

# NOVEMBER 29, 2020 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SACRED HEART HERON LAKE



SACRED HEART BREWSTER



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER WINDOM

**Sacred Heart Church** | 321 9th Street, P.O. Box 377, Heron Lake, MN 56137 | Sunday Mass: 8:00 am

**Sacred Heart Church** | 516 10th Street, P.O. Box 187, Brewster, MN 56119 | Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm

**St. Francis Xavier Church** | 532 17th Street, P.O. Box 39, Windom, MN 56101 | Sunday Mass: 10:00 am

## Weekly Gospel Meditation | Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where we find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

### MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS: DECEMBER 1—6, 2020

Tuesday	5:30pm	Windom	+Mavis & Herb Ratzlaff
Wednesday	9:30am	Heron Lake	+Linus Liepold
Thursday	9:00am	Brewster	+Francis Nau
Friday	9:00am	Windom	+Rita Schoborg
Saturday	5:00 pm	Brewster	+Robert Weaver
Sunday	8:00am	Heron Lake	+Joe Salentiny
	10:00am	Windom	+Jack Determan

+Know that Fr. Pratap includes all of us in his daily prayers and private Mass intentions.

## WELCOME!



### NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS:

**Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**  
**2 Peter 3:8-14**  
**Mark 1:1-8**

# PRAYER & WORSHIP



## NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you into God's family! If you are interested in learning more about our church, or would like to join, please stop in the Parish Office. Please notify the Parish Office of any change of address.

## PARISH PRIEST

**Fr. Pratap Reddy Salibindla,**  
548 17th St., P. O. Box 39,  
Windom, MN 56101  
**Cell:** 507-226-4536  
**E-mail:** triparishpriestjuly2018@gmail.com

## BREWSTER OFFICE:

**Loretta Smith:** Office Administrator  
**Phone:** 507-842-5584  
**Hours:** Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30AM-4:30PM  
**E-Mail:** sacreds@centurytel.net  
**Dawn Murphy:** FF Coordinator

## HERON LAKE OFFICE:

**Carmen Rasche:**  
Office Administrator  
**Phone:** 507-793-2357  
**Hours:** Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30AM-4:00PM  
**E-mail:** sacredheart1@gmail.com  
**Website:** <http://sacredheartheronlake.org>  
**Judy Stenzel:** FF Coordinator  
**E-mail:** sacredhlff@yahoo.com

## WINDOM OFFICE:

**Pat Spencer:** Office Administrator  
**Phone:** 507-831-1985  
**Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00AM-3:00PM  
**E-mail:** stfxavier@windomnet.com  
**Website:** [www.sfxwindom.org](http://www.sfxwindom.org)  
**Katelin Brown:** FF Coordinator  
**E-mail:** stfrancisff@gmail.com  
FB: St. Francis Xavier Parish

## **Tri Parish Prayer Intentions:**

**Submit Intentions to Parish Coordinator.**

- All suffering from the Coronavirus
- Healthcare, Law Enforcement & Emergency Personnel
- For an end to abortion
- Dennis Haberman
- Jim Salentiny
- Sogge Home Residents
- Residents of Lakeview Assisted Living

## Act of Spiritual Communion

The Church encourages frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist through making a spiritual Communion.

By making an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask him to unite himself with us. Here is the Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori:

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**



**PRAYER FOR SOULS IN PURGATORY:** Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

**VOCATION VIEW:** At the beginning of Advent, watch and wait; be attentive to the ways in which God comes into your life. Be willing to be surprised. (Mark 13:33-37)

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION:** Contact the priest 6 to 12 months in advance of the date of marriage to fill out the forms, to do FOCCUS Test and to attend Marriage Prep Mentoring sessions. Fr. Pratap is seeking married couples who are practicing Catholics, and have children, who would be willing to volunteer to help prepare our engaged couples for marriage. Please contact Fr. Pratap at 507-226-4536, or your parish office, if interested.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** Contact the parish office a month in advance to fill out the form and to attend Baptism Mentoring Sessions. All Baptisms will be celebrated privately until further notice.

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** is still available by appointment for each Parish.

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## LITURGICAL ROLES – December 5th & 6th

Role	Brewster Saturday   5:00 pm	HERON LAKE Sunday   8:00 am	WINDOM Sunday   10:00 am
LECTOR		John Stenzel	Candy Riordan
CANTOR			Tom Zimmerman
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS		Steve Hussong Barb Hussong	Vicki Ommen Pat Spencer
USHERS		Jason Diemer Cathy Henkels Jeff Hotzler	David Green Family
CONTRIBUTIONS		Marty Henkels Cathy Henkels Jason Freking Tracy Freking	John Duscher Candy Riordan
SACRISTANS			Jackie Jurgens Joan Schafer
ROSARY		Marlys Olson	Mary Benson
BELLS			Braxton Brown

FRANCISCAN MISSION –INDIA		CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	
SFX-W	\$	SFX-W	\$
SH-HL	\$	SH-HL	\$
SH-B	\$	SH-B	\$ 87

CHURCH SUPPORT			
Category	Brewster	Heron Lake	Windom
Week 21/52	\$ 2,395	\$	\$ 1,727
YTD	\$ 24,549	\$ 47,976	\$ 39,683
Budget		\$ 62,748	
Total		\$ (14,772)	

### THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL 2020

	Parish Goal	\$ Received	From # of Parishioners
SFX-W	\$15,300	\$13,852	63
SH-HL	\$10,200	\$10,135	42
SH-B	\$ 6,250	\$ 3,965	21

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

### FRANCISCAN MISSION-INDIA December 6th

This weekend, December 5th and 6th, we have a basket for contributions to help the lepers and the poor of India. Please be generous.

### RETIREMENT FUND—RELIGIOUS December 13th

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

**Question: When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?**

Answer:

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the “I Confess” of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian’s striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a “humbled contrite heart” or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

## INSIDE OUR PARISHES

### BREWSTER

**PLEASE REMEMBER** to use the marked baskets at the entrances of the church for your church support and diocesan donations. Thank you.

**WE NEED** more liturgical ministers to read and give communion at Mass. If you are coming to Mass, please volunteer by contacting Loretta. Thank you.

**THE 2020 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL** generates funding for the ministries and services benefiting every Catholic in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester. Sacred Heart Brewster benefits from the CMA. Our parish goal is \$6,250. Thus far, \$3,965 has been donated by 21 families. If each family that has not given donates \$75.00, we will make our goal. Please pray about this and listen to God's call. **PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATIONS NO LATER THAN December 31, 2020. Thank you!**

**THANK YOU TO OSTERBERG FUNERAL HOMES** for donating the Catholic Extension calendars. The beautiful calendars are available at the entrances of the church.

**THANK YOU** to the CCW for generously donating \$550 to the Baby Bottle campaign. Due to the Covid, we decided not to use the baby bottles for the collection, but to send a check from our funds.



### HERON LAKE

**REMEMBER TO REMOVE** your mask at communion time **and then sanitize** your hands. Thank you.

**SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH** by placing your contributions, before or after Mass, in the baskets available on the tables in the church entrance. You may also mail them to Sacred Heart Church, PO Box 377, Heron Lake, MN 56137. Thank you for your support.

**REMEMBER** that contributions made by check to the 2020-CMA must be dated and postmarked no later than December 31st, 2020. Have you made your annual donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal for 2020? Thank you to those donors who so generously open their hearts to give each year.

**FAITH FORMATION** classes will NOT be held on Wed., Nov. 25th, and Sunday, Nov. 29th, due to Thanksgiving break.

**LITURGICAL ROLES** for December are available on tables in church entrance or you may also view them on our website <https://sacredheartheronlake.org>. Please find a substitute if you are unable to be there on your designated date. Thank you.

**SACRED HEART PARISH** wishes to thank the Catholic Order of Foresters for the \$764 grant funds for our Faith Formation program.

**THANKS AGAIN** to all who contributed to the success of our Baby Bottle Campaign. We raised \$880 this year to assist mothers to choose adoption, or parenting, over abortion for their unborn child. Please return all baby bottles to the back tables in church entrance so they can be reused again next year.

**CATHOLIC EXTENSION 2021 CALENDARS**, compliments of Osterberg Funeral Homes, can be found on the tables at the entrance of the church. Please remember to pick one up and thank our sponsors for providing them once again.

### WINDOM

**WALK IN CONFESSIONS** are available from 11 am to 12 pm in the parish office of the Priest on Saturdays during Advent.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed to the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We are only \$1,748 from meeting our goal this year. If you haven't donated yet, please consider doing so.

**ALSO, THANK YOU** to everyone who continues to support our church, whether by bringing your envelopes to Mass, or by dropping off at the office or mailing them. If you are uncomfortable attending Mass at this time but would still like to contribute, you could also complete a Debit Authorization form and your contributions would automatically be deducted from your bank account and credited to the church. If interested, please contact Pat for a form.

**THE WINDOM WOMEN OF TODAY** are again helping any family in need of Christmas presents for their children. There is no income base for the assistance. There are application on the tables in the main entry and the hall. If you know of someone who can use the help, please give them an application. The Christmas Cheer Boxes are in the hall for donations of NEW toys, hats, mittens, etc. Donations are also accepted to be used to purchase gifts.

**2021 Calendars, English and Spanish** can be found on the tables in the hall and the main entrance.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—Dec. 8th—Holy Day—MASS AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER AT 5:30 PM**

**WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**—If we are forced to cancel a Mass due to weather, it will be announced on KDOM and posted on our FB page—**Saint Francis Xavier Parish**. If we cancel a meeting, you will be notified by email or phone call.

# NOTES FOR ALL PARISHES

## **Respect Life: November is National Adoption Month!**

For children, parents, and families, adoption paves the way for new beginnings and provides children with a forever family who can help them reach their full potential. During **National Adoption Month**, we recognize birth families who make the difficult decision to place their children up for adoption, commend foster parents who care for children from different backgrounds, and celebrate adoptive parents who open their families to those children in need. All children deserve a stable home with parents and families who can ensure their well-being. Sadly, last year, 153,258 children were placed in the foster care system due to neglect, and 86,694 children were removed from their homes due to drug abuse. Please pray for the many children waiting to be placed in a safe home and for parents who are unable to care for their children.

**REMEMBER that contributions made by check to the 2020-CMA must be dated and postmarked no later than December 31st, 2020. Have you made your annual donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal for 2020? Thank you to those donors who so generously open their hearts to give each year.**

## **DOW-R GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATION OF MASSES DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2020:**

**-THE FAITHFUL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS REMAINS DISPENSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**-THOSE ATTENDING MASS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS UNLESS THEY ARE 5 YRS OLD OR YOUNGER, OR HAVE A MEDICAL CONDITION MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO WEAR A MASK.**

**Retrouvaille Marriage Help: Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Hurting? Angry? Feel helpless? Retrouvaille is a lifeline for troubled marriages. Couples learn the tools to rediscover each other and heal their marriage. 100% confidential. When: December 4-6, 2020; February 5-7, 2021; Where: Best Western Dakota Ridge Hotel, 3450 Washington Dr, Eagan, MN 55122, 1-800-470-2230, [info@tcr-mn.org](mailto:info@tcr-mn.org), <http://www.helpourmarriage.org>**

**NOVEMBER DIOCESEAN UPDATE: <https://www.dowr.org/offices/vicar-general/diocesan-update/2020-11-update.pdf>**

Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota would like to offer you some opportunities to make your Advent preparations special this year. Beginning on Saturday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, we will offer an Advent Reflection Series – each Saturday at 10:00 am on Zoom. Each week we will have a guest presenter offering reflection and discussion on the themes of Advent each week; Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. To get the Zoom link for this series, please contact Lisa Kremer at [lkremer@ccsomin.org](mailto:lkremer@ccsomin.org). Also check the Advent banner on our website ([www.ccsomin.org](http://www.ccsomin.org)) for more information and other opportunities.

## **DECEMBER 8TH HOLY DAY**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—TRI PARISH**

**4:00 PM—HERON LAKE**

**5:30 pm—WINDOM**



# ADVENT



**HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.**

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