

## EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 4		NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 5		NO MASS
Wednesday	Dec. 6	6:00 PM (SP)	St. Patrick C.C.W.
Thursday	Dec. 7	5:00 PM (SP)	+Lester Maciej
Friday	Dec. 8	8:30 AM (SC)	+Roberta Ludowese
		7:00 PM (SP)	For Our People
Saturday	Dec. 9	5:00 PM (SP)	+Erin Kreuser
Sunday	Dec. 10	8:30 AM (SC)	For Our People
		10:30 AM (SP)	+Braden Flicek



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

### Immaculate Mary

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary always occurs near the beginning of Advent, and most appropriately so for it is essentially bound to the mystery of Christmas. On December 8, 1854 Pope Pius IX proclaimed as official Catholic teaching this truth that had been believed for a long time: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 491). This is not a pious nicety that more serious Christians would not waste their time believing, much less celebrate. Like all Catholic belief, it is a part of a bigger, complete picture; one that shows the fullness of the beauty and power of God. “It was decreed, not that she should be cleansed from sin, but that she should, from the first moment of her being, be preserved from sin; so that the Evil One never had any part in her. Therefore she was a child of Adam and Eve as if they had never fallen; she did not share with them their sin; she inherited the gifts and graces (and more than those) which Adam and Eve possessed in Paradise” (John Henry Cardinal Newman, *Meditations on the Litany of Loretto, Mary the Most Pure Virgin*).



Mary is the perfect example of what God intended man to be: “Full of grace” (Luke 1:28). To be full of grace means that one must be empty of sin, for sin occupies the place that grace is meant to have. “Our first parents, Adam and Eve, were constituted in an original ‘state of holiness and justice.’ This grace of original holiness was ‘to share in...divine life’” (*Catechism*, 375). There was a perfect harmony that Adam and Eve had within themselves, with God, each other, and all of creation. This same harmony existed among the angels, but one of them rebelled and shattered that beautiful harmony of grace. “Scripture and the Church’s Tradition see in this being a fallen angel, called ‘Satan’ or the ‘devil’” (391). Taking many angels with him he turned his destructive rebellion on man. “Behind the disobedient choice of our first parents lurks a seductive voice, opposed to God, which makes them fall into death out of envy. Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God’s command. This is what man’s

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 8, 9 & 10, 2017

### St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/8	Amy Holden, Jan St. Aubin, Everett & Joan Nelson
	12/9	Tony Jirik, Ron & Rosie Ryan
	12/10	Dan Cervenka, Dan Cross, Agnes DeGross, Aimee Henry
Lectors	12/8	Shelley Shepherd
	12/9	Brianne Jirek
	12/10	Chad Sandey
Acolytes	12/8	Ian DeGross, Bryce Deutsch, Mason Deutsch
	12/9	Sam Lambrecht, Ben Simon, Blake Simon
	12/10	Karlie Bjerke, Sara Bjerke, Cole Flicek
Ushers	12/8	Norm Sticha, Rob Sticha
	12/9	Matt Sirek, Roman Stepka
	12/10	Pat Puncochar, Darryl Volk

### St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/8	Kevin Mahowald, Dave Nelson
	12/10	Ken & Kathy Ceola, Kathy Prochaska, Pat Schroeder
Lector	12/8	Ken Ceola
	12/10	Rachel Eicher
Acolytes	12/10	Maggie & Monica Muelken
Ushers	12/8	Volunteers
	12/10	Bill Dillingham, Lloyd Friske
Greeters	12/8	Volunteers
	12/10	Frank & Cathy Simons

*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!*

**Next weekend, Dec. 9 & 10, we will have a second collection for Christmas Flowers. Please use the envelope in your box. WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?**

Dec. 4: Fr. Timothy Rudolphi, Dec. 5: Fr. Erich Rutten,  
Dec. 6: Fr. Patrick Ryan, Dec. 7: Fr. Ivan Sant,  
Dec. 8: Fr. Thomas Santa, Dec. 9: Fr. Michael Sauber,  
Dec. 10: Fr. Edwin Savundra.

first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in His goodness” (391, 397).

The only way this could ever be fixed was for God to do it Himself, and that is what He did by sending His Son. This is the mystery of Christmas. An essential part of that mystery is Mary. “The Immaculate Conception does not imply that Mary needed no Redemption. She needed it as much as you and I do. She was redeemed in advance, by way of prevention, in both body and soul, in the first instant of conception” (Fulton Sheen, The World’s First Love, p.10). The hoof-prints of Satan never touched her soul, and therefore never touched Jesus. The centuries of preparation and waiting for this event were fulfilled on that first Christmas when Christ Our Lord came forth from the womb of the Immaculate Mary. *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.

**GET READY, SET, BAKE:** Our Advent Bake Sale will be the weekend of the 16th and 17th after Mass. We need bakers and buyers to make this event a success. The proceeds will be determined at our meeting on Monday, December 11th. All are welcome to join us for the meeting that evening in the social hall at 7:00 PM.

### ST. PATRICK PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL &

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** No meetings in December.

**FCSLA:** We received this week from FCSLA the check for \$600.00. We thank them again for sponsoring the Steak/Chicken Cook-Out on October 6th.

### Stewardship of Treasure

“Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts”

Sunday Collection November 26, 2017

Received this week.....\$ 2,053.00  
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 2,006.00



## ST. CATHERINE

### CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

**DECEMBER:** Ken & Kathy Ceola, Steve & Theresa Kavouras, Timothy & Laura Saarela.

### Stewardship of Treasure

“Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts”

Sunday Collection November 26, 2017

Received this week.....\$1,355.68  
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 944.00



## PARISHIONERS CORNER

### PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

**PARISHES:** Jonathan Perry (grandson of Barb Perry), 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.

**R.C.I.A. PROGRAM:** The R.C.I.A. classes will now take place on Tuesdays. The next sessions are December 5 (Who is Jesus? and Advent and the liturgical seasons), December 12 (The Paschal Mystery and the Holy Spirit), December 19 (Why do I need the Church?) Sessions begin at 6:30 PM in the St. Patrick Social Hall. All are welcome.

**THANK YOU:** Dear parishioners of St. Patrick & St. Catherine, Many thanks for your generous contributions to the Alpha Women’s Center Baby Bottle Campaign. Through your kindness, we received \$1,488 from your parishes. We are truly grateful for your support. These funds will allow us to continue reaching abortion-vulnerable women in our community.

God Bless, *Anne Fredrickson*

To my dear former parishioners of St. Patrick & St. Catherine,

Thank you so very much for your filial greetings on my 80th birthday. I was extremely touched by your thoughtfulness and mementos written in the card. You are the “BEST”.

I had the best years of my priesthood at St. Pat & St. Kate. We were one BIG FAMILY in the family of God. Thank you everyone!

In the near future, anyone of you happens to visit the Philippines, please include Virac in your itinerary. It will be a pleasure and an honor to have you as my guests. May God bless and keep you in His care. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Love and prayers, *Fr. Orlando*

## 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. 6	6:45-8:00 PM	Class grades 1-9. 2nd grade Parent Meeting. Christmas Program practice.
Sun. Dec. 10	10:30 AM	Sunday School.
Mon. Dec. 11		Confirmation Retreat-St. Michael’s in Prior Lake.
Wed. Dec. 13	6:45-8:00 PM	Class grades 1-9. Christmas Program practice.
Sun. Dec. 17	10:30 AM	Sunday School.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

Tue. Dec. 5	S.C.	C.C.W. Christmas Party
Mon. Dec. 11	S.P.	C.C.W. Meeting
Fri. Dec. 29	S.C.	Make & serve @ Ronald McDonald House
Fri. Jan. 5	S.P.	Men’s Club Christmas Party