

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Nov. 30	6:00 PM (SC)	+Fr. James Zappa
Tuesday	Dec. 1	8:30 AM (SP)	+Karen Liemandt
Wednesday	Dec. 2	6:00 PM (SP)	+Fr. James Zappa
Thursday	Dec. 3		NO MASS
Friday	Dec. 4		NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 5	5:00 PM (SP)	+RoseAnn & Randy Sticha
Sunday	Dec. 6	8:30 AM (SC) 10:30 AM (SP)	+Jeff Schroeder For our parishioners, guests, & visitors

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2015

St. Patrick

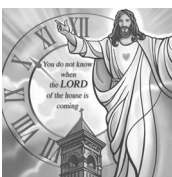
Extraordinary Ministers	12/5	Agness DeGross, Kelley & Jim DeGross
	12/6	Aimee Henry, Amy Holden, Gloria & Leo Jacques
Lectors	12/5	Shelley Shepherd
	12/6	Tim Sonnek
Acolytes	12/5	Dan DeGross, Mitchell Rousseau, Sam Lambrecht
	12/6	Megan & Rachel Theis, Bella Schulte
Ushers	12/5	Matt Sirek, Roman Stepka
	12/6	Leo Jacques, Don Pesta
Greeters	12/6	Henry & Dee Kober

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/6	Jude Boeser, Steve Boeser Barb Lerschen, Pat Schroeder
Lector	12/6	Mary Kay Mahowald
Acolytes	12/6	Molly O'Hern, Abbie Kavouras, Jenna Kavouras
Ushers	12/6	Dave Nelson, Shawn O'Hern
Greeters	12/6	Joe & Ruth Romanowski

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 people 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 6, 2015 2nd Sunday of Advent



First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

ST. PATRICK

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: *Chris & Lynn Meyer, Gary & Barbara Lewis, Dave & Tracy Luchsinger, Sparky & Susie Mahowald, Gregory & Heidi Michaelson, Tony & Kathee Michels, James & Amy Milinkovich, Jody & Roseann Morrell. Altar Linens: Gail Cassady.

WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY? Nov. 30: Fr. Bernard Hebdo, Dec. 1: Pope Francis, Dec. 2: Fr. Michael Miller, Dec. 3: Fr. Ronald Dahlheimer, Dec. 4: Fr. Douglas Dandurand, Dec. 5: Fr. Dennis Dease, Dec. 6: Fr. James Debruyker. *Eternal Father, we lift up to You these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

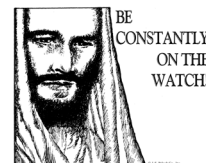
GROUP I VOLUNTEER NEEDED: We need a volunteer to co-chair the Group I Fish Fry on Friday, February 5, 2016. Please call the parish office to volunteer.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection November 15, 2015

Received this week.....\$ 1,991.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,867.00



ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: Steve & Jude Boeser, Ken & Kathy Ceola, Steve & Theresa Kavouras.

ST. CATHERINE C.C.W. CHRISTMAS PARTY: The party will be held at Margaret Sharkey's home this year on Thursday, December 3rd at 6:00 PM. We ask you bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Come enjoy friendship with new and old members.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE COOKS FOR KIDS

EVENT: The St. Catherine C.C.W. will be preparing and serving a meal on Friday, December 11 at the Ronald McDonald House in Minneapolis for families of children who are going through cancer treatments and transplants at the U of M Hospital. This is a fun and rewarding event, sharing time with families who are dealing with the tremendous stress of seeing their children suffer and fight for life each day. Pop can tabs are recycled by the House, so please save and leave in the back of church. Prep will begin at church at 1:30, with the meal being served at Ronald McDonald at 5:30. If you would like to be involved, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of church. Thank you for your help! Please direct your questions to Laura Saarela @ 952-440-3662.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection November 15, 2015

Received this week.....\$ 712.52
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,101.00



PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

PARISHES: Sharon Mastain (sister of Carol Timmons) Rosie Pexa, Ann Pint, Laura Ryan, Nicole Wood, Celeste Wilson, John Chruscinsky, Bill Ronayne, Robert Richardson, Dave Hover, Diane Hentges (Cathy Theis' sister), Jerry Cavanaugh (Jodie Puncochar & Jim Cavanaugh's dad), Alex Schlink, Ev Nelson, Mary Jane Keep, Paul Lambrecht, Braden Flicek, Cynthia Troendle, Pat Scharf, Beatrice Mushitz, Mike Zender, Jack & Jane Eiseman (parents of Jacque Bittner), Shannon Quinn, Rosetta Shea, Gerry Jensen (cousin of Jan St. Aubin), Therese Ryan, Florian Bauman (Bryan Bittner's uncle), Anikah Schmidt (great granddaughter of Bonnie Theis), Grace Bittner, Laura Stepka, Joe & Evelyn Scheffler, Benoite Stepka, Jennifer Loneragan, John Thomas Byer.

NEXT WEEKEND, DEC. 5 & 6.: We will have a Second Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

Friday, February 5	S.P.	Group I Fish Fry
Friday, March 11	S.P.	Group II Fish Fry

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sun. Nov. 29		NO Sunday School.
Wed. Dec. 2	6:45-8:00 PM	Religious Education Class. Grades 1-9.
Sun. Dec. 6	10:30 AM	Sunday School.
Wed. Dec. 9	6:45-8:00pm	Religious Education Class Christmas Program Practice
Sun. Dec. 13	10:30 AM	Sunday School.
Wed. Dec. 16	7:00 PM	Religious Education Class Christmas Program
Sun. Dec. 20	10:30 AM	Sunday School

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BINGO on Sunday, December 6th at 1pm, At the St. Wenceslaus Parish Activity Center. \$5/card. Beverages & Treats Available. All proceeds to benefit the 2016 Student Guatamala Mission Trip & The San Lucas Mission.

Ministry to Homeless Families, Hope House, a facility provided by Mayo Health Systems in New Prague is opening its doors Dec. 6-20. You are invited to share the Christmas Spirit with our guests at Hope House by spending time with our guests or providing a meal. Training for new host volunteers will be held Tuesday, December 1st at 6:30pm. Contact Julie Huddock @ 952-994-5382 to volunteer as a host or Ruth Dols @ 952-758-2050 to help with a meal. Since opening its doors in June of 2014, Hope House has sheltered 38 families with 74 children! (Hope House, 305 Columbus Ave. N., New Prague, MN 56071)

Statewide Day of Fasting and Prayer, In preparation for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, please plan to participate in the "Statewide Day of Fasting and Prayer in Reparation for a Culture of Violence and Disrespect for Human Life" on Dec. 4th. Details and prayers can be found at: www.archspm.org/Mercy.

FROM THE PASTOR

Awakened by the Light

During this time of the year when natural light shines less each day, and nature slips into the rest of winter, the Church begins a new year with the Season of Advent and its imperative call to stay awake. The supernatural light of faith must guide us through the various kinds of darkness that we face in this world. Our Lord warns us: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come" (Matt. 24:42). This is the kind of darkness that focuses our attention on the present world so exclusively that we lose sight of spiritual realities. The last things (death, judgment, heaven and hell) may merit a passing thought, but their impact on daily life may be very slight because they seem so far away. But Jesus reminds us that they are not as distant as we may think: "You must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come" (Matt. 24:44). This is the theme that always marks the beginning of Advent. The Church reminds us that Jesus "will come again to judge the living and the dead." We do not know the day or the hour, so we must be awakened by this truth, and live in a state of readiness.

*If we do not heed this call, another darkness, caused by the desires of the flesh, can envelop us quite easily. St. Paul saw this and said, "It is the hour now for you to wake from sleep" (Romans 13:11). He is not speaking about physical sleep, just the opposite. It is about what people are doing while they are awake that is the problem. "Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy" (Romans 13:12-13). This is the kind of activity that the world would classify as "a good time," but is really a state of spiritual slumber. Advent calls us to be awakened by the light of Christ and to live in this light. "For Paul, nocturnal reveling and all that goes with it stands for the dark side of human nature, man's being 'asleep'. For him it becomes a symbol of the pagan world as such, submerged in material things, held fast in the darkness that prevails where there is no truth and which, despite all its decibels and hectic activity, is asleep, because it lives unaware of genuine reality, of the real human vocation. For us, 'rising from sleep' means arising from conformity with the world and with the times and having the courage to believe and to shake off the dream that causes us to bypass our true vocation and our best possibilities. There are greater promises than those of money, power and pleasure. Being awake for God and for other people – that is the kind of 'waking' that Advent has in mind, the wakefulness which discovers the light and brightens the world" (Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek that which is Above*, pp. 18-19).*

While there are many good things about the way we celebrate Christmas in our country, the level of activity fueled by its commercialization can actually lull us to sleep in these ways. Christmas then becomes less about Christ and more about the artificial lights and mythologies that we create. As Advent becomes increasingly overshadowed by the way we celebrate Christmas, we become more urgently in need of its call to be awakened by the Light.