

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 19	NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 20	8:30 AM (SP) +Janet Rezac
Wednesday	Dec. 21	6:00 PM (SP) Thoele Family
Thursday	Dec. 22	4:30 PM (SC) +Greg Caron
Friday	Dec. 23	NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 24	5:00 PM (SC) +Jeff Schroeder
		7:00 PM (SP) Allan Schroeder
Sunday	Dec. 25	8:30 AM (SC) +Lawrence, Marion, & John Jacques 10:30 AM (SP) For Our People

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2016

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/24	Bill Weiers, Barb Lewis, Rita Ryan
	12/25	Heidi Michaelson, Joan Nelson, Tim Sonnek, Kristi Schulte
Lectors	12/24	Anne Marie Weiers
	12/25	Greg Michaelson
Acolytes	12/24	Hayden & Mason DeGross, Joe Weiers
	12/25	Greta, Claire, & William Michaelson
Ushers	12/24	Dave Roach, Melvin Gregory
	12/25	Don Pesta, Norm Sticha
Greeters	12/25	Don Pesta, Norm Sticha

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/24	Kevin Mahowald, Pat Schroeder, Paul & Linda Torgesen
	12/25	Ken & Kathy Ceola, Bonnie Theis, Frank Simons
Lector	12/24	Molly O'Hern
	12/25	Dave Nelson
Acolytes	12/24	Abbie Kavouras, Jenna Kavouras, Molly O'Hern (CB)
	12/25	Maggie Muelken, Monica Muelken, Dave Nelson (CB)
Ushers	12/24	Dave Nelson, Shawn O'Hern
	12/25	Bruce Brumm, Bill Dillingham
Greeters	12/24	Frank & Cathy Simons
	12/25	Paul & Linda Torgesen

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. 19: Fr. Albert Backmann, Dec. 20: Fr. William Baer, Dec. 21: Fr. Sebastien Bakatu, Dec. 22: Fr. Neil Bakker, Dec. 23: Fr. Thomas Balluff, Dec. 24: Fr. Joseph Bamenek, Dec. 25: Fr. Luis Brachs.

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

The Rest of Winter

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul says, "Ever since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what He has made" (1:20). This is especially true in the changing of times and seasons. Spring is a time of hope where new life sprouts into being and begins its course of fulfilling its destiny of the harvest. It is a sign of the power of the Resurrection where life comes from the seeds that fall to the earth and die. Summer is a time where this life grows and matures and where it needs to be nourished and protected from the many things that can harm it. Fall is a time where the joy of the harvest is experienced. It is a time of labor where all is gathered in to provide for the winter where nature sleeps and we rest.

However if we are not prepared for winter it can be deadly and unbearable. That is why it is a good image for the liturgical season of Advent which calls us to be prepared. Whether it is the long warm days of summer when all is green and full of life, or the bright and colorful days of autumn, winter is harsh and unforgiving and it comes with certainty. Death is no different. We know that it will come even if it seems far away. Yet if we are wise we will be prepared by living a life of faith with the grace of the sacraments. We rest in peace in the winter when we have prepared for it in the other seasons. So we will rest in peace in heaven when we have prepared for it in the other seasons of our lives.

Yet we must avoid the temptation of thinking that our salvation is the result of our own work. It is a gift, like our very lives and everything else, from the One who made all things. As Advent calls us to be prepared it also calls us to watch and be aware. We are to be aware that God has made us to share His very life in heaven, and that He gives us everything we need to get there. Our Lord has used the image of the harvest to describe us (Matt. 9:37). In the natural harvest seeds that are sown have received their existence and are dependent for their maturity in every regard (the soil, rain, sun, nutrients). We are like that too, though not as passively. We have the power to reject these gifts or to remain in the dark, deprived of the healing light of Christ. Advent calls us to wake up and receive these saving gifts of Christ. That is something we can think about for the rest of winter.

"Dear Lord, the summer is over and gone, and the harvest is once more past. All the wealth and warmth of



the summer sun is marvelously packaged now, in seed and fruit and vegetable, and stored away in bins and cribs and basements. Thank You, dear, generous God, for all Your goodness and for all Your gifts. All summer long You are working for us, storing heat and health and nourishment in the fields and woods. Now, when the air is cold, and there is no fruitfulness in the earth, we can live on what the summer and the harvest have stored up for us. Thank You for Your unnumbered kindnesses to us, dear God. Help us to make good use of the riches of the earth. Help us to be generous, even as You are, and always avoid selfishness and greed. Help us, too, to store up spiritual wealth in the summer of this life, while we can yet work. Otherwise, life's autumn will come, death will call us, a spiritual winter will set in and we shall be found poor and unsheltered not for one season only, but for the winters of eternity. Lord, we trust in You, that, cooperating with Your many graces, we may make good use now of our rich opportunities. And may we then reap a rich spiritual harvest which we will enjoy with You and Your saints in the eternal spring and summer of heaven. Amen. (Rural Life Prayer Book, A prayer in winter, pp. 121-122)

Fr. Michael J. Miller

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 PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

There will be no meetings in December.

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. 22 @ 7:00 PM, at the Church of St. Patrick. All voices and instruments are welcome to join us!

ST. PATRICK C.C.W. BAKE SALE: A profit of \$541.75 was made from the Bake Sale. This amount will be applied towards the Steeple Repair Fund. A thank you to those that donated goods, brought goodies, donated money, and worked at the sale!

ST. PATRICK MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Friday, January 6th at 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck meal.

SET-UP FOR CHRISTMAS: Wednesday, December 21 after the C.C.D. Christmas Program. Volunteer help is welcome. Confirmation students are welcome to help for Confirmation service hours. Please bring slips to church that evening to be signed.

Dear Fr. Miller: On behalf of the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation, I want to thank you and your parishioners for your support of the needed work of the C.S.A. This year, a portion of all donations from your parishioners are returned to your parish for Catholic formation, educational programs, or for the greatest needs facing your Church. Enclosed is a check for \$1,813.75. May it help to build up the Body of Christ in your parish community. Gratefully,

Tom Healy, President of C.S.A. Foundation

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection December 11, 2016

Received this week.....\$ 1,931.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,925.00
Flower Collection.....\$ 264.00



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.

THANK YOU: Our sincere thank you to Fr. Miller and the wonderful parishioners of St. Catherine who helped in any way with Brandon's funeral Mass and lunch. You lifted our spirits during the darkest days of our lives and for this we will be forever grateful.

Chuck & Joan Bruzek

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection December 11, 2016

Received this week.....\$ 554.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,001.00
Flower Collection.....\$ 177.00



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 COLLECTION: This weekend, Dec. 17 & 18, we will have a second collection for the Fund for the Needy.

RECONCILIATION: Tue. Dec. 20 5:00-6:00 PM S.P.
Wed. Dec. 21 5:00-6:00 PM S.P.
Thur. Dec. 22 5:00-6:00 PM S.C.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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.