

St. Joseph + St. Matthew + St. Teresa

Good Thunder

Vernon Center

Mapleton

The Catholic
Diocese of
Winona

Welcome!

We're here to help you begin or continue your faith journey, so you can find true peace, happiness and purpose in life. If you would like to join one of our parishes, contact any staff member and we will be honored to officially welcome you home!

Tri-Parish Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph
Sunday 8:00 am at St. Teresa
Sunday 10:00 am at St. Matthew

Weekdays: Please see Inside Bulletin

Holy Days See Inside Bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration held before daily Mass

Tri-Parish Office

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm
Address: 104 West Silver Street
Mapleton, Minnesota 56065
Phone: (507) 524-3127
Email: sjsmst@hickorytech.net
Website: www.sjsmst.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SJSMST
Mass Times: (507) 387-8806

Tri-Parish Staff

Father Jason Kern, Pastor
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Connie Peters, St. Joseph Faith Formation

Cindy Young, St. Matthew Faith Formation

Karen Langworthy, St. Teresa Faith Formation

December 21, 2014 Fourth Sunday Of Advent



Behold!

*"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word."*

Luke 1:38

The Sacrament of Baptism

Pre-Baptism preparation is required. Please contact the office at least one month before the desired date.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick Please notify the office if you or a family member is in the hospital or homebound and would like a pastoral visit.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

One half hour before each weekend Mass, 8a.m. Thursday at St. Teresa or by private appt. with Fr. Kern

The Sacrament of Marriage

All Catholics need to meet with the priest or deacon at least 6 months before being married. Contact the office at least 6 months in advance of your wedding.



From the Heart - by Fr. Kern

On this last Sunday before Christmas, I wish all of you blessed and peace filled final preparations for the Incarnation of our Savior in the holy humanity of Jesus the Christ. Some of you are stressing, others panicked, and others not even a little worried but no matter your disposition, remember that this season is not about how you feel in readiness to welcome family, host a party, clean the house, get presents wrapped, cookies baked, or whatever other stuff you are doing. This season only exists because of Jesus taking flesh. The rest of the stuff we do should be in order that we can best celebrate the fact that God has sent us a Savior—to not to impress the in-laws. This Christmas don't forget to behold your children or grandchildren, let your heart be renewed in love for them, for your spouse, and for all the family and gifts God has bestowed on us. Take some extra time, even an hour to spend with your children or grandchildren and play the board games or do an activity just being with them. Live the joy of Christmas this year in a fresh way. Tell people in your life you love them and show it. Slow down this week and unwrap God's love in your life both in those who surround you and also to receive personally the grace of God's love. Pray this week—pray all week continuously receiving what God has done for you. Try reading Luke 2:8-14 before unwrapping your gifts or digging into the Christmas feast. "Come, let us adore" the one who gave Himself to us! Let's follow His example and share ourselves with God and with our loved ones this year. This is the true gift of Christmas.

How fitting to prepare our hearts for the coming feasts with the prayer of the Church on Christmas day:

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

We become like God because He has become like us. My prayer for all is that the joy of knowing Jesus Christ the Savior will be restored to each of us, our families, and the whole world this Christmas season. Authentic joy to the world.

Mass Intentions, Readings, & Saints

Monday, December 22 Late Advent Weekday
1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8; Luke 1:46-56
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa *Special Intention*

Tuesday, December 23 St. John of Kanty
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Luke 1:57-66
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph *Intentions of the Conley Hiller family*

Wednesday, December 24 Late Advent Weekday
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67-79
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew † *Weir-Kopischke families*
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph † *Mike and Rose FitzSimmons*
Midnight Mass at St. Teresa *People of the tri-parish*

Thursday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord
Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13; Titus 2:11-14; Matthew 2:1-14
9:00 a.m. Mass *Reparation for our sins*

Friday, December 26 St. Stephan
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17; Matthew 10:17-22
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Anna Breiter*

Saturday, December 27 St. John
1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1-8
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Marcella Johnston*
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph *People of the tri-parish*

Sunday, December 28 Feast of the Holy Family
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Psalm 128:1-5
Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Theresa Healy*
10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Matthew † *Charlene Wallace*

Meetings and Events in the tri-parish

Wednesdays 1 p.m.	Quilters group at St. Teresa will not meet Dec. 24 and Dec. 31
Wednesdays 4:15 p.m.	Rosary at St. Teresa
Thursdays 9 a.m.	Study of the <u>Joy of the Gospel</u> at St. Teresa

O Come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
Who mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears



God, grant healing and peace to the sick of our communities who have requested our prayers:

Bill Barnard, Ken Irvine, Pat Borchert, Cathy Lentz, Becky, Jared Springer, Mavis Treanor, Maureen Springer, Kathleen Abrahamson, Yolande Abrahamson, Chris FitzSimmons

If you or a member of your family would like our prayers, please call 524-3127 and ask to be put on this prayer list. Each name will remain on the list for eight weeks unless the office is notified to leave the name for a longer amount of time.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes will not be held on Wednesday, December 24 or December 31.

Reminder: In case of bad weather, faith formation class closings and Mass cancellations will be announced on the following stations: KTOE 1420 AM, KEEZ 99.1 FM, KJLY 104.5 FM Also on KEYC TV (also on their website)

Parish News

Joy missing this Christmas? Come join us for **caroling and a chili and soup supper** on Sunday, Dec. 21. **Meet in the basement of St. Teresa Church** at 2:45 pm. Please remember that there will be Adoration taking place in the church, so keep voices down as you enter. We will begin caroling at 3 p.m. and be back by 5 p.m. for supper. Chili and soup will be provided, complimentary side dishes welcomed. Carolers from all three parishes are most welcome!



Contribution envelopes for 2015 are available at each church. Please pick up your envelopes as soon as possible. If you do not see a box for you and would like one, please contact the tri-parish office, 524-3127. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Nativity scenes and other gift ideas are available from the gift store. Christmas items are on display at St. Teresa gathering space. Bring Christ into Christmas.

Everyone attending the midnight Mass on Christmas at St. Teresa Church is invited to stay afterward for a wine and cheese reception to celebrate together the birth of Christ the Lord.



We are looking for volunteers to help with Meals on Wheels delivery. St. Teresa's does January, April, July, and October. We have to replace Ron and Mary Hartman and we have other openings as well. It is usually one week at a time and takes about 1/2 hour each day. Please contact Sue Morrow at 327-6432 or 524-4147 if you can help. Thank you!

Tri-parish Women's Book Club

The next meeting will be Sunday, January 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Teresa gathering space.

We will discuss the book My Sisters the Saints: A Spiritual Memoir by Colleen Carroll Cambell. Refreshments will be served; hosting the meeting are Becky Anderson and Ceal Caldwell. Everyone is invited for a time of relaxation and interesting conversation.



A gift for you this Christmas— available at each church is the book Saint John Paul the Great His Five Great Loves by Jason Evert. These books are free and available to anyone interested. It gives a remarkable insight into this amazing, humble, holy man.

End of the year contributions must be in the office or post-marked by December 31 in order to count towards tax deductions for 2014. Please consider a gift to your church this Christmas Season we rely on the end of the year donations to meet our budget each year. As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

If you had your picture taken for the tri-parish directory and are only receiving the free 8x10, that picture is available at your home parish, not where you got the picture taken. The pictures will be on a table near the entrance to church.

Christmas Flowers. If you would like to donate for Christmas flowers, you may use the envelope marked for that purpose or use a plain envelope marked "Christmas Flowers". You may include a list of the names of people you would like to remember. The envelopes can be sent to the Tri-Parish office or placed in the offertory basket.



Christmas

Reflections:

The Father has given us his Son: for this indescribable gift we are full of joy.



The traditional "Christmas tree" is a very ancient custom which exalts the value of life, as in winter the evergreen becomes a sign of undying life. In general, the tree is decorated and Christmas gifts are placed under it. The symbol is also eloquent from a typically Christian point of view: It reminds us of the "tree of life" (see Genesis 2:9), representation of Christ, God's supreme gift to humanity.

The message of the Christmas tree, therefore, is that life is "ever green" if one gives: not so much material things, but of oneself: in friendship and sincere affection, and fraternal help and forgiveness, in shared time and reciprocal listening.

Blessed John Paul II, in his Angelus message on 12/19/04

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world.

from catholic.org

Stewardship of Treasure

God's generosity will never be outdone by our own.



St. Teresa: (December 14)

Weekly collection...	\$9362.50
Amount collected year to date...	\$71,105.90
Amount budgeted year to date ..	\$75,946.00

St. Matthew (December 14)

Weekly collection.....	\$783.00
Amount collected year to date...	\$22,964.05
Amount budgeted year to date...	\$30,767.00

St. Joseph (December 13)

Weekly collection	\$944.93
Amount collected year to date...	\$19,748.00
Amount budgeted year to date	\$27,120.00



Ministry Roles

December 27 St. Joseph 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Mary Caven

Minister of Communion: Connie Peters,
Christine Rahn

Hospitality: Paul and Rhonda Barnard

Gifts: Paul and Rhonda Barnard

Servers: Taylor Hollerich, Ethan McGregor

Money Counters: Maureen Hollerich,
Dan Sohre

December 28 St. Teresa 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Brett Sindelir

Minister of Communion: Alice Geramo,
Deb Hager

Hospitality: Tim and Meg Mohwinkel,
Marla and John Trio

Gifts: Joel and Darlette Hoppe family

Servers: Dillon Schmidt, Dustyn Schmidt,
Ethan Sindelir

Money Counters: Ann Walters, Vicki Kunkel,
Jan Sonnek

December 28 St. Matthew 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Darla Graf

Minister of Communion: Char Schuch,
Justin Davis

Hospitality: Dave Bartsch family

Servers: Henry Cooling, Thomas Cooling

Money Counters: Kitty Cumbee, Jodi Roelofs

Ministry schedules are available on the web-site: sjsmst.org

Our Catholic World



Let us prayerfully watch for the coming of the Lord

Come and spend time today with Our Lord as we anxiously wait for His coming.

Ministry Roles for Christmas Masses:

December 24 at St. Matthew 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Lynn Demuth

Minister of Communion: Tony Wendlandt, Maria Sanders

Hospitality: Tim Bennett family

Servers: Kallie Majeski, Julianna Majeski

December 24 at St. Joseph 7:00 p.m.

Reader: Julie FitzSimmons

Minister of Communion: Dick FitzSimmons, Mary Beth Olson

Hospitality: Jay and Cassie Winters

Gifts: Jay and Cassie Winters

Servers: Lauren Kleven, Parker Smith

December 24 at St. Teresa midnight Mass

Reader: Tony Bach

Minister of Communion: Butch Bach, Judy Bach

Hospitality: Jim and Gloria Langworthy, Tony and Connie Bach

Gifts: Jeff and Shelly Holt

Servers: Jacob Rigdon, Kayla Rigdon

December 25 at St. Teresa 9:00 a.m.

Reader: Jeff Kunkel

Minister of Communion: Mary Ellen Larson, Don Landsteiner

Hospitality: Jeff and Vicki Kunkel, Doug and Schmidt

Gifts: Jeff and Vicki Kunkel family

Servers: AJ Kunkel, Samantha Kunkel, Nolan Braaten

Christmas Mass schedule:

December 24

5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew

7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph

Midnight Mass at St. Teresa

Come early for each Christmas Eve Mass for music prelude

December 25

9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa



Mass schedule for Feast of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's)

December 31

5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Teresa

Area Masses for the Holy Day:

January 1

Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Easton 8 a.m.

St John the Baptist, Mankato 9 a.m.

Sts Peter and Paul, Mankato 10 a.m.

St John the Baptist, Minnesota Lake 4:30 p.m.