile Pot Luck Dinner, that is, food that is produced within a 100-mile radius of your home. Please bring a dish to share using the bounty of the season. Our guest speaker for the evening is Jack Hauser of Bloomington, a specialist on many different Minnesota bird species, particularly bluebirds. He is an expert on building bluebird houses and since 1994 has been involved with The MN Bluebird Recovery Program. Please RSVP online.

ASSUMPTION OF MARY – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Thursday, August 15, 6:00pm in THE SANCTUARY

SENIOR HIGH DINNER AND A MOVIE

Friday, August 23, 5:00–10:00pm **RSVP**

We'll gather in the Pax Christi kitchen at 5:00pm to cook our dinner together, head to the Anne Frank Room to eat, and then watch a movie together downstairs in the John XXIII Room until 10:00pm. Watch for complete details to come or online, www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK **RSVP**

Wednesday, August 28, 6:00pm Mass

Anointing of the sick will be available for any member of our community who is in need of an emotional or physical healing. While the physical effects of a healing are not always noticed, the primary effect of the sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany illness of the mind, body, or spirit. Anointing often begins for us with the oil of chrism at Baptism, is used to reaffirm our journey of faith during Confirmation and, when we are sick, anointing with oil can bring us hope and healing. Blessings with these oils offer us both grace and a physical reminder that Jesus is with us through all passages of life. All are welcome to join us for this Mass as we gather together to be anointed or to be in prayerful support of those who are sick and in need of healing.

Following Mass, a light dinner will be served in the Dorothy Day Social Hall for those who have been anointed, along with their family members and guests. If you or someone you know could benefit from this sacrament and would like to attend this Mass, we ask that you please contact Mary Ann Callahan, Care Ministry Specialist, 952-405-7227, by August 19. RSVP is important for a proper dinner count.

MAKE PLANS NOW

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT BIBLE STUDY **RSVP**

Tuesdays, Beginning September 24, 9:30–11:30am

Women of all ages and faiths are invited to join us for 20 weekly hour-long presentations by university based biblical scholars, followed by an hour of small group discussion. This year's series, "Called by the Spirit," will study the Acts of the Apostles for 10 weeks, women in the Bible for four weeks, and six weeks learning where the Bible and the Qur'an cover the same ground. Please consider joining this active group of women who share a desire for a greater understanding of the scriptures. Tuition for the series is \$100 which covers teachers, books, and three mornings of reflection. Register online at www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration. REGISTRATIONS REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 12.

AUGUST

See page 19 for details
or visit us online at www.paxchristi.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 PROP FOOD COLLECTION WEEKEND
4 PROP FOOD COLLECTION WEEKEND	5	6 BAPTISM CLASS FARE FOR ALL	7	8	9 VIRTUS SESSION	10 NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND SR HIGH SUMMER SHINDIG
11 NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND	12	13 100-MILE POTLUCK	14	15 ASSUMPTION OF MARY HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE	16	17 BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE
18 BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE	19	20	21	22	23 SR HIGH DINNER AND MOVIE	24
25	26	27 LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	28 SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING MASS	29	30	31

PARISHIONERS' ART EXHIBIT – DECEMBER – ARTISTS NEEDED!

We invite you display your artwork at this years Parishioners' Art Exhibit! The exhibit will run November 24 through December 15 in the Pacem In Terris Gallery. The guidelines and registration forms are available on the parish website, www.paxchristi.com/artexhibits. The registration deadline is November 20 and the drop-off date is November 24.





PAX CHRISTI CONTACTS

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Byron 952-405-7219

DEACONS

Al Schroeder 952-405-7205
 Terry Beer 952-405-7231
 Charles Bobertz 952-405-7239

PARISH DIRECTOR

Jane Schmitz 952-405-7238

PARISH FINANCIAL MANAGER

Sue Fier 952-405-7202

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Maria Miller 952-405-7217
 Andrea Ward 952-405-7207
 Sally Bergum 952-405-7229

COMMUNICATION ARTS

Melissa Nault 952-405-7221

CARE AND SUPPORT MINISTRY

Director	Jean Thoresen	952-405-7211
Care Ministry Specialist	Mary Ann Callahan	952-405-7227
Care Ministry Coordinator	Renee Reardon	952-405-7200

FAITH FORMATION

Director (Adult Faith, RCIA, Preschool)	Scott Brazil	952-405-7230
Grades 1 through 5, CLOW	Reneé Dignan	952-405-7212
Grades 6 through 8	Evan Bierer	952-405-7213
Grades 9 through 12	Jessie Johnson	952-405-7210

JUSTICE

Director	Joan Howe-Pullis	952-405-7247
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OPERATIONS

Director	Ken Reineccius	952-405-7250
Building Services	Terry Lee	952-405-7233
Building Services	Todd Nelson	952-405-7233

DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Director	Maura Schnorbach	952-405-7220
Community Life Coordinator	Lisa Cox	952-405-7204
Nursery and Hospitality Coord.	Janell McBeain	952-405-7242

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Director	Donna Kasbohm	952-405-7240
Liturgy and Funeral Coord.	Joan Howe-Pullis	952-405-7247
Teen Choir	Angie O'Brien	952-405-7243

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fr. Michael Byron, Pastor
 Jane Schmitz, Parish Director
 Fred Baumer
 Nicholle Check
 Mike Kennedy
 Andy Leet
 Mary Frances Messer
 Dale Nelson
 Phyllis Olson
 Ricardo Ortiz-Nava
 Dave Putrich
 Mike Schneider
 Cindy Schuh
 Julie Tyler
 Dave Wagner, Chair

PARISH TRUSTEES

Shari Steffen
 Bruce Koehn

FINANCE COUNCIL

Mike Kennedy, Chair



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Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208

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2019–2020 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM AND SACRAMENT REGISTRATION

Registration for the upcoming Faith Formation Program year is now open! Join us for a year of community, faith, and fun!

Pax Christi offers a variety of sessions and three program times:

Sundays 6:30pm

Wednesdays 5:15pm

Wednesdays 6:00pm

The fee is \$125 per student with a family cap of \$375. Registration fees are waived for families of catechists! Additional information and registration at www.paxchristi.com/ffregistration.

