

St Isidore the Farmer

AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

The Catholic Parishes of

- St Francis, Benson • St Bridget, DeGraff •
- St Malachy, Clontarf • Sacred Heart, Murdock •
- Visitation Oratory, Danvers • St John, Appleton •

Fr. Jeremy Kucera, Pastor

AFC OFFICE

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Webstisidorethefarmerafc.org

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Phone..... 320-842-4271

Fax 320-843-2264

AFC Office Hours

Mon-Thurs8:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00 pm-3:30 pm

Friday8:00 am-12:00 pm

Murdock Office

Phone..... 320-875-2451

Kitchen 320-875-4320

Mondays 8:30 am-12:00 pm

Appleton Office

Phone..... 320-289-1146

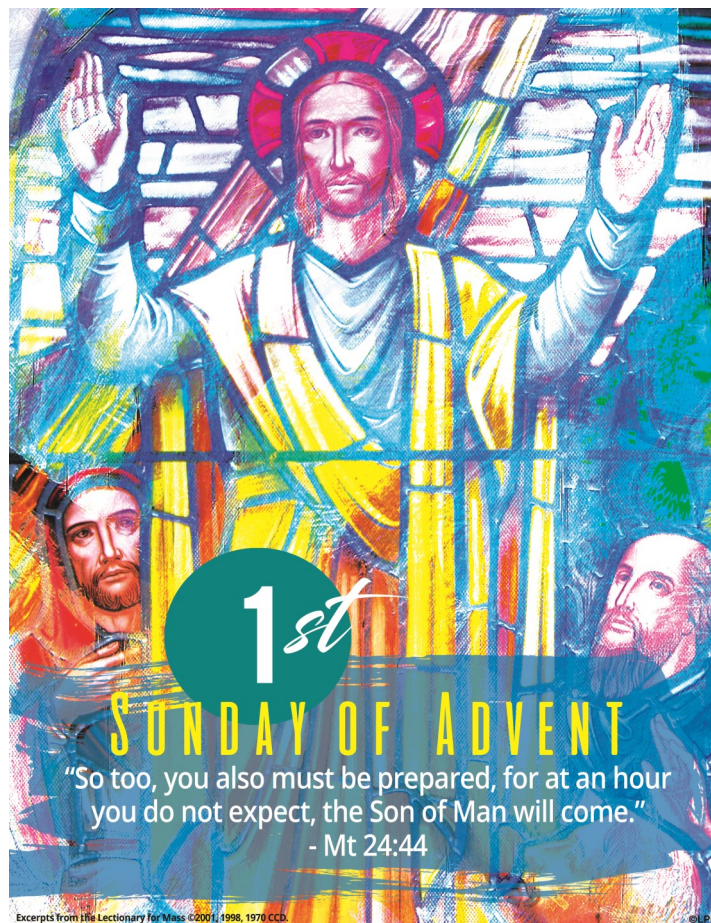
Email stjccao@gmail.com

Mon-Thurs 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Staff

Pastor Fr. Jeremy Kucera

507-828-5247 fatherjeremykucera@hotmail.com



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 3	8:30 am	Benson w/Holy Hour & Confessions † Jo Ann Fennell
Wednesday, December 4	8:30 am	Clontarf † LaVayne Langan
Thursday, December 5	8:30 am	Murdock † Melvin Ascheman
Friday, December 6	9:00 am	Appleton †† John & Marie Kneip

Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 7	5:00 pm	Benson † Wendell Plumhoff
Sunday, December 8	8:30 am	Murdock For the People
	10:30 am	Appleton † Merlyn Sachs

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 4:30 PM Benson

Marriage Preparation

Please contact AFC Office at least six months ahead of time to plan and prepare for your wedding. If one party has been previously married, the wedding cannot move forward unless an annulment has been granted by the Catholic Church

Baptism Preparation

Please call Samantha Johnson at 320-304-3857.

RCIA

Anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church please call the Area Office at 320-842-4271

Pastoral Care

If any parishioner or family member needs a pastoral care visit and Holy Communion, please call the parish office. Today's privacy laws do not permit hospitals to contact churches when a patient needs a pastoral visit. We are made aware of it only when the individual or their friends and family contact us. We are also not always aware of parishioners that are homebound and would desire a pastoral visit.

Prayer Line

If you would like to put someone on the prayer line, please call the Area Office at 320-842-4271. After hours, please call Patricia Walsh at 320-843-2226.

St. John Prayer Chain—please call Anne Bonk at 320-394-2160 if you have someone to put on the prayer chain.

Catholic Charities

Offers personal, marriage, family and pregnancy counseling at 1-866-670-5163.

Registration/Moving

To register in a parish or if moving, call the AFC Office at 320-842-4271 or the Sacred Heart office at 320-875-2451 or St. John's at 320-289-1146

The Vocation View

Stay awake! Be ready! God needs you to make known his imminent presence. (Romans 13:11-14)



Thank you to all who have given to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal.

If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge or gift yet, envelopes are available in the pews or in the back

of church. You may return your pledge in the collection basket or simply drop it in the mail. You may also make your pledge or gift online at <https://www.dnu.org/dma/>. Either way, your gift will be counted toward your parish goal. Be assured that your gift will only be used to support those ministries designated in the DMA brochure—ministries that are vital to our diocesan church as well as our own parish projects.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES!

The deadline for announcements for bulletin of December 8 is Monday, December 2 at 10 am.
The deadline for announcements for bulletin of December 15 is Monday, December 9 at 10 am.
The deadline for the bulletin of December 22 is Friday, December 13 at 10 am.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 1	The Holy Rosary will be prayed ½ hour before Masses in Appleton and Benson 7:30 am Sacred Heart Choir practice, sing at 8:30 am Mass Coffee & rolls will be served after Mass at Sacred Heart
Monday, Dec. 2	5 pm Rosary during the winter months at Scofield Place in Benson (South Lounge—chapel) —intention—that our Advent & Christmas celebrations will reflect the true meaning of Christmas
Tuesday, Dec. 3	9-10 am Adoration and Confessions following 8:30 am Mass in Benson
Wednesday, Dec. 4	4:30 pm Handbell choir practice at St. Francis 5:30 pm Choir practice at St. Francis 6:45-7:45 pm Gr. 2-11 in Benson—meal begins at 6 pm followed by class 3:30-4:30 pm Gr. 1-6 in Murdock 6:45-7:45 pm Gr. 7-9 in Murdock 3:15-4:30 pm Gr. K-2 in Appleton 3:30-5:30 pm Gr. 3-11 Reconciliation—no evening classes today
Thursday, Dec. 5	Confessions following Mass in Murdock
Friday, Dec. 6	First Friday Visits today
Saturday, Dec. 7	The Holy Rosary will be prayed ½ hour before Masses in Benson 4-4:45 pm Preschool Faith Formation class at St. Francis
Sunday, Dec. 8	The Holy Rosary will be prayed ½ hour before Masses in Murdock and Appleton Danvers Holiday Festival beginning at 11 am The Youth Group will serve treats and coffee after Mass at Sacred Heart.

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on "How to Give" on the left.

Give in thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

All Parents and students are invited to join with us for a meal on Faith Formation night in Benson on Wednesday, December 4. BBQ and chips will be served starting at 6 pm at the Benson Senior High School. Class will begin at 6:45 pm.

Choir practice at St. Francis will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at 5:30 pm. All are invited to join in!

Adoration and Prayer for Hope and Healing, - Friday, December 6 at 7 pm at Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye. Presided over by Bishop John M. LeVoir. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Are you struggling or hurting? Come and lay your burden at the feet of Jesus. Share your trials with your brothers and sisters. Receive prayer for your physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. Let the Holy Spirit heal and renew you.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Visitation Holiday Festival will be held Sunday, December 8th. Hotdish and salad Dinner will be served from 11 am—1 pm. Free will donation. Turkey Bingo at 1 pm, \$2,000 cash raffle, bake sale, and Silent Auction with holiday baskets & other items, gift certificates. Everyone is welcome!

Join us for adoration and fellowship at Cor Jesu on Saturday, December 8 at 7:15 pm at St. Anne's in Wabasso. The sound of Gregorian chant fills the air as incense rises in a candlelit church. After the Gospel and a short sermon, you enter into an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament while the sounds of sacred music lift your mind and heart to God. This is Cor Jesu.

Women's Holiday Gathering

Who: All ladies—bring a friend!

What: Holiday fun with a \$5-\$7 gift exchange. You are invited to bring a gift and appetizer or holiday treat. Beverages provided.

When: Monday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 pm

Where: Sacred Heart Church, Murdock



All families, especially those with children, are invited to attend an **Advent Prayer Service with Bishop John M. LeVoir** on Sunday, Dec. 8. The service is at 4 pm in Bird Island at the Church of St. Mary. This service is designed to help

us focus on Advent and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, centered on the birth of Jesus. Families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their home nativity set. The figure will be blessed by Bishop LeVoir individually as families come forward in procession. There will be a blessing on families and expectant mothers as they prepare for Jesus' birth in their hearts. A "swaddling clothes" collection (blankets, sleepers, layette items, etc.) and cash donations will be taken for babies in need. For more information, contact the diocesan evangelization and catechesis office at 507-233-5325.

Healing/Anointing Mass

(excerpt from the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

"Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that is received by those who are ill or suffering. By the sacred anointing and the prayer of the priest, the whole Church commends those who are sick to Christ. The sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gifts of strength, faith, peace and courage, and his or her suffering is united with the suffering of Christ for the building up of the Church." St. Isidore the Farmer AFC will have its Advent Healing/Anointing Mass on **TUESDAY DECEMBER 10** at St. Francis Church in Benson. Fr. Jeremy will begin with the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 9:30. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist to start about 10:30; followed by a free light luncheon around 11:30. All are invited and encouraged to participate. (Social Concerns committee)

MISSION NIGHT—ST. FRANCIS FAITH FORMATION

On Wednesday, December 11, students in Grades 2-9 attending Faith Formation at the Benson site will be doing some Christmas caroling. Students and their parents should meet at the St. Francis Church Gathering Space at 6:45 pm. We will break into three groups, one going to Parkview, one to Meadow Lane and one to Scandi/Scofield Place. We will meet back at the church for refreshments to cap the evening. Grades 10 & 11 will have class.

Upcoming Baptism Preparation Class for St. Isidore the Farmer

Saturday, December 14 9-11:30 am @ Sacred Heart Please contact Samantha Johnson @ 320-304-3857 to sign up for one of the classes.

Adopt-A-Family for Christmas—Look for the tree in the St. Francis Church Gathering Space, take an ornament and return gifts to St. Francis Church by Dec. 8. Further directions are available under the tree.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

4 pm Sacred Heart, Murdock

4 pm St. John, Appleton

6 pm St. Francis, Benson

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

8:30 am St. Francis, Benson

10:30 am St. John, Appleton

Children's Advent program & Potluck meal—Fundraiser for San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala

The Children's Advent Program will be held Sunday, Dec. 15, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church. A potluck meal will be served, and this is the annual fundraiser for our mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. We would like to invite and encourage all members of St. Isidore the farmer AFC to enjoy the program, good food, and social time together. Please come and support our children and our Mission Families in San Lucas Toliman!

SPIRIT & TRUTH—Catholic Men's Retreat, December 13-15, 2019 at Schoenstatt-on-the-Lake, Sleepy Eye.

- Discover your role as spiritual leader
 - Learn the fundamentals of spiritual warfare
 - Grow in your understanding of the Mass
 - Experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- "...worship the Father in spirit and truth..."

To register, visit www.dnu.org/spirit-truth. Sponsored by the Office of Adult Faith Formation.

St Paul Catholic United Financial Council #377 of St. Johns will be collecting eye glasses and hearing aids for the needy, and also postage stamps. Stamps are used for hobby therapy for wounded veterans in more than 130 VA Hospitals. Use or foreign stamps that are not torn or damaged. We request that you leave a quarter inch margin around the stamp. There are baskets in the gathering space at St. Johns on tables for donations. Thank you

The Social Concerns Committee has placed some "Welcome, We're Glad You're Here" cards in the pews of the area churches. On the back of the card you may indicate if you are interested in joining a parish. You may also request a prayer. Prayers will be said by the Area Prayer Line and by the Sisters of Mary Morningstar at Ghent. You may place the card in the collection basket. Starting in January 2020, St. Francis will host coffee and rolls, monthly, after Sunday/Saturday Mass to get to know each other better and extend a special welcome for all new members.

Opportunities at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin SD

Saturday, December 7—Sing Noel: Sounds of Christmas at The Abbey, Social hour 5 pm, Concert 7 pm

Tuesday, December 10—Day of Recollection: Divine Mercy. 10 am—3 pm. For more information or to register visit www.abbeyofthehills.org or call 605-398-9200

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 7-9, 2020 in Windom, MN and Apr 24-26, 2020 in HUTCHINSON, MN. For more information, call Miki Schultz at 507-227-8229 or visit them at southmnwwme.org.



We Welcome into the Faith

Community: Hunter Eric Miller who was baptized on Saturday, November 16 at St. Francis Church in Benson. May we always be a good example to him.

SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy and prayers to Dan and Cindy Enke and family on the death of her brother, Steve Carpenter. Steve's funeral was Saturday, November 23rd in Brookings, SD. May Steve live on in the presence of God and may the Spirit of Consolation touch all of their family and friends.

OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

St. Francis: Benson

Adult	\$2,535.00
Student.....	\$2.00
Loose Plate	\$117.00
All Saints	\$23.00
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$40.00
World Mission Sunday.....	\$25.00
Votive Lights.....	\$15.00
Parish Cemetery	\$155.00
Archdiocese for Military.....	\$60.00
Total.....	\$2,997.00

Sacred Heart: Murdock

Adult	\$2,038.00
Student.....	\$1.00
Loose Plate	\$37.00
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$60.00
Total.....	\$2,136.00

St. John: Appleton

Adult	\$6,919.93
Loose Plate	\$89.25
All Saints	\$5.00
Flowers	\$75.00
Roof Fund.....	\$50.00
Fuel.....	\$5.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$5.00
Archdiocese for Military.....	\$10.00
Total.....	\$7,159.18

Reflections for the weekly readings are part of this bulletin. This publication is sponsored by the *Knights of Columbus Council #2129*.

Sunday, Dec 01, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Twenty-five reasons to smile

It's Advent! Jesus is coming soon. Colored lights dance against the dark. Carols exalt us (and the "Jingle Bells" dogs make us laugh). John Lennon, who imagined a world without religion, couldn't imagine one without Christmas. Holiday cards keep on coming. Tinsel. Evergreens. Angels. Lighting family Advent wreaths. Sleigh bells. Generous hearts. Visitors. Parties. Cookies with sprinkles. Sparkly sweaters. Fuzzy mittens. Manger scenes. Nativity plays. Flash mobs singing "Messiah" at the mall. Children's faces. Reconciliations. The hope of peace on earth. Good will within reach everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44 (1). *"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."*

Monday, Dec 02, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Warming up to Advent

Today is the first weekday in Advent, and the readings underscore the season's sense of warmth and joyful anticipation. As our days grow cooler, Isaiah provides an image of God protecting the Israelites from the elements: "the Lord's glory will be shelter and protection." The psalm, too, trumpets a sense of joy and protection under God: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Then the gospel brings us an Advent sense of happy expectation, with Jesus envisioning the faith-filled centurion at the heavenly banquet. Today, as you slip on a sweater to fight a chill, or share a meal with others, take heart in being part of the worldwide Christian community beginning our Advent season of warmth and joyful anticipation.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven."*

Tuesday, Dec 03, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Welcome everybody

How can you live out Catholic teaching to defend the sacred life and dignity of every precious human being? In lots of way, of course. But one for today is the observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, promoted by the United Nations since 1992. Think about how you can support the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities and help include them "in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life." Promote awareness and celebrate their achievements; and if you yourself have a disability, celebrate your own achievements as well! Order an event pack for your organization at idpwd.org.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see."*

Wednesday, Dec 04, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Come to your senses

Saint John of Damascus is famous for opposing the Iconoclast heresy of the 700s. Iconoclasts said it was wrong to venerate sacred images of any sort, but John wrote three different treatises to explain why ours is essentially a "smells and bells" religion, honoring the Incarnation by using all five senses God gave to both us and Jesus. "When we see the crucifix, we remember Christ's

saving Passion," he wrote. "We fall down to worship not the piece of wood, but the One who is imaged." And when one of John's mentors berated him for writing hymns—saying they weren't a worthy spiritual pursuit—it is said that the Blessed Mother berated the mentor in a dream! Be sure to enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of this holiday season—remembering our Creator, who asks that we don't love abstractly but "in the flesh."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). *"They all ate and were satisfied."*

Thursday, Dec 05, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Can you lend a hand?

December 5 is the day set aside by the United Nations General Assembly as International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. It is a long title but its purpose is something we all understand: to encourage governments to recognize volunteer efforts that promote development and peace. Advent is a season of hope, and volunteers by their generosity of hearts and hands give us reason to hope for this world. Say a prayer of gratitude for volunteers throughout our world whose sacrifices promote the common good. Ask for grace to be a sign of hope today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). *"None of those who cry out, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of God but only the one who does the will of my Father."*

Friday, Dec 06, 2019

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

Protect the innocent

In every household where children live, shoes could be lined up outside the door this morning, full of candy and tiny treats. This brief preview of Christmas is mercifully given to assuage the plaintive query, "Will we ever get there?" From spare biographical details about Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra in the fourth century, marvelous legends have arisen. All underline his protection of children, so let's invoke him during an era of terrible child exploitation. In his honor, place the National Human Trafficking Hotline in your phone or on your fridge: 888-373-7888. Call if anything seems amiss.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). *"But a very little while . . ."*

Saturday, Dec 07, 2019

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Uproot income inequality

Saint Ambrose (c. 340–397) was the bishop of Milan and one of the four original doctors of the church along with Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great. Ambrose taught the necessity of being united with the poor. He said that charitable giving was not an act of generosity but rather a restitution of resources that God had originally provided to all but have been taken over by the rich and powerful. Speaking in the United States in 2014, Pope Francis said that income inequality in our society was the "root of all social evil." Catholics need to fight against income inequality.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"His heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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