

*December 10, 2023*  
The 2nd Sunday of Advent  
**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](mailto:mlbechtold@outlook.com)

Fr. Ron Dockendorf 320-290-4902

[frron@sytekcom.com](mailto:frron@sytekcom.com)

Fr. Omar Guanchez 320-357-0815

[oguanchez@stmaryslp.org](mailto:oguanchez@stmaryslp.org)

Deacon James Schulzetenberg 320-987-3200

[jschulzetenberg@stmaryslp.org](mailto:jschulzetenberg@stmaryslp.org)

Deacon Carlos Pesqueda 320-429-4078

[cpesqueda@stmaryslp.org](mailto:cpesqueda@stmaryslp.org)

**St. Mary of Mount Carmel, Long Prairie**

**Tuesday, December 12**

7:00 p.m. Mass † Maria Guadalupe Ramirez

**Wednesday, December 13**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Lawrence Krawfcyk

**Thursday, December 14**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Laverne Motzko

**Friday, December 15**

8:30 a.m. Mass † Victor (Bud) Koska

**Saturday, December 16**

5:00 p.m. Mass † Pat Gray

**Sunday, December 17**

8:00 a.m. Mass † Steve D. Wiebye

10:00 a.m. Mass † Mary Stein

11:45 a.m. Mass † Audelia Montanez

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

**Monday, December 11**

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJS** † Donald, Betty, Duane Herzog

**Tuesday, December 12**

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Roman and Martha Vos

**Wednesday, December 13**

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJS** † Kali Doroff (note time change)

**Thursday, December 14**

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Tom Chock

**Saturday, December 16**

4:30 p.m. Mass **SJGE** † Dale Wegleitner

**Sunday, December 17**

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJS** † Alvin VanHeel

10:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Kenneth Pohlmann

**St. Joseph, Clarissa & Christ the King, Browerville**

**Monday, December 11**

8:30 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Richard Johnson

**Tuesday, December 12**

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJC** † Bernadette, Arlan and Dan King

**Wednesday, December 13**

11:00 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Norman Host

**Thursday, December 14**

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJC** † Shimota Family

10:30 a.m. CTCCC Mass † Mary Jane Kahlert

**Friday, December 15**

8:30 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Gary Johnson

**Sunday, December 17**

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

10:00 a.m. Mass **SJC** † Jason Motl

**SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,

MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.

EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED

AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."

—LUKE 3:4-5

## Five Star Area Catholic Community



### We are looking for a Farm to Host the 2024 Diocesan Rural Life Celebration!

Yes, we are looking for a hosting farm for this Diocesan summer's event. The Diocesan team has chosen our ACC to be the host of this event in 2024 and we are excited about the possibility!

We have a few weeks to identify one or more possible farms that could serve as the hosting site. Let me tell you what we are looking for:

- ◆ A strong Catholic farming family, though the type or size of the farm does not matter. There have been numerous kinds of farms, and even farms that are no longer active have hosted in the past.
- ◆ It should be big enough to put up a 100x40 tent for the Mass (unless they have a large and clean shed of some kind to have the Mass in), and possibly additional tents or at least additional space to serve whatever food is decided on.
- ◆ The other key is to have enough space for parking – paying attention to the width and traffic patterns on their road, if there is a field that can have an early harvest crop and thus be available as the parking “lot” by August, or a parking lot nearby with the possibility of shuttles to the farm, etc.

If you think your farm can be a hosting site, please contact me as soon as possible. The Diocesan planning committee will send 2 or 3 people to look at the farms before confirming. It would be wonderful if we could have the farm site identified by January!

St Isidore the Farmer. Pray for us as we plan this beautiful event!

*Blessing, Fr. Omar*

## Adoration of Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Christ the King, Browerville

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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 – 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Saturday – 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
(w/ Confessions)

The 3rd Friday of each month from  
7:45 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.

### Saint Joseph, Clarissa

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday – 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.

### Saint Joseph, Grey Eagle

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday – 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

### Saint John the Baptist, Swanville

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Wednesday after the 5:30 p.m.  
Mass

### 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 – 4:30 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament is in the Chapel.



# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 10, 2023

### 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

### Monday:

Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/  
Lk 5:17-26

### Tuesday:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/  
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

### Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/  
Mt 11:28-30

### Thursday:

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/  
Mt 11:11-15

### Friday:

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

### Saturday:

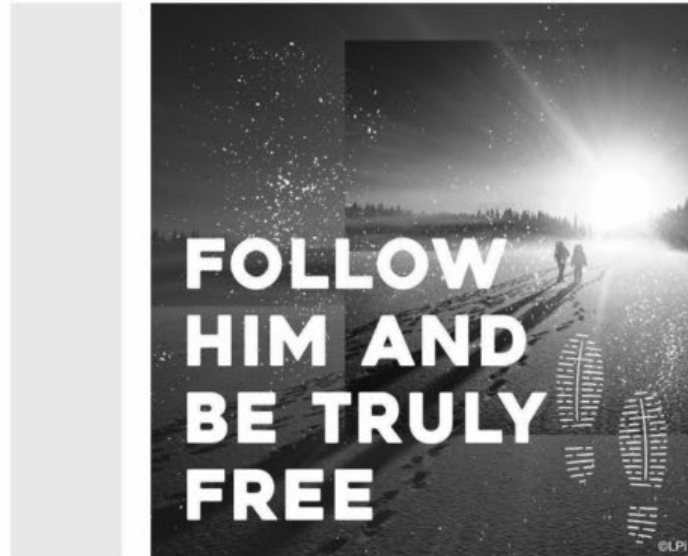
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,  
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Next Sunday:

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
(Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, **"The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."** It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

— *Father John Muir*



**St. Joseph Catholic Church  
of Grey Eagle**  
118 Minnesota St., PO Box 366  
Grey Eagle, MN 56336  
**Website:** [www.stjosephgreyeagle.org](http://www.stjosephgreyeagle.org)

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

**Offering:**  
**November 25-26:**  
Adults \$1,610.00; Loose \$838.00; Food Shelf \$192.00  
**Total: \$2,640.00**  
**Attendance:** Saturday 117; Sunday 137

**Liturgical Ministers**  
**Saturday, December 16@ 4:30 p.m.**  
**Ushers:** Roger and Kathy Roske  
**EM's:** Sarah Loudon, Linda Wegleitner, Natalie Prash and Carissa Bitz  
**Lector:** Sarah Loudon  
**Sunday, December 17@ 10:30 a.m.**  
**Ushers:** Dave Brinkman and Stan Mensen  
**EM's:** Stan and Cindy Mensen, Nancy Ritter and Joanne Pohlmann  
**Lector:** Jerry Pohlmann

**Servers:** We need men to serve at weekday and weekend Masses. If you are interested, please contact Sherry Larson at 320-309-8735 or call the parish office. Thank you.

**Holy Hour:** There will be a Holy Hour after weekday Masses on Tuesday and Thursday starting December 5 and continuing through Advent along with confession.

**Faith Formation:**  
December 13: Class and Advent penance service for all grades and parishioners  
December 20: Class  
December 17: No class, Christmas break

**Red Cross Blood Mobile:** The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be in Grey Eagle at the St. Joseph Catholic Church on Thursday, December 21 from 12 to 6:00 p.m. Please call Jim or Linda Gohman at 320-285-2670 to make an appointment.

**2024 Calendar:** Calendars for 2024 are here and can be picked up in the church entrances. This liturgical year is the Year of the Eucharist.

**Food Shelf:** We delivered 152 pounds of food to the Long Prairie Food Shelf and gave them a check for \$1,140.00!!!

**Fellowship:** Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> after 10:30 a.m. Mass. Plan on staying to help decorate the church for Christmas. We can use all the help we can get.

**Empty Stocking:** There is a small Christmas tree in the church entrance with stockings on it. The stockings have the age of a child and what they would like to receive for Christmas. Please take a stocking, purchase the gift and bring the unwrapped gift to the church office by December 15.

**Christian Women Christmas Party** is Thursday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. after morning Mass. Please bring a potluck dish to share and a white elephant gift to exchange. Invite a friend to join us.

**Baby Jesus Shower:** The Christian Women are sponsoring a shower. Please donate baby clothes, diapers, blankets, toys etc. The items will be donated to Options for Women and Pregnancy for Life. Please help fill the crib in the main entry way. Thank you.

**Poor Clares** - We are taking a collection of needed items for the Poor Clares. Examples are flour, sugar, baking supplies and other non-perishable food items, soaps, postage stamps or a monetary gift. There is a bin in the main entry way for the deposit of gifts. Thank you for your generosity.

**Knights of Columbus:** The Grey Eagle / Swanville Knights of Columbus Council will have their annual Christmas Party in Swanville on Tuesday, December 19 starting at 6:30 p.m. The meal will be catered by the Patriots Cafe.

There will be entertainment, refreshments, and lots of fun. Awards will be handed out and our State Deputy, Dan DeCrans will be on hand to present the Star Council Award to our council.

All Knights and their spouses or significant other are invited. We will also be conducting the Big Raffle Drawing. Good luck to all who sold and bought the tickets. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, raising over \$7,000.00. Make plans now to attend this very special evening.



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

21 1<sup>st</sup> St., PO Box 68  
Swanville, MN 56382

**Website:** [www.stjohnschurchswanville.org](http://www.stjohnschurchswanville.org)

**Parish Office:** 320-547-2920 [stjs@sytekcom.com](mailto: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

**Confessions** will be after the Wednesday 5:30 p.m.  
Mass until further notice.

**Mass Intentions**

Monday, December 11 @ 8:30 a.m.

† Donald, Betty, Duane Herzog

Wednesday, December 13 @ 8:30 a.m.

† Kali Doroff (**note time change**)

Sunday, December 17 @ 8:30 a.m.

† Alvin VanHeel

**December Ministries:**

**Ushers:** Chas Pelzer and Al Wessel

**Lector:** Randy Mettler

**EM's:** Marge Mettler and Peggy Dragseth

**EM's:** Christmas Eve Mass @ 4:30 p.m.

Julie Hollermann, Joyce Johnson, Marcia Wentworth,  
Val Sobania

**Faith Formation**

Marge Mettler Coordinator 320-547-2513

Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, regular class at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, regular class at 6:30 p.m.

“Safe Environment” film sessions for students will be held on Wednesdays during December for different classes on separate days as a requirement from the Diocese of St. Cloud.

**Knights of Columbus** will have their annual Christmas Party in Swanville on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The meal will be catered by the Patriots Cafe. There will be entertainment, refreshments and lots of fun. Awards will be handed out and the Star Council Award will be given to our council. All Knights and spouses or significant other are invited. We will have the Big Raffle Drawing. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, raising over \$7,000. Thanks to all who sold and bought tickets. Make plans to attend this very special evening.

**Your 2024 envelopes** are on the table in the entrance in alphabetical order. Please stop and pick up your envelopes ASAP. For the first few weeks in January, please put your name on the envelope. Thank you for all your donations and other help and volunteer work so many of you do for our parish. You are appreciated. If you don't find a box of envelopes with your name, please let Val know by calling 547-2920 in the morning.

**Choir Practice for Christmas Eve** will be on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. as follows: December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>. It would be great if more people join the choir for our Christmas Eve Mass. Thank You!

**The Little Blue Advent Books** are on the table in the entrance. They are for you to take home to use.

**Attention Please: Our Auction/Dinner** is on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Think about what you can donate for the auction. Many of you make things and need notice of this event now. This is a great Christmas gift. You can purchase tickets by calling Val at 547-2920 or stop in the office in the morning. We will also sell them before and after Mass in January 2024.

**Red Cross Blood Mobile:** The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be in Grey Eagle at the St. Joseph Catholic Church on Thursday, December 21 from 12 to 6:00 p.m. Please call Jim or Linda Gohman at 320-285-2670 to make an appointment.

**Horizon Health in Pierz** has good news for many in our area. They will soon open their Adult Day Service Center. This means you can take someone in need of day care to the center from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. They will also give other areas of health care to many in Central Minnesota. For more information call 320-468-6451.

**Stewardship as a Way of Life:** “Prepare the way of the Lord...” - Mark 1:3.

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

How are you helping others get to Heaven?



**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:** Chris Petron

**Sacrament Coordinator:** Beverly Geraets

320-237-0364 bgeraets.ctkparish@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

**Are you going through a Difficult Time?** If you have experienced the death of a loved one, divorce, job loss, etc., you don't need to face it alone. Contact a Stephen Ministries Leader: Shari Streit: 320-291-6428, Karen Asfeld: 218-371-9193, John Dorn 320-594-6380.

**Bulletin deadline for CTK** is Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

**December 3 Mass Count:** 193

**Stewardship**

December 3			
Loose	\$165.25	Candles	\$51.00
Adult	\$3937.00	Cath. Charity	\$180.00
Child	\$9.00	Fall Collect.	\$140.00
<b>Total Regular</b>	<b>\$4,101.25</b>	Fuel	\$1203.00

**Liturgical Ministers**

**December 17**

**Rosary Leaders:** Glenda Kotula and Amy Tolifson

**Lector:** Bob Schueller

**E.M.** Judy Noska, Kathy Lucas and John Dorn

**Servers:** Phillip and Rhianna Buhl

**December Ushers:** Lee Martinek, Gene Tschida, John Walburn and Cathy Walburn

**Church Cleaning:** Deborah Mrozek, Jeffery and Erica Myers and family, Joseph and Charlene Niewind

**Christ the King Parish News**

**Knights of Columbus** will meet Sunday, December 17 after Mass.

**Christmas Church Decorating:** Please come and help decorate the church for Christmas on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Many hands make for light work.

**Second Sunday of Advent:** We anxiously await the Lord coming to earth as the Christ child. May we prepare our hearts and minds for his coming. Some ways to do this include going to confession, being kind and of assistance to others, donating to good causes and being thankful to God for our blessings.

**Project Joy:** Project Joy gifts are due in the parish office by tomorrow, Monday, December 11. Thank you for helping make Christmas special for these children.

**Penance Service:** Penance service is tonight December 10 at 5:30 p.m. for parishioners, Faith Formation students and their families.

**The Board of Education** will meet Wednesday December 13 at 6:30 p.m.

**Browerville EMT's are needed** now more than ever. While we have a dedicated team that serve us in our medical needs every day, they are looking for more talented men and women. For more information, please call Browerville City Hall.

**Christ the King Catholic School News**

**Looking ahead:** Saturday, February 10, 2024, Dueling Piano's: Tickets will be available starting Friday, December 15 after the Christmas program and thereafter in the parish office.

**Local History Book:** "When Dreams Die: A Plane Crash in 1934". A portion of proceeds will benefit Christ the King School. The book is for sale in the parish office.

**Christmas Program:** The students at Christ the King school will present their Christmas program on Friday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m. Join us at the stable for the real meaning of Christmas.



**Saint Joseph Catholic Church  
of Clarissa**  
409 John Street South, PO Box 5  
Clarissa MN 56440

**Website:** www.fivestaracc.org

**Facebook:** Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Clarissa

**YouTube:** Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Clarissa

**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

<b>Stewardship</b>	11.26.23	Votive	\$11.00
Adult	\$1477.00	Thanksgiving	\$400.00
Loose	\$510.00	CamHumanDev	\$115.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1987.00</b>	Flowers	\$25.00
Mass Count	128	Cemetery Care	\$160.00

**Stephen's Ministry:** For those facing life's difficult circumstances (death of a loved one, divorce, job loss, etc.) you do not need to face it alone. Contact a Stephen Ministries Leader to learn more about this ministry: Shari Streit: 320-291-6428, Karen Asfeld: 218-371-9193, John Dorn: 320-594-6380.

**Ministry Schedule for December 17th**

**Sacristan:** Ardelle Feda

**EM:** JacyRea Almquist

**Lector:** Bev Desotell

**Ushers:** Dave Streit, Heather Lancaster

**Faith Formation:** Have a Merry Christmas Vacation. Classes will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please save UPC labels for Faith Formation students.

**Finance Council** will meet on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**December Fundraiser** is today December 10<sup>th</sup> Everyone is welcome to come after mass, enjoy a good meal and pick up some holiday baked goods. Thank you to chairpersons Kathy and Jolene and Group 2 for hosting the event.

**Hands of Hope Tree:** St Mary's Mission will be accepting gifts to put under the Christmas tree until December 17<sup>th</sup>. They will be taken to Long Prairie on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Ornaments on the tree are for ideas of what is needed. Thank You.



**The World Is Pregnant** There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes — none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye.

"For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen. The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us. "*We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*" — 2 Peter 3:13 ©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:** Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
320-357-0815

**Administrative Assistant:** Beverly Geraets  
stmarysrectory@stmaryslp.org

**Bilingual Secretary:** Maria Chavez  
mchavez@stmaryslp.org

**Secretaries:** Mary Zastrow mzastrow@stmaryslp.org  
Angela Connor aconnor@stmaryslp.org

**Facebook/Website Administrator:** Dawn Richter  
drichter@stmaryslp.org

**Youth & Young Adult Minister:** Justin Connor  
jconnor@stmaryslp.org

**Director of Religious Education:** Jenna Miller  
218-296-3989 jmillier@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 3	* To Diocese	
Adult	\$7062.00	Votive Candles	\$81.25
Loose	\$1579.03	Maintenance	\$20.00
Youth	\$37.75	Thanksgiving	\$30.00
EFT's	\$1353.00	Christmas	\$160.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10343.03</b>	Immaculate Conception	\$20.00

**Announcements** for December 17 bulletin must be Received by 10:00 a.m. on December 8. Articles for December 24 bulletin must be received by noon December 14. Please be sure to email your article to both Beverly Geraets and Mary Zastrow. Thank you.

*St. Barton* **Congratulations** to Elizabeth and Matthew Bakker in celebrating their son Geno Vincent's Baptism with our parish community. Our parish community shares in your joy and is privileged in welcoming Geno to our Catholic Church Family.

November Average Mass Count	
Saturday @ 5:00 p.m.	150
Sunday @ 8:00 a.m.	134
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.	217
Sunday Hispanic Mass @ 11:45 a.m.	Not counted
Thanksgiving	170

**Collection for Christmas Poinsettias** in honor or memory of loved ones will take place until December 20th. Please send your donation to the rectory or place a labeled envelope in the collection basket, including name/s of those to be remembered. Thank you.

**Decorating the Church for Christmas** will be Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 p.m. Help is needed to bring in and put lights on trees, set up stable and other decorations as well as clean up. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Christmas Outreach Goody Trays:** St. Mary's would like to bring a bit of Christmas Joy to the homebound, elderly without family, and those who have recently lost a family member. We can do this only with your help of making two or more dozen cookies, candies, or small loaves of bread. Please be generous as we will be delivering to 50+ homes. Bring your goodies with you to the weekend Masses on December 16/17 and place them in the Parish Hall on the table with "Outreach" on it. Tray assembly will be on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Delivery will be done in the afternoon. Contact Lorraine at 320-766-1258 or Sharon at 320-732-4290 with questions or to offer your help to assemble or to deliver the trays.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Celebration** will follow the 11:45 a.m. today December 10. All parishioners are invited to share a meal in the Parish Hall. Donations of water, pop, and desserts are welcome.

**Grieving With Grace** will meet on Thursday, December 14 from 10:30-12:00 noon in the Family Center.

**CCW** will meet on Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bingo and treats will follow the meeting. All women of the parish are invited.

**All 2023 contributions** to be included on your 2022 contribution statement need to be in the parish office by December 31, 2023. Thank you.

**Ushers:** Please call Angela at the Parish Office if you can usher at the December 8:00 a.m. Masses.

St. Mary's Continued. . .

**For Christmas, the Adoration Chapel** will close December 22 at 10:00 p.m. and open on December 26 at 8:00 a.m.

The Adoration Chapel has an open Holy Hour from 1:00 to 2:00 a.m. on Fridays. If you are interested call Mary Marcoullier.

**The Long Prairie Food Pantry** and its volunteers would like to thank St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church for the gift of \$1,869.00 for the food pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all in need.

**St. Mary's School News: Long-Term Sub Position:** The school is still looking/praying for a substitute teacher for 1st grade for January and February for a maternity leave. If you are interested, or have a name of someone you think is qualified and available, please call the school.

**Bakers Needed!** We will be baking on the following dates if you would like to help: December 11 Nut Goodies; December 13 Mexican Wedding Cakes; December 14 Peanut Butter Blossoms; December 15 & 16 Empanadas. Please call the school if you need more information. Most baking days begin at 8:30 a.m..

**Holiday Scrip Cards:** Many popular Scrip cards are on hand for gas, groceries, restaurants, sporting goods stores, Visa, Walmart, Target, Fleet, etc. , and we can order any of 750 cards for you. No activation codes or fees are needed. The school gets a portion of every sale, but you get 100% face value.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Enthronement:** We've had some wonderful contributions toward purchasing our statue of Mary's Immaculate Heart for the school. The statue that matches our Sacred Heart of Jesus is not available until February, 2024. We will continue raising funds and hope for our enthronement on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25.

**Christmas Program:** Mark your calendar for this year's program titled "Christmas Around the World", Wednesday December 20. Performances are at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. We hope you will attend!

**Faith Formation News:** Wednesday evening classes for grades 6-Confirmation will meet December 13. We will have a Christmas break of two weeks, with no class on December 20 and 27. Families are encouraged to come to the parish's communal penance service on Tuesday, December 19, in spiritual preparation for Christmas.

**First Communion families:** Please mark your calendars for the bilingual First Communion retreat at church on Saturday, January 13, 1:30-4:30 p.m. This retreat is required for First Communion and optional for other elementary-grade students. At least one parent should attend with your child.



#### **December Ushers**

**5:00 p.m. Mass Saturday:** Roger Zastrow, Amy Ebnet, Mike Ebnet

**8:00 a.m. Mass Sunday:** Tom Roelike, Gloria Roelike

**10:00 a.m. Mass Sunday:** Ervin May, Mary May, Al Welters

**Saturday, December 16 @ 5:00 p.m. Mass Sacristan:** Sue Peck **EM's:** Sue Ebnet, Mary Jo Klick, volunteer **Lector:** Tom Peck **Servers:** Gloria Miller **Greeter:** Hattie Toenyan **Music:** Open

**Sunday, December 17 @ 8:00 a.m. Mass Sacristan:** Darlene Johnson **EM's:** volunteers **Lector:** Mark Buntjer **Server:** John Paul Buntjer **Greeter:** volunteer **Music:** Joy

**Sunday, December 17 @ 10:00 a.m. Mass Sacristan:** Darcy Pesta **EM's:** Joe Pesta, Dan Bebault, Darcy Pesta, volunteer **Lector:** Jody Bebault **Servers:** Hailee Kramer, Trevor Kramer **Greeters:** Tom Roelike, Gloria Roelike, Jay Abraham, Julie Abraham **Music:** Ave Maria

**Sanctuary Cleaners Friday, December 15:** Patti Weibye **Care of Albs:** Rosalva Chavez

**Vacuating Nave:** Carol Suck, John Suck

## **Five Star Area Catholic Community News:**

**Bulletin Deadlines:** With Christmas season and delivery trucks busier than usual and unpredictable weather, LPI (prints our bulletin) will have earlier bulletin deadlines for the next few weeks. Thank you for your patience.

**December 24th bulletin:** Articles to your parish secretary by 9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 14.

**December 31st bulletin:** Articles to your parish secretary by 9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 21.

**As we prepare for the season of Advent,** the Diocese of St. Cloud once again offers an Advent prayer journal to use individually or in small groups. It includes Scripture reflection and prayer. This resource is an original work of the local Eucharistic Revival prayer team calling people into a deeper encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. The journal can be downloaded from the diocese website <https://stcdio.org/> click on Eucharistic Revival. If you need help, please contact your parish office.

**Academic Affiliation between CentraCare Health and the University of Minnesota** – You may have seen media coverage of the proposed medical school to begin enrolling students in 2025, focused on developing providers for ensuring better health access and outcomes for rural communities. This is a collaboration between CentraCare and the U of M. Some of the training and clinical practice will take place at St. Cloud Hospital. Please know that agreements are in place that no procedures contrary to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services will be performed in any facility under the control of St. Cloud Hospital, inpatient or outpatient. While the environment of health care and our culture is constantly changing, the Catholic identity of our health care facilities is regularly monitored and education in Catholic identity and mission is ongoing. You can find the current, sixth edition of the Ethical and Religious Directives at [ethical-religious-directives-catholic-health-service-sixth-edition-2016-06\\_0.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/ethical-religious-directives-catholic-health-service-sixth-edition-2016-06_0.pdf) (usccb.org).

**February 11 – Festival of Families - Festival de Familias** – Mark your calendars! This event will be held at Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is designed for families to come together, play, worship, and learn.

**You are invited to join the Crosier Fathers and Brothers at the National Shrine of St. Odilia** in Onamia on Sunday, December 17, at 9:00 a.m., for an Advent Healing Mass. The Mass will include the Anointing of the Sick and the ritual of blessing with the Relic of St. Odilia. Coffee and rolls will be served following the Mass. All are welcome! For further information call 320.532.3103 or email [onamia@crosier.org](mailto:onamia@crosier.org)

**Vocation Office:** “A voice is calling.” Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest His love in you as a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 320-251-5001 or via email: [Julie.Jacobs@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:Julie.Jacobs@gw.stcdio.org)

**Bishop’s Annual Appeal:** Blessings to you in this second week of Advent and thank you to those who have already supported diocesan ministries through the Appeal. As of November 20, the diocese has raised \$1,362,478 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$1,400,000, with gifts from 7,284 households. Every dollar raised goes directly to ministries that support our Catholic faith and is not used for any other purpose. Will you help these ministries meet their funding needs? Visit [www.stcdio.org/annualappeal](http://www.stcdio.org/annualappeal).

**Looking ahead: The next ACC Pastoral Council Meeting** is January 4 at 6:30 p.m. with the Finance Steering Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. in St. Mary’s, Long Prairie Parish Hall.

**The next ACC Liturgy Committee** meeting is Thursday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary’s, Long Prairie Parish Hall.

**Five Star Area Catholic Community News:**

**Advent Penance Services and Confessions:**

**Christ the King, Browerville:** Tonight, Sunday, December 10 @ 5:30 p.m.

**St. Joseph, Grey Eagle:** Individual Confessions on Wednesday, December 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

**St. John Baptist, Swanville:** During the Advent Holy Hour after the 8:30 a.m. Masses on Monday, December 11 and December 18.

**St Mary of Mount Carmel, Long Prairie:** Tuesday, December 19 after the 7:00 p.m. Mass

**Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,**

**Christ the King, Browerville:** December 24 @ 4:00 p.m.; December 25 @ 9:00 a.m

**St. John Baptist, Swanville:** December 24 @ 4:30 p.m.; December 25 @ 8:30 a.m.

**St. Joseph, Clarissa:** December 24 @ 9:00 p.m.; December 25 @ 9:00 a.m.

**St. Joseph, Grey Eagle:** December 24 @ 4:30 p.m.; December 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

**St. Mary of Mount Carmel, Long Prairie:** December 24 @ 5:00 p.m. (English) and 7:00 p.m. (Spanish); December 25 @ 9:00 a.m.



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