



# Sacred Heart

C a t h o l i c C h u r c h

4087 West Broadway • Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Phone: 763-537-4561

*Formed in His Heart, Serving with His Heart, Giving From His Heart*

## Saturday—Lord's Day Vigil

4:00 PM Mass of Anticipation

## Sunday— The Lord's Day

8:00 AM Mass - In Church

10:00 AM Mass - In Church

11:40 AM Latin Mass - In Church

## Daily Mass Times

### Monday:

8:00 AM Communion Service  
followed by Lauds/Morning Prayer

### Tuesday — Saturday:

8:00 AM Mass  
followed by Lauds/Morning Prayer

## Holy Day Mass Times

Consult the bulletin

## Penance and Reconciliation

### Tuesday — Saturday Morning:

7:40 — 7:55 AM

### Saturday Afternoon:

3:00 — 3:45 PM

Or by appointment

## Eucharistic Adoration

The Sacred Heart Chapel will be open for personal prayer and adoration before the monstrance on Thursdays from 9AM-8:30PM

## Parish Office Hours

Monday 8:30 AM — 2:00 PM

Tues.-Thurs. 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Friday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

## Parish Web Site

[www.shrmn.org](http://www.shrmn.org)

**Parish Phone:** 763-537-4561

## Sacred Heart Catholic School

Pre-K through 8th grade  
4050 Hubbard Avenue North  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

## School Web Site

[sacredheartsschoolrobbinsdale.org](http://sacredheartsschoolrobbinsdale.org)

**School Phone:** 763-537-1329

## May 26, 2024



## THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." - Mt 28:18-19



## Parish Directory

Phone: 763-537-4561

General Email: [contact@shrmn.org](mailto:contact@shrmn.org)

## Worship

Priest, Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen.....ext. 6240

[fr.bpedersen@shrmn.org](mailto:fr.bpedersen@shrmn.org) 763-285-6240

Deacon, Dr. James Ramsey.....ext. 6244

[jramsey@shrmn.org](mailto:jramsey@shrmn.org) 763-285-6244

Music, Jamie Schmidt .....ext. 6287

[jschmidt@shrmn.org](mailto:jschmidt@shrmn.org) 763-285-6287

## Faith Formation

Director of Adult Faith Formation

Bunny Brouillard.....ext. 6247

[bbrouillard@shrmn.org](mailto:bbrouillard@shrmn.org) 763-285-6247

Confirmation Coordinator

Maggie Powell.....ext. 6248

[maggiiep@shrmn.org](mailto:maggiiep@shrmn.org) 763-285-6248

Faith Formation Associate

Morgan Leisgang.....ext. 6246

[mleisgang@shrmn.org](mailto:mleisgang@shrmn.org) 763-2856246

## Pastoral Care

Priest, Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen.....ext. 6240

[fr.bpedersen@shrmn.org](mailto:fr.bpedersen@shrmn.org) 763-285-6240

Deacon, Dr. James Ramsey.....ext. 6244

[jramsey@shrmn.org](mailto:jramsey@shrmn.org) 763-285-6244

## Parish Administration

Bus. Admin., Mary Daugherty.....ext. 6241

[mdaugherty@shrmn.org](mailto:mdaugherty@shrmn.org) 763-285-6241

Bookkeeper, Audrey Gilbert.....ext. 6242

[agilbert@shrmn.org](mailto:agilbert@shrmn.org) 763-285-6242

Facility Manager and Maintenance

Mark Sazama.....ext. 6245

[msazama@shrmn.org](mailto:msazama@shrmn.org) 763-285-6245

Admin. Asst. Facility Scheduling, Office

Maggie Powell.....ext. 6248

[maggiiep@shrmn.org](mailto:maggiiep@shrmn.org) 763-285-6248

Sacramental Records

Safe Environment Coordinator

Bunny Brouillard.....ext. 6247

[bbrouillard@shrmn.org](mailto:bbrouillard@shrmn.org) 763-285-6247

## School

Main Office: 763-537-1329

Principal, Karen Bursey.....ext. 6255

[kbursey@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org](mailto:kbursey@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org)

Admin. Asst. Records,

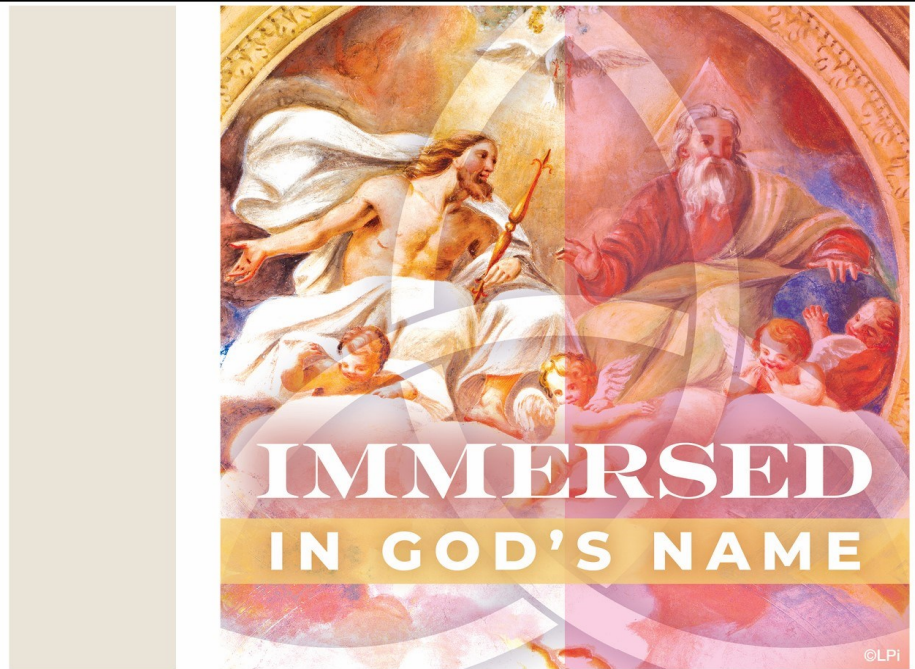
Sarah Bowback.....ext. 6257

[sbowback@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org](mailto:sbowback@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org)

**The Church of the Sacred Heart is served by the clergy of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis**

**Priest Staff:** Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen

**Deacon:** Dr. James Ramsey



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Once I was at a meeting with representatives of various religions. On a coffee break, a man from another religion mused to me: “You know, with all our differences, all religions are really about being good people.” I lowered my cappuccino and said as warmly as I could, “That’s not what mine’s about.” His quizzical look begged for clarification. “Mine is about plunging into the life of God,” I said.

Just before Jesus ascends into heaven, he commands the eleven apostles, “**Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.**” (Matthew 28:19-20). The word “baptize” means “to immerse in, to plunge into.” It presupposes the use of water. But what does it mean to be immersed in God’s name? In the Bible, God’s name is identical to God Himself. So, to be baptized into water, using Jesus’ formula, is to be plunged into the life of God. Said another way, it is to die with Jesus and rise with him as a member of his body.

The Trinity isn’t a doctrine simply to accept and ponder. It’s more like an ocean: a mystery into which we are baptized ... inserted, immersed, dunked, plunged. Baptism gives us power to live our lives as beloved children of God, patterned after Jesus himself, who is always with us, until the end of the ages. Hardly the same as being good people. Stranger, but much better.

— *Father John Muir*

## Appointed Sunday Readings

### The Most Holy Trinity– 5/26/24

**First Reading:** “This is why you must now know, and fix in your heart, that the LORD is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other.” (Dt 4:39)

**Psalm:** Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own. (Ps 33)

**Second Reading:** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, “Abba, Father!” (Rom 8:15)

**Gospel:** “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Mt 28:19)

## Latin Mass Sunday Readings

### Trinity Sunday

**Introit:** “Blessed be the holy Trinity, and undivided Unity...” (Tb 12:6)

**Epistle:** “O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God!” (Rm 11:33-36)

**Gradual:** “Blessed art Thou, O Lord, that beholdest the depths...” (Dn 3:55, 56)

**Gospel:** “At that time Jesus said to his disciples...” (Mt 28:18-20)

## Appointed Daily Readings

### Monday, May 27-Saturday, June 1

**Monday:** 1 Pt 1:3-9/Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9 and 10c/Mk 10:17-27

**Tuesday:** 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Mk 10:28-31

**Wednesday:** 1 Pt 1:18-25/Ps 147 :12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 10:32-45

**Thursday:** 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5/Mk 10:46-52

**Friday:** Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Lk 1:39-56

**Saturday:** Jude 17, 20b-25/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 11:27-33

## Prayers of the Faithful

Please remember in your prayers:

**Those Who Are Ill:** Mike Murry

**With Chronic Health Concerns:**

Tom Ambrose, Brady Swenson, Mary Jo Faustgen, Andrea DeOtis, Medard Keisershot, Cody Binstock, Carol Borman, Kelly VanSchalk, Tori Prince, Joyce Hanauska

**Those Serving In Our Armed Forces:** Sam Dahlgren-Castilla, Justin Rathbun, Liam Gregory, Jordan Reese, Andrew Gladitsch, Cathal & Cormac O’Connor, Lisette Knaeble, Zachary Wilhelmi, Lily Wilson, Joseph Eckman, Chase Anderson

**Those Who Have Died Recently:**

## Administration

### Stewardship-Your Commitment is Vital !

Collections for May 11-12, 2024 (week 46)	Dollars	# Donors
Sunday Envelope Collections	\$4,979.00	77
Electronic Donations	\$928.26	16
Plate (non envelope) Collections	\$1,437.10	
<b>Total Collections for week 46</b>	<b>\$7,344.36</b>	<b>93</b>

### Year-to-date Sunday Collections

	This Year	Last Year	(Behind)
Actual versus last year May 12 2024 (week 46)	\$557,236	\$531,456	\$15,780
	This Year	Budget	(Behind)
Actual versus Budget May 12, 2024 (week 46)	\$557,236	\$538,114	\$19,122

## Memorial Day Office Hours

The Parish Office and School will be closed on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> in honor of Memorial

## Annual Sacred Heart Raffle

The Sacred Heart Raffle is Back! Chances are \$100 per ticket with a grand prize of \$12,000 cash, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$2,000 cash and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$1,000 cash. The drawing will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2024 after the 10:00am Mass. Only 600 tickets will be sold. See flyer at Welcome Desk, and check future bulletins, website, Flocknote e-mails for raffle order forms.

## Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held here in the Sacred Heart Gym on Friday, June 7, 2024 from 12:00pm-5:00pm. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit Red-CrossBlood.org and enter: SHRobbins to schedule an appointment.

## Fun Fest Urgent Plea for Committee Members

**The Fun Fest Committee is looking for the following committee chairs for this year’s Fun Fest on September 14, 2024:**

**Bingo** – Looking to make bingo bigger and better – Do you love to play bingo and have some good ideas for growing this FUN part of FUN FEST? If so, WE WANT YOU!

**Beer Tent** – This is already a well-organized committee. Last year’s chair will not be returning for this year’s Fun Fest, but will be happy to share all of his notes to make this a smooth transition.

**Marketing/Publicity** – While the Parish Office provides much support in this area, we would love someone with great ideas to improve the marketing of this community event. Fun Fest is the one major Sacred Heart community fundraiser of the year. It is a great way to kick-off Fall and gather with friends and families of Sacred Heart as well as other members of the Robbinsdale Community. If you are willing to share some of your time and talent in the above areas or any other parts of the Fun Fest Committee, please come to a meeting on Wednesday, June 5th at 7:00pm in the Activities Building Marian Rooms OR contact Mary Daugherty at 763-285-6241/mdaugherty@shrmn.org. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

## Congratulations!

Please keep Father Pedersen in your prayers and help us congratulate him on his 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination on May 31<sup>st</sup>!



## Sacred Heart Catholic School

### Schedule a Tour, PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade

We have many options for 3 and 4 year old Preschool, including half and full days, along with K-8. Discover our school and the activities that enhance each child's educational experience. Come see how integrated faith lessons combined with our C-STEM program enrich our classrooms each day. We are preparing our students for 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills called the 4 C's: Creativity, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, and Communication. Call the school office to schedule a tour, 763.537.1329



**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**PRE-K**

Come see why Sun Post Reader's voted Sacred Heart Best PreK in Robbinsdale!

Full and part time options for 3-5 year olds

**CALL TODAY 763-537-1329**

[sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org](http://sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org)

**SUN POST READERS' CHOICE Awardee**



### Hiring for the 2024-2025 school year

Do you know a person looking to work at a great place? We are looking for a full time 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. We have a great community with awesome students. If you know someone that might be interested, please pass on the information.

Contact Karen Bursey

[kburse@SacredHeartSchoolRobbinsdale.org](mailto:kburse@SacredHeartSchoolRobbinsdale.org)

### Outdoor Garden

On Friday, our 3rd graders and volunteers planted vegetables in our outdoor garden planters. The 3rd graders learned about planting and caring for our garden. We can't wait to see all the vegetables! Our kindergartners and buddies also planted vegetable seeds on paper strips. Students visit our garden each week to see how tall their seeds have grown and they give them a good drink of water.



Like our Facebook Page - [Sacred Heart Catholic School Robbinsdale, MN Alumni/Parent](https://www.facebook.com/SHCSRobbinsdale)

<http://www.facebook.com/SHCSRobbinsdale>

Follow us on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SHCSRobbinsdal1>

### To Join Sacred Heart Parish

If you are new to our community, or have been attending Mass here but have not yet joined Sacred Heart call 763-537-4561 or stop in the parish office to register.

### Sacrament of Initiation — RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

To join the Catholic Church call Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office.

### Sacrament of Baptism for Infants and Children (RCIC)

Baptism for Infants and young Children is celebrated on the first & third Sundays of the month at 1 PM. Pre-Baptism Class meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. To make arrangements call Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

If you are in High School or an Adult who has yet to receive Confirmation contact Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office to make arrangements.

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

If you or your child have not yet made your First Holy Communion contact Bunny Brouillard. If you are shut in and would like to receive Holy Communion contact Deacon Ramsey to make arrangements

### Sacrament of Penance

See the schedule for confessions or contact Fr. Pedersen to make an appointment. To receive instruction on making a first confession contact the Parish Office.

### Sacrament of Anointing

To make arrangements to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or Last Rites contact the Parish Office.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Registered Parishioners should call Father Pedersen or Deacon Ramsey at least 8 months in advance of the wedding date to make arrangements.

### Sacrament of Holy Orders

Catholic Men contact Fr. Pedersen or Deacon Ramsey for more information on joining the Diaconate or Priesthood.

### Religious Education

For students grades 1—10. Meets Wed. evening 6:30pm—7:45pm, Oct. through April. Please call Morgan Leisgang or Matt Kruc in the Parish Office.

## Mass Intentions

**\*\*This Schedule is subject to change\*\***

### May

Sun. 26 8:00 AM Michele Rusinko+  
10:00 AM Parishioners

Latin 11:40 AM John Schnur

Mon. 27 8:00 AM Communion Service

Tues. 28 8:00 AM Mike Zegar+

Wed. 29 8:00 AM Philip Andrzejek+

Thu. 30 8:00 AM Natalie Ryan

Fri. 31 8:00 AM Mary Kay Ryan

### June

Sat. 1 8:00 AM Living & Deceased+  
Members of the SHCCW

4:00 PM James Bothum+

Sun. 2 8:00 AM Jay Boughton+

10:00 AM Parishioners

Latin 11:40 AM Matthew Schnur

### Chapel Open for Prayer:

- Monday: 8:30am-2:30pm
- Tues.-Wed.:8:30am-4:30pm
- Friday: 8:30am-4:30pm

### Confessions

Daily Tuesday-Saturday 7:40-7:55a.m.  
Saturdays 3:00-3:45pm

### Thursday Eucharistic Adoration

9:00am-8:30pm

## Parish Prayer Line

To be placed on the prayer line call the Parish Office 763-537-4561. You can also send in your request via e-mail: [cshadmin@shrmn.org](mailto:cshadmin@shrmn.org)



## Faith Formation

### A Bible Study on the Glorious Mysteries

After Mass on Saturday May 25 and after the 8 and 10am Masses on Sunday May 26, in the St. Joseph Room

**Session 4: The Assumption of Mary:** Have you ever wanted to grow in your understanding and devotion to the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary? Join Dr. Ben Akers and professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School as they walk through these Biblical mysteries and seek to grow in understanding and love for Christ through the mysteries.

**This episode on The Assumption of Mary, is the Fourth episode** of a five part series on the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.



## Pre-Baptism Classes

### PRE-BAPTISM CLASSES

Pre-Baptism Classes are offered at Sacred Heart on the Second Tuesday of the month. All parents are required to attend a pre-baptism class before the Baptism of their first child or if it has been over three years since they last attended a pre-baptism class. Our next scheduled session is **Tuesday June 11 at 7pm** in the Activities Building. If you plan to attend this session, please call the Parish Office at 763-537-4561.



## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

### The Holy Spirit and the Feast of Pentecost

Young children are eager to celebrate the feast of Pentecost because they have come to know and love the Holy Spirit. In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium, the children know that at Pentecost, just as Jesus promised, God sends the Holy Spirit, so that we, his disciples, may receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry



### LOOKING FOR KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

If you like to knit or crochet, please volunteer to create Hats, Mittens, Scarves or Prayer Shawls. I have the yarn if you have the time. Please call Bunny in the Parish Office at 763-537-4561 OR Email [bbrouillard@shrmn.org](mailto:bbrouillard@shrmn.org)

## Sacred Heart Cenacle



### Sacred Heart Prayer Group, meeting on the First Saturday of the Month.

We will be praying for the conversion of our loved ones, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends. Come join us in community on June 1st at 8am Mass followed by the Rosary in the St. Joseph Room, to petition the Lord our God and ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Children are welcome. Father Pedersen will be hearing confessions from 9-9:30am in church.

## Baby Bottle Drive



It is time again for our annual baby bottle drive! Empty baby bottles can be found at the entrances to the church. Please take a bottle home and fill it with pocket change, or a check made out to Sacred Heart Church. Funds raised will be given to the Abria Pregnancy Resource Center to help local mothers and babies in need. Sponsored by the St. Gianna Club.



## Respect Life Ministry



A Marriage program that helps couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship.

A Christian marriage program, Catholic in origin, where couples of all faiths or no faith background are encouraged to attend. Primarily a practical program to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect.

Presenters are not trained marriage counselors, but rather couples sharing their personal stories of marital struggles and the tools they used to rediscover their love.

+1 (800) 470-2230 English +1 (800) 966-7981 Español

## SHCCW

ACCW "On The Road...The Road to Successful Councils" Leadership Training for Parishes  
**Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

St. Alphonsus, 7025 Halifax Ave N, Brooklyn Center

Be a part of a helpful discussion group and leave fresh ideas to inspire you. All women are invited to attend and learn. Many questions will be answered including:

- What are the duties of the officers – President, Secretary, Treasurer?
- What is the responsibility of the members?
- What is CCW?
- Can you help us attract new members?
- How do we communicate?
- In what ways can technology help me to connect with members?

There is no cost for this evening, and it is open to all interested parties.

Please RSVP to Gerri Herman, herman5628@comcast.net before May 31, 2024

Call Carol R. to carpool, 612-242-5807

## Rosary Gems



"The Rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world and open on the substance of the next." Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, The Bishop of the Rosary, 1895-1979

## Gym Floor Update

**We accomplished our first matching gift of \$10,000! Our total for the gym floor is now \$86,336. WOW!**

We are thrilled to share that Sacred Heart Catholic School has not only reached but surpassed our \$10,000 matching grant goal raising \$12,097 for our gym floor project! With our matching donation, we raised \$22,097 in just a few weeks time! We have now raised over \$80,000! What an accomplishment! However, our work is not done! We still need your help to reach our \$100,000 goal. When we reach \$100,000, we will unlock another \$50,000 matching gift! Thank you to all that have given so far! We are excited to see all the memories that will be made in this space for years to come!

Liz Gerads, Director of Advancement



## Calendar of Events

### Sunday, May 26– Trinity Sunday

- 7:30 AM Rosary Prayed
- 8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- 10:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- 11:40 AM Latin Mass: Fr. Pedersen

### Monday, May 27– St. Bede the Venerable, 735 (Trad.)

- 8:00 AM Communion Service

### Tuesday, May 28– St. Augustine of Canterbury, 604 (Trad.)

- 7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
- 7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
- 8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- Morning Prayer to follow Mass

### Wednesday, May 29– St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, 1607 (Trad.)

- 7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
- 7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
- 8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- Morning Prayer to follow Mass

### Thursday, May 30– Corpus Cristi (Trad.)

- 7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
- 7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
- 8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- Morning Prayer to follow Mass
- Adoration following Mass till 8:30 PM

### Friday, May 31– Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Trad.)

- 7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
- 7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
- 8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- Morning Prayer to follow Mass

### Saturday, June 1– St. Angela Merici, 1540 (Trad)

- 7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
- 7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
- 8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- Morning Prayer to follow Mass
- 4:00 PM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- 5:00 PM Adult Ed
- 5:15 PM Vespers

### Sunday, June 2– Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ– 2nd Sunday of Pentecost

- 7:30 AM Rosary Prayed
- 8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- 9:00 AM Adult Ed.
- 10:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
- 11:00 AM Adult Ed.
- 11:40 AM Latin Mass: Fr. Pedersen

Like and Follow the Church of the Sacred Heart on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/shrobbinsdale/>

## “Survived 25 Club”

### MAY ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Please keep each of the following couples and their intentions in your prayers:



**George & Joy Aebly 68 years**  
**John & Barbara Kurth 56 years**  
**Kenn & Colleen Patterson 44 years**  
**David & Patricia Ruddy 44 years**  
**Chris & Cathy Gagnon 43 years**  
**Bob & Jean Lind 40 years**  
**David & Dianne Detloff 40 years**  
**John & Cathleen Pendzimas 38 years**

May God continue to bless you and keep you strong in your vocation of marriage!

These amazing marriages are being brought to you by the “Survived 25 Club”.  
If you would like your marriage of 25 years or more recognized please call  
Laurel Murry 763-535-4101 or Anne Hedlund 763-535-4275.

*Sacramental grace is the key to a good marriage!*

## News From Other Sources

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Precious Things

I once wrote an article about a school that embraced the Reggio Emilia approach to education. This meant, in practice, a lot of fascinating things, and it was a fun piece to work on. But all these years later, I could not accurately describe the Reggio Emilia style of learning to anyone except to say this: they give the kids glass bowls and China plates.

That’s what stuck with me, and that’s what sticks out in my memory amidst the hundreds of intervening articles and interviews on other equally fascinating topics. I remember those glass bowls and cups lining the shelves, the fine China dishes, the beautiful shiny cutlery the children used for lunch.

This was a pre-school, and these students were three-year-olds. “If they drop a cup and it shatters, then they learn that glass can break. We clean it up,” the teacher said with a shrug. The idea was that a child will never learn to handle a fragile, precious thing — and grow into an adult who can respect and cherish a fragile, precious thing — if they are not sincerely trusted with a precious thing whose fragility they bear personal witness to.

The breaking, you see, was part of the education.

*The disciples worshiped, but they doubted.* And yet, Christ gave them the Great Commission anyway, something fragile and important, something that could be easily dropped and easily broken. Christ knew who they were, what they were. They were mere human beings, deeply imperfect, scared and hesitant, a little slow on the uptake. He knows that’s exactly what we are, too. But he gives us the Great Commission just as he gave it to them. Because that is what the Faith is: it is something perfectly beautiful, passed from one flawed person to another, throughout the ages — constantly dropped, constantly broken, and constantly, miraculously, pieced back together again.

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” — Matthew 28:19-20*



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