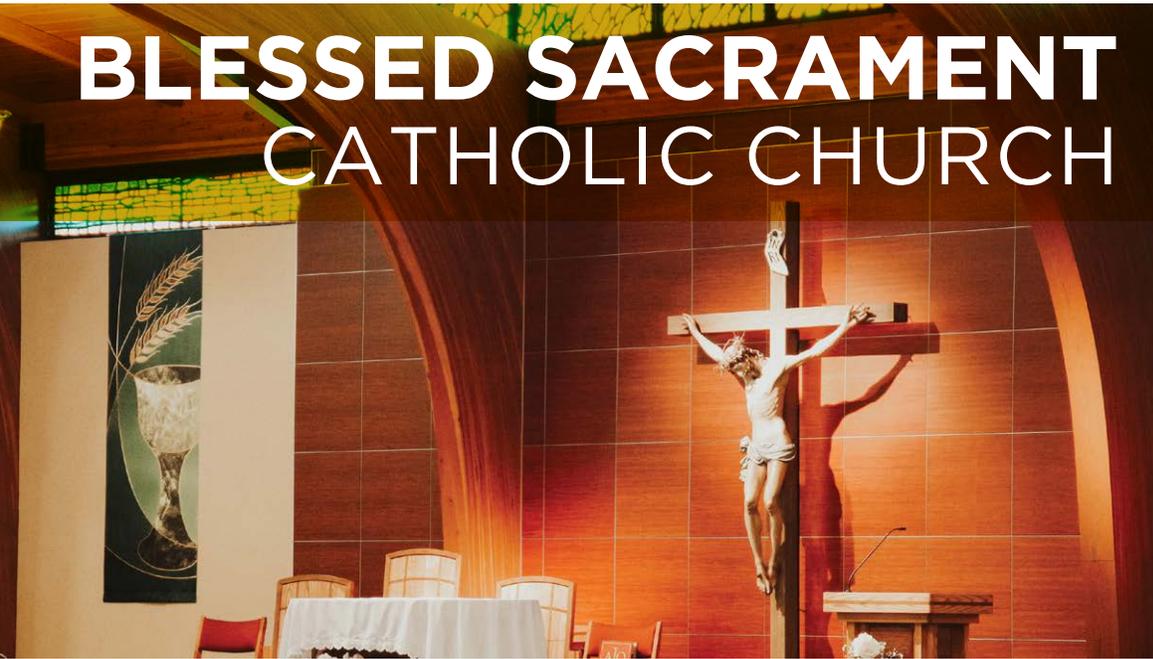


BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH



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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2022: *Celebrating Catholic Education in Grand Island and Beyond*

Blessed Sacrament Parish students attending Grand Island Central Catholic School will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 30 through Feb. 4 with the opportunities to take part in a special Mass, adoration, and service projects to benefit their community.

A highlight of the week will be the celebration of Mass by Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt, open to not only the students but also to the public.

"This is always a highlight of Catholic Schools Week," says Jordan Engle, the Principal of Central Catholic and Superintendent of the Diocese of Grand Island Schools. "The bishop and I will travel to all the Catholic schools in the diocese to celebrate Mass. We also will have a full day of adoration at Grand



Island Central Catholic. There will be decorations in the school gym with an altar. We usually hold adoration by candlelight, and there may be music. It is a beautiful experience."

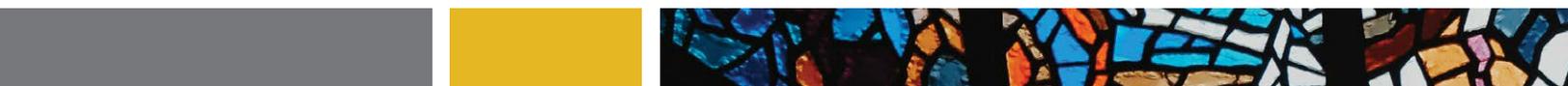
Catholic Schools Week holds special significance for Mr. Engle, with both he and his

wife receiving their education in Catholic schools. They are members of Resurrection Parish.

"Catholic schools were important for our lives and formation as Catholics, parents, husband, and wife," he says. "They are very meaningful."

The education received at

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2022

continued from front cover

Catholic schools emphasizes the depth and value of our Catholic faith. The students experience formation to enable them to become disciples of Christ.

Although volunteers are not requested to help with Catholic Schools Week, Mr. Engle does offer an invitation.

“The Mass is open to the public and adoration is open, as well,” he says. “It’s a great opportunity to come and worship and see for themselves what our Catholic school is about.”

Information about the Mass and adoration will be announced in our bulletins.

Catholic Schools Week holds special meaning for Rob Czaplewski, a Blessed Sacrament parishioner and member of the Grand Island Central Catholic Board of Education. Although he did not attend Central Catholic, his daughter attended all seven grades and graduated in 2018. He is currently serving his

second term on the board.

“My wife and I have always been involved with schools, as volunteers, and we feel it’s better for parents to be involved in their children’s education,” Rob says. “At Central Catholic, they rely on volunteers a lot, whether it’s athletics or fine arts. So, I think part of me wanted to be involved in the daily activities in the short term, and in the long term, to make sure the school was well run and had a vision for the future, and to make sure it would be around for other families.”

Rob and the other board members will be invited to the various Catholic Schools Week activities at Central Catholic. As a former Central Catholic parent and as an active board member, Rob looks forward to Catholic Schools Week each year.

“Obviously, a child can have a well-rounded education,” he says. “Our school is well-known as a good school in academics and

athletics, and fine arts. There are families who believe that having a faith-based education is part of a well-rounded lifestyle. To have a church-based education is important for developing a child into an adult.”

By being active on the Central Catholic board, Rob is able to serve in stewardship by giving of his time and talents.

“I’m a very active board member,” he says. “I’ve been on other community boards in my life and there are a variety of board members. Some are there for the status, but the most active and the most involved get the most done. I don’t want to just sit at a meeting. I want to be active in my community, school, and church community, someone who can be part of planning and doing and developing, and making things better in the short and long term. To me, stewardship is taking an activity and being part of it.”



*A Letter From Our Pastor***START 2022 WITH***A Clean Spiritual Slate*

Dear Parishioners,

We were all taught in school that the month of January gets its name from Janus, the ancient Roman god of doors and gates. His image was always carved or painted with two faces, one looking forward and the other backward. This reflected, of course, that you can go either out a door or in through one. From this very specific function, his role was generalized to include all beginnings and new endeavors.

Because of Janus' place in the Roman pantheon, it seemed natural to the Romans to name the first month of the civil year after him. (The Church year began back with the First Sunday of Advent, you'll remember.) And although we no longer worship the pagan gods of the ancient Romans, the name has stuck down the centuries.

But we're not immune to the human instinct that moved the Romans to name the first month after Janus. His double countenance, facing forward and backward, reflects how we approach the coming of each new year.

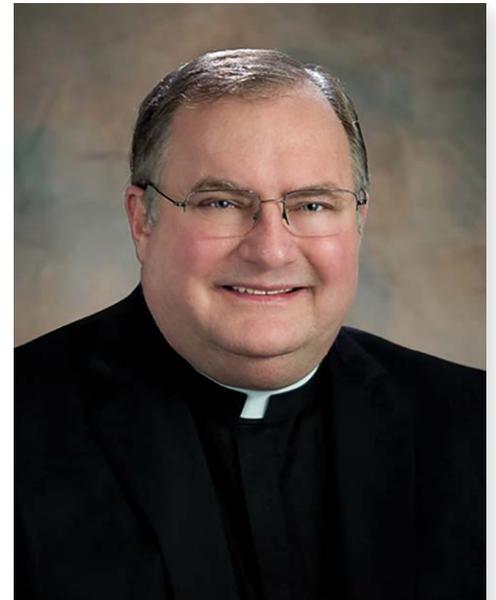
The last week of the old year finds the newspapers and TV programs giving a glance back at the past year ("the 10 best, or worst, movies of..." and such) along with predictions of what the new year will bring. My

personal favorite is always "the 10 worst predictions" for the year just ending.

Just like the secular world does — Janus-like — we both look back at our own successes and failures, happy events, and sad ones, during the year just ending, and forward to the new year as we prepare our resolutions.

When we reflect back on the blessings we've received, our hearts should be filled with gratitude, for blessings there were, no matter how difficult the year has been. But for most of us, there have been failures and failings, too. That calls for repentance, and perhaps a trip to the confessional — but God, who makes "all things new" (Rv 21:5), will then give us a clean spiritual slate with which we may begin the new year.

I'd like to challenge you to include your grateful response to God as you make your resolutions for the new year. You don't have to wait until you fill out a commitment card to decide this is the year when you're actually going to attend Mass once a week in addition to Sunday (or begin worshiping every Sunday if you haven't been doing so) or to pray the Rosary every week or to begin regular prayers with your family. Include in your



resolutions how you are going to get involved in some ministry in the parish or some service to the community, and then do so. Decide to become more faithful in your financial stewardship if your treasure commitment is less than it should be. Look forward to the new year and bring Christ and His Church to the center of your resolutions. Then see what a good year it will be, with God at the center!

Have a happy, and holy, New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Martin Egging
Pastor

A NEW YEAR BRINGS *New* AS WE ENGAGE WITH



A new year is always an opportunity to reset and realign in all areas of life — our faith included! In 2021, a worldwide synod process began called *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission*. In early 2022 parishioners will be invited together to share experiences and thoughts related to walking together as church. The results of this process will be sent to the diocese where they will be compiled with results from other parishes. Then, since this is a worldwide process, all will be gathered and presented at the general assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. In

kicking off the synod process, Pope Francis has asked that we all listen deeply to the Holy Spirit.

Participating in one of the upcoming listening sessions as part of the synod is just one of many ways we can use 2022 as a way to deepen our faith.

“We will look at how we can journey together in faith in the Church,” says Fr. Marty Egging. “We will be trying to get broad participation. There are no right or wrong answers. It’s about stopping and opening our minds to see how we travel together into the future.”

Outside of the synod, Fr. Marty asks that we all look at our

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Opportunities WITH OUR FAITH AND PARISH

lives and determine where we might grow in faith in 2022. In particular, he looks to reengage those who have drifted away in the last few years.

“We want to truly begin to build a church that makes the kingdom of God come alive,” he says. “This is going to take some elbow grease and knee pads — work and prayer.”

Fr. Marty wants all parishioners to consider where their place is at the table of our Lord. There are so many ministries in which we can engage at Blessed Sacrament. It’s about taking time, in prayer, to find what may be the best fit for you.

“Start by finding a ministry that intrigues you,” Fr. Marty says. “Then, ask to join. The hardest part is dialing the phone to say you are interested. Join a quilting group. Become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or a greeter. The simpler, the better.”

Fr. Marty says that, often, we can talk ourselves out of



being involved. We might think we don’t have the time, or we aren’t “good enough.”

“There’s really no one good enough,” he says. “Jesus says, ‘Come and follow me.’ He didn’t say, ‘Follow me and never fall down.’”

For nearly two years, our community has faced various forms of separation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fr. Marty wants everyone to consider the faith they have built at home and bring it back to the community at Blessed Sacrament. Consider how you might grow, whether through prayer, attending daily Mass, or trying out a Bible study — either virtual or in-person. But don’t take on too much,

so that your goals remain attainable.

“Instead of saying, ‘I am going to start going to daily Mass every day,’ if you haven’t been regularly going, try committing to go to one weekday Mass per week,” Fr. Marty says. “Make your goal realistic. Consider maybe attending the noon weekday Mass, Tuesday to Friday.”

Fr. Marty Egging also suggests that we might consider new or different ways we can pray. Consider getting a group together to pray Morning Prayer at 8 a.m. Priests and religious all around the world are all praying — your prayers can join with theirs.

Let’s use 2022 as a time to grow in faith! Take time to pray about a ministry that may interest you and get involved. Please visit www.blsachurch.net to see all the ministries offered at Blessed Sacrament.

STEWARDSHIP:

New Year's Resolutions

The new year has arrived, and we have all been busy making — and trying to keep — our list of New Year's resolutions. Many of us choose resolutions geared toward health and fitness. After all, possessing good overall health is critical to our well-being. Others may try to avoid a particularly bad habit. Maybe you need to quit smoking or stop swearing. Still, many of us plan things we have always wanted to do, but never get around to doing.

As the days of January continue onward, however, many of us find the inspiration of keeping our good-intentioned resolutions fading fast. By the end of the month, most of us have given in to our temptations and returned to our old ways. We are only human, right? Discouraged by this yearly failure, many of us don't even bother making New Year's resolutions anymore, especially if we feel like we won't succeed.

Maybe our failures lie in both how we make our resolutions and what resolutions we actually choose. What we need to understand is the "root" of our resolution. For example, if you resolve to eat less candy to drop those recently added holiday pounds, is the "root" of your resolution a selfish one



— wanting to look better since you overindulged? Or, are you genuinely seeking to stop giving in to each "sweet tooth" craving by practicing mortification — giving up of a personal pleasure to glorify God? If the "root" is a selfish one, only to benefit yourself, then it is often difficult to keep in the long run. However, if we are trying to glorify God, our mission is much more important and worth keeping.

Tying your New Year's resolutions into the principles of stewardship — giving of your time, talent and treasure back to God — is a great way to ensure that the "root" of your resolution

is right on track! For instance, resolving to pray each evening before going to bed glorifies God, brings you peace before slumber, and allows you to grow in your relationship with Christ. The "root" is pure. Your desire to keep it will be stronger and make it easier for you to keep. In the same way, resolving to return your talents to God by helping others in need is an excellent choice in creating a selfless resolution with the right "root." Furthermore, resolving to re-evaluate your finances is also extremely important, and the beginning of a new year is a great time to do it. Are you giving back to God out of gratitude for all He has given you? Or are you merely dropping a dollar or two in the collection basket just to feel good about yourself?

If you are not where you would like to be as a good steward — either with sharing your time, talent or treasure — you can resolve to do better. A new year provides the perfect opportunity to start anew and become the good steward that God desires each of us to become. And when we choose selfless things that build His kingdom instead of ours, we are sure to not only stay on track, but to succeed!

COMPASS MINISTRY:

Helping Families and Fostering Hope in Our Community

The dignity of the family is foundational to building a culture of life. It can be discouraging to see the brokenness in our own communities, and wondering how we can help can be overwhelming. The hope, however, is in realizing that a struggling family often needs only a little support, spiritually and materially, to find their own hope and move forward. At Blessed Sacrament, we are privileged to be able to serve our community through a network of churches that participate in a ministry called Compass.

Mary Anne Hinchey is the point person for Compass at Blessed Sacrament and has found this ministry to be incredibly meaningful.

“These are our neighbors,” Mary Anne says. “They could be the family next door. I think we need to be aware of the needs in our neighborhood. Grand Island is a small town. Most of the families we’ve helped have been within one or two miles of the church. They need to know we care for them.”

One goal of Compass is to prevent families from being broken apart by providing essential assistance before they reach a crisis. Compass works with the Department of Health



(From left) Barbara Binfield, Mary Anne Hinchey, Rich Stobbe and Delores Yosten

and Human Services to identify needs, and local churches work with Compass to provide for those needs. Blessed Sacrament takes on one family each month with the goal of stabilizing their family environment.

“I have found in this situation that people are embarrassed to ask for help,” Mary Anne says. “They don’t know how to ask or where to go. This program really helps facilitate that for them.”

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Compass Ministry *continued from page 7*

Mary Anne and the Church Responders at Blessed Sacrament receive requests for help from Compass each month, then they discuss what they can offer to a family.

“We don’t spend a lot of money, probably our average is \$300 each month,” Mary Anne says. “We just feel that being able to personally intercede with a family each month is really a gift for us.”

Blessed Sacrament has been

working with Compass since February 2021. The first family we served needed a car seat for their toddler, and the Church Responders were able to provide one item that made a huge difference for the family. Over the last year, we have helped furnish a family’s kitchen, paid a bill for a family recovering from a house fire, gifted a crib and baby items to a teen mother in foster care, provided numerous beds and clothes to families, and

much, much more.

“There’s always a sadness and then a joy when the need is met,” Mary Anne says.

Blessed Sacrament has about 10 Church Responders and the group primarily communicates over email to discuss, gather resources, and plan for the family they are helping. Mary Anne would love to see Blessed Sacrament’s group grow to a point where we can help more families each month.

If you are interested in serving as a Church Responder for Compass, please contact Mary Anne Hinchey in the parish office at 308-384-0532, or stop by the office Monday through Thursday before 1 p.m. Donations may be dropped off at the parish office.