



# MARY

## *Mother of the Church*

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## Altar Cloth Ministry

### *St. Joseph Church Altar Cloths Have Ties to Lilies of the Field Movie*

**ST. JOSEPH**  
Bertha

**ST. HUBERT**  
Bluegrass

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
Bluffton

**ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY**  
Menahga

**ST. MICHAEL**  
Motley

**SACRED HEART**  
Staples

**ST. FREDERICK**  
Verndale

**ST. ANN**  
Wadena

At every Mass, the priest opens a white cloth (corporal) on the altar as he prepares for the Eucharist. The priest and Eucharistic Ministers use white cloths (purificators) to wipe chalices and their fingers. Properly caring for those altar cloths is an important duty handled by lay volunteers.

Maria Miner, a St. Joseph - Bertha parishioner, first witnessed the sacred ministry in the late 70s when she spent a month with nuns at the Abbey of St. Walburga, in Boulder, Colo.

Three Benedictine nuns moved there in 1935 from Bavaria to establish a refuge for German nuns from the Nazi regime. When Maria visited, it was a flourishing farm with a priest to say Mass and help with retreats and about a dozen nuns milking cows, feeding chickens, and driving a tractor in full habit.

Maria spent a month with them to discern her life's vocation.

"They were beautiful souls who just glowed. It was a place filled with joy," she recalls. And, she discovered, the St. Walburga nuns were the inspiration for the nuns in the novel-based 1963 movie, *Lilies of the Field*, starring the legendary actor Sidney Poitier. The nuns told Maria who portrayed them in the movie.

However, it was the nun in charge of altar cloths who provided the most lasting impression. Maria watched as the nun reverently laid the washed cloths on a table marked with the proper sizes so they could be shaped precisely.

"She explained they needed them to be perfect; it was for God. That impressed me," Maria says.





# Service

## The Fourth Pillar of Stewardship

Throughout Sacred Scripture, there are numerous references to service. There is the parable of the vigilant and faithful servants who await their master's return from a wedding, "ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks" (Lk 12:35-40). There is the story of the good Samaritan who was moved with compassion to help the victim of a violent robbery (Lk 10:25-37). And there are several examples of Christ serving those around Him — feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, and even turning water into wine at a wedding banquet.

Why is service a running theme throughout the Gospels? Because service is at the root of living in imitation of Christ. Christ served others throughout His life on Earth, and His death on the cross was the ultimate act of service to mankind. And when we serve others, we are not only following in Christ's footsteps, we are also serving Christ Himself: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

As stewards, service must be at the heart of everything we do. The church community is the bastion of service within the Catholic Church, as we serve one another and are also served by our brothers and sisters in Christ. As the Diocese of Wichita's document, *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, states, "Like a blood family, the parish family stands ready and eager collectively to wrap their arms around their brothers and sisters when they suffer in trial and/or

celebrate special events in their lives."

It is good to recognize our community as a place where service is appreciated and can be utilized for the good of the Church. However, it is not enough for us to simply serve other members of our parish family. As disciples of Christ, it is our obligation to serve people in need everywhere they exist — in our families, our greater community, our country, and throughout the world. This can be a challenging concept, as it is often much more comfortable and convenient to serve those who are close to us than it is to reach out to "outsiders." But, as *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* eloquently points out, "Failure to have this understanding leads to a selfish parochialism, which is life draining to a parish stewardship way of life."

Think of ways that you can serve others around you, both within our family and in the greater community. Our many ministries offer a great place to begin offering your time and talents, but the opportunities for service don't end there. There are many civic and nonprofit organizations that do an immense amount to serve others across the globe and are always looking for volunteers.

Once you serve, you will find that you will reap numerous rewards in return, much like the faithful servants who doubled the talents their master had entrusted to them: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy" (Mt 25:21).



## A Letter From Our Pastor

# Remember to Keep the Faith this Summer

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the month of June and kick off our summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of stewardship in our daily lives as Catholics.

Stewardship is a way of life that calls us to recognize that everything we have is a gift from God, and that we are called to use these gifts for the good of others and the building up of God's kingdom.

Here are a few ways in which we can live out stewardship in the month of June:

- **Practice gratitude:** Take time each day to thank God for the blessings in your life, both big and small. A grateful heart is essential to living a life of stewardship, as it helps us to recognize the gifts that God has given us and to use them for the good of others.
- **Give generously:** Whether it's donating to a local charity, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or simply offering a kind word to a neighbor, there are countless ways to give of ourselves to others. Consider making a financial donation to our parish or to a local charity that is doing good work in our community.
- **Pray for others:** Stewardship is not just about giving of our material resources, but also about giving of our time and talent. Take time each day to pray for the needs of others, whether it's for the sick, the poor, or



those who are struggling in their faith.

- **Share your talents:** We are all blessed with unique gifts and talents that we can use to serve others. Consider volunteering to teach a religious education class, joining the choir, or using your professional skills to help those in need.

- **Be a good steward of the environment:** God has entrusted us with the care of His creation, and it is our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment. Consider ways in which you can reduce your carbon footprint, recycle more, or conserve resources.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of our world, let us remember that we are called to be faithful stewards of the gifts and talents that God has given us. By living out stewardship in our daily lives, we can make a difference in the world and build up the kingdom of God.

May God bless you and your families abundantly this month, this summer, and always.

In Christ,

*Fr. Aaron Kuhn*

Fr. Aaron

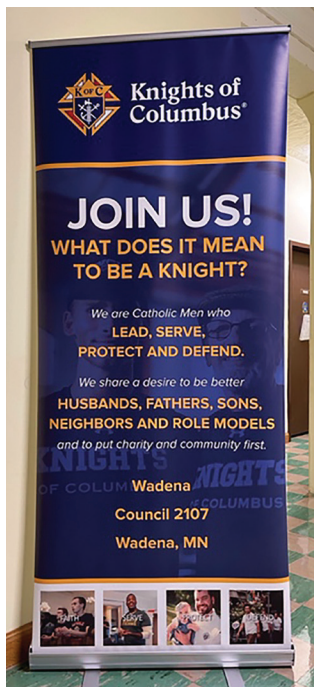






# Knights of Columbus

## *Serving Community and*



For over 140 years, the Knights of Columbus have brought financial aid and assistance to those in need. The Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn. by Fr. Michael McGivney, who began the organization with a mission of charity, unity, and fraternity. There are now councils across the world, serving their own communities and parishes in various capacities.

Matthew Hanson has been a Knight for over 20 years. He follows in the footsteps of his dad and uncle, who are also both members.

"They got me into it because they were Knights," Matthew says. "It went from there."

The Knights of Columbus serve our Mary, Mother of the Church Area Catholic Community in numerous ways. There are two councils in the community, and Matthew acts as the main contact for the Staples and Motley area, known as Council 1803. The Knights raise money to donate to Sacred Heart Area School and the parishes, and also complete various service projects for both the school and churches.

"A couple years ago, the church redid the stained glass windows and we donated some money for that," Matthew says.

The members of Council 1803 themselves also help out with the projects in various capacities, such as assisting with the kitchen remodel at Sacred Heart Parish and constructing cubbies for the students in the area school. When the school's sidewalks needed to be redone, the Knights helped break up the old sidewalks and pour the new concrete.

"We help out with this and that, whenever we can — different projects, the upkeep





# *d Upholding Pillars of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity*

of the church and school,” Matthew says.

The Knights also help with serving and cleaning up at the fish fries, as well as facilitating pancake breakfasts. They host fundraising efforts and events throughout the year and provide scholarship money for graduating students. Council 1803 meets on the first Thursday of the month to discuss financials and upcoming events. Apart from that, the participants can choose how often they serve, working around their own schedules.

Council 2107 of the Knight of Columbus includes the parishes of Bertha, Bluegrass, Bluffton, Menahga, Wadena, and Verndale. Billy Schwartz leads the council as Grand Knight.

“I became a Knight because someone asked me to join,” Billy says. “I have been a Knight for about 23 years now.”

This council meets at St. Ann, with a Rosary at 7:10 p.m. during adoration, followed by a meeting downstairs on the third Tuesday of each month. They provide service projects in the

community such as household assistance for simple tasks such as lightbulb or battery replacements for people. Their usual projects include activities such as the Tootsie Roll Drive, a monthly breakfast, Bingo games, and the Aluminum Can Drive. The events and activities raise money for the various needs of the Church, community, state, and seminarians. The scope of involvement is also up to the members themselves.

“Like any organization, what you get out has a lot to do with what you put in,” Billy says. “I’m excited to see the future of our council. Doing service work is a wonderful thing and Jesus is a supreme example of how we need that in our lives.”

The Knights also plan to help out with the Habitat for Humanity house build taking place in the area. The build project is for a member’s daughter.

“We are hoping our brother Knights can step up and help out with this project also,” Billy says.

## **Altar Cloth Ministry** *continued from front cover*

She remembered that reverence when Fr. Dan Walz asked her to take over the altar cloth ministry about 15 years ago. Because bits of the Body and Blood of Christ may be on them, the cloths are treated as if they are Christ.

With two containers used only for them, she soaks the cloths for 24 hours, then rinses them twice to assure that all the Eucharist is dissolved before pouring the water into a designated place outdoors.

After being washed on a gentle cycle, she irons the damp cloths into the proper shape and folds, and presses them evenly in a specific way. The cloths are preferably linen, a natural fiber that follows church tradition. When worn out they are disposed of like blessed items and burned or buried.

The ministry has magnified Maria’s awareness of the sacredness of the Eucharist; it’s a prayerful time for her.

“I ask the angels to help,” she says, to care for the cloths properly. She also prays for reparation whenever the Eucharist is mistreated.

“This ministry is something I can do for God that is not a showy thing and that I can put in as much love as I can,” Maria says.

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I can do for God that is not  
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put in as much love as I can.”**

**— Maria Miner**







# A Catholic's Guide to Good Summer Reading

Have you been wondering what to read during vacation this year? Why not give spiritual reading a try?

There are thousands of titles out there — too many for any one person — just waiting to make a positive impact on your faith life. Reading is a fantastic opportunity for general spiritual direction and good practice for every searching soul.

Choose a title from “you can’t go wrong” authors such as Louis de Wohl, G.K. Chesterton, Peter Kreeft, Francis de Sales, C.S. Lewis, and Scott Hahn. Their works alone should take you well into the summer, and possibly through to the next decade.

Or, choose from this list of great Christian books, in no particular order:

*The Story of a Soul* by St. Therese of Lisieux

In this autobiography and all-time favorite Catholic book, St. Therese teaches her “little way” of spiritual childhood. Millions of copies have been sold worldwide.

*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

One of the most popular introductions to the Christian faith ever published, this series of broadcast talks has been collected into book fashion. *Mere Christianity* sets out to “explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.”

*Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism* by Scott and Kimberly Hahn

This offers a conversion story of a brilliant, anti-Catholic Scripture scholar and his wife to the Catholic faith. Now well-known speakers and Catholic apologists, Scott and Kimberly recount their story with simplicity and love.

*The Good News about Sex & Marriage: Answers to Your Honest Questions about Catholic Teaching* by Christopher West

This down-to-earth application of Pope St. John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* is an easy-to-read, yet insightful account of the Church’s teaching on sex and marriage.

*What Catholics Really Believe* by Karl Keating

Addressing 52 of the greatest misconceptions of the Catholic faith, Keating draws upon Scripture and Tradition to dispel errors and explain the rationale behind Church teaching.

*No Greater Love* by Mother Teresa

This anthology collects the teachings and sayings of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Founder of the Missionaries of Charity and recipient of

the Nobel Peace Prize, St. Teresa of Calcutta speaks joyfully about her work with the poor and God’s call in our lives.

*Surprised by Truth* edited by Patrick Madrid

Eleven converts give their Biblical and historical reasons for becoming Catholic. These unique personal testimonies continue to transform hearts throughout the world in an insightful read for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

## SOMETHING FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS

As for the little ones at home, nothing settles them into bed better than a good book. Seek wholesome children’s literature that communicates Christian messages. Be sure they are positive, healthy stories with characters they can emulate that inspire virtues such as courage, justice, charity, patience, generosity and prudence. To name a few:

*Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

This series of seven fantasy novels is considered a classic in children’s literature. *Chronicles of Narnia* alludes to traditional Christian ideas within the framework of an exciting tale of adventure.

*Little Acts of Grace* by Rosemarie Gortler, Mimi Sternhagen (Illustrator) and Donna Piscitelli

This beginning-level book is a fantastic way to introduce 2 to 4-year-olds to Catholic customs. It is written in an age-appropriate, beautifully explained way.

All (or just one) of the 20 books of the Mary Fabyan Windeatt saint biographies

This unbeatable collection of saint stories, appropriate for children of all ages, is perfect to read aloud with the whole family.

*Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: Missionary of Charity* by Sr. Mary Kathleen Glavich

There is no better way to introduce children to St. Teresa of Calcutta! This book highlights her work with the poor and includes a special prayer for children.

*The Story of Easter* by Aileen Fisher

Tells the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection, and explores how different cultures celebrate Easter. This is recommended for children in first through third grades.

**Happy summer! Happy reading!**



# St. Mary's Mission Group

## Brings Love of Quilting to Those in Need

There's no comfort quite like a handmade quilt — whether you are snuggling a new baby, dealing with an illness, or just bringing some coziness into your home. The St. Mary Mission Group at St. John the Baptist is made up of parishioners who love to see their handmade quilts go to people who need them. The ladies who make quilts ensure that plenty of love and prayers are poured into each unique item and there's great satisfaction in seeing their handiwork being put to good use.

Karen Haman has brought her love of sewing to the St. Mary Mission Group which has existed at the parish long before she was involved. Karen and the others bring their passion and skills for quilting and sewing in order to create beautiful works of usable art. The quilts that they make primarily are gifted to dialysis patients in St. Cloud, Minn. They also make baby quilts for any child baptized at the parish.

"I love to sew and I need an outlet because I can't use 100 quilts," Karen says. "I also enjoy visiting with the other women in the parish. We get out a little bit and it's just been really good for me."

When the St. Mary Mission Group gets together, they bring quilt tops that they have been working on at home and tie them to make a finished quilt. Some of the members hand-quilt the large queen quilt that will be raffled off at the Fall Bazaar. The



(Front row, from left) Karen Haman, Bernice Jahнке, Agnes Geiser, Margaret Van Erp, Sharon Folkestad; (back row, from left) Marilyn Vorderbruggen, Carol Wegscheid, Regina Weniger, Mary Roggenkamp, Darlene Holtti, Virginia Nesges

skills that the members bring are less common than they used to be.

"We used to have 30 or 40 members and did much more back in the day," Karen says. "Now we're basically just doing the dialysis quilts and hand quilting, which not many people do anymore."

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**MARY**  
*Mother of the Church*  
—  
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

C/O The Church of St. Ann  
514 1st Street SE | Wadena, MN 56482  
(218) 631-1593 | [www.marysacc.org](http://www.marysacc.org)



**Saturday:**

4:00 p.m. - St. John the Baptist, Bluffton  
4:00 p.m. - St. Hubert, Bluegrass  
6:00 p.m. - St. Frederick, Verndale  
6:30 p.m. - Assumption of Our Lady, Menahga

**Sunday:**

8:00 a.m. - St. Joseph, Bertha  
8:30 a.m. - Sacred Heart, Staples  
10:00 a.m. - St. Ann, Wadena *\*livestream*  
10:30 a.m. - St. Michael, Motley



## St. Mary's Mission Group

*continued from page 7*

Tying quilts is something that anyone can learn how to do. St. Mary Mission Group welcomes new members who are interested in learning some new quilting skills. Karen estimates that the group creates about 50 quilts each year. Much of the fabric used to make the quilts is donated to the St. Mary Mission Group.

In addition to the quilts given to dialysis patients and newly baptized babies, St. Mary Mission Group donates quilts to families in need and local charities at Christmastime. Parishioners

can also purchase quilts, dish towels, pillowcases, and table runners at the Fall Bazaar. The proceeds are used to supply the group with fabric and batting.

St. Mary Mission Group meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m. to quilt, pray the Rosary, and enjoy coffee, lunch, and fellowship. Some members come to every meeting and others come when they can make it throughout the year.

"We have a good time," Karen says. "It's not all work. It's a good social event."

**Parishioners are invited to join the St. Mary Mission Group at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays at St. John the Baptist. Contact Karen Haman with questions at 218-385-2372.**