

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday	Apr. 17	6:30 PM (SP)	+Laura Ryan
Tuesday	Apr. 18	8:30 AM (SP)	Jodie Jaeger
Wednesday	Apr. 19		NO MASS
Thursday	Apr. 20	8:30 AM (SC)	All grandchildren
Friday	Apr. 21		NO MASS
Saturday	Apr. 22	5:00 PM (SP)	Thoele Family
Sunday	Apr. 23	8:30 AM (SC)	For Our People
		10:30 AM (SP)	+Leroy & Lila Bauer

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL 22 & 23, 2017

St. Patrick

Extraordinary Ministers	4/22	Bill Weiers, Barb Lewis, Rita Ryan
	4/23	Kristi Schulte, Dan Cross, Agnes DeGross, Aimee Henry
Lectors	4/22	Anne Marie Weiers
	4/23	Diana Schoenbauer
Acolytes	4/22	Hayden & Mason DeGross, Joe Weiers
	4/23	Bryce & Mason Deutsch, Samantha Schoenbauer
Ushers	4/22	Dave Roach, Mark Rezac
	4/23	Rob Sticha, Pat Puncochar
Greeters	4/23	Rob Sticha, Pat Puncochar

St. Catherine

Extraordinary Ministers	4/23	Frank Simons, Bonnie Theis, Ken & Kathy Ceola
Lector	4/23	Laura Saarela
Acolytes	4/23	Abbie Kavouras, Jenna Kavouras
Ushers	4/23	Tim Saarela, Rick Sirek
Greeters	4/23	Joe & Diane Williamson

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?

Apr. 17: Fr. Robert Grabner, Apr. 18: Fr. George Graftsky, Apr. 19: Fr. Patrick Griffin, Apr. 20: Fr. Daniel Griffith, Apr. 21: Fr. Kurtis Gunwall, Apr. 22: Fr. Jose Gutierrez, Apr. 23: Fr. Jerome Hackenmueller.



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

Christ Our Light

Light is one of the great symbols of Easter. It is the focal point of the beginning of the Easter Vigil. This first celebration of Easter begins in darkness. All the lights in the church are left off in order to symbolize the darkness of Holy Saturday: the darkness of the world without Christ. It is the darkness that the Apostles and friends of Jesus must have experienced when they watched Him suffer and die. Their hope, joy, and sense of direction in their lives were buried with Him in the darkness of the tomb. The power of darkness seemed victorious; man had done his worse and buried the Way, the Truth, and the Life in a tomb of rock. As far as their faith was concerned, the world of the friends of Jesus must have been as dark as it was in the beginning of the book of Genesis. "But then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). And so there was again in the new creation, when all things were made new in Christ. "The mystery of Christ casts conclusive light on the mystery of creation and reveals the end for which 'in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth': from the beginning, God envisaged the glory of the new creation in Christ" (Catechism, 280).

As we celebrate the event of this new creation at the Easter Vigil we begin by lighting a fire and blessing it: "Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Make this new fire holy, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light." The priest then blesses the new Easter candle by tracing on it the sign of the cross and the year saying, "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to Him, and all the ages, to Him be glory and power through every age for ever. Amen." The candle is then lit from the fire with the words, "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds," and is brought into the dark church as a symbol of the risen Christ. The lit candle is carried in procession to the front of the church. In the beginning, middle, and end the procession stops, the candle is raised to the proclamation, "Christ our light." Everyone responds, "Thanks be to God." And everyone lights their candles from the Easter candle. By the time all the candles are lit the church glows with the warm light of hundreds of candles. It is a symbol of the believer enlightened by Christ. The Exultet is sung in the glow of this light, "Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honor of God. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night!"

As this light is to the darkness, so is the Resurrection to our faith. It makes sense of the darkness of the Passion, confirms all that Jesus did and taught, and shines as a beacon of hope beyond the darkness of the grave. That light must live in the hearts and minds of us all. It has been



entrusted to us to be kept burning brightly so that it may draw all others to its source: Jesus, Who said, "I am the light of the world. Who ever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Thanks be to God! *Fr. Michael J. Miller*

ST. PATRICK

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL:

*Mike & Deb Kubes, Jim & Jodie Lambrecht, Kevin & Stacy Langeberg, Denise Ledwein, Gary & Barb Lewis, Dave & Tracy Luchsinger, Patrick & Lisa Luskey, Sparky & Susie Mahowald, Chris & Lynn Meyer, Greg & Heidi Michaelson.
Altar Linens: Agnes DeGross.

SPRING BAKE SALE & BOUTIQUE: Sponsored by the St. Patrick C.C.W. will be held Saturday, April 22, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at St. Patrick's Social Hall. The sale will feature fresh-baked cinnamon and caramel rolls as well as home-baked items contributed by parishioners. In addition, home-party representatives and other vendors will make up the Boutique portion of the event. All parishioners are asked to contribute baked goods for this event. Donated items can be dropped off Friday, April 21, 5:00-7:00 PM in the social hall and before 9:00 AM on April 22. If you are able to help with the bake sale portion of the event, a sign-up sheet is posted in the church entry. Please help make this fundraiser a success with your participation and by promoting this event in the community! Thank you.

ST. PATRICK PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Monday, April 17th at 7:00 PM in the social hall.

ST. PATRICK CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEETING: Thursday, April 20th at 7:00 PM in the social hall.

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 PARISH FESTIVAL: Sunday, July 23, 2017. Now is the time to get toys for the Festival Children's Games. We need approximately 2000 toys to make the Children's Games successful each year. We need all sizes and types of toys. Any and all help from you would be greatly appreciated. Please leave toys in back of church labeled *Children's Games 2017*.

THANK YOU! A big thank you to the anonymous person that donated the popcorn maker and cart to St. Patrick Parish.

We have a very large group receiving **First Communion on Sunday, April 23rd at the 10:30 AM Mass.** Parishioners that do not have a First Communicant may want to consider a different Mass that weekend to make room for guests. Thanks.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"
Sunday Collection April 2, 2017

Received this week.....\$ 1,892.00
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,925.00
Flower Collection.....\$ 420.00



ST. CATHERINE

CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL:

David & Rosie Nelson, Pat Schroeder.

ST. CATHERINE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MEETING: Monday, April 24th at 7:00 PM.

Stewardship of Treasure

"Let us give back to God with Grateful Hearts"
Sunday Collection April 2, 2017

Received this week.....\$ 1,462.63
Weekly budget requirement.....\$ 1,001.00
Flower Collection.....\$ 288.00



PARISHIONERS CORNER

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR

PARISHES: Rosie Ryan, Gerry Sandey, Mary Lee Androli, Amanda (Polson) Tinebra, Margo Mauser (sister of Kathy Prochaska) 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, 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.

SPECIAL DAY OF GRACE—DIVINE MERCY

SUNDAY: St. Michael's in Prior Lake will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23 from 2:00-4:30 PM. All are invited to join on this special feast day when we are called to experience God's infinite mercy and receive a cleansing of our soul similar to what happens in Baptism. Come early (1:00 PM) to see "The Face of Mercy" a stirring film that weaves together history and theology with moving examples of Divine Mercy, alive and present in our modern world. For more info. go to <https://www.stmichael-pl.org/divine-mercy-sunday>

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER BANQUET: Thursday, April 27th at The Ridges at Sand Creek in Jordan. Tickets are \$35/person. If you would like to attend, contact Vickie Cross or Mary Kay Mahowald by April 19.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wed. Apr. 19	6:45-8:00 PM	Classes, grades 1-9. Confirmation interviews.
Sat. Apr. 22	10:30 AM	First Communion Practice.
Sun. Apr. 23	10:30 AM	First Communion.
Wed. Apr. 26	6:45-8:00 PM	Classes, grades 1-9. Confirmation interviews.
Wed. May 3	6:45-8:00 PM	Pizza Night. Reconciliation-Confirmation.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ST. PATRICK & ST. CATHERINE

Sat. Apr. 22	S.P.	C.C.W. Spring Bake Sale & Boutique
Fri. Apr. 28	S.P.	Men's Club Euchre Tournament
Sun. July 23	S.P.	Parish Festival
Sat. July 29	S.C.	Luncheon & Garden Tour