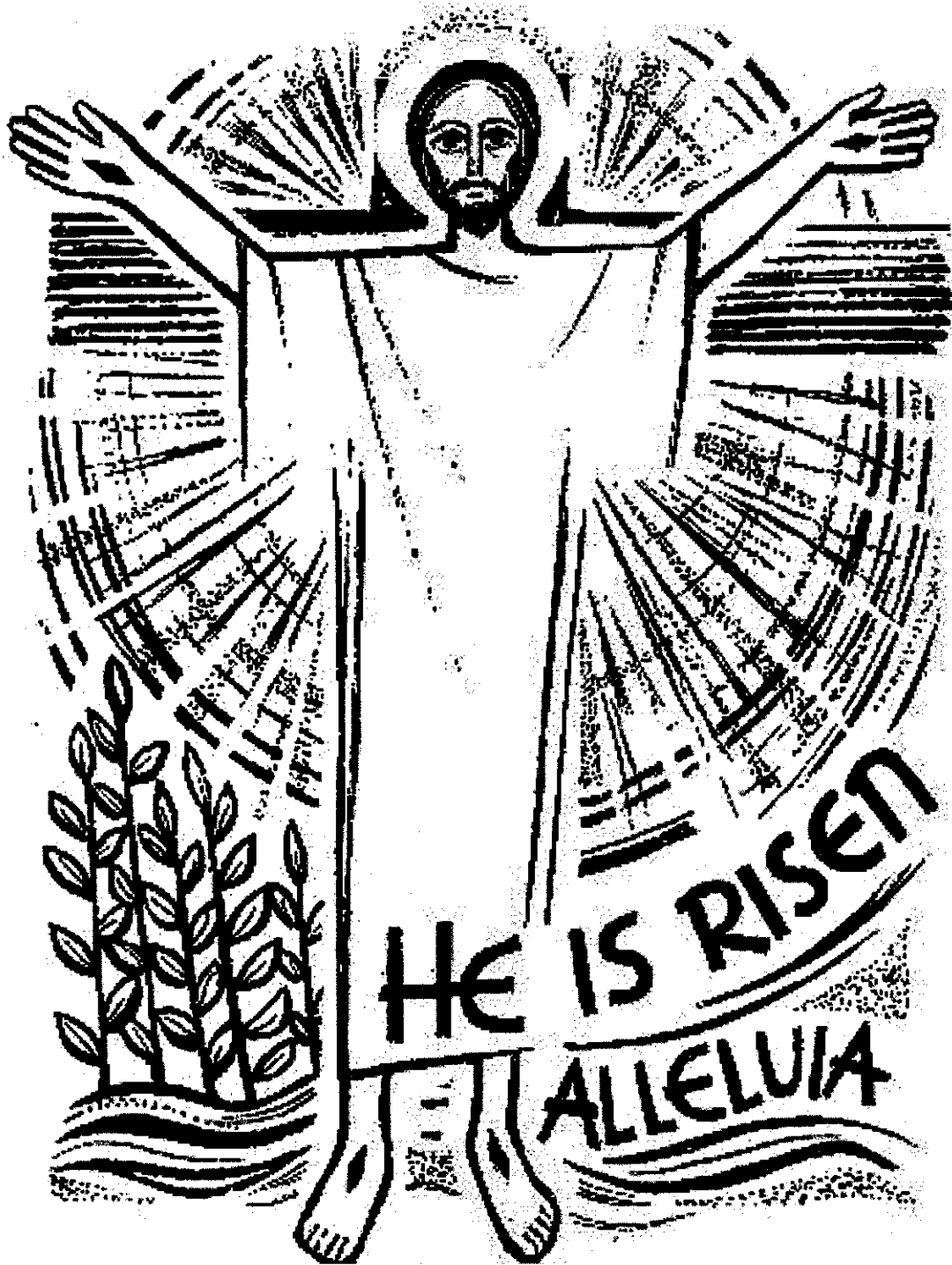


# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 10, 2016



## **NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY** *Three Sites of Worship, One Faith Community*

Including St. Wenceslaus &  
The Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica

215 MAIN STREET EAST ■ NEW PRAGUE, MN 56071 ■ 952-758-3225 ■ NPCATHOLIC.ORG

**We welcome you...**

Welcome to the greater New Prague Area Catholic Community which includes the Church of St. Wenceslaus and the Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica. We are happy you are here. Should you be visiting just for today, WELCOME! If you are seeking a church home, we would be honored to have you consider joining our faith community. If you are interested in a membership, please phone the parish office for assistance and registration. If you are over the age of 21, we ask that you register. Please feel free to stop by the parish office during office hours to register or you may do so online. Again, we are happy you are here.

**At the Church of St. Wenceslaus****PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

**MASS SCHEDULE****Weekend Masses**

Saturday..... 5:00 pm  
 Sunday..... 8:30 & 10:30 am

**Morning Word & Communion**

Monday &amp; Tuesday ..... 8:00 am

**Weekday Masses**

Wednesday, Thursday &amp; Friday ..... 8:00 am

**SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION****Anointing of the Sick**

Available to those who are seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call 952-758-3225

**Confirmation**

Preparation required. Call 952-758-5131

**Reconciliation**

Saturdays at 4 pm in the church.

**Baptism**

Preparation required. Call 952-758-3225

**Marriage**

Six months to one year preparation time required.  
 Call 952-758-3225

**Rosary**

Monday – Friday 7:30 am &amp; Saturday 8:00 am in the church.

**Fatima Prayer Cell**

Monday – Wednesday after 8 am service in the chapel.

**Adoration**

Friday 9:00 am to midnight in the chapel

**Early Morning Scripture Study**

Wednesday 6:45 to 7:50 am - Pius X Room in church basement.

**Fr. Kevin's Bible Study**

Saturdays 9:30 to 11 am - Pius X Room in church basement.

**Prayer Chain**

Judy: 952-758-2220 or Arnita: 952-758-4943

**From the Desk of Father Kevin****Not Words, But Deeds**

"Follow me." These are the first words the disciples of Jesus ever heard him address to them. They're also the last two words of today's gospel. But so much has happened since the first time those words were spoken to Peter and the others!

In today's gospel, the disciples have just witnessed the public rejection and execution of Jesus and then they see and hear the victorious resurrected Lord say again: "Follow me!" "Follow me" didn't sound so innocent now. It wasn't a game, no mere adventure. It was for keeps. And it would cost everything they had to give. Once you've stood at the tomb, walking in the footsteps of Jesus doesn't sound like a stroll along a sandy beach. Even with the full knowledge of Easter under your belt, you couldn't fall in step behind this man with the same jaunty air.

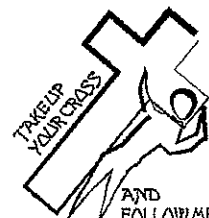
Jesus asks Peter for his love three times. But not just words of love; Jesus asks for a devotion that translates into specific deeds of leadership, service, and care. He asks for the absolute surrender of Peter. Now when Peter answers, his response will be more meaningful. In the spring of 1945 when the Lutheran Pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer of Germany, was in a Nazi prison, he was also awaiting execution. During this time, he wrote his powerful book: *The Cost of Discipleship*. He was an extraordinary witness to our Christian faith.

Alice Camille, reflected about "follow me" with a more familiar circumstance:

*Not unlike the renewal of vows taken by couples married for 25 years, or 50. The first exchange was mostly bravado and romance; of course, together forever, you and me! When two people say those words to each other after a quarter century or more, "forever" is better perceived, and "together" is more clearly defined. If Jesus asks us to follow today, after all this time, how many would get up right now and do it?*

**Rev. Kevin I. Clinton**

Pastor

**New Prague Area Catholic Community**

## Western Catholic Community

### From the Desk of Father Dave

### Does it do any good to doubt?

I am for the most part an optimist. Sure I have down days, but overall I know we win in the end because Jesus has already defeated sin and death. We must take up our cross and follow him. Our budget shortfall is our cross. While we cannot afford to have a deficit at the end of our fiscal year, I am confident that our collective response will meet this challenge. I found it difficult to ask you to consider your financial support to our community, but I know in my heart that it was the right thing to do.

The collections have been good and the under budget number continues to shrink. This might be slightly misleading as some are giving their yearly contribution now. Hopefully there will be enough to carry us through. The initial response to the stewardship pledge is extremely favorable with over 160 responses returned ~ Thank YOU! Over 50% of you have made a response to the needs of the WCC. A small portion of you don't believe in their use and you let me know. We did have a number of people who didn't respond. Shortly, we will be sending out a second mailing to those who have not responded to the initial request. We will get additional responses and they can step up as many in our parish have. I want to thank those who have sacrificed in order that your spiritual household can survive. I will keep you updated as we continue this process. I kept my promise of opening all envelopes and I am grateful for the confidence you have in the WCC.

We have the potential to make our own way. Over the last 5 years or so we have met many challenges because many have stepped up and believed in our community. I can't promise you we will never close, but I assure you that the leadership and staff of the whole parish will work hard to keep us alive. We need to live in the moment. One thing you can do is encourage those who haven't sent in a card to respond to this new round of commitment cards. Thanks for your support. When we work together, we don't leave room for doubt.

**Fr. Dave Barrett**  
*Regional Associate Pastor*  
**New Prague Area Catholic Community**

### Mass Schedule Volunteers - St. John's & St. Scholastica

APRIL 16 & 17, 2016	Saturday St. John's 8:15 PM	Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM	Sunday St. John's 10:00 AM
<b>Lector</b>	Kevin Giesen	Marlene Dohmen	Alexis Solheid
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Dennis Pomije	Geraldine Odenthal, Gary Odenthal & Millie Odenthal	Amy Lemke, Jill Holden & Jonila Weiers
<b>Servers</b>	Mitchel & Hunter Pomije	Joe Schoenecker & Lydia Schmitz	Danielle, Brenna & Samantha Solheid, Anna Holden
<b>Gift Bearer Family</b>		Larry Weckman Family	Ron Solheid Family

### Important Information

**Weekend Masses**

Saturday.....	8:15 pm	St. John's
Sunday.....	8:00 am	St. Scholastica
Sunday.....	10:00 am	St. John's

**Weekday Masses**

Wednesday.....	5:00 pm	St. John's
Thursday.....	5:00 pm	St. Scholastica

#### SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

**Reconciliation**

Wednesday.....	5:30 pm	St. John's
Thursday.....	5:30 pm	St. Scholastica

**Baptism & Confirmation**

Preparation required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett

**Anointing of the Sick**

Call Fr. Dave Barrett

**Marriage**

Prep required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett

**Adoration**

Fridays 9:00 am to midnight at St. Wenceslaus Daily Chapel

#### WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OFFICE

20087 Hub Drive, New Prague 56071  
952-758-4642

**Rev. Dave Barrett**

**Regional Associate Pastor**

952-758-0469 (O) 651-470-0970 (C)  
Dave.Barrett@npcatholic.org

**Deacon Bob Wagner**

**Pastoral Associate**

952-758-3225 (O) 612-703-0808 (C)  
Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

**Faith Formation:**

**Carol Weiers** 952-873-4569

**Hall Rental:**

**Patty Giesen** 952-758-3008  
kpgiesen@bevcomm.net

**Prayer Chain WCC:**

<b>Jackie Henle</b>	952-758-3465
<b>Noreen Giesen</b>	952-758-2608
<b>Marlene Dohmen</b>	952-492-6879

**Bulletin E-mail:**  
**info@npcatholic.org**  
**Website: <http://www.npcatholic.org>**

## PARISH AND AREA NEWS



### God Bless the Newly Baptized

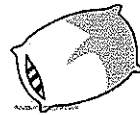
Welcome and congratulations to *Savannah Lillian Eckelman*, daughter of Zach & Rachel Eckelman, and *Grayson James Hull*, son of Jason & Julie Hull. We rejoice with your families on this joyful occasion!

### Discipleship & Drinks This Week

Do you have a little time on Tuesday night? Join us for DISCIPLESHIP & DRINKS TUESDAY, APRIL 12TH at 7 pm at the UNION HILL BAR. This month's topic, "So, they went to Easter Mass ... How to evangelize and be evangelized in the 21st Century". Come join us for a brief presentation and lively discussion. This event is sponsored by the New Prague Area Catholic Community and hosted by Fr. Dave Barrett. We invite anyone who is interested.

### Pillow Cleaning Next Weekend

Carlson's Pillow Cleaning Service will be in the foyer of the PAC at St. Wenceslaus Fri., April 15th from 7-8 pm and Sat., April 16th, 7 am-1 pm. Pillows will be cleaned, deodorized, sanitized, and fluffed. Mobile unit ~ Same day service ~ while you wait! Custom made new pillows and comforters also for sale. Proceeds go to the St. Wenceslaus Youth Guatemala Mission Trip Summer of 2016.



Another Women's Night Out...

### *The Power of Presence*

with Stacia Christenson

*Looking at choices we make when we're stressed by life. We will consider self "care" vs. self "indulgence", with no-cost ways to boost our energy and lift our spirits. Understanding your worth will help you recognize that everything you do matters, and it matters to God!*

7-9 pm Sunday, May 1, 2016

St. Wenceslaus Parish Activities Center

Women of all ages are welcome.

Invite your friends, daughter, mother, or sister.

Free-will offering

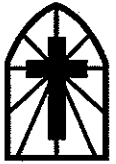
Registration appreciated but not required.

952-758-3225

*Of course there will be wine,  
non-alcoholic beverages, and chocolate!*

### Catholic Council of Women News:

- ◆ CCW Southwest Deanery Open Meeting is April 14th at 6:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lonsdale. If anyone wants a ride, call 952-758-8633.
- ◆ The Clergy Appreciation Dinner is Wed., May 11th at Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church, 200 E Church St, Belle Plaine. Social hour 5:30 and dinner and program at 6:30 pm. Members are invited. Call if you need a ride.
- ◆ Next St. Wenceslaus CCW meeting is April 18th at 7 pm, starting with a potluck.



### The Children Are Coming

Hope House will be opening its doors from Sun., April 17th to May 1st. Children from families experiencing homelessness will be with us evenings and on the weekends. Would you be interested in coming to spend some time with them, playing games, doing a craft or art project, or taking them and their parents to the playground? This would be a nice opportunity for a Scout troop, youth group, or family. Contact Mary Higgins, 952-758-0464.

### New Prague Knights of Columbus is sponsoring "Take the Altar Servers to the Twins game"

Minnesota Twins vs. Toronto Blue Jays

When: Sun., May 22nd

Time: 11 am meet for hotdog lunch

Where: KC Hall in New Prague

Bus Leaves: 11:30 ~ Available to the first 50 that sign up!

What: 1:10 Ballgame at Target Field

Who: Any Altar server can go

Cost: FREE for server and \$15 for adult

Deadline to sign up is April 24th

Contact Mike Bartusek at 952-454-0544 with any questions or to sign up.

#### PLEASE NOTE\*\*

Due to the popularity of this event, a FREE bus ride is available to the first 50 riders who sign up. After that and up until April 24th tickets will still be given out to interested Altar Servers and can be purchased by adults, but transportation is on your own.

### Marian Symposium

Tues., May 3rd at 6:30 pm

This event is open to the public. The evening will begin with the rosary and include some teachings on Mary. We will gauge the interest in Marian Pilgrimage and the evening will end with refreshments.

### Festival Sewing Booth Needs

The Festival Sewing Booth is in need of any handmade, items, dish towels, aprons, etc., that you would like to donate. Any questions, contact Marion Skluzacek, 952-758-8633.

### SUPPORT OUR PATRONS

who make this bulletin possible by their advertising.

This week we thank

**UH ELECTRIC, KEVIN GIESEN**

### Catholic Watchmen Rally

Fri., April 22nd 6:30-9 pm at Mary, Mother of the Church in Burnsville. Men are invited to the Catholic Watchmen Rally. Bishop Andrew Cozzens will present on "Overcoming Sin in Our Lives." This Catholic Watchmen Rally is an opportunity for men to draw closer to Jesus Christ and invest in fellowship with other men. There will be time for Adoration and Confession. Dinner will be provided. (Free will offering.) Questions? Contact Susanna Bolle at bolles@archspm.org or 651-291-4411.

### MARRIAGE IS A JOURNEY

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Whether you've been married 1 year or 50 years, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are April 29-May 1 and July 15-17 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [twincitieswwme.org](http://twincitieswwme.org) or contact Brent & Tracy at [applications@twincitieswwme.org](mailto:applications@twincitieswwme.org) or 612-756-8720.



### 17th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner Fundraiser

On April 29th, RE/MAX Advantage Plus will be hosting Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women's 17th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner Fundraiser. This year's event will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel. The theme is "Jeans and Gems" (dress it up or dress it down). To purchase tickets (\$60/person) through April 21st or to donate an item for the auction, call 952-873-4214 during business hours. Tickets must be purchased in advance and seating is limited.



## FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

### Faith Formation Reminder

Just in case ... a reminder about our change in schedule:

**April 13:** Our second graders will be leading our prayer service at 7:15 pm in church.

**April 20:** Last class ~ Mass and our ever popular BINGO! Families can go directly to Mass at 6:15 pm, then bring the family down for BINGO! Treats and prizes too!

### Have Some Fun This Summer!

Vacation Bible School dates are June 20-24. Registration forms are available on Page 6 of this bulletin.



*Vacation Bible School needs at this time are:*

1. Co-Coordinator for decorations
2. Co-Coordinator for games

Call Steph Erickson if you are able to help 612-810-9194.

### Register Soon

Faith formation registration forms are now available online and in the back of church. Summer tends to fill quickly, so if that is your option, be sure to sign up soon! Summer class will run May 31-June 10. We will begin at 7:50 am and go until 12:30 this year due to meeting only nine times.

**Summer Stretch** ~ Spots always fill fast! Registration is now open for Grades 5-8! Thursdays ~ July 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, and August 4th. All days will run from 8 am-4:30 pm. Please find all the information plus forms on the parish website under Youth Ministry. Registration due Mon., April 18th. Register soon to reserve a spot - cost is \$135 per youth.



## SCHOOL NEWS from SWS

### Preschool Picnic

Thurs., April 14th at 5:30 pm in the Gym  
We are having a picnic. The menu will include hotdogs, chips, carrot sticks, milk and ice cream sandwiches. We ask that you bring a picnic blanket for your family and RSVP with the number of adults and children attending. There will be a quick large muscle activity following the picnic. A few tables will be set up for those who prefer comfort. This is a free event for current and future preschool families. We hope everyone can join us!

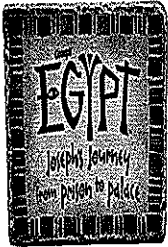
### Special 2nd Grade Mass

The School Mass on May 11th is a special Mass planned by the 2nd graders. Students should dress their best for their turn to plan the Mass or they may wear their First Communion outfits.

## WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY St. John's & St. Scholastica

### SERVER TRAINING

On Wed., April 20th at 7 pm, there will be server training for all 3rd grade FF students and any other students who have not been trained and would like to be a server. The training will take place at St. John's Church during Faith Formation.



# Vacation Bible School Registration

June 20-24, 2016 9 - noon St. Wenceslaus Campus

\$25 per child or \$70 family cap

If registration is received after June 6<sup>th</sup>: \$30 per child or \$80 family cap and no t-shirt guarantee

Kids Camp and Sports Camp use the same CD - include addl \$6.00 per family if desired Y N

\_\_\_ FaithPoint \_\_\_ St. Wenceslaus \_\_\_ Guest



Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

(print clearly please - notifications will be sent via email)

Phone: Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Local emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ (name/phone)

Permission to pick up my child (other than parent/guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

We will be doing group photos and using them in various ways - if you **DO NOT** want your child included initial here \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Volunteers are the key to a successful camp! We really need each family to volunteer before or during Camp. Please see additional volunteer sign-up sheet. If you cannot volunteer please consider making an additional cash donation.\*\*\***

Kids Camp			
(Ages 4 through entering 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade)			
Child's Name	M/F	Age	Grade
	Circle		Fall 2016
1 _____	M/F _____		
Allergies/Special Needs _____			
T-Shirt Size (circle one) Youth S M L Adult S M L			
2 _____	M/F _____		
Allergies/Special Needs _____			
T-Shirt Size (circle one) Youth S M L Adult S M L			
3 _____	M/F _____		
Allergies/Special Needs _____			
T-Shirt Size (circle one) Youth S M L Adult S M L			

Sports Camp			
(Entering Grade 4-6)			
Child's Name	M/F	Age	Grade
	Circle		Fall 2016
1 _____	M/F _____		
Allergies/Special Needs _____			
T-Shirt Size (circle one) Youth S M L Adult S M L			
2 _____	M/F _____		
Allergies/Special Needs _____			
T-Shirt Size (circle one) Youth S M L Adult S M L			
3 _____	M/F _____		
Allergies/Special Needs _____			
T-Shirt Size (circle one) Youth S M L Adult S M L			

**LITURGIES & MASS INTENTIONS**

INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS  
WEEK OF APRIL 11-17, 2016

**Rosary at St. Wenceslaus**  
**MONDAY – FRIDAY at 7:30 am**  
**SATURDAY at 8:00 am**

**Monday, April 11**  
8:00 am ..... Word & Communion – SW

**Tuesday, April 12**  
8:00 am ..... Word & Communion – SW  
4:00 pm ..... Mass – Mala Strana

**Wednesday, April 13**  
8:00 am ..... SWS Mass – SW  
5:00 pm ..... Mass – SJ  
5:30 pm ..... Confessions – SJ

**Thursday, April 14**  
8:00 am ..... Mass – SW  
5:00 pm ..... Mass – SS  
5:30 pm ..... Confessions – SS

**Friday, April 15**  
8:00 am ..... Mass – SW

**Saturday, April 16**  
4:00 pm ..... Confessions – SW  
5:00 pm ..... Tom & Martha Schoenbauer,  
Debra (FraneK) Zerr – Mass – SW  
8:15 pm ..... Mass – SJ

**Sunday, April 17**  
8:00 am ..... Joseph & Alma Pint – Mass – SS  
8:30 am ..... Myles, Helen, Richard & Raymond Kabes,  
Charles Nickolay, Julia E. Tupy – Mass – SW  
10:00 am ..... Clara Giesen – Mass – SJ  
10:30 am ..... Donna Soucek, Bill Orr,  
Merlin Moore – Mass – SW  
11:45 am ..... Baptisms – SW

**STAFF DIRECTORY** NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

**Rev. Kevin Clinton**  
Pastor  
952-758-3225  
Kevin.Clinton@npcatholic.org

**Rev. Dave Barrett**  
Regional Associate Pastor  
952-758-0469  
Dave.Barrett@npcatholic.org

**Deacon Bob Wagner**  
Pastoral Associate  
952-758-0463  
Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

**Mary Higgins**  
Pastoral Ministry Associate  
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Mary.Higgins@npcatholic.org

**Peter Guzulaitis**  
Parish Business Administrator  
952-758-0465  
Peter.Guzulaitis@npcatholic.org

**Ruth Weinandt**  
Parish Accountant  
952-758-0466  
Faith Formation Assistant  
952-758-0486  
Ruth.Weinandt@npcatholic.org

**Laura Schoenecker**  
Faith Formation Director  
Pre-K through Adult  
952-758-5131  
Laura.Schoenecker@npcatholic.org

**Alyssa Soucek**  
Youth Ministry  
952-758-0477  
Alyssa.Soucek@npcatholic.org

**Kim Doyle**  
St. Wenceslaus School Principal  
952-758-3133  
Kim.Doyle@swsaints.org

**Jodi Chromy**  
Preschool Director  
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Jodi.Chromy@swsaints.org

**Debbie Gregor**  
Director of Liturgical Music at SW  
952-758-4207  
Debbie.Gregor@npcatholic.org

**Lisa Levenson**  
Parish Administrative Assistant  
952-758-3225  
Lisa.Leverson@npcatholic.org

**PARISH BUSINESS OFFICE**  
215 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071  
PH 952-758-3225 FAX 952-758-2960

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**  
On campus in Parish Activity Center

**ST. WENCESLAUS SCHOOL**  
227 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071  
PH 952-758-3133 FAX 952-758-2958

**LITTLE SPIRITS PRESCHOOL**  
On campus of SWS ~ 1950's building  
952-758-0480

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**  
952-758-2327

**ST. WENCESLAUS MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR**

WEEK OF APRIL 11-17, 2016

**Monday, April 11:**  
No Events

**Tuesday, April 12:**  
BeFriends Meeting, 6-8 pm – Parish Office Dining Room

**Wednesday, April 13:**  
Early Morning Scripture Study, 6:45-7:50 am – Pius X Room, CB  
Children's Choir I & II Rehearsal – Music Room  
Schola Choir Rehearsal – Music Room  
Youth Choir Rehearsal – Music Room  
Faith Formation, 6:15-7:30 pm – Campus-wide  
Adult Bells & Choir Rehearsal – Music Room

**Thursday, April 14:**  
Teen Choir Rehearsal, 2 pm – Music Room  
Preschool Picnic in the PAC, 5:30-6:45 pm  
Women's Group, 7 pm – Parish Office Dining Room

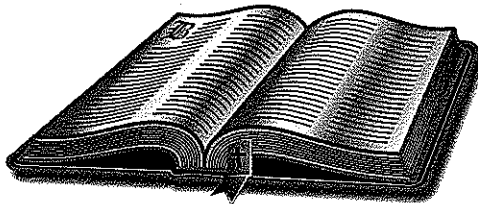
**Friday, April 15:**  
Adoration, 9 am-midnight – Chapel, PAC  
Pillow Cleaning Early Drop Off, 7-8 pm – PAC Foyer  
Marriage Encounter Meeting, 7-10 pm – Parish Office

**Saturday, April 16:**  
Carlson Pillow Cleaning, 7 am-1 pm – PAC Foyer  
Adult Scripture Study, 9:30-11 am – Pius X Rm, CB

**Sunday, April 17:**  
CLW, 8:30 & 10:30 am Masses – SW Chapel  
Sunday School during 10:30 am Mass – PAC  
Grade 10 Retreat, 10:30 am-5:30 pm – Campus-wide

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

WEEK OF APRIL 11-17, 2016



**Monday, April 11:**  
ACTS 6:8-15 / JN 6:22-29

**Tuesday, April 12:**  
ACTS 7:51-8:1A / JN 6:30-35

**Wednesday, April 13:**  
ACTS 8:1B-8 / JN 6:35-40

**Thursday, April 14:**  
ACTS 8:26-40 / JN 6:44-51

**Friday, April 15:**  
ACTS 9:1-20 / JN 6:52-59

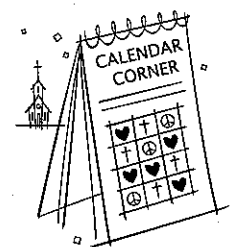
**Saturday, April 16:**  
ACTS 9:31-42 / JN 6:60-69

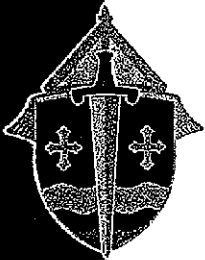
**Sunday, April 17:**  
ACTS 13:14, 43-52 / RV 7:9, 14B-17 / JN 10:27-30

**ST. WENCESLAUS CALENDAR CORNER**

Thank you to the Following Sponsors:  
**Strike Force Bowl and ProShop,**  
**Busch Bros. Machining &**  
**Hartmann Well Drilling & Service**

4/3	#0909	Alice Janousek
4/4	#1941	Dennis Schoenbauer
4/5	#0364	Joe Chromy
4/6	#0099	Sue Bastyr
4/7	#1603	Juanita Peters
4/8	#1853	Marvin & Ann Schaak
4/9	#1450	Barb Nickolay





ARCHDIOCESE  
OF  
SAINT PAUL &  
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

March 30, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Do not be afraid.” Those words of wisdom appear in Sacred Scripture more than 350 times and were even uttered by our Lord Himself on numerous occasions when His followers were facing adversity. It is clear that they were important to Jesus, and still are to us today. They are particularly welcome in these days as lawyers for those who may have been sexually abused by priests in the past are preparing to file lawsuits against dozens of local parishes where suspected abuse took place.

The lawsuits are expected to be filed against the parishes by mid-May, given that the Minnesota Child Victims Act’s three-year lifting of the statute of limitations for cases of child sexual abuse ends on May 25, 2016. Most of the cases arise out of misconduct that allegedly occurred many years ago – they are not new allegations of abuse. The anticipated filing is a normal part of the litigation process, which we have expected since filing for Reorganization in January of 2015, and that is why I am writing to you before the suits are filed.

How are we addressing this situation? Attorneys representing the Archdiocese and attorneys representing the parishes are working very hard to resolve the cases as part of the ongoing proceedings in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. All parties involved – including dozens of insurance carriers that issued policies over the past six decades – are participating in mediation with the hope of settling the more than 400 sexual abuse claims that have been brought against the Archdiocese and that presumably will soon be filed against parishes arising from the same facts.

Be assured that your pastor and parish leaders are working with Archdiocesan staff to keep you informed and updated on any developments. It seems that the most important thing we can do now is to pray for a just resolution to these claims and for all of those involved. In these first days of the Easter Season, I ask for your prayers and support for all victims of sexual abuse and their families.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda  
Apostolic Administrator & Archbishop-Designate  
Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis



## **Q & A Regarding Potential Lawsuits Against Parishes**

**Q: Why are we now hearing about potential lawsuits against our parish?**

**A:** As a result of the three-year lifting of the statute of limitations (Child Victims Act), it is anticipated that a number of parishes implicated in claims of sexual abuse occurring in the Archdiocese may be sued by claimants. In addition, many other parishes in Minnesota (outside the Archdiocese) may be sued before May 25, 2016, the expiration of the statute of limitations. If claimants don't file by then, it is expected that their cases against the parishes will be barred.

**Q: Are these new claims?**

**A:** For the most part, these are not new claims but claims that arise out of alleged misconduct occurring many years ago. The claims do not involve anyone who is currently working at the parish or that is currently in parish ministry.

**Q: If the deadline to file a claim is May 25, 2016, when will we potentially get sued?**

**A:** It is expected that the lawsuits will be served between mid-April and mid-May.

**Q: Aren't these claims part of the Archdiocese's ongoing bankruptcy?**

**A:** The claims are filed against the Archdiocese and the parishes, and the Archdiocese and parish attorneys are making every effort to resolve the claims against parishes in the course of the bankruptcy proceedings.

**Q: Can't we just hurry and resolve these claims?**

**A:** Unfortunately, it is not anticipated that the claims will be resolved before parishes are expected to be sued.

**Q: How is our parish going to pay for the claims?**

**A:** Most of the parishes that may be sued have made claims for insurance coverage for some or all of the claims.

**Q: What happens to those parishes that don't have coverage?**

**A:** We expect that these claims will also be dealt with in the Archdiocese bankruptcy case.

**Q: Are insurance carriers involved in the process to try and get the claims resolved?**

**A:** The insurance carriers for the parishes are on notice of the parish claims and are participating in the ongoing mediation process.

**Q: How will these lawsuits affect our parish?**

**A:** It is not expected that the lawsuits will affect the normal operations of the parish. The hope is that the cases will be resolved in a fair and equitable manner in the coming months.

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