

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday,	Dec. 5		NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 6	8:30 AM (SP)	St. Patrick CCW
Wednesday	Dec. 7	7:00 PM (SP)	+Richard Chodek
Thursday	Dec. 8	8:30 AM (SC)	+Marion Sichender
(Holy Day of Obligation)		7:00 PM (SP)	For Our People
Friday	Dec. 9	8:30 AM (SP)	NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 10	5:00 PM (SP)	+Erin Kreuser
Sunday	Dec. 11	8:30 AM (SC)	+Russ Egan
		10:30 AM (SP)	For Our People

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2016

St. Patrick:

Ext. Ministers	12/8	Ron & Kathy McBroom
	12/10	Ron Ryan, Rosie Ryan, Megan Ryan
	12/11	Kristi Schulte, Dan Cross, Agnes DeGross, Aimee Henry
Lectors	12/8	John Cassidy
	12/10	Shelley Shepherd
	12/11	Diana Schoenbauer
Acolytes	12/8	Volunteers
	12/10	Bryce & Mason Deutsch, Joe Weiers
	12/11	Megan Theis, Alycia Kiegs, Samantha Schoenbauer
Ushers	12/8	Volunteers
	12/10	Roman Stepka, Matt Sirek
	12/11	Rob Sticha, Pat Punchocar

St. Catherine:

Ext. Ministers	12/8	Ken Ceola, Kathy Ceola
	12/11	Bill Dillingham, Barb Lerschen, Joel Vochoska, Deanna Vochoska
Lector	12/8	Mary Kay Mahowald
	12/11	Ken Ceola
Acolytes	12/8	Volunteers
	12/11	Addey & Karley Vochoska, Ken Ceola (CB)
Ushers	12/8	Volunteers
	12/11	George Doheny, Dennis Maciej
Greeters	12/11	Joe & Ruth Romanowski

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 and 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. 5: Fr. Kevin Zilverberg, Dec. 6: Fr. James Adams, Dec. 7: Fr. Stephen Adrian, Dec. 8: Fr. Jon Alexander, Dec. 9: Fr. Peter Ali, Dec. 10: Fr. Robert Altier, Dec. 11: Fr. Jake Anderson

Lord Jesus Christ, You ordained the apostles priests at the Last Supper to continue the mission of mercy to the end time. We know how much You expect of Your priests, and we also know how weak and human they are. Inspire us, dear Jesus, to pray and sacrifice for Your priests, that by their faithfulness to You in this life they may bring countless souls to You in the life to come. Amen

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Straight and Narrow



When I was pastor in Delano (2001-2008), I would drive home to the farm many times to help with the harvest. The trip one way is 57 miles. There are long stretches of the trip that are very straight and I could make very good time (driving safely, of course). Other parts of the trip are slow because the roads wind so much, especially between St. Bonifacius and Delano. If you go too fast, you would fly off the road and never make it home. Near Belle Plaine there is a great valley as you cross the Minnesota River. I made the trip in an hour, but it would be so much faster if the way were perfectly straight, for the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. The valleys and curves make the trip longer and more difficult. This is also true in the spiritual life.

On the Second Sunday of Advent we encounter St. John the Baptist who was "a voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" (Luke 3:4-6) His mission continues to this day as the Church goes throughout the world repeating his call to prepare the way of the Lord. All through our lives we are on our way home, and we can encounter many obstacles that can slow us down and many dangers that can throw us off the road.

St. John is not speaking about the workings of God's providence such as different crosses He may ask us to bear, or the different paths that He may ask us to follow. He is speaking of the winding road that is caused when we lose sight of our heavenly home and follow the ways of the world as when we seek our happiness in pleasure or power or earthly treasure. He is speaking of the valleys the ignorance of God's will and mountains of sin. These are the things that not only slow us down, but can even prevent us from making it to our heavenly home.

This does not mean that we rush through life without appreciating and enjoying the goodness and beauty of God's creation, or that we can't work hard in our careers and build a beautiful home. It means that we always remember that our true home is in heaven and that the way to get there is to follow God's will. "Those who would be Christians must be 'transformed' ever again. Our natural disposition, indeed, finds us always ready to assert ourselves, to pay like with like, to put ourselves at the center. Those who want to find God need, again and again, that inner conversion, that new direction. And this applies also to the total outlook on life. Day by day we encounter the world of visible things. It assaults us through billboards, broadcasts, traffic, and all the activities of daily life, to such an enormous extent that we are tempted to assume that there is nothing else but this. But the truth is that what is invisible is greater and much more valuable than anything visible" (Cardinal Ratzinger, Co-workers of the truth, pp. 390-391).

That is the Advent call of John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord, a way that is straight and narrow (Mt 7:13-14).

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: Rosie Ryan

ST. PATRICK C.C.W. ADVENT BAKE SALE: Get your aprons on and start planning your baking for the CCW Advent Bake Sale on December 10 & 11 after each Mass.

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.

MUSIC PRACTICE: The choir will be rehearsing music for the upcoming Christmas season: Thur. 12/15 @ 7:00 PM and Thur. 12/22 @ 7:00 PM, at the Church of St. Patrick. All voices and instruments are welcome to join us!

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection November 20, 2016

Received this week\$ 2,317.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,925.00

Sunday Collection November 27, 2016

Received this week\$ 2,005.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,925.00



The Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand.



Steeple Repair Project budget....\$38,000.00
Steeple Repair amt. remaining...\$11,712.00

PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISH-

ES: Albert Braith, Dale Nesbitt, Patty Whalen, Sandi Suilmann, Mary Munson (Sue Zender's daughter), Douglas Van Moorlehem (Jan St. Aubin's brother), Carol Prochaska, Sharon Mastain (Carol Timmons' sister) Rosie Pexa, Ann Pint, Nicole Wood, Celeste Wilson, Dave Hoyer, 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, Anne Kelnhofer.

SECOND COLLECTION: Next weekend, Dec. 10 & 11, we will have a second collection for Christmas Flowers. Please use the envelope in your box for this collection.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

Tue. Dec. 6	S.C.	C.C.W. Christmas Party - Williamson's
Fri. Feb. 24	S.P.	Group I Fish Fry
Fri. Mar. 31	S.P.	Group II Fish Fry

ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER: Ken & Kathy Ceola, Steve & Theresa Kavouras

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"

Sunday Collection November 20, 2016

Received this week\$ 633.40
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,001.00

Sunday Collection November 27, 2016

Received this week\$ 1,076.50
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,001.00



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Dec. 7	7:00 PM	Mass—Immaculate Concept.
Sun. Dec. 11	10:30 AM	Sunday School
Wed. Dec. 14	6:45-8:00 PM	Classes, grades 1-9
	7:30 PM	(2nd Grade Parent Meeting)
Sun. Dec. 18	10:30 AM	Sunday School--Song at church

COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Night of Prayer for Life—Thursday, December 8—St. Michael Church (Chapel), Prior Lake (8:15—11:15p.m.)

Please join us before the Blessed Sacrament as we unite with Catholics across the U.S. from the East Coast to the West Coast in a prayer vigil for life. This night of prayer is held yearly on the vigil of Our Lady of Guadalupe's first appearance to St. Juan Diego to ask her intercession to end the evil of abortion and the culture of death in our nation. Join us—for one hour or for the entire evening!

Church of St Henry Music Workshop, Story and Song Concert – Saturday, December 10, 2016—Sarah Hart, Steve Angrisano & Jesse Manibusan present a morning musician retreat/workshop. Retreat 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concert 7:00 p.m. Church of St Henry, 1001 E 7th St. Monticello, MN. All are invited.

World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekends *Looking for the perfect gift for your spouse this year? How about a weekend away together?* A Marriage Encounter Weekend is a private weekend away from life's distractions that allows a husband and wife to focus on each other. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are Feb 10-12, 2017 in Buffalo, MN and May 5-7, 2017 in Buffalo, MN. 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.

Our Lady of Medjugorje's November 25, 2016 Message for the World:

"Dear children! Also today, I am calling you to return to prayer. In this time of grace, God has permitted me to lead you towards holiness and a simple life – that in little things you discover God the Creator; that you fall in love with Him; and that your life be a thanksgiving to the Most High for everything He is giving you. Little children, in love, may your life be a gift for others and God will bless you; but you, witness without interest - out of love for God. I am with you and intercede before my Son for all of you. Thank you for having responded to my call."