



ST. DONATUS



ST. ALEXIUS



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



ST. PETER & PAUL



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS



ST. PAUL'S

Faith, food and friendship



Members of Breaking Bread — Anna Blonigen (front, from left) and Emily Franzese; and (back, from left) Shawn Wielenberg, Jordan Becker, Alex Rutten, Jennifer Panuska, Monica Becker and Erin Wielenberg.

Breaking Bread brings together area young adults

Once a month, young adults from across Parishes on the Prairie bring their food and faith to Breaking Bread, a group which has been bringing people together for over 5 years and letting them know they are not alone.

“My favorite part (of Breaking Bread) has been the gathering of younger people who want to practice their faith and know there are others doing the same,” said Rachel Bosl, Breaking Bread’s founder. “We’ve (also) had some good food.”

Bosl, parishioner of Our Lady of the Angels Church in Sauk Centre, started an unnamed young adult group in 2018; she had moved back home to Sauk Centre

after volunteering with NET Ministries in Ireland.

“I had experienced some intense community while being on team and staff, and moving back to Sauk Centre, there was nothing like that,” Bosl said. “I definitely felt the void of people my age practicing their faith. I was expressing this to Father Greg (Paffel), and he said I should start something. With much trepidation I finally did; what’s the saying, ‘Build it and they will come?’”

The young adult group operated without an official name for about a year.

Breaking bread from front

Then, one day, Bosl and her younger sister, Lindsey (Bosl) Yeager, were attending Mass where the Gospel covered the Last Supper, and that was what inspired the Breaking Bread name.

“My younger sister said that’s what we should call (the group) because, at the time, we met to eat food and gather in an upstairs room,” Bosl said. “The Holy Spirit was all over that name.”

Around the late fall of 2023, Bosl felt the Lord’s call to other things, and so she passed on the Breaking Bread leadership role to Lily Felling, who has been part of the group for over a year, and Tyler Borgerding.

The monthly meetings used to be held in the house west of Our Lady of the Angels Church, but now, group members take turns hosting at each other’s houses. Members start the evening with social time, prayer and a potluck meal, and for the rest of the time, they will talk, play games and listen to recorded homilies or spiritual talks.

“During Lent, we added a few sessions where we watched some videos from Father Chris Alar,” Felling said. “We would discuss it a bit, and that helped us grow because there were a lot of things we learned from that. I’m hoping, after the summer, we continue doing that; finding things we’re interested in that help us grow in our faith is the goal.”

There are usually about 10-20 young adults who attend a Breaking Bread meeting, but the group overall has about 30-40 members by Felling’s estimation. The group is not limited to people from Parishes on the Prairie, either; some members come from the Alexandria and St. Cloud areas.

“We’re always really welcoming to anyone who’s new,” Felling said. “As someone who joined a year ago, I was extremely nervous because I didn’t know anybody who’d be there.



Jennifer Panuska (left) and Monica Becker

Everyone was so welcoming, and that was a huge thing. ... We can always count on the people in this group to be someone you can go (and) talk to, whether it’s about your faith or something personal. We’re all growing in our faith in different ways.”

For Felling and Bosl, it is important to have a space where young adults know they can share their faith and life experiences with friends,

strengthening them for living their Catholic faith in the world.

“People need to know they aren’t alone and that there are others their age or in similar circumstances they can gather with to share their lives and bolster each other in the things that matter to them,” Bosl said. “Sometimes, you need to go looking for that support — or build it, if you need to.”

Stewardship through prayer

I came off of vacation in July and I had one of the best two weeks of my lifetime. I took my motorcycle around Lake Superior to see the rugged beauty that God has created for love of humanity. I'm sure the trip was so good because people like you were praying for me.

This year's theme of our stewardship renewal is "Pray At All Times!" It's a call for all Christians to be people of prayer. Prayer should be daily and at any time; just a look up to heaven can be a prayer without words. As it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, "Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

Prayer is a cornerstone of stewardship. If stewardship is to answer the call of God, we have to listen to that call. That listening is prayer. It's

meeting Jesus in the silence to listen to Him by listening his Holy Word with our hearts and the inspirations of the Holy Spirit in our minds. Prayer is one of God's gift to us. It's communicating with Him in order to grow in unity with Him.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church #2697, "(Prayer) ought to animate us at every moment. ... We cannot pray at all times if we do not pray at specific times, consciously willing it." As good stewards, if we want to be connected with God, prayer is our daily connection.

It's really helpful to pray at the same time, in the same place, every day. You might even call it "My appointment with God" and put it in your schedule. It might be your 10-minute, 20-minute, or 30-minute time when you

read the Bible, pray the rosary or a devotional, or maybe praise with some Christian music.

Another way I think is helpful for listening to God is to have a daily journal where you just write a few sentences. I journal on a regular basis; it's not always daily anymore, but I write a letter to Jesus, and then I sign it at the end, "In our Father's hands, Fr. Greg," because that's how I sign things.

Prayer does not have to be long. When I start teaching prayer to younger children in faith formation programs or school, I tell them to take 3 minutes — 1 minute to tell God how good He is and thank Him for what he has given us, 1 minute to ask Him for what you would like for that day, and 1 minute to read one little line or story out the Bible or some spiritual quote



for the day.

If you're faithful to that routine, that 3 minutes is going to grow naturally because you're going to hunger for more. Prayer is personal, so there are as many forms of prayer as there are people who pray. We can do this — "Pray At All Times!"

In our Father's hands,

Fr. Greg Paffel

Stewardship Prayer

Jesus, teach us to pray. Help us to manage our time so we can spend it with You.

Holy Spirit, fill us with Your gifts.

May we offer ourselves in sacrifice for our parish and for all in need.

Father, give us generous hearts.

Help us to manage our finances and offer first fruits to You.

As your faithful disciples, we ask this for ourselves and for Catholics everywhere, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Pro-life for *life*



St. Alexius to celebrate 75th annual sausage supper

Home-cooked meal taking place Oct. 6

As the weather begins to turn colder and leaves start to fall, excitement begins to stir for the St. Alexius Sausage Supper. This year, the parish will celebrate the supper's 75th anniversary while upholding the tradition that began back in 1949.

"For 75 years and several generations, the parishioners of St. Alexius have dedicated their time and talents to upholding this tradition," said Carol Miller, one of the former leaders of the event. "We're proud of the whole way the parish comes together to make it a fun event."

When the supper first began, the Elizabeth and Herman Marthaler family were parishioners at the church. They brought forth the "secret spice" mixture passed on from the George and Mary Knoblach family.



The same recipe is still used on the smoked sausage today, now being mixed by the third generation of the family, Deacon Kelly and Marlys Marthaler.

For the first few years after it began,

there were two dinners per year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The dinners also included roast beef at the time.

Sausage Supper page 8

The pro-life movement in the Parishes on the Prairie Area Catholic Community has deep roots. Few have much experience with it as Mary Reuter, ACC parishioner at St. Paul's Church in Sauk Centre and chairperson of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's Sauk Centre chapter.

"Abortion is a killing, and I don't approve of killing," Mary said.

Mary has been involved with the MCCL since 1968, years before Roe v. Wade ruled the U.S. Constitution generally protected a right to have an abortion.

"We knew it was coming," Mary said. "I was new in the (Sauk Centre) community in 1968, and I belonged to the Christian Mothers organization; I heard of MCCL through some older women."

When the Roe vs. Wade decision was handed down in 1973, Mary was expecting a daughter, which made her much more aware of what the ruling meant.

"I got more involved (in MCCL) after the Supreme Court ruling," Mary said. "Tammy (Meyerhofer) was born in September ... and I was really more conscious of the ruling."

Mary's commitment to life and her faith have kept her involved in MCCL for 56 years, the last 12 of which have been as MCCL Sauk Centre's chairperson. It has also led her to involvement with Options for Women in Sauk Centre, and she serves as the Parishes on the Prairie Pro-Life Minis-



try Stewardship coordinator. She is grateful for her husband, Ken Reuter, who supports her and ensures she can remain as active as she is.

One of MCCL Sauk Centre's annual activities is the bus they send to the Minnesota Capitol for the March for Life around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade; although the ruling was overturned in 2022, the demonstration has continued, and Mary has had a hand in organizing Sauk Centre's bus for about 20 years. The bus has included people from Sauk Centre, Elrosa, Browerville, Upsala, Osakis, Grey Eagle, Freeport, New Munich, Green-

wald, Meire Grove, Garfield, Belgrade, Melrose, Villard, Evansville, Alexandria and more.

Another yearly activity for MCCL Sauk Centre is their August rummage sale at the Stearns County Fairgrounds in Sauk Centre. After taking donations for a couple of days, the MCCL puts them up for sale; this year's sale ran Aug. 14-24.

Chris Olmschenk chairs the rummage sale.

"She's doing a tremendous job with a lot of volunteers, putting in lots of hours to set the sale up and help cashier," Mary said.

All proceeds from the sale go toward Minnesota pro-life causes, including

the MCCL Minnesota office who provide candidate information during election years.

"We are political," Mary said. "We get information out about candidates, not to tell you who to vote for but to tell you where they are on the issues of abortion and euthanasia. We work for life from conception to natural death."

Since about 1973, MCCL Sauk Centre has had a booth at the Stearns County Fair, which Mary has been in charge of since becoming the MCCL Sauk Centre chairperson.

MCCL page 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Saturday Devotions:

Saturday, Sept. 7 at Our Lady of the Angels

Confession: 7:45 a.m.

Adoration: 8:00 a.m.

Rosary: 8:30 a.m.

Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Study the Gospel of Luke

Join for a monthly study session of the Gospel of Luke. Sessions take place on either 5:30–7 p.m. on a Monday or 9:15–10:45 a.m. on a Thursday in the St. Paul's Church basement. Cost is \$30. Call 320–351–5580 to register by Sept. 10.

Baptism Classes

If you are expecting your first child or it has been over three years since you last attended the class, call your parish office to register for one of these classes.

7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16 — St. Paul's Church meeting room.

BBE Faith Formation Opening Mass

BBE Faith Formation, kindergarten through 11th grades, will have its opening Mass beginning at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Elrosa.

St. Donatus Turkey & Ham Fall Dinner

Serving 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 15 at the
Padua Pub Reception Hall

Menu:

Roasted turkey and ham, dressing,
real mashed potatoes and gravy,
corn, coleslaw, cranberries,
and dinner rolls
pie or dessert
coffee, milk or water

Adults: \$15 (Take-outs available)

Children (6–10): \$8

Age 5 and under: FREE





MCCL from page 5

The booth is meant to inform the public on pro-life issues and stances, and they ask people to sign a pledge sheet in opposition to a proposed amendment which would add a right to abortions in the Minnesota Constitution.

“If we’re ever blessed to get a conservative, pro-life governor, he couldn’t touch the new amendment,” Mary said. “That’s why we’re so much against the amendment. ... They tried last year (to pass the amendment) and they failed.”

The MCCL Sauk Centre booth also hands out balloons and holds a children’s raffle for a gift. They also show models of infants in multiple stages of fetal development and a display of 122 fetal models, representing 1% of all babies aborted in Minnesota in 2022.

“The fight’s not over, we need to continue to watch closely so the constitutional amendment that has been proposed never gets through the house and senate.”

– Mary Reuter, ACC parishioner at St. Paul’s Church in Sauk Centre and chairperson of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life’s Sauk Centre chapter

Membership in MCCL Sauk Centre has declined in recent years; Mary estimates there were about 300 members when she became the chairperson, and that number is currently about 100. However, she knows Stearns County is generally a pro-life area, and she is grateful to all those who have given

their time and effort to the MCCL and the anti-abortion movement.

“The fight’s not over,” Reuter said. “We need to continue to watch closely so the constitutional amendment that has been proposed never gets through the house and senate.”



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parishesontheprairie.org

Weekend Mass Schedules

Saturday

4:00 p.m. St. Paul's, Sauk Centre
6:00 p.m. Our Lady of the Angels
Sauk Centre
8:00 p.m. Sts. Peter & Paul, Elrosa

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Our Lady of the Angels,
Sauk Centre
8:15 a.m. St. Alexis, West Union
10:30 a.m. St. Francis de Sales,
Belgrade
10:30 a.m. St. Paul's, Sauk Centre

See our website for a full listing
of daily Mass & confession times.

Sausage Supper page 4

“Back then, the meat was raised by local farmers, the vegetables were grown in their gardens, and everything was homemade,” Miller said. “We still make everything homemade today, with a little help from Belgrade Meats.”

Families at St. Alexis donate food and work together to make the supper a success.

The supper is always held on the first Sunday in October, and this year, it will be on Oct. 6.

Activities start at 11 a.m., and the meal will be served from 12-6 p.m. with a price of \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-10, and free for ages 5 and under. Takeout options are also available, with the price for those being \$15.

Attendees can expect smoked sausage, sauerkraut, ribs, homemade head cheese, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, bread, bars, cookies, and drinks.

“Something that makes our supper special is providing that down-home country feel,” Miller said. “We welcome you and give you an exceptional home cooked meal with a smile.”

There will be a live band, beer garden, bingo, a raffle, and more for the adults. Make sure to bring the kiddos as there will



be pumpkin painting, slushies, corn hole, and a swingset.

Don't forget to check out the country store where there will be baked goods, jams, jellies, canned items, and more for sale.

The supper is also handicap accessible.

For Miller, she enjoys working with everyone year after year to make the supper better for everyone.

“I was one of the leaders for about 20 years, and every year, we still try to tweak things and make things better,” she said.

“I still enjoy helping organize some of the supper, even though I'm not one of the main helpers anymore, but I'm so proud of the leaders; they make things happen.”

She said she also enjoys seeing all of the customers come in, sometimes from out of state, and get to hear about what brought them to the supper.

“A lot of people come and make it as a kind of family reunion,” she said.

Head over the St. Alexis Sausage Supper on Oct. 6 for a home cooked meal, fun, and fellowship.