

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	12/13	NO MASS		
Tuesday	12/14	8:30 AM	SP	+Leonard Sticha
Wednesday	12/15	5:30 PM	SP	+Leonard Pexa
Thursday	12/16	8:30 AM	SC	+Dorothy Rygajlo
Friday	12/17	NO MASS		
Saturday	12/18	5:00 PM	SP	+Fr. Francis Roach
Sunday	12/19	8:30 AM	SC	For Our Parishioners & Guests
		10:30 AM	SP	Sticha Family

LITURGICAL MINISTERS December 18 and 19, 2021

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/18	Bill Weiers
	12/19	Joan Nelson
Lector	12/18	Kerri Sticha
	12/19	Diana Schoenbauer
Altar Servers	12/18	Jack Sticha
	12/19	Cole, Ella and Ethan Flicek
Ushers	12/18	Matt Sirek
	12/19	Rob Sticha

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/19	Pat Schroeder
Lector	12/19	Donna Wright
Altar Servers	12/19	Monica Muelken
Ushers	12/19	Petro Tsarehradsky, Kevin Mahowald
Greeters	12/19	Colleen Thoresen, Kathy Conway

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday at noon. (notices can be mailed, emailed or put in the black box on the side of the rectory). Save the money counters time: write your name & amount of donation on your Sunday envelope. Thank you!

WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

Dec. 12: Fr. Kevin Zilverberg, Dec. 13: Fr. Andrew Zipp, Dec. 14: Fr. Brian Zuelke, Dec. 15: Fr. Aric Aamodt, Dec. 16: Fr. Gregory Abbott, Dec. 17: Fr. James Adams, Dec. 18: Fr. Stephen Adrian.

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

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

ST. PATRICK

CHURCH CLEANING FOR DECEMBER: *Jayne Cram, Pam Caselius, John & Gail Cassady, Jim & Mora Cervenka, Dan & Deb Cervenka, Jennifer Witt, Terry Connelly, Dan & Vickie Cross, Benjamin & Lori Davis, Jim & Kelley DeGross
Altar Linens: Gail Cassady

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.

MASS HELPERS NEEDED: We are looking for more Mass helpers. If interested, please contact Shelley Shepherd @ seleped@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC REHEARSAL: Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 pm and Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 pm at St. Patrick's Church. Please join us in preparing the music for the upcoming Christmas season. Voices and instruments are welcome.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Weekly Budget Requirement:	\$ 2,400.00
12/5/21 Collection:	\$ 3,367.08
12/5/21 Holy Day:	\$ 20.00
12/5/21 Christmas Offering:	\$ 50.00
12/5/21 Christmas Flowers:	\$ 10.00



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ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR DECEMBER: Ken & Kathy Ceola, Peter & Jeanne Theberath

PRAY THE ROSARY: The Blessed Mother has stated the Rosary is the most powerful weapon we have against evil. Please join us every Sunday at 7:55 AM before Mass to pray the Rosary together.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Weekly Budget Requirement:	\$ 1,160.00
12/5/21 Collection:	\$ 1,023.00

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



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PARISHIONERS CORNER

HOLIDAY GIVING TREE 2021: We are now collecting new warm winter wear for the New Prague Peace Center. They are in need of adult coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots and snow pants. Please drop all items in the boxes in the back of both churches by **December 19**.



PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

PARISHES: Shelby Perry, Janice Lane, Tom O'Callaghan, James Hesse, Baby Isabel Guidarelli, Sparky Mahowald, Laura Lano, Martha Carr, Brooklyn Prochaska, Bonnie Theis, Maxley Ferguson, Diane Sirek, JoAnn Kenne, Karen Zweber, Andrew Buckman, Daryl Sternitzke, Margo Mauser (sister of Kathy Prochaska), Carol Prochaska, Nicole Wood, Celeste Wilson, Alex Schlink, Pat Scharf, Gerry Jensen (Jan St. Aubin's cousin), Anikah Schmidt (great granddaughter of Bonnie Theis), Laura Stepka, Evelyn Scheffler, Jennifer Lonergan, John Thomas Byer, Shelby Perry.

DONATIONS: All year end donations are due by December 30, 2021.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE 2021

RECONCILIATION:

Tuesday, December 14	9-9:30 AM	SP
Thursday, December 16	9:00-10:00 AM	SC
Saturday, December 18	3:00-4:45 PM	SP

MASSSES:

Friday, December 24	4:30 PM-carols	SC
	5:00 PM	SC
	6:30 PM-carols	SP
	7:00 PM	SP
Saturday, December 25	8:30 AM	SC
	10:30 AM	SP
	*NO 5 PM MASS	SP
Sunday, December 26	8:30 AM	SC
	10:30 AM	SP
Friday, December 31 (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God-not a holy day of obligation)	5:00 PM	SP
Saturday, January 1 (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God-not a holy day of obligation)	9:00AM	SC
	5:00 PM	SP (The Epiphany of the Lord)
Sunday, January 2 (The Epiphany of the Lord)	8:30 AM	SC
	10:30 AM	SP

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wednesday	12/15/2021	Christmas Program
Sunday	12/19/2021	CGS Class 9:15-10:15 AM

2021 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: The Religious Education students in grades 1-8 will be hosting a "Christmas Celebration" in St. Patrick Church on Wednesday, December 15th at 6:45 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us as the students recreate the Christmas story through scripture and song! Cookies and refreshments to be served in the Social Hall following the program. If interested in donating cookies/treats or your time setting up, serving or cleaning up afterwards, please contact Kerri Sticha.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LIVE NATIVITY: Saint John the Baptist Catholic School and Church in Jordan present "A Living Nativity". Enjoy live animals, hot cocoa, cider, and warm up next to fire pits as we celebrate this holy night! December 17th from 5:30-7:30pm.

