

## EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Dec. 10		NO MASS
Tuesday	Dec. 11	8:30 AM (SP)	Julie Toner
Wednesday	Dec. 12	6:00 PM (SP)	+Fr. Francis Roach
Thursday	Dec. 13	8:30 AM (SC)	+Marguerite Feldmeier
Friday	Dec. 14		NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 15	5:00 PM (SP)	+Walter, LaVerne, Richard, & Don Beuch
Sunday	Dec. 16	8:30 AM (SC) 10:30 AM (SP)	For Our People +Fr. Francis Roach

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 15 & 16, 2018

### St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	12/15	Ron & Rosie Ryan, Rita Ryan
	12/16	Ron & Kathy McBroom, Heidi Michaelson
Lector	12/15	Mike Puncochar
	12/16	Greg Michaelson
Altar Servers	12/15	Sam Lambrecht, Ben Simon, Ian DeGross
	12/16	Claire, Henry, & William Michaelson
Ushers	12/15	Roman Stepka, Mel Gregory
	12/16	Rob Sticha, Don Pesta

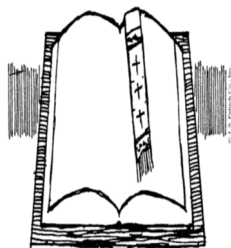
### St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	12/16	Ken & Kathy Ceola, Barb Lerschen, Kevin Mahowald
Lector	12/16	Tim Saarela
Altar Servers	12/16	Karley Vochoska, Monica Muelken
Ushers	12/16	Dave Nelson, Dennis Maciej
Greeters	12/16	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 & 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. 10: Fr. Thomas McDonough, Dec. 11: Fr. Edward McGrath, Dec. 12: Fr. Thomas McMenzie, Dec. 13: Fr. Steven McMichael, Dec. 14: Fr. Benny Mekkatt Varghese, Dec. 15: Fr. Philip Merdinger, Dec. 16: Fr. Aaron Meszaros.



**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

### Prepare the way of the Lord!

In the Gospel of the second Sunday of Advent we encounter the great and compelling figure of John the Baptist. He fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah as the voice crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." His unswerving dedication to the truth eventually caused his voice to be silenced by one who hated the truth he spoke. But Herodias, prevailing over Herod's weakness, and attaining her gruesome goal of having John's head on a platter, could only stop the physical sound of his voice. She could not stop the truth he spoke. "Prepare the way of the Lord!" It is an essential and enduring call of the season of Advent. Each one of us must prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts and lives.

We are all very used to the concept of preparation. We spend an enormous amount of time preparing for things: projects at work, papers and tests in school, weddings, dinners, entertaining, birthdays, Christmas, etc... If we know someone is coming over for dinner, even when they are familiar, we spend time in preparation. When the guest is special, we prepare even more carefully. Everything must be just right. Everything clean and in its place, and more than enough food and drink on hand. We would not say, "Come on in. Don't mind the mess. I'm sure we can find something in the freezer to eat. Help yourself to whatever you find."

Yet that is exactly what we do to Christ, the greatest guest we will ever have, when we do not prepare for His coming. If we do not recognize and confess our sins, with the firm resolve to sin no more, we are saying to Him, "Come in, don't mind the mess." If we give Him a distracted minute or two of our day in prayer, or a begrudged hour of our week for Sunday Mass, are we not simply saying to Him, "You can have whatever part of my life that you can find, or, you can tag along, but don't get in my way"? Advent challenges us to remember that we are always to live in the presence of God. Jesus once came into this world. He will come again. He desires to dwell in our hearts now. Sin, laziness, indifference, ignorance, hardness of heart, a harried life so filled with activities and entertainment that there is no room for Christ in our lives -- these are all obstacles that we must work to remove, so that when Christ comes, now and in the future, He will find us ready and eager to welcome Him. We must hear and heed the voice of John the Baptist, for he is speaking to us, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths."

*Fr. Michael J. Miller*



## ST. PATRICK

### CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

**DECEMBER:** \*Chad & Emily Sandey, Cody & Molly Schaefer, John & Patricia Scheffler, Phillip & Leanne Scheiber, Scott & Karla Schmidt, Paul & Diana Schoenbauer, Sam & Kerri Schoenbauer, Terrie Schoenbauer, Michael & Kristi Schulte, Chris & Shelley Shepherd. Altar Linens: Gail Cassady.

### MEN'S CLUB EUCHRE TOURNAMENT WINNERS:

1st Place: Norm & Denie Sticha  
 2nd Place: Roland Pavek & Chuck Malecha  
 3rd Place: Ruth Lawson & Dave Siefert  
 4th Place: Brett Kraft Team  
 Split the Pot: Sue Mitchell & Kelly Kucina  
 Thank you for all that helped and made this another success.

**ST. PATRICK ADVENT BAKE SALE:** Saturday & Sunday, December 8 & 9. Proceeds will benefit New Prague Peace Center, New Prague Hope House, Scott County CAP Agency.

**ST. PATRICK C.C.W. MEETING:** All ladies of the parish are invited to the Meeting Monday, December 10th at 7:00 PM in the social hall. Come and play Christmas Bingo and win prizes.

**DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS:** Sunday, December 23rd after the 10:30 AM Mass we will set up the Church for Christmas. All are welcome to stay and decorate. Confirmation students can help for their service hours. Confirmation students please bring your sheet to be signed.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Phillip & Amy Pieper on the baptism on their son, Colton Michael Pieper, on November 25th at S.P.

**PARISH LED LIGHTING PROJECT:** Have you noticed? The interior lighting in the church was converted over to new LED lamps in July prior to the festival. The new LED package was installed to provide uniformity of light in both color (Kalvin) and brightness (Lumens). LED lighting is not only very efficient, but it also has very long burn times and will save on long term maintenance costs. The total cost of the interior Lighting conversion was \$2700. We received a lighting rebate from MVEC in the amount of \$740.

### **Steeple Lighting (Phase II)**

We will also be replacing the interior light inside of the steeple and wiring the fixture with separate permanent switching. We will also be installing LED lighting to accent the exterior of the steeple and light the Cross. We anticipate a very nice lighted presence on top of the hill for St. Patrick's Church. The budget for the Phase II Steeple work is \$4500.

### **Parking Lot / Campus Lighting (Phase III)**

With the expansion of the handicapped and senior parking area, we recognize the need for better lighting at the lot to the North of the church. Simultaneously, night lighting on the Parish Office building and the Social Hall will be upgraded to LED lamps and fixtures as needed. This may include the addition of parking lot poles and LED fixtures. Budget range \$3500 - \$8500.

We have received some generous donations toward the LED project. If you would like to donate towards the LED project, please place donations in the collection basket and note LED Project on the envelope or check. You can also contact the parish office to arrange payment. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **Stewardship of Treasure**

*"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"*  
**Sunday Collection December 2, 2018**

Received this week.....\$ 1,267.00  
 Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 2,006.00  
 LED Lighting Project collected.....\$ 5,650.00  
 LED Lighting Project goal.....\$ 15,700.00



## ST. CATHERINE

### CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF

**DECEMBER:** Ken & Kathy Ceola, Greg & Deb Horejsi, Albert & Kristi Schneider.

**THANK YOU** so much for your generous donations of baby clothing, diapers, and other baby items to "Pregnancy Choices Life Care Center" in Apple Valley. We are so grateful and want you to know how much joy our parents have when they are shopping in our "Mary's Boutique". In gratitude,  
*Becky Hanel, Executive Director*

**THANK YOU** to all the volunteers, to those who donated baked goods, and to Tom & Janet Ryan who financially supported the Ronald McDonald "Cooks for Kids Event" at the U. of M. Hospital. It was a memorable day for us and for the families we served.  
*Tim & Laura Saarela*

**ST. CATHERINE CEMETERY COMMITTEE:** The Cemetery Committee is looking for additional committee members. If interested, contact Bill Dillingham @ 952-212-2529.

### **Stewardship of Treasure**

*"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"*  
**Sunday Collection December 2, 2018**

Received this week.....\$1,369.23  
 Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 944.00



## PARISHIONERS CORNER

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

**PARISHES:** Diane Sirek, Anne Weber (granddaughter of Sue Zender), Diane Curfman (Ev Nelson's sister) Denise Despenas (sister of Bonnie Theis) JoAnn Kenne, Virginia Beuch, Karen Zweber, Richard Arens, Andrew Buckman, Fred Winker, Marsha Simon, Mary Lee Androli, Michael Zender, Daryl Sternitzke, Gerry Sandey, Amanda (Polson) Tinebra, Margo Mauser (sister of Kathy Prochaska) Annie Kelnhofer, Albert Braith, Douglas Van Moorlehem (brother of Jan St. Aubin), Carol Prochaska, Sharon Mastain (Carol Timmon's sister) Ann Pint, Nicole Wood, Celeste Wilson, Alex Schlink, Cynthia Troendle, Pat Scharf, Gerry Jensen (Jan St. Aubin's cousin), 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 Anna Eischens & Rick Schmitt, former parishioners of St. Patrick Parish.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Next weekend, Dec. 15 & 16, we will have a second collection for the *Fund for the Needy*.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Dec. 12	6:45-8:00 PM	Class for grades 1-9. Practice for Christmas Program.
Sat. Dec. 15	11:00 AM	Confirmation Retreat. Program to end at 3:30 with Mass to follow.
Wed. Dec. 19	6:45-8:00 PM	Class for grades 1-9. Christmas Program. Meet in classrooms. Treats to follow program in S.H.
Wed. Dec. 26		NO CLASS—Christmas Break.

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

Fri. Mar. 1	S.P.	Group I Fish Fry
Fri. Apr. 5	S.P.	Group II Fish Fry
Sun. July 21	S.P.	Parish Festival