

Go Visit the New St. John the Baptist Church Website By Gayle Faulkner Kosalko

It's history, it's information, it's school news, it's ministries, it's memoriams and it's all on-line with St. John the Baptist Catholic Church's new website www.sjbcatholicparish.org.

Who would have thought over a 100 years ago when Father Benedict Rajcany began the small Slovak parish that someday people would be able to sit in the comfort of their homes and press a couple of keys to gather information about the church and school. But the church's website certainly reflects the needs of today's congregation to get information instantly.

Mark Dominiak, parishioner and designer of the beautiful website said that there were a number of pertinent reasons that a website be made.

He commented that communication just isn't the same as it used to be and that younger parishioners are less inclined to the printed word or to visit church on the weekend to pick up a bulletin.

"The website gives St. John a way to provide information and connect with all parishioners especially the younger ones, in a way they are



St. John Jr. Holy Name Society 1931

comfortable with and that's more flexible than the past," he explained.

As the webmaster, Mark can also get important news up on the main page in minutes, accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

Also as the staff gathers parishioner email addresses, they have the capability to send out news or messages to hundreds of parishioners with one click as opposed to many volunteers spending hours on the phone.

Mark has used his talents as a media and



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marketing professional (his company is called Insight Garden, Inc.) to create the website and said that he found the more he delved into the project, the more "dear" the project became to him.

"I started to get a sense of not only how much the prior generations of St. John's gave of themselves for the parish but also I started to feel good about the contribution I was making to the parish by doing what I was doing," he added.

The history section of the church and school on the website is particularly interesting and detailed, complete with photos and a general history of the area itself. The research, gathering of pictures and writing were also done by Mark.

One of the most unique and lovely offerings on the website is the Memoriam. According to the website, "these memorial pages have been established as a way to remember many St. John the Baptist parishioners who have passed on, leaving a legacy of good works and treasured memories that have become part of the history of our parish family." The former pastors of the church are on there as well as that of a touching tribute to lifelong parishioner Peter Stofcik who is Mark's grandfather. It's a beautiful example of what a memoriam can be on the website.

For a small set donation one can establish a memoriam for a loved one with a photo and information about their life. Mark has said that while he asks for a written text about the person, he will be happy to rewrite or edit the information for the family so one should

not be intimidated about their own writing skills.

The website also gives information on rental for St. John's rooms as well as prices for funeral luncheons and parties served there.

Mark says that philosophically the website legitimizes this century old parish as a "contemporary entity" especially to the younger people.

"By using the internet as an information and ministry tool, it will help make St. John and the Catholic religion more contemporary and comfortable for those folks. As younger folks spend more time in and navigate their way through internet information and communities, St. John will become more accessible to them," he said. "If that type of accessibility, service and comfort can draw them in closer to the parish, that's a very good thing."

And you'll find www.sjbcatholicparish.org a "good thing."



A message to the Parish and their new website

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