

ST. MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

417 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 136
Lennox, SD 57039

A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF EUCHARIST, FAITH, PRAYER AND SERVICE

December 12, 2021—Third Sunday of Advent



PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: 605-647-2187

Email: info@stmagdalenlennox.org

Website: stmagdalenlennox.parishesonline.com

Office Hours: Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday
9 AM—2 PM

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor: Fr. Martin Lawrence

Email: frmartinlawrence@sfcatholic.org

Office Manager: Kristine Shaffer

Email: kristine@stmagdalenlennox.org

Director of Religious Ed: Anne Homan

Email: anne@lennoxnews.com

Custodian: Paula Kroeger

Prayer Chain: Rita Temple

ST. MAGDALEN PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Secretary: Douglas Wernke

Members: Darrel Buller
Andrea Kribell
Jere Kribell
Paula Kroeger
John Weaver

Votive Candles: Six day candles-\$3 each.
Votive candles-\$.50 each.

Bulletin Announcements:

Call parish office or email no later than **NOON, Wednesday.**

Mass Intentions:

Days available in February & March 2022.

Rent/Use of Hall: Call office at least 4 weeks prior to event.

Sunday Mass Observance:

Sunday 10:30 AM

Weekday Masses:

Wednesday 9:00 AM

(1st Wednesday—9:45 AM—Canton—Good Samaritan)

Friday 9:00 AM

(1st Friday—9:00 AM—Lennox—Good Samaritan)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sunday 1/2 hour before Mass or by appointment

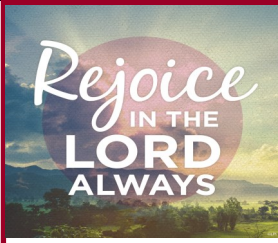
Sacramental Preparation:

Baptism: By appointment. Call parish office.

Marriage: By appointment. Preparation at least
6 months in advance.
Call parish office.



Third Sunday of Advent—12 December 2021



REJOICE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD! ~by Fr. Mark Suslenko

“Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!” “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!” These words from the Prophet Zephaniah and the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians frame the festive call of Gaudete Sunday. Pausing to rejoice may seem a bit of a challenge to some. We all grapple with life at times. These struggles can be so overwhelming and intense that they rob us of joy and a sense of peaceful wellbeing. Personal, corporate, familial, ecclesial, and social conflicts are all too plentiful. We are constantly bumping elbows with our weaknesses and sinfulness as well as those of the world. Our sad, painful cries reveal our incompleteness.

But, if we listen carefully, we can hear within our discomfort God’s call to peace, to move beyond and heal the sadness and journey to a better place. We yearn for this but are not always clear as to how it can be achieved. God is constantly beckoning us to grow and change. Is this not the message of Christ? In Christ, God reveals incredible things about who He is and who we are. Life’s eternal destiny is made known. He is with us and brightens the often dark recesses of human hearts. We have to see ourselves in Christ. The source of hope, life, love, faith, and meaning has been revealed.

However, accepting God’s invitation stretches us a bit. We have to leave old and static ways behind and search for something new. We can even experience discomfort and anxiety as we move and change. Growing pains are more than physical. We do not need to look far for pain and heartache. Our mirrors reveal a good measure of it. Our world cries as inflation soars, food banks struggle to feed the hungry, the devastating effects of climate change continue, the pandemic lingers, political corruption abounds, racial injustice persists, and our borders remain unwelcome places of conflict. This partial list outlines what is ailing humankind. Add anger, growing resentment, frustration, exhaustion, and impatience, and the situation is potentially volatile. Our Church, living in the modern world, also feels the effects of the tides of conflict, disillusionment, division, and change.

Where is God’s invitation being revealed in all that is happening within and without? Pope Benedict XVI gives us a hint in his encyclical, *Saved in Hope*. He writes that it is “only the great certitude of hope that my own life and history in general, despite all failures, are held firm by the indestructible power of Love, and that this gives them meaning and importance, only this kind of hope can then give the courage to act and to persevere.” In short, a deep life of faith assures us that no matter what or where life brings us, God is still working. We will not fall apart or fall into despair! Human nature leads us to believe that any experience of joy is deferrable to some future time when sadness, stress, disharmony, and discontent are no more. Believing this to be true, we find ourselves waiting for the day when the lion can actually peacefully lay down with the lamb. Until then, we cling to our misery and apathy. We convince ourselves that we are victims and hence, powerless. Today, however, we are reminded to rejoice in the Lord “always!” We have to open a path to it now, amid unsettling and disturbing situations, and not defer it to the future.

We are not finished but are all works in progress. Our faith reminds us that creation groans and is in agony. We are all on the path to fulfillment and redemption, an assurance revealed to us in the Birth of Christ. Even though life moves us to stumble over our weaknesses and sinfulness, we can as Pope Benedict reminds us, “open ourselves to truth, to love, to what is good. We can free our life and the world from the poisons and contaminations that could destroy the present and the future. This makes sense even if outwardly we achieve nothing or seem powerless in the face of overwhelming hostile forces.” Discord and suffering are a part of life and often cannot be controlled. But we fail to see that what we ultimately seek is something we already have! Do we not want the faith that brings the assurance that God has things in His care? Do we not wish to have a love that allows us to see the beauty and goodness that abounds, even amid heartache and despair? Do we not desire to possess the hope that God will bring us to the oneness of His Kingdom where all is fulfilled in the blessed presence of Christ? This is why we rejoice today. What we seek has already been given to us in Christ. God has profoundly and intimately touched all humanity and all creation. When we journey with our friends of faith, hope, and love, then even in the midst of darkness and uncertainty, we will experience joy! We will know, beyond doubt, that Divine Surprises will come and that lasting peace is our inheritance. This is not something we can earn. It is a pure and unconditional gift. God’s perfect gift was revealed to us in the birth of Christ. That same gift can be born again in each of us. This is the miracle of Christmas.

Our celebration today makes perfect sense. Look above and beyond whatever is unsettling, disturbing, or hurtful. Leave the fear, uncertainty, and anxiety aside, and see God’s truth and the truth of who you are. Rejoice! Forget about what happens tomorrow and beyond. Deal only with today. The future brings its challenges as it unfolds into the present. Control what you can and depart from what you cannot. God’s friends, blessed faith, hope, and love, are within you. They are His gift. There are no requirements to earn them. Accept them as God’s tender, intimate, and loving blessing. Rejoice that Someone as beautiful and magnificent as God thinks so highly of you! This is what gives life its importance.

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Growing in Faith™

Develop an Advent Frame of Mind

The holiday season can seem more like a test of endurance than preparation for a celebration.

In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable Love.

Try to see with a Father’s eye. Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through His eyes. Not the flawed human visible to humanity, but the spectacular product of God’s divine love and the reflection of his glory.

Prepare your gift. Make your gift to Jesus an open heart, ready to receive the love he has for you. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16).

Anticipating an eternity of unimaginable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

Spiritual Activities Advent Calendar

Dec 12—Celebrate the halfway point of Advent. Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Read Luke 3:10-18.

Dec 13—Spend time in silence today. Say “no” to unnecessary distractions. In silence and peace, you will be open to God’s will

Dec 14—Think of Biblical accounts of God’s mercy to sinners. Ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt and forgive those who wronged you.

Dec 15—In honor of the Holy Family’s trek to Bethlehem, pray for all those who have been forced from home.

Dec 16—Send a card to someone who lost a loved one in the last year. Offer your thoughts and prayers for healing and comfort.

Dec 17—Pray for the men and women in the armed services who won’t be able to spend Christmas with their families

Dec 18—Pray the Angelus at 6 AM, Noon, and 6 PM and every day until Christmas.

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THIS WEEK AT ST MAGDALEN
December 13th—19th

Monday, Dec 13, St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr:

Tuesday, Dec 14, St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church:

- Cub Scouts—Appel: 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Dec 15:

- Mass: 9:00 AM
- RE:
 - K-5th: 6:30-7:30 PM
 - 6th-9th: 7:45-8:45 PM

Thursday, Dec 16:

Friday, Dec 17:

- Mass: 9:00 AM

Saturday, Dec 18:

Sunday, Dec 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent:

- Mass: 10:30 AM
- Confessions: following Mass

Needed:

Volunteers~~following Mass to help decorate the church for Christmas. Any help for any amount of time will be greatly appreciated.

OUR PARISH

Support for Week Ending December 5th

Adult: \$1,885; Children: \$20; Loose: \$150
Vigil Candles: \$1; Mass Intentions: \$40
Parking Lot: \$42; CFSA 2021: \$70

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS & BEST WISHES

Good Samaritan & Lennox Assisted Living Residents

Judy Buchanan, Margaret Bugenhagen
Connie Cook, Pat Crevier, Joanne Ellison
Louella Godes, Winifred Janis, Susan Leuthauser
Betty Morrison and Dennis Uttech

Health Challenges

Ellen Renz, Dianne Bossman, Ruby Nordman
Fr. Rader and Fr. Dana Christensen

BIRTHDAY

12/15—Maggie Schuelke & Kristi Hahn
12/17—Marlyn Jacobson (75 years young!)

**The Holy Father's Prayer Intention
~December~**

Intention for Evangelization ~ Catechists ~

Let us pray for the catechists,
summoned to announce the Word of God:
may they be its witnesses,
with courage and creativity
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Information, Activities & Events

St. Magdalen's
Soup & Dessert Event

The Event was an outstanding success!

Thank you for donating, volunteering and supporting this great event and to the committee members for your dedication:
Sandy Richter, Shelli Delany, Diane Bossman, Priscilla Buskohl & Maggie Schuelke.

Raffle Winners:

\$100—Laurie Wernke

\$50—Larinda Collette and Dianne Bossman

Candy Count Winner: Emma Schuelke

Events Proceeds: Approximately \$2,700



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

You are invited to remember a loved one through an offering of poinsettias at Christmas.

Enclose your name & the name of your remembered loved one with your offering (suggested donation \$15) in your Flowers offering envelope or in an envelope marked FLOWERS.

Place in the collection/mail to the office by **Dec. 20th.**

Loved ones being remembered will be listed in the Christmas Bulletin.

Confessions

December 19th—11:30 AM

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

December 24th—4:00 PM

New Year's Schedule

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

New Year's Eve

December 31—4:00 PM

EACH OF US IS A
MASTERPIECE
OF GOD'S CREATION.



*"O St. Bakhita,
assist all those who are trapped
in a state of slavery;
Intercede with God on their behalf so that
they will be released from their chains of
captivity. Those whom man enslaves,
let God set free."*

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

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RE Classes

Wednesday, December 15th

Times: K-5: 6:30-7:30 PM
6-9: 7:45-8:45 PM

Wednesday, December 22nd & 29th

NO CLASS

Merry Christmas!

Confirmation

Sunday, December 19th, 6 PM

Questions—contact Anne Homan at 605-310-6058
(call or text) or anne@lennoxnews.com /
Sandy Richter-Confirmation at 605-647-4003.



St. Magdalen Youth Group

WHO: Grades 6 and up.

WHEN: December 19th
11:30 AM—12:30 PM

WHAT: Make cookies & treat plates.

FOR: The Nursing Home Residents
and for Meals on Wheels to handout.

NEEDED: 1-2 dozen cookies
to share, but not required to
attend!



Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA)
Court St. Christina #2336
(Tea-Lennox-Canton-Parker)

Cordially invite our RE Students, grades 4-12,
to participate in the
CDA's 2022 National Education Contest.

The themes of this year's contest are:

1. "With God All Things are Possible" (Mt 19:26), or
2. Where is God in my life when I am struggling?

Copies of the contest rules and entry form are located in the
Cry Room under the window.

The official entry form must be attached to any submission.

Return your entry to the office at St. Magdalen's by
Wednesday, January 26th in order to meet the Local Court
deadline of **Friday, January 28th.**

AREA & DIOCESAN EVENTS



25th Annual Christmas at the Cathedral

Dec 16-19: This year's theme, "Be Born in Me" is a first-hand account of God's Incarnation into the human race. **Tickets:** www.ccfesd.org, 605.988.3765, email events@ccfesd.org, or at the Catholic Community Foundation Office. Volunteers needed, call 605.988.3769.

DAILY READINGS/MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, Dec 13	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 21:23-27
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Tues, Dec 14	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
—	—
Wed, Dec 15	Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18-23
9:00 AM	Fr. Martin Lawrence <i>by Mike & Susan Pulizzi</i>
Thurs, Dec 16	Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Lk 7:24-30
—	—
Fri, Dec 17	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
9:00 AM	+Dan Ketcham <i>by Karen Ketcham</i>
Sat, Dec 18	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
—	—
Sun, Dec 19	Mi 5:1-4; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45
10:30 AM	St. Magdalen Parishioners

Mass Intentions are available for **February & March 2022.**

Suggested donation is \$10. Call or stop by the office to request a Mass.

St. Magdalen Liturgical Teams

December 19th, 10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Greeters: Austin & Tina Buhta Family

Lector: Nate Collette

Cantor: Jan Weaver

EM: Larinda Collette

Sacristan: Liz Schmidt

Ushers: Wade & Eli Homan

Altar Servers: Liam Sanchez, Bode & Karin Sweeter

Retreats/Recollections

BROOM TREE Silent Retreat Schedule:

Women: 2022: Feb 3-6, Mar 3-6, Mar 31-Apr 3, Jun 16-19

Men: 2022: Feb 17-20, Mar 17-20



Day of Recollection Schedule:

Dec 14-St Bridget of Sweden: An Introduction to her Life, Revelations, & Prayers
—Directed by Dr Teresa Kemmer

Special Retreats:

Feb 25-27-Undone: A Healing Retreat—Directed by Fr. Scott Traynor

To register/info, call 263-1040, www.broom-tree.org or broomtree@sfcatholic.org.



PSST! Adults are welcome to join the pilgrimage. Interested in going to the March for Life in D.C.? You can find more info at www.sfcatholic.org/respectlife/march-for-life/ for the itinerary & costs. Contact Audrey in the Office of Discipleship & Evangelization at 605-988-3748 or

Mar 4-6, 2022 - Search for Christian Maturity Retreat at Holy Spirit Church. Registration is now open for the March retreat. Search is a student-led, Roman Catholic retreat. The weekend features talks, skits, music and opportunities to encounter Christ in the sacraments. All high school, college-age students & adults are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact us by phone (605) 371-1478 or by email SiouxFallsSearch@gmail.com. Visit the Search website for more information and to register! www.siouxfallssearch.org