

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 18		NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 19	8:30 AM (SP)	The Gregory Family
Wednesday	Dec. 20	5-6:00 PM (SP)	Reconciliation
		6:00 PM (SP)	Religious Ed. teachers
Thursday	Dec. 21	8:30 AM (SC)	+Bob Maciej
		9-10:00 AM (SC)	Reconciliation
Friday	Dec. 22		NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 23	5:00 PM (SP)	+Ermin & Esther Giesen
Sunday	Dec. 24	8:30 AM (SC)	For Our People
		10:30 AM (SP)	St. Patrick C.C.W.
		5:00 PM (SC)	+Jeff Schroeder
		7:00 PM (SP)	+Laura Ryan

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 23 & 24, 2017

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/23	Tony Jirik, Barbara Lewis, Rita Ryan
	12/24	Amy Holden, Jan St. Aubin, Everett & Joan Nelson
7:00 PM	12/24	Ron & Rosie Ryan, Rita Ryan
Lectors	12/23	Mike Puncochar
	12/24	Juli Volk
7:00 PM	12/24	Jim DeGross
Acolytes	12/23	Hayden DeGross, Mason DeGross, Sam Lambrecht
	12/24	Elias DeGeest, Rachel Theis, Alyssa Volk
7:00 PM	12/24	Bryce Deutsch, Mason Deutsch
Ushers	12/23	Dave Roach, Matt Sirek
	12/24	Norm Sticha, Darryl Volk
7:00 PM	12/24	Volunteers

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/24	Bill Dillingham, Barbara Lerschen, Joel & Deanna Vochoska
5:00 PM	12/24	Kathy Prochaska, Pat Schroeder, Ken & Kathy Ceola
Lector	12/24	Mary Kay Mahowald
5:00 PM	12/24	Tom Fredrickson
Acolytes	12/24	Addey Vochoska
5:00 PM	12/24	Addey Vochoska, Karley Vochoska
Ushers	12/24	Tim Saarela, Ken Ceola
5:00 PM	12/24	Bryce Horejsi, Greg Horejsi
Greeters	12/24	Rick & Linda Sirek
5:00 PM	12/24	Joe & Ruth Romanowski

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. 18: Fr. Martin Shallbetter, Dec. 19: Fr. Christopher Shofner, Dec. 20: Fr. Paul Shovelain, Dec. 21: Fr. John Siebenaler, Dec. 22: Fr. Leonard Siebenaler, Dec. 23: Fr. Martin Siebenaler, Dec. 24: Fr. Thomas Sieg.



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: *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 Cassady.

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.

ADVENT BAKE SALE: This weekend after Masses. Come, check out all the goodies!

MUSIC PRACTICE: Please join us to rehearse Christmas music on Tuesday, Dec. 19 and Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 PM at St. Patrick's Church. We will practice the music for the Christmas Masses. Both singers & instrumentalists are welcome.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: Set-up for St. Patrick will be Saturday, Dec. 23rd at 8:30 AM. All are welcome!

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection December 10, 2017

Received this week.....	\$ 1,976.00
Weekly budget requirement.....	\$ 2,006.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 144.00
Christmas Flower Collection.....	\$ 559.00



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.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection December 10, 2017

Received this week.....	\$ 1,400.00
Weekly budget requirement.....	\$ 944.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 148.00
Christmas Flower Collection.....	\$ 221.00



PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

PARISHES: Jonathan Perry (grandson of Barb Perry), Richard Arens, 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 Eisman (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 next session will be Tuesday, December 19 (Why do I need the Church?) Sessions begin at 6:30 PM in the St. Patrick Social Hall. All are welcome.

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

THANK YOU: Dear Fr. Miller, As Christmas draws near, I want to again thank you and the parishioners of St. Patrick & St. Catherine for the interest shown and the generous response to the appeal for the missions of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament made earlier this year. The Mission Co-operative Plan appeals are of great assistance to our Fathers and Brothers in the missions of the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Uganda, Sri Lanka, and South America. May God bless you and your parishioners especially during this Holy Season!

Thomas A Wiese, SSS Mission Director

CLARIFICATION: This year we are required to go to one Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and one Mass for Christmas.

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.

Wed. Dec. 20	6:45-8:00 PM	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.
Wed. Dec. 27	6:45-8:00 PM	NO Religious Education Class.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

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