

February 25, 2024
The 2nd Sunday of Lent
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@sytek.com

Fr. Omar Guanchez 320-357-0815

oguanchez@stmaryslp.org

Deacon James Schulzetenberg 320-987-3200

jschulzetenberg@stmaryslp.org

Deacon Carlos Pesqueda 320-429-4078

cpesqueda@stmaryslp.org

St. Mary of Mount Carmel, Long Prairie

Tuesday, February 27

7:00 p.m. Mass † For the Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, February 28

8:30 a.m. Mass † Ken and Mary Ellen Otremba

Thursday, February 29

8:30 a.m. Mass † Rose Becker

Friday, March 1

8:30 a.m. Mass † Ione Perish

Saturday, March 2

5:00 p.m. Mass For the Intention of Philip Wuebkers

Sunday, March 3

8:00 a.m. Mass † Evelyn Bauer

10:00 a.m. Mass † Joseph Claseaman

11:45 a.m. Mass † Guadalupe Garcia and
Audelia Montanez

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

Monday, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 27

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Bill Ostendorf

Wednesday, February 28

5:30 p.m. Mass **SJS** † Jay Thieschafer

Thursday, February 29

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Gene Waldorf

Saturday, March 2

4:30 p.m. Mass **SJGE** † Dave Blaeser

Sunday, March 3

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

10:30 a.m. Mass **SJGE** † Intention of the
Gohman Family

St. Joseph, Clarissa & Christ the King, Browerville

Monday, February 26

8:30 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Val and Jane Huncha

Tuesday, February 27

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJC** † Delores Daniels

Wednesday, February 28

11:00 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Catherine Heiling

Thursday, February 29

8:30 a.m. Mass **SJC** † Dennis Morawczyski

10:30 a.m. CTCCC No Mass

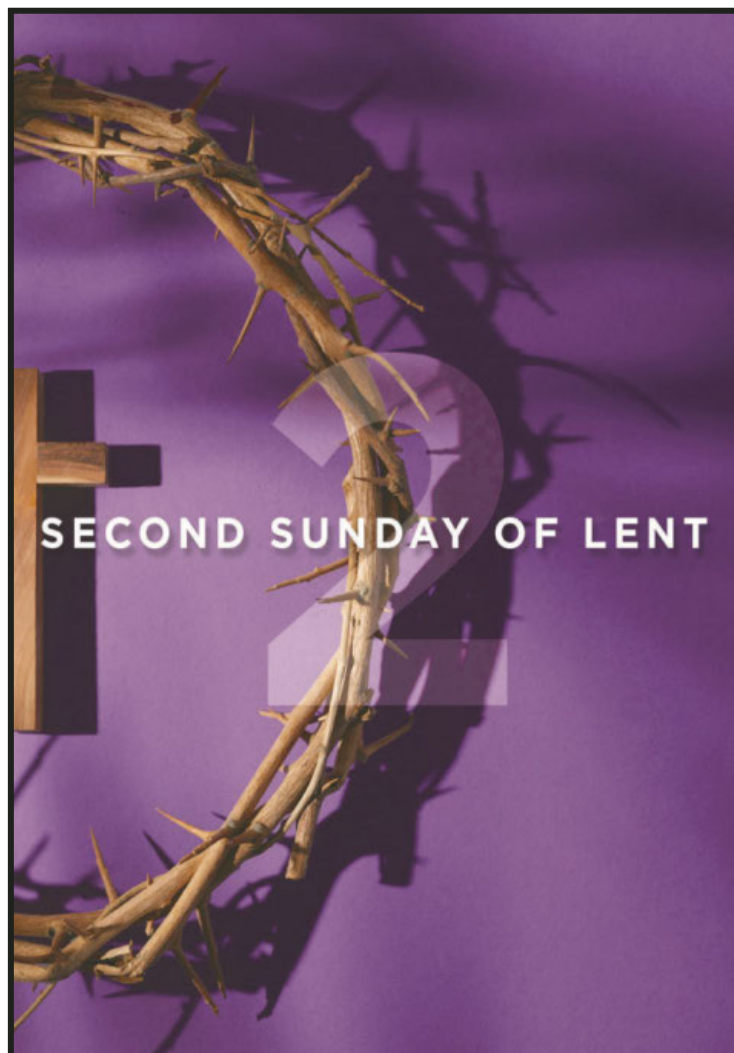
Friday, March 1

8:30 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Clarence and
Genevieve Motzko and family

Sunday, March 3

8:30 a.m. Mass **CTK** † Evelyn Jonckowski

10:00 a.m. Mass **SJC** † Octiva Shimota



Five Star Area Catholic Community

How Is It Going



“Hi, how is it going”? You know the greeting. What is the usual response? “Good”. Even if it isn’t going well. Even if you are going through a difficult time, even if you are in pain; and you still say “good”. Did you ever feel like telling the truth about how you are actually doing? Yet you knew it wasn’t the place and time for it. So, the reply may be “fine, thanks for asking”. Yet there are times when a friend or someone you trust asks you that same question, it is different and you confide in the person and tell the truth about how you actually are doing. I think our relationship with God is too often that way of being just good and not going beyond the surface. Our prayers are on the same level as a polite, “just fine”. Lent is a good time to become closer to our God. To trust Jesus enough to let him know how you really are feeling. We are not always just fine. We have issues and problems that we carry in our minds and hearts. Just having a friend ask you about how you are doing gives great comfort. Burdens shared become lighter with a good friend.

This Lent, how about becoming closer to the one whom you can trust with everything. The one who loves you unconditionally. The friend you can always be close to and never leaves your side. Jesus is the Way.

Deacon Jim



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

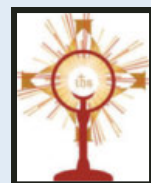
**Sacrament of Reconciliation will
be in the Cry Room:**

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 February 25, 2024

Sunday:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15,
16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday:

Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday:

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21
and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday:

Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/
Mt 20:17-28

Thursday:

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday:

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17,
18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday:

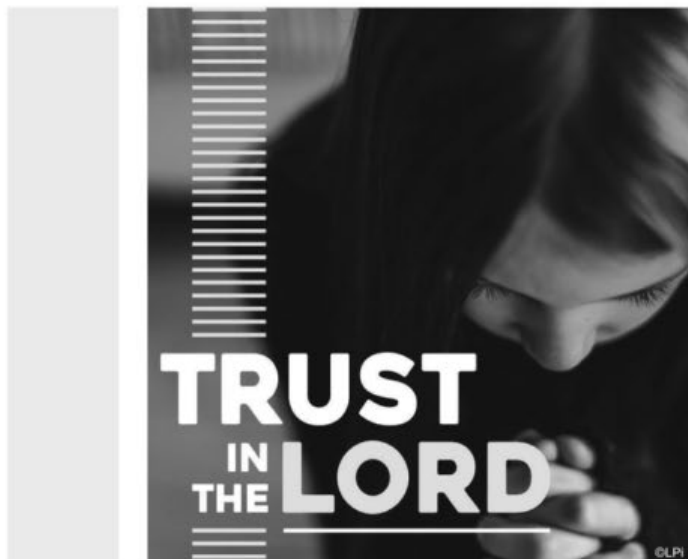
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10,
11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday:

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9,
10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-
26, 39a, 40-42



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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

As a college student, my prized possession was an after-market car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio, eye-catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, "Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent." I did. In my heart, the answer came: "Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days." I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can't do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.

God's command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: "**Abraham!**" "**Here I am,**" he replied. **Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."** Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chafes us that *God sets the terms* of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?

Lenten challenge: This week, I dare you to ask God: "What do you want me to give up?" He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn't make it easy.

— *Father John Muir*



**St. Joseph Catholic Church
of Grey Eagle**
118 Minnesota St., PO Box 366
Grey Eagle, MN 56336
Website: 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 p.m.
Secretary/Bookkeeper: Mary Woeste
Faith Formation Coordinator: Carissa Bitz
sjosephff@meltel.net

Offering:
February 17-18:
Adults \$4,215.00; Loose \$3,662.00; Central MN Catholic \$158.00 and Aid to Church Eastern and Central Europe \$115.00
Total: \$8,150.00
Attendance: Saturday 130; Sunday 131.

Liturgical Ministers
Saturday, March 2 – 4:30 p.m.
Ushers: Ken Sinclair and Richard Seifert
EM's: Janice Lind, Richard Seifert, Rosemary Berscheit and Nancy Ritter
Lector: Rosemary Berscheit
Sunday, March 3 – 10:30 a.m.
Ushers: Marc or Josh Brinkman and Stan Mensen
EM's: Cindy Mensen, Shirley Hulinsky, Ron and Doris Frericks
Lector: Kylie Kraska

Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross: Father Ron will have Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour on Tuesday mornings after weekday Mass during Lent.

Faith Formation:
February 28: No class
March 6: Class
March 13: Penance service and Stations of the Cross led by the 6th and 7th grade.

Little Black Books: Lenten Black Books are in the entryways. Please take one. They can be used to enhance your Lenten Journey. Courtesy of the Christian Women.

Fish Fry: The fish fry will be Friday, March 8th at the Hub Supper Club from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Adults \$20.00; youth \$8.00; 5 and under free. Carol Duke and Mark and Sherry Larson are chairpersons. If you can, we would like parishioners to bring bars, cookies, or cake for the fish fry. Tickets will be available the weekend of February 24-25 and March 2-3 after Mass.

Vocation Awareness: "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!" Could the Lord be calling you to proclaim His name as a priest or in consecrated life? Listen to Him and talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 320-251-2340 or stdio.org.



Why do we hold hands during the Our Father?

The practice of members of the assembly holding hands while praying the Lord's Prayer during the Mass is a custom that developed organically in the 1970s and 1980s. While some commentators acknowledge that the practice varies from place to place, it is a fairly universal reality in parishes across the United States. For some, this action symbolizes the communion of Christians praying together as one family of believers honoring the Father of All. Critics of the practice sometimes express concern that holding hands can be a distraction from the more significant unity that is experienced when we process to the altar to receive sacramental communion.

And so, we're left to ask, what is the answer?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the document that offers specific instructions for the celebration of the Mass) is silent on the practice, saying only that "all the faithful say the prayer" with the priest. The website of the US Bishops simply observes that "No position is prescribed in the Roman Missal for an assembly gesture during the Lord's Prayer." And so, we're left to discern within ourselves and within our parish and religious communities what is an authentic gesture of praise during this important point of the Mass. For some, this means continuing to hold hands, while for others, this may mean adopting another posture of prayer. ©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

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

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 26 @ 8:30 a.m.

Intentions of Fr. Ron

Wednesday, February 28 @ 5:30 p.m.

† Jay Thieschafer

Sunday, March 3 @ 8:30 a.m.

For the People of Our Parishes

Stations of the Cross: Holy Hour and Stations of the
Cross will be after 8:30 a.m. Mass on Monday
mornings and on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Ministries for March:

Ushers: Chas Pelzer & Al Wessel

Lector: Marcia Wentworth

EM's: Diane Loven & Marcia Wentworth

Faith Formation

Marge Mettler Coordinator 320-547-2513

Wednesday, February 28 Regular Classes 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6 Regular Classes 6:30 p.m.



Looking Ahead:

Saturday, March 16, First Communion
practice at 9:00 a.m. at the church.

Sunday, March 17th First Communion
at our 8:30 a.m. Mass

Sunday, March 17th, Confirmation at St. Mary's in Long
Prairie at 2:00 p.m.

Contribution Statements: If you want a copy of your
contributions to the church for 2023, please contact
Val in the office or call 320-547-2920. Thank you.

The Finance Council will meet in the dining hall at
7:00 p.m. March 11th.

Fellowship will be held after Mass next Sunday,
March 3 in the dining hall. Come to enjoy cookies,
rolls, beverage, conversation and relax a bit.

Choir Practice for Easter will be on Thursday evenings
at 6:00 p.m. on February 29th, March 7th, March 14th,
and March 21st. As always, we invite others to join the
choir for Easter Sunday practice.

Fish Fry: Join our friends in Grey Eagle for their Fish
Fry, March 8th at the Hub Supper Club from 5:00 to
7:00 p.m. Adults \$20, Youth \$8, 5 & under free.

St. John's Parish will have the Five Star ACC Outdoor
Mass on Saturday, August 17th. This Mass will be at
Swanville Lion's Park. Bishop Neary will be here. He
will bless our new Bell Tower. A meal will follow. More
information will be available as time gets closer. Keep
the date open for this special occasion.

Abstinence and Fasting for Lent

Abstinence means to refrain from eating meat on
certain days during Lent. From age 14 and older all
persons (unless poor health) should not eat meat on
Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays during
Lent.

Fasting means people ages 18 to 59 (unless poor
health) should have only one full meal on Ash
Wednesday and Good Friday. The other two should be
smaller meals and no snacks.

Journey with Jesus to Calvary at St. Francis of Assisi
Church in St. Francis. Call Bob Theisen for more
information 320-573-2933. Free will donation.
Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. / Friday, March
22nd at 7:30 p.m. / Saturday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m.
and Sunday, March 24th at 1:00 p.m. Call to verify
times in case they changed.



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.

February 18 Mass Count: 216

Stewardship

February 18			
Loose	\$369.00	Catholic mag.	\$601.00
Adult	\$3358.00	Fuel	\$10.00
Child	\$3.00	Votive Lights	\$57.00
Total	\$3,730.00	Coffee/Rolls	\$180.00

Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical Ministers for March 3

Rosary Leaders: Denis, Pam, Olivia and Madeline Irsfeld

Lector: Daryl Brever

E.M. Bev Foote, Ramona Steinmetz, Chris Kassube

Servers: ClairAnn Johnson, Rhianna Buhl

March Ushers: Tim Duncan, Jeff Becker, Chad Becker, Scott Determan

Church Cleaning: Jerimiah and Angela Reed and family, Kyle and Kendra Reed, Dan and Shari Remer

Christ the King Parish News

Annual Appeal: Thank you to all who give to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your gift supports the sacramental life in our parish.

Stations of the Cross will be on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. during Lent. Please join us as we journey with Christ through his Passion.

Church cleaning will be held on Wednesday, February 28th at 1:00 p.m. Please bring your own buckets and cleaning rags. Cleaning supplies are provided. This is a wonderful way to share your time and talent during Lent by caring for our church.

St. Ann's Mission meeting will be Monday, March 4th at 1:00 p.m. Quilts for our graduating seniors will be made on Wednesday, March 6th at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to help.

A 4-week Lenten group study session focusing on Bishop Patrick Neary's First Pastoral Letter, "As the Father Has Sent Me, So I Send You," are on the next few Fridays at 9:00 a.m. These will be 45-minute study sessions during consecutive Fridays. This book study and letter precedes the National Eucharistic Revival taking place this year across the United States. We invite all parishioners to consider taking part in this book study. To sign up, call the parish office at (320) 594-6114.

A Presentation of Joe Kiselewski 's Life and Works will be on Friday, March 15th at 4:00 p.m. in the church basement. Refreshments will be served.

Faith Formation News: The 10th and 11th grades and parents will meet tonight February 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement with Fr. Mitchell as well as on March 10th.

Youth in grades 1 - 9 will meet on March 3 in the church basement to begin a 4-part series on "Seek" from Family & Faith Life Catholic Ministries. Parents' session with your children has been moved to September/October.

Christ the King Catholic School News

Stations of the Cross by CTK students will be on Fridays during Lent at 2:15 p.m. Please join us.

CTK School has gift cards (Scrip) for sale in the office for groceries, clothes, restaurants, and other items.



**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

Stations of the Cross will be held on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship	2/11/2024		
Adult	\$1,640.00	Votive	\$3.00
Loose	\$371.00	Fuel	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$2,011.00	Catholic Mag.	\$74.00
Mass Count	141		

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 March 3

Sacristan: Kathy VanHeel

EM: Russ VanHeel

Lector: Judy Hinzmann

Ushers: Dave Streit, Heather Lancaster

Faith Formation: There will be a class on February 28 with snacks at 5:30 p.m. and class at 6:00 p.m.

Our Family Labels : Please save Our Family Foods UPC Labels for Faith Formation.

Contribution Statements: Please call the parish office if you would like your contribution statement mailed to you.

Pro Life Breakfast is today at St. Joseph Church in Clarissa after Holy Mass. Everyone is invited to enjoy this delicious breakfast. Breakfast is free-will offering.

A 4-week Lenten group study session focusing on Bishop Patrick Neary's First Pastoral Letter, "As the Father Has Sent Me, So I Send You," are on the next few Fridays at 9:00 a.m. In Christ the King church basement. These will be 45-minute study sessions during consecutive Fridays. This book study and letter precedes the National Eucharistic Revival taking place this year across the United States. We invite all parishioners to consider taking part in this book study. To sign up, call Christ the King parish office at (320)594-6114.

When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out. "Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!" But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: *go ahead, God doesn't really mind.*

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him. If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?
— 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: 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 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	Ash Wednesday & February 18	* To Diocese	
Adult	\$4,579.00	Ash Wednesday	2,135.01
Loose	\$1,531.55	Catholic Mag.	\$140.00
Youth\$	\$46.75	Sponsor Child	\$20.00
EFT's	\$473.00	Cent/East Europe*	\$180.00
TOTAL	\$8,925.31		

Bulletin deadline is Tuesday noon. Please email your article to Beverly Geraets and Mary Zastrow.

 **Congratulations** to Zachary and Madison Warzecha in celebrating their son Ivan Michael's Baptism with our parish community.

Our parish community shares in your joy and is privileged in welcoming Ivan to our Catholic Church Family.

Diocesan Mass

KEYL is airing the Diocesan Mass on Sundays at 10:00 am. The Stewardship Committee would like to invite our parish family to help make this ministry possible by sponsoring a Mass for \$20.

Job Opening: St. Mary's is seeking a Director of Religious Education (DRE) to oversee a family catechetical program. Contact Fr. Omar for more information.

Save the Date: *Uniquely Beautiful* Women's Retreat is Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The retreat is sponsored by the Catholic Council of Women (CCW).



Easter Flowers: Donations are being accepted in memory or honor of loved ones for Easter flowers. Please place your donation in an envelope with your name and those honored in the collection or in the drop box at the rectory. We appreciate your help as we plan for Easter at St. Mary's.

Parish Festival meeting for committee chairpersons is Monday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

CUF will be serving coffee and rolls after 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 3.

St. Mary's School News: 50 Blessings Cash Raffle tickets are on sale now at the school and rectory. Tickets are \$50 each, and with only 1,000 tickets available for sale. Each purchase has a 1-in-20 chance of winning! Prizes: (1) \$4,700; (1) \$3,700; (1) \$2,700; (1) \$1,700; (1) \$700; (50) \$250 Drawing for the raffle will take place on April 27th at 7:00 p.m. during our new Murder Mystery Dinner event at the Hub Supper Club (More information on this exciting event will come out soon!)

Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have a 3, 4 or 5 year-old, we encourage you to register now because space is limited in our Montessori Children's House. Priority enrollment is given to parishioners, but we must hear from you by March 7 to hold your spot. We are also accepting registration for 1st through 6th grade. Call or email the school office for more information or to pick up forms.

St. Mary's Montessori Children's House Open House for 3, 4 and 5 year olds (by September 1, 2024) is on Thursday, March 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, March 10 at 1:00 p.m. after the Hispanic Mass. We can also schedule a tour at your convenience.

St. Mary's Continued. . .

Faith Formation News: We need donations of cookies, bars, and finger foods for the Confirmation reception on March 17. Please contact Jenna Miller if you are able to help.

Confirmation Learning Centers: open-house style on either Wednesday, March 6 (7:00-8:30 p.m.) or Saturday, March 9 (2:30-4:30 p.m.) in the Parish Hall. Students choose one of these dates and come with a sponsor and/or parent.

Confirmation rehearsal: Wednesday, March 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Confirmation at St. Mary's: Sunday, March 17, 2:00 p.m., with reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Students should arrive by 1:00 p.m. for photos and talk with the Vicar General.

The next Nourish meeting for elementary grades (K-5/6) and their parent(s) is Sunday, March 3, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., starting in the Parish Hall.



March Ushers

5:00 p.m. Mass Saturday: Amy Ebnet, Mike Ebnet, Dennis Ebnet, Susan Ebnet

8:00 a.m. Mass Sunday: Richard Hennen, Ken Woeste, Dan Peyton, Deloris Peyton

10:00 a.m. Mass Sunday: Ervin May, Mary May, Mary Schmidt, Doug Schmidt

Saturday, March 2 @ 5:00 p.m. Mass Sacristan: Lois Stueve **EM's:** Philip Stueve, Mary Jo Klick, volunteer
Lector: Richard Wagner **Server:** volunteer **Greeters:** Lois Stueve, Philip Stueve **Music:** Open

Sunday, March 3 @ 8:00 a.m. Mass Sacristan: Jenna L. Miller **EM's:** Al Lemke, Bonnie Clasemann, Marcy Weber
Lector: Maria Cervantes **Servers:** Jasper Miller, Greyson Ahrens **Greeter:** Nancy Krauel, Rick Krauel, Jane Lemke, Al Lemke **Music:** Ave Maria

Sunday, March 3 @ 10:00 a.m. Mass Sacristan: Felicia Middendorf **EM's:** Felicia Middendorf, Mark Liebsch, volunteer
Lector: Ben Barlage **Servers:** Hailee Kramer, Trevor Kramer **Greeters:** Jeff Rayhorn, Lorraine Rayhorn, Rochelle Shann **Music:** Joy

Sanctuary Cleaners Friday, March 1: Al and Jane Lemke **Care of Albs:** Judy Hedlund

Vacuuming Nave: Amy Ebnet



Stewardship as a Way of Life: *"Here I am!" he answered.* - Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, *"Here I am, Lord,"* when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say *"Here I am, Lord,"* when a neighbor needs our help, or when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2024: Have you attended a baptism, first Communion, confirmation, wedding, or ordination? All of these sacraments are supported through the ministries funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Help continue to support these vital milestones of our faith through a gift at www.stcdio.org/annualappeal.

Five Star Area Catholic Community News:

Annual Women's Lenten Retreat to be held March 9: Join Deb Rudolf, retreat leader, on a *"Journey of a Woman's Life: Using the Sacraments to Grow in Our Faith"*. That is the theme of the annual St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Lenten Retreat to be held Saturday, March 9, 2024 at St. Martin's Parish in St. Martin. Following registration at 8:30 a.m., Deb will kick off the retreat at 9:00 a.m.; Bishop Patrick Neary, C.S.C. will celebrate Mass at 11:00 a.m.; followed by lunch/social, and conclusion of presentation. Registration is \$20 by March 1. See stcloudccw.org for more information.

Sunday, March 10 in Onamia: Crosier Fathers and Brothers invite all to a Lenten Healing Mass at the National Shrine of St. Odilia at 9:00 a.m. Mass includes the anointing of the sick and the ritual blessing with the Relic of St. Odilia. Coffee and rolls will be served in Holy Cross Center following Mass. Reservations are not required. Call the Crosiers at 320-532-3103 for more information.

Friday, March 15 at St. Mary's Parish in Alexandria: St. Mary Parish hosts Lenten mission with Vallimar Jansen starting with a mini concert titled *"Jesus Loves the Little Children"* from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. this evening. The mission; with Scripture, song, story and movement continues from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Saturday through Monday, March 16-18. (Jansen also speaks at all weekend Masses March 16 and 17.)

Save the Date: *Uniquely Beautiful Women's Retreat* will be held Saturday, April 6 at St. Mary's Church in Long Prairie from 9:00 a.m. –2:30 p.m. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The retreat is sponsored by the Catholic Council of Women (CCW).

"This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!" Could the Lord be calling you to proclaim His name as a priest or in consecrated life? Listen to Him and talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 320.252.5001 or via email Julie.jacobs@gw.stcdio.org



CRSC is March 9/10: The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports Catholic church organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts. Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.

St. John's Parish in Swanville will be hosting the Five Star ACC Outdoor Mass on Saturday, August 17th. This Mass will be at Swanville Lion's Park. Bishop Neary will attend and will bless the new Bell Tower. A meal will follow. More information will be available as time gets closer. Keep the date open for this special occasion.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel for First Responders: Lord, I ask you through St. Michael the Archangel, to watch over all of the men and women who so generously devote themselves to helping others. Grant them courage when afraid, wisdom when they must make quick decisions, strength when weary, and compassion in all their work. When the alarm sounds and they are called to aid both friend and stranger, let them faithfully serve you in their neighbors. Amen.

Five Star Area Catholic Community News:

Thursday, March 7 SMMC: ACC Finance meeting at 6:00 p.m. ACC Pastoral Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 8 SJGE Fish Fry at Hub Supper Club, Burtrum, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 17 SMMC: Confirmation at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24 SMMC: KC Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Saturday, April 6 SMMC: Uniquely Beautiful Women's Retreat, 8:30 a.m. registration Retreat from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. sponsored by CCW

Saturday, August 17 SJS: ACC Mass at Swanville Lion's Park with Bishop Patrick presiding

Sunday, August 18: Rural Life Mass at Nathan and Samantha Middendorf's farm, Long Prairie

Schedule Change: Beginning Sunday, March 31, adoration and confessions on Saturday mornings at Christ the King, Browerville will be discontinued and replaced with confessions immediately following the Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Joseph's, Clarissa.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Christ the King, Browerville: 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays and 2:15 p.m. Fridays

St. Joseph, Clarissa: 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays

St. Joseph, Grey Eagle: 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays (Stations and confessions)

St. John the Baptist, Swanville: On Mondays after 8:30 a.m. Mass and Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

St. Mary of Mount Carmel, Long Prairie: After Friday 8:30 a.m. Mass during Lent

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