



# ST. JAMES BASILICA of Jamestown

Parish Newsletter

AUGUST 2015



*A Letter from Our Pastor*

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## Sweet Hospitality Community Shares in Fellowship at Coffee and Donuts

**B**oston cream or chocolate with sprinkles? Cream and sugar with your coffee? An iconic fixture in parish life, Coffee and Donuts keeps hospitality alive on a weekly basis at St. James Basilica. Those who remain around the church after the 8:30 or 10:30 Sunday Masses can hear the conversation and laughter, sometimes catching the scent of the percolating brew.

Diane and Ken Dillman have been parishioners for 37 years. For them, the morning gathering isn’t about the donuts – it’s about the relationships.

“We enjoy meeting people,” Diane says. “We’ve been in the parish for a long time, so we know a lot of people. There’s still some of them that we’ve never met or we see in church all the time, but we don’t know their names. We move around so we can meet people.”



*Join us after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses!*

Coffee and Donuts draws a diverse crowd. Parents with young families get a chance to socialize while their children play with peers from school. Parishioners who are “young at heart” stay and shoot

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622 1 Ave S  
Jamestown, ND 58401  
701-252-0119  
[www.stjamesbasilica.org](http://www.stjamesbasilica.org)



## Sweet Hospitality *continued from previous page*

the breeze with old friends. When parishes often have programming compartmentalized by age, Coffee and Donuts offers an opportunity for all parishioners to mix and mingle.

Dan and Eileen Lisko estimate they have been volunteering at Coffee and Donuts for four years. Eileen says her favorite aspects of the Sunday routine center on the visits with parishioner friends, and meeting new ones.

“When new people come in to see what it’s all about, I feel like the others in the parish have been very welcoming to the newcomers,” Eileen says. “I think it’s really an important part of parish life.”

The gathering draws crowds from 15 to 50, depending on the day. Diane and Ken began volunteering this year and they have already seen the profound impact of simple hospitality.

“I enjoy greeting people as they come through the line,” Diane says. “You never know, you find out that people have had some hardship.”

She relates the story of how last fall, a couple brought a few extra children. In talking with the family, Diane learned a different family had lost their home the night before. Their friends, as a show of support, had brought the children with them to church.

“That’s one way that these kids felt like they were a little bit special that morning,” Diane says.

Diane has her own story of the importance of parish support.

“I was ill last year and the parish was really good to me,” she says. “They came and visited, they prayed for me. I think it’s always important for people to get to know people in the community, so when there’s hardship, we can come together to support the community.”

Attending Coffee and Donuts is free, though donations to help cover the cost are accepted. For those interested in building relationships at the parish, Coffee and Donuts is an easy place to drop in. Eileen is quick to add that it’s a low-risk opportunity to volunteer.

“It’s not every week,” she says. “Everybody has time for something. When you’re involved in various things, you really do feel much more a part of the parish.”

The Liskos should know. Eileen serves as the lay representative for the deanery to the bishop’s Pastoral Council, and Dan is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and skilled artisan, helping construct the altar and presider’s chair. Still, they make time for the bimonthly commitment to Coffee and Donuts.

Currently, about 40 households rotate as volunteers. These singles, couples, and families are assigned to the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. Duties are simple and already familiar – putting on coffee, cutting fruit, arranging donuts on platters, and cleaning up the leftovers.

Whether you help serve or stop by after Mass, the volunteers encourage you to invite somebody new and make a friend.

“It’s understated, but it’s a valuable piece,” Eileen says. “When there’s a new family in the parish or somebody we haven’t seen before, invite them for coffee!”

If you would like to help with Coffee and Donuts, please contact organizer Tanya Hemmer by phone at 701-952-9322, or by email at [tharr@daktel.com](mailto:tharr@daktel.com).

*“When new people come in to see what it’s all about, I feel like the others in the parish have been very welcoming to the newcomers. I think it’s really an important part of parish life.”*

*– Eileen Lisko*

A Letter from Our Pastor

## We Provide the Gifts, God Performs the Miracles

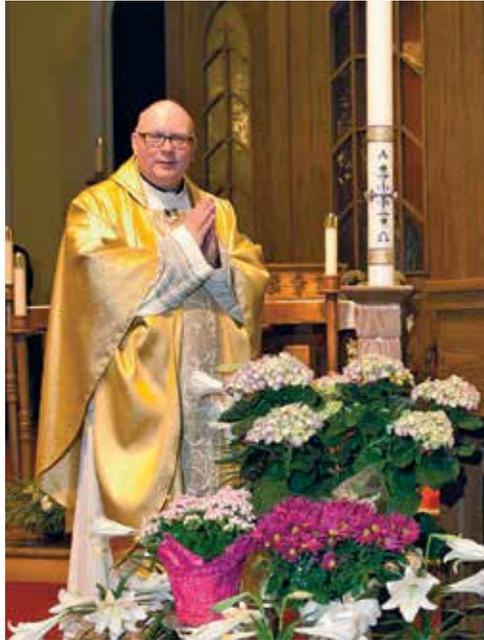
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is human nature to try to neatly place things into categories. If we categorize the miracles performed by Christ, the two largest groupings might fall under the headings “Healing” and “Feeding.”

This is exactly what we are about here at St. James Basilica. At the base of all our liturgies is the Eucharist, when we come together in communion with the Lord and with one another to be both fed and healed. Even one of Christ’s most famous miracles – the Feeding of the Multitude – involved both healing and feeding from a spiritual and a literal perspective.

The reason the large crowd gathered was because Jesus’ reputation as a healer had spread and grown. He felt compassion for that crowd, which is another way of saying He loved them and felt sorry that they were hungry due to their willingness to sit and be with Him for so long. Recognizing it was late in the day and that many of them had not eaten, Jesus literally fed them – but that day, He didn’t stop with physical nourishment. He also fed them spiritually with His words, and simultaneously, healed their wounded hearts by preaching a message of hope and forgiveness in the midst of a dark and hardened world.

The narrative of Christ taking a small amount of food and using it to feed thousands is familiar to all of us. It is



reported in all four Gospels. However, I would like to highlight one aspect of that miracle. It all started with one boy who was willing to share what little he had. Because the boy made the gift of his fishes and loaves, the Lord took it and multiplied it many times over, nourishing so many more people than what that little bit initially could.

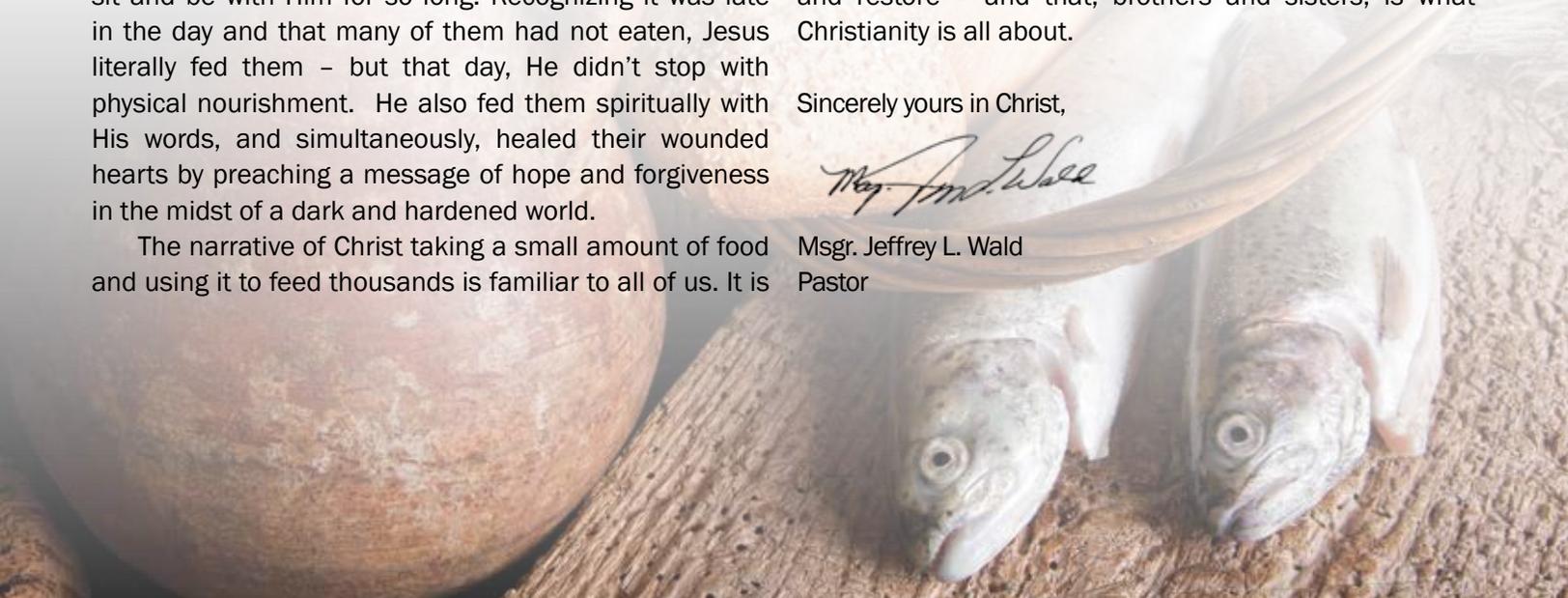
Isn’t that what we as a parish are called to do? We make gifts of our time, our talent, and our treasure as good stewards – but nevertheless, it is God who takes those gifts and performs miracles with them. Our goal is to give what we have so that Christ might use it, multiplying it to

feed, to heal and draw a multitude of people closer to Him.

The reality is that without the gifts, there can be no miracles, and without miracles, we are a hungry and broken people. Christ has come to renew, nourish, fulfill, and restore – and that, brothers and sisters, is what Christianity is all about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Jeffrey L. Wald  
Pastor





## “Strong Domestic Churches Make *Sponsoring Couples*”

Each home, each flourishing domestic church, makes the Church as a whole more vibrant. When Deacon Tom and Mary Geffre meet with engaged couples preparing to create their own homes, they are in some way aiding in making the Church stronger, one small home at a time.

“We feel strongly that good, strong, Christ-centered marriages are vital to the future of our culture and society,” says Deacon Tom, who has sponsored engaged couples alongside his wife, Mary, for six years. “We come away from each couple with a greater respect for each other and a feeling of wanting to live more strongly what we teach!”

Here at St. James, as in many parishes across the diocese, engaged couples meet with married sponsoring couples as part of the rich process of marriage preparation. This is a vital step in helping to introduce our new couples to community life.

“It is important for couples to connect with someone in the parish and begin experiencing the community atmosphere that they should have in parish life,” says Msgr. Jeffrey Wald. “Young couples might feel alone. The hope is for them to feel as though there is someone in the parish who knows them, someone they can reach out to.”

Couples begin the marriage preparation process with a few practical steps that include completing initial paperwork. Then, they take the pre-marriage inventory survey FOCCUS, which stands for “Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study.” Afterwards, the couple is paired with a sponsoring couple from the parish.

For Anita and Jeremy Bahr, that couple was Deacon Tom and Mary.

“Jeremy and I thoroughly enjoyed working with Deacon Tom and Mary,” Anita says. “They made it clear that we should not prepare ourselves for a wedding,



*Deacon Tom and Mary Geffre*

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# the Larger Church More Vibrant” at St. James Basilica



*Anita and Jeremy Bahr celebrate their marriage at St. James Basilica*

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but that we should prepare ourselves for a marriage centered on God.”

Anita, a St. James parishioner for over 18 years, and Jeremy met with Deacon Tom and Mary several times either in the dining room of the priests’ residence or in the St. Thomas Room at the Basilica. Together they discussed the results of FOCCUS survey.

“We agreed on most things including family, religion and values, interfaith marriage and parenting,” Anita says. “One of the things that was a problem indicator was finances, but it was not a huge concern for us, because we had already opened the lines of communication regarding our finances.”

The couples that offer to share their time and their own journey as sponsoring couples give engaged couples examples of how married life is lived out within the family. They also generously support our priests by helping them with the marriage preparation process.

“It is important for these volunteers to know that the church appreciates their work, and it is valuable for the life of the church,” Msgr. Wald says. “What you do is valuable not only for the young couple, but also for parish life.”

Anita and Jeremy were particularly impacted by one topic that arose from their conversations with Deacon Tom and Mary – throughout the many changes that occur over the years, marriages stay strong as long as the lines of communication remain open.

“Meeting with Deacon Tom and Mary made us realize that even a marriage centered around our Lord has its ups and downs,” Anita says. “But if we are willing to prepare for the entire marriage and not just the wedding day, we will have a solid foundation to build upon, to build an open, loving, trust-filled relationship in which to raise our children.”

For more information about Sponsoring Couples at St. James, please reach out to Msgr. Jeffrey Wald through the parish office at 701-252-0119.



## The Traits of the Christian Steward

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship profiler” who could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward, like on one of those television crime dramas. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward. It may not have the powers of a stewardship “profiler” or “mentalist,” but it certainly gives us some tangible things to think about.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

**INSIGHT** – Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

**CONSCIENTIOUSNESS** – Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

**GENEROSITY** – Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

**JOY** – Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the profile of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

# Eucharistic Ministers Serve as Living Reminders of Christ's Love for His People

**W**e are truly blessed here at St. James. Blessed to attend Mass in such a beautiful place. Blessed to be surrounded by a community of faithful, like-minded Catholics. Among us are a few individuals who have chosen to embrace the most precious part of the Mass – the distribution of the Eucharist – and participate in bringing the Body and Blood of Christ to their fellow parishioners as Eucharistic Ministers.

Far beyond simply keeping the Mass moving forward in a timely manner, Eucharistic Ministers have the privilege of serving as living reminders that Christ loved us “while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8). We spoke to one Eucharistic Minister about her role in the ministry and what keeps her coming to the altar year after year.

“I have been a Eucharistic Minister for probably 20 years and a sacristan now for about five years now,” says Sonja Suko. “It’s something that I feel very privileged to do. I have a strong feeling that everyone who attends the Basilica can give of themselves in some way. Everyone can do something, and I feel that it really does draw me closer to God.”

Sonja says she originally decided to serve as a Eucharistic Minister because she felt there was a need for it at St. James, and also because it was a way that she could serve her church.

“I’ve always felt that I was a ‘people person,’ and being able to serve my fellow parishioners in that way is important to me,” she explains. “Some of my friends are also Eucharistic Ministers, and we talk about how none of us feel worthy to do this because we’re all sinners. Every Sunday before Mass, I ask the Lord to forgive me of my sins and I thank Him for allowing me to serve Him in this way.”

Parishioner Theresa Mangin, who has been serving as a Eucharistic Minister for more than six years, says serving on



*Eucharistic Minister Claudia Sharp serves the Blood of Christ to Juliana Krebs during this year's First Holy Communion. Eucharistic Ministers Sonja Suko and Theresa Mangin say helping serve the Body and Blood is a privilege that has enhanced their experience of the Mass.*

the altar has become a family affair for her. Her mother and father have both served as Eucharistic Ministers in the past.

“My dad was one of the first lay Eucharistic Ministers when they first started having them and my mother has also served for many years,” she says. “Being part of the Mass, being able to participate in this way, definitely brings you closer to God.”

As Sonja explains, training for the role is often brief and allows the parishioners to serve on a rotating basis as scheduled by the parish.

“Being a Eucharistic Minister really makes the Mass a more complete experience for me, being able to participate in that special way,” Sonja says.

*Interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister? Contact ministry leader Bonnie Laber at 701-252-0119 or [parish@stjamesbasilica.org](mailto:parish@stjamesbasilica.org), or Eucharistic Minister Sonja Suko at 701-269-1438.*



# ST. JAMES BASILICA OF JAMESTOWN

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## PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!!!

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### Weekend Mass

#### *Saturday Vigil*

4:30 p.m. Mass

#### *Sunday*

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Mass

### Daily Mass

*Monday thru Friday* - 12:10 p.m. Mass

*Saturday* - 8:00 a.m. Mass

### Reconciliation

*Monday thru Friday* - 11:40 a.m. - 12 noon

*Saturday* - 3:30 p.m.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ST. JAMES BASILICA

**Steubenville Youth Conference  
in St. Paul, Minn.**

July 24-26

**Parish Picnic on the  
Feast of St. James**

*Join us for food, fun, music, games and  
inflatables for the children at the home of Pat  
& Marla Walter. Hamburgers and hot dogs  
provided by Knights of Columbus.*

July 25, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## ST. JOHN ACADEMY

**Back to School Night**

August 25, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**First Day of School**

August 27 @ 8:25 a.m.

**125th Mass Celebration, TBA**

September 3

**Grandparent's Day Mass**

September 17 @ 10:00 a.m., St. James  
Basilica

For more Catholic news and current events check out the websites of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at [www.USCCB.org](http://www.USCCB.org) and of the Diocese of Fargo at [www.fargodiocese.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org).