

**EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS**

Monday	Dec. 26	8:30 AM (SP)	+James Trost
Tuesday	Dec. 27	8:30 AM (SP)	+Richard Greger
Wednesday	Dec. 28		NO MASS
Thursday	Dec. 29	8:30 AM (SC)	+Dennis Sharkey
Friday	Dec. 30	8:30 AM (SP)	+Rollie Ryan
Saturday	Dec. 31	5:00 PM (SP)	The Thoele Family
Sunday	Jan. 1	8:30 AM (SC)	For Our People
		10:30 AM (SP)	+Harold & Ed Schmitt

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1**

**St. Patrick**

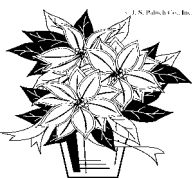
Extraordinary Ministers	12/31	Kelley DeGross, Rita Ryan
	1/1	Joe & Nellie Carson, Ted Jirik
Lectors	12/31	Judie Cervenka
	1/1	Ron McBroom
Acolytes	12/31	Emily Sticha, Travis Sticha, Mitch Sandey
	1/1	Gabby Ryan, Amy Ryan, Megan Ryan
Ushers	12/31	Roman Stepka, Dick Chodek
	1/1	Norm Sticha, Rob Sticha
Greeters	1/1	Dan & Deb Cervenka

**St. Catherine**

Extraordinary Ministers	1/1	Tom Fredrickson, Cindy Grolla, Gordy & Julie Giles
Lector	1/1	Mary Kay Mahowald
Acolytes	1/1	Kristine Busse, Billy Muraski, Phoebe Muraski
Ushers	1/1	Ken Svoboda, Stephen Rief
Greeters	1/1	James & Barbara Lerschen

*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 ladies 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 JANUARY 1, 2006 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**



First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27  
 Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7  
 Gospel Reading: Luke 2:16-21

*Thank you*

To all those who made this Christmas liturgy so beautiful: the choir, the decorating committee, the liturgy committee, the Eucharistic ministers, the lector, the servers, the ushers, the greeters, and anyone else that was involved in any way. Thank you so much!

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Wed. Dec. 28		NO Religious Education.
Sun. Jan. 1		NO Sunday School.
Wed. Jan. 4		NO Religious Education
Wed. Jan. 4	6:30 PM	Staff Retreat/Potluck
Sun. Jan. 8	10:30 AM	Sunday School, pre & K

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF RETREAT/POTLUCK:**

Wednesday, January 4th at 6:30 PM in the St. Patrick Social Hall. You'll be assigned a type of dish to bring. We'll be going over the new Religious Education Standards, and we're hoping to arrange a speaker. Watch for your invitation!

**ST. PATRICK**

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF**

**DECEMBER:** \*Thomas & Elaine Onan, Laura Patch, Jeff & Harriet Paul, Don & Elaine Pesta, Roger & Jackie Pomije, Loren & Mary Pumper, Jack & Amy Puncochar, Rob & Jodie Puncochar, Connie Putnam. Altar Linens: Evelyn Scheffler.

**SAVE YOUR USED POSTAGE STAMPS:** The C.C.W. is collecting used postage stamps. Proceeds will help to broadcast the word of God in South America. Stamps need to be trimmed leaving a 1/4 inch border of the envelope or they will not be able to peel them off properly. A box marked "Used Postage Stamps" will be left in the back of church or you may drop them off at the parish office during regular office hours.

**DISHTOWEL FINISHING:** We need help hemming and decorating dishtowels to be sold at next summer's church festival. It's never too early to get started. The big box containing unfinished towels is located at the back of church. Sign out as many as you like to embroider, appliqué, or decorate creatively and hem! Just return the finished towels to the same box when complete. Thanks!

**ST. PATRICK C.C.W. OFFICER:** The position of vice-president is still open. It is a 2-year term; the first year as vice-president, the second year as president. Give some thought to volunteering to fill this position. Contact Carol Timmons if you can help!

**GROUP I FISH FRY:** We need volunteers from Group I to chair & co-chair the Fish Fry scheduled for Friday, February 24th. Please contact the parish office to help. Thank you.

**DONATIONS FOR SYMBOLS:** We are looking for donations to help underwrite the cost of the bronze symbols for the sanctuary of the church. These four symbols will be made just for our church and not a warehouse item. Similar to the bell up in the bell tower which was made just for our church in 1873. You may not know but the bell has "St. Patrick" and the year "1873" cast into the side of it along with the name of the foundry who made it. I wouldn't doubt that back then they took up a special collection for that bell also. It's too bad no one can see it, unlike these symbols which will carry the same integrity but will be visible for all of us to see and be inspired by. Please consider helping with this request. You can call the office or talk to me, Dan Cervenka, @ 758-3428. Collected to date: \$7,250.00. (amount needed: \$7,795.00). Thank you.

**THANK YOU:** The C.C.W. Bake Sale was a big success. Thank you to everyone that helped set up and also to all those who donated baked goods and craft items. It was a great effort and allowed the C.C.W. to donate \$1000.00 to the purchase of the symbols for the church.

**Stewardship of Treasure**

*“Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts”*  
**Sunday Collection December 18, 2005**



Received this week.....	\$ 1,437.75
Weekly budget requirement.....	\$ 1,758.00
Fund for the Needy.....	\$ 235.25
Capital Campaign.....	\$ 150,500.00 goal
Capital Campaign.....	\$ 103,301.00 pledged to date
Capital Campaign.....	\$ 101,491.00 collected to date

**ST. CATHERINE**

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF**

**DECEMBER:** \*Bruce & Debbie Efta, Scott & Lynn Lombardi, Thomas & Janet Ryan, John & Sonja Woodyard.

**A CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL:** If you are a visitor you are invited to sign the welcome book in the entry way and come and worship with us again.

**LECTORS NEEDED:** The Church of St. Catherine is in need of additional lectors for Sunday masses. If you are interested in becoming a lector, please call Mary Kay Mahowald @ 447-3970.

**Stewardship of Treasure**

*“Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts”*  
**Sunday Collection December 18, 2005**



Received this week.....	\$ 1,576.90
Received 12/11/05 (correction).....	\$ 1,149.00
Fund for the Needy.....	\$ 166.00

**PARISHIONERS CORNER**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR**

**PARISHES:** Tom Shea (son of Rosetta Shea), Linn Blocker, Peter Nytes, Jeff Paul, Jim Trantina (father of Theresa Sticha), Marcella Backsen (sister of George Buresh), MaryAnn Radnich (cousin of Vickie Cross), Lori Doerr (daughter of Florian Kraft), Benoite Stepka, Jack Keenan, Randy Odette.

**PARISH DIRECTORY:** We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate a new parish directory. Please contact the parish office if you are interested.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

May you have a holy Christmas and a blessed New Year filled with all temporal blessings and spiritual graces. Of old, angels came from heaven to lead shepherds to their Savior, to the crib where lay the all powerful Son of God, Mary’s infant child.

Out of love for the new born Christ Child, receive Him in holy communion on Christmas morning and accept this as the best of all your Christmas gifts.

Your interest, cooperation, and generosity in support of our parish during the past year is deeply appreciated. On Christmas morning each and every one of you will be remembered in all the masses. May the infant child bless you throughout the New Year. Sincerely in Christ, *Father Orlando G. Tatel*

**CHRISTMAS**

After we’ve spent four weeks contemplating our great need for God, the reality that meets us at Christmas is an indescribable gift: The Father has answered our prayers, sending his Son as one like ourselves, immersing himself in human life and speaking words we can understand.

No wonder we say “Merry Christmas!”

It’s good to remember the medieval origins of this very word: “Christ’s Mass,” where we begin our celebration of this season that lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

**Did you know?**

“X-mas” isn’t really an attempt to “X” Christ out of Christmas. In Greek, “X” is the letter “chi,” the first letter of “Christ” and a commonly abbreviated way the early Christians referred to Christ.

**HOW TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS**

**1. Go to Mass**

At Christmas, we celebrate God’s gift of Jesus to the world. When we celebrate “Christ’s Mass,” this gift is offered to us through Jesus’ Real Presence in the Eucharist. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist on Christmas, a holy day of obligation, is the moment toward which all of our preparations have brought us.

**2. Set Up a Nativity Scene**

The Nativity scene, or crèche (“crib” in French) was popularized by St. Francis of Assisi in the thirteenth century. Many families put out most of the Nativity scene before Christmas, but wait until December 25 to place Baby Jesus in the manger, and until the Feast of the Epiphany to arrange the Magi.

**3. Raise the Christmas Tree**

The Christmas tree—especially a real one—is an evergreen, symbolic of God’s eternal love as well as the tree in the Garden of Eden, the beginning of the brokenness that Jesus came to heal. A prayer around the tree helps bring this meaning to life.

Waiting to put up the tree until a week or so before Christmas and leaving it up until the end of the Christmas season reminds us of this, too. Many other plants can have a role in Christmas celebrations: Poinsettias, holly, rosemary, Star of Bethlehem, and the Christmas Rose all have rich symbolic and legendary connections with the Nativity that any family would enjoy exploring.

**4. Let Lights Shine**

On Christmas Eve, we read from the first chapter of John’s Gospel about the light that “shines in the darkness.” Our celebrations of Christmas are marked by all kinds of lights: lights on our houses and trees, in our churches, a white Christmas candle in the middle of our Advent wreath, all announcing the Good News that we are now “children of the light.”

**5. Exchange of Gifts**

Our gift-giving echoes God’s gift of his Son to us. The story of King Wenceslas bringing gifts to the poor and Matthew’s narrative of the Magi traveling far to bring their finest to the newborn king can give perspective and new direction to our gift-giving, as can a prayer said over our gifts for those who will receive them.

**6. Share a Feast**

Christians throughout history have used food as a way to express their joy in the gift of Jesus. The feast we share with family, friends, and with the poor is a symbol of our communion as children of God.