

Welcome to The Church of the Sacred Heart

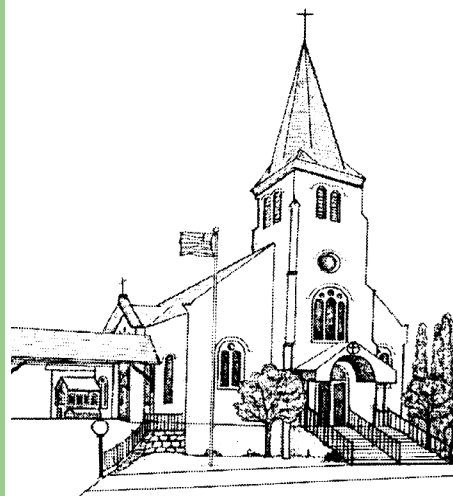
The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

Parish Office / Mailing Address:
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Marcie Biermaier, Brady Harer,
Landon Ludwig, Adyson Seymour

FIRST COMMUNION



Weekend & Weekday Masses

Saturday-Temporarily Suspended
Sunday 9:00 am
Wednesday 9:00 am

Private Prayers:

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays-
8:30-Noon

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Wednesday after 9:00 am Mass
until Noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions will be heard by request
after mass on Wednesdays or
by appointment.

Clergy

Pastor:

Fr. Shane Stoppel-Wasinger

Assisting Priest:

Fr. Chuck Brambilla
Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8:00 am. - 12:00 pm.

Parish Staff Contacts

Admin Asst: Marsha Marcussen
Bookkeeper/ Music: Steve Yurick
Faith Formation: Open
Minister Scheduling: Amy Prickett
612-716-9147

July 12, 2020



FIRST READING:

So shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which
I sent it. (Is 55:11)



PSALM:

The seed that falls on the good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)



SECOND READING:

I consider that the sufferings of this
present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be
revealed for us. (Rom 8:18)



GOSPEL:

"But some seed fell on rich soil,
and produced fruit,
a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.
Whoever has ears ought
to hear." (Mt 13:8-9)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
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Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
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WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Using the best seeds doesn't always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn't wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn't even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn't the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn't work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?

If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God's Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God's seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time again, giving it another try.

If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan for the seeds of God's Word? We need not only a source for water but a watering schedule. We need to weed, aerate the soil, nurture the young plants, protect them, and provide proper nutrients. What does our spiritual maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God's Word could produce in us!

Focus on the Good

When I was a child, my mother had a set of sculptures resembling three human heads. One head had hands over the ears, one had hands over the eyes, and one had hands over the mouth. Of course, they depicted the phrase, "Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil." I have seen these images repeated many times since then, usually as the monkey heads from a Japanese proverb, which would have probably seemed a little less creepy to me when I was a small child. Apparently, there is no consensus about the full meaning or certain origin of these three images nor the phrase. At the very least, it causes us to reflect on the need to avoid evil and look for the good in things.

As I have lived my life, I have come to believe there are more people who lives their lives in a contrary manner to these images. It is not that they seek evil, but it is as if they "see no good, hear no good, and speak no good." Gossiping is the way they pass the time, and they always seem to find the negative in people and situations. Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but more than that, it means that we see the abundance of good things all around us. These gifts of God are big and little, profound and ordinary. By seeing the world in this way, we begin to change our personalities and our overall disposition. We always need to follow a new proverb: see all the good, hear all the good, and speak about the good. Amen.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Why Do Catholics Baptize Babies?

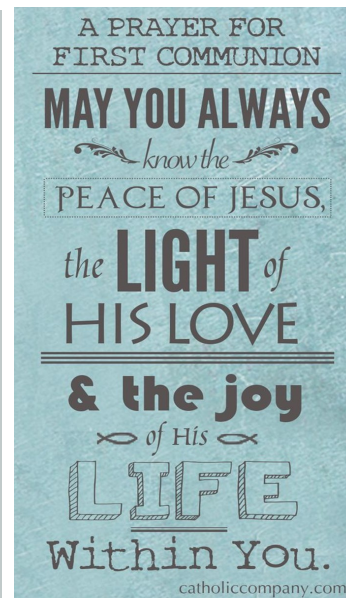
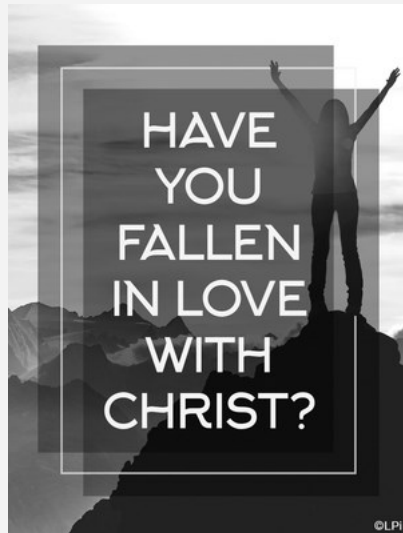
For adults who want to be baptized, the celebration only takes place after a long, guided, and thoughtful process through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is also true for many Protestant Christians, who are baptized later in life, often after a personal, transforming religious experience. So, it seems fair to ask why our Catholic tradition includes infant baptism. After all, if we make adults who want to become Catholic wait months and even years as they grow in their understanding of Christ and his teachings, why should babies — who "do nothing" — be baptized?

Our custom of infant baptism dates back to the earliest days of the Church, when St. Paul baptized entire households, including, we presume, children (see Acts 16:15, 33; 18:8). That had become common practice by the second century. When Christianity was legalized 200 years later, infant baptism became the normal practice throughout the Church.

We recognize that in Baptism, we are given the grace to overcome original sin — the human tendency to choose ourselves and our own wills over God — and to become members of the Church. This is the gift we give to infants in Baptism.

In its essence, the baptism of infants also reminds us adult Christians that the gift of salvation and membership in the Church (i.e., the Body of Christ) is God's initiative. It is freely offered to us, regardless of where we might be in life's journey. Salvation isn't something we earn. Instead, we see that Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong process of growing into the kind of disciples that Jesus wants us to be.

To learn more, see the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" (no. 1250-1252 and 1262-1270).



Congratulations on your FIRST COMMUNION!

Macie Biermaier
Brady Harer
Landon Ludwig
Adyson Seymour

Let us pray and give blessing to all our children who celebrate their First Communion at mass. We are grateful to see you celebrate this special day in your sacramental life as you receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. Your joy and enthusiasm for Holy Communion is an inspiration to all of us!



We Thank Sue Roth, who is stepping down as our Faith Formation Coordinator. Thank you again Sue!

We are in need of a Faith Formation Coordinator in order to continue our F.F. program. Please call Fr. Shane at 651.402.9005 for more information.



We have an opportunity for someone who would like to step up to the plate and be the Funeral Luncheon Coordinator. Please contact the office for further details. Thank you.



Father God, Your Word says the prayer of faith shall heal the sick. We come to You today in Faith asking that you heal us from every sickness, disease, and illness. We receive our healing by faith. In Jesus name AMEN.

Continued prayers for:

Al Walz, Greg Walz, Sue Roth, Janet Yurick, Gerald Mollberg, Margarette Brooker, Jim Thorn, Judy Strandmark, Jim Kirchberg, Traci Bartz

July 18 & 19 Celebrants

Fr. Fitzgerald	St. Gregory	5:00 p.m.
Fr. Fitzgerald	Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m.

July 25 & 26 Celebrants

Fr. Fitzgerald	St. Gregory	5:00 p.m.
Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m.