



“Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

- 2nd Reading – St. Paul to the Thessalonians

The Third Sunday of Advent has been traditionally called “Gaudete” Sunday! “Gaudete”, in Latin, simply means “Rejoice”! All of the readings (either directly or indirectly) speak of the call to “Rejoice” spiritually, in the presence of the Lord.

As a child growing up, I can recall the third candle being lit on the Advent wreath in my home parish of St. Anne’s. I thought to myself, “This is great! Christmas is almost here! I can’t wait to open my presents.” No doubt this is pretty typical of kids both then and now.

I had been ordained for several years, when I began to understand theologically that Advent is perhaps a bit less about the “first” coming of Christ, and perhaps more about the “second” coming of Christ. As a result, the spirit of Advent joy that I experienced or that is still experienced by children today has been replaced for me by those individuals on the other end of the human life spectrum.

Having seen hundreds of souls pass onto eternity, I tend to ask many of them about their fear of death. I continually stand in amazement at how many of our elderly, as the children of God, anticipate death in the “hope” of something far greater in the world to come.

Recently, while visiting one of our parishioners in the hospital, I asked about the fear of death. Boldly, this individual told me that when the time comes they are more than ready to breathe their last breath. Their confidence holds me in spiritual amazement and I told the person my feelings. This individual responded that I was still far too young and too healthy to appreciate the anticipation (the Advent if you will) of death. Perhaps this person is right.

To face death and to do so with joy is an amazing thing and certainly a great act of faith. But, if there is one thing that I have spiritually concluded from my pastoral work for well more than two and a half decades is that “joy” or “rejoicing” is not an “EMOTIONAL REACTION” as it is more of a “SPIRITUAL DECISION”. I think we choose to be joyful or sorrowful. Today’s readings are not “inviting” us to “REJOICE”, rather it comes across much more as a spiritual “DEMAND”.

Over the years my students that I taught would tell me that they did not like going to church or getting up early to go to Mass. I asked them; “Do you think as a priest I always like getting up early on Sunday morning to say Mass?” Most of them assumed the affirmative for a priest, because after all, it is his job, isn’t it? I told them what my parents used to say when it came to “joy” or the lack there of. Fake it until you make it. Just as unhappiness or a lack-of-enthusiasm is contagious, so too with enthusiasm and joy.

The bottom line: Sadness is easy. Joy is a conscious decision. In the spirit of St. Paul from today’s second reading, may we pray without stopping, always thankful for all that God has given to us and then, we will experience “Gaudete”, this Rejoice Sunday! Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! Do not delay!!!

Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

Stewardship of Treasure

Adult (149)	\$ 11,044.00
Electronic Giving	4,201.25
Junior	68.43
Plate	256.76
Religious Education Tuition	100.00
Votive Candles	61.35
Christmas Flower/Decoration Offering	1,927.00
Holy Day (Immaculate Conception)	<u>770.75</u>
Grand Total	\$ 18,368.19

**(Our weekly budget is set at \$12,750.00)*

Special Collections

Campaign for Human Development	\$ 20.00
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STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your great stewardship of time and treasure. The committees and staff recommendation to switch to the 5:00 P.M. Saturday night Mass appears to be a sound, spiritual decision. The attendance is beginning to rival the 10:00 A.M. Mass, which is great! I thought that so many came on Saturday, for the Christmas party, but that was not the case as the attendance was down from last year. (*Thank you to the K. of C.’s and C.C.W. for hosting the 2nd Annual Christmas party!)

With regards to the D.M.A., we are at almost **80% of our goal or about 4/5th. We have taken in through pledges and gifts directly through the parish \$21,956.00. This is great!!! Our goal is \$27,708.85. WE ONLY NEED \$5,752.85 TO REACH THE BISHOP’S GOAL! IS THERE A GENEROUS SOUL OR TWO THAT WOULD LIKE TO BRING THIS APPEAL TO AN END? Keep us on your Christmas list! Thank you to all that have given up to this point! God bless you in your great generosity!!!!**

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA

The Twin Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America would like to invite you and your family **Sunday, December 21, 2014 at Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Mankato** to learn about all the great possibilities the Boy Scouts can do for your child. Scouting is something we do for our children; helping us teach them about family, heritage in the community, and pride in themselves.

Scouting is a partnership with parents that offers adventures young people enjoy, teaches boys lifetime values and skills, and introduces them to leadership.

The meeting will be held after mass which is held at 1:00 p.m. at Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Church 105 N 5th Street Mankato, MN 56001.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

All families, especially those with children, are invited to attend an Advent Prayer Service with Bishop John M. LeVoir Sunday, December 14. The service is at 2:00 pm in Winsted at the Church of the Holy Trinity. This service is designed to help us focus on Advent and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, centered on the birth of Jesus. Families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their home nativity set. The figure will be blessed by Bishop LeVoir individually as families come forward in procession. There will be a blessing of families and expectant mothers as they prepare for Jesus' birth in their hearts. A "swaddling clothes" collection (blankets, sleepers, layette items, etc.) will be taken for babies in need and given to Friends of San Lucas, area Birthright Centers, or First Choice Pregnancy Services. Cash donations will be taken to First Choice Pregnancy Services in New Ulm. For more information, contact the diocesan evangelization and catechesis offices at 507-233-5325.

**DINNER AND BAKE SALE**

Catholic United Financial and St. Mary's Church in Sleepy Eye are hosting a Dinner and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 14 serving from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Dinner includes Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, carrots, coleslaw, dessert, and beverage. Carry-outs available. Cost will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 11 and under. All proceeds will be donated to the Parish Education Program plus a Catholic United Financial grant of up to \$1,000. Please come help us out!

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE HOLY ROSARY WEBSITE LATELY?

www.holyrosarynorthmankato.com

Top Ribbon:

- **“Bulletin”, “Mass Schedule”, & “Calendar” Buttons:** Here you will find links to the Bulletin, Mass Schedule, and Calendar.

Right-hand column:

- **Today's Readings:** Click on the day and the readings will come right up.
- **Advent in 2 Minutes:** Click on the Advent Wreath for a quick review of the purpose of Advent.
- **“Like” us on Facebook:** you can do this immediately below the wreath, or you can go to Facebook by clicking on the **f** in the upper right-hand corner of the website.
- **Vatican News and Catholic News Service:** The items under each of these headings can change throughout the day. What you see is a kind of headline and then the beginning of a sentence. If you click on the headline you will get a longer story. There are a variety of items that can be read (sometimes audio also) that contain full statements and not just media blurbs that are heard on the radio or TV.
- **Links:** This section will lead you to a wide variety of material, including the website of the Diocese of New Ulm, Saint of the Day, Daily (Mass) Readings, Catholic Directory of Catholic Churches (if you are traveling at any time of the year) and more.

Left-hand column:

- **Calendar:** This will show upcoming Rosary and Masses.
- **Documents:** Here you will find the various ministry schedules.
- **Twitter:** can also be accessed by clicking on the bird in the upper right-hand corner of the website

Middle column:

- **Sunday Liturgy:** Click on the button “Prepare for Sunday”, there is an abundance of information about and reflections on the Sunday Readings here in the form of brief articles. There is also always a prayer-poem that pulls the readings together.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK

Holy Rosary is now on Facebook.



Please check out the site and “Like us” – follow the link from our website –

www.holyrosarynorthmankato.com

Diocesan Ministries Appeal:



Thank you to all of you that have given/and will give to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. We continue to make progress each week. This week we came up nearly 10% of our final goal, but we still have about 20% of the way to go! We can do this! If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge or gift at this time, envelopes are available in the pews and in the back of church. You may return your pledge in the collection basket or simply drop the envelope in the mail. Either way, the parish will receive full credit for your gift that will benefit those ministries that are vital to the Diocesan Church as well assist our own parish stewardship goal of covering our two major Catholic School and additional Diocesan assessments that total more than \$315,000.00! Whatever you do, will be of great assistance! Thank you so much for your gifts!

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES



Recently, at our Mankato Priest Meeting, we set the schedule for four penance services in our four parishes that you are spiritually encouraged to attend during these weeks of Advent.

***Sunday, December 14th: St. John's – 4:00 pm**

***Sunday, December 14th: St. Peter/Paul – 6:00 pm**

Sunday, December 21st: St. Joseph – 3:00 pm

Sunday, December 21st: Holy Rosary – 5:00 pm

Of course, confessions will still be heard every Saturday at 4:30 pm, prior to the 5:00 pm Mass. I will also set aside times where I will be present in the confessional during the week of Christmas. It certainly may be true that you "have done nothing wrong" and not committed any serious sins of commission. Perhaps you might reflect then on the sins of "omission", the "things I have failed to do". Please remember that Advent is still seen by the Church as a "Little Lent", and is an ideal spiritual time to celebrate this important sacrament of the Church.

Thought for the Week:

"In the life of the body, a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life, a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason, he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed on the Sacrament of Penance."

-St. Thomas Aquinas

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Believe it or not, we are starting to receive calls for when our Christmas Masses will be held. The schedule will be identical to last year with four Masses being offered. The Mass times are as follows:

December 24th - 4:00 pm Anticipatory Mass

December 24th - 10:00 pm. Solemn Evening Mass
*Holy Rosary Choir sings!

December 25th - 8:00 am Christmas Morning Mass

December 25th -10:00 am Christmas Morning Mass
* Children's Choir Sings

WHICH CHRISTMAS MASS TO ATTEND?



*There is no question that the early Mass at 4:00 P.M is a Mass of ease for parents with young families as well as for those advanced in years that have a difficult time in the mornings. **I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE ABLE, TO ATTEND THE MASS AT 10:00 P.M. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND SOLEMN MASS AS WE BLESS THE CRIB AND THE FULL CHOIR IS PRESENT.** I was always taught that there are special graces that come to us when we attend the liturgy that is nearest the time of the Savior's birth. The greater the sacrifice, the greater the grace. Our small sacrifice to come to this later Mass will not go unnoticed by our Divine Lord.



ECHO FOOD SHELF

We set aside the 2nd weekend of each month to help support our local Food Shelf for those among us who are in need. You are welcome to bring donations, cash or items and put them in the containers. Your help is greatly appreciated and all gifts are tax deductible. Thanks for all





LOYOLA CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

On Monday, students celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. SSND welcomed students at the Good Counsel Campus to celebrate Mass with them in the Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel.

On both Monday and Tuesday, a number of teachers throughout the Loyola system attended TIES workshop trainings, focused primarily on best practices involving the use of technology in classrooms and upcoming programs and how they are designed to work in the classroom.

On Friday, students crossed the halfway mark of the second quarter. The year continues to keep moving right along.

Loyola Catholic School Christmas programs:

Tuesday, December 16: Intermediate school choir concert, SSPP Church, 6:30pm

Thursday, December 18: Primary school program 9:00am & 1:30pm, Preschool program 10:30am.

New Parish Secretary

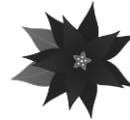


We welcome to our staff this coming Monday, December 15th, Elaine Wolf, who will take on the full-time position of parish secretary at Holy Rosary. Elaine has become a familiar face with our parish as she has been taking on the monumental task of forming a new choir for our parish. Elaine’s mother is also presently serving as parish secretary, so this work must be in the Wolf blood!?! Elaine is coming in at a perfect time as these days before Christmas are very busy in the parish office! We ask God’s blessings on our new parish secretary and that she will be with us for many years to come.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Theresa House and Welcome Inn are hoping you and your family will reach out to one of their homeless or at-risk families this holiday season. Please contact Partners for Affordable Housing’s Volunteer Coordinator, Onnie, at 387-2115 for details. Opportunities include fulfilling the holiday wishes of a homeless child or family as well as helping wrap and tag Christmas gifts on Wednesday evening December 10th or Tuesday evening December 16th. Thanks for your help.

Flower Contribution Envelope:



Attached to the bulletin on the First Sunday of Advent, was an envelope that will go towards the decorations for Christmas this year that will include the flowers, artificial trees, tree stands, wreaths, material and other decorations to make our church and sanctuary festive and solemn. So far we have taken in a nice amount of stewardship, just under \$2,000.00 or \$1,957.00 to be exact. This year is a bit more expensive as we are starting our Christmas church decorating “from scratch”, purchasing new items such as lights, etc. that in the years to come we can recycle and reuse. We still welcome your support! I invite you to place your offering in the envelope and mail in or drop in the collection and we will publish your name and who you wish to remember in a special way through this Christmas offering. If you have misplaced your envelope, just take a plain envelope, write your first and last name, the names of the loved ones you wish to remember and write “Christmas Flowers.” We will be printing a special program that will be handed out at the Christmas Masses. Publishing a program with the names of the benefactors and those we wish to remember (living and deceased) was done in my previous assignments. The Worship Committee informed me this has also been done for many years at Holy Rosary. We know this is something you appreciate. Any monies remaining will remain in our account and be used for flowers at Easter, Confirmation, First Holy Communion, etc. Thank you for your support. The deadline is Monday, December 21 at noon if you wish to have the names in the program. Thank You!



READING & MATH TUTORS NEEDED



Interested in tutoring children in reading or math? The Good Counsel Learning Center tutors K – 12 students in reading or math for an hour after school between 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The Center is in need of qualified teachers. For further information, call Sr. Dorothy Zeller at 389-4229.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 14 3rd Sunday of Advent

*Preschool Christmas Program following 10:00 am
Mass

Monday, December 15: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church
8:30 am – Mass – + Bob Frederick
9:15 am – *NO Bible Study for month of December*
11:00 am – *Mass Mother House Chapel*
+ Colleen Bianchi

Tuesday, December 16: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church
8:30 am – Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 17: Advent Weekday

10:00 am – *Mass Monarch Meadows* + Jean Weber
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – *Sewing Group – Lower Level*
Parish Center
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm – *Parish Choir Practice*
7:15 pm - *Decorate Church - Worship Committee*
NO Faith Formation Classes; Classes will resume on
January 7th, 2015

Thursday, December 18: Advent Weekday

9:30 am – Mass – *Oak Terrace* + Monica Haack
7:00 pm - *Decorate Church - Worship Committee*
6:00 – 9:00 pm – *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
7:30 pm – *Pre-Baptism Class – Conf. Room 1*

Friday, December 19: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church
8:30 am – Mass – + John Klaseus
7:00 pm - *Decorate Church – Worship Committee*

Saturday, December 20: Advent Weekday

4:30 pm – Rosary in Church
*5:00 pm – Mass – + People of the Parish

Sunday, December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent

7:30 am – Rosary in Church
8:00 am – Mass – + Bill Laven
9:30 am – Rosary in Church
10:00 am – Mass – Rex & Rose Trautman Family
**No Morning Pre-School*
*11:00 am – 12:00 pm - *Parish Choir Practice*
*3:00 pm - *Advent Penance Service – St. John's*
*5:00 pm - *Advent Penance Service – Holy Rosary*
*6:30 pm *Staff & Volunteer Appreciation Party*
Church Social Hall (invitation only)

Liturgical Roles – December 20-21

Lectors

5:00 pm: Brian Eggersdorfer & Marsha Murphy
8:00 am: Gene Brandt & Mike Brumm
10:00 am: Steve Caron & Laura Guetter

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm: Nicole Hull, Patrick & Wanda Hull,
Eileen Wadekamper, JoAnn Borchert
Karen Ezzell
8:00 am: Cathy Neve, Bernie Bastian, Terri Compton
Michelle Ellingworth, Mary Homan
Peter Backes
10:00 am: Deb Stachon, Mark Traxler, Dennis Haga
Kathy Ulman, Jackie Cesario, Sherry
Henrickson

Altar Servers

5:00 pm: Jonathan Hull, Larkin Hansen, Zachary
Eggersdorfer
8:00 am: Carson Fischer, Jake Homan, Ben Ellington
10:00 am: Elaine Adams, Spencer Spaude, Rachel
Kohlmeyer

Presentation of Gifts

Confirmation Candidates & Family

5:00 pm: Kaylie Rauchman & Family
8:00 am: Sidney Kruse & Family
10:00 am: Jack Keltgen & Family

Ushers

5:00 pm: Larry & Maggie Bennett, Bob Meyer
Anne Richardson,
8:00 am: Doug Homan, Jake Homan, Bill Fasnacht
Craig Amundson
10:00 am: Steve Fink, Brent Friedrichs
Doug Helget, Steve Hlavac

Music Ministry

5:00 pm: Julie Gruber/Janelle Campeau
8:00 am: Joe Kunkel/Jeanne Makela
10:00 am: Tom Bachmann/Vicki Galli

FR. ED ARDOLF ENDOWMENT FUND

This fund is now at \$129,052.00. 85% of the earnings of this fund go to pay tuition at Loyola Catholic School for Holy Rosary families. Contributions to this fund may be dropped off at the parish office or sent to Amy at Loyola.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you, or someone you know, would like to be included in our prayer chain, please call Karen Ezzell, 387-7877



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS...

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR ISAAC KOLSTAD AND ALL OF OUR SICK AND INJURED OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH

Our prayers continue to go out to Isaac Kolstad as well as all of the sick and injured in our parish who are at home, in the hospital, nursing homes or assisted-living residences. May God bless them and keep them under His guidance and protection!

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Nick Blace	Matt McGraw	Anna Drummer
Jared Hiniker	Christopher Schmidt	
Ann Winkler	Jonathan Heintz	
Dana Schiller	William Backes	
Mark Hansen	Ben Barsness	
Alex Ek	Sean O'Dea	
Timothy Eick	Daniel Fitterer	

FOR OUR FAMILIES

Monday	Chris & Amy Cain Family
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	Rose Wilson Family
Thursday	Pam Schiprett Family
Friday	Brad & Sheila Ludwig Family
Saturday	Betty Dauffenbach Family
Sunday	Dan & Andrea Forster Family

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Mary Jane Ledwein, Tom Grausam, Don Haley, Jan Schmidt, Doris Lorentz, Bill Goettlicher, Lenore Sweers, Dolores Spreter, Richard Flynn, Jr., Krystal Portz, Lydia Meehling, Jan Brumm, Steve Fitterer, Kathy Eggersdorfer, Nancy Marquardt, Gabriel Speckel, Shannon Murphy, Harriet Senesac, Lisa LaPoint Leland, David Bruender, Marilyn Bastian, Betty Kotthoff, Isaac Kolstad, Nancy Wesely, Liz Brumm, Susan Zenk, Paul Blaschko, Catherine Atchley, George Holzerland

Readings for the Week

Mon: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a,11-12; Matthew 21:23-27
Tues: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32
Wed: Genesis 49:2,8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
Thurs: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
Fri: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
Sat: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Sun: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a,16{11b}; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

- Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.), Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical Care and Diocesan Audit:
 DUE: \$78,103.92
 Pd. To Date \$32,670.18
 - Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.)
 DUE: \$27,708.85
 Pd. to Date: \$21,956.00
 (79% of our Goal has been meet)
**We need \$5,752.85 to reach the Bishop's goal!*
 - Loyola Catholic School Assessment:
 DUE: \$238,000.00
 Pd. to Date: \$75,500.00
-
- Total Assessments 2014-2015: \$ 343,812.77
 Total Paid to Date 2014-2015: \$ 130,126.18

We are thankful for as far as we are with the DMA goal. Please keep Holy Rosary on your Christmas list! God Bless You!

K of C Council #5551 News

December 18 – General Meeting
 January 8 – Blood Drive



The Knights of Columbus will be selling fresh-cut Christmas trees and wreaths at the lot next to the Holy Rosary rectory. Hours at the lot will be Saturdays/Sundays 9:00 am – 7:00 pm and Weekdays 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Please check us out!!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING PRESCHOOL

The Christmas Program will be in the gym in the Parish Center, on December 14th just after the 10:00 am Mass. All are welcome!

FAITH FORMATION – GRADES 1-11

Two Friendly Reminders:

- There will be no Ash Wednesday Teachers' Retreat this year. Regular classes will be held for the students that day.
- Classes will resume on January 7th.