

MN WASTE WISE SUCCESS STORY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
WASTE WISE

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church & School in New Brighton was approved for two BizRecycling grants in 2019, one for the Church and one for the attached grade school. With dual goals of environmental stewardship and cutting down on waste generated by both institutions, St. John the Baptist used the BizRecycling grants to cover the cost of color-coded recycling and organics bins, compostable bags, and a sorting table for the school cafeteria. Upon starting an organics program in late 2019, St. John's saw considerable amounts of compostable material diverted from the trash, most notably in the school cafeteria and kitchen. Once destined for the trash, this compostable material is now separated into an organics dumpster provided by St. John's waste hauler.

The addition of an organics program has not only cut St. John's trash pickups from 3 times a week down to once a week – the program has saved St. John's an estimated \$1,000 on its waste bill.

"We were able to reduce our trash bill by 60% by starting organics before COVID-19 changed our operations, and we plan to return to that position once things get back to normal."

– Pat Hinnenkamp, Director of Maintenance

HIGHLIGHTS

- **\$12,000** saved annually on waste bill
- **26,000** pounds of organics diverted from the trash each month



Vegetable scraps, fruit trimmings, and paper napkins collected in a BPI-certified compostable bag in cafeteria at St. John the Baptist Catholic School.