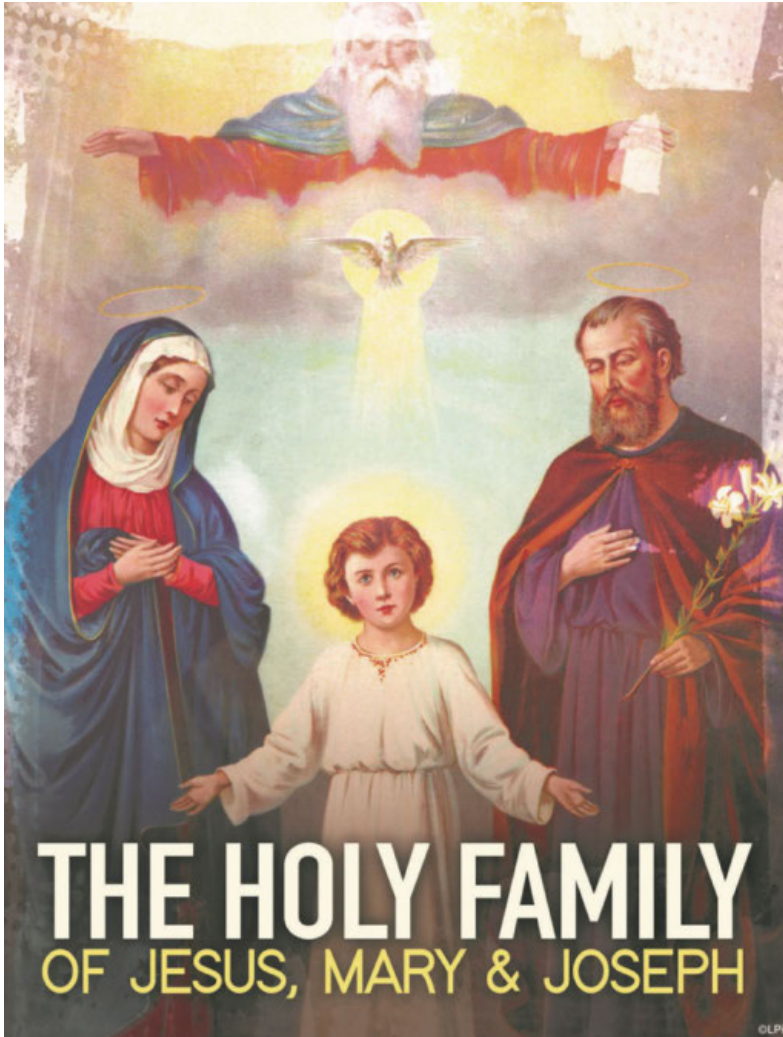




Church of St. Rita

CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

8694 80TH STREET SOUTH, COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016 | PHONE: 651-459-4596 | WWW.SAINTRITAS.ORG



Weekend Liturgies
 Saturday 5:00 pm
 Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 am

PARISH STAFF

PastorFr. Mark Joppa
 Deacons.....Steve Koop and Jack Nicklay
 Business Administrator Rory Gilbert
 Safe Environment Coordinator.....Rory Gilbert

Pastoral Associates:

Elementary Faith Formation.....Kathy Kovarik
 Youth Ministry and Faith Formation
 Youth Ministry Assistant.....Oliva Keen
 Music Director Adam Baus
 Pastoral Care Jack Nicklay

Support Staff:

Office Manager.....Cindy Mitchell
 Director of Maintenance Todd Salmonson
 Faith Formation Assistant Carol Goecke

MINISTRIES, CHAIRS & CONTACTS

Parish Trustees Rose Svitak and Bob Schultz
 Parish Council Chair Lori Beasley
 Finance Council Chair Bob Schultz
 Adult Formation/Bible Study Marylee Stabenow
 Mission Outreach/Sister Parish Mary Hilgers
 Pro Life Committee Nini Nelson
 AdorationJane Korf
 St. Rita’s Women’s Council.....Cathy Schmit
 Sun. Night Prayer GroupTim Murray
 Knights of Columbus. Bill Yunker
 Garden Committee.....Rosanne Hauptert & Cathy Mitchell
 Liturgical Environment Committee.....Nancy Reckinger
and Phyllis Bries
 Ladies Craft Ministries..... Karen Callinan
 Donut Sunday..... Sharron Hoffman
 Community MealJack Nicklay
 Bread Basket.....Karen Callinan
 Parish Nurse Mary Fran Koch

THE HOLY FAMILY—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

PSALM:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

SECOND READING:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

GOSPEL:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday:	The Holy Family
Monday:	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Tuesday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Friday:	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Saturday:	New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace
Next Sunday:	The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church



Advent Mass Schedule

Dec. 31, New Years Eve
5:00 pm

Jan. 1, New Years Day
The Holy Mother of God
9:00 am

Sunday's Anticipatory Mass
Jan. 1 at 5:00 pm

Jan. 2, The Epiphany of the Lord
8:30 am & 10:30 am



Merry Christmas!

My unofficial theme for Advent has been to renew our desire for our true homeland: heaven. Obviously, it is also a time for us to renew our desire for God. This is the Christ event.

We have gathered at holy Mass to celebrate Jesus Christ. He enters into our world to draw us into His Presence. Take a risk and open your hearts wide to receive the love Jesus has for you. The Christian Scriptures speak over and over about the fulfillment of these promises in Jesus Christ. The Gospel of *Matthew* ends with Jesus telling us: "Know that I am with you always until the end of time."

We are drawn into His Presence, like Shepherds, and are drawn away from all that rejects His Presence. We are separated from the emptiness of a world that rejects God. We are called to holiness; for to be holy is to be separate for the Lord.

And so we greet one another today and this holy season by saying "Merry Christmas." Be merry; celebrate the birth of the Lord. Be joyful, not just because a baby was born 2,000 years ago, (it's a boy!) but because God has entered into our world to draw us into His Presence, and we have been chosen by the Son of God to be holy.

God is good, *Fr. Mark Joppa*



St. Rita's 1st Heritage Fair held Sunday Dec. 8th was a huge success! Thank you to all our fellow parishioners who shared their heritage, their culture and their ethnic foods with all of us. We learned about their cultures, enjoyed food tasting and cultural dance. Thank you, we can't wait to do it again!



Your staff at St. Rita's wishes you a very blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year!
Parish office will be closed Jan 3rd.

THANK YOU! The Respect Life Group is thankful for all the amazing bakers who donated such wonderful Christmas cookies and their time and talent in support of the annual Christmas Cookie sale. Thank you to the generous parishioners who supported the sale by purchasing cookies. The cookie sale resulted in a donation of over \$1100 to Woodbury Options for Women. The cookies that were not sold were donated to *Hope for the Journey Home*. Thank you fellow parishioners, for being part of a culture of Life!

In an effort to keep our records up to date, please let us know if you have switched to your cell phone number as your main contact number. Thank you

Deaths



For those who have died we pray

Richard, brother of Elaine Glime
 Greg, brother of Tony Yaroch
 Norman, husband of Helen Schreiner

May they rest in you Lord

Prayer Requests



Pray for the sick of our parish

Bernie Rieman

Heal them with your touch Lord

Welcome



You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism

Margot Audrey Blau
 Ruby Edith Blau

And marked as Christ's own forever.

Charitable contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered. One exception is a check that is mailed to the church – it is deductible in the year the check is postmarked, even if it is received early in the next year. If we receive a check in the mail in the first week of January 2022 that is enclosed in an envelope postmarked in December, we will include that contribution in the donor's 2021 contribution statement. Any checks received in the January 1st collection or postmarked in 2022 (even if the check is dated in December) will be included in your 2022 contribution statement.



Hello, my name is Dan Hingst. I am going to be working on updating the service member prayer board. I served in the United State Army Reserves for 21 years and deployed twice to Southwest Asia. I understand the importance of prayer for those serving both at home and overseas as well as how helpful those prayers are when serving. I will be reaching out to the contact person for each service member currently on the board to get updated information and photos. If you know of someone currently serving and would like to add their photo to the board please contact me at dthingst@gmail.com or 651-283-5846. Through our prayers and the intercession of Saint Michael may those serving feel the grace of God guiding them to successfully complete their mission. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks - Dan

Word of God - DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, Dec 26	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98;1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3a)	Hebrews 1:1-6	John 1:1-18
MON., DEC 27 FEAST OF ST. JOHN	TUES., DEC 28	WED., DEC 29	THURS., DEC 30	FRI., DEC 31
1 John 1:1-4	1 John 1:5-2:2	1 John 2:3-11	1 John 2:12-17	1 John 2:18-21
John 20:1a, 2-8	Matthew 2:13-18	Luke 2:22-35	Luke 2:36-40	John 1:1-18
SAT., JAN 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD				
				Numbers 6:22-27
				Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
Sunday, Jan 2	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13	Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6	Matthew 2:1-12

Church of St. Rita
 8694 80th Street South
 Cottage Grove, Minnesota 55016

Parish Telephone..... 651-459-4596
 Fax 651-459-5364
 Web Site: www.saintritas.org
 Email..... stritas@saintritas.org
 Parish Council Contact.....ParishCouncil@saintritas.org.

Follow St. Rita's on Social Media:
 Facebook.com/saintritaschurch
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Office Hours
Monday through Thursday 8:00—4:30 pm
Friday 8:00 AM to Noon
The Parish Office is closed on weekends.

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays - 8:30am to 5:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4:00pm, or call the Parish Office for appt.

Baptism

Baptisms are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at noon. Baptism preparation class is held on 1st Tuesday of each month. Attendance at baptism preparation class is required before scheduling a baptism date. Call as soon as possible to register for baptism preparation class.

RCIA

Contact Deacon Jack Nicklay at 651-459-4596

Marriage

Call the Parish Office to inquire. Please allow six months for marriage preparation.

Home visits

If you are homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion or have a confession heard, or would like a visit from Fr. Mark, please call the parish office at 651-459-4596.

Hospitalization

We would love to visit you if you are hospitalized. Please have a family member contact us. Confidentiality laws do not allow hospitals to notify churches.

Parish Registration

You may register at the Parish Office during office hours. Forms are also available on our web site.

Anyone wishing to serve as a volunteer in any parish event or function, who may come in contact with youth or vulnerable adults, must first complete the "Essential Three" components required by the Archdiocese: Virtus training, a background check, and a signed code of conduct. Call the parish office for more information.

Victim Assistance Hotline: 651-291-4497

If you or anyone you know has been the victim of abuse by clergy or any employee of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, your first call should be to local law enforcement authorities. Then please call the number above to report the abuse.

Mass Intentions for week of Dec. 26

Sunday, Dec 26

The Parish
 Gerald Thielen †

Tuesday, Dec 28

Souls in Purgatory †

Wednesday, Dec 29

Jacob Stanton Hanson †

Thursday, Dec 30

Fred Pahl †

Friday, Dec 31

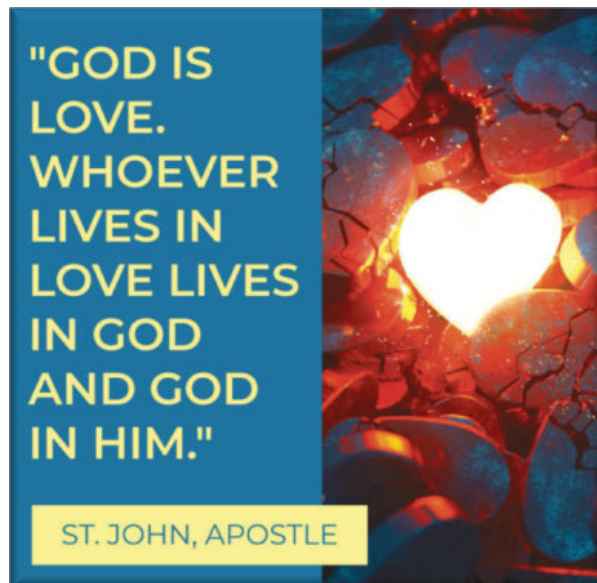
Larry Cahill †

Saturday, Jan 1

The Parish †

Sunday, Jan 2

Melissa Mitchell
 All Grandparents



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Financial Giving

Year to Date as of 11/30/2021

***YTD Actual will be updated on a monthly basis.**

Actual 2021-22 YTD.....\$331,567.50
 Budget 2021-22 YTD.....(\$328,775.00)
 Difference.....\$2792.50

MORTGAGE UPDATE

Balance as of 12/1/2021 \$689,828.17
 Monthly Payment \$5,695.92

MASS TIMES

Tuesday	5:00 pm Mass
Wednesday	8:30 am
Thursday	Communion Service 8 am Adoration 8:30 am—5:00 pm followed by 5:00 pm Mass
Friday	8:30 am Mass
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	8:30 am & 10:30 am

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