

# CHRIST OUR LIFE

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

September 28 & 29, 2024



"This was the most joy-filled experience of my life. To be with thousands of other like-hearted individuals was truly uplifting. I want this conference in every city and community. We need that in our world right now."

- 2022 attendee quote

**Let's Believe... Live... and Celebrate Our Faith!**

Go to [ChristOurLifeIowa.com](http://ChristOurLifeIowa.com) for information & tickets

St. John's Parish Council welcomes you to coffee and donuts after 8:30 Mass.

In 2020, St. John's completed a Strategic planning process to develop our Parish Mission Statement, Vision and Goals.

#### Mission:

Love God, love neighbors, share the Gospel and build the kingdom of God.

#### Vision:

As a Catholic community,

St. John's parish will help all people encounter Christ by:

- ♦ Witnessing to Christ through our daily lives
- ♦ Nurture lifelong faith through recognizing, developing, and sharing our gifts
- ♦ Celebrating the Sacraments
- ♦ Supporting and enriching small faith communities

#### Goals:

- ♦ Worship and Spirituality: We will strengthen, nurture, and enhance the sacramental and liturgical life of our parish.
- ♦ Community: We will strengthen our parish by creating a welcoming and inclusive community of faith.
- ♦ Faith Formation: We will nurture lifelong faith formation.
- ♦ Service/Evangelization: We will witness to Christ through word and deed within our parish and beyond.

**Accessibility/Disability Ministry**-St. John's Cry Room is not just for babies anymore. It is a calming space for parishioners of all ages. Items have been added to support individuals with a variety of sensory needs. Sensory-seeking materials, such as quiet fidgets and chair bands, can help get the wiggles out. Sensory-avoiding items including noise-canceling headphones and light filters, can block out distractions. Also, organizational tools have been added to help children understand what is next in the Mass, as well as visual timers to see how much time is left in Mass. The goal is to help individuals meet sensory needs in a calm environment so all can better attend to Father's message and the miracle that is our Catholic Mass!



Sunday January 14th.

### Youth Mass

All youth and families are invited to a special 5:00 pm Youth Mass.

*Immediately following Mass, Erin will hold a meeting for parents and 8th—12th grade students planning to attend the Steubenville Conference in July.*

### Attention: ALL 8TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS—

**January 10th: 7:00 - 9:00 PM is a mini retreat night! This Special 3D event includes 8th grade and is a required component of our faith formation/youth ministry programs.** We will be having guest speakers come and give us a beautiful evening. The night begins at 7:00 PM and ends at 9:00 PM. Event will take place in the Church.

**January 14th: 5:00 pm Sunday Youth Mass**-All youth and families are invited to gather. Erin will be holding a Steubenville information meeting immediately following Mass. We will no longer be serving pizza after Mass as originally planned.



**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 Meeting following the 5:00 pm Mass on Sunday 1/14





# NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL

**Year of the Parish Eucharistic Renewal  
JUNE 2023 – JULY 2024**

Parishes across the United States are in the midst of the Year of the Parish Eucharistic Renewal. This initiative was called upon by the US bishops to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Throughout this year, St. John's is providing opportunities and resources intended to foster Eucharistic devotion and strengthen our liturgical life through faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and instill in parishioners a love with Jesus in the Eucharist (body, blood, soul & divinity).

These ideas are centered around four key invitations provided by the National Eucharistic Renewal committee. Here are the four pillars with a few examples:

Reinvigorate Worship (receive & worship Jesus) - Adding the bells back into the Mass and singing *Sanctuary* before communion

Personal Encounter with Jesus - Eucharistic Adoration & Encounter Night

Robust Faith Formation - *Beautiful Eucharist* book, Teaching on the Mass (Coming March 2nd) and Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit (Coming April 9-16th)

Missionary Sending (Go out and bring Jesus to the world)

We hope that you will take part in the opportunities and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

For more information about the National Eucharistic Renewal, visit [eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org).

## Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

***"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples;  
but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory."***

***— Isaiah 60:2***

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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*Eucharistic Adoration  
Every Thursday  
9 AM to 9 PM*