

Parish-wide Synod survey! Please Read

Ascension/ St. Bernard's will be participating in a parish survey about discipleship conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute as part of the Archdiocesan Synod Process! We need your help.

Please help us by participating in a 10-15 minute survey online. The survey can be accessed via smartphone, tablet or computer at www.disciplemakerindex.com from **February 1 – March 1** and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. This survey is open to everyone who is or has belonged to our parish – adults, children, young adults, practicing Catholics, and those who have left or are not currently practicing their Catholic faith. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be valuable to Archbishop Hebda, Father Abraham and our parish as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring, at which time we will share what we have learned.

If you don't use a smartphone, tablet or computer - there will be opportunities to complete the survey after daily and Sunday Mass. You can also obtain a paper copy by contacting Jeremy Gesinger 952-212-2369 and Tom Monson 507-514-7654

Thank you for helping with this important project!

Joe Lemmer, Ascension parishioner and seminarian in his 4th year at St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, recently returned from his mission trip to India. While working alongside the Missionaries of Charity, Joe and 8 other seminarians, as well as Fr. Jon Kelly, served Christ in the poorest of the poor at Daya Dan (home for mentally and physically handicapped children) and at Kalighat (home for the dying).

Joe is so appreciative of all the prayers and support Ascension and St. Bernard parishioners have given him in preparation for this trip! He wanted to share with all of you the blog post he wrote during the trip (see below). If you'd like to read what the other seminarians and Fr. Kelly wrote about the profound, moving, and lifechanging experience they all had, please go to <https://semssp.org/category/blog/india-2020-sjv/>

Men in Christ, Men of the Church, Men for Others

“When volunteering at my main volunteer site, Daya Dan, where we work with mentally and physically handicapped children, I was told by one of the nurses to put pillowcases on some pillows in a corner. I went over to do this simple task and was given a moment much calmer than the usual rush of feeding the children, playing with them, helping them with their homework, and doing laundry.”

“In this lull, I looked around the room, and what met my eyes was a beautiful sight. We had just arrived for the day and my brothers were greeting the children in the dormitory. They were going around the room, showing each child such love and affection.”

“One was kneeling by the bedside of a child, simply holding his hand while looking lovingly in his eyes. Another was talking to a child in his bed, laughing with him and saying, ‘Good morning.’ A third was being led by a jumping child into the other room to play. While doing these things, my brothers radiated love towards the children, being extraordinary examples of the Father’s love through ordinary means.”

“Over the next couple of days, the Lord continued to show me the goodness of my brothers, especially in how they loved the poor around them through their own talents and personalities. Frankie Floeder, who is very musically gifted, quickly found a guitar at Daya Dan and thrilled the kids by singing songs with them. The kids were absolutely delighted – they danced up and down, clapping and singing with joy.”

“Michael Maloney, gifted with an incredibly logical and intelligent mind, devised a system with a nonverbal child in which he could communicate by pointing out letters on his t-shirt to spell words.”

“Joshua Abraham is one of the most personable people I know. In serving at Daya Dan and at Kalighat, the home for the dying, Josh was quick to learn the names of those he’s encountering, so he could truly know them and enter into a genuine relationship with them. He’s also been learning Bengali phrases in order to communicate better with them.”

“Also at Kalighat, Ryan Sustacek, who has the wonderful talent of being an intentional listener, sat on a cot listening to a sick man, asking about his life and making sure he felt heard.”

“Ed Burke has one of the biggest hearts of anyone I know, and he used this incredible gift to stay by the bedside of a dying man for the entire visiting time, which is a full two hours. He then repeated this the next time we were at Kalighat.”

“I share these moments with you, which are only a handful of the many, many more possible examples, to show you the goodness of the brothers I’m serving here with. We traveled here to Calcutta to encounter Christ in the poor, which we most certainly have; but another huge blessing of the trip is encountering Christ in each other, in witnessing the heart of Jesus shining forth from my brother seminarian. What a true honor it is to serve beside these true men in Christ, men of the Church, men for others.”

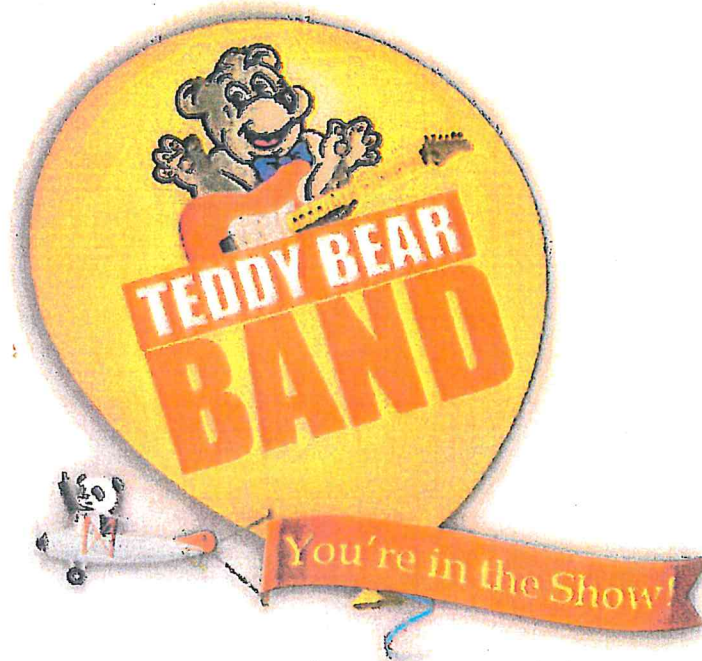
In Christ,
Joe Lemmer





Guardian Angels
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Come celebrate
Catholic Schools Week with us
&
The TEDDY BEAR BAND!
Sunday, January 26
11:30am



Help us Kick off Catholic Schools Week.
The Teddy Bear Band will be joining us from 11:30am-1pm.
We will have School Tours for preschool through 8th grade.
Refreshments will be served.

217 W 2nd Street
Chaska MN 55318
952-2274010

OPEN HOUSE PIZZA AND MOVIE NIGHT SCHOOL TOURS

Help us close out Catholic Schools Week with a
MOVIE!

Pizza, Popcorn and Treats will be provided.
This is a family event

January 31st

6:00pm

Guardian
Angels
Catholic
School

Preschool Movie | K-3 Movie | MS Movie

217 W 2nd St. Chaska, MN 55318
Ph# 952-227-4010