

# Welcome to The Church of the Sacred Heart

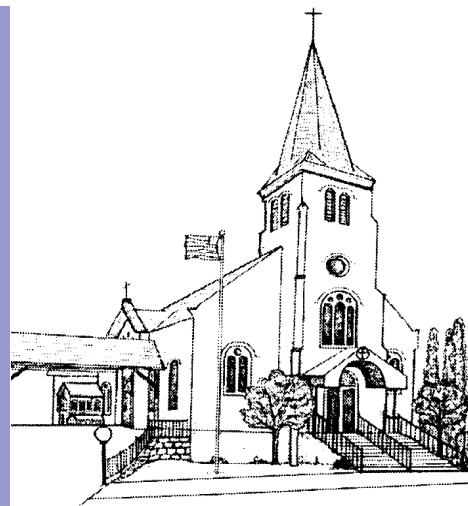
The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

Parish Office / Mailing Address:  
415 West 5th Street

PO Box 45 Rush City, MN 55069

Phone: 320.358.4370 Fax: 866.779.1580 Wey Hall: 320.358.3145

Email: shc415@hotmail.com Website: sacredheartrcmn.org



## 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: Claire Kind  
Minister Scheduling: Amy Prickett  
612-716-9147

# First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29, 2020



First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020

## CHOICES

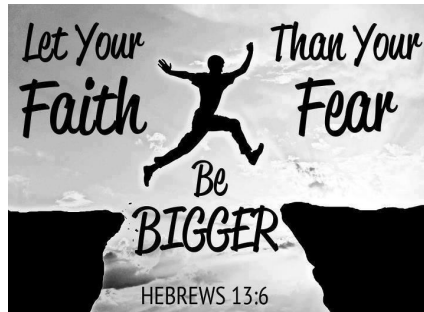
These are difficult and changing times indeed. It's easy to become afraid and stop seeking the joy in our lives when our lives have become impacted by loved ones becoming ill and the uncertainty of when we will see the light at the end of the tunnel. But fear not...if you have your faith!

Fear and Faith are very different, yet they both have something in common. They both do not know what the future holds. How are they different? One causes a negative reaction and the other a positive reaction.

When we are afraid, our stress levels rise, there are numerous questions racing through our minds and we tend to lash out as a way to protect ourselves. Fear makes us feel like our world around us is out of control. When we cannot believe anything good will come of our situation, and we worry needlessly, we allow fear to take control of our lives and our emotions. But remember, we have a choice. Joshua 1:9 states **"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"**.

We can choose faith. Faith is the opposite of not believing. Faith is an awareness. We cannot see God, however we are aware he is present and working in our lives. Faith is a gift, given to us by God, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. God gives us free will. God uses the trials in our lives, not as a punishment, but as an opportunity to help our faith relationship with him deepen, encouraged by our own free will.

How can we work toward becoming more faithful and



pushing away our fear? Well, it takes work. For instance, when we are hungry, we feed our bodies with food. When we are thirsty, we consume something to drink. When we want to get in shape, we incorporate exercise into our lives. This same principal applies if we want to take our fear away. We must feed our faith. This can be done with prayer, attending church (or on-line mass), participating in a bible study, reading or watching things with positive messages and just being kind and loving towards one another. We must choose to fill our souls up with the goodness of faith in order to make little or no room for fear to enter.

Fear can cause division and allow us to judge others. God doesn't want us to separate and judge one another. God is the **only** judge, therefore if we are casting judgement, creating doubt in others, gossiping negative thoughts to others, can we truly call ourselves Christian? Our lives were not designed to make us choose winning and being successful as the basis of reaching our eternal lives in heaven. Our lives were designed to live as a disciple of Christ. Then, and only then, will goodness, peace, love and joy flow from our hearts leading us to the best gift of all...our faith!

Now, more than ever before, we need to come together as families, as communities, as a nation and as a world. Will you join me and look at your future positively, by choosing faith?

With steadfast prayers for healing and good choices,  
Fr. Shane

### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS ~In the Unexpected

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



If you or a loved one are ill in any way and would like to have your name included on the Prayer Chain, the Sunday Prayers of the Faithful and/or the bulletin contact the Parish office. Permission from the individual must be given before we can list their name in the Prayers of the Faithful or the bulletin.

Prayer, at its heart, is an act of faith, asking God to step in and believing that He is both willing and able to listen to us. There is no prayer intention too large or too small — you can ask for God's help with every need.

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Almighty God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that you would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. Amen.

Continued prayers for:

Sue Roth, Gerald Mollberg, Jim Thorn,  
Judy Strandmark, Shirley Kirchberg Traci Bartz,  
Joseph Schwaab, Grace Schwaab, David Gamache,  
Erin Hestbeck Mielke, Cecilia Shinler, Bret Van Tassel,  
Rick Steltz



### December 5 & 6 Celebrants

|             |              |           |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Fr. Chuck   | St. Gregory  | 5:00 p.m. |
| Fr. Nygaard | Sacred Heart | 9:00 a.m. |
| Fr. Chuck   | St. Gregory  | 9:30 a.m. |

### December 12 & 13 Celebrants

|             |              |           |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Fr. Chuck   | St. Gregory  | 5:00 p.m. |
| Fr. Nygaard | Sacred Heart | 9:00 a.m. |
| Fr. Chuck   | St. Gregory  | 9:30 a.m. |

### Sunday's Communion

Dave Prickett is available to bring Communion to those who would like it on Sunday's after mass. Call the office at least 2-3 days prior to the Sunday.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you or someone you know is in need of a prayer shawl please contact the office or feel free to take one from the rack in church.  
320.358.4370



### FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

Get more value for your donations by giving cash! Please note "Food Shelf" on your envelope. If you do donate food, please, no produce that can spoil. Thank you.

### Christmas Eve Dinner

We were looking forward to celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> year Christmas Eve with our community family however due to the many uncertainties and challenges facing us, we regretfully must inform you that this year's dinner is cancelled. We wish everyone the absolute best Christmas season and a much more positive New Year!



The Marcussen Family

### CHRISTMAS CARING TREE

Any parent in need of help purchasing Christmas gifts for their children can pick up a Christmas Caring Tree application at the Rush



City Food Shelf if they have not received an application by mail. The offer is limited to children infant to 18 years old and live in the Rush City School District. The application deadline is Friday,

November 20, 2020.

On Monday, November 23, 2020 The Christmas Caring Tree will be set up in the entry of Creek Side Cafe. It will be decorated with Christmas Wish tags from children in the Rush City School District. Your help is needed to fulfill these wishes!! Select a Christmas Wish tag, purchase gift(s) for the child and bring the unwrapped gift(s) to Creek Side Cafe by Friday, December 11, 2020. Creek Side Cafe is open Sun.-Tues. from 8:00AM - 2:00PM and Wed. - Sat. from 8:00AM - 8:00PM. Please note the change in where the Christmas Caring Tree is located this year. Questions may be directed to Millie Peters at 320-358-3432 or Shari Schlagel at 320-358-3463.

### A PRAYER FOR THE First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,  
give us hope as we wait  
for your coming again.  
When we are tempted  
to be grateful to have found you  
while others are lost,  
send us out into the darkness  
in search of those  
who need you most.  
Amen.



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