

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 12	NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 13 8:30 AM (SP)	+Mark & Travis Hentges
Wednesday	Dec. 14 6:00 PM (SP)	Chrest Family
Thursday	Dec. 15 8:30 AM (SC)	+John Brumm
Friday	Dec. 16	NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 17 5:00 PM (SP)	+Walter, LaVerne, Richard, & Don Beuch
Sunday	Dec. 18 8:30 AM (SC) 10:30 AM (SP)	U.S. Military For Our People

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 17 & 18, 2016

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/17	Dave Roach, Tony Jirik, Rita Ryan
	12/18	Ron & Kathy McBroom, Dan Cervenka, Amy Holden
Lectors	12/17	Mike Puncochar
	12/18	Tim Sonnek
Acolytes	12/17	Mason DeGross, Sam Lambrecht, Blake Simon
	12/18	Cole Flicek, Bella Schulte, Hannah Langeberg
Ushers	12/17	Mark Rezac, Steve Kreuser
	12/18	Don Pesta, Gerald Sandey
Greeters	12/18	Don Pesta, Gerald Sandey

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/18	Deloris Friske, Rachel Friske, Kathy Prochaska, Dave Nelson
Lector	12/18	Kevin Mahowald
Acolytes	12/18	Kendra Korbelt, Bryce Horejsi, Kevin Mahowald (CB)
Ushers	12/18	Greg Horejsi, Tim Saarela
Greeters	12/18	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. 12: Fr. Michael Anderson, Dec. 13: Fr. Anthony Andrade,
Dec. 14: Fr. Leonard Andrie, Dec. 15: Fr. Michael Arms, Dec.
16: Fr. Dominic Assim, Dec. 17: Fr. Vincent Au, Dec. 18: Fr.
Dennis Backer.



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'S DESK

Our Joyful Mother



When we think of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the image of the sorrowful mother may readily come to mind. After all, whose heart could be so cold as not to have sympathy for Mary as she stood beneath the cross, or who cannot imagine her sorrow as she held her dead son when He was removed from it. The Church even honors her with a memorial on September 15 entitled Our Lady of Sorrows. Yet I do not think that sorrow characterized her life. I think what most characterized her life was joy. She expressed this joy when she visited Elizabeth: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior" (Luke 1:46-47). "Exultation is the keynote of the encounter with Elizabeth, where the sound of Mary's voice and the presence of Christ in her womb cause John to 'leap for joy' (Lk 1:44). Gladness also fills the scene in Bethlehem, when the birth of the divine Child, the Savior of the world, is announced by the song of the angels and proclaimed to the shepherds as 'news of great joy'" (Lk 2:10; John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 20).

It is especially appropriate to meditate on this aspect of her life on this Third Sunday of Advent, which is traditionally called Gaudete, which means rejoice. Joy is an effect of our faith, a fruit of the Holy Spirit; it comes from being near Christ, and from being holy. The disciples on the way to Emmaus experienced this joy when they spoke to the Risen Jesus: "Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32). Mary was joyful because she "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). She reflected on the events of His birth, His life, His words; she knew that God had fulfilled all of His promises in her Son. He is the source of joy "because He will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Because Mary was so close to Christ she must have radiated the joy that comes from being in His presence. Being joyful does not mean being silly or giddy. It is much deeper and permanent. It endures even in the midst of suffering. "Joy is in the soul itself and literally implies a leap or a spring. The soul has such springs of life awakened within it that it exults from joy from within. In the ultimate analysis, only saints are joyful" (Fulton J. Sheen, *Guide to Contentment*, p.179). As Mary is the greatest saint, she must have been the most deeply joyful person as well. And since we are all called to be saints, we must be joyful too. But it does not come from glib imperatives. When the Church says, "Rejoice!" it is saying, "Be a saint, then you can not help but to rejoice." Realize the gift that God has given to us in His Son; live the life He has called you to live and you will

be joyful. "To meditate upon the 'joyful' mysteries, then, is to enter into the ultimate causes and the deepest meaning of Christian joy. It is to focus on the realism of the mystery of the Incarnation and on the obscure foreshadowing of the mystery of the saving Passion. Mary leads us to the secret of Christian joy, reminding us that Christianity is, first and foremost 'good news', which has as its heart and its whole content the person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the one Savior of the world" (Rosarium, 20). *Fr. Michael J. Miller*

Stewardship of Treasure
"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"
Sunday Collection December 4, 2016

Received this week.....\$ 1,487.10
 Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,001.00



ST. PATRICK

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER: *Jim & Mora Cavanaugh, Dan & Debra Cervenka, Dan & Vickie Cross, Benjamin & Lori Davis, Jim & Kelley DeGross, Kevin & Lisa DeGross, Maureen DeGross, Ralph & Brenda DeGross, Jonathan & Angela Deutsch, Dean & Kari Dolezal. Altar Linens: Gail Cassady.

ST. PATRICK C.C.W. ADVENT BAKE SALE: Stop in after Masses December 10 & 11 to purchase your Christmas goodies!

ST. PATRICK PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: There will be no meetings in December.

PRAY THE ROSARY: Join us to pray the Rosary every Saturday evening at 4:40 PM before the 5:00 PM Mass or Sunday morning at 10:10 AM before the 10:30 AM Mass.

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.

MUSIC PRACTICE: The choir will be rehearsing music for the upcoming Christmas season: Thursday Dec. 15 @ 7:00 PM and Thursday Dec. 22 @ 7:00 PM, at the Church of St. Patrick. All voices and instruments are welcome to join us!

CONGRATULATIONS! Philip & Elissa Ryan on the baptism of their daughter, Lauren Elizabeth Ryan, on Nov. 26, 2016.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"
Sunday Collection December 4, 2016

Received this week.....\$ 1,700.65
 Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,925.00



Steeple Repair Project budget.....\$38,000.00
 Steeple Repair amt. remaining.....\$11,512.00

ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER: Ken & Kathy Ceola, Steve & Theresa Kavouras.

ST. CATHERINE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: There will be no council meeting in December.



St. Catherine's welcomes the Clarkin Family—Derek, Stacy, Brynn, Isla, and Elam

PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISHES: Anne Kelnhofer, Albert Braith, Dale Nesbitt, Patty Whalen, Sandi Suilmann, Mary Munson (Sue Zender's daughter), 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, Diane Hentges (Cathy Theis' sister), Alex Schlink, Ev Nelson, Mary Jane Keep, Paul Lambrecht, Cynthia Troendle, Pat Scharf, Jack & Jane Eiseman (parents of Jacque Bittner), Gerry Jensen (Jan St. Aubin's cousin), Therese Ryan, 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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: This weekend, Dec. 10 & 11, we will have a second collection for Christmas Flowers. Dec. 17 & 18, we will have a second collection for the Fund for the Needy.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Dec. 14	6:45-8:00 PM	Classes, grades 1-9.
	7:30 PM	2nd Grade Parent Meeting.
Sun. Dec. 18	10:30 AM	Sunday School, Christmas Song at Church
Wed. Dec. 21	7:00 PM	Christmas Program at Church.
Sun. Dec. 25		NO Sunday School.
Wed. Dec. 28		NO Classes, grades 1-9.
Sun. Jan. 1		NO Sunday School.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

Fri. Feb. 24	S.P.	Group I Fish Fry
Fri. Mar. 31	S.P.	Group II Fish Fry