



### "Knights of Columbus Christmas Party

All Knights and their spouses are invited to our annual Christmas party on Saturday, January 20th at 6 pm in the parish hall. Dinner will be pot luck. If you prefer a specific beverage, you are welcome to bring it. Hope to see all of our St John's Knights, and their wives, there!"

### Job opportunity at St. Ambrose Cathedral Family Faith Formation Director

We are in need of a Family Faith Formation Director to lead our wonderful program of diverse families and students. Are you a leader? Are you able to communicate and work with families of all backgrounds? Would you love to make a positive impact on children by bringing the word of God into their lives? God just might be calling you on a new path in your life! Full job description can be found [HERE](#)

To apply, please send your resume to [nmccarthy@saintambrosecathedral.org](mailto:nmccarthy@saintambrosecathedral.org).

### Disciple Experience Weekend (DEW)

Join us for a meaningful weekend to study and reflect on the Catholic Social Justice Teachings. An opportunity to enrich one's spiritual life will be held March 15-17, 2024. The location is Prairiewoods Retreat Center at 120 Boyson Road in Hiawatha, Iowa 52233.

The retreat begins Friday evening at 5:30 pm through 1 pm on Sunday. Cost is \$180 for the weekend (includes lodging, speakers and meals). Daily commuter rate: \$50 per person per day. Retreat includes 7 speakers, meals, Mass and Reconciliation.

This is a co-ed event. All race, creed and sexual orientation persons are welcome to attend. A team of lay people will conduct the weekend. For more information and for a registration form, please contact: Deanna Pietryga or Ted Pietryga at (319) 541-6303 or email us at: [deannaollendick@gmail.com](mailto:deannaollendick@gmail.com).

Join us on **FACEBOOK** at: DEW: Discipleship Experience Weekend. Hope to see you there!

### 2024 Shamrocks and Shenanigans

Join Catholic Charities for their annual fundraiser, Shamrocks & Shenanigans on Saturday, March 2 at The Shop in Downtown Des Moines (901 Cherry St, Des Moines, IA 50309). Prepare yourself for a unique evening of Irish fun in support of our vital programs which assist those most in need in our communities. More details are coming soon. Visit [catholiccharitiesdm.org](http://catholiccharitiesdm.org) or follow us on social media at @CCDesMoines.

### Baptismal Preparation Class at St. John's

A baptismal preparation class will be offered on Sunday, January 28th from 4-6 pm. The class will be held in the lower level parent lounge. Anyone planning a baptism for the first time, or those who have not had the class within the past two years should plan to attend. Please contact the office to sign up or if you have questions. 515-993-4482



### Attention: Ushers

*We will be taking a 2nd  
Collection, Dollars for DEBT, at the  
end of every Mass.*

*USHERS if the sidewalks are slick prior  
to Mass please spread some  
ice melt when you arrive,.  
Our snow removal service  
will do their best to clear the  
sidewalks and parking lot.*

*Please be sure to record your activity  
on the Maintenance log. Thank you!*



### Nourish for Caregivers

Nourish for Caregivers is an on-going ministry that gathers once a month to support the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of family caregivers. Nourish gives you the tools and resources to help you connect with your faith and encounter Christ, so you can see the grace and blessings in your caregiving journey. Nourish for Caregivers gatherings focus on issues pertinent to all caregiving, whether you are caring for an aging parent, spouse or disabled child. The next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 25 from 6-7 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish in the Archangels room. For additional information contact Deacon Dan Maxcy at [danm@holyltrinitydm.org](mailto:danm@holyltrinitydm.org) or Deacon Jim Houston at [pastoralcare@saintpiuschurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@saintpiuschurch.org).

### St. John the Apostle Catholic Church TRIVIA NIGHT - January 27

Doors open at 6:00/Game begins at 6:30  
\$15 per player

**Please purchase tickets in the parish office  
or on our website.**

Form your teams and come for a FUNtastic evening!  
*Bring your friends and family.*

**Sloppy Joes & non-alcoholic drinks  
available - freewill donation**  
BYOB and snacks for your table.

Proceeds go toward the 2024 Confirmation Retreat.



**January 31st:** Ice Skating Event at Brenton Plaza downtown. Meet at Church at 5:00 PM.

*This event is FREE!*

**March 2nd-3rd Ski Trip to Afton Alps  
and Mall of America.** Permission form can be found on the St. John's website. Deadline to register January 10th, 2024.

**Steubenville Conference July 12-14th Springfield,  
Missouri.** You can register on the website. Deadline to register January 31st, 2024. This is open to all current 8th graders through current HS Seniors. Parent/Student Meeting following the 5:00 pm Mass on Sunday 1/14.



# NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL

## TEACHING MASS AT ST. JOHN'S ON MARCH 2

On Saturday morning, March 2 from 8:30 to 9:30 AM St John's will host a teaching Mass led by Father Remi. A teaching Mass is an instructional or educational worship service where explanations and demonstrations are provided to help us better understand the various components and rituals of the Catholic Mass.

It will not be an actual Mass, but a teaching of the various parts of the Mass and the reasons and traditions behind each element of the Mass. It should be beneficial to all members of the parish, whether you have been a long-time Catholic or new to the faith. And it is a good way to deepen our faith during the Lenten season.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. We hope you are able to attend and bring a friend!

### Those Who Seek the Truth

In my work as a freelance writer, I have a regular column in the archdiocesan paper writing profiles of ordinary people in the local church. Laity, religious, and clergy alike — I hound them all to give me an interview, and when I do, the answer is almost always this: “You don’t want to talk to me. There’s nothing special about me.”

I always try to convince them that there is something remarkable about everyone who is searching for the truth. It is easy to think we are not made for holiness because we are ordinary people with ordinary habits, ordinary abilities, and ordinary sins. It is easy (and very convenient) to designate holiness as something belonging to Better People. People like the saints. People like the Disciples.

The Bible gives us next to no personal information about the disciples. There is no archdiocesan newspaper profile on Andrew and Simon that can give us insight into who they were before they became St. Andrew, Inaugural Disciple and Announcer of the Messiah, and St. Peter, First Pope and the Rock-Upon-Which-Christ-Built-His-Church.

Yet I find myself insatiably curious about it. What was their childhood like? What games did they play with each other as the sun set, before their mother called them into bed? What did they think of as they fell asleep at night? What secret jokes did they share to make each other laugh? What were they afraid of? What did they hope for? Who did they want to be?

Before they were towering figures of salvation history, Simon and Andrew were just two men searching for the truth. When they looked at Christ, there was something that made it click. Perhaps they themselves could not identify what it was, but their hearts whispered it nonetheless: *There it is. We finally found it.*

Isn’t that the best we can all hope for?

*“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’” — John 1:38*

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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## PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE! JANUARY 16-24, 2024

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Sign up to receive the daily prayers via email or text message.

<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

