



Sacred Saints by the Lake Community

The Churches of

Sacred Heart, St. Bartholomew & St. John Nepomuk

122 NW 1st Street • Glenwood, Minnesota 56334 • (320)634-3813

DECEMBER 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Advent

JESUS



“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.”

LUKE 1:31

Parish Office

122 NW 1st Street

Glenwood, Minnesota 56334

Phone..... (320)634-3813

Email..... sheartchurch@gmail.com

Website www.sacredheartglenwood.com

Diocese Website...www.stclouddiocese.org

Parish Staff

Pastor Father Joseph Vandenberg

Pastor (SJM)..... Father Peter Kirchner

DRE Paula Johnson (Pre-K-6)

..... Sue Heidelberger (7-12)

Music.....Ann Foley

Custodian Kim DeMorett

..... Anthony Mello

BookkeeperConnie DeVault

Secretary.....Katherine Chevalier

Coordinator (SJM)Amber Green

Youth Ministry Coordinator.....

Scott Crumb

Mass Schedule

Sacred Heart – Glenwood/Starbuck

WeekendSaturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Weekdays as scheduled

Saint Bartholomew – Villard

Weekend Sunday 8:30 am

St. John Nepomuk – Lowry/Lake Reno

WeekendSaturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sacred Heart....Saturday 4:00–4:45 pm

St. Bartholomew..... Sunday 8:00 am

Tuesday 11:00am

Other times by appointment.

ALWAYS STAY HUMBLE

David the King of Israel observed he was living in a strong house made of cedar. By today's standards it would be a mansion in the hills of Hollywood. He was bothered that the Ark of Covenant, representing the presence of God, remained in a tent. He set out to build a suitable temple to house the Ark.

God laughed at his plan. God said, "Who do you think you are that you could build me a house? I made you every thing that you are. No, you will not build me a house, but your son will." The first temple in Jerusalem was later built by David's son Solomon.

David's house of cedar stands in contrast to the stable Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Jesus came into the world in humble surroundings and in the midst of ordinary people. No kings or princes were present at his birth. Not even the mayor of the city.

Over generations people have built magnificent churches, cathedrals and other places of worship to honor God. Many of these are now ruins or tourist destinations. They are remembered for their art and architecture rather than to honor God.

God is very much at home in humble chapels. He is most at home when we invite him into our hearts and homes. This is the greatest gift we can give to Jesus as we celebrate his birth. Make room for the Christ child in your home.

Reviewing various Catholic blogs, websites and media pages on the Internet is most confusing. It is difficult to know what one should think or believe about present day events. These days everyone publishes their opinion.

During Advent and afterwards consider taking a break from the Internet. We have some excellent devotionals available at church which are brief and easy to read. These can be incorporated into your daily prayer tie. You might also enjoy a book about a saint. We have many available in the library.

A Special Thanks to All who sent Christmas cards or gifts! I will not be sending our individual thank you's this year, but I want you to know I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

God's peace!

Fr. Joe

Welcome to our Newest Members

Knox Charles Rasmussen
—son of Nolan and Lindsay

Everett Bryce Anderson
—son of Matthew and Katie



Why Bethlehem?

We read about the shepherds and the caves last week.

The shepherds were also responsible for making sure newborn lambs did not contract defects, for only animals without spot or blemish could be used for sacrifice. As baby lambs are very clumsy when they are born, scholars believe the shepherds would swaddle them to prevent future sacrificial lambs from injuring themselves on the jagged parts of the caves. Consequently, remember Jesus too, was swaddled.

Another key aspect of swaddling was "salting" a newborn. After birth, Joseph would have washed and scrubbed Jesus with salt water. Practically speaking, the salt killed any bacteria, but there is a lot of spiritual symbolism in this act also.

Salt was symbolic of friendship and loyalty in the ancient world; it was a sign of covenant, as in the phrase "a covenant of salt" (2 Chronicles 13:5, Leviticus 2:13, and Numbers 18:19). A common expression to denote friendship in Middle Eastern culture is, "there is salt between us." A salt covenant is used to denote the eternal covenant of friendship and kingship God made with David and his heirs. "Don't you know that the Lord, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendant forever by a covenant of salt?" (2 Chronicles 13:5). Jesus was not only born in Bethlehem, which is the city of David, but He was also the promised Son of David, the Messiah and King who came to fulfill the Davidic covenant—God's promise that one of David's descendants would live on the throne forever—and to establish the new covenant spoken of in Jeremiah.

Not only was Messiah born in the same location as the temple offering, but He was also washed in salt as part of the swaddling process, which points to His future sacrifice as the Passover lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world and inaugurate the new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31).

In those days, once priestly garments became so dirty they were no longer acceptable to wear, they would continue their "priestly" service by being used as wicks in candle, another holy purpose. It is possible Mary obtained torn priestly garments (to swaddle her newborn) from her cousin Elizabeth, who was married to Zechariah.

So the shepherd priests, who encountered angels, went to a place where lambs used for sacrifices were born and swaddled. There, they saw the baby Jesus swaddled like a sacrificial Passover lamb in priestly garments, which symbolized the eternal presence and promise of God. Now it should make more sense as to why a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger would be such a significant sign to these shepherds, for it pointed to Jesus begin both the Lamb of God and the Light of the World.

Excerpts from *"the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi: My Journey into the Heart of Spiritual Faith and the Land Where It All Began"*,

by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel



Religious Education Notes



Religious Ed classes will NOT meet during the month of December. If you were not able to pick up your packets last Wednesday, contact the office. Thank you for your flexibility in making this work!

Ring those bells! Look high and low to find any type of bell at your house. Then, if you are planning on attending the 11am Mass on Christmas Eve day, bring a bell with you to church....



What's your Catholic IQ?



The words the shepherd heard the angels sign to announce Jesus' birth were

- A) "Silent night, Holy night"
- B) "Hosanna in the highest"
- C) "Away in the manger"
- D) "Glory to God in the highest"

The custom of having a Nativity scene at Christmas began

- A) with Francis of Assisi
- B) in England
- C) at a cave in Nazareth
- D) the first Pope, St. Peter

The Directors of Religious Education,

Paula Johnson and Sue Heidelberger, can be reached at 634-4828 or by e-mail. Sue: sacredh711@gmail.com
Paula: glenwoodsacredheartrel.ed@gmail.com



Banquet tables and chairs for sale.

St. Bartholomew will be replacing their dining table in the lower level with lighter ones. Tables are available for \$30 each, along with a limited number of chairs priced at \$5/chair. If you are interested, contact the church office to arrange a time for pick up. Proceeds will go toward the new tables.

Stewardship of Treasure

Thank you for your continued sharing of your treasure with our churches!

Sacred Heart Parish – Glenwood

2020/21 Weekly Collection Goal.....	\$5,410.00
Collected (12/6/20).....	\$9,357.07
Adult Envelope Holders	455
Number of Adult Contributions	60

St. Bartholomew Parish – Villard

2020/21 Weekly Collection Goal.....	\$1,260.00
Collected (12/6/20)	\$1,461.45
Adult Envelope Holders	85
Number of Adult Contributions	15

Please remember your parish with your investments, insurance policies and in your will.

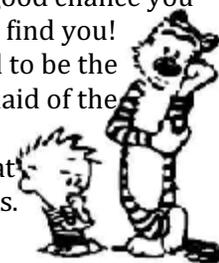
Something to ponder...a Gospel meditation

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come. ©LPI



What is love? You really shouldn't say I love you unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.

Jessica (age 8)

What's your Catholic IQ? Answers:

1. D—See Luke 2:14. We use these words at Mass when we pray the Gloria. Many parts of the Mass are taken from the Bible.
2. A—In 1223, St. Francis arranged for the first nativity scene. It was near the Italian town of Greccio, from which we have the word *creche*.

Mass Intentions

Mon. 12/21 No Mass
Tues. 12/22 **8:00am (G)** † Sr. Louise McKigney
Wed. 12/23 11:00am (G)
- End of the Coronavirus
Thurs. 12/24 11:00am (G) - For the Parish
4:30pm (G) † Dave Foley
7:00pm (V) - For the Parish
Fri. 12/25 9:00am (G) † Don Nagel
Sat. 12/26 5:00pm (G) † John Schwartz
Sun. 12/27 8:30am (V) † Dan Olson
10:30am (G) - For the Parish

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8
Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10
and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
 *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3, 11-12, 13
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14.
Friday: *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7
Lk 2:15-20.
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6,
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-9/Col 3:12-21
or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40

Welcome!

We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you, celebrating with us, whether long-time residents or newly arrived in the parish. We thank God that you are with us. If you are not registered, please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or mail to the parish office at:

122 NW 1st St. • Glenwood, MN 56334

Sacred Heart • Saint Bartholomew

Name _____

Address _____

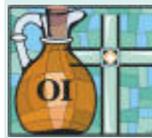
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Phone _____

New Parishioner • New Address/Phone

Summer Resident

Hospital Visits—If you find yourself or a loved one in the hospital, and would like a visit from a priest, please call the church office directly and leave the patient's name, room number, and name of hospital. Due to privacy laws, hospitals are not allowed to give out patient's names, making it challenging to know who would like a visit.



Anointing of the Sick is available on request. If you or a family member wish to be anointed before surgery, when in the hospital, or for any sickness, please contact Fr. Joe. He can be reached by calling the parish office at 634-3813, and if necessary, by leaving a message on Extension 20.

The Anointing of the Sick is offered at regular intervals in the parish and at area nursing homes.

Eucharist for the homebound—If you are homebound and wish to receive Communion at home, contact the church office at 634-3813.

Baptism Classes : Baptism class is required before a first Baptism. Classes are held in the months of December, February, June, and September. Parents expecting their first child should attend. For questions contact the church office. Preregistration is required.



Prayer Chain Requests When starting a request, please talk to one of the persons listed; do not leave prayer requests on answering machines or with children. To get added to the prayer chain, contact Terry Sandeen at 634-4807, or Linda Schmainda at 634-4394.

The First Instruction class in the Billings Ovula-

The Wedding Policy of the Diocese of St. Cloud requires that you contact the parish at least 6 months prior to your wedding. This is necessary so that all the required steps can be completed in a timely manner. For second marriages, more time may be required. To begin your marriage preparation or for questions about the marriage preparation policy, contact Father Joe (634-3813).



tion Method is the most effective, modern method of Natural Family Planning. To locate an instructor, visit: <http://omf.stcdio.org/natural-family-planning/nfp-class-locations-and-instructors/>

*Note: Most insurances now cover the cost.

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