

Dear Parish Families,

For the past 10 years it has been my absolute pleasure to serve as your Director of Religious Education. My time in ministry at St. John's is coming to a close, effective July 1. I will always treasure the experiences I have had, the friendships made, and the joy of sharing our faith together. The people of St. John's are kind, prayerful and welcoming and it is a wonderful parish to serve.

I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to all of you, and while I am a little hesitant to single out one person or group, I really feel I must, even at the risk of missing someone. I need to thank:

Kim Rybicki – Kim has been helping with the Religious Education program for many years now, I believe I am the third DRE she has assisted. Without Kim's help, we would not have a CCD program! She provided background, practices, preferences and guidance to me not only when I first started, but every step afterwards, year after year. Her experience was invaluable and she is such a good and kind person. I hope everyone in the parish realizes what a treasure she is. Thank you so very much Kim!

Dan Kitzhaber – I could write a book but I will give you the abridged version 😊. In short, Dan is who you want to learn ministry from. He looks at things through the lens of faith and takes every perspective into account. His passion for the faith is contagious and he has been one of the best co-workers ever. "God is good – all the time!" Thank you Dan!

Our Catechists – I wish I could list them all from over the past 10 years, we are blessed with so many! St. John's is extremely blessed with so many people who are willing to help share the faith and introduce our children to Christ! One lesson I learned from my catechists was to simply trust that God would send them – and boy did He! We not only had willing help, but amazing volunteers who have a deep and abiding faith that they are eager to share with their students. It was a humbling gift I will never forget. I was also the envy of other DRE's who had trouble 'finding' catechists. What can I say, we are so blessed at St. John's! If you know one of our catechists, past or present, please thank them for their dedication. Our children are the future of our church and our catechists have helped to form them well. Thank you catechists, my friends in faith! I will miss you.

The PCCW ladies – Every fall it was like Christmas with the school supplies they gave to our program. Thank you so much for your kindness and willingness to help ladies, especially when cookies or bars were needed for a special event. Thank you women of grace!

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Father for his guidance and support. Thank you SJ school teachers for sharing your building with us. Thank you Shirley Heise (SJ school principal), you are an absolute pillar of faith and a huge blessing to work with. Thank you to all the secretaries from SJ school and CCS for their collaboration and coordination. Thank you to our parish secretaries both Mary Gouin (current) and Lori Salzman(past). Thank you David Alcott, it was such a pleasure to work with you. Thank you Mari Bohman for your perspective, and encouragement. Thank you to our parents for your commitment Christ and His Church!

Even though June 30 is my last day, I want to finish the work needed for our students to celebrate First Communion. I know our students are ready and eager to receive our Lord in the Holy Eucharist and I am so proud of each and every one of them.

When I started as DRE, it seemed a simple job. That soon changed, and I recognized it as the ministry it is. That ministry grew and grew and grew and ultimately it has grown to be too much for me to balance which is why I need to step down. Beginning July 1, I will continue my work as DRE for my home parish, Christ the King. Thank you St. John's for making me a part of your parish family for the past 10 years!

Please know that you are always in my prayers.

God Bless,

~Deb Msna