

DECEMBER 12, 2021 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS - DEC 14—19, 2021

<u>Tues</u>	5:30pm	Windom	Ahrens Family-Living & Deceased
<u>Wed</u>	9:00am	Heron Lake	Robert Stenzel
<u>Thurs</u>	9:00am	Brewster	Rita Zinnel
<u>Friday</u>	9:00am	Windom	Brian Spencer
<u>Sat</u>	5:00pm	Brewster	Joe & Marie McCarvel
<u>Sun</u>	8:00am	Heron Lake	Rita Henkels
	10:00am	Windom	Bill & Cindy Fisher

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

If a Mass is cancelled, Fr. Pratap will include that scheduled Mass Intention at his private daily Mass. If you prefer it be rescheduled, please let Father or your respective parish office know.

Tri Parish Prayer Intentions:

Submit Intentions to Parish Coordinator

* All suffering from the Coronavirus

- Healthcare , Law Enforcement & Emergency Personnel
- Dennis Haberman
- Rosella Ormsberg
- Colleen Ortmann
- Barb Frank
- Lisa Carlson
- Jim Salentiny
- Jim Stenzel
- Sogge Home Residents
- Residents of Lakeview Assisted Living
- For the souls in purgatory
- For an end to abortion

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Pratap Reddy Salibindla, OFM
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: hlsacredheart@gmail.com
Website: <http://sacredheartheronlake.org>
Judy Stenzel: FF Coordinator
E-mail: sacredhlff@yahoo.com

WINDOM OFFICE:

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

This Week's Readings:
Zephaniah 3: 14-18a; Phillipians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 10-18

Next Weekend's Readings:
**Micah 5: 1-4a; Hebrews 10: 5-10;
Luke 1: 39-45**



PRAYER & WORSHIP

| Weekly Gospel Meditation

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!"
St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

| SACRAMENTAL LIFE

VOCATION VIEW: "What ought we to do?" the crowds ask John, and he sends them to fulfill their calling. Doing the ordinary extraordinarily well is a step toward welcoming Jesus. (Luke 3: 10-18)

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 during Mass.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PRAY THE ROSARY 1/2 HOUR PRIOR TO MASSES: Brewster— Thurs. and Sat.; Heron Lake —Wed. and Sun.; Windom—Tues., Fri. and Sun.



What's the story behind the Advent Wreath?

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!

LITURGICAL LIFE

LITURGICAL ROLES December 18th & 19th

Brewster
Saturday | 5:00pm

LECTOR

Heron Lake
Sunday | 8:00am

Steve Hussong
Barb Hussong

CANTOR

**EUCARISTIC
MINISTERS**

USHERS

CONTRIBUTIONS

SACRISTANS

ROSARY

BELLS



Franciscan Mission

B - \$396
HL - \$550
W - \$549

Retirement Religious/Catholic University

B - \$25
HL - \$ 5
W - \$50

CHURCH SUPPORT

	Brewster	Heron Lake	Windom
Week 23/52	\$ 647	\$ 1,727	\$ 2,893
YTD	\$27,965	\$ 56,292	\$61,590
Budget		\$ 90,378	
Total		\$(34,086)	

THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL 2021

	Parish Goal	\$ Received	From # of Parishioners
SFX-W	\$14,970	\$15,135	57
SH-HL	\$ 9,531	\$ 9,855	34
SH-B	\$ 6,148	\$ 5,815	23

FUNERALS

Eternal rest grant unto.....

Gary Lee Pawlitschek, who died on Nov. 27, 2021. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Francis Xavier Church on Fri., Dec. 3rd, with Military Honors following the service. Burial was held at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Windom.

Gail Barlow, daughter of Maxine Frank, who died on Tues., Nov. 30, 2021. The funeral service was held at St. Francis Xavier Church on Sat., Dec. 4th with burial following at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

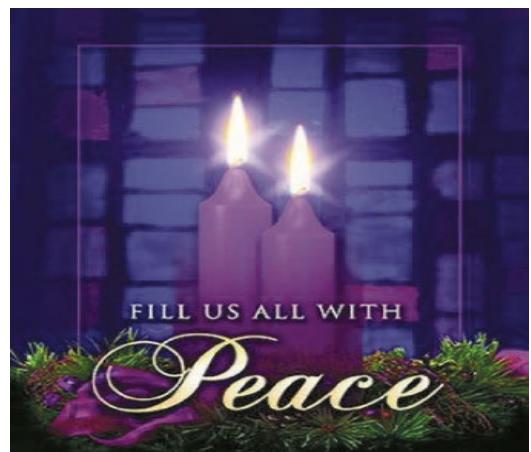
May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen. We remember their loved ones in prayer.



SPECIAL COLLECTION - December 12th

THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS (RFR) provides funding to any religious institute in the U.S. that is listed in the religious institute section of the OCD with an identifying OCD number, and that has an unfunded past service liability. It distributes direct care, planning and implementation assistance from the fund to religious institutes based on a formula and criteria approved by the conferences of major superiors and bishops. Annual appeal begun in 1988 and approved through 2017.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA , located in Washington, D.C., is the national university of the Catholic Church. Founded in 1887, CUA offers students an excellent education in a faith-filled atmosphere that is grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Collection for The Catholic University of America underwrites scholarships to assist financially deserving students in completing their education at CUA in over 50 disciplines.



INSIDE OUR PARISHES

BREWSTER

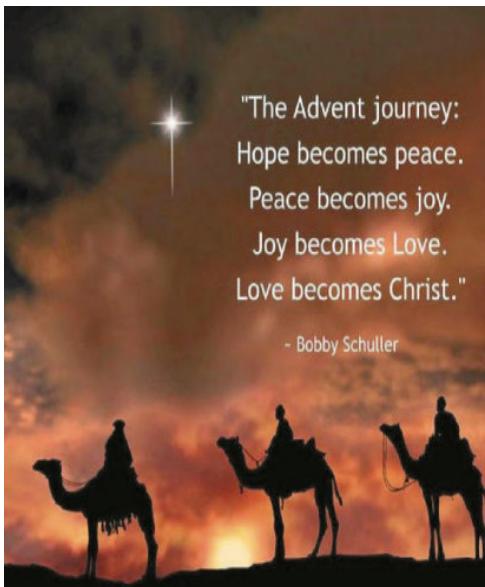
NOBLES COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES and Catholic Charities in Worthington has reached out to our parish for assistance to help local families have a merrier Christmas by being able to purchase food and gifts for their children. A letter explaining what you can do to help these families was mailed out last week. If you did not receive a letter, please call Mike/Bev McCarvel at 360-6906, Gerard/Karen Weinandt at 360-9324 or Darol Schmitz at 360-7331 and they will help you. Your generous donations in the past have been so appreciated by many families. Please help our less fortunate families have a brighter and happier Christmas. Thank You.

WE ARE ALMOST THERE in meeting our CMA goal of \$6148. We are \$333 short. If you have not given, please do so. Our year ends Dec. 31. Please send your donation in ASAP.

THE OFFICE must receive your final Church Support contribution by 12/28/21 in order for it to be included in your 2021 church support statement.

SACRED HEART CHURCH is in need of a Faith Formation Coordinator. This is a paid position that will require you to lead and work in the different areas that form our children's faith in the Catholic Church. If you are interested in this position, please contact Father Pratap, Dawn Murphy or Loretta Smith.

THANK YOU to Osterberg Funeral home for donating the Catholic Extension 2022 calendars to our parish. We appreciate your generosity.



HERON LAKE

MEETINGS:

Pastoral Council—Dec. 15th, 6:00 pm
Finance Council—Dec. 15th, 7:00 pm

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES apply now through JAN 2, 2022. Please plan ahead and get your announcements to your parish office coordinator early. Thank you for your cooperation. Reminder: Sacred Heart-Heron Lake email address has changed. It is now hlsacredheart@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Please use the envelope from your packet for your donation toward decorating for the Advent/Christmas season. Thank you for choosing to help enhance the beauty of our Church environment.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2021 must be received by Tuesday, December 28th, to be included for this tax year. ALL contributions received after December 28, 2021, may be reported with 2022 giving statements. Please plan accordingly.

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM: Thank you for being a Christmas Angel to the children of this community! Place your unwrapped gifts in the large box at church no later than Sunday, December 12th. Be sure to clearly mark your gifts with the number from the tag you were given.

THANK YOU to Patti and Jim Schneider for the beautiful job done repairing and repainting the church nativity statues. Check it out - They look amazing!

CATHOLIC EXTENSION 2022 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 be sure to thank our sponsors for providing them!

LITURGICAL MINISTRY ROLES for the month of December and January are available for you to pick up from the church entrance. Please find a substitute if you are unable to be there on your scheduled dates. Roles are also available for viewing on our website. Visit us on <http://sacredheartheronlake.org> and click on the Liturgical Roles tab.

SACRED HEART PARISH is looking for someone to do the seasonal church decorating. Please contact the parish office if interested.

ALL STUDENTS preschool-6th grade are welcome to attend a Christmas party in Steger Hall from 9:30-10:00am on Sunday, Dec 19th. Students will have a shortened religious ed class from 9:30-

WINDOM

MEETINGS:

Pastoral Committee—Dec. 14th, 6:15 pm
Finance Committee—Dec. 14th, 7:00 pm

FR. PRATAP will hear confessions on Saturdays from 11 AM to Noon.

BULLETINS will need to be submitted early from now thru January 2nd due to holidays. Please submit announcements to the office as early as possible. Thank you!

AN INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT has been set up for our church. You can follow us at [stfrancisxavierwindommn/](https://www.instagram.com/stfrancisxavierwindommn/). Thanks Jamie!

CONGRATULATIONS! St. Francis Xavier Church has met our goal for Catholic Ministries Appeal 2021. Thank you for your donations!

THAT MARY JO COPELAND trailer is still in need of repairs. That won't happen until next Spring. We will not be accepting donations until the repairs are done.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—PreSchool thru 6th Grade Faith Formation students will present their Christmas Nativity Play on Sunday, December 19th, following Mass. Please plan to stay. Cookies and juice will be served following the program.

THE OFFICE will be closed the week of December 20th.

COMMUNION BY MOUTH: The front pews are reserved for parishioners who choose to receive the Eucharist by mouth. If you receive by mouth, move to a front pew and the Eucharistic Minister will bring the Eucharist to you after everyone in line has been served.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT to get your 2021 Church contributions in. The deadline is Tues., Dec. 28th, in order to be counted for this year. All donations received after December 28th, 2021, will be reported with the 2022 giving statements. Please plan accordingly.

WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS—If we are forced to cancel a Sunday 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. If school is cancelled due to weather, weekday Mass is also cancelled.

NOTES FOR ALL PARISHES

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES apply from now through JAN 2, 2022. Please plan ahead and submit announcements to your parish office coordinator early. Thank you for your cooperation.

Respect Life

Human Trafficking is a process that culminates in the enslavement of human beings. At the end of this horrifying chain of events, men, women, and children around the world find themselves ruthlessly exploited in and captive to industries ranging from agricultural and factory work, domestic service, and the commercial sex industry. Tragically there is no community or country that is immune from the possibility of human trafficking occurring within its borders. There is an assumption that sex trafficking is the most common form of trafficking that occurs. However, that is a false assumption. The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20 million people in human trafficking, 14.2 million are trapped in forced labor compared to the 4.5 million in sex trafficking. To learn more, please see Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking at www.faastinternational.org.

"For parents and families who have experienced the death of a child of any age from any cause, whether recently or any number of years ago, a special Candle Lighting event to honor/remember their child will be held on Sunday evening, December 12th at 6:30 PM at the Cottonwood County Historical Museum in the Festival of Trees gallery in Windom. All are welcome!"

THE MARY JO COPELAND trailer needs more repairs, which won't happen until next Spring. It will not be available for donations until the repairs are done.

OFFICE POSITION OPENING:

Sacred Heart Church in Heron Lake is seeking a Parish Office Administrator. The preferred candidate will have experience in basic accounting / payroll, be a practicing Catholic willing to learn the church accounting system, have basic computer knowledge including Microsoft programs, and be willing to work in an office setting. An employee benefit package is offered. The office is located at 321 9th St., in Heron Lake, MN. A job application may be obtained from the church office or by calling 507-793-2357. Send resume and credentials to: Fr. Pratap Salibindla at PO Box 377, Heron Lake, MN.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

We are excited to start the process of beginning a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Atrium at St. Francis Xavier. What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd? From their website: "CGS is a common religious experience involving children and adults in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant. This experience is shared in a place particularly prepared for the religious life of children called the Atrium."

But we need your help! It takes a lot of work and materials to set up an atrium. If you can help with any of the items listed below please contact Katelyn. Also, if you are able to sew, do carpentry, or love doing crafts (we need many small shelves, items built or sewn, and put together) please contact Katelyn.

Needs list: (Please check back each week as we continue to grow our Atrium)

Small low tables (think for preschool age children to sit on floor or small chairs)

Small lamps

Basic child sized cleaning tools (broom, mop, dustpan, hand brush, duster)

Small kneeler or cushion

Small/Medium statues: Blessed Mother, Holy Family, Jesus as the Good Shepherd

Small stand or easel (to hold small prayer cards)

Katelyn Brown - 507-621-8187, stfrancisff@gmail.com

For more information on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, visit cgsusa.org



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Brewster—3:30 PM

Heron Lake—5:00 PM

Windom—7:00 PM

Christmas Day Windom—9:00 AM



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