

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 25	8:30 AM (SC)	+Lawrence, Marion, & John Jacques
		10:30 AM (SP)	For Our People
Tuesday	Dec. 26		NO MASS
Wednesday	Dec. 27		NO MASS
Thursday	Dec. 28	8:30 AM (SC)	For all grandchildren
Friday	Dec. 29	8:30 AM (SP)	+Leo Maciej
Saturday	Dec. 30	5:00 PM (SP)	+Ermin & Esther Giesen
Sunday	Dec. 31	8:30 AM (SC)	For all grandchildren
		10:30 AM (SP)	For Our People

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 25, 30 & 31, 2017

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/25	Kristi Schulte, Dan Cervenka, Dan Cross, Agnes DeGross
	12/30	Ron & Rosie Ryan, Bill Weiers
	12/31	Aimee Henry, Amy Holden, Gloria Jacques, Jan St. Aubin
Lectors	12/25	Tim Sonnek
	12/30	Anne Marie Weiers
	12/31	Phillip Scheiber
Acolytes	12/25	Karlie & Sara Bjerke, Cole Flicek
	12/30	Bryce & Mason Deutsch, Joe Weiers
	12/31	Alycia Klegstad, Hannah Langeberg, Samantha Schoenbauer
Ushers	12/25	Rob Sticha, Pat Puncochar
	12/30	Roman Stepka, Melvin Gregory
	12/31	Leo Jacques, Don Pesta

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/25	Dave Nelson, Rachel Eicher, Lloyd & Deloris Friske
	12/31	Kevin Mahowald, Pat Schroeder, Kathy Prochaska, Frank Simons
Lector	12/25	Kevin Mahowald
	12/31	Linda Torgesen
Acolytes	12/25	Kendra Korbelt
	12/31	Karley Vochoska
Ushers	12/25	George Doheny, Tim Saarela
	12/31	Dave Nelson, Ken Ceola
Greeters	12/25	Paul & Linda Torgesen
	12/31	Bonnie Theis, Lee Hesse

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. 25: Fr. Earl Simonson, Dec. 26: Fr. Robert Sipe, Dec. 27: Fr. Anthony Skaria, Dec. 28: Fr. Michael Skluzacek, Dec. 29: Fr. Gregory Skrypek, Dec. 30: Fr. Stanley Sledz, Dec. 31: Abp. Bernard Hebda.

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

What a Gift We Have Been Given

Inevitably there is a disappointment that we experience each Christmas. There is some hope that was unfulfilled, some gift that was not received, some special Christmas feeling that just was not there like it was in the past. But all this disappointment is only connected to the way we celebrate Christmas, not to its true meaning. We may even be disappointed with our preparation for Christmas. Perhaps this year we wanted to spend a quiet Advent, prayerfully preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ, but wound up spending an immense amount of time and money on presents, decorations, parties and the like. Once again we may find ourselves longing to discover the meaning of Christmas in the midst of all the noise and commotion surrounding its celebration. That is when we take ourselves back to the first Christmas and find there the reason why God the Son was born of the Virgin Mary and became man. It was foretold by the prophet Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone" (Is. 9:1). In its greatest depths the world was enveloped in darkness because it was enslaved by sin. Each individual's magnificent destiny was imperceptible in the land of gloom. It is a state of affairs that still exists today for so many: "When Christ is excluded or denied, our vision of human purpose dwindles; and as we anticipate and aim for less, hope gives way to despair, joy to depression" (John Paul II). The birth of Jesus brought light to this darkness then and now. There is hope. Blessed and beautiful hope that sins can be forgiven; that the truth about God and ourselves can be known; that we can see and attain the incredible destiny for which God has made us. And the most simple and profound truth of all: God loves us. There is the meaning of Christmas. It is the same today as it was then. It may take us a lifetime to discover the depths of this mystery, perhaps all of eternity. But if we are feeling disappointment, then we are looking in the wrong places; for the blessedness of this hope cannot disappoint anyone who will open their heart and soul to receive this gift.

That is why it was an angel, who could understand all these things, that announced to the world His birth in these words: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord" (Luke



2:10,11). We cannot be disappointed when we realize what a Gift we have been given. *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 Cassidy.

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.

C.C.W. BAKE SALE: A huge thank you to all the bakers and buyers, we had a great variety. We raised \$632.00 to be used for three charities for Christmas this year. Thank you!

Vickie Cross & JoAnn Beuch

CHRISTMAS TAKE-DOWN: Take-down for St. Patrick will be Sunday, January 7th after 10:30 AM Mass. All are welcome!

THANK YOU: Dear Father, On behalf of the Catholic Services Foundation, I want to thank you and your parishioners for your support of the needed work of the Catholic Services Appeal.

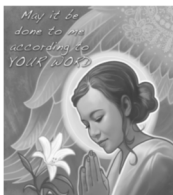
This year, a portion of all donations from your parishioners are being returned to your parish for your own ministries. Enclosed is a check for \$1,633.75. May it help to build up the Body of Christ in your parish community. Gratefully, *John Norris,*
President of the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection December 17, 2017

Received this week.....\$ 1,756.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 2,006.00
Fund for the Needy.....\$ 512.35



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 17, 2017

Received this week.....\$ 1,013.39
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 944.00
Fund for the Needy.....\$ 108.00



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 Eiseman (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.



Blessed are You Among Women

R.C.I.A. PROGRAM: The next sessions will be Tuesday,

Jan. 9 Mary and the Saints, the Last Things
Jan. 16 The Sacraments, Penance and the Anointing of the Sick
Jan. 23 Eucharist, Walk through the Mass
Sessions will be held at 6:30 PM at the St. Patrick Social Hall. All are welcome.

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. 27	6:45-8:00 PM	NO Religious Education Class.
Sun. Dec. 31	10:30 AM	NO Sunday School.
Wed. Jan. 3	6:45-8:00 PM	Class, grades 1-9.
Sun. Jan. 7	10:30 AM	Sunday School.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Franciscan Retreats, Jan. 12-14 & Jan. 16-18 Women's Retreat, Feb. 2-4 Men's Weekend, Feb. 9-11 Married Couples Retreat. Call 952-447-2182 for more information.

St. Patrick's and St. Catherine's Parishes have received hundreds of dollars in grants from the **First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA)**. The FCSLA offers life insurance, annuities, and prepaid funeral plans. If interested, call Ron McBroom @ 952-758-2408.



The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are Feb. 9-11 in Buffalo and May 4-6 in Buffalo. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit our website at twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org or 612-756-8720.