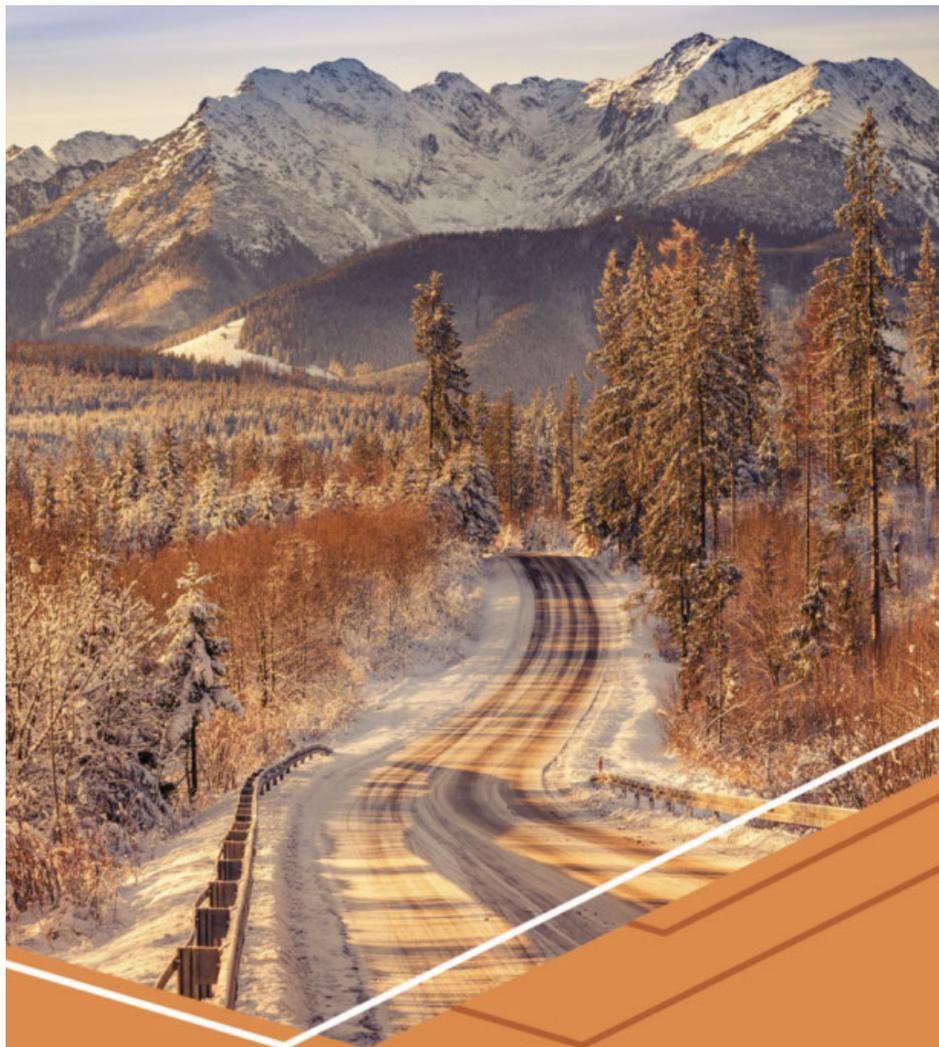




Church of ST. PATRICK

Mission Statement

Saint Patrick's Church welcomes all into our community of Catholic faith and worship. We celebrate the Word of God, proclaim His Word by our daily actions, foster hope, and commit to justice in service to others.



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

- Lk 3:5-6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

3535 72nd Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
Phone: 651-455-6624
Fax: 651-455-8984
www.churchofstpatrick.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5PM. Sunday 8 & 10:30AM

Weekday Masses

See Page 5.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

The 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM
Mass or by appointment.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4 to 4:30PM or by appointment.

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, 8:30AM to 6PM.

Infant Baptism Preparation

A preparation class is required. Please
contact the Parish Office.

Baptisms

The 3rd Sunday at the Masses or by
appointment. Dates for Baptism may be set
after you have attended instruction. We
encourage you to attend instruction before the
birth of your child.

New Parishioner Registration

Is available during office hours Monday thru
Friday OR on-line: www.churchofstpatrick.com.

Marriages

Contact the Parish Office a minimum of
six months prior to the wedding date.

Office Hours

8:30AM-4:30PM ~ Monday-Thursday
8:30AM-Noon ~ Friday

Bulletin Notices

Submit in writing at the Parish Office or to
bulletin@churchofstpatrick.com by noon on
Monday. Occasionally deadlines vary due to
holiday schedules. Please contact the parish
office with questions.

** Notary services available upon request.

December 5, 2021 ✠ 2nd Sunday in Advent

A Time to Reflect-The Advent Season

Life can be so busy for families and individuals during the four weeks of Advent. There are the added activities even in this time of COVID. As parents, we often have special events that our children/teens perform in during the Advent season that we do not want to miss. Then there is the preparation: the decorating of our homes; the gift buying; the wrapping and shipping of gifts; the food shopping and meal preparation. Often, within all that distraction we forget to take time to pause and reflect on how the chaos of this season takes away from what the meaning of the Advent season was meant to be.



Since you are paused for a moment reading the bulletin, let's reflect on what moments we should try to incorporate for ourselves and our families this Advent season. First of all, let's take some time to ponder and reflect quietly on the Holy Family.

We don't know much from Scripture about Jesus' life as a child, but we do know that the Holy Family's home in Nazareth was a place where Jesus learned about scripture, interacted with his earthly father Joseph and kept the traditional Jewish values. It was a sanctuary in many ways especially after the Holy Family had to flee to Egypt to keep Jesus safe after his birth. Jesus's childhood was a time of formation and preparation for what God had called him to do. This time was so important for Jesus that it represents thirty of his thirty-three years on earth. When was the last time you took the time to pray with someone in your family or just reflect quietly for yourself? Time moves quickly especially when our children are young. This Advent take some time to read scripture together as a family. The gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth. Perhaps read a couple of chapters a night before your evening meal or bedtime. Adults can take the time to reread the events just before and after Jesus' birth. Reflect quickly on the miracles that surround the birth of our Savior.

In Luke's Gospel, we are introduced to how Mary reflected on what God wanted her to do with a "pondering heart." She didn't know how to explain the events unfolding in her life, so she trusted in God and considered these things in the silence of her heart (Luke 1:28; 2:19, 51). The world we live in has changed drastically over the course of these last 22 months. We often don't have answers for what is taking place in our rapidly changing world. But if we ponder these questions and lift them up to God in prayer, although we may not receive answers, we have the comfort of knowing that God has a plan greater than our ability to understand.

Building a home, relationship or parish community begins with our ability to step outside of our own needs and share our love and commitment with others. Parents are called to be the first examples of self-giving. Our lives should be ordered in being connected to our God and others. Mary understood this. Consider how she dropped everything and traveled to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Even though she was pregnant herself, Mary willingly went and served the needs of her elderly cousin (Luke 1:39-56).

St. Joseph is an example of self-giving as well, when he accepted Mary as his wife and the realization that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. He accepted God's will in leading his family out of danger into Egypt. They were refugees fleeing from a corrupt king who was slaughtering innocent babies. As people of faith we too should be willing to drop whatever we are doing to take the time to reflect on the birth of our Savior. It is not easy making a commitment to take time to pray, give to others in small acts of kindness and come to Mass to celebrate the season of Advent within our community but your efforts will have lasting results for years to come.

When you take the time to put your faith and the faith of your family first before the tasks that often encompass this season, you will help yourself and others have a much more lasting effect than the presents under the tree. **YOU CONTEMPLATE THE POWER OF THE MIRACLE OF GOD COMING TO EARTH.** You will be helping grow the kingdom on Earth that Jesus brought when he was born and the peace that comes from having and building a relationship with our Lord and Savior.

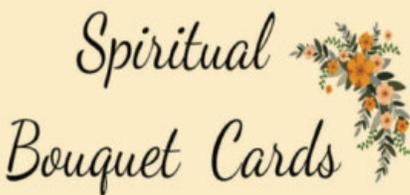
Teresa Neuman, Director of Faith Formation

A BIG THANK YOU-Thank you to all the parishioners who shopped the St. Nicholas Craft Fair. The vendors/crafters reported great sales. Thanks for supporting Faith Formation ministries.

6th Graders to help with the ministries at the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 12th: Mark your calendars to attend this Mass and support our 6th grade Faith Formation Learners as they lector and perform the hospitality ministries at this Mass.

Come and Join Us: Are you interested in helping to form and devise faith formation activities within our parish? We have whole community catechesis which means we approach teaching the faith to all age levels. We need parishioners with insight, passion, who are not afraid to share their opinions, gifts and talents. **Come visit the Faith Formation commission to see if it is a good fit for you: to become active and having a voice and share your opinions concerning faith formation in this parish. For more information contact our chairperson, Kathy Bredy at kbredy@comcast.net.**

Advent Resources: Advent resources are in the Gathering Space. A free will offering is appreciated.



Spiritual Bouquet Cards for Christmas: Spiritual bouquet cards are an opportunity for you to remember your loved ones (living or deceased) at the Christmas Masses. Your intention card(s) will be placed on the altar for all Masses. There is a greeting card that can be mailed to your loved ones. Suggested stipend is \$5 per card. If you are interested in a card(s), please visit the parish office, or see Father Brian during Advent. Supplies are limited!

Christmas

Question: With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Answer: Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready. ©LPi

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again. We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor.

We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

St. Patrick's Parish Team

Phone	651-455-6624
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Website	www.churchofstpatrick.com
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Facebook	@StPatsIGH
Twitter	@StPatrickIGH
Instagram	stpatrickigh

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Trustee contact: Contact the parish office

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Brian Spiewak, Parish Trustee

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kthompson@churchofstpatrick.com



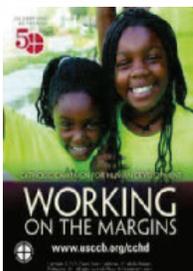
Since July 1, 2021: 514 out of 964 registered households have contributed.
99 Family Envelopes & 100 Electronic deposits for November 28, 2021

Weekly envelope collection:	\$6,170	Weekly operation cost:	\$17,116
Electronic giving:	\$8,186	Weekly operations shortfall:	-\$2,244
Plate giving:	\$502	Weekly needed for loan principal:	\$3,660
Youth collection:	\$14	Total weekly shortfall:	-\$5,904
Total for the week:	\$14,872		

Please consider making a charitable gift to the Church of St. Patrick in your will or trust. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW? People age 72 and older who have a traditional IRA must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year. Did you know that if part of the RMD is contributed directly to a charity, like the Church of St. Patrick, it would be tax free? This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Interested? Please check with your financial planner.

2021 CONTRIBUTIONS: All contributions for 2021 need to be in the office by 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 31, 2021 or post marked by December 31, 2021, to be able to enter and get credit for the tax year 2021. Thank you for your generosity.



Catholic Campaign for Human Development:

Thank you for your generous support for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. As a parish we collected \$1,296 to support those on the margins who live in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to Give" under "Resources."



Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 PM
The Inver Hills Community Band will put you in the Christmas spirit with a very entertaining program of Christmas/Holiday favorites.



GUIDING STAR WAKOTA GRAND REOPENING

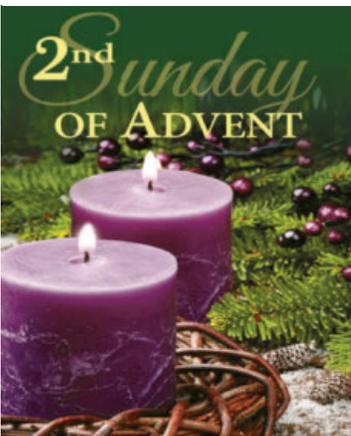
Saturday December 11, 2021
10AM – 2PM
1140 Robert Street S, West St. Paul
* Ribbon Cutting at 10AM
* Tours of building
* Drawings
* Visit from Santa

Upcoming at St. Pat's

Sunday	December 5
9:00AM	Faith Formation, Emerald Hall
11:00AM	RCIA, Office
4:00PM	Inver Hills Band Concert, Church
7:00PM	Men's Club Meeting, Family Room
Monday	December 6
7:00PM	Hand Bells, Church
Wednesday	December 8
4:30PM	Faith Formation, Emerald Hall
6:30PM	Faith Formation, Emerald Hall
Thursday	December 9
12:30PM	Ugly Quilts, Rooms 46-49
Sunday	December 12
9:00AM	Faith Formation, Emerald Hall
11:00AM	RCIA, Office

As we move into the Advent and Christmas season, COVID precautions are still in place. Steps are being taken at each Mass to keep those who visit St. Patrick's safe while attending Mass. The health and safety of our parishioners, visitors and staff remains a top priority. For those attending Mass and events at the parish, you are encouraged to wear a mask and social distance. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping St. Patrick's a safe place to worship.

Invitation to Serve for Liturgical Ministers: Sign up to serve at the Wednesday, December 8 Masses for the Immaculate Conception at 9AM and 7PM. Sign up via Ministry Scheduler Pro or the sign-up sheet on the doors of the usher's closet in the Gathering Space.



Bounty Fund: Donations of gasoline and grocery gift cards are being accepted in the office. Please label them "Bounty Fund" and drop them in the office drop box or the drop box by door 1. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please contact the parish office.

FOOD SHELF NEEDS (Neighbors Inc.)

- **Canned Meat**
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Tuna
- **Hygiene products**
- **Canned Fruits**
- Toothpaste/Mouthwash
- Fruit Juice
- Jelly
- Soups with Meat
- **Tuna-Chicken-Hamburger Helper**
- Paper Bags
- Non-sugared Cereal
- Tomato Products
- Granola Bars
- Canned Vegetables

Mass Intentions

Saturday (12/4) St. John Damascene
5:00PM 0 Chase Jacobson
Sunday (12/5) 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:00AM † Betty Reynolds
10:30AM † Anna Yurchisin
Tuesday (12/7) St. Ambrose
6:30PM † Louis & Alvene Briguet
Wednesday (12/8) Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00AM † Christian Seidl
7:00PM † Charlotte Hansen
Thursday (12/9) St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin
8:00AM 0 Don LaCroix
Friday (12/10)
8:00AM † Bernadine Haag
Saturday (12/11)
5:00PM † Eugene Stoffel
Sunday (12/12) 3rd Sunday of Advent
8:00AM † Ed Gorski
10:30AM † Joe Beaubien
0 - Living † - Deceased
Rosary is prayed Monday-Friday at 7:30AM

Scripture/Communion Services:

Timber Hills: 10AM Every Wednesday

Additional Mass Times & Intentions:

Good Samaritan (12/8), 3PM: 0 Archbishop Hebda
Woodlyn Heights (12/9), 10:30AM: 0 Pope Francis
Timber Hills (12/10), 10AM: 0 The Stoffel Family

Readings:

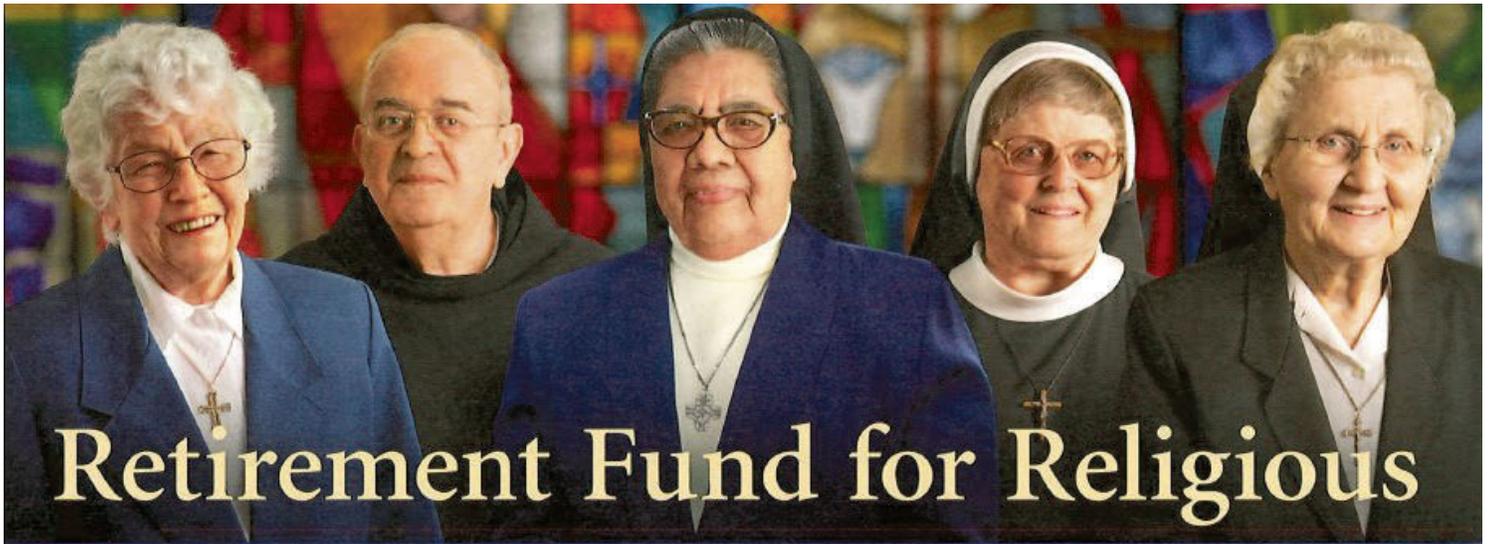
for the week of December 5 ©Liturgical Publications

Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Please Remember in Prayer:

Charlie Barnum, Carol Brundieck
Evelyn Novotny, Barb Scheuble

Psalm 31:2 "In you, LORD, I take refuge."



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From Catholic schools and hospitals—to parishes, retreat centers, and works of mercy—elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have prayerfully served our Church and world. Most ministered for little pay. Now, without enough retirement savings, many religious communities are struggling to care for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medicine, and other necessities. Please be generous.

retiredreligious.org

*Top row, from left: Sr. Ursula Marie George, OSU, 95; Fr. Edmund Smith, OSB, 83; Sr. Emilia Irene Lara, MGSps, 89; Sr. Theresa Hathaway, SSMO, 88; Sr. Elizabeth Sohler, SSMO, 89.
Bottom row, from left: Br. James Bartos, OSB, 79; Sr. Mary Hope Doudard, SSCJ, 87; Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB, 84; Sr. Catarina Santa Cruz, SSCJ, 88; Sr. Mary Guadalupe Jumarang, OSF, 75.*

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

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20200401

2021
18th Annual

Sounds of Christmas

**Inver Hills
Community Band**
Vicki Kueppers,
Vocalist

Sunday, December 5

4:00 PM

Church of St. Patrick

3535 E. 72nd St.

Inver Grove Heights

White Christmas
Sing We Now of Christmas
Parade of the Wooden Soldiers
We Need A Little Christmas
What Child Is This?
Latin Bell Carol
Fum, Fum, Fum
And other holiday selections.



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