

St. John the Baptist

St. Joseph

St. Patrick

THE TRI-PARISH BULLETIN

December 25th & 26th, 2021



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New Members

Always welcome to our parishes.
Please call the office to register.

Baptism

Parents and/or those expecting
in the near future may request
Baptism for their child by call-
ing the office to begin prepara-
tions.

Marriage

Please call the parish office at
least six months prior to the
anticipated date.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

If you are homebound and wish
to receive Holy Communion,
please contact the office.

Confessions

Saturdays 3 pm to 3:40 pm at
Kendall or call Fr. John for an
appointment.



Monday December 27th
9 a.m. Jim Meckstroth & Children **K**

Wednesday December 29th
9 a.m. Ron Ennis **E**

Wednesday Dec 29th (Elroy Nursing home)
11 a.m. Thornsen & Cassidy families

Thursday December 30th
8 a.m. Alan & Joan Manson **K**

Saturday January 1st 2022 **K**
Confessions **3- 3:40 p.m.**
4:00 p.m. Jan & Doug Path family

Sunday January 2nd 2022 **E**
9:00 am Norman & Rosemary Lunde

11:00 am All Parishioner of EKW **W**

Readings *Week*

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

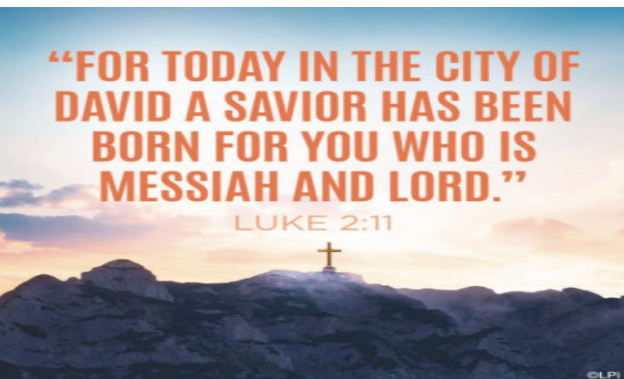
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1



Reflections on the Gospel

December 25, 2021 The Nativity of the Lord

“He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188).” The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God’s intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart. Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God’s beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. Accepting the truth of God’s birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.

	12/05/21	K	E	W		
Adults	\$	1,640.00	\$	1,381.00	\$	605.00
Children			\$	5.00	\$	3.00
Offertory	\$	77.00	\$	90.00	\$	24.00
TOTAL	\$	1,717.00	\$	1,476.00	\$	632.00



Reflections on the Gospel

December 26, 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe. In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness. Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

ST. PATRICK

St. Patrick's is looking still looking for 1 more new council members, effective January 1st. The first meeting will be March 24th and every 3rd month thereafter. The cemetery council is in need of a new member also. They are looking for someone to take over Sue Johnson's position as treasurer.

ST. JOHN

Our next PCCW meeting will be at Sherry Doyle's on January 3rd, 6 PM.

ST. JOSEPH

There are only 4 unscheduled masses left for St. Joseph. Please contact the office you would like a mass said.

Tri-Parish Prayer List - We pray for the sick and those who have asked for our prayers, especially Randy Steinbrink (Hotdog) Rob Moyer, Ralph Gosselin, Jeannie Klipstein, Gary Von Ruden, Bennett Brock, Deb Pohlman, Micheal Richie Shannah Juliot, David Gorman, Bev Cousineau, Carla Von Haden, Margaret Leis, Patti Vlasak, Ray Schmidt, Jim Lu8nde, Madelyn Novachek, Kay Larson, Don Schreier, Jim Meckstroth, Patty Behan, Avery Brueggen, Katie Wallace, Those serving in the Military and Folks in Nursing Homes. If requesting prayer for someone else, please ask permission first in order to respect their privacy.

Stewardship Ties There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption — or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person. We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus. Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their "blood." A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I've heard it called a "gotcha day," and it's marked joyously, like a birthday. Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God's Chosen People. But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too. And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children. But in this family, instead of blood ties, we have stewardship ties. It's not about who we look like, it's about how we treat one another. How we take care of one another. So this Christmas, let's think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus' birthday, it's also our "gotcha day" — the day we received the gift of eternal family.

St. Thomas Becket | Feast Day December 29 Not many saints can be relatable to our times, but St. Thomas Becket (December 21, 1118 – December 29, 1170) is one of the few. King Henry II, a good friend, made him chancellor of England at the age of 36. Then, despite St. Thomas Becket warning the king that he would not blindly follow his wishes, he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. Soon after, King Henry insisted upon seizing Church rights. In the name of peace, St. Thomas Becket came close to a compromise, and momentarily approved the Constitutions of Clarendon, which would have denied the clergy the right of trial by a Church court. But he later rejected this, and for his safety fled to France where he remained in exile for seven years. Although returning to England meant almost certain death, St. Thomas Becket came back. According to historical accounts, King Henry implored, "Who will free me from this troublesome priest!" St. Thomas Becket was later murdered by four knights in his Canterbury Cathedral as he was praying. For his part in the murder, King Henry performed public penance after St. Thomas Becket's canonization.



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