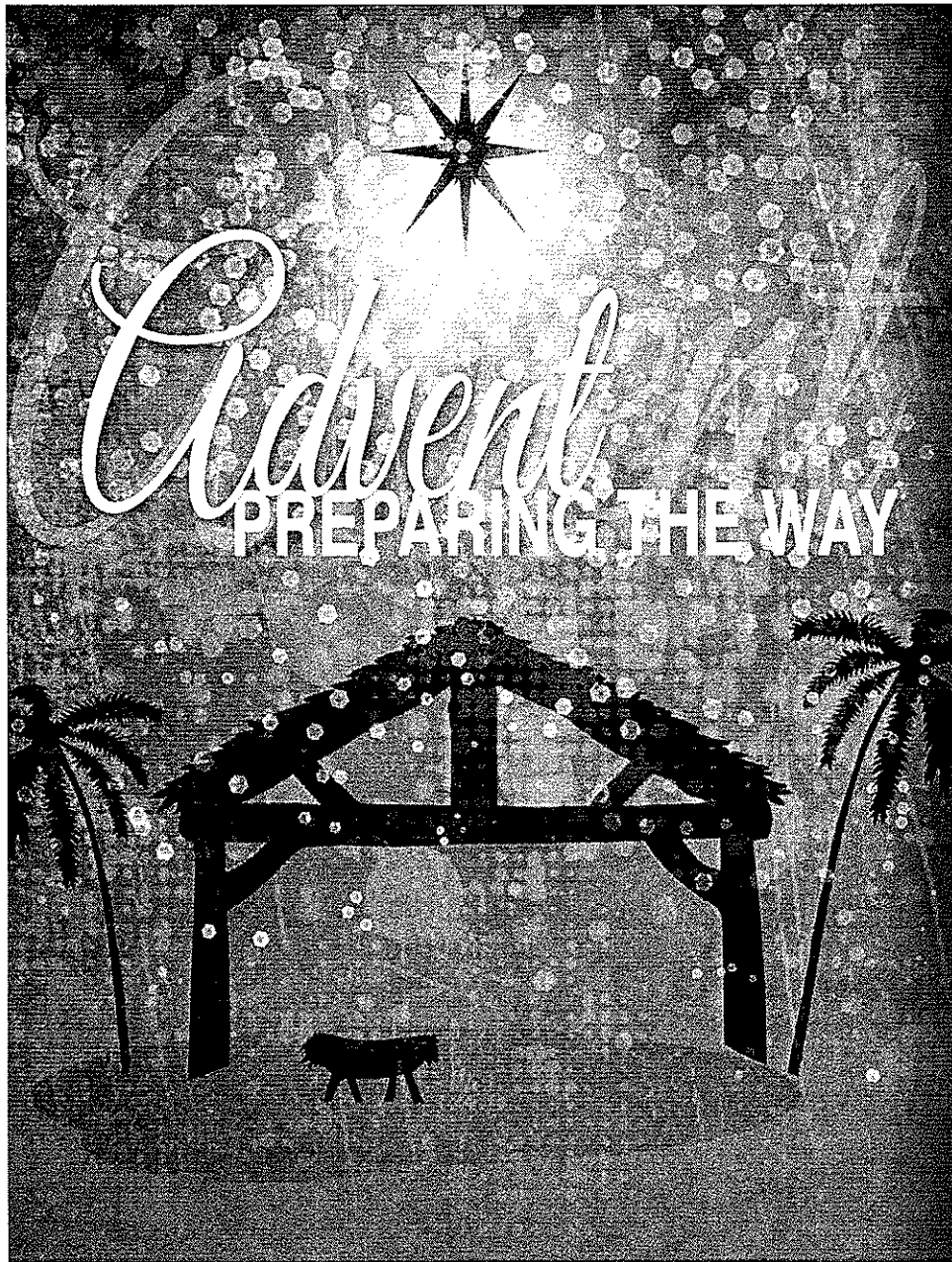


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2016



Welcoming the Christ in one another

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..... 4:00 pm
 Sunday..... 8:30 & 10:30 am

Morning Word & Communion

Monday & Tuesday 8:00 am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & 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 3 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 & 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 Armita: 952-758-4943

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe ~ December 12**The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

In the 16th century, the Aztecs of Mexico worshiped a multitude of pagan gods. To appease their gods, they practiced human sacrifice, offering an estimated 20,000 annually - many of them young women and children. Almost overnight, however, the culture of the Aztec people changed from a pagan, multi-god, human-sacrificing culture to a Christian culture. There were mass conversions with as many as 9 million people coming into the Catholic Church within 10 years. What happened?

According to tradition, on December 9, 1531, Juan Diego, a simple indigenous peasant, had a vision of a young woman while he was on a hill in the Tepeyac desert, near Mexico City. The lady told him to build a church exactly on the spot where they were standing. He told the local bishop, who asked for some proof. The proof offered was the miraculous appearances of a blooming rose bush and the image of the woman printed on Juan Diego's cloak.

Today, the icon on the cloak is displayed in the nearby Basilica of Guadalupe, now the most visited Catholic shrine in the world, receiving between 15 and 20 million pilgrims annually. The Virgin of Guadalupe is Mexico's most popular religious and cultural image.

Don't think you'll be able to get to Mexico City to see the shrine? There are about 20 shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe in the U.S. and Canada, the closest to us being in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The church in La Crosse is located on donated land on a bluff near the Mississippi River and was financed completely through private donations.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is very important to Latino Catholics. Currently Latinos make up 45 percent of the millennial generation of U.S. Catholics (ages 11-30) and it is likely that Hispanics may become the majority among American Catholics.

“Do not let your heart be disturbed, my dearest son. Do not let anything worry or afflict you; do not fear illness nor any troublesome happening or pain. Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your life and health? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?”

Words of Mary to Juan Diego

Western Catholic Community

From the Desk of Father Dave

Joy in Darkness

The days are getting shorter. In a little over a week we will have the shortest day of the year. This will mean more darkness. Even though this is physically such a dark time, we also have joy. We marvel at the anticipation of a little one for their Christmas presents. We long for the warmth of celebrating with family and friends. We look forward to the beauty of the Christmas liturgies. These all cause us joy and we should have gratitude for these experiences.

We are facing some dark times in the Western Catholic Community. Negative outlooks toward Faith Formation and music make us all weary. We may get depressed about realizing we are truly a part of St. Wenceslaus. Some are angry about how we spoke of independence, even knowing that we are a true merger. Some say this merger was forced upon St. John and St. Scholastica, but I say it is their salvation. Without the merger, our doors would have closed long ago and there would have been real darkness.

It is not too late for us to experience joy. We have our three Masses to celebrate our small Catholic community. These Masses will serve those who like the small personal liturgies. I will be with you as long as I can. I have no idea when I will leave, so I have to live in the present and be with you with all of my being. We need to keep our treasured traditions. They do not end with the merger of Faith Formation. We will have Thanksgiving and Christmas programs as a community. Corpus Christi is a Catholic United Financial event. We need to think big and open it to the entire New Prague Area Catholic Community. We have talented people who will keep our youth involved. We want them to blossom here with us. Reception of First Communion will stay at our sites. This may take more work, but I know it will be worth it. I like the fact we have rural roots and hope to make the Harvest Mass a regular event. We can have real joy in the WCC despite darkness.

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

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

Dec. 17 & 18, 2016	Saturday St. John's 8:15 PM	Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM	Sunday St. John's 10:00 AM
Lector	Carol Weiers	Kay Schanus	Kaylynn Solheid
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Carol Wolf	Jenna Heimer, Geraldine Odenthal & Judy Pauly	Dave Webb, Lori Wooten & Amy Lemke
Servers	Samantha & Julia Kubes	Steven & Megan Odenthal	Danielle, Brenna & Samantha Solheid, Teagan Lambrecht
Gift Bearer Family		Ken Kroyer Family	Anthony Brezina 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:

Jackie Henle 952-758-3465

Noreen Giesen 952-758-2608

Marlene Dohmen 952-492-6879

COLLECTION INFORMATION

WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016

Total Collected 12/4/16.....	\$2,988
Over Budget for the Week.....	+\$88
Budgeted for Next Week.....	\$2,900
Actual Collection YTD.....	\$66,027
Under Budget YTD.....	-\$666

Thank you for your support!

Bulletin E-mail: info@npcatholic.org

Website: <http://www.npcatholic.org>

PARISH AND AREA NEWS

Greeters Needed for Christmas Liturgies

Please consider volunteering to welcome parishioners and guests at one of our Christmas Masses. This involves coming 20-25 minutes early, grabbing a greeters tag, and welcoming people as they come in the door. Greeters are needed for the 6 pm and 9:30 pm Masses. Families are encouraged to greet together. There will be reserved seating for greeters.



Grief Support Group Meeting

The death of a significant person in our life leaves us with a loss filled with great emptiness. Meeting with others experiencing the same loss can be very healing. Our grief support group meets at 7 pm on the third Thursday of the month in the St. Wenceslaus Parish Office building (former rectory). We will meet next on Thursday, Dec. 15th. All are welcome. For more information, call Deacon Bob at (952) 758-0463.

A Big Thank You!

Thank you to all the workers who helped label and stuff packets: Rita Ambroz, Carol & Jim Lang, Roseanne Flick, Karen Lee, Al & Mary Sticha, Darlene Witt, Don & Camilla Hartmann, Greg Solheid, Lisa Levenson, Ken & Lisa Deja, George & Jane Brezina, Joe & Joanie Meyer, and all the helpers in back of church before, during, and after Masses every weekend, including all the help from the ushers.

Do You Have Time & A Green Thumb?

Helpers are needed to care for the plants and flowers in church during the winter months from immediately after Christmas through Lent and Easter. If you, your family, or a small group of friends are interested in a temporary project, call Cathy at (952) 758-5017. If you can't volunteer the entire time, you may want to consider helping for just a week or two.

Breakfast with Dad Continues in December

Come join us for this popular event! Bring your children (all ages) and join us for food, faith, and fellowship 8-9:30 am Saturday mornings in December, in the St. Wenceslaus Church basement. There are very few things a father can give his children that will last forever. Activities will be provided for the children. Registration appreciated, but not required. lynn.sticha@npcatholic.org.

Volunteers Needed to Help the Homeless!

What: The St. Paul Dorothy Day Center will be opening a new homeless shelter in December, 2016.
Who: Volunteers are needed to serve a meal and be a friend to those Christ loved the most.
When: Beginning daily in December, 1-2 people are needed from 7-10 pm to serve dinner, provide light clean up, and be a friend.
How: Call Norb Sticha at 758-3888 to select a date to drive and volunteer together. Visit www.friendsofdorothyday.org for more detailed information (new volunteers would be paired with experienced volunteers). The work is easy and the rewards are great. Please consider. One (1) evening a month or one (1) evening a year ... you are needed!

Ornaments for the Christmas Trees

A basket has been placed on the west altar for homemade ornaments. If there are any families interested in making ornaments for the trees in church, they can place them in the basket any time before December 18th. All families are invited to the Ornament Making Party, as well.



Ornament Making Party

Saturday, Dec. 17th at 8 am in the church basement. Bring your children and make an ornament for the Christmas trees in church and make one to take home too! All supplies will be provided. Contact Lynn Sticha with any questions ~ lynn.sticha@npcatholic.org.

Men's Group

A men's group is being formed to discuss and share those matters of faith, life, and spirituality which men often find challenging or of particular interest. The group plans to meet once a month or so for an hour and a half. It is intended that the meetings will start with refreshments, snacks, and visiting followed by a short Scripture reading and discussion. The setting will be informal and relaxed. The first meeting will be held at the Parish House of St. Wenceslaus on Dec. 29th at 7 pm. No advance reading is necessary but, if possible, please bring a Bible. All adult male parishioners of St. Wenceslaus and the Western Catholic Community are invited. If you are interested in participating in the group but cannot make the first meeting or have any questions, please call David Karan at (952) 461-3067.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection Continues

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others ~ educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously.

~ COLLECTION INFORMATION ~	
St. Wenceslaus Site	
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016	
Total for 12/4/16	\$13,752
Under Challenge for the Week.....	-\$2,968
Challenge for Next Week.....	\$16,721
Actual Collections YTD.....	\$321,233
Under Challenge YTD.....	-\$36,020

SUPPORT OUR PATRONS
 who make this bulletin possible by their advertising.
 This week we thank
MALA STRANA REHABILITATION CENTER

New Prague Community Christmas Concert

When: Sunday, Dec. 11th at 3 pm

Where: St. Wenceslaus Church

Featuring the St. Wenceslaus Bell Choir, the St. Wenceslaus Adult Choir, Rose Fife and her students, the New Prague Area Community Band, and Hymnus. No charge, but donations are appreciated to help cover costs. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Peace Center.

Suicide Grief Support Group Memorial Service

Family, friends, and anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide are invited to attend a Memorial Service held by the Suicide Grief Support Group. This service is an annual event held during the Christmas season to honor and remember those who have been lost to suicide. The service will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13th beginning at 7 pm and will be held at the Mayo Clinic Health System. Please enter through the Emergency Room doors (southwest entrance) and take the southeast elevator (#2) to the lower level and follow the signs to the Jameen Mape Conference Center. No registration or fee is required. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a time for fellowship. Please bring a picture (any size) of your loved one. Please call Tom Handrich at (952) 445-0107 for additional information.

Christmas Open House and Chili Feed ~ 50th Anniversary ~ Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center ~ Prior Lake, MN

Rounding out our 50th Anniversary Year celebrations, we added a chili feed to our 2016 Christmas Open house. Bring family and friends to enjoy a steaming bowl courtesy of the Friars, then explore the Retreat Center while enjoying over 5,000 Christmas lights. Bask in the warmth of our roaring campfire. Hike our luminary lighted trail. Enjoy hot spiced cider and Christmas treats. Relax in the Retreat Center while enjoying the warm hospitality of the friars. All are welcome. No need to call, just show up! Thursday, Dec. 15th, 6-8 pm. No charge for this event. Phone: (952) 447-2182 ~ www.franciscanretreats.net.

Blankets Because We Care Drive Continues

Show how you care and please help those in need this Christmas season! New this year, we will be accepting any hygiene items in addition to any gently used or new blankets, coats, or winter gear. We will then bring them to Sharing and Caring Hands in January. Any monetary donations will be used to buy fleece to make additional blankets or will be donated to Sharing and Caring Hands. Please put your donations in the box labeled "Blanket Donations" boxes in the back of church. Donations will be accepted through January 20th. Thanks so much for your generosity and God Bless!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends

Did you know Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are also for priests and religious?

In a loving way, Marriage Encounter Weekends promote open and honest communication needed in the Sacraments of Marriage AND Holy Orders. Invite your parish priest to attend a Marriage Encounter Weekend too! The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are Feb 10-12, 2017, in Buffalo, MN and May 5-7, 2017, in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information, visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org or (612) 756-8720.

**FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY****URBAN IMMERSION**

Enter the inner city and share your talents as Youth Ministry joins LSS at The Center for Changing Lives in Minneapolis on December 29th. Contact Pamela Sherlock for more information.

January 15 ~ 9 & 10 Grade Confirmation Resumes

Freshmen begin with 10:30 Mass and go until 5:30. Sophomores have regular class time ~ 8:45-11:30. Cheryl and Eric's group meets with Father Kevin after Mass. Merry Advent and Christmas!

CHILLFEST 2017

For grades 6, 7, & 8 will be January 27th. This overnight lock-in will again be in Victoria and Chaska. Contact Pamela Sherlock for more information.

**SCHOOL NEWS from SWS****School Christmas Concert This Week**

Please join us for our *All School Christmas Concert*, Thursday, Dec. 15th at 1 and 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

Ice House Raffle

Win the ice fishing house on display on the front lawn of SWS. \$50 chances for sale at the school office.

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

Our Lady of Good Help CCW Meeting is Mon., Dec. 12th at St. John's School with Rosary starting at 6:45, meeting at 7 pm. ~ **ALL** women of the parish are welcome and encouraged to come. The lunch committee is Charlene Skluzacek and Mary Chromy.

Poinsettias In Memory of a Loved One

We will be accepting donations for Christmas poinsettias for St. John's and St. Scholastica churches. Please sign the book to let us know who the poinsettias are from and in whose memory you are donating them.



The SWS Endowment Fund

To The St. Wenceslaus Area Parish Community:

The SWS Endowment Board would like to give the parish an update on our efforts to establish and grow the St. Wenceslaus School Endowment Fund. The fund is designed to support our award-winning school by providing tuition assistance to help families send their children to St. Wenceslaus School. To date, we have raised over \$100,000! Over 100 donors have generously contributed to our Endowment Fund. As a result, we have already been able to help five families with tuition support.



We have also received multiple large donation commitments that will accrue over a five or ten year period. These ongoing donations will help deliver a consistent and significant growth mechanism for the endowment fund. We thank each and every donor who has helped us get off to such a great start.

We are reaching out to our parish today to not only report on our success thus far, but also to ask for your financial help to grow this endowment fund. At its current level, the endowment fund will generate approximately \$4,000 – \$6,000 per year. We would like to substantially grow the endowment so that many more families can afford to have their children attend St. Wenceslaus School. This will help fill our classrooms with children and help reduce financial pressures on the SWS management team.

All donations are welcome. Checks can be made payable to the SWS Endowment Fund and sent to:

**St. Wenceslaus School, c/o SWS Endowment Fund, 227 East Main Street,
New Prague, MN 56071 Phone (952) 758-3133**

Donate Online at www.swsaints.org Click on Link to the SWS Endowment Fund

We are also interested in visiting with anyone from our New Prague Area Catholic Community that would consider making a long-term commitment pledge. We can help with estate giving if that is an option anyone might want to consider. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you are interested or have any other questions.

Sincerely,

SWS Endowment Board
Tom Chromy (952) 758-2756
Bob Vanasek (952) 758-4757
John Chromy (202) 291-2218
John Barta (612) 269-1185

LITURGIES & PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS

INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS
WEEK OF DECEMBER 12-18, 2016

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

Monday, December 12

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

Tuesday, December 13

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

4:00 pm..... Mass – Mala Strana

6:00 pm..... Penitential Celebration – SW

Wednesday, December 14

8:00 am..... Billie Tupy & Deceased Family Members,

..... Roman E. Bisek & Deceased Family Members

..... SWS Mass – SW

5:00 pm..... Mass – SJ

5:30 pm..... Confessions – SJ

Thursday, December 15

8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW

5:00 pm..... Mass – SS

5:30 pm..... Confessions – SS

Friday, December 16

8:00 am..... Jeanette Deutsch – Mass – SW

Saturday, December 17

11:00 am..... Penitential Celebration – SW

3:00 pm..... Confessions – SW

4:00 pm..... Julia Simon Zweber, Ginny Picka,

..... Francis, Adeline A. & Doug Busch, Joseph &

..... Mary Rybak, Sr., Joseph & Emma Ryback, Jr. – Mass – SW

8:15 pm..... Michael C. Glisczynski – Mass – SJ

Sunday, December 18

8:00 am..... Carol Pexa, Adeline Wieland – Mass – SS

8:30 am..... Fritz Novotny, John & Sylvia Pint,

..... Myles, Helen, Richard & Raymond Kabes – Mass – SW

10:00 am..... Joe & Marcella Koenig,

..... Clarence & Clara Giesen – Mass – SJ

10:30 am..... Cyril & Lorraine Bisek, Eleanor Rynda,

..... Gilbert & Catherine Bisek, Frank & Stephanie Bisek,

..... Emil Chlan – Mass – 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

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Deacon Bob Wagner

Pastoral Associate

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Mary Higgins

Pastoral Ministry Associate

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Parish Business Administrator

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Parish Accountant

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Laura Schoenecker

Faith Formation Director

Pre-K through Adult

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Pamela Sherlock

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Kim Doyle

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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

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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 DECEMBER 12-18, 2016

Monday, December 12:

SW Site Finance Council Meeting, 6:30 pm

– Parish Office

Tuesday, December 13:

SWS Prayer/Meditation, 8 am-2 pm –

Daily Chapel

BeFrienders, 6-7:30 pm – Parish Office

Dining Room

Bible Timeline Study, 7 pm –

Parish Office – Upstairs

Wednesday, December 14

Early Morning Scripture Study, 6:45-7:50 am –

Pius X Room, CB

Children's Choir I & II – Choir Room

CORE TEAM, 5 pm – Faith Formation Office

Youth Alive, 6 pm – Parish Office Upper Parlor

Spirit of Christmas FF, 6 pm – Campus Wide

Adult Bells & Choir – Choir Room

Thursday, December 15:

SWS Christmas Concert, 1 pm – Church

Teen Choir, 2-3 pm – Choir Room

SWS Christmas Concert, 6:30 pm – Church

NPACC Book Club, 6:30 pm – Parish Office

Dining Room

Friday, December 16:

Adoration, 9 am-midnight – Chapel

Saturday, December 17:

Breakfast With Dad, 8 am – Pius X Room, CB

Ornament Making Party, 8-10 am – CB

Adult Scripture Study, 9:30-11 am –

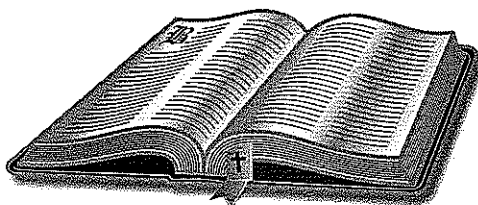
Pius X Room, CB

Sunday, December 18:

CLW at 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses – SW Chapel

SCRIPTURE READINGS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 12-18, 2016



Monday, December 12:

ZEC 2:14-17 / LK 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 13:

ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13 / MT 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 14:

IS 45:6B-8, 18, 21B-25 / LK 7:18B-23

Thursday, December 15:

IS 54:1-10 / LK 7:24-30

Friday, December 16:

IS 56:1-3A, 6-8 / JN 5:33-36

Saturday, December 17:

GN 49:2, 8-10 / MT 1:1-17

Sunday, December 18:

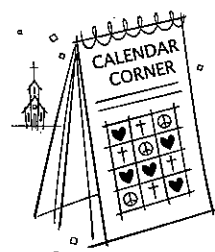
IS 7:10-14 / ROM 1:1-7 / MT 1:18-24

ST. WENCESLAUS CALENDAR CORNER

Thank you to the Following Sponsors:

Lakeside Supper Club,
Chart & Pizza Ranch

12/4	#1815	Cathy Ruter
12/5	#0254	Jason Brod
12/6	#0542	Wendy Fadden
12/7	#1006	Laura Kaslow
12/8	#1007	Marissa Schoenecker
12/9	#2189	Tammy Spiess
12/10	#1300	Bill Masberg



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