



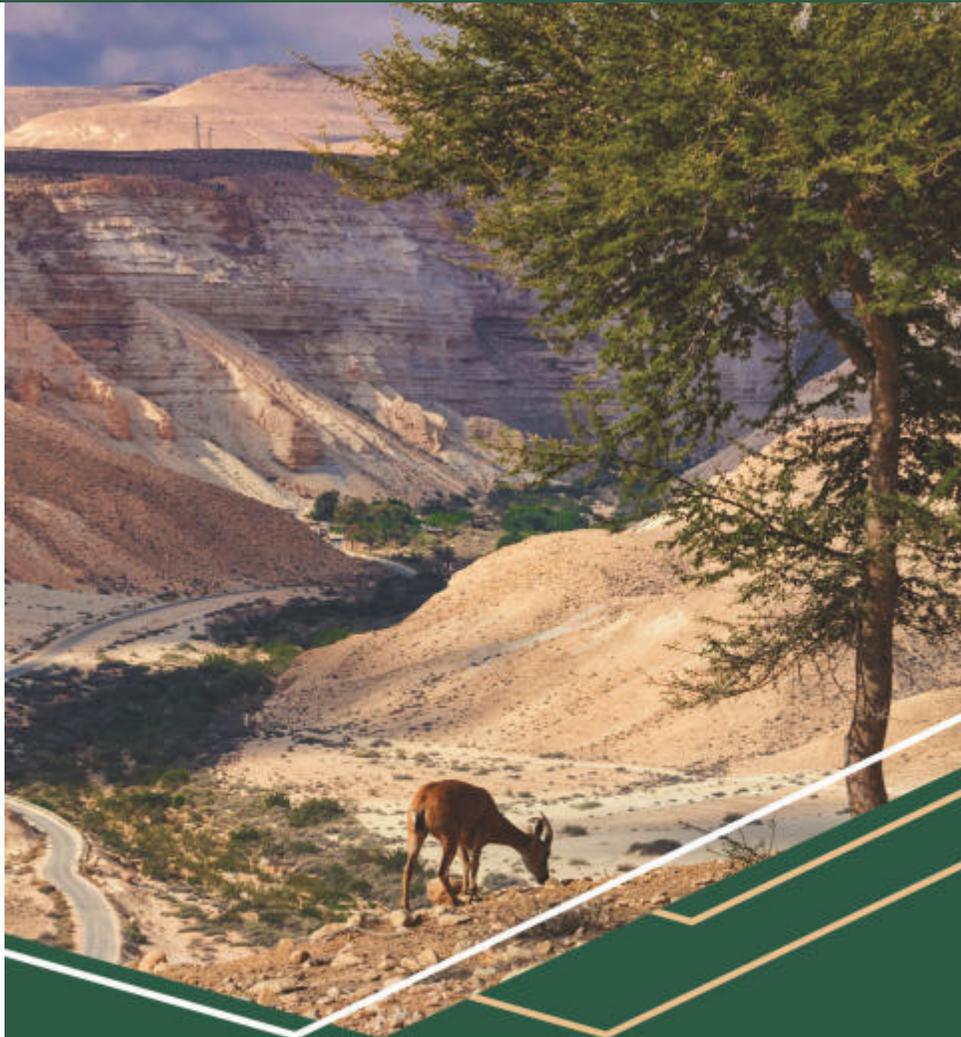
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF  
**Saint Thomas Becket**

**A Welcoming Spirit-led  
Catholic Community  
where each is called**

to *love*,  
to *serve* and  
to *be hope*

"Your Spiritual home,  
where each is called by name."

**Sunday, November 29, 2020**



**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when  
the time will come." - Mk 13:33

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

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Fr. Mike Erlander

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**CONTACT US :**

**4455 South Robert Trail  
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Phone: (651) 683-9808

Fax: (651) 683-0361

parish@stbeagan.org

**VISIT US:**

**Parish Office Hours:**

Monday and Wed 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tue and Th 9:00 am - 7:30 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Lord's Day Masses: All Are Welcome**

See website for current information.

**ONLINE:**

**www.stbeagan.org**

Bulletin & Calendar

Like Us on FACEBOOK

**CONFESSIONS:**

Call parish office for appointment

# Welcome!

a Catholic Community Where ALL are Welcome.

**To New Parishioners:** If you do not have a church home, we would be honored to have you as part of our parish family. Registration Forms are available at the New Parishioner Welcome Kiosk in the Commons, and online or call our Office at (651) 683-9808 , and we will help you out.

**Baptism:** All parents (must be parishioners) are asked to attend a baptism preparation meeting prior to the baptism of their child. Please register online; if you have questions call the parish office at (651) 683-9808.

Next baptism preparation meeting is Monday, December 7 at 6:15 p.m.

**Marriage:** Registered parishioners should contact the Office at least eight months prior to requested date.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Available to anyone who is seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call Parish Office at (651) 683-9808 .

**Faithful Shepherd Catholic School and Tri-Parish Center:** [www.fscsmn.org](http://www.fscsmn.org) or call 651-406-4747

## Readings

Week of November 29, 2020

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37  
 Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22  
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/ Lk 10:21-24  
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/ Mt 15:29-37  
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/ Mt 7:21, 24-27  
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31  
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

## Prayers for the Sick

**Please hold these parishioners in your prayers:**

Janet Higgins	Mary Cloutier
Judy Schmidt	Peter DePover
Dale O'Brien	Lisa LaFrance

*If you have someone you would like added to our confidential Prayer Line call Cathy at 651-344-3350.*

## Offerings

<b>OUR OFFERINGS LAST WEEK: (11/3 - 11/9)</b>			
	Online		3,215.00
	In Person/mail		16,006.00
	Simplified Giving (automatic transfers)		<u>10,381.00</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>29,602.00</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE: (10/31/20)</b>			
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	
	Operating Revenue	\$ 368,822	\$ 397,500
	Operating Expenses	<u>420,457</u>	<u>428,754</u>
	Net Income (loss)	\$ (51,635)	(31,254)

## Everyday Stewardship

### In the Unexpected

“What could happen next?” How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don’t seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, “God with us.” He is the expected in all things unexpected.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



## Advent 2020 A Sense of Place

On Thanksgiving weekend when many of us cannot go to other places to celebrate the holiday with the people we love, the holy season of Advent begins. This year we are unable to celebrate the season and our customs in the same ways as we have done before. However, we are preparing some ways in which our sense of place in our church and in our homes may ground us in the love of God, help us to serve family, friends and strangers and open our hearts to hope for the future and spread it to others.

In our worship the Advent Candles will not be in the pews because there are so few people to make up the wreath. They will be in lanterns at the altar that will light our way to a sense of place called Church.

We will still have an empty manger, but cannot fill it at church. Here are some things you can begin to do now to more fully experience the Sense of Place which is church, home and your inner being.

### MANGER:

Make a manger at home in a craft project or using any container, like a bowl or box which is meaningful to you. See below for an idea.

### ADVENT WREATH:

Make an Advent Wreath and light it when we light the Advent Candles at the video Mass. These wreaths are limited only by four candles and your imagination. Some helpful websites: <https://mariebostwick.com/diy-advent-wreath/> or <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/98657048058774629>.

Begin thinking about a special item that you have that is meaningful to you. Something that brings you joy, peace, hope, evokes a good memory. That gives you that sense of place in your life. Bring it to Mass on the Feast of Christ the King or have it with you that weekend when you watch the on-line Mass. We will bless those objects at that Mass and use them for contemplation during Advent.

## Christmas Light display at STB

During this season of craziness are you looking for something to look forward to? St. Thomas Becket is joining several area churches to create Christmas light displays. On Sunday, December 13th from 5-7pm, the community can drive through the parking lots to see displays of Christmas Hope and Joy.

There are several ways parishioners can help:

Please let us know if you have Christmas light displays to loan for a day or two, which could be set up Saturday December 12 or Sunday December 13. We would like to focus on a grouping of religious themed displays and have a separate grouping of secular displays.

Let us know if you would be interested in creating a light display (on your own or with a group), perhaps a giant star, outlines of the three wise men, etc.

We would like to hang lights on trees in front of the church and by our entrance sign, which can happen once we have purchased lights. Let us know if you have experience hanging lights on trees or if you would just be willing to help with this. Contact Kristin from STB's Fun and Fellowship Council at [kmatlon@outlook.com](mailto:kmatlon@outlook.com) to donate, volunteer or ask questions.

## Stewardship Message

Prayers should be the key in the morning and the light at night.

## A Digital Advent Calendar

Sign up for this free digital Advent Calendar from Catholic Relief Services. You will find daily prayer to prepare for the coming of Christ and be reminded to pray for our displaced global family through Scripture, meaningful quotes and images of hope.

<https://tinyurl.com/yyzps4ok>

## Small Group Leaders Needed!

We are in need of about 10 more adult or confirmed teen small group leaders for Confirmation Year 1.

The students are mostly in grade 9; they will begin preparation this winter, break for the summer, and return in the fall for "Year 2."

We need leaders who can commit to seeing them through the entire process. The vision for the Confirmation program is, "A place where every young person is **Respected** as a child of God, **Supported** in developing a personal relationship with Christ, and **Challenged** by the Spirit to discover and share their unique gifts." If this sounds like something you want to be a part of, contact Dezs Sobiech at [dezs@stbeagan.org](mailto:dezs@stbeagan.org), or call the parish office. (Note: Classes this winter/spring will be either in person or online, depending on public health conditions. We hope to have everyone in person next fall.)

## Send us a recorded Greeting to post on the video Mass.

If you have seen our recorded Masses, you may have noticed some parishioners greeting us.

You can greet our community too!

This is what you need to record:

- 30 seconds max
- Introduce yourself or yourselves
- Greet all

You can email it to Monica Lopez at [monical@stbeagan.org](mailto:monical@stbeagan.org) or call us if you need help sending it.

FAITH FORMATION

**R. C. I. A.****AN INVITATION TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT  
HOW TO BECOME A  
CATHOLIC**

- Are you or a friend or loved one looking for a faith community which can nurture their growth in faith?
- Wondering about the role of God in your life, Jesus, Pope Francis, the Catholic Church today?
- Wanting to know more about the faith of someone you love?
- Thinking about being baptized? Already baptized but want to find out about becoming Catholic?
- Do you have a child seven years old or older who isn't baptized? Do you have a young person baptized in another tradition but seeking 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist & Confirmation in the Catholic Church?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which people ages 7 to 107 become Catholic Christians. But before making this decision we spend time exploring our own faith and the faith of this community. Then the process is tailored to the needs and background of the person.

If you have questions, call or email Jackie Graham (612-452-8775 or [jackieg@stbeagan.org](mailto:jackieg@stbeagan.org))

**Care notes**

Make sure that you look for it and take a Care Note or two home with you, we have many topics for you to choose from.

**Donate by Text**

Send a text with the dollar amount you'd like to donate to

**651-401-7814,**

and you'll be texted a secure link to follow where you can input your credit card information.

**Exploring Sunday scriptures?**

Are you interested in exploring the Sunday scripture readings with a small group of parishioners? A group of parishioners has been meeting via Zoom at 10:30-11:30 on Friday mornings to break open the Sunday readings. As we begin the new liturgical year with the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, it might be a good time to consider a new way to enhance your worship experience. If you are interested in joining us please contact Mary Lou Logsdon at [logsdon.marylou@gmail.com](mailto:logsdon.marylou@gmail.com). All are welcome.

**Parish Engagement Council****So what is the Parish Engagement Council (PEC) you ask?**

*The Parish Engagement Council helps parishioners use their unique God-given talents to the benefit of others within our walls and beyond. From welcoming new members, to helping connect parishioners with the multitude of ministry opportunities available, to celebrating our successes, the Engagement Council strives to assist all who seek to love, to serve, and to be hope.*

**The PEC is currently looking for new faces with fresh perspectives.**

This is essentially a "help wanted" plea to join a small but active and fun team. We assist all our STB ministries by building systems and creating tools to connect people and their gifts with ministry opportunities. If you have an interest or would like to learn more, please view the video describing our council (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAWbcf9-7fU>) and/or contact the PEC lead, Judy Urban (651.440-4148 or [judyurbansm@netscape.net](mailto:judyurbansm@netscape.net)).

Please consider joining us!

**Gospel Meditation**

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

©LPI



## STB's Christmas Sharing Tree

People served by the Neighbors Food Pantry in South St Paul and the Visitation Sisters of North Minneapolis will gratefully benefit from your kindness. This year, there **WILL NOT be a Giving Tree display of tags to pick up in the STB Commons.** Instead, please go to our website for the link and choose

the gift option you want to offer.

### Gift Card Giving - Holiday gas card \*CUB \*Aldi \*Target \*Walmart

Choosing to give a Gift Card is always a welcome gift because it gives the receiver freedom to choose what they really need or want most! The Visitation Sisters and Neighbors Food Pantry offers these cards to people in need all through the year.

All gifts are due back by 10:00 am on **Sunday, December 6th.**  
The church will be locked after the 9:00 am Mass.

Gifts will be distributed on December 6th.  
Due to restrictions there will be no group sorting and distributing.  
The committee will be doing that this year.



## Help Local Businesses

Please help the Eagan Knights support our local Seminarians while enjoying fabulous hand-made, sweet and savory strudel from Ruhland's Strudel Haus. The ultimate convenience food, strudels go from the freezer to the oven and in about 45 minutes you have Love on a Plate for your holiday meals. Strudels include chicken pot pie, Italian, Apple and Blueberry Lemon. Orders are due by Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and pickup will be at St. John Neumann on Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM Delivery is also available.

**Visit:** [eaganknights7604.com](http://eaganknights7604.com) to order. Proceeds will go towards supporting local seminarians. For questions contact [eaganknights@gmail.com](mailto:eaganknights@gmail.com)



## Kids corner

Read the Gospel & Color



### Sharing the Gospel

When you play on a baseball team, you learn how to pay attention. Your coach reminds you and your teammates to stay ready. You learn to watch the ball. Those are good lessons to learn, because Jesus wants you to pay attention, too. Keep your eyes and your mind on Jesus, so you're ready when he comes.

### Prayer

Jesus, help me to stay ready for you.

1st Sunday of Advent • Mark 13:33-37

## PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel.

WATCH  
READY  
TIME

COME  
MASTER  
EVENING

MIDNIGHT  
DAWN  
MORNING

U	W	A	T	H	O	W	Y	S	W	U
M	O	R	N	I	N	G	T	I	E	L
A	T	Y	U	T	K	U	A	G	V	P
S	U	N	H	A	Y	C	O	M	E	Y
T	I	M	E	W	I	H	P	A	N	D
E	C	B	W	U	E	W	I	E	I	A
R	E	A	D	Y	L	A	N	O	N	L
Y	H	O	A	E	I	T	E	H	G	E
S	A	R	W	L	S	C	P	Y	H	W
M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T	W	O	R
A	T	E	K	U	A	O	U	S	F	I

## MISSION

Play a quick game of baseball. Cheer for one another. End the game with a prayer that you will keep your eyes on Jesus.



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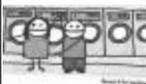
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