

St. Joseph Messenger

Building on Faith

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A publication of the St. Joseph Facilities Planning Team

Greetings in Christ! We have celebrated recently the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, reminding us of how Mary foretold of the Second World War along with the errors Communist Russia would bring. She told these things to the three Portuguese children of Fatima, exhorting them to spread the message for people to reform their lives, do penance, and pray the Rosary every day. Mary is such a mother watching over the spiritual health of her children in Christ. Let us honor her as often as we can. She is our beautiful mother and Queen of all hearts!

We have an exciting spring and early summer. First off, Bishop Daniel Felton was consecrated bishop of Duluth May 20 at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Rosary. Looking ahead we have a blessing over the graduates from our parish on May 30 at the 10:30 Mass. Our Diocese celebrates two ordinations in the first days of June. Scott Padrnos of Pequot Lakes/Nisswa will be ordained to the Diaconate as a transitional deacon towards priesthood on June 3. He comes to our parish several days later to remain with us throughout the summer. He will be a joy to have along with Jacob Tschida who will be with us also. On June 4 Deacon Trevor Peterson will be ordained a priest of Jesus Christ for the diocese of Duluth. If you encounter him, especially in his first year of priesthood, be sure to ask for his priestly blessing! There's so much grace surrounding a newly ordained priest! God bless you in this beautiful season of both nature and grace!

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

PRAYER TO OUR LADY, UNDOER OF KNOTS

Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the undoing of the knots in the lives of His children, I entrust into your hands the ribbon of my life. No one, not even the evil one himself, can take it away from your precious care. In your hands there is no knot that cannot be undone. Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with Your Son and My Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot: *(insert your prayer request here)*

I beg you to undo it for the glory of God, once for all, you are my hope.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me. Amen.

The Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Felton, the tenth bishop of Duluth, has a special devotion to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. Every day he prays to Mary to help him undo the knots that are placed before him in the events, people and experiences of each day so that all may grow closer to her son, Jesus Christ. Bishop Felton's coat of arms includes a rope with knots in honor of his devotion.

Rosary - June 12

A 10am Rosary will be at the new church property on the 2nd Saturday of the month. For questions, contact Mary Lee Dallman at 218-851-0193 or maryleedallman58@gmail.com.

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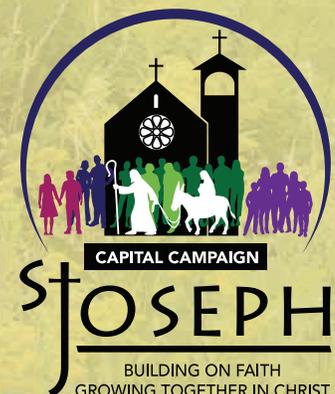
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Meet Amy Swenson

Parishioner Spotlight by Michelle LeMieur

When you walk into the Backyard Greenhouse in Deerwood, you're immediately immersed into a sea of green. Stress slips away and you're able to breath just a little bit easier. Among the blossoms of pink and blue, you'll find greenhouse owner and St. Joseph's parishioner, Amy Swenson. Amy and her husband, Bill, have been members of the parish for more than 30 years. Though Bill grew up in the area, Amy is originally from the Twin Cities. The couple has three grown children, Johnny, Bailey and Morgan. If you're lucky, you might see one or two of the kids helping their mom during your next visit to the greenhouse.

Amy has been an integral part of the St. Joseph's community. If you've enjoyed the seasonal flower arrangements when entering the church, you have Amy to thank. She considers decorating the altar, and other areas of the church, part of her mission for her parish family. Amy has also spent time in the kitchen and as a table leader during Family Faith Formation.

She has many fond memories of her parish over the years. "I'm grateful for the friends I have made here. Many have helped me with my own faith formation by their leadership and example."

During her free time, Amy is often spending time in the outdoors or reading in a quiet corner. Currently at the top of her reading queue is "The Well-Gardened Mind." Who would have guessed? When asked what her dream job is, Amy replied, "This is where I'm so incredibly fortunate. God has truly answered my prayers. I'm living it!"



Amy Swenson

St Joseph, Tender & Loving Father

Excerpts from the Apostolic Letter

This is a continuation from our March newsletter of Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103:13).

In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love,^[11] who is good to all, whose "compassion is over all that he has made" (Ps 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" (Rom 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: "To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Cor 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.^[12]

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. Rev 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness.

Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: "This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

^[11] Cf. Deut 4:31; Ps 69:16; 78:38; 86:5; 111:4; 116:5; Jer 31:20.

^[12] Cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), 88, 288; AAS 105 (2013), 1057, 1136-1137.

Read the full Apostolic Letter at: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patriis-corde.html



Volunteer Focus

Justin Smith - Facilities Planning & Events Team

Justin Smith graduated from Crosby-Ironton High School. It was there he met his wife, Erin. They have been married for 16 years and have four daughters, Claire (14), Belle (11), Mary (8) and Daphne (4).

He works in the 401 (K) industry, currently employed by Ascensus in Brainerd as a Retirement Services Consultant. He and Erin own and operate Knieff's Shore Acres Resort on Bay Lake. The property was homesteaded in 1883 by Erin's great grandfather. Justin and Erin built a home on the property in 2011. Their children are the fifth generation to live on the property.

Justin has been a member of the St. Joseph's community since 2004, originally as a member of the Deerwood parish. He is a knight in the Knights of Columbus, a former member of the St. Joseph's Future Planning Committee, and is the current chair on the Facilities Planning Team.

In addition, Justin is a supervisor on the Bay Lake Township board and is a registered Minnesota State

varsity official for boys' and girls' basketball. In his spare time, he enjoys watching movies, playing golf, and playing games with his children.

The skills and talents that Justin says he brings to the Facilities Planning Team include being a very detailed and dedicated person. He strives to finish what he starts and enjoys meeting new people and hearing their stories. He is willing to lend a hand to help anyone in need. He possesses a strong business and financial background and brings a "young family" perspective to the table.



Justin Smith

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

"U" are needed to help make the Summer Festival a success.

No experience necessary, but if you previously helped with the Fall Festival your expertise would be appreciated.

Contact Mike Aulie at 763-498-2997 or Tommy Sablan at 702-460-2711 for more details.



Committees

Contact one of the following people:

Prayer Guild

Pray for special intentions

Mary Lee Dallman (Team Contact)

Facilities Planning Team

Oversees all other committees/teams

Justin Smith (Chair)

Events Team

Planning events for the parish

Mike Aulie (Co-Chair)

Tommy Sablan (Co-Chair)

Communication Team

Inform parishioners about current project status

Joan Hasskamp (Co-Chair)

Doreen Miller-Fish (Co-Chair)

Grant Exploration Team

Review possibility of accessing grants

Fr. Anthony Craig (Chair)

Auction Team

Review and organize auction opportunity

Dr. Rachel Cady (Co-Chair)

Joan Hasskamp (Co-Chair)



Well Read Mom

Spotlight by Nicole Bugnacki

After years of managing a busy household of nine people, Well-Read Mom founder Marcie Stokman learned that she was a happier, more whole woman, wife, and mother when she was reading good books.

As her children grew, Marcie began sharing a talk with area women called "The Well-Read Mom." She learned through that experience that moms want to read but often can't find the time or don't know where to start when it comes to choosing books. Years later, Marcie's daughter Beth, a new mother, voiced her frustration with the typical mom's group conversation, which seemed to be limited to sleeping habits and strategies for soothing teething babies.

"Isn't there a place for women, after college, where they can keep exploring the good, challenging stuff – high-quality literature, philosophy, theology?" Beth asked.

In response, Marcie started Well-Read Mom, a non-profit dedicated to helping women read more and read well by accompanying them in reading great books and spiritual classics. The books they read encourage personal growth, friendship, and meaningful conversations. What started from a desire and longing of mothers to meet with other women in a meaningful, intelligent way complete with fun and friendship has turned into a cultural force that encourages

women to explore the human condition and reorient themselves to what is good, beautiful, and true.

"Today, books from our tradition are being pushed aside for more contemporary works, or people are ignoring literature altogether because they think it's irrelevant. In addition to that, reading from print is falling by the wayside. It's becoming harder to garner the necessary focus and attention for sustained reading," states Marcie. "The women who participate in Well-Read Mom believe that literature is nourishment for human development and desire to continue educating their hearts, minds, and imaginations so that they are more aware of the meaning and beauty present in their daily lives." No matter what stage you might be at in your reading journey, participating in Well-Read Mom can be a great way to develop friendships and have meaningful conversations.

Talk to Marcie Stokman, Janel Lewandowski, or Nicole Bugnacki to learn more about Well-Read Mom or visit www.wellreadmom.com.

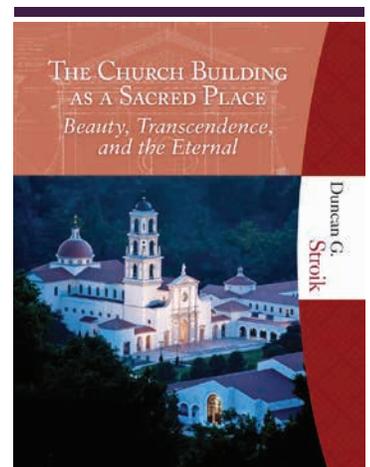


Focus on Church Architecture

The Church Building as a Sacred Place: Beauty, Transcendence and the Eternal, by Duncan Stroik might very well be the modern guide to traditional church architecture. It is a collection of 23 essays written by Stroik that shows the development and consistency of his architectural vision over the last eighteen years. He explains church modernism and modernity, renaissance and renewal, principles of church design, and a critique of modern iconoclasm and includes a list of canonical documents pertaining to church architecture. Packed with informative essays and over 170 photographs, this collection helps priests, bishops, liturgical consultants, lay commissions and parishioners understand the Church's architectural tradition. Duncan Stroik's architectural practice and career have helped lead the evolution of the international classical movement, and over the past decade his work has been instrumental in the new renaissance of sacred architecture. He is an internationally noted classical designer and heavily involved in promoting the new renaissance in Catholic architecture. He combines a passion for an architecture of durability, beauty, and function, with an intimate knowledge of Catholic liturgy.

About the author. *Duncan G. Stroik is a practicing architect, author, and Professor of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame. He is a frequent lecturer on sacred architecture and the classical tradition and the founding editor of Sacred Architecture Journal. His award-winning work includes the Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel in Santa Paula, California, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.*

Interested in learning more about church architecture? You can find architecture books, including Duncan Stroik's, on the shelf below *St. Michael in the Adoration Chapel*.



The Church Building as a Sacred Place: Beauty, Transcendence, and the Eternal by Duncan Stroik is a collection of articles focusing on traditional church architecture.