IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Bible teaches that along with the bread and wine of Holy Communion we also receive the true body and blood of our Savior. Jesus’ own words, “this is my body” and “this is my blood for the forgiveness of sins” reveal His Real Presence in the sacrament (Luke 22, 1 Cor. 10:15-16). The Bible also teaches (1 Cor. 11:23-32) the Lord’s Supper, properly received brings great blessings, but improperly received without understanding can actually incur God’s judgment. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the Biblical teaching of communion, please feel free to commune today. However, if you have any questions, please first speak to a pastor.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2
That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31
On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
THE WEEKLY CONNECTION
ONE IN JESUS…REACHING MANY!

Week of April 11, 2021

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

THE CASE FOR EASTER | series begins this weekend
As we just celebrated Easter and the resurrection of Jesus as Savior over sin and death, have you ever wondered if we really know if it’s true? Did the disciples simply make up the story? If not, then how do we know? Could it simply be based on a rumor, myth or legend? Does it matter? Join us as we begin a new message series we are calling “A Case For Easter” and explore the extensive first hand, eyewitness accounts for Jesus’ resurrection and the truth of the matter that it is in fact, still changing the world.

HOLY BAPTISM – This Sunday, at the 8:00 AM Traditional Praise service, we celebrate the baptism of Theodore James Bess, son of Steven and Sarah Bess. May God richly bless Theodore and his family!

IMPORTANT ONSITE NOTE
In keeping with the CDC COVID-19 safeguards, face masks will continue to be worn and social distancing followed at worship services. For more information, visit www.stjohnrochester.org/regathering-guidelines as we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY @ 9:30AM in Concordia Hall – all are welcome! Come join in for the study of Ruth led by Dave Leinberger.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS - As we gradually move to regathering again in small groups for bible study onsite, there are other men’s and women’s bible study groups meeting on weekdays. If you are interested in connecting with one of these groups, please contact the main office at 248-402-8000 or church@stohnrochester.org for more information.
WELCOME TO THE ST. JOHN FAMILY! It is a great weekend as we officially welcome these wonderful people (25 families, 42 adults, 39 children) into membership as part of the St. John family! They recently completed the 8-week ONE Class via Zoom and were able to gather onsite for the last 2 sessions. May the Lord bless us as we continue to walk together through His Word in mission to reach more and more people with His eternal love! We are so very blessed!

Aaron and Jennifer Brewster, Seldon (c), Parker (c)  
Devlin and Jennifer Clarke, Liliana (c), Keelyn (c)  
James and Catherine Creighton  
Linda Gerhardt  
Chad and Melissa Kovala, Avery (c), Owen (c)  
Robert and LeeAnn Lambert  
Carmen and Benjamin Lyon, Piper (c), Rex (c)  
Heather Mangin, Leia (c), Finlay(c)  
Sarah and Joseph Manni, Joseph (c), Harper (c)  
Ronnie and Kimberly Miehlke, Miles (c), Lyla (c)  
Kurt and Kimberly Raffler, Rowan (c), Emerson (c), Baylor (c)  
Catherine and Adam Remesz, Alina (c), Luke (c)  
Chad and Kristina Rinke, Patrick(c), Quinn (c), Harrison (c)  
Paul and Ruth Schroeder  
Tom and Rhonda Schwark  
Lara Sebert, Gavin (c), Daniel (c)  
Larry and Teresa Storinsky  
Robert and Jennifer Terwilliger, Jacob (c), Annabella (c)  
Andrew and Melissa Thomas, Claire (c), Lauren (c), John (c)  
Salvatore and Amy Tocco, Sammy (c), Santino (c)  
Jayson and Laura VanLandeghem, Christopher (c), Benjamin (c), William (c), Evelyn (c)  
Brett and Abigail Watson, Charles (c), Scarlett (c)  
Elizabeth and Noah Weiss, Alyssa (c), Madilyn (c)  
Samantha Wingert  
Kyle Zuker

If you are interested in making St. John your home, the next ONE Class will be held in the fall. More details coming in August.
NEW SUPPORT GROUP – HEALING HEARTS MEETS MONDAY, APRIL 12 @ 7PM

Have you recently or are you currently experiencing a broken heart in your marriage? Have you gone through or are you going through an unwanted divorce? Healing Hearts is a new support group for those who have or are experiencing heart break in their marriage or have gone through an unwanted divorce. This can be a lonely and isolating time; we are here to listen and encourage. God has a plan for your life, and you can enjoy His plan and His blessings when you are the best version of yourself. This group is a safe place to share your hurts and disappointments, but it is also a place for encouragement to heal and grow. Healing Hearts will meet the first Monday of the month (except for Easter Monday). For more information email Suzanne at suzannep1227@gmail.com.

DO YOU LIKE TO GOLF?
The St. John Men's Golf League, celebrating 64 years of Christian fellowship, is looking for League Members and Substitute Golfers. This year the league will start on Tuesday, April 27th at Black Heath Golf Course, Rochester. The league plays for 19 weeks and is scheduled to finish on August 31st. Tee times are from 3:20pm to 4:20pm and golf carts are included with your membership dues of $420 for the season. Substitutes pay $15 including cart fee. All men over the age of 18 are welcome to be members and substitutes can be 16 years and older. Any degree of ability to play is welcome. There are weekly prizes along with 2 banquets. Please e-mail or call Brian Evanson at bevanson18@gmail.com, 248.310.9699, for more info.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: This year, Sunday School is being provided as an online weekly video. For more information, contact Steve Wilson, Child & Family Ministry Director, swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021 will take place on our campus June 21-25 from 9:00 AM – NOON for children age 4 through those entering 6th grade. Registration is open on the website.

LIGHTHOUSE – MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY GRADES 6-8
Lighthouse will not be meeting this Sunday, April 11. Hope to see you Sunday, April 18 at 6:00pm. For more information, contact Steve Wilson, Child & Family Ministry Director, swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH –
The High School Youth will meet Sunday, April 11, at St. John at 6PM to walk to Rochester Park to play tennis and have a devotion. Bring a racket (Mrs. Hammett has tennis balls). If you need a racket, please contact Mrs. Hammett. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship! For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.
FINANCIAL UPDATES
As in all things we need to continue praying, “Lord, what would you have us do” and “cheerfully” respond. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) Thank you beyond words for doing so in amazing ways, St. John family, through your ongoing giving!

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS (as of 4/4/21)
Offerings for week ending March 28....................... $45,970
Offerings for week ending April 4.............................. $67,350

As of 4/4/21 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: $2,028,500
As of 4/4/21 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: $1,920,603
As of 4/4/21 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: $(107,897)
(St. John’s fiscal year is 7/1/20 through 6/30/21.)
Budget to Actual (Week of March 28) = 88.2%
Budget to Actual (Week of April 4) = 70.9%
Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual = 94.7%

COMPassionate SERVICE
FARMERS TO FAMILIES
Our next “Farmers to Families” food day will take place on **Monday, April 19**. Drive up service will be available 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM or until the produce is gone. This is available to anyone who would like to come and pick up a box of food and gallon of milk. Volunteers will load produce boxes directly into vehicle trunks and COVID best practice guidelines will be followed. Plan on stopping by to pick up a box for yourself, friend or neighbor. We are thankful to be a part of this program and a blessing to many. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Jennie Eller, Mission & Ministry Coordinator at jeller@stjohnrochester.org.
Imagine the impact...of hundreds of people of all ages and abilities going out to serve those in need with compassion in Jesus' name!

COME SERVE SATURDAY, MAY 1, 9AM-12PM at our The Church Has Left the Building Serve Event! Plan now for you and your family to reach out with the love of Jesus in our community by serving at one of over 15 sites with your St. John family, as the church leaves the building. The serve opportunities will include:

- Serving at Neighborhood House
- Neighbor to Neighbor Food Collection
- Care Package Assembly
- Homebound Visitation
- Neighbor Yard Clean Up
- And many more!

Register now through the email sent out this week or go to our website for more details of the serve opportunities. Pray for good weather and perfect opportunities to serve and give witness to our Lord's goodness!

WE WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART.
To submit a prayer request, please text or email it to prayer@stjohnrochester.org at any time or click on one of the prayer request links on our Worship @ Home Online Resource webpage.

THIS WEEK:
Thanksgiving: Baptism of Theodore James Bess (son of Steven and Sarah Bess) / Marriage renewal of Sarah (Foradori) & Andrew Roth this weekend (COVID wedding last year) / New Members joining from the completed One Class
Worship Celebration Schedule

**Traditional Praise:** Sundays @ 8:00 AM (ALSO LIVE STREAMED AND POSTED ONLINE),
9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

**Modern Praise:** Saturdays @ 5:00 PM | Sundays @ 10:45 AM (ALSO LIVE STREAMED AND POSTED ONLINE)

1011 W. University Dr. | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | stjohnrochester.org