

December 26, 2021

The Holy Family

Welcome to our Five Star Area Catholic Community



St. Joseph, Clarissa - Christ the King, Browerville - St. Mary of Mount Carmel, Long Prairie - St. Joseph, Grey Eagle - St. John the Baptist, Swanville

Pastoral Staff



Fr. Mitchell Bechtold 320-247-4907
mlbechtold@outlook.com



Fr. Ron Dockendorf 320-290-4902
frron@sytekcom.com



Fr. Omar Guanchez 320-357-0815
oguanchez@stmaryslp.org



Deacon James Schulzetenberg 320-987-3200
jschulzetenberg@stmaryslp.org

St. Joseph, Grey Eagle & St. John's, Swanville

Monday, December 27

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJS** † Emma Jean Knopik

Tuesday, December 28

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Roman Hellerman

Wednesday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJS** † Norbert Dockendorf

Thursday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Carl Butler

Friday, December 31 Octave of Nativity of the Lord

4:30 p.m. Mass **SJGE** † Patty Seifert

Saturday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJS** Intention of Fr. Ron

Saturday, January 1

4:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Dean Ahrens

Sunday, January 2

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJS** For the People of Our Parishes

10:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** Corrine Sandeen Family Members

St. Mary of Mount Carmel, Long Prairie

Tuesday, December 28

7:00 p.m. Mass † Roger Katterhagen

Wednesday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Mass † Jerry Loegering

Thursday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Mass † Joe Huncha

Friday, December 31 Octave of Nativity of the Lord

5:00 p.m. Mass † Ervin Goblirsch

Saturday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary

9:00 a.m. Mass † Joe Huncha

Saturday, January 1

5:00 p.m. Mass † Emma Buhl

Sunday, January 2

8:00 a.m. Mass † People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Mass † LeRoy and Angie Colling

11:45 a.m. Mass Español † Bernardo Chavez

St. Joseph, Clarissa & Christ the King, Browerville

Tuesday, December 28

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJC** † James Kotula

Wednesday, December 29

11:00 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Tony and Olivia Pampy

Thursday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJC** † Bill and Gloria Christenson

10:30 CTCCC † George and Brad Brichacek

Friday, December 31

8:30 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Dale Buchta

Saturday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary

8:30 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Eva (Babe) Spsychalla

10:30 a.m. Mass **SJC** For the People of Our Parishes

Sunday, January 2

8:30 a.m. Mass **CTK** For the People of Our Parishes

10:30 a.m. Mass **SJC** † Richard and Josephine Sobotka



Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:45-47

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

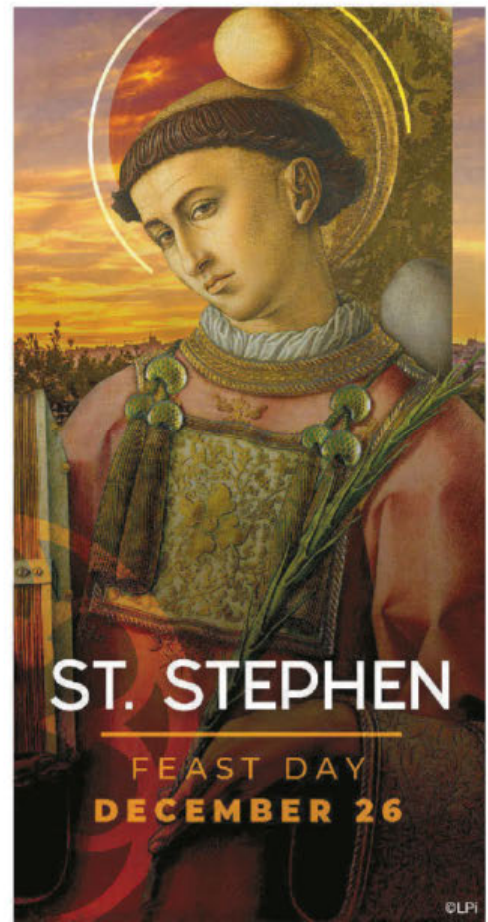
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

- 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.



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.



Five Star Area Catholic Community
Browerville - Grey Eagle - Clarissa - Long Prairie - Swanville

The Gospel of the Family—It seems fitting that the celebration of The Holy Family occurs immediately after the celebration of Christmas. Family life and Christmas are inseparable. The family is the primordial human institution, and the parish church is the family of families.

Is there anyone who doesn't have memories of early family life? Our parents and siblings are an integral part of who we are today. Family life is the first and foremost preparation of every vocation and it is most important to recognize this value of family life. Sometimes it may be as simple as gathering the family together to share a meal. After my dad died in 1985 all five brothers and two sisters decided that we should get together yearly. Ever since, we have a Mass said for my parents on the anniversary of their death and after Mass we share a meal together. We also plan an annual get-together with all siblings and spouses. That commitment towards one another has proven to be beneficial in building stronger family bonds with all my siblings.

The family of 1960's and 70's is not the family of today. Families are smaller, in part, now due to the growth of single-parent households and the drop in fertility. The family structure has changed, so has the role of mothers in the workplace and in the home. So many changes and in many ways, society doesn't support family life as it did in years past.

Because of the many changes (the way we minister to family life has also changed since the boomer years) there is an increasing need to be more intentional about new ways to minister to the evolving needs of family life.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us that, "The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church". The Church's ministry to and with families is of paramount importance. It is our prayer that families in our parishes will be renewed, fortified, and inspired by God's plan of love and life.

God Bless you and Your Family in 2022, *Deacon Jim*

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation

Catholic Church of Christ the King, Browerville
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions):
Saturday – 8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.
Sunday – 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.
By Appointment – Call Fr. Bechtold at 320-247-4907

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Wednesday – 9:50 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.
Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Saturday – 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. (w/ Confessions)

Catholic Church of Saint Joseph, Clarissa
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Catholic Church of Saint Joseph, Grey Eagle
To make an arrangement for Confession, please call Fr. Ron at 320-290-4902.

Catholic Church of Saint John the Baptist, Swanville
To make an arrangement for Confession, please call Fr. Ron at 320-290-4902.



Catholic Church of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel, Long Prairie
Sacrament of Reconciliation will be in the Cry Room:

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Thursday before & after 8:30 a.m. Mass
Saturday at 4:30 p.m.
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is in the Chapel.



**St. Joseph Catholic Church
of Grey Eagle**
118 Minnesota St., PO Box 366
Grey Eagle MN 56336
Websites: www.stjosephgreyeagle.org

Parish Office: 320-285-2545 sjoseph@meltel.net
Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. & Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Secretary/Bookkeeper: Mary Woeste
Faith Formation Coordinator: Carissa Bitz
sjosephff@meltel.net

Offering: December 11-12 Adults \$2353.00; Loose 734.00; Immaculate Conception \$287.05; Flower Collection \$210.00; Retired Religious \$105.00.
Total: \$3689.05
Attendance: Saturday – 129 and Sunday 97

Liturgical Ministers
SATURDAY, January 8th – 4:30 p.m.
Ushers: Mark and Sherry Larson
Servers: Nathan Wolbeck and Kylie Kraska
EM's: Jim and Linda Gohman; Mark and Sherry Larson
Lector: Michelle Wolbeck

SUNDAY, January 9th – 10:30 a.m.
Ushers: Ken Sinclair and Will Brown
Servers: Trey and Ruby Muellner
EM's: Ron and Doris Frericks; Joanne Pohlmann and Nancy Ritter
Lectors: Thom Muellner



Christmas Flowers: The following people donated towards the beautiful Christmas flowers decorating the church:

Mr. and Mrs. James Hall; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Grammond; Mary Lou Brinkman; Mr. and Mrs. Stan Mensen; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pallansch; Mr. and Mrs. James Pohlmann.

The following people donated them in memory of someone:

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gohman in memory of their parents; Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Ritter in memory of Don and Doraine Ritter, Bernard and Alma Frieler; Mr. and Mrs. James Toenyan in memory of Taylor Toenyan and Justin and Darlene Toenyan; Dorothy Blommel in memory of Jim Blommel and family; Helen Brake in memory of Sister Helen Ann, Joshua Brake, Jared Leyendecker and Tony Leyendecker; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Fischer in memory of Kenneth Revermann and Judith Fischer; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hellmann in memory of Innocent and Margaret Hellman, David and Betty Rohde, Ervin Towle and John Boecker; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Larson in memory of Larson and Vasecka Families; Natalie Prasch in memory of Mary Prasch, Raymond Prasch; Cathie ODonnell and Mary McLean; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Primus in memory of Sylvester and Lydia Doll and Urban and Mary Ann Primus; James VonWahlde in memory of Vera VonWahlde; Caroline Erickson in memory of deceased family members.

St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26 - 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. ©LPi



**Church of St. John the Baptist
of Swanville**

21 1st St., PO Box 68
Swanville MN 56382

Website: www.stjohnschurchswanville.org

Parish Office: 320-547-2920 stjs@sytekcom.com

Hours Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper: Val Sobania

Faith Formation : Marge Mettler 320-547-2513

JANUARY MINISTRIES 8:30 a.m. SUNDAY MASS

Ushers: Dean Doroff and Bob Koetter

Lector: Ann Peterson

EM's: Ann Peterson and Marge Mettler

COLLECTION December 5th & December 12th

Adult: \$3,334 Plate: \$389 Bingo: \$511

Rel. Ed Reg: \$10 Retirement Fund: \$55

Christmas: \$200 Christmas Flowers: \$120

Immaculate Conception: \$280 **TOTAL: \$4,909**

FAITH FORMATION

Marge Mettler Coordinator 320-547-2513

Wednesday, December 29th no class, Christmas Break.

Wednesday, January 5th **Regular Classes** at 6:30 p.m.



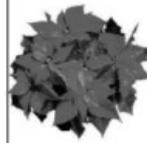
Thanks to those who gave to the Food Shelf.

There are so many more in need of our help. If you were not able to donate currently, please consider stopping by the Todd or Morrison

County Food Shelf and donate either food or money.

All is greatly appreciated, and it is tax deductible. But more importantly, it is a generous thing to do.

Some people have been calling Melinda when they have a question about something in the bulletin or other information regarding time or date of events for the church. I send the bulletin to her and she takes care of getting it on Facebook, etc. Please do not call Melinda. Please call the church in the morning at 547-2920 OR at my home 547-2479 in the afternoon. Thank you. Val



Christmas Flowers are in memory or honor of:

Gary Vanselow, Dominic & Evelyn Pelarski, Duane Johnson, Joe & Elizabeth Gessell, Chris & Julie Karnowski, Allan "Corky"

Cornell, John & Irene Loven, James Piekarski, Ralph Kjeldergaard, Lawrence Welters.

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be. ©LPi

**"GOD IS LOVE.
WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD AND GOD IN HIM."**

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE





**Christ the King Catholic Church
of Browerville**

720 Main Street North, PO Box 83
Browerville MN 56438

Website: www.fivestaracc.org

Facebook: Christ the King Catholic Church, Browerville

Youtube: Christ the King Catholic Church, Browerville

Parish Office: 320-594-2291

fivestaracc.ctkb@gmail.com

Hours Monday –Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Roxanne Determan

Sacrament Coordinator: Beverly Geraets

320-237-0364 bgeraets.ctkparish@gmail.com

Faith Formation Coordinator: Ryan Perish

320-766-5395 fivestaracc.rperish@gmail.com

Christ the King School: Principal Cindy Iten

320-594-6114 website: christthekingschool.org

Prayer Chain Line: Karen Benning 320-760-0476

Kathy Lucas 320-594-6202

January 2nd bulletin deadline is Thursday, Dec. 23.

Stewardship

December 12			
Loose	261.00	Candles	27.00
Adult	3,639.00	Decorations	440.00
Child	18.00	Fuel	160.00
Total Regular	3,918.00	Fall Collection	200.00
Tornado Relief	888.00	Religious Retire.	400.00
Christmas	450.00	Immaculate Con	833.00

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, January 1—New Year’s Day

Lector: Mike Salber

Servers: Maverick Dreher & Blake Irsfeld

Sunday, January 2

Rosary: Tom & Ramona Steinmetz

Lector: Walt Lucas

Servers: Stacy Benning & ClairAnn Johnson

Ushers for January: Mike Iten, Roy Perish, Jim May,
Joe Buhl

Church Cleaning: Bobby & Trish Fischer family,
Bev Foote, Dan & Denise 1Gaida

Thank you to all who took an envelope and helped purchase gifts for needy children. Your generosity is so appreciated.

CTK Parish News

Thank you to all who helped make our Christmas Masses so special. The decorators, the choir, the liturgical ministers, Father Mitchell Bechtold, and all who attended helped make it a wonderful celebration of the Lord’s birth.

Donations made for 2021 should be in the office by December 31 to be included on your contribution statements.



Feast of the Holy Family - Although major feast days dedicated to each member of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—also exist, the Feast of the Holy Family **commemorates their life together**, and the celebration focuses on religious family life.

St. Ann’s Mission group will not meet in January.

Calendars for 2022 have been ordered. They will not be here before January 1st.

Looking ahead – The KC’s will sponsor a Pro-Life Breakfast on Sunday, January 16.

Faith Formation: Thank you to the 2nd & 10th grade students and parents who bought Christmas gifts for 3 children in our county. You have made their Christmas very special.

New Year's Prayer - Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color, or creed. May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy, and peaceful new year.

Christ the King Catholic School News

Christ the King 2students return to school on Monday, January 3.

Christ the King School Parish Board of Education Meeting is Wednesday, January 12.



**Saint Joseph Catholic Church
of Clarissa**
409 John Street South, PO Box 5
Clarissa MN 56440
Website: www.fivestaracc.org

Parish Office: 218-756-2205
fivestaracc.sjc@gmail.com
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Secretary/Bookkeeper: Barb Brown
Coordinators Religious Education:
Bev Desotell 320-594-6383 rbdesotell@gmail.com
Kim Marstein 612-280-2403 kmarstein.sjc@gmail.com
Prayer Chain Line: Kathy VanHeel 218-756-2215
Rita Walker 218-738-5781

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in Him.

December 16th			
Adult	\$880.00	Flowers	\$25.00
Loose	\$132.00	Votive Candles	\$24.00
TOTAL	\$1012.00	Immaculate Conc	\$150.00
Mass Count	\$107.00	Religious Ret	\$123.00
Mission Quilts	\$105.00	Candy/Bake Sale	\$334.00
		Tornado Relief	\$508.00

**Ministry Schedule
January 1, 2022**

Sacristan: Mary Yates **EM:** Ardelle Feda
Lector: Kim Marstein
Ushers: Matt Dotzler, Michele Dotzler

January 2, 2022

Sacristan: Ardelle Feda **EM:** Allen Blommel
Lector: Eileen Uhlenkamp
Ushers: Heather Lancaster, Trey Lancaster

Envelopes for 2022 will be coming late. Please us a plain envelope with your name and number on it. Or you can use an older envelope and change the date. Thank you.

Faith Formation classes will resume January 12th.



All in the Family - At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



**St. Mary of Mount Carmel Catholic
Church Of Long Prairie**

409 Central Ave
Long Prairie MN 56347

Website: <https://stmarymtcarmellongprairie.weconnect.com>

Parish Office: 320-357-0815 stmarysrectory@stmaryslp.org

Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Administrative Assistant: Beverly Geraets

Bilingual Receptionist: Maria Chavez

mchavez@stmarysrectorylp.org

Receptionist: Mary Zastrow

mzastrow@stmaryslp.org

Faith Formation Coordinator: Amanda Hinson

218-251-2155 ahinson@stmaryslp.org

Sacramental Coordinator: Jenna Miller

218-296-3989 jmiller@stmaryslp.org

St. Mary's School: Principal Linda Dinkel

320-357-0813 ldinkel@stmaryslp.org

Prayer Line: Mary Kay Eifert 320-732-3341

Adoration Chapel: Mary Marcoullier 320-732-6289

Stewardship	December 12		
Adult	\$8938.00	Votive Candles	\$138.00
Loose	\$1674.17	Maintenance	\$15.00
Youth	\$46.78	Christmas	\$500.00
Immaculate Conc.	\$80.00	EFT's	\$853.00
Christmas Flowers	\$185.00	Religious Ret	\$1255.00
TOTAL	\$12429.95		

Adoration Chapel Closing: The Chapel will close Friday, December 31st at 12:00 noon and reopen on Monday, January 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

\$800.00 Grant – There will be three information meetings regarding the \$800.000 grant opportunity for St. Mary's.

Saturday, January 8, 2022 after the 5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 300 p.m.

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 after the 7:00 p.m. Mass

Thank you to many volunteers who shared their time and talents decorating our church for Advent and Christmas. And to all lay ministers (lectors, servers, EM's, Sacristans, ushers, greeters) and the choirs. We are truly grateful.

From the Long Prairie Food Pantry: We would like to express our deepest thanks to everyone for the gift of \$607.00. It helps in keeping this vital community service afloat.

No Religious Ed classes this week. Religious Education and Sacramental Prep classes continue Wednesday January 5th. First Communion 3:00-4:15p.m./Jr. & Sr. High, Confirmation 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Parents of First Communion students: please note these finalized dates for this year's First Communion retreats and liturgies. Also, the purple home workbook needs to be completed by the time of the First Confession Retreat, 1/22.

First Reconciliation Retreat: **Saturday, January 22**, 1:30-4 p.m.

Group First Confessions: **Saturday, January 29**, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

First Communion Retreat: **Saturday, April 23**, 1:30-3 p.m.

First Communion Masses: **Sunday, May 15**, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. (English), 12 Noon (Spanish)

From St. Mary's Teaching Staff: Thank you so much to the people who took an item from our school wishing tree and purchased a gift for the school! We are so blessed!!

And Doubly Blessed! To the many parishioners who helped with making cookies for our fundraiser, how can we thank you enough? It was such a blessing to come to the kitchen and see so many people working and visiting while helping make this important school fundraiser a success. It is beautiful to be a part of this church and school combined effort. Thank you! (We will have a final tally of product sold and profit made in January).

Christmas Break: December 22 to January 2. School resumes on Monday, January 3rd. If you need to reach someone at the school during the break, please call or email first.



Friday, December 31, 5:00 p.m. Mass—Sacristan: Lois Stueve **EM's:** Mike Ambrosius, Phillip Stueve **Server:** Leonidas Miller, Jasper Miller **Lector:** Tom Peck
Greeters: Lois Stueve, Phillip Stueve **Music:** Miller Family

Saturday, January 1, 9:00 a.m. Mass—Sacristan: Patti Weibye **EM's:** Betty Schenk, Patti Weibye, Bonnie Clasemann **Lector:** Ann Edwards **Greeters:** Need Volunteers **Music:** Ave Maria

Saturday, January 1, 5:00 p.m. Mass—Sacristan: Lois Stueve **EM's:** Phillip Stueve, Jane Mitzel, Jim Mitzel
Server: Morgan Bosl **Lector:** Tom Peck **Greeters:** Need Volunteers **Music:** Steve Hinson

Sunday, January 2, 8:00 a.m. Mass—Sacristan: Brenda Kern **EM's:** Mariann Host, Al Lemke, Jessica Zinter
Server: JP Buntjer **Lector:** Mark Buntjer **Greeters:** Nancy Krauel, Jane Lemke, Rick Krauel **Music:** Ave Maria

Sunday, January 2, 10:00 a.m. Mass—Sacristan: Felicia Middendorf **EM's:** Mark Liebsch, Chris Hebert, Felicia Middendorf **Server:** Sophia Chavez **Lector:** Ben Barlage **Greeter:** Gerard Spieker **Music:** Joy

Sanctuary Cleaners Friday, December 31: Lorraine Rayhorn & Susan Lenz

Sacrament Preparation

Baptism: Parents are required to complete pre-baptismal class and must **pre-register** by contact the parish office. The class is held every second Sunday of the month after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least nine months prior to date of marriage.

Call the parish office for further information.



January 8 – Engaged Couples Retreat – This event will be held at Sacred Heart, Sauk Rapids. See our website for more details at <https://stcdio.org/engaged-couple-marriage-preparation/> or call the office with questions at (320) 252-4721.

Stewardship as a Way of Life: *“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1)*

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received: being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them — every day! Also, pray for those people who are different than you, those who you may not like or those who go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship

Bishop's Annual Appeal: Christ is born! Our mission is to be **His** heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice. The ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal are at the heart of this mission. They provide assistance, education and pastoral care to people throughout our diocese. Please consider a gift at www.stcdio.org/annualappeal.

Children Growing with the Gospel



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Holy Family • Luke 2:41-52

Sharing the Gospel

When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem as a 12-year-old young man, he felt completely at home in the Temple. He enjoyed talking to the teachers about his Father in heaven. His questions and his answers showed how much he loved God.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to feel at home in my church like Jesus did.

Mission for the Week

Help visitors to your church feel welcomed. As a family or as a class, make cards for visitors, asking them to come back.

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, February 26, 2022
10 AM – 4 PM

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