



ST. DONATUS



ST. ALEXIUS



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



STS. PETER & PAUL



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS



ST. PAUL'S



The march goes on



Jordan family, ACC, MCCL stand for life at the capitol

Ever since the legalization of abortion, the churches in the Parishes on the Prairie Area Catholic Community have made their voices heard to support and defend life at its earliest, most vulnerable stage.

This year's Minnesota Catholics Concerned for Life March for Life in St. Paul will be held Wednesday, Jan. 25. The Sauk Centre MCCL is sponsoring a bus to the march, free to all who call in until the 55 seats are full. The bus will start at the Sauk Centre Walmart parking lot at 9 a.m. and will stop at the parking lot of St. Mary's Church in Melrose at 9:15 a.m. and Charlie's Cafe in Freeport at 9:30 a.m.; attendees are asked to dress warmly and bring a bag lunch. The bus is expected to return to

Sauk Centre around 4:30 p.m.

For Peter Jordan and his family, representing life has been a way of life.

Peter was 9 years old when Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973, and his mother, Margaret Jordan, had always been involved in pro-life causes, including MCCL.

"I've been pro-life all my life," Peter said. "I had fallen away (from the Church) for a while when I was a teenager, but I was still always pro-life. ... I could never wrap my head around somebody terminating a pregnancy. It's a life; why would you want to terminate it because you don't have the money or don't want to take the time to raise the child?"



MCCL from front

After Peter and his wife, Annmarie, married in 1988, they farmed in Montrose until they sold the farm and moved to Cokato in the mid-1990s and then Underwood a couple of years after that. The Jordans then came to Sauk Centre in 2001; beforehand, Annmarie — who had been raised Lutheran — converted to Catholicism at Our Lady of Victory Church in Fergus Falls, and the Jordans' marriage was blessed by Fr. Joe Korf in 1999.

That was the same year the Jordans started going to the March for Life at the Minnesota Capitol, first with the Fergus Falls MCCL and later with the Sauk Centre chapter. They have been able to make it each year since, whether as an entire family or just a few members.

While it appears to Peter that support for pro-life causes has waned on the legislative level, even with incoming elected officials, he is encouraged to see more young people showing up to the March for Life and other pro-life initiatives.

"I think there are a lot more pro-life young people, it seems like," he said. "I know there's more young Catholics who are becoming more traditional, which I think is awesome."

And, of course, it was a great thing to see *Roe v. Wade* be overturned in 2022.

"People (at the March for Life) were happier, but



we still have a long way to go," Peter said. "Minnesota is one of the bad states (for the unborn)."

The Jordans have nine children between 35 and 13 years old witnessing their pro-life commitment

at home. They are also involved with the Our Lady Queen of Peace House of Prayer in Padua and pray nightly rosaries.

Of course, there is also the witness they show through the March for Life.

"(We go) to show support, that we are pro-life and we're in favor of life," Peter said. "(We like) walking around the capitol, holding up signs and meeting other pro-life-minded people."



God's guidance in the unexpected

In the narrative of Jesus' infancy, we've often gone over his Nativity, of course, as well as the Epiphany, the Presentation, and sometimes the Finding in the Temple. When have we ever really talked about the Flight to Egypt?

The flight happens after the Three Wise Men visit; the Holy Family had to escape because Herod was trying to kill the Son of God, Jesus, Mary's newborn. They had to leave immediately, so they couldn't really take anything with them—not that they had much. They probably grabbed a little food and enough clothes to make the journey.

There were a lot of dangers in the desert, like dehydration and bandits. Much of the journey would've been on foot, maybe in the company of a caravan going that way; we just don't know the mode of transportation. It was a long journey, and how old was Joseph? How strenuous would it have been on a man his age to make that journey? He did not ask any questions of the angel who warned him, though. He simply accepted his duty as the guardian of Jesus and Mary.

Then, when they got to Egypt, there was a Jewish community there at the time, but they still had to make a life as immigrants among the Egyptian people who worshipped all these false gods they wouldn't have believed in. They probably had to learn some of the Egyptian language, so Jesus was learning multiple languages from a young age. Joseph was probably doing his carpentry there and beginning to teach his son how to do it as well, maybe helping him with a wagon wheel.

Joseph has four dreams in the Gospels. The first dream calmed Joseph's concerns about taking Mary into his home, but the other three are concerned with the Flight to Egypt: First, to escape to Egypt; second, to return because Herod is dead; and third, to settle in Nazareth.



We don't know how old Jesus was when the Holy Family came back to Israel, but we know it was before the age of 12 because that's when they would've gone to Jerusalem for the Finding in the Temple.

The flight and life in Egypt parallel the patriarchs in the Old Testament, including Joseph, son of Israel, who was taken into Egypt as a youth. Joseph's "flight," though, also prefigures Jesus' passion and death: Both were sold for silver, both were falsely accused and both were held in jail, to name a few similarities. Even as a child, the cross and resurrection

were present in Jesus' life.

As for the flight itself, people can identify with Jesus, Mary and Joseph, who were put on a path they did not expect. They had to trust that God was going ahead of them to prepare the way. God didn't just strand them in Egypt, either, as evidenced by Joseph's third and fourth dreams; God still gave them guidance in order to come home to Nazareth.

God, when he gives us an unexpected path, provides the guidance we need if we're listening to him. So, for those of us who feel like we're on unexpected paths, whether it be the loss of a job, the change of a move, somebody dying suddenly or too young, or any number of things that change our course of life, we can trust God will be there to guide us.

In our Father's hands,

☺ Fr. Greg Puffel

P.S. Lots of people have moved or changed their phone numbers or gotten new email addresses over the past year. Our parish staff will be reaching out to you for clarification on your contact information to better serve you. Thank you for helping us with this process.

Faith built on fellowship



Elrosa men's group offers mutual support, encouragement

As it says in Psalms 133:1, "How good and how pleasant it is, / When brothers dwell together as one."

A men's group in Elrosa has finished their first year of following that guidance, strengthening each other in their faith through regular meetings and discussion.

"Life is tough," said Danny Borgerding, founder of the men's group. "We all have or will have challenges in life, and being a faithful Catholic man is tough, too. That's why we need other men to lean on for support and encouragement, chal-



Danny Borgerding (left) and Deacon Kelly Marthaler.

lenging us to be better husbands, fathers and brothers, the men God created us to be. The world needs strong Christian men."

Borgerding founded the men's group shortly before Christmas 2023 after hearing some ACC members calling for such an initiative. During the 2023 summer, he'd been on a trip with seminarian

Rich Stenger; they attended the Exodus 90 summit in Colorado, part of a prayer and asceticism program for men, and that also inspired Borgerding to get the group started.

"I had big plans in mind, but it got to the point of just getting started, get some people called and let it go from there," Borgerding said. "I

haven't really done much of my own plan; I've just let it evolve. It's pretty basic, but the men keep coming, and they appreciate it a lot."

The men's group meets at 8 p.m. every other Wednesday in Elrosa, typically at the Sts. Peter and Paul Church school building, to talk about their lives, their faith and how to apply their faith. If the school is not available, they will move to the rectory house or the church itself.

"The rectory ... was a nice place for the guys when we weren't doing the video series," Borgerding said. "When there was Totus Tuus going on, we went to the church and did the evening prayers with the kids. It was a neat switch-up."

Men's group page 2

Men's group from front

Meetings end with the St. Michael Prayer and are about an hour long, excluding time afterward for men who stick around for further conversation.

By Borgerding's estimation, about a half-dozen to a dozen men show up for each meeting, ranging in age from 25 to their 50s, who come from all across the ACC, mainly from the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa area.

"It's a good mix of generations," Borgerding said.

Often, the men watch part of a video series to give them ideas and discussion topics. Their series so far have included "Into the Breach" from the Knights of Columbus and "Kapaun's Men Virtue Series," based on an American priest who was taken by the Vietnamese as a prisoner of war and supported his fellow soldiers during the Vietnam War.

Topics that come up frequently include utilizing the Sacraments such as Confession and Holy Communion.

"If anyone's debating coming or not, just know it's a group of normal guys," Borgerding said. "It's a super-comfortable group to be around, and I find it energizing to keep practicing my faith by being surrounded by these guys who are all just normal guys. We're just going through life together."

Anyone interested in joining can call or text Borgerding at 320-212-0051 or



ask their priest about it.

"There's nothing expected of you to show up," Borgerding said. "You're not asked to do anything. Maybe some things come up, but

you don't have to volunteer, raise money or do some service thing; you just show up, be yourself and try to benefit."

As the men's group en-

ters its second year, Borgerding feels edified to have spearheaded this organization, which has enough value to local men that they keep coming.

"We did take a little bit of a break this summer," he said. "The first time we got back together, everybody was excited. It was nice to have a little break, but it was better to get back together; everybody agreed this is something we needed to help keep us on track with our faith, focused on what's important."

"There's nothing expected of you to show up. You're not asked to do anything. Maybe some things come up, but you don't have to volunteer, raise money or do some service thing; you just show up, be yourself and try to benefit."

- Danny Borgerding



UPCOMING EVENTS

First Saturday Devotions:

Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025
 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.

Knights of Columbus Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025
 Location: St. Paul's Church basement
 Time: Rosary at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.

St. Theresa/St. Margaret Mission Group

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025
 St. Paul's Church basement at 1:00 p.m.

Fire & Ice Family Fun Night

Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at the Sauk Centre Outdoor Skating Rink at 6 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a bonfire, hot chocolate and smores. We hope to see your family there.

Sauk Centre MCCL — March for Life

Sauk Centre Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life will be sponsoring a bus to the State Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, for the March for Life. The bus will be picking up at Walmart and leaving there at 9 a.m. Dress warm and bring a bag lunch. For reservations on this bus, please call Mary Reuter at 320-250-9904 or JoAnn Lahr at 320-429-0074.

Holy Family School

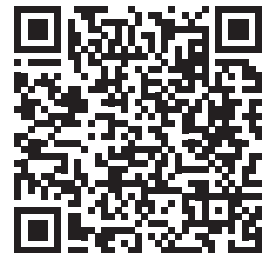
Jan. 26 to Feb. 1, 2025 — Catholic Schools Week

Parishes on the Prairie ACC Parishioner Form

Over the years many people have changed phone numbers, emails, and mailing addresses.

We are in the process of updating all our parish membership records in order to better serve and communicate with you. It

is vital for us to have correct contact information. It will not be sold and only used within our Church.



Please take a few minutes to update your household information using this QR code.

You may complete the paper copy of the form, which will be available in the Church bulletin the weekend of Jan. 12 (except for St. Alexius, who has already distributed the paper form). Please complete the online or paper form by Feb. 12, 2025.

Meeting people, serving God

Lange hired as ACC director of communications

The Parishes on the Prairie Area Catholic Community has found its new director of communications: Laura Lange. With a love of God, neighbor, family and Central Minnesota, she will begin work in early January and is ready to define her role of service to the ACC.

Raised in Upsala, Lange attended North Dakota State University and graduated in fall 2023 with a bachelor's degree in management with a focus in human resources. She then moved to South Carolina for a time before deciding she wanted a job closer to home.

"I was looking into more creative roles," Lange said. "Since being away from school, I've discovered I wanted to do something like that, and I looked at Catholic jobs around home and the surrounding towns."

Lange also reached out to her priest from high school, Fr. Jeremy Theis, who served in Sauk Centre from 2020-2023; he recommended the Parishes on the Prairie ACC and got her in touch with staff. She applied for their new ACC director of communications position and was accepted in November 2024.

The Catholic faith has always been an important part of Lange's life. She was a youth group leader in high



Laura Lange

school, but it was not until she entered NDSU that she dove deeper into her relationship with God and her understanding of Catholicism.

"My first two years were really hard, but then I started hanging out with the students from the Newman Center," Lange said. "I asked if I could lead a Bible study, and I really jumped in, and then I was a peer minister my last semester there. I had a major transformation though the Newman Center. ... So much of my life and my perspective on everything has changed."

Lange has visited Sauk Centre prior to joining the ACC, working one summer at The Old Course, so she is familiar with the area she will be serving. For the time being, she will be living with her parents in the Upsala area and commuting to Sauk Centre.

Lange page 8



Laura Lange at North Dakota State University.



Laura Lange helps serve root beer floats at North Dakota State University.



NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MARSHALL, MN
PERMIT NO. 14

Parish Office: 304 Sinclair Lewis Ave.
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
(320) 352-2196
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. Alexius, 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.

Lange from page 7

The director of communications position is a new role for the ACC, so Lange anticipates her tasks and capacities to evolve over time.

"I'll be aiming to fill any needs the ACC has related to communications such as print, video, audio, social media, website, apps, etc.," she said.

When not on the job, Lange has been learning more about photography, especially portraits of families, couples, seniors and more. She will also be pursuing a certification in color analysis, and she enjoys activities like spikeball, volleyball and reading, especially historical fiction and Christian romance.

As the ACC's director of communication, Lange is excited and ready to meet new people and learn from them.

"You get to know God more by getting to know the people around you," she said. "I'm excited to expand that."

Laura Lange and Noah Hitchcock, peer ministers at North Dakota State University.

