

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2015

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 14	6:00 PM (SC)	+Jeff Schroeder
Tuesday	Dec. 15		NO MASS
Wednesday	Dec. 16	6:00 PM (SP)	St. Patrick C.C.W.
Thursday	Dec. 17	8:30 AM (SP)	+Karen Liemandt
Friday	Dec. 18		NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 19	5:00 PM (SP)	+Walter, LaVerne, Richard, & Don Beuch
Sunday	Dec. 20	8:30 AM (SC)	For our parishioners, guests, & visitors
		10:30 AM (SP)	+Connie Donabauer

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 19 & 20, 2015

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/19	Ron & Rosie Ryan, Megan Ryan
	12/20	Leo & Gloria Jacques, Amy Holden, Heidi Michaelson
Lectors	12/19	Lynne Hoffman
	12/20	Greg Michaelson
Acolytes	12/19	Mitchell Rousseau, Sam Lambrecht, Ian DeGross
	12/20	Greta, Claire, & William Michaelson
Ushers	12/19	Melvin Gregory, Matt Sirek
	12/20	Don Pesta, Norm Sticha
Greeters	12/20	Norm & Denie Sticha

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/20	Deloris Friske, Rachel Friske, Kevin Mahowald, Pat Schroeder
Lector	12/20	Steve Boeser
Acolytes	12/20	Addey Vochoska, Karley Vochoska, Kendra Korbel
Ushers	12/20	Joel Vochoska, Bruce Brumm
Greeters	12/20	Margaret Sharkey, Bonnie Theis

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 20, 2015 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a
Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

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? Dec. 14: Fr. Robert Dobihal, Dec. 15: Fr. Gordon Doffing, Dec. 16: Fr. Timothy Dolan, Dec. 17: Fr. John Donahue, Dec. 18: Fr. Mark Dosh, Dec. 19: Fr. John Drees, Dec. 20: Fr. Thomas Dufner.
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.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC REHEARSAL: Anyone interested in helping the choir lead the music at the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses, please plan to attend the following rehearsals: Thursday, Dec. 17, 7:00 PM and Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7:00 PM at St. Patrick's Church. Singers and instrumentalists are welcome!

PIANIST NEEDED! The St. Patrick's Choir is looking for someone to accompany the choir on the keyboard for the Christmas morning Mass at 10:30 AM on Dec. 25th. Contact LuVerne at 612-619-1891, if you're willing to share your gift!

DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: Sunday, December 20, after the 10:30 AM Mass. All are welcome! Confirmation students are welcome to help for service hours.

ST. PATRICK MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY: Friday, January 8th at 7:00 PM in the social. Please bring a dish to share. Questions, contact Leo Jacques @ 952-492-2080.

ST. PATRICK PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be Monday, January 18th at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS! Adam & Emily Nesbitt on the baptism of their daughter, Amara Vi Nesbitt.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection December 6, 2015

Received this week.....\$ 2,668.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,867.00
Retirement Fund for Religious.....\$ 3,292.00



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ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

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

ST. CATHERINE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be Monday, January 25th at 7:00 PM.

BAT EVICTION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: Recently it was discovered that a large colony of bats have been living in the attic of St Catherine's Church. Bats are known to carry and transmit disease (such as rabies and histoplasmosis) so eviction is imperative. The eviction, abatement of all guano and insulation, sanitizing/deodorizing, and re-insulating will cost a total of \$13,645.80. A capital campaign has been initiated to cover these costs. If you wish to donate, please place your contribution in the collection basket over the next couple of weeks and mark your envelope accordingly (your name and labeled "Bat Removal"). We will publish in the bulletin a running total of contributions weekly until we meet our goal. If you have further questions, contact Joe Williamson, Gary Korb, or Tim Saarela.

PRAY THE ROSARY: The Blessed Mother, along with many contemporary saints, have stated the rosary is the most powerful weapon we have against evil. Please join us every Sunday after the 8:30 AM Mass to pray the rosary.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"
Sunday Collection December 6, 2015

Received this week.....	\$ 1,158.05
Weekly budget requirement.....	\$ 1,101.00
Bat Eviction Capital Campaign budget.....	\$13,646.00
Bat Eviction Campaign to date.....	\$ 3,575.00
Retirement Fund for Religious.....	\$ 468.00



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Dec. 16	6:45-8:00 PM	Religious Education Class. Grades 1-9.
Wed. Dec. 16	7:00 PM	Christmas Program.
Sun. Dec. 20	10:30 AM	Sunday School.
Wed. Dec. 23	6:45-8:00 PM	NO Religious Education.
Sun. Dec. 27	10:30 AM	NO Sunday School.
Wed. Dec. 30	6:45-8:00 PM	NO Religious Education.
Sun. Jan. 3	10:30 AM	NO Sunday School.

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).

PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISHES:

Janet Rezac, Sharon Mastain (sister of Carol Timmons) Rosie Pexa, Ann Pint, Laura Ryan, Nicole Wood, Celeste Wilson, 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 Jacques 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, Benoit Stepka, Jennifer Lonergan, John Thomas Byer.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: This weekend, December 12 & 13, we will have a second collection for Christmas Flowers. Next weekend, December 19 & 20, we will have a second collection for the *Fund for the Needy*.

THANK YOU: In the United States today, more than 33,000 Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests past age 70 benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR). Donations to the RFR furnish funding for financial, educational, and consultative support that helps religious communities care for senior members and plan for long-term retirement needs. Thank you for your donation to the RFR.

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
Friday, January 8	S.P.	Men's Club Christmas Party