

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Nov. 28	8:30 AM (SP)	+Darv Thoele
Tuesday	Nov. 29	8:30 AM (SP)	+Alois & Susan Wagner
Wednesday	Nov. 30	8:30 AM (SP)	+Richard Beuch
Thursday	Dec. 1		NO MASS
Friday	Dec. 2	8:30 AM (SP)	Priest's Personal Intention
Saturday	Dec. 3	5:00 PM (SP)	+RoseAnn & Randy Sticha
Sunday	Dec. 4	8:30 AM (SC)	For Our People
		10:30 AM (SP)	+Ermin Giesen

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Nov. 30	6:45 PM	Religious Education, grades 1-10.
		Penance, grades 7-10, Parent Meeting/1st Reconciliation.
Sun. Dec. 4	10:30 AM	Sunday School, pre & K.
Wed. Dec. 7	7:00 PM	Mass for Immaculate Conception.
Sun. Dec. 11	10:30 AM	Sunday School, pre & K.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 3 & 4

St. Patrick

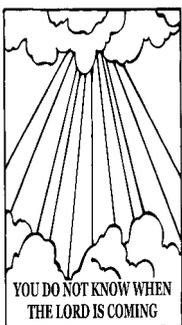
Extraordinary Ministers	12/3	Leo & Gloria Jacques, Dan Cross
	12/4	Adella Schmitt, Evelyn Scheffler, Agnes DeGross
Lectors	12/3	Judie Cervenka
	12/4	Michael Sticha
Acolytes	12/3	Erin Roach, Andy Roach, Jeff Paul
	12/4	Alex Schoenbauer, Zachary Schoenbauer, Mike Verhoeven
Ushers	12/3	Dave Roach, Peter Ryan
	12/4	Don Pesta, Leo Jacques
Greeters	12/4	Joe & Evelyn Scheffler

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/4	Tom Fredrickson, Kevin Mahowald, Rosemary Hatcher, Bill Dillingham
Lector	12/4	Cindy Grolla
Acolytes	12/4	Timmy, Clarice, & Nicholas Fredrickson
Ushers	12/4	Joe Shea, Joe Williamson
Greeters	12/4	Lloyd & Deloris Friske

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday at noon. (notices can be mailed, faxed to 952-492-6290, or put in the black box on the side of the rectory) Save the counting ladies time: write your name & amount of donation on your Sunday envelope. Thank you! Going out of town? Won't be at mass next weekend? Call the parish office in advance and ask for a parish bulletin to be mailed to you. Keep up on parish events!

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 4, 2005, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
 Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
 Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

ST. PATRICK

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: *Thomas & Elaine Onan, Laura Patch, Jeff & Harriet Paul, Don & Elaine Pesta, Roger & Jackie Pomije, Loren & Mary Pumper, Jack & Amy Puncochar, Rob & Jodie Puncochar, Connie Putnam. Altar Linens: Evelyn Scheffler.

SAVE YOUR USED POSTAGE STAMPS: The C.C.W. is collecting used postage stamps. Proceeds will help to broadcast the word of God in South America. Stamps need to be trimmed leaving a 1/4 inch border of the envelope or they will not be able to peel them off properly. A box marked "Used Postage Stamps" will be left in the back of church or you may drop them off at the parish office during regular office hours.

DISHTOWEL FINISHING: We need help hemming and decorating dishtowels to be sold at next summer's church festival. It's never too early to get started. The big box containing unfinished towels is located at the back of church. Sign out as many as you like to embroider, appliqué, or decorate creatively and hem! Just return the finished towels to the same box when complete. Thanks!

ST. PATRICK C.C.W. OFFICER: The position of vice-president is still open. It is a 2-year term; the first year as vice-president, the second year as president. Give some thought to volunteering to fill this position. Contact Carol Timmons if you can help!

DONATIONS FOR SYMBOLS: We are looking for donations to help underwrite the cost of the bronze symbols for the sanctuary of the church. These four symbols will be made just for our church and not a warehouse item. Similar to the bell up in the bell tower which was made just for our church in 1873. You may not know but the bell has "St. Patrick" and the year "1873" cast into the side of it along with the name of the foundry who made it. I wouldn't doubt that back then they took up a special collection for that bell also. It's too bad no one can see it, unlike these symbols which will carry the same integrity but will be visible for all of us to see and be inspired by. Please consider helping with this request. You can call the office or talk to me, Dan Cervenka, @ 758-3428. Thank you.

C.C.W. HOLIDAY CRAFT & BAKE SALE: Sat, December 10 after the 5:00 PM mass and Sun, December 11 after the 10:30 AM mass in the entry of St. Patrick Church. All parishioners are asked to contribute holiday-theme baked goods and craft items for this fundraiser. Donations may be dropped off on Saturday morning between 10:00 AM and noon or prior to the masses on Saturday and Sunday. Anyone interested in helping with set-up on Saturday morning or with sales after mass on Saturday or Sunday may contact Carol Timmons @ 952-758-5960.

C.C.W. MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY: Monday, December 12 at 7:00 PM in the social hall. A five dollar gift exchange, potluck supper, and cash donations for the Peace Center. All women 18 and over are invited.

ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: *Bruce & Debbie Efta, Scott & Lynn Lombardi, Thomas & Janet Ryan, John & Sonja Woodyard.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS: We are looking for someone to oversee Funeral Luncheons. Contact JoAnn Erickson if you are interested @ 461-7979.

LECTORS NEEDED: The Church of St. Catherine is in need of additional lectors for Sunday masses. If you are interested in becoming a lector, please call Mary Kay Mahowald @ 447-3970.

ST. CATHERINE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MEETING: Monday, November 28th at 7:00 PM.

ST. CATHERINE HOLY HOUR: Sat, Dec. 3 at 9:00 AM.

ST. CATHERINE C.C.W. CHRISTMAS PARTY: Monday, December 5th at 6:30 PM. All women of the parish are invited.

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE: Thursday, December 8 (8:00 PM-midnight). Please join us at the Church of St. Catherine as we unite with Catholics across America for an evening of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer for the sanctity of human life. We will be giving special honor to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and turning to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and Patroness of the unborn, seeking her intercession for the most vulnerable in our society—the unborn babies. Everyone is welcome to participate in this National Night of Prayer for Life. The hour of national unity when all churches from east to west will pray in unison will be from 11:00 to midnight in Minnesota. Please come for one hour or for the entire prayer vigil!

PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

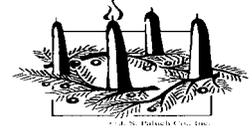
PARISHES: Tom Shea (son of Rosetta Shea), Linn Blocker, Peter Nytes, Jeff Paul, Jim Trantina (father of Theresa Sticha), Marcella Backsen (sister of George Buresh), MaryAnn Radnich (cousin of Vickie Cross), Lori Doerr (daughter of Florian Kraft), Richard Greger (father of Diane Williamson), Benoite Stepka, Jack Keenan.

SCRIPTURE STUDY ALERT! Coming this winter to St. Patrick Social Hall, *The Great Adventure Bible Timeline* with Jeff Cavin on video. Runs Thursdays, January 19 to April 6 from 7:00-9:00 PM. Cost is \$35.00. Rare opportunity! Don't miss it.

MEMORY ANGELS: During the Advent season *A Community Caring for Life* will be selling Memory Angels to affirm the lives of cherished loved ones and those whose lives have not yet begun. Beginning on the weekend of Nov. 27, memorials may be purchased for \$5 each to be attached to Memory Angels. This would be a meaningful way to remember our deceased relatives and friends and also our spiritually adopted unborn babies. Proceeds will be given to the Archdiocese Life Fund to help women in crisis pregnancies.

SECOND COLLECTION: Next weekend, December 3 & 4, we will have a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Once again we ask for your help, which you have given so generously in the past; last year's collection in our Archdiocese was almost \$450,000! As in the past, almost 95% of your gifts will be distributed to those groups most in need at this time. They count on your generosity & offer you their prayerful thanks.

In our culture, the observance of Christmas begins in mid-October or even earlier, as stores put out their holiday displays. But the calendar Catholics live and celebrate by is different from the secular world's. When we let our faith and the ancient wisdom and tradition of the Church center us as we plan, schedule, and organize our time, we're celebrating Christmas as Catholics.



ADVENT

As Catholics, we prepare for Christmas by celebrating the season of Advent in the four weeks preceding Christmas. We hear John the Baptist, echoing the words of the prophets of Israel, call us to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord in our own lives now, and to look for the fulfillment of his kingdom in the future.

Did you know? We celebrate two feasts of Mary during Advent. On the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** (December 8), we celebrate the truth that Mary was conceived without sin. (This feast does not celebrate the conception of Jesus, as many mistakenly believe.) On the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** (December 12), we celebrate Mary's appearance to the poor Indian peasant St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531.

The O Antiphons: As Christmas draws near, the Church traditionally prays these verses highlighting the ways Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecy. We begin December 17 with "O Wisdom on High" and end December 23 with "O Emmanuel." The full texts of these verses can be found in any missalette. You might pray them before a meal or in the evening, perhaps around the Advent wreath in the eight days leading up to Christmas.

From Children's Mouths—

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5 and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting her, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

STEWARDSHIP—Giving money to the church is a symbolic act—the offering of ourselves in service and devotion to God. Giving is a practical matter, too, because the offering makes it possible for the church to pay its bills and carry out its mission in Christ's name. How much should I give? The Bible says that we should set aside our "first fruits"—that our offering to God should be the first portion we set aside, not what remains. Some people give by proportion, for example \$2 or \$3 per week for every \$1000 of annual income. Others set aside a percentage of their income. The Old Testament guideline for giving was the tithe (usually 1/10). How close do you come to the giving expected of the early Christians?