

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 11		NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 12	8:30 AM (SP)	Merlow Moulton
Wednesday	Dec. 13	4:30 PM (SP)	Reconciliation
		5:30 PM (SP)	+Brandon Bruzek
Thursday	Dec. 14	8:30 AM (SC)	+Jeff Schroeder
Friday	Dec. 15		NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 16	5:00 PM (SP)	+Walter, LaVerne, Richard, & Don
			+Brandon Bruzek
Sunday	Dec. 17	8:30 AM (SC)	+Brandon Bruzek
		10:30 AM (SP)	For Our People

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 16 & 17, 2017

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/16	Bill Weiers, Jim & Kelley DeGross
	12/17	Heidi Michaelson, Gloria Jacques, Ron & Kathy McBroom
Lectors	12/16	Lynne Hoffman
	12/17	Greg Michaelson
Acolytes	12/16	Joe Weiers, Dan DeGross, Ian DeGross
	12/17	Claire Michaelson, William Michaelson, Samantha Schoenbauer
Ushers	12/16	Melvin Gregory, Steve Kreuser
	12/17	Leo Jacques, Don Pesta

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/17	Frank Simons, Linda Torgesen, Bonnie Theis, Joan Bruzek
Lector	12/17	Deanna Vochoska
Acolytes	12/17	Kendra Korbelt
Ushers	12/17	Bruce Brumm, Joel Vochoska
Greeters	12/17	Tim & Laura Saarela

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!

WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

Dec. 11: Fr. Warren Sazama, Dec. 12: Fr. Gregory Schaffer,
Dec. 13: Fr. Damien Schill, Dec. 14: Fr. Leo Schneider,
Dec. 15: Fr. James Schoenberger, Dec. 16: Fr. Donald Schwalm,
Dec. 17: Fr. Robert Schwartz.



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.

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” (Benedict VXi, 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.

Fr. Michael J. Miller

ST. PATRICK

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: *Martin & Karin Wagner, Joseph & June Wallerius, Leander & Brandi Weckman, Bill & Anne Weiers, Dirk Wells & Vanessa Glavas, David & Sandra Zweber, Brandon & Jodi Jaeger. Altar Linens: Gail Cassidy.

POP CAN TABS: All three New Prague Elementary Schools are collecting pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Please collect your tabs and bring them to St. Patrick Church. Lisa Luskey will get them to the schools. Thank you.

BOXTOPS: Please save boxtops for Catholic Education. Each one you clip is worth money that goes back to education. There is a box in the back of church for you to place them in.

GET READY, SET, BAKE: Our Advent Bake Sale will be the weekend of the 16th and 17th after Mass. We need bakers and buyers to make this event a success. The proceeds will be determined at our meeting on Monday, December 11th. All are welcome to join us for the meeting that evening in the social hall at 7:00 PM.

ST. PATRICK PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: No meetings in December.

Stewardship of Treasure

“Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts”
Sunday Collection December 3, 2017

Received this week.....\$ 1,741.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 2,006.00



ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: Ken & Kathy Ceola, Steve & Theresa Kavouras, Timothy & Laura Saarela.

ST. CATHERINE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: No meeting in December.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE: St. Catherine C.C.W. will again make and serve a 5:30 dinner at Ronald McDonald House, near the U. of M. Hospital on Friday, December 29th. Help is needed. Car pool available. Enjoy the fun in sharing God’s love to families of and children in treatment for cancer and other life threatening diseases. Contact Margaret @ 952-461-2214.

THANK YOU: A SPECIAL thank you to Deloris Friske and Rachel (Friske) Eicher who hosted our twenty plus C.C.W. women at the Friske home for our Christmas Party and end of the year meeting. You both are a blessing for us all!

St. Catherine Parish

Stewardship of Treasure

“Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts”

Sunday Collection December 3, 2017

Received this week.....\$ 920.10
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 944.00



PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

PARISHES: Jonathan Perry (grandson of Barb Perry), Amelia Cross, Andrew Buckman, Fred Winker, Marsha Simon, Mary Lee Androli, Michael Zender, Daryl Sternitzke, Fr. Francis Roach, Gerry Sandey, Amanda (Polson) Tinebra, Margo Mauser (sister of Kathy Prochaska) Danny Theis, Anne Kelnhofer, Albert Braith, Patty Whalen, Sandi Suilmann, Douglas Van Moorlehem (brother of Jan St. Aubin), Carol Prochaska, Sharon Mastain (Carol Timmons’ sister) Rosie Pexa, Ann Pint, Nicole Wood, Celeste Wilson, Dave Hover, Alex Schlink, Ev Nelson, Paul Lambrecht, Cynthia Troendle, Pat Scharf, Jack & Jane Eiseman (parents of Jacque Bittner), Gerry Jensen (Jan St. Aubin’s cousin), Florian Bauman (Bryan Bittner’s uncle), Anikah Schmidt (great granddaughter of Bonnie Theis), Grace Bittner, Laura Stepka, Joe & Evelyn Scheffler, Jennifer Lonergan, John Thomas Byer.

R.C.I.A. PROGRAM: The R.C.I.A. classes will now take place on Tuesdays. The next sessions are December 12 (The Paschal Mystery and the Holy Spirit), December 19 (Why do I need the Church?) Sessions begin at 6:30 PM in the St. Patrick Social Hall. All are welcome.

THANK YOU parishioners of St. Patrick & St. Catherine for all your help and support over the last 20 years. (Dec. 9, 1997 was my first day.) You have two extraordinary parishes here. I have been blessed! Looking forward to many more years. *Colleen F.*

SECOND COLLECTIONS: This weekend, Dec. 9 & 10, we will have a second collection for Christmas Flowers. Next weekend, Dec. 16 & 17, we will have a second collection for the *Fund for the Needy.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are in need of two parents (or two sets of parents that are willing to switch off) to be hall monitors during religious education classes.

Volunteers will need to attend a training session and create an online account for future training sessions. Substitute teachers also needed.

Mon. Dec. 11		Confirmation Retreat-St. Michael’s in Prior Lake.
Wed. Dec. 13	6:45-8:00 PM	Class grades 1-9.
Sun. Dec. 17	10:30 AM	Christmas Program practice.
Wed. Dec. 20	6:45-8:00 PM	Sunday School.
		Christmas Program. Meet in classroom—treats & drinks to follow in Social Hall.
Wed. Dec. 20	Sunday School Class	Christmas song at Church.
Sun. Dec. 24	10:30 AM	NO Sunday School.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

Mon. Dec. 11	S.P.	C.C.W. Meeting
Fri. Dec. 29	S.C.	Make & serve @ Ronald McDonald House
Fri. Jan. 5	S.P.	Men’s Club Christmas Party
Fri. Feb. 9	S.P.	Group I Fish Fry
Fri. Mar. 16	S.P.	Group II Fish Fry