

# ST. CATHERINE CHURCH

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*Here to Stay, Here to Serve!*

*We are a Christ-centered community, the vital and spiritual presence of the Catholic Church in Sherman Park and beyond. Living the Gospel, we welcome, learn, serve and celebrate.*

## Merry Christmas

On my behalf and on behalf of all the pastoral staff of both Saints Catherine and St. Sebastian parishes, I would like to wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas. On Friday of this week, we will be celebrating the birth of Christ, a big feast in our faith.

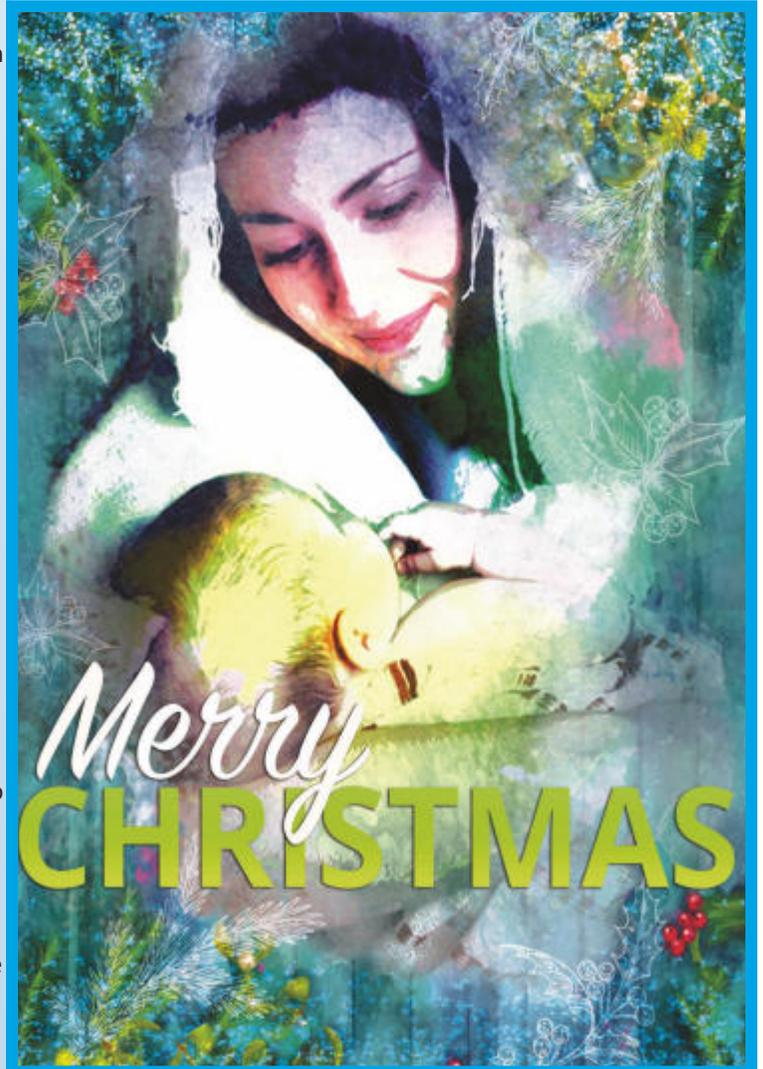
When Adam and Eve sinned, they separated themselves from the love of God the Father. They were expelled from the Garden of Eden, but that did not stop God from loving them. He promised to send a redeemer. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (Jn. 3:16). Although the redeemer was promised, it took many years for him to come. In today's gospel we hear that the angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to deliver the good news, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." This message came when it was least expected and to the least-expected person. Mary was troubled by the message of the angel, but was assured, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."

Luke's choice of the rare word, "overshadow," is not accidental; it is deeply symbolic. He compares Mary's body to the tent in which the Ark of the Covenant was kept. He compares Mary's womb, in which Jesus will be housed, to the ark in which the tablets of the Ten Commandments were housed. This means the Lord's presence fills her when she is overshadowed, and God became present to us in the flesh and blood in the presence of Jesus.

Before Mary received this message, the world had no hope. Sin and violence were everywhere. For her, this message seemed to be impossible and unimaginable. The angel assured her, "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

There is no difference in our time and Mary's. Our world may be messed up, our family, our lives so different, but there is hope because God's power in the person of Jesus has entered our world. This is what we prepare to celebrate these few days before Christmas. It is what gives us joy beyond imagining, hope beyond dreaming. With all that we are going through now, let us hope for better days ahead, better years ahead because God is always with us. The long-awaited Messiah never abandons us; we are the ones who distance ourselves from him. Although this Christmas will be different from those of the past, we can still *make a difference* to other people who are less fortunate. Merry Christmas!

*Fr. Peter Patrick*



**Member of the Milwaukee Westside Catholic Parishes  
with Saint Sebastian**

**December 20, 2020**



**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Parish Office** ... 445-5115 ... Fax 445-5198  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Friday  
secretary@saintcatherine.org - ppkimani@saintcatherine.org  
cpoth@saintcatherine.org  
St. Sebastian Office ... 453-1061

### Parish Staff

Rev. Peter Patrick Kimani, *Pastor*  
Ralph & Jane Kornburger, *Deacon Couple*  
Jon Metz, *Adult & Young Adult Formation Minister*  
Margaret Lee, *Youth Minister and Human Concerns*  
Joe Sheehan, *Child Formation Minister*  
Doug Scott, *Music Director*  
Carole Poth, *Director of Administration and Operations*  
Joann Perleberg, *Director of Finances*  
Sister Pat Russell, *Parish Office Assistant*

**Parish School** 445-2846 Fax 445-0448  
Jade Cottrell, *Principal* Office Open 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

### Parish Trustees

Toni Wagner, *Secretary* - Mary Brooks, *Treasurer*

## The Week Ahead

**Sunday, December 20** 9:00 am Mass (Church)  
**Monday, December 21** 4:30 pm Finance Council (virtual)  
**Tuesday, December 22** 8:30 am Mass (Church)  
9:00 am Faith Formation (R)  
9:30 am St. Vincent de Paul (FKCC)  
**Thursday, December 24** 4:00 pm Vigil Mass for Christmas  
Office is Closed  
**Friday, December 25** 10:00 am Mass for Christmas  
Office Closed  
**Saturday, December 26** 9:00 am Food Pantry (FKCC)  
**Sunday, December 27** 9:00 am Mass (Church)

## Spiritual Formation

The pastoral staff would like to gift parishioners with the book *"The Search"* this holiday season. The hope is that it will be a reflective tool for your personal formation. Inside the book you will find a bookmark with some helpful dates and an opportunity to sign up for Lenten formation groups around the book. Books can be picked up in the back of church after Mass. Jon Metz

## Shower in a Box

Your St. Vincent de Paul conference invites you to fill a shoebox with personal care items. The boxes will be given to neighbors when we visit them. A list of suggested items is in each box. You'll find the wrapped boxes near our giving tree in the gathering area. If you prefer to purchase a blanket or sheets, take an ornament from the bench and attach it to the item you purchase. Please return these gifts by New Year Day. Cash donations for SVDP are also welcome.

## Social Distancing In The Office

To respect the health of our workers in the parish office, we are asking that no more than two people occupy the reception area at one time and that they maintain 6-foot distancing.

## Mass Intentions & Scripture Readings

### Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am † Lillian & William Brauer, Sr. (estate)  
2 Sm 7:1-5,8-12,14,16/Ps 89:2-5,27,29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

### Monday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius

8:30 am Mass at St. Sebastian  
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

### Tuesday, December 22

8:30 am Members of the Jewish Faith  
1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-8/Lk 1:46-56

### Wednesday, December 23 St. John Kanty

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14/Lk 1:57-66

### Thursday, December 24 Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of St. Catherine  
Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29/Acts 13:16-17,22-25/Mt 1:1-25

### Friday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

10:00 am Living and Deceased Members of St. Catherine  
Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

### Saturday, December 26 Saint Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6 8, 16, 17/Mt 10:17-22

### Sunday, December 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9:00 am † Joey Badora & Maria Buhler (June Ristow)

## Liturgical Ministers

### Sunday, December 20 - 9:00 am — Fr. Larry

Lector Bernadette Davel

### Thursday, December 24 - 4:00 pm — Fr. Peter Patrick

Lector Debbie Servi

### Friday, December 25 - 10:00 am — Fr. Larry

Lector Tony Amoroso

### Sunday, December 27 - 9:00 am — Fr. Peter Patrick

Lector Gael Cullen

## Reflections on this Sunday's Readings

Today in Luke's gospel, we hear the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. We reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us. In the model of Mary, we pray her Magnificat ( Lk 1: 46-55) so that we will be people of faith.

### Weekly Practices:

Every time you witness human interaction, see Jesus acting in all the people involved.

Practice love in all your interactions with others.

Listen to a gratitude meditation.

## Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to donate for poinsettias and other decorations to beautify our church during this Christmas season, in honor or in memory of people, please see the form available in the office.

**Book Club**—New book, *Cherokee America*, next meeting is January 14 at 5 pm.

## Pray for Our Sick

Maryl Barrett, Michael Barton, Carol & Joe Brien, Tom Cavanaugh, Annie Coleman, Chuck Cooney, Ellie Cunningham, Elaine Fernando, Barb Haig, Ernest Herre, James Krutina, Evelyn Martinez, Bev Narus, Diane Neicheril, Steve O'Connell, Andréa Olds, Tom Plakut, David Pleskatchek, Ron & Trudy Ranallo, Don Richards, Margaret Schmidt, Sr. Mary Ann Schmidt, Doug Scott, Carmel Stage, Bill Steger, Larry Teufel, Nancy & Eduardo V, Kathy Zambo

## Interested in Joining our Centennial Celebration Committee?

Take the lead in recognizing all the people who have brought Saint Catherine Parish to its 100th Anniversary coming in 2022. We need individuals who are interested in telling our history by bringing together all the stories and events that have contributed to making this community what it is today, including the history and events of the parishes that have merged with Saint Catherine. Planning will begin at the end of January. If you want to be part of the planning committee, contact Carole at [cpoth@saintcatherine.org](mailto:cpoth@saintcatherine.org) or 445-5115, ext. 204.

## Senior Ministry

The members of the Three Parishes Senior Ministry Committee wish all our families, caregivers and older adults living alone a Blessed Christmas! We realize that the plans that we had for 2020 were not carried out; it has truly been a trying time for all of us, especially for our older adults who have been confined to their homes. We have been praying for all our fellow older adults and thankful to all the families who keep us in their prayers. May God bless all of us with good health as we remember how He sent His only Son to walk with us here on earth. Our salvation began with His birth!

## Sustainability Tip

While gatherings during the upcoming holidays can be an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends, household gatherings are also an important contributor to the rise in COVID-19 cases. Consider alternatives:

- Gather virtually to open gifts together, build gingerbread houses, decorate cookies, make holiday crafts and decorations, or host a “ugly” holiday sweater contest.
- Walk around your community to look at lights and decorations or drive through the local holiday lights display.
- Make holiday crafts, cards, or cookies to send or deliver to family, friends, and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others, such as leaving them at the door.
- Collaborate with friends and family on a holiday playlist.
- Reach out to your local community service organizations to get involved and give back. Make sure to ask about their safety precautions in advance.

For more information from the CDC, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/winter.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/winter.html)

## Facing Racism

“When you discriminate against anyone, you discriminate against everyone.” *Alan Dershowitz*

## Recovery Groups-All groups meet in the Community Ctr.

AA: Sunday 11:00 am      AAA: Thursday 7:00 pm  
Tuesday 7:00 pm  
Friday 6:30 pm

## Christmas Letter from Archbishop ListECKI Christmas 2020

*What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we pray the Nicene Creed we profess, “I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.”

These familiar words echo the prologue of John’s Gospel, which is read at Christmas. John proclaims, “What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:4-5) I draw your attention to the Creed and John’s Gospel to emphasize the profundity of describing God as Light and Life. Out of the infinite ways to describe Christ, light and life are given to us as preeminent and essential descriptions.

The key to understanding this is the celebration of the Incarnation. The Son of God did not become man to prove a point, become rich, powerful and popular, or punish the wicked. It is all too easy to look at the life of Christ in these terms because of our human tendencies to want to be rich, famous or powerful. In doing so, the Gospels become a biography among many other great people who did great things.

However, that is not why God became man; He became man to save us from the darkness of sin and the punishment of death. When we profess this truth, we allow Christ to reorient our lives. No longer is He just another great person to listen to or admire; He becomes the Light and Life of our lives.

Whatever you have faced this year, from the joyous occasions to suffering and sadness, I pray that you will entrust them to Christ at Christmas. May the Light and Life you receive be the gifts you share with your family and loved ones this year.

I trust in God. I trust in His Word. Merry Christmas!

With a heart full of gratitude for your faithfulness, I am,  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

**Eucharistic Liturgies** are celebrated on Sundays at 9:00 am. Weekday Mass is at 8:30 am in church, T & F; at St. Sebastian, 8:30 am, M.

For an **Infant’s Baptism**, contact the parish office during the prenatal time to begin preparation.

Those discerning a call to **Marriage** should contact the parish office at least six months prior to the wedding date.

For **Non-Infant Baptisms, First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation** and **Information about the Catholic Church**, call the parish office.

**Confessions/Reconciliation** –Schedule with Fr. Peter Patrick at 445-5115 for an appointment.

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