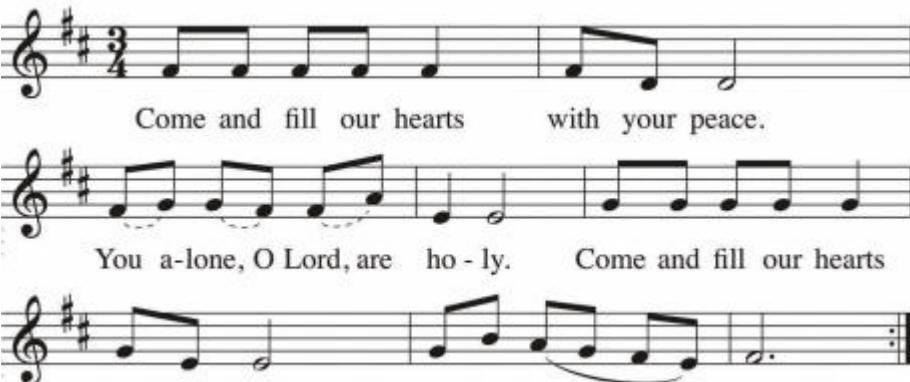




Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering Song



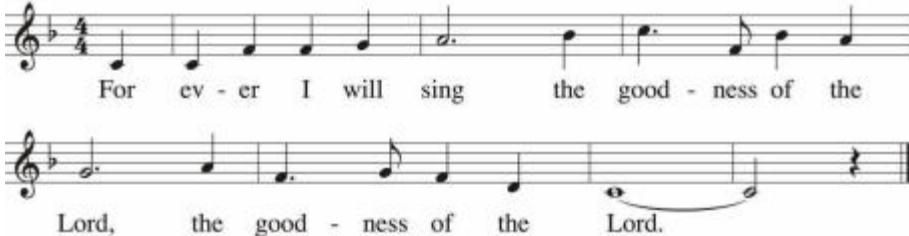
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly. Come and fill our hearts
with your peace, Al - le - lu ia!

Penitential Act Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Response: Psalm 89



For ev - er I will sing the good - ness of the
Lord, the good - ness of the Lord.

Reading II: Romans 16.25-27



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
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.*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

December 20, 2020

Parish Life

Weekly Schedule

More "Blah, Blah, Blah" from Msgr. Mark

viewed the festivities of Christmas (the eating, the drinking, the music) as excesses of the Evil One. [Just the sort of stuff that caused them to break away from the Catholic Church at the time of the Reformation.]

The Puritans of New England, for example, insisted that shops stay open on Christmas, ordered that work go on as usual, and banned holiday sweets. The US Congress actually remained in session on December 25th until 1851 ... and Christmas was a school day in Boston until the 1880's. It was with the waves of Lutheran and Catholic immigrants in the 19th century that Christmas (as we know it) became "legal" again. Some wags might suggest that Americans have gone from one extreme (banning Christmas) to the other (suffocating it with tinsel, fancy foods, and giving gifts to those who already have too much). There is a happy median, of course. The Christian feast of the Incarnation and the economic juggernaut of "the Holidays" need not be at war. But the right balance doesn't happen without some forethought.

And speaking of forethought ... it is Monday the 14th as I type this (early, due to the demands of those who print our bulletins). Christmas Eve is still ten days off. Now a lot can happen in that time but let me say that, so far, I am **very pleased** with how "adult" you all are being in steering through the complications of Christmas in 2020. Living with a 25% seating limitation at our Masses is a challenge, but we hoped that adding extra liturgies in our two churches would increase the number of you who could safely gather, and it seems to be working. You are spreading yourselves rather evenly among our six Christmas Eve celebrations, so as of today there are still at least room for a few households at each Mass. If your tribe is slow to plan for worship, there is even more seats available on Christmas morning at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. Just saying!

And as we count down the last days of Advent, some wise words by Dorothy Day on what it is, once again, we are celebrating:

"It is no use saying that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts. But now it is with the voice of our contemporaries that He speaks, with the eyes of store clerks, faculty workers, and children that He gazes; with the hands of office workers, slum dwellers, and suburban housewives that He gives. It is with the feet of soldiers and tramps that He walks, and with the heart of anyone in need that He longs for shelter. And giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ."

We can do now what those who knew Him in the days of His flesh did. I am sure that the shepherds did not adore and then go away to leave Mary and her Child in the stable, but somehow found them room, even though what they had to offer might have been primitive enough. ... In Christ's human life, there were always a few who made up for the neglect of the crowd. The shepherds did it; their hurrying to the crib atoned for the people who would flee from the Christ. The wise men did it; their journey across the world made up for those who refused to stir one hand's breadth from the routine of their lives to go to Christ. ... We can do it too, exactly as they did. We are not born too late. We do it by seeing Christ and serving Christ in friends and strangers, in everyone we come in contact with."

Msgr. Mark

The history of Christmas in America has always been a little controversial. The first Europeans who settled on these shores were soberly Protestant, and

Monday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius

5:30pm Mass +Fern Esselman at CR
6:00pm Reconciliation at CR

Tuesday, December 22

12:10pm Mass: Special Intention for the Safe Distribution of the COVID 19 Vaccine at CR
3:00pm Reconciliation at SM
5:30pm Rosary and Novena at CR
6:00pm Reconciliation at SM

Wednesday, December 23

St. John of Kanty

12:10pm Mass for the Deceased Members of the Lella Family at CR

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

2:00pm Mass +Bill Egging at SM
2:00pm Mass for the People of the Eastside Parishes at CR
4:00pm Mass +Angie Kurek at SM
4:00pm Mass +Leo Sobkowiak at CR
6:00pm Mass +Ralph Murkowski at SM
8:00pm Mass +Michelle "Mickey" Anderson at CR

The Nativity of the Lord

Friday, December 25

8:30am Mass +Jude Martell at CR
10:30am Mass the Deceased Members of the Anklam, Reich and Wenzel Families at SM

NOTE: The rosary will be said beginning at 11:35 am before the Daily Masses. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will follow Mass.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 26

3:00pm Confessions at SM
4:00pm Mass +Chet and Margaret Kwarciany at SM

Sunday, December 27, 2020

7:30am Confessions at CR
8:30am Mass +Steve Medvecz at CR
10:30am Mass for the People of the Eastside Parishes at SM

CR - Church of the Resurrection • **SM** - St. Michael Church

Scripture Readings for this Week

can be found at:

<https://bible.usccb.org>

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715.845.6715 • www.eastsideparishes.org

Office Hours: 8:00 am—noon Tuesday thru Friday

St. Michael Parish

611 Stark Street • Wausau, WI 54403

715.842.4283 • www.eastsideparishes.org

Office Hours: 8 am-4 pm Mon. - Thurs., until noon on Friday

Next Sunday Reflection Material

3

Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 27

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19;
Luke 2:22-40

When Luke narrates how Mary and Joseph present the baby Jesus in the Temple, he does so in a way that shows that the Holy Family is not simply carrying out a family custom, but the very Scriptures of Israel. Luke introduces the visit by quoting Exodus 13:2, 12, which refers to the ritual redeeming of the first born—the obligation of every Jewish household since God spared the first-born of Israel in Egypt. But he also highlights that God is doing something new here when Simeon sings that this child will be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles” (and not only God’s people Israel). *How will Luke go on to show that Jesus turned out to be even more than Israel expected?*



There will be Masses for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Day, But remember it's not a Holy Day of Obligation

While its origins lie as the end of the original eight-day Roman Christmas celebration, January 1 is also the Feast of Mary, Mother of God on the Church's calendar. With “Life Under COVID” the Bishop has lifted the obligation to attend, of course, but there will be two opportunities for worship, at:

5:00 pm on December 31 at St. Michael Parish and 9:00 am on January 1 at Church of the Resurrection.

Registration will not be required for these Masses, though the usual protocols for weekday Masses (signing in, wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing) will be expected. Do come and enter the New Year under the sign of God's power and mercy.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Office hours during the weeks of Christmas

With the schools on break and many of our parish programs taking a breather, the parish staff will also be taking some of the next week to celebrate and rest. The offices will be “officially” closed on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve [starting at noon] and completely on Christmas Day, December 25, and New Year’s Day, January 1, but for the first week of Christmas (Monday the 28th—Thursday the 31st) there will be someone in the parish offices only for part of each day. You would do well to call ahead (715-842-4283) to make sure the one you are wanting to visit is “in.”



St. Michael Parish extend their sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Rosalie Schultz**, who died on December 22, 2020.

Remaining Opportunities for Advent Confession

Between us and our sentimental celebrations of Christmas stands John the Baptist, giving the seasonal warning that there is no honest way to the joy and peace we really seek without internal renewal. It is from that bit of perennial wisdom that the practice of an Advent celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation springs. Our answer to a COVID Advent is to offer many, many opportunities for you to celebrate the sacrament. In addition to our usual occasions each weekend (4:00 pm on Saturdays at St. Michael; 7:30 am on Sundays at Resurrection Church) there are three remaining scheduled times available:

Monday the 21st—6:00 pm at Resurrection
Tuesday the 22nd—3:00 pm and 6:00 pm at St. Michael Parish
Tuesday the 22nd—6:00 pm at St. Michael Parish

If none of these times works, you can also call Fr. Joe or Fr. Mark at 715-842-4283 for an appointment.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas under COVID — Reservations are required to attend Mass

Who'd have imagined, when all this started back in March, that this is where we would be. Worship is key to a believers' Christmas ... but we also want you all to be safe. Precautions about touch, the wearing of masks, and continued concern over social distancing all remain in place. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on this great Holy Day also still stands. The most important decision about attending Christmas worship is yours to make. But to make “social distanced seats” more available, we are increasing the number of liturgies from five to eight.

Christmas Eve @ 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm at both Resurrection and St. Michael Churches

Christmas Eve @ 6:00 pm at St. Michael Parish

Christmas Eve @ 8:00 pm at Resurrection Parish

Christmas Morning at 8:30 am at Resurrection Parish and 10:30 am St. Michael.

Reservations will be a must. Access the website at eastsideparishes.org/east/ (until 4:00pm on December 23) or call 715-842-4283 (by noon on December 24) and tell us the time, the place, and how many will be attending. As liturgy times “fill up,” we hope you will be flexible enough to attend another liturgy at an available time. This will not be a time just to assume we will have space.

Financial Giving December 13, 2020

St. Michael Parish

Adult Envelopes/Offertory	\$5,125.50
Electronic Contributions	\$0.00
Weekly Total	\$5,125.50
Fiscal Year-to-date Contributions	\$246,876.94



Church of the Resurrection

Adult Envelopes/Offertory	\$7,392.00
Electronic Contributions	\$0.00
Weekly Total	\$7,392.00
Fiscal Year-to-date Contributions	\$264,291.81

"We Believe" Giving

December 13, 2020

"We Believe" cash contributions this week.....	\$1,685.00
"We Believe" electronic contributions this week	\$0.00
"We Believe" weekly total.....	\$1,685.00

Total "We Believe" pledges (including friends' match)...\$1,281,987.43
(not counting St. Ambrose Financial Services matching interest forgiveness)

Total "We Believe" cash contributions to date..... \$937,699.87



Year-End Contributions for 2020

Parish Contributions must be received in the parish office by midnight on December 31, 2020, to be included on your 2020 contribution statement. The offices will close at noon on December 31.

Diocesan Annual Appeal Contributions should be in the mail by December 23, 2019, to allow delivery and processing time to be included as a deduction on your 2020 taxes.

Please remember all of our homebound and hospitalized parishioners from Resurrection and St. Michael Parishes in your prayers this week.

St. Michael Votive Candles Burn in Memory of:

- Tom Vick
- Nick Platta

To Touch is to Heal, To Heal is to Touch,

December, 2020

Advent brings us time to connect with God as our center. Days are getting shorter, giving us time to be fully present each day.

The current newsletter for the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh has a reflection from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. that I want to share for the Advent/Christmas season.

Patient Trust

Above all trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that is made by passing through some stages of instability.... and that it may take a long time.

And so I think it is you; your ideas mature gradually – let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what is new spirit gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in surprise and incomplete.

Excerpts from Hearts on Fire

HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON.

Stay safe and well,
Pam Frary, RN




**Pat
Esselman**
Parishioner

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Gospel: Luke 1.26-28

Profession of Faith: Nicene Creed — see sidebar on front

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of Gifts and Altar [sung at recorded liturgy only]

1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah! The world in si - lence
2. O come, De-sired of na - tions, Whom priest and proph - et

waits the day When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And
long fore-told. Come break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re -

sad - ness flee a - way. deem the long - lost fold. Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to

earth. Dis-pel the night and show your face, And bid us
hail the dawn of grace. O come, Di - vine Mes -

si - ah! The world in si - lence waits the day When
hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.



Preface Dialogue

Eucharistic Acclamations — see sidebar

Song After the Reception of Communion

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

EUCARISTIC ACCLAMATION

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lord God of hosts.

**Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he,

**blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.**

MYSTERY OF FAITH

**When we eat this Bread
and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again,
until you come again.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will
be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us;
and lead us not
into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

*Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil...
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

**For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are
yours, now and forever.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who
takes away the sins of the world. Blessed
are those called to the supper
of the Lamb.*

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter
under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul
shall be healed.**