

Church Of Sacred Heart



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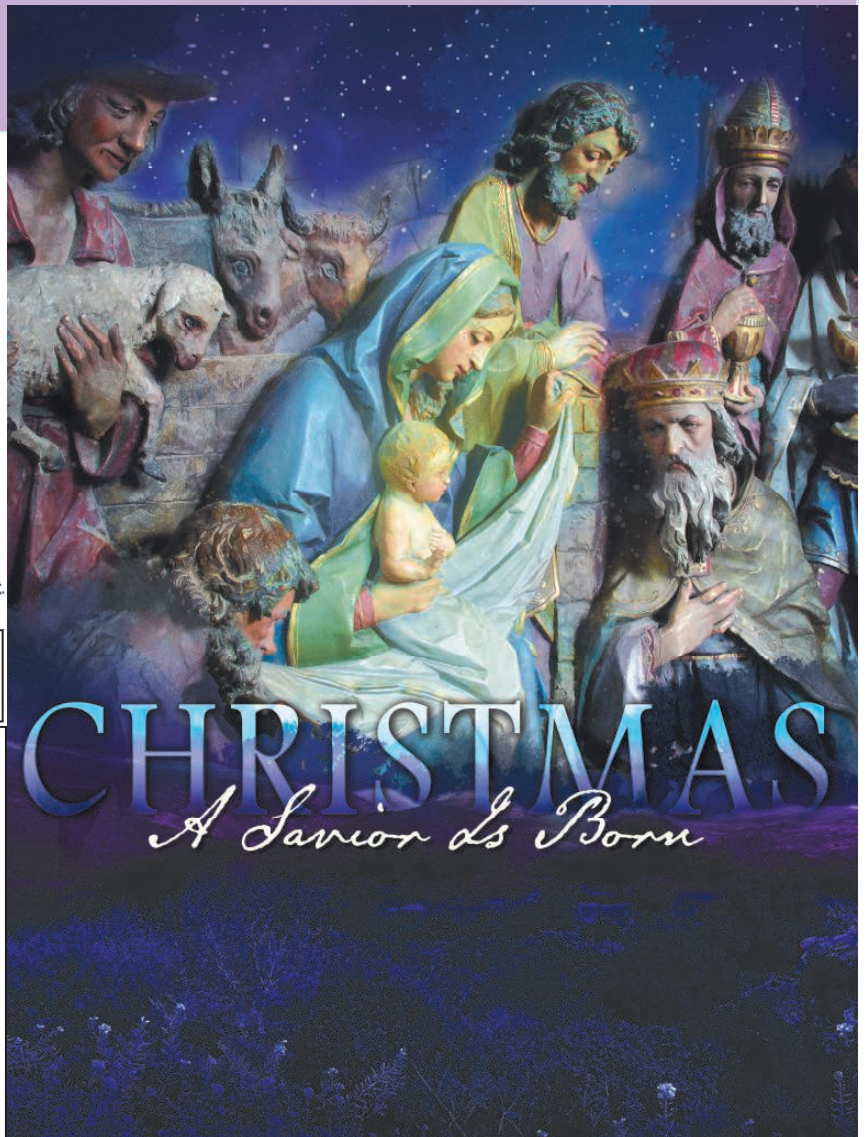
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Mission Statement

Sacred Heart parish is a community of Catholic Christian believers, established by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. We strive to grow in holiness through prayer, celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments, and reflection on the scriptures. We work hard to build the kingdom of God through evangelization, catechesis and service for all.



Liturgy of the Eucharist

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Weekdays

Wednesday 9:00 am

First Friday of each month 9:00 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Wednesday after 9:00 am Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Friday of each month 8:30 am

First Saturday of each month 3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Or by appointment

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

December 24, 2017

ON MY CHRISTMAS TREE AND THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Micky Garvey would be impressed with me, not only since I put up a Christmas tree again, but also how involved I was from the start this year. She was a former parishioner of mine when I was at Saint Pius X in White Bear Lake twenty years ago. When I first left her parish to move to my new parishes in Minneapolis in 1998, she gave her word that I would have a Christmas tree in the rectory even though I said I wasn't interested in putting one up. Guess what, that year I had a tree thanks to Micky, as she came over to decorate one.

Therefore, every year since 1998, when I think about whether or not I want to have a tree, a little voice in my head tells me: "Micky wants you to have a Christmas tree!" However, this year I didn't have to wait for that little voice, as I wanted a tree before I thought about it. Whenever I look at my Christmas tree, which is in front of the large window in the living room, a smile comes to my face each day. Here is the story about why I have had a smile, and have been filled with happiness in my heart.

It all began when I drove out to Phil Carlson's Christmas tree farm the Saturday after Thanksgiving where our mission trip students were selling trees, which were donated by him, as a fundraiser. Working at the time were Amelia Millerbernd and her mom Kris near a shed. After chatting for a few moments, Kris offered to come back later in the day to cut and bring the tree to the rectory. Hence Amelia and I went to the field where she pointed out several trees she thought I would like. One about eight to nine feet high was chosen. We returned to the area by the shed where we found her Mom and Phil talking. After a few minutes, Phil offered to cut down the tree and transport it to the rectory so that Kris would not need to come back.



My first attempt to put the tree in a stand failed, for it was broken. The following evening, a Wednesday, Dale Durant and Joan Hetherington agreed to meet at the rectory and set-up the tree with a new stand since I was up at Sacred Heart. When I returned to North Branch, I found the lights on the tree as well as Luke and his Mom Nicole Widstrom with Joan in the rectory. They informed me that all that was left to do was to put up the Christmas ornaments that were in a couple boxes in the living room that I had brought down from a closet upstairs. I said, "you can put them up if you like," and then walked over to Church to see how faith formation students were doing. Returning a half hour later, I discovered a completely decorated tree. Soon thereafter, Gabe, Luke's brother came over, and before long Claire Kind arrived. We all sat around the tree laughing and talking. Then they all left.

The smiles and immense joy encountered when looking at the Christmas tree this year reminded me of a few things. Foremost, the birth of Our Savior who brings love, peace, and hope in our lives whenever we allow His presence to dwell in our hearts. And then how that love, peace, and hope filled my heart as I went to pick out the tree, and how the memories of that night when several parishioners sat around the Christmas tree continue to bring about so much joy. May all of you, as well, experience the love, peace, and hope of Our Savior as you celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Merry Christmas, Father Shane & Flannery the Cat



Christmas Caroling

If coming to Christmas Eve mass, arriving at 4:30 will bring you the joy of hearing and joining in with our Children's and Adult choirs in some Christmas Caroling.

December 24, 2017

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 27		
Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	9:00 am
Saturday, December 30		
Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	4:00 pm
Fr. Fitzgerald	St. Gregory's	5:00 pm
Sunday, December 31		
Fr. Fitzgerald	St. Gregory's	8:30 am
Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	9:00 am
Fr. Shane	St. Gregory's	10:30 am
Fr. Shane Vigil Mass	Sacred Heart	5:00 pm
Monday, January 1		
Fr. Chuck	Sacred Heart	9:00 am
Fr. Nygaard	St. Gregory's	10:00 am

Happy New Year!!!

NEEDING OUR PRAYERS

Marjorie King	Margarette Brooker	Kim Sarago
Jean Amunson	Marvin Johnson	Jim Kirchberg
Bill Peno	Arlene Greenhagen	Ethel Thomas
Mary Knack	Gerald Mollberg	Tom McKenzie
Wayne King	Jim Mitchell	Sue Roth
Robby Murry	Judie Peltier	Abby Larson
Heidi Blatz	Betty Erickson	Cathy Gamache
David Gaul	Phyllis Swanson	Tom Solorz
Cecilia Shinler	Nick Cieminski	Colleen Najewski
Joan Parkin	Betty Anderson	Lenny Anderson
Ariel Thull-Rulfzen	Jim Bartz	Kathy Quinn
Jim Notsch	Bob Wilbur	

"When we pray, God hears more than we say, answers more than we ask, gives more than we imagine...in HIS own time and HIS own way."

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Do to the early submission deadline the financial results will be posted in the following bulletin.

MASS INTENTIONS



December 27	Open
December 30	Open
December 31	Open

2017 ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23

4:00 PM at Sacred Heart
5:00 PM at Saint Gregory

Sunday, December 24

9:00 AM at Sacred Heart
9:30 AM at Saint Gregory

* First, Second and Third Sundays of Advent are the same as regular weekends.

The Nativity of The Lord

Sunday, December 24

4:00 PM at Saint Gregory
5:00 PM at Sacred Heart (with Incense)
10:00 PM at Saint Gregory (with Incense)

Monday, December 25

9:00 AM at Sacred Heart (with Incense)
10:00 AM at Saint Gregory (with Incense)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

A Holy Day of Obligation

Sunday, December 31

5:00 PM at Sacred Heart
Monday, January 1
9:00 AM at Sacred Heart
10:00 AM at Saint Gregory



NEWS

Adult Servers: Please call the office or see Janet Yurick if you are willing to be an adult (man or woman) server at mass. You would be fully trained and called upon when no scheduled server is unable to serve.

Lenten Vespers: This long-held tradition of readings and chanted music in preparation for Easter is typically held in the late afternoon or early evening. If you are interested in having a vesper service held at Sacred Heart this coming lent, please call, text or email the church to express that interest. Thank you.

We are looking for a new **Chairwoman or Co-Chairwomen** to take over the 2018 Salad Luncheon. Lists and instructions will be provided from previous years. All members of CCW assist with the luncheon, but we do need someone to chair the event. If you are interested, please contact Brenda Dahl.

Daily Prayer This Week

There is a very quick transition after Sunday. Christmas is upon us. It can be difficult to stay focused on Christmas eve and Christmas day - even though the mystery before us is so powerful. We can wake each morning with a brief prayer to remind ourselves that Our Lord came in history - for me. We can remind ourselves of our Advent prayers that he come to us now. The nativity stories can remind us of how he comes, in poverty, in rejection, into the lowliest of places, so that I'll believe now, this year, that he can and desires to come into my place, my heart, my life. It is a time of deep gratitude, not matter how busy we are with many things.

The feasts take us into parts of Jesus' public life, almost completely passing over the hidden life years. The disciples are finding the empty tomb. It helps to recognize this and let ourselves enter this part of the mystery of the Incarnation. We are living in the flesh each day of our lives. He came to enter this life and be with us in it. After Christmas, we have these few days to let the blessings of Christmas settle in.

Each one of us can begin our post-Christmas time by staying in touch with ourselves in the flesh - as people touched by Jesus' coming. We can turn to our Lord throughout each day and have real conversations with our Savior. Over the kitchen sink, by the dishwasher, in front of the washing machine.



While going to work, walking, going to a meeting, returning from one. During our preparation for Christmas we were asking the Lord to open our hearts, to let us wait with patient trust, and to come to us. This week we experienced joy and the mixed challenges of Christmas. We have the opportunity to have ordinary conversations with our God who came to be with us.

Thank you so much, Lord, for becoming flesh for me. And, thank you for being with me now, in the midst of each day's joys and sorrows. I ask you to increase my trust in you, my desire for closeness with you and my commitment to turn to you all day long. Continue to be with me when I have to make difficult decisions, when I need extra patience and care when in challenging situations. Continue to let my heart experience the joy of Christmas all week as I see signs of your presence with me.

When these words take on our own voice and our details, it will feel very personal. And, when we speak about our fears, our needs, when we express our gratitude and our deep desires, we are living and intimate relationship with the one who became flesh that we might never need feel alone again.



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