

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 26	NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 27	8:30 AM (SP) +Irene Powers
Wednesday	Dec. 28	NO MASS
Thursday	Dec. 29	8:30 AM (SC) +John Brumm
Friday	Dec. 30	NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 31	5:00 PM (SP) +Richard Chodek
Sunday	Jan. 1	8:30 AM (SC) +Lawrence, Marion, & John Jacques For Our People
		10:30 AM (SP)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1, 2017

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/31	Barb Lewis, Tony Jirik, Kelley DeGross
	1/1	Kathy McBroom, Jan St. Aubin, Gloria Jacques, Don Pesta
Lectors	12/31	Jim DeGross
	1/1	Julie Volk
Acolytes	12/31	Ben Simon, Sam Lambrecht, Dan DeGross
	1/1	Megan Theis, Sara Bjerke, Alyssa Volk
Ushers	12/31	Dave Roach, Pat Puncocar
	1/1	Leo Jacques, Darryl Volk
Greeters	1/1	Leo Jacques, Darryl Volk

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	1/1	Joel & Deanna Vochoska, Dave Nelson, Kathy Prochaska
Lector	1/1	Linda Torgesen
Acolytes	1/1	Jonathan McCoy, Karen McCoy, Linda Torgesen (CB)
Ushers	1/1	Frank Simons, Ken Ceola
Greeters	1/1	Rick & Linda Sirek

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. 26: Fr. Richard Banker, Dec. 27: Fr. Patrick Barnes, Dec. 28: Fr. James Barnett, Dec. 29: Fr. David Barrett, Dec. 30: Fr. James Barry, Dec. 31: Abp. Bernard Hebda, Jan. 1: Fr. Pope Francis.



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 Best Christmas Present Ever



Regardless of our age, we all have something that we hope to receive at Christmas. The younger we are the more likely it is that we are hoping for something material. These things often cause immediate joy, which at first seems unending. And yet we see how fleeting is that joy – things break and wear out; we grow bored with them, and soon we are looking and hoping for something else. There are to be sure some things that cause a more enduring joy, especially when it is a sign of someone's love for us. These are the gifts that touch us profoundly and point us toward the gifts that do not break and wear out and with which we never grow bored.

As we grow older we find ourselves hoping for these less tangible things, which are greater in value and more difficult to attain: peace, love, and joy – the things we sing about in Christmas carols. And yet, that is what Christmas is really about; it was the gift of God the Father, given to the world, Jesus Christ, His Son: the Way to peace, the Truth of God's love, and the Life that gives unending joy. Still, the way God gave us these gifts was through something material – not a book of words, but His Word; not a precious stone or some other symbol of His love, but a child, His Son. Because of this, "He is no longer distant. He is no longer unknown. He is no longer beyond the reach of our heart. He has become a child for us, and in so doing He has dispelled all doubt. He has become our neighbor, restoring in this way the image of man, whom we often find so hard to love. For us, God has become a gift. He has given Himself. He has entered time for us. He who is the Eternal One, above time, has assumed our time and raised it to Himself on high. Christmas has become the Feast of gifts in imitation of God who has given Himself to us. Let us allow our heart, our soul and our mind to be touched by this fact! Among the many gifts that we buy and receive, let us not forget the true gift: to give each other something of ourselves, to give each other something of our time, to open our time to God. In this way anxiety disappears, joy is born, and the feast is

created” (Benedict XVI, Homily on the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, 2006).

Yes, the angels were right, they had “good news of great joy that will be for all people...a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). It means that peace, love, and joy are not impossible dreams, but are realities that are within our reach. It means that God does love us, and wants us to find Him. It means that He does understand the difficulties and sufferings that we endure because He endured them too. It means that we have hope and joy because God is with us now and that we can be with Him forever. And it means that God has fulfilled His promise of mercy that, “The dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Lk 1:78-79). It was, and still is, the best Christmas present ever.

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.

PRAY THE ROSARY: Join us to pray the Rosary every Saturday evening at 4:40 PM before the 5:00 PM Mass or Sunday morning at 10:10 AM before the 10:30 AM Mass.

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.

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.

Stewardship of Treasure

“Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts”
Sunday Collection December 18, 2016

Received this week.....\$ 2,554.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,925.00
Fund for the Needy Collection.....\$ 345.62



Steeple Repair Project budget.....\$38,000.00
Steeple Repair amt. remaining.....\$10,950.25

ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

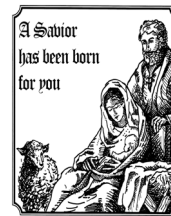
DECEMBER: Ken & Kathy Ceola, Steve & Theresa Kavouras.

ST. CATHERINE C.C.W. MEMBERS: C.C.W. members who were not able to attend the Christmas party, please pick up your Christmas Angel wreath with you name on it located in the wicker basket on the entryway table.

Stewardship of Treasure

“Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts”
Sunday Collection December 18, 2016

Received this week.....\$ 738.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,001.00
Fund for the Needy Collection.....\$ 133.00



PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

PARISHES: Danny Theis, Anne Kelnhofer, Albert Braith, Dale Nesbitt, 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, 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.

+Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Munson, daughter of Sue Zender. We extend our sympathy to Sue and her family.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Dec. 28		NO Classes, grades 1-9.
Sun. Jan. 1		NO Sunday School.
Wed. Jan. 4	6:45-8:00 PM	Classes, grades 1-9.
		Confirmation at St. Michael’s.
Sun. Jan. 8	10:30 AM	Sunday School.
Wed. Jan. 11	6:45-8:00 PM	Classes, grades 1-9.
Sun. Jan. 15	10:30 AM	Sunday School.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

Fri. Feb. 24	S.P.	Group I Fish Fry
Fri. Mar. 31	S.P.	Group II Fish Fry

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes with Fr. Dave Barrett. 11 days: Sept. 26—Oct. 6.

\$3,299/person from Minneapolis. For more information, contact Fr. Barrett @ 952-758-0469 or e-mail dave.barrett@npcatholic.org

Women’s Retreat, Jan. 13-15, & Jan. 17-19 at Franciscan Retreats in Prior Lake. For more information, call 952-447-2182.

