

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 17		NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 18	8:30 AM (SP)	Carl & Mary Jane Miller
Wednesday	Dec. 19	6:00 PM (SP)	Julie Toner
Thursday	Dec. 20	8:30 AM (SC)	+Mildred LaLond
Friday	Dec. 21		NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 22	5:00 PM (SP)	Allan Schroeder
Sunday	Dec. 23	8:30 AM (SC)	+Brandon Bruzek
		10:30 AM (SP)	For Our People

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 22 & 23, 2018

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/22	Kelley DeGross, Tony Jirik, Barbara Lewis
	12/23	Dan Cross, Joan Nelson, Don Pesta
Lector	12/22	Jim DeGross
	12/23	Jennifer Clancy
Altar Servers	12/22	Hayden & Mason DeGross, Bryce Deutsch
	12/23	Cole, Ella, & Ethan Flicek
Ushers	12/22	Steve Kreuser, Mark Rezac
	12/23	Pat Puncoschar, Darryl Volk

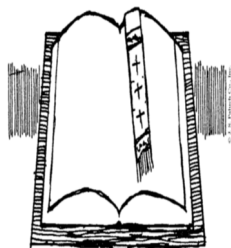
St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/23	Lloyd & Deloris Friske, Rachel Eicher, Dave Nelson
Lector	12/23	Addey Vochoska
Altar Servers	12/23	Conner Anderson, Karley Vochoska
Ushers	12/23	Frank Simons, Rick Sirek
Greeters	12/23	Margaret Sharkey, Dianne Schumann

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. 17: Fr. Frederick Meyer, Dec. 18: Fr. John Meyer,
Dec. 19: Fr. Nathaniel Meyers, Dec. 20: Fr. Michael Miller,
Dec. 21: Fr. Marcus Milless, Dec. 22: Fr. John Mitchell,
Dec. 23: Fr. Robert Monaghan.



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 THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: *Chad & Emily Sandey, Cody & Molly Schaefer, John & Patricia Scheffler, Phillip & Leanne Scheiber, Scott & Karla Schmidt, Paul & Diana Schoenbauer, Sam & Kerri Schoenbauer, Terrie Schoenbauer, Michael & Kristi Schulte, Chris & Shelley Shepherd. Altar Linens: Gail Cassady.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE: Proceeds of \$674.00 will be split between New Prague Peace Center, New Prague Hope House, and Scott County CAP Agency. Thanks to those that donated baked goods and those that made a purchase for a successful Bake Sale!

ST. PATRICK CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS:

Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 PM.

Thursday, December 20th at 7:00 PM.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: Sunday, December 23rd after the 10:30 AM Mass we will set up the Church for Christmas. All are welcome to stay and decorate. Confirmation students can help for their service hours. Confirmation students please bring your sheet to be signed.

PARISH LED LIGHTING PROJECT: Have you noticed? The interior lighting in the church was converted over to new LED lamps in July prior to the festival. The new LED package was installed to provide uniformity of light in both color (Kalvin) and brightness (Lumens). LED lighting is not only very efficient, but it also has very long burn times and will save on long term maintenance costs. The total cost of the interior Lighting conversion was \$2700. We received a lighting rebate from MVEC in the amount of \$740.

Steeple Lighting (Phase II)

We will also be replacing the interior light inside of the steeple and wiring the fixture with separate permanent switching. We will also be installing LED lighting to accent the exterior of the steeple and light the Cross. We anticipate a very nice lighted presence on top of the hill for St. Patrick's Church. The budget for the Phase II Steeple work is \$4500.

Parking Lot / Campus Lighting (Phase III)

With the expansion of the handicapped and senior parking area, we recognize the need for better lighting at the lot to the North of the church. Simultaneously, night lighting on the Parish Office building and the Social Hall will be upgraded to LED lamps and fixtures as needed. This may include the addition of parking lot poles and LED fixtures. Budget range \$3500 - \$8500.

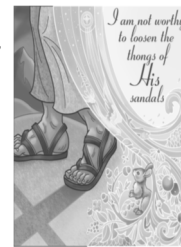
We have received some generous donations toward the LED project. If you would like to donate towards the LED project, please place donations in the collection basket and note LED Project on the envelope or check. You can also contact the parish office to arrange payment. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection December 9, 2018

Received this week.....	\$ 2,022.00
Weekly budget requirement.....	\$ 2,006.00
LED Lighting Project collected.....	\$ 9,550.00
LED Lighting Project goal.....	\$ 15,700.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 223.00
Flower Collection.....	\$ 455.00



ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: Ken & Kathy Ceola, Greg & Deb Horejsi, Albert & Kristi Schneider.

ST. CATHERINE CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

The Cemetery Committee is looking for additional committee members. If interested, contact Bill Dillingham @ 952-212-2529.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection December 9, 2018

Received this week.....	\$1,734.02
Weekly budget requirement.....	\$ 944.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 65.00
Flower Collection.....	\$ 235.10

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

PARISHES: Diane Sirek, Anne Weber (granddaughter of Sue Zender), Diane Curfman (Ev Nelson's sister) Denise Despenas (sister of Bonnie Theis) JoAnn Kenne, Virginia Beuch, Karen Zweber, Richard Arens, Andrew Buckman, Fred Winker, Marsha Simon, Mary Lee Androli, Michael Zender, Daryl Sternitzke, Gerry Sandey, Amanda (Polson) Tinebra, Margo Mauser (sister of Kathy Prochaska) Annie Kelnhofer, Albert Braith, Douglas Van Moorlehem (brother of Jan St. Aubin), Carol Prochaska, Sharon Mastain (Carol Timmon's sister) Ann Pint, Nicole Wood, Celeste Wilson, Alex Schlink, Cynthia Troendle, Pat Scharf, Gerry Jensen (Jan St. Aubin's cousin), Anikah Schmidt (great granddaughter of Bonnie Theis), Grace Bittner, Laura Stepka, Joe & Evelyn Scheffler, Jennifer Lonergan, John Thomas Byer.

SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend, Dec. 15 & 16, we will have a second collection for the *Fund for the Needy*.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Dec. 19	6:45-8:00 PM	Preschool—grade 9. Christmas Program. Meet in classrooms. Treats to follow program in S.H.
Wed. Dec. 26		NO CLASS—Christmas Break.
Wed. Jan. 2	6:45-8:00 PM	Class for grades 1-9.

THANK YOU: Good food, good friends, and good fun at our second Fellowship Dinner. Thank you Feist family for the donation of hamburger for the Sloppy Joes, the Flicek and Verhoeven families for the wonderful desserts and all the families who set-up, served, and cleaned-up.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

Fri. Mar. 1	S.P.	Group I Fish Fry
Fri. Apr. 5	S.P.	Group II Fish Fry
Sun. July 21	S.P.	Parish Festival

