



The Spirit of  
**SAINT BONAVENTURE**  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES



Summer 2023  
Volume 11, Issue 2



## Staffing Transitions

Many of you know we are going through staffing transitions. While unfortunate timing, it is essential to know these are natural departures, and there are no negative sentiments from those moving on to new opportunities, retiring, or staying on staff. As we know, transitions can bring tender times—they also can bring incredible growth.

Our parish leadership and staff are working with Kornowski Consultants to help us cover necessary day-to-day business responsibilities and to find the right structure and replacements to serve our parish. As you may understand, finding suitable replacements quickly is always challenging, especially in parish staffing. We are taking the time to be thoughtful and make the right choices for our community.

We appreciate your prayers. As Fr. James shared in his homily a couple of weeks ago, he has been praying to God for the wisdom and understanding to minister and serve our community better. In 1 Kings 3, we hear God telling Solomon, “Ask me something, and I will give it to you.” Solomon asked for the wisdom and understanding to govern his people, and God gave it to him abundantly. But we know this is not always the case. There can be delay in God responding to us or making changes to His plan. Then what do we do about it?

**Please be generous in time and expectations.** Especially in this time of transition, we need your grace and openness as we balance priorities and the chance to consider new ways of doing things. Our community life of prayer and fellowship is the strength of Saint Bonaventure Catholic Community, and that is because of YOU. Saint Bonaventure is a strong parish animated by individuals generously giving their time and talents for many years. We are thankful for this strong foundation and our mission remains the same, to **Love God—Love Others—Make Disciples.**

***Saint Bonaventure, pray for us!***

## Faith Formation

**Classes begin Wednesday, September 27** at 6:30 p.m. Parents please join us! We will gather in Ambrose Hall for an overview of the program. Register online at [saintbonaventure.org/faith-formation](http://saintbonaventure.org/faith-formation) or pick up a form in the office.

**Catechists:** We are so grateful for our volunteer office aides, substitutes, and catechists! We are still seeking someone to cover our 6th grade class. Please let us know if you are interested or would like more information.

**Volunteers:** Thank you for generously sharing your time and talent. We could not run this program without you! *Saint Bonaventure is committed to fostering a safe environment for all. Volunteers who work with children, teens, and vulnerable adults are required to complete and maintain Essential (E3) Requirements. Get started at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org).*





**SAINT  
BONAVENTURE  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

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**Website:** saintbonaventure.org

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Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Parish Staff**

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**Friars in Residence**

Fr. Antony Skaria, CFIC

Fr. Sojan Thomas, CFIC

**Community Leadership**

**Trustees**

Breta MacPhie, 612-730-6409

Tom Mantel, 952-835-3945

**Parish Pastoral Council**

Beth Boyle, chair, 612-978-1947

**Finance Council**

Frank Shimkus, chair, 952-888-0191

**A NOTE FROM  
SAINT BONAVENTURE**

*Love God - Love Others - Make Disciples*



**Archbishop's Dream for Our Parish**



Archbishop Bernard Hebda has a dream for our parish and every parish in this Archdiocese: a dream in which all Catholics are in a small group. He dreams such things because being in small groups can help our faith come more fully to life and help us draw closer to Jesus. In the earliest days of the Church, small groups spread the good news of Jesus – and they can do it again today.

Our Synod Evangelization Team (SET) has been preparing to help make the Archbishop's dream of Catholics in small groups a reality: creating a small group ministry here at Saint Bonaventure. If you feel inspired by this or any other

aspect of the Archdiocesan Synod process, consider the following action steps:

- **Read the Pastoral Letter**, “You Will Be My Witnesses,” online at archspm.org/synodletter (also available via podcast).
- **Prayerfully discern participating in Small Group Leader Formation**, a FREE seven-week series held in the fall right here at our parish, facilitated virtually by Bishop Joseph Williams. This formation is intended for those who are open to the possibility of playing a leadership role in a small group.
- **Watch for details and an invitation for Small Groups in early 2024!**

If you are interested in small group leader formation or would like to learn more about Synod implementation efforts at Saint Bonaventure, contact Wendell, chair of our Executive Cell Team at 952-693-1385 or reach out to any SET member: Tammy Arndorfer, Peggy Fouts, Will Herrmann, Dick Hertel, Alfred Iyobhebhe, Wendell Kawakami, Jodi Ketter, Ben Krippner, Deanna Lelemsis, Breta MacPhie.



*You Will Be My Witnesses*

**Archdiocesan Evangelization Prayer**

Holy Spirit, renew your wonders in our time,  
as though in a new Pentecost, and grant that this Archdiocese,  
united in prayer around Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and guided by St. Peter,  
may spread the Kingdom of the divine Savior,  
a Kingdom of truth, of justice, of love, and of peace. Amen.

***Saint Paul, our great missionary patron, pray for us!  
Saint Bonaventure, our parish patron, pray for us!***



# GENEROUS HEARTS



## Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition: July 15–16



Teenager Carlo Acutis created a website: [miracolieucaristici.org](http://miracolieucaristici.org), documenting Eucharistic miracles worldwide until his death at 15. A photographic exhibit of his work now travels the world and was in our Gathering Space, July 15-16.

The exhibit's beautiful panels document each Eucharistic Miracle with photos, illustrations, and background information on where they took place, witnesses to the miracle, and the lasting influence of the miracles on the people and places they occurred.



Eucharistic miracles are extraordinary events where the Eucharist no longer appears under the form of bread and wine but takes on the biological qualities of human flesh or blood or both. One scientifically verified and church-proven case of this is the bread turning into flesh.

"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan," Acutis stated. Blessed Carlo Acutis was beatified in 2020; his feast day is October 12, and he is a patron for computer programmers and youth.

## Our Lady of the Angels Adoration Chapel



*Our Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except when Mass is being celebrated. You are welcome in the chapel at any time.*

### Angelus Prayer in Adoration Chapel Daily at Noon

The Angelus prayer is being prayed aloud in our Adoration Chapel every day at noon. Our prayer time begins with the ringing of a bell because our parish patron, St Bonaventure, recommend that prayers at noon begin with a bell ringing to gather the faithful. This short prayer is prayed daily by Christians around the world, especially at noon, and recalls the incarnation of Christ among us. All are welcome to join; prayer cards with text in English and Spanish are provided.

### Children's Adoration Hour Mondays from 9-10 a.m.

A special time for children and their parents to adore Christ through noise, movement, or any way they want!

### Adoration Hour

If would like to make a commitment to adore one hour or more each week:

- Sign up at [saintbonaventure.org/adoration](http://saintbonaventure.org/adoration)
- Call or text Will at 513-505-9413
- Email [adoration@saintbonaventure.org](mailto:adoration@saintbonaventure.org)

## What is the loneliest thing in the world?

Nothing is lonelier than life without God,  
No trip of pleasure can take  
The loneliness of life away  
That makes the spirit ache.

For we were meant to love the Lord  
With heart and soul and mind  
And strength as long as we may live,  
Or peace we cannot find.

St. Augustine learned this law:  
"Our hearts were made for Thee  
Alone, Oh Lord, and they are restless  
Till they rest in Thee."

- Peggy Peterson





## Garage Sale Success



Our 41st garage sale was again a successful venture. The many hours of sorting, pricing, displaying, and selling resulted in our biggest total ever, with **sale profits of \$13,276.21!** Many thanks to all those who donated, volunteered, shopped, and made meals for the workers. A special thanks to the committee: JoAnn Dale, Sue Weberg, Benita Welch, and Ruth Pladsen.

Our Saint Bonaventure community is committed to reaching out to those in need and in that spirit, half of the proceeds stayed with the parish and the other half was distributed as follows:

- **Aid to the Church in Need—\$1,000**  
Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church, supporting the Catholic faithful and other Christians where they are persecuted, oppressed, or in pastoral need. Learn more at [churchinneed.org](http://churchinneed.org).
- **Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis—\$1,000**  
Catholic Charities is the largest social service nonprofit in Minneapolis-St. Paul, their mission is to serve those most in need and to advocate for justice in the community. Learn more at [cctwincities.org](http://cctwincities.org).
- **Feed My Starving Children—\$1,000**  
Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. Learn more at [fmnc.org](http://fmnc.org).
- **Sharing and Caring Hands—\$1,000**  
Sharing and Caring Hands helps with whatever needs are not being met while providing these needs with dignity and affirming God's love for all people regardless of their circumstances. Learn more at [sharingandcaringhands.org](http://sharingandcaringhands.org).
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society—\$1,000**  
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international voluntary organization in the Catholic Church, founded for the sanctification of its members by personal service of the poor. The St. Bonaventure SVdP conference offers a variety of outreach programs to address local needs through personal relationships with and service to people in need.
- **VEAP—\$1,000**  
VEAP: Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People provides a range of programs to help low-income individuals and families meet their immediate needs and move toward stability. Learn more at [veap.org](http://veap.org).
- **Friends of the Poor (Sister Rose Vu Vietnamese Mission)—\$600**  
Friends of the Poor nonprofit organization, supported by the Center for Mission in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, is devoted to helping people in Vietnam become self-sufficient so they can have a brighter future.

## Thank You for Supporting the Craft Group

With hands for crafting and hearts for God, our Craft Group is dedicated to creating treasured keepsakes. Thank you to all who made purchases at the Christmas and Spring Craft Boutiques and donations of or towards supplies. Through your generosity, the Craft Group was able to make donations of \$6,100 to the following:



- Matthew Sell, seminarian
- Bridging
- Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent, Pro Ecclesia Sancta
- School Sisters of Notre Dame - Retirement Fund
- Knights of Columbus - Loaves and Fishes
- Two Outdoor Activities Building Signs
- Utility Cart for Craft group
- Bird House - Rectory Courtyard
- Bird Bath - Prayer Garden

Our Craft Group meets Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Activities Building. Please join us or stop to find the perfect gift. Your ideas are needed, and your talents are appreciated. **Be sure to visit our Craft Tent at the Fall Festival!**



Love God - Love Others - Make Disciples

## Saint Bonaventure Scholarship Winners



The Saint Bonaventure Scholarship honors high school seniors for their academic excellence and contributions to our parish and community. Fr. James awarded \$1,500 scholarships on Sunday, June 4, to our 2023 recipients: Carmen Brewers, Thomas King, and Abigail Valladolid.

**Carmen Brewers** graduated from Jefferson High School, where she was active in sports, band, and the National Honor Society. In our parish, she serves as a lector and youth representative on Parish Pastoral Council. Carmen will pursue pharmacy studies at the University of St. Thomas.

**Thomas King** graduated from Trinity School at River Ridge, where he was very active in sports as well as playing piano and guitar. At Saint Bonaventure, he actively serves as a lector and is part of the Palm Sunday Passion Proclamation. Thomas will be pursuing studies in math and Engineering at University of Mary in Bismarck, ND.

**Abigail Valladolid** graduated from Jefferson High School and post-secondary classes at Normandale Community College. Abigail was active in the National Honor Society and excelled in figure skating. In our parish, she is a lector and actively involved with the Couples for Christ Youth Ministry. Abigail is pursuing studies in data science and international affairs at Northeastern University in Boston, MA.



## McCabe Named Knight of the Year

Mike McCabe was named Knight of the Year for 2023 for the Knights of Columbus Marian Council 3827 based in Bloomington. Mike has served as a guard for the 3rd degree, and is a member of the Home Association. Mike is an active volunteer for the lunch bunch and round table and is his parish's tootsie roll drive coordinator. Mike works side-by-side with other Knights at the Pro Ecclesias' Sancta Convent, doing repairs and projects as needed. Mike also works on projects at the Bloomington Event Center. Mike serves as an usher at Saint Bonaventure and volunteers at the annual St. Boni Fall Festival. Mike has been married to his wife, Phyllis, for 41 years, and they have two children.



## Thank You for Supporting the MinisTREE

Thank you! Our community has blessed us again through our MinisTREE Program! We received 165 cards fulfilling requests from our ministries with financial donations totaling **\$10,625, in-kind items valued at more than \$3,650, and 58 service hours!**

MinisTREE is made possible by Catholic United Financial. We are especially grateful for the support of the Saints Ann and Wendelinus Catholic United Financial Council #46, who will donate \$5 per completed MinisTREE card up to \$500 to Saint Bonaventure. Their chapter representative is Bill McMullen, [bmcullen@catholicunited.org](mailto:bmcullen@catholicunited.org).



## Empty Can Tubs Need More Cans

We periodically haul away ALL of the aluminum cans donated and collected and send the proceeds to Friends of the Poor, a Vietnamese Catholic charity! We are always ready for more cans to keep the money flowing to mission work. Please **ONLY aluminum cans** - no other items are acceptable. Whenever you bring bags of cans, please empty the bag and throw the bag in the big dumpster - this greatly helps us. Thanks for your beautiful effort and time on this very worthwhile project. - Art



# St. Boni's Fall Festival

FIRST WEEKEND AFTER LABOR DAY | SEPTEMBER 8 - 9



Many hands, feet, and hearts come together to make our annual outdoor festival a success. Here are a few ways to participate in the fun and support this special community event!



## Raffle

Our raffle will take place Saturday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. Your participation makes a difference as money raised helps us continue our mission to **Love God - Love Others - Make Disciples**. Tickets are available at the parish office. Return completed stubs, money, and unsold tickets in the collection or parish office.

**Prizes \$5,300 value - 15 chances to win!**

### 9 CASH PRIZES

1. \$2,000
2. \$500
3. \$500
4. \$400
5. \$400
6. \$300
7. \$300
8. \$200
9. \$200

### 4 GIFT CERTIFICATES

10. \$100 Culvers
11. \$100 Droolin' Moose

12. \$100 Applebees
13. \$100 Andiamo

### 2 GIFT BASKETS

14. Gift Basket - \$50 Value
  15. Gift Basket - \$50 Value
- Handcrafted creations  
by our Craft Group!*



## Silent Auction

Help by creating a basket, dropping off items, or donating cash. Themed baskets, unique products, and service donations make great gifts! While out shopping, please keep the Silent Auction in mind. Large items like furniture, bikes, and garden ornaments that don't fit in baskets are always a hit with bidders! Please always be sure to let us know the value of your donation. Drop off donations in the Parish Office or the Activities Building by August 31.

Contact Beth at 952-657-8731 with questions about the Silent Auction.



## Children's Games

Donate prizes for our Children's Games: 2-liter bottles of pop, store-purchased cookies, and new and gently loved stuffed animals. If you want to donate, but don't want to shop, we will shop for you! Drop off donations in the black bins in the Gathering Space and in the Activities Building by September 6.

If you have questions, need assistance dropping off items, or would like volunteers to assist with shopping call Denise at 612-554-4963.



## Parade

If you have a talent you would enjoy sharing with our greater community, we would love to have you march in the Fall Festival Parade! Do you juggle? Ride a unicycle? Play an instrument? Come join us! Young and old—all are welcome to show off your talents or, put on a costume, decorate your bike or wagon, and help us kick off the Fall Festival! Line-up at 9:30 a.m. in the north parking lot, **parade begins promptly at 10 a.m.** Julie at 952-564-9189, or jbstrom02@gmail.com.

**New this year! Six llovable llamas** from Carlson's Llovable Llamas will be in our parade and available for **Free Photos and Hugs** until noon!



There are many opportunities to join in the fun - our festival is full of variety! Families, friends, and neighbors are welcome and encouraged to volunteer together. **Volunteers can SIGN UP after August 19** in the Gathering Space or online at [saintbonaventure.org/fall-festival](http://saintbonaventure.org/fall-festival).

Contact Art or Nancy at 952-854-3347 with any questions about volunteering.



St. Boni's

# Fall Festival

*Always the first weekend after Labor Day!*

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

Hot Broasted Chicken Dinner  
**Take-Outs Available!**

4:30-7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

**Festival Fun for Everyone! 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Superb food, cold beverages, silent auction, craft boutique, kids' games, inflatables, The Baron of Bubbles, Tom the Tall Man, Hula Hoop Lady, bingo, games of chance, and much more!

## Live Entertainment Schedule

28th Annual Car Show	7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Parade (Awards at 10:30 a.m.)	10 a.m.
Sawyer's Dream	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wayne and the Boys	12 - 6 p.m.
Dakota Ramblers	3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Raffle Drawing: <b>\$5,300 value - 15 chances!</b>	6:30 p.m.
Mass	7 p.m.



SAINT BONAVENTURE  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

901 East 90th Street, Bloomington, MN 55420 | 952-854-4733 | [saintbonaventure.org](http://saintbonaventure.org)





## Beautiful Bonaventure

Our Building and Grounds Committee and volunteers constantly work to maintain and make improvements to our campus. Beyond special projects, they keep our 12 acres of land looking beautiful through a lot of ongoing maintenance and efforts.

**Activities Building Kitchen and Storage Updates:** We are looking into updating some parts of our Activities Building Kitchen. We have made some necessary repairs and upgrades to the sinks and below them, but more will come!



We completed the last wall closet projects this summer. The new closets in Rooms 7 & 8 will provide more long-term storage to free up room in the chair room and provide storage needs for other ministries.



**No More Ash Trees—More Variety of Trees on Property:** Our tree project is nearing completion. The remaining ten ash trees were cut down in the spring. That's right; they are almost all gone [about 50], 13 new trees were planted to replace those ash trees, along with transplanting others to the right location. The new trees are a variety to add to the beauty of our property. Most of the new ones are on the Chicago side of our property, with some on 10th Ave. and others in various places.

**Holes are Gone and Fresh White Lines:** In May, we filled the holes in our parking lot with fresh blacktop and restriped all our parking spaces, including the office area and the north and south parking lots. We made a few changes for easy parking, including a special location for our bus, and one more space for handicapped parking near Door 5 (Adoration entrance.) We restripe every 2-3 years based on condition and budget. Enjoy the new stripes, and remember to park between the lines.



- Art, Building and Grounds Committee

## Parish Library

Our Parish Library is available to all members of our parish and community. Find materials for all ages, from books to DVDs and CDs, to increase your knowledge of our Faith and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ! No cash, credit card, or passcode is required. Please stop in anytime the church is open—the library is located on the south side of the second floor.



On our website: [saintbonaventure.org/faith-formation](http://saintbonaventure.org/faith-formation), you can find:

- List of Parish Library Books by Title or by Author
- Book Reviews

## Fall 2023 Grief Series: Thursdays, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Christ the King Lutheran Church: 8600 Freemont Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420 | 952 881-8600  
Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition | [brgriefcoalition.com](http://brgriefcoalition.com)

**Soul Work**, Bob Bartlett - September 21

**Show Yourself Some Love: Self-care & Grief Breaks**, Brittany Squillace - September 28

**Letting Go**, Bob Bartlett - October 5

**Grief Wishes: A Guide to Navigating Your Grief Journey**, Brittany Squillace - October 12

**Grief and Resiliency**, Catherine Duncan - October 19

**The Puzzle Called Grief**, Donna Mathiowetz - October 26

**Missing Our Son (parent's grief)**, Chris and Bob Lewis - November 2

**Navigating Through the Holidays**, Erin Hente - November 9



# Appalachia Christmas Shoe Box Mission Project

September 11 - October 16



## Appalachia Christmas Shoe Box Mission Project September 11 - October 16

Thank you to all who have graciously participated in the Appalachia Christmas Shoe Box Mission Project in the past, many of you year after year! We are grateful for your immense generosity, which has touched the lives of many children and families in one of the poorest regions of our country. This mission started in 2013, and more than 10,000 shoeboxes have been sent from the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese! Last year, Saint Bonaventure generously sent 89 beautifully wrapped shoe boxes and other miscellaneous gifts.

We will begin collecting packed shoeboxes and gifts to be included in shoe boxes the week after the Fall Festival. The Shoe Box Mission Project is a wonderful project for children, families, and people of all ages, so be creative and have fun!

We sincerely appreciate the shoe boxes already packed. Please label which category your gift is for, and we suggest each box include a mixture of necessary items and fun Christmas gifts. Gift donations must be new, as this may be our recipients' only Christmas gift this year.

**Please label each shoe box** with age group (Infant, 2-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-18, Adult) and whether it is for a male or female.

### Try to include:

- a **wow** item
  - a **personal care** item
  - a **useful** item
  - a **fun** item
- Add a **personalized note** and a **religious** item if you'd like. Parishes receiving our gifts are Catholic, so please include rosaries and spiritual gifts such as bibles and books about Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph, and other saints or small pictures and crosses they can hang on their walls.

**Other needs that may not fit in a shoe box:** Towels, laundry soap, large t-shirts and sweatshirts, blankets and bedding, hunting clothes, coats and shoes for kids, wrapping paper, craft kits, ornaments, all toiletries (please put lotion and shampoo in a ziploc bag to prevent spills).

**Gift suggestions:** Dolls, balls, stuffed animals, small musical instruments, slinky, play-doh, crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, school supplies, notebooks, paints, barrettes, hair ties, headbands, shoes, socks, underwear, bag, purse, bracelets, some sunglasses, lip balm, mirror, watch, flip-flops, sweatshirt, sweat pants, nightgown or pajamas, puzzles, books, flashlight, deodorant, hat, scarf, mittens, sewing kit, picture frame, playing cards, small blanket, blocks, stickers, kitchen items for cooking and baking, stickers, tennis balls, comb, brush, toothbrush, a washcloth, small cars and trucks, interactive toys (please include extra batteries), hacky sack, nail clipper, small tools, games, cosmetics, wallets, jewelry, slippers, and batteries.

**DO NOT include:** Canned goods or food items; used or damaged items; or violent items such as toy guns or knives.

### It is very helpful if:

- Your boxes are wrapped in Christmas gift wrap
- Liquid toiletries are packed in ziploc bags (*to prevent leaking*)

If you would rather not pack a shoebox, we can accept items to be included in a shoebox later.

Collection bins wrapped in gift wrap will be in the Gathering Space and the entrance of the Activities Building the week after the Fall Festival.

May the blessings of our Risen Savior bring us FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE. When our gifts are delivered, we will be celebrating the birth of our baby Jesus, the Savior of the world. Thank you for helping us spread his joy!

**Thank you for joining us in the Appalachia Christmas Mission Shoe Box Project!**

Contact Becky, Health and Wellness Coordinator, 952-297-8423, [beckyr@saintbonaventure.org](mailto:beckyr@saintbonaventure.org) with questions.



## Respect Life Ministry

**Baby Bottle Boomerang:** Our 21st Baby Bottle Boomerang in January and February raised funds to support pregnancy resource centers throughout the Twin Cities, greater Minnesota, and western Wisconsin. This year's donations were sent to Elevate Life, which supports more than 36 pregnancy resource centers. Our community generously raised **\$9,298.07**, bringing our 21-year cumulative total to **\$157,000**. Praise God!



**40 Days for Life:** On March 11, more than 40 pro-life prayer warriors from Saint Bonaventure and Nativity of Mary braved wind chills of -20° to pray outside the Bloomington abortion clinic. They did this along with millions of other pro-life groups throughout the country, praying for an end to abortion over the 40 days.



**Pro-life Rosary Ministry:** Every Thursday for the last 2 1/2 years, parishioners from Saint Bonaventure have prayed at Whole Women's Health at 9:45 a.m. on Thursday mornings to pray for an end to abortion. They are a witness for the unborn children who's lives are in danger at this clinic located less than 3 mi. from here.

**Sidewalk Counseling** to save women and their unborn children. Many Respect Life ministry members also volunteer to be sidewalk counselors at Whole Women's Health, located near 82nd St. and 35W in Bloomington. They distribute informational brochures and pray for women entering the clinic. While they sometimes put up with harassment and bad weather conditions, lives have been saved, and women have been witnessed to about the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death.



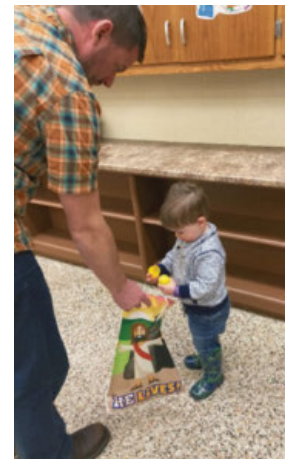
**Mother's Day Flower Sale:** We sold African violets, begonias, and mini rose bush plants Mother's Day weekend and the proceeds of **\$401** were donated to SouthWest Options for Women to help support life for other children and moms.

**Diaper Drive:** We conduct a diaper drive every year between Mother's Day and Father's Day for St. Vincent de Paul food shelf recipients. This year we received: **11,094 diaper wipes, 6,104 diapers, and 30 Pull-Ups**. Thank you for helping babies and their moms!

Our Respect Life Ministry meets the first Sunday of the month, after 10 a.m. Mass (Sept.-May) in the St. Francis Room. Contact Barb Bittner at 651-345-9471, or [barbarah.bittner@gmail.com](mailto:barbarah.bittner@gmail.com) to learn more.

## Alive! 2023 Recap

**Alive!** started 2023 by planning four amazing social activities for the first few months of the year. At the end of January, about 100 people feasted at our annual **Spaghetti Dinner** in Ambrose Hall. It was nice to get out in the middle of winter! February wouldn't be the same without our annual **Valentine's Dinner & Dance**. Couples, groups, families, and single people all came together to enjoy a delicious meal, ice cream sundae bar, and dance the night away with music by Wayne and the Boys. In March, 125 people tried to win their Easter ham. Eleven lucky people walked away with hams, while others received cash prizes and gift baskets at **Ham Bingo**. This event continues to grow, and people look forward to our bingo events. Our annual **Egg Hunt** was Saturday night of Palm Sunday weekend this year. More than 100 people gathered for dinner, and 45 kids hunted for eggs filled with candy, with some receiving "golden tickets," allowing them to pick a special gift.



THANK YOU to all who have supported and attended our events! We are happy to offer social activities to unite our community for an enjoyable time. We need more volunteers to help us plan and offer these social activities for our community. Please consider joining our committee, contact Denise at 612-554-4963.





## World Youth Day

Matthew Sell and Will Herrmann from Saint Bonaventure and Emily Dalsky of Nativity of Mary attended the 2023 World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal August 1-6. World Youth Day is a global event for young people established by Pope John Paul II, and occurs every 2-3 years in various cities. The next World Youth Day will be in Seoul, South Korea in 2027.

Traveling with 18 others from the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, they joined young Catholics from 151 countries. Events included talks from Catholic speakers like Bishop Robert Barron, Jason Evert, and Chris Stefanik, along with multi-language events like Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, and music. World Youth Day culminated with Sunday Mass celebrated by Pope Francis and attended by 1.5 million people.



“Sometimes it can feel lonely being a person of faith in my generation,” Will said. “But events like these with so many young people on fire for their faith really brings hope. It was incredible having Eucharistic Adoration with Pope Francis and having nearly a million people in silent reverence before Our Lord in the Eucharist.”



The pilgrimage that Matthew and Will went on also included a visit to Fatima, where in 1917 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children and encouraged praying the rosary. After World Youth Day concluded, the group left Portugal and spent three days in Spain visiting Madrid, Toledo, and Ávila, especially their religious sites.

“While we had the privilege to go, we brought prayers from Saint Bonaventure with us, and we hope the graces we received will be shared among everyone back home.”

## Farewell Sing-Along

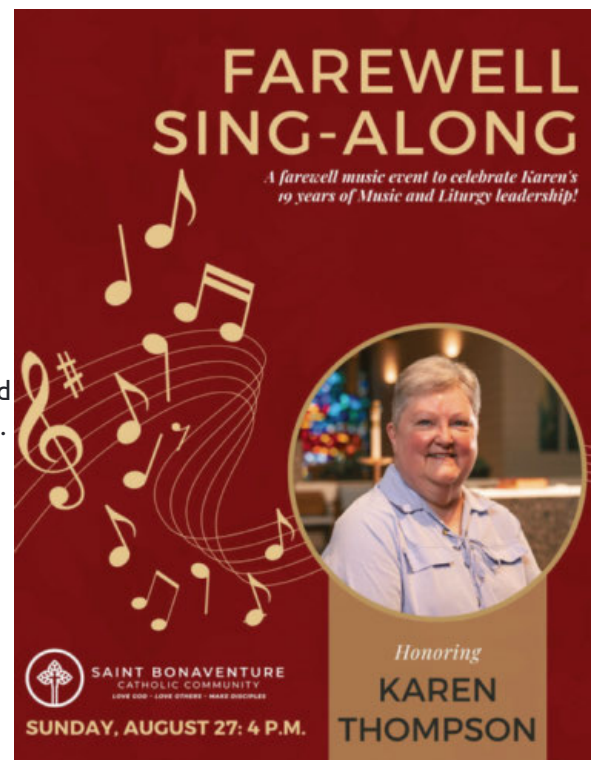
Join us in church Sunday, August 27 at 4 p.m. for a farewell music event celebrating Karen's 19 years of Music and Liturgy leadership!

### Karen Thompson

Hi, I'm Karen Thompson. I've been the Director of Music and Liturgy at Saint Bonaventure for 19.5 years and will retire in the fall. It is extremely difficult for me to leave this wonderful parish, its fabulous staff, and especially our amazing musicians. But it is time.

My 89-year-old mother, Rose Mary, lives with me here in Bloomington, and we will be moving back to our hometown of Lancaster, Wisconsin, this fall. Having family here in town has been a gift! Getting to spend time and do things with my sister Linda, niece Julie and now grand-niece Ellie through the years has been wonderful.

**What do you love about Saint Bonaventure?** There are so many things! When I first got here, people were ecstatic and welcomed me with open arms. We have had such great staff along the way who have been blissful to work with. The Bus Ministry has been a great blessing and has made my mom feel welcome and wanted at Saint Bonaventure.



**The Church of Saint Bonaventure of Bloomington, Minnesota**

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**Summer 2023 Newsletter**



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**Saint Bonaventure  
Upcoming Events**

- August 27 Farewell Sing-Along for Karen
- September 8-9 St. Boni's Fall Festival
- October 28 Alive! Trunk or Treat
- November 1 All Saints Day
- November 4-5 Christmas Craft Boutique
- November 18 Alive! Turkey Bingo
- December 8 Immaculate Conception
- December 9 Alive! Breakfast with Santa

Please check [saintbonaventure.org](http://saintbonaventure.org) for the calendar of events.

*Mass*

**Tuesday-Saturday:**  
8:45 a.m.

**Saturday:**  
4:30 p.m.  
*Livestream at:*  
[saintbonaventure.org](http://saintbonaventure.org)

**Sunday:**  
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

*Reconciliation*

**Wednesday:**  
8 - 8:20 a.m.

**Friday:**  
8 - 8:20 a.m.

**Saturday:**  
3:15 - 4 p.m.

