ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent-December 19, 2021

4 *Unday* OF ADVENT

4030 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, MN 55122 651-454-2079 - www.sjn.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We call each other to a prayerful sacramental life of loving Jesus Christ by serving others through generosity, worship, formation, and justice.

<u>Saturday,</u> December 18

Masses: 8:00 am & 5:00 pm

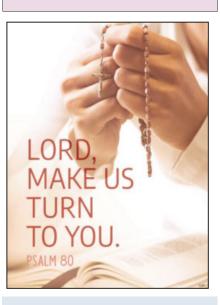
<u>Sunday,</u> December 19

Masses: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, Noon, and 5:30 pm

The 10:00 am Mass is streamed live and recorded.

Daily Mass at Noon Monday through Friday (streamed live and recorded)

<u>Beginning January 4</u> Additional Daily Masses: Tues. & Thurs. at 7:30 am Wed. at 5:30 pm (Noon Mass will still be offered Monday through Friday.)



Christmas Schedule inside

4th Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021

First Reading (Mi 5:1-4a)

Thus says the LORD:
You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;
whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.
Therefore the Lord will give them up,
until the time when she who is to give birth has borne,
and the rest of his kindred shall return
to the children of Israel.
He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock
by the strength of the LORD,
in the majestic name of the LORD, his God;
and they shall remain, for now his greatness
shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

Second Reading (Heb 10:5-10)

Brothers and sisters:
When Christ came into the world, he said:
"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight.
Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"
First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in."
These are offered according to the law.
Then he says, :Behold, I come to do your will."
He takes away the first to establish the second.
By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel (Lk 1:39-45)

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what

was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The 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.

From the Desk of Fr. Josh

Happy 4th Sunday of Advent. We are so very close to Christmas day. This Sunday's gospel we hear the story of the Visitation, that great meeting of four people: Mary, her cousin Elizabeth, John the Baptist, and Jesus. It is the second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary that has always struck me as wonderfully joyful, specifically, because of the communion that would have been shared by these two pregnant women.

The two women come together with great anticipation of the birth of their children. Filled with the Holy Spirit, John the Baptist exalts with joy in Elizabeth's womb, leading Elizabeth to exclaim that great proclamation we recite in the Hail Mary. "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (Lk 1:42). This exclamation was for that moment and it is filled with great hope in the future. The source of this joy is the hidden Messiah.

Brothers and sisters, I invite you to remain in this joy of anticipation, the joy our Savior brings to Elizabeth, John the Baptist, and his mother Mary. As Pope Francis said in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, "No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord." The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that He is already there, waiting for us with open arms.

God bless, Fr. Josh

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 19:

(8 am) + Sandy D'Jock (10 am) + Tom Trepanier

Monday, December 20:

(Noon) + Mike Diloia

<u>Tuesday, December 21:</u>

(Noon) + Richard Okoneski, Jr.

Wednesday, December 22:

(Noon) + JoAnne Krueger

<u>Thursday, December 23:</u>

(Noon) + Arnold & Margaret Mehsikomer

Friday, December 24:

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 25:

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26:

(8 am) Thanksgiving: Gods Blessings (10 am) + Brian J. Koepnick

Week of Dec. 19

Eucharistic Adoration (Emmaus Chapel)

Monday: 12:30-8:30 pm Tuesday thru Thursday: 12:30-4:30 pm

Confessions

(Emmaus Chapel) <u>Tuesdays</u>: 6:15-6:45 pm

Wednesdays: 11:30 am-Noon

No Confessions Sat. Dec. 25

Front Desk Hours

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Readings: Week of December 19

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45 **Monday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/ Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/ Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/ Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: *Morning*: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/ Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/ Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/ Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Next 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

For all Parishioners

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24 Masses: 3:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 9:00 pm



Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25 Masses: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Seating in the Emmaus Chapel and Social Hall will be six feet apart to allow for physical distancing. Masks are encouraged throughout the building for all Christmas Masses, and will be required **ONLY in the Emmaus Chapel** for those needing additional precautions for any reason.

(No 5:00 pm Mass)

Feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sunday, December 26 Masses: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, Noon and 5:30 pm

Mary, the Mother of God

Saturday, January 1 (Not a Holy Day of Obligation) Mass at 9:00 am

Many volunteers needed!

Help decorate the Main Church and Gathering Space. **Thursday**, **December 23 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.** Come anytime. Questions: Thomas.Dzurik@sjn.org



Parish Pastoral Council Bylaws/Constitution

Amendments have been made to the Constitution and Bylaws. These amendments are being posted for 21 days for public viewing on our website, **www.sjn.org** (Menu/ About/Committees/Parish Pastoral Council) and at St. John Neumann on the bulletin board in the hallway. Comments/Questions contact Theresa.kraus@sjn.org

Volunteers Meeded!

We are still in need of lectors and sacristans for our Weekend and Daily Masses. Please email: liturgy@sjn.org to get involved! It is a wonderful service opportunity during Advent and beyond.

SJN Women's Saturday Morning Coffee January 8, Facing 2022 Fearless

Being fearful is very human. Join us to discuss how our invitation into Christ's divinity can help us to overcome our everyday fears. God provides the gifts of the Holy Spirit to bolster our confidence – we will review those virtues and share our experiences. Social at 8:30 am with presentation at 9:00 am (*Optional: Mass at 8:00 am*)

Worship

Eucharistic Adoration

"O Come, Let Us Adore Him!"

This is the season of celebrating the Incarnation when Jesus took on flesh and blood. Just as the shepherds adored Jesus, we can adore His real presence as He left us His flesh and blood in the Eucharist. Let us resolve in this new year to spend some time adoring our Emmanuel, God with us, at Eucharistic Adoration.

Please note the changes in the upcoming weeks: Friday, Christmas Eve-No Eucharistic Adoration hours. Monday, December 27-Mass at Noon, no Eucharistic Adoration hours. Tuesday through Friday, (Dec. 28 - 31)-Normal Eucharistic Adoration hours. (12:30 to 4:30 pm) Monday, January 3-Mass at Noon, No Eucharistic Adoration hours. Tuesday, January 4-Normal Eucharistic Adoration hours resume.



Pastoral Care



Thank you to all of the SJN Nursery and Preschool children who lovingly created homemade Christmas cards to be distributed to our senior living facilities and homebound parishioners. This message of love and hope from our faith community will brighten Christmas for many. December bulletin board topic is: Your Mental Health During the Busy Holiday Season. Check it out! Board is located in the hallway between the Chapel and Main Church.

Holiday Host Etiquette

If you're inviting someone to your home and they're grieving, be sure you're inviting their grief to attend, too. It will be there, anyway.

- Don't invite someone with the goal of cheering them up for the holidays. Invite them with the loving intention of offering cheer, companionship, and unconditional care during the holidays.
- Acknowledge their grief when you make the invitation.
- Giving them an invite without the need for commitment and permission to change their mind is extra loving.
- Your grieving friends and family need attentive care and responsiveness at the holidays, not plans to keep them busy, distracted, and happy while at your home.
- If they're laughing, laugh with them.
- If they're weeping, ask if they'd like your company or your help finding a quiet place to be alone.

If they're laughing while weeping, and this is more common than you'd think, stay with them. This is a precious moment of the human experience that is truly sacred.

We don't need to protect ourselves or each other from grief at the holidays. In fact, the more we embrace grief as an honored holiday guest, the more healthy, happy, and whole our holidays will be.

-Adapted from Sarah Nannen – Center for Grief and Growth

Discipleship

Throughout this Advent season we have been preparing for the arrival of the Christ child, and, hopefully, we also have been preparing spiritually for our own answers and responses to the questions and calling of God. In the midst of our joy and celebration at this holy time, we must bear in mind that we are called and chosen.

As we complete our preparations for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, we need to consider Mary's total trust in God and her willingness to place her entire life at His service, and ours. If we can be even a fraction of the disciple she was, we will be ready for Christ's coming. Are we prepared to say, "Yes?" Are we prepared to give of ourselves in ways that serve others, that show our love for our neighbor, that capture that "spirit of Christmas?"

Justice & Charity

The **Loaves & Fishes** program serves the hungry and homeless at the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul. The program cooks and serves dinner and breakfast at the same location. Cooking volunteers need to be 16 years or older and serving volunteers need to be 14 years or older.

Help is needed for:

Friday, December 24: cook dinner, 2:00-4:00 pm and serve dinner, 4:00-6:00 pm

Saturday, December 25: cook breakfast, 7:00-8:30 am and serve breakfast, 8:30-10:00 am



Please go to www.sjn.org under Menu, Ministries, Justice & Charity, then Loaves and Fishes. <u>Sign-up at https://tinyurl.com/54c7c8yz</u>

Save The Date

All are invited to participate in the JustFaith program. JustFaith 3rd Racial Module: *Redirecting Systems and Structures and Catholic Social Teachings: Challenges and Directions* will begin Thursday, January 27. Stay tuned...more details coming soon.

COVID 19 Update from Fr. Tony

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are all well as we journey deeper into the season of Advent.

We are constantly monitoring and prayerfully discerning the situation in regards to Covid-19. We desire health and safety for our parishioners as much as we do a place to worship and grow in holiness. In light of that we are:

- Encouraging masks throughout the building.
- Continuing to use the Social Hall as a dedicated space for those wanting to worship in a space where masks and distancing are required.
- Please continue to wash hands and use our sanitizer stations throughout the building.
- If you have symptoms, please stay home.
- We continue to recommend that parishioners, staff, and guests in the Main Church wear a mask if they have an underlying health condition. We are also asking our Eucharistic Ministers to wear a mask while distributing Communion.
- Masks are encouraged throughout the building for all Christmas Masses.
- For Christmas seating in the Social Hall masks are encouraged. Seats/rows will be spaced 6-feet apart to allow for social distancing.
- For Christmas seating in the Emmaus Chapel masks are required. Seats/ rows will be spaced 6-feet apart to allow for social distancing.

As always, we ask that the Gospel message of love and charity be at the heart of all we do and say.

God Bless, Fr. Tony O'Neill

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. - Jn 16:33

Financial Information

Year End Contributions: All donations you want reflected on your 2021 Contribution Statement must be postmarked and/or received in the SJN office no later than Friday, December 31, 2021. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you for your support!

This edition of the Bulletin went to press before the financial report was available. For questions, please call Lori Sanborn at 651-454-2079. Thank you.

Meet Our Staff

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