

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## Christmas Tradition

I once was at a dinner party and one of the topics of conversation was the traditions each of our families had in celebrating the Christmas holidays growing up, and what our traditions are today. Some of the traditions people described changed over the years while others stayed relatively the same.

Here is the tradition at the Beeson house, growing up in Fargo. I am the youngest of seven kids in my family. We drew names among us so we would not have to get a present for each sibling. But even with that, when Christmas Eve came, there was no way we could jam another present under the tree. For weeks the living room would be decorated with Christmas stuff, especially the mantel where the fireplace was. A nativity scene complete with the backdrop of Bethlehem in which Dad created to fit in one niche on the mantel, and a scene of a choir singing and Santa in his sleigh in the other niche. And Christmas cards that we would receive would line the front of the mantel. At 7:00 in the evening on Christmas Eve, the fire place would be roaring, and we would start opening presents taking our time opening each one individually for all to see. We eventually would finish about 9:30, time enough to have the hors d'oeuvres prepared ahead of time and play with our new presents. Some of the presents we would receive were new clothes, and we would put them on, and Dad would take us to Midnight mass. After mass we would come home and would have to go to bed immediately because Santa was coming to leave us our special present, the one we really wanted the most. There was never a time Santa ever failed us. Mom would go to the early Mass and then cook the great Christmas dinner which we would always have around noon. Christmas was generally a quiet day with the family.

Over the years, some of the details would change, but the pattern of our tradition would stay about the same: presents, Mass, and family. I would dare say that presents, church, and family is at the core of most people's Christmas. Those were the essential elements and it just would not be Christmas if one of those elements was missing. We would think it odd, and feel bad for the people who did not receive a Christmas present. Our sympathy and prayers would go out to those who do not have family or friends to be with on this great day that is supposed to fill us with joy.

But what about the other element: How do we feel about those who do not make it to church on this great day of our faith? After all, if it was not for Christ, there would be no Christmas and we would probably be at work not giving it a second thought. So, would we feel the same things that we would feel about the person who did not get a present or had no family or friends to spend the day with? I think it is very tempting for regular churchgoers to take on an attitude that is one of anger and scolding toward such a person. I think it is also very tempting for the not-so-regular churchgoers to have the attitude that says "so what; this is no big deal. The most important thing is to be with family and this church stuff is not for everybody." Quite frankly, I think both those attitudes do nobody any good.

This 'Church-stuff' is important. We gather together as the body of Christ, a great community of believers, a great big Christian family celebrating the greatest Christmas present we could ever receive, our savior Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. He is our great light in the times we walk in darkness, in the times we dwell in the land of gloom. He is the one they call Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. Jesus Christ is our greatest present we could ever receive, because in his vast dominion, we will live forever peaceful. As a Christian family, coming here to church is the best way we can express our faith and our love and our thanks for such a tremendous gift.

I must confess that I was one of those in my early adult life who thought I did not need the church, and left out that element of the traditional Christmas. I thought, "I am a good person and God knows I believe in him and that is good enough." On reflecting on those years, I found them to be the darkest of years, the emptiest of years; years that brought no depth to my being; years that I had no direction; years when I felt the least amount of peace.

So, on reflecting about the three essential elements of good Christmas tradition, presents, Mass, and family, it is truly a sad situation for a person not to receive a present or to be with family. But it is an even sadder situation that a person decides to miss out on truly experiencing the wonders of faith we celebrate right here in church. The great thing about coming here to church is that we can always count on the other two essential elements of Christmas to be here.

The gift of Jesus Christ in our life is a gift that keeps on giving. It was a light that we received on the very day we were baptized. When we come here every week to receive the gift of Christ, the light that we received burns that much brighter. In receiving the gift of Christ, we are better prepared to reject godless ways and worldly desires; we are better prepared to live temperately, justly, and devoutly.

When we keep the tradition of coming to Mass on Christmas, as well as every Sunday, the gifts of Christ and of faith help give us a sense of fulfillment, a sense of having depth, a sense of peace. It is then we cannot help but say, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." —TB

### **Fr. Terry's Weekly Appointments:**

**Monday:** Day Off 8AM Private Mass

**Tuesday:** 8:00 AM Mass (St. Pius)

**Wednesday:** 5:00 PM Mass (St. Joe's)

**Thursday:** 8:30 AM Mass (St. Joe's)

9:00 AM Holy Hour (St. Joe's)

**Friday:** 7:30 AM Confessions (St. Pius)

8:00 AM Mass (St. Pius)

**Saturday:** 8:00 AM Mass (St. Pius)

4:00 PM Mass (St. Pius)

6:00 PM Mass (St. Joe's)

**Sunday:** 8:30 AM Mass (St. Pius)

10:30 AM Mass (St. Joe's)

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## 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 2:1-12

## 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

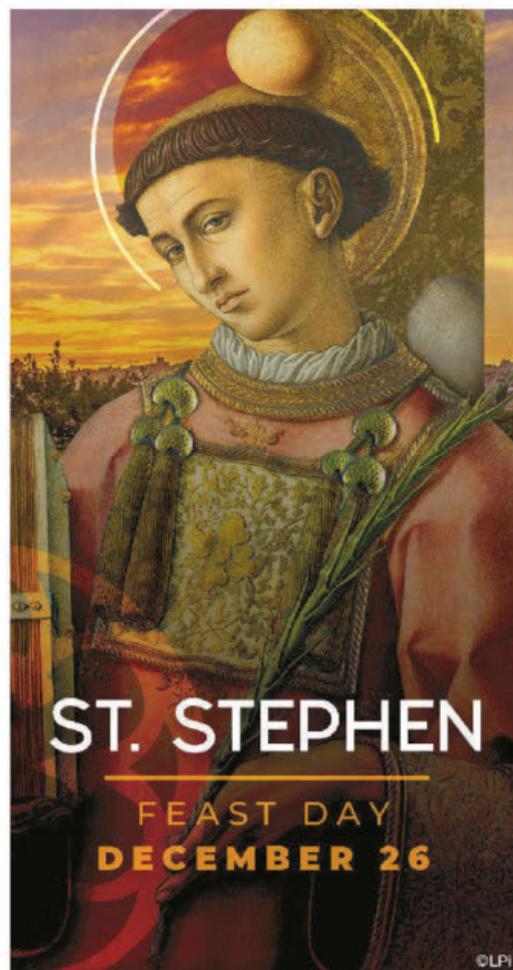
**Saturday:** New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace

**Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.



## ST. STEPHEN

FEAST DAY  
DECEMBER 26

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

# Saint Pius V Parish

Sunday, December 26

8:30 am Mass for Frank Landsberger†

Monday, December 27

8:00 am Private Mass

Tuesday, December 28

8:00 am Mass for Paul Wagner†

Wednesday, December 29

NO Faith Formation Classes

Thursday, December 30

Friday, December 31

7:30am Confessions

8:00 am Mass for Meyers Grandchildren

8:30 am-5:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, January 1

8:00 am Private Mass

3:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass for Bob Fox†

Sunday, January 2

8:30 am Mass for Jim & Paulette Conway's grandchildren



Wishing all a Merry Christmas from  
Fr. Terry, Patti, Cindy, Sue, Gery & Kati

## COLLECTION

Due to early deadlines, collections  
will be reported next week.

**Welcome to St. Pius V Catholic Church.**  
We are glad you decided to join us today! If you are  
interested in becoming a registered member of our  
parish family, call the Parish Office at 507-263-2578  
or visit the office weekdays 9:00 am -2:00 pm.

## PARISH STAFF

Parish Office 507-263-2578

Emergency # 651-229-5189

Pastor: Fr. Terry Beeson ext. 14  
[stogie928@hotmail.com](mailto:stogie928@hotmail.com)

Business Administrator: Patti Kocur  
ext 13 [spvparish@gmail.com](mailto:spvparish@gmail.com)

Youth Minister: Kati Moline  
ext. 10 [spvcfym@gmail.com](mailto:spvcfym@gmail.com)

Faith Formation and Technology Director:  
Cindy Meyers  
ext. 11 [spvcfyouth@gmail.com](mailto:spvcfyouth@gmail.com)

Music Director: Sue Franke-Clark

Building & Maintenance: Gery Peine  
Cemeterian Ed Gergen

Prayer Network: Call the parish office  
KC Webpage [www.kc4481.mnknights.org](http://www.kc4481.mnknights.org)



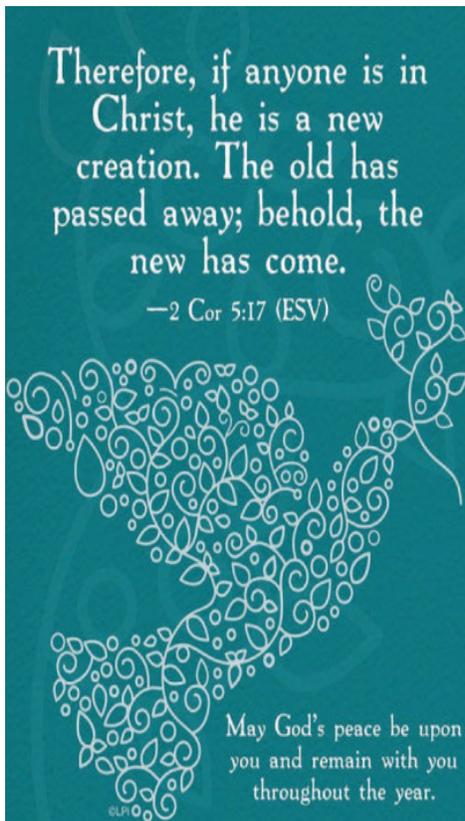
Our sincere sympathy to Lolly  
Denn in the loss of her son Brian  
who died December 15. May he  
rest in peace.

*We pray for all our departed brothers and  
sisters and those who mourn their loss.*

Thank you to Lundberg Funeral  
Home and our Knights of  
Columbus for the 2022 Religious  
calendars. Not sure what the  
delay was, but they are planning to  
have them here by this weekend.

*To all of you at St. Pius,  
We would like to thank-you for the use of  
your facility for our Thanksgiving  
Dinner! It was a wonderful day! We had  
many great volunteers to help make it a  
success and your generous gift of having  
the perfect space is so appreciated!  
Blessings to all of you and a Merry  
Christmas. Sincerely,*

*Cannon Valley Senior Center Board*



29—NO Class—Christmas break

## January

5—6:30 pm First Wednesday for  
Grades 6-12 (light food).

Class 7:00—8:30 pm (Great  
speaker is coming from  
Kentucky!)

*All adults are welcome to listen to Fr. Bob  
from 7-8 pm. He will then answer adult  
questions at 8 pm.*

Lessons will be done at home for  
Grades Pre-5.

**We welcome Fr. Bob Rottgers  
as a guest speaker for  
Youth in Grades 6-12, parents  
and all adults welcome.**

Fr. Bob Rottgers was raised  
Episcopalian, and his brother even  
went on to become an Episcopal  
priest. While still an Episcopal  
layman, Fr. Bob was married, and  
his wife, who struggled with  
chronic pain, began to become  
addicted to prescription and illegal  
drugs. This led him to seek spiritual  
help for his wife's addiction,

*See enclosed flyer for more information.  
Cindy & Matt met Fr. Bob at Catholic  
Heart Workcamp last year.*

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Friday, December 31 Homebound

CRSL: Gerry Miller

The Terrace: Gary Sigmeth

Other: Arlis Burr & Gerri Hoffman

Saturday, January 1 **4:00 pm**

Lector Marge Krause

Eucharistic Ministers Volunteers

Ushers Volunteers

Servers Volunteers

Sacristan Rosemary Pirrung

Sunday, January 2 **8:30 am**

Lector Volunteer

Eucharistic Ministers Jean Mercier

Ushers Volunteers

Servers Volunteers

Sacristan Mike & Geri Growette

Live Stream Volunteer



## Faith Formation

December

29—No class (all grades)

January

5—5:30-6 pm Community Supper

6:00-7:30 pm Family Formation

(K-5 students & parents)

12—6-7 pm: Class-1st Reconciliation

7:15-8:30 pm: Class (Gr 6-10)

15—9-11:30 am: 1st Reconciliation

Retreat (student & parent attend)

16—Rite of Enrollment @ 10:30 am

Mass Confirmation students/sponsors



An afternoon and evening of Christmas festivities were enjoyed by all who attended. The tea was beautifully presented, served and enjoyed while listening to wonderful Christmas music.

The nativity took place in our new Rosary Garden, with the children's program and youth of our parish participating along with both choirs. Warm drinks, food and cookies were served afterwards. A special thank you to all that helped and took part in the day.



Wishing all a Merry Christmas from  
Fr. Terry, Patti, Cathy,  
Matt, Mike & Heidi

# Saint Joseph Parish



Our sincere sympathy to the family of Robert "Bob" Fox, who died December 12. His Funeral Mass was Saturday, December 18. May he rest in peace.

### KC MEETING

The Knights of Columbus will meet Tuesday, January 4 at 7 pm. We have a number of items on the agenda as we jump into another calendar year. Please mark your brand new calendars!

### Dear St. Joseph's Church,

Christmas is a special time of year. And, as we celebrate the "greatest unplanned pregnancy ever told", we also celebrate the countless special mothers who have chosen life for their babies.

We're so blessed to be part of this joyous, yet difficult journey and we're grateful that you're part of our ministry team. On behalf of the center, we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas!

During this season of peace, joy and love, we greatly appreciate your participation in our life-saving mission. May God bless you abundantly!

Sincerely in Christ,

Andrea Kullmann, E.D.

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 1 6:00 pm

Lector Dan Maasman

Eucharistic Ministers Jeff Mace,

Jim & Kathy Anderson

Ushers Ken & Kathy Nelson

Server Colton Fischbach

Sunday, January 2 10:30 am

Lector Kevin Weber

Eucharistic Ministers Stacey Fischbach,

Mike Milliren & Rita Molitor

Ushers Paul & Joe Jenson

Server Joseph Howell

Sunday, December 26

7:15 am Confessions

8:00 am Extraordinary Form of the Mass  
for Mark Capesius†  
Confessions after Mass

10:30 am Mass for Joe & Florence Kocur†

Monday, December 27

Tuesday, December 28

Wednesday, December 29

5:00 pm Mass

Thursday, December 30

8:30 am Mass

9:00 am—10:00 am Holy Hour & Benediction

Friday, December 31

Saturday, January 1

9:00 am Extraordinary Form of the Mass  
for Mike Klimek & Family

5:30 -5:45 pm Confessions

6:00 pm Mass for Floyd Stordalen†

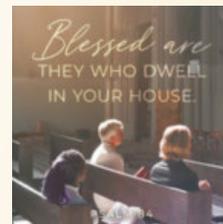
Sunday, January 2

7:15 am Confessions

8:00 am Extraordinary Form of the Mass  
for Richard Stark †

Confessions after Mass

10:30 am Mass for Emily Kramer†



### COLLECTION

Due to early deadlines, collections will be reported next week.

### Welcome to St. Joseph Catholic Church.

We are glad you decided to join us today! If you are interested in becoming a registered member of our parish family, call the Parish Office at 651-437-3526 or visit the office weekdays 9:00-1:00 pm.

### PARISH STAFF

Parish Office 651-437-3526

Emergency # 651-229-5189

Pastor: Fr. Terry Beeson ext. 11  
[stogie928@hotmail.com](mailto:stogie928@hotmail.com)

Extraordinary Form: Fr. Cassian DiRocco  
in residence at St. Agnes

Business Administrator: Patti Kocur  
ext. 10 [pkocur@stjosephmiesville.com](mailto:pkocur@stjosephmiesville.com)

Faith Formation Director: Cathy Roche  
ext. 13 [croche@stjosephmiesville.com](mailto:croche@stjosephmiesville.com)

Youth Ministry & Adult Formation

Matt Belford

ext. 16 [mbelford@stjosephmiesville.com](mailto:mbelford@stjosephmiesville.com)

Music Director: Heidi Mace  
[hmace@stjosephmiesville.com](mailto:hmace@stjosephmiesville.com)

Building & Maintenance Mike Otto  
Cemeterian: Rebecca Susag



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*If you know someone who would appreciate prayers for their health and wellness, please contact the parish office.*

**Report Abuse:** If you or someone you know has been sexually abused, your first call should be to law enforcement.  
 You may also seek direction from the Archdiocese's Victim Assistance Program at 651-291-4475.  
**St. Joseph's Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
 Cathy Roche, 651-437-3526 ext 13  
 croche@stjosephmiesville.com  
**St. Pius V Safe Environment Coordinators:**  
 Cindy Meyers, 507-263-2578 ext. 11  
 spvcfyouth@gmail.com  
 Mary Waldschmidt, 507-263-2578 ext. 10  
 spvparishoffice@gmail.com



*"An Advent Calendar" Christmas Program at St Pius V Church*

## First Saturday Devotion

Saturday, January 1

Because 1st Saturday is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we will not be able to gather as a group to offer reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. You are encouraged to offer the devotion individually this month:

- \* Go to confession (8 days before or after)
- \* Receive Holy Communion
- \* Pray the Rosary
- \* Meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary



All the above should be done with the intention of offering reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Looking for the perfect getaway?** Let God meet you at a beautiful retreat location in Lake Elmo, MN. Join us for a Men's Silent Retreat at the Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House **January 20 – January 23**. The retreat begins Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. Free will donations are accepted. For more information, call Bob Cardinal at (651) 398-1457 or check out the website <http://www.demontrevilleretreat.com>. Other retreat days are also available.

## Prayer Service for Life

Saturday, January 22, 10:30 am, Cathedral of Saint Paul

This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. All are invited and welcome. Saint John Paul II Champions for Life Awardees will be recognized during the prayer service. This event is sponsored by the Office of Marriage, Family and Life. For more information visit [archspm.org/prayer-service-life](http://archspm.org/prayer-service-life) or call 651.291.4488.

## Young Adult Winter Weekend January 7-9, North Shore

Join young adults from around the Twin Cities and beyond to connect in the relaxed atmosphere of Lutsen Mountains and Cascade Lodge. This 3-day winter getaway offers options to downhill ski, snowboard, cross country ski, snowshoe, or lounge at Cascade Lodge and Lutsen Mountains, on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Casual talks about our Catholic faith and the Theology of the Body will be inserted into our evenings and travel time in addition to Mass and Eucharistic Adoration for the group. Registration is \$250. Learn more and register for this weekend put on by Into the Deep at [idretreats.org](http://idretreats.org)

FOR A CHILD IS BORN TO US, A SON IS GIVEN TO US;  
UPON HIS SHOULDER DOMINION RESTS.  
THEY NAME HIM WONDER-COUNSELOR, GOD-HERO,  
FATHER-FOREVER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

Isiah 9:5

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