



Church of the Sacred Heart

December 8, 2020

Immaculate Conception

415 W 5th St., P.O. Box 45 Rush City, MN 55069

Greetings and Advent blessings,

Each Advent, we reflect with hope on the coming of our Lord. This year, perhaps more than any other in our recent memories, we need that hope. Not a hope based on wishful thought, distant longing, or even an ambition, but the virtue of hope rooted in faith and trust that the Lord has not and will not fail us.

As we continue to prepare for Christ's birth this Advent, it is with gratitude and hopeful hearts that we look toward Christmas Mass celebrations. We welcome you to join us for Mass this Christmas in whatever way is best for your situation: in person or streamed live. The 5:00 p.m. Mass at Saint Gregory the Great will be live streamed.

In accordance with the Minnesota Department of Health standards, we have an in-person maximum in the church of around 75 people. If you plan to attend Mass in person, please remember masks are required, and follow physical distancing and other guidelines upon arrival. In order to accommodate the normal Christmas crowds, Archbishop Bernard Hebda has allowed for vigil Masses to begin as early as 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Please note the Christmas Mass Schedule below. For both Sacred Heart and Saint Gregory the Great.

- **December 24 at 3 p.m. - Saint Gregory**
- **December 24 at 4 p.m. – Sacred Heart**
- **December 24 at 5 p.m. livestreamed and recorded. – Saint Gregory**
- **December 25 at 9 a.m. – Sacred Heart**
- **December 25 at 10 a.m. – Saint Gregory**

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting Sacred Heart both in prayer and financially so that together we can continue making the name of Jesus Christ known and loved! This has been a year of financial hardship for many, and we are so grateful for your sacrificial giving.

Each year, we rely heavily on the Christmas collection and year-end giving. The toll of the COVID-19 pandemic leaves Sacred Heart even more in need. Our parish staff members strive daily to be dutiful stewards, but we need you to keep Sacred Heart going during these difficult days! We humbly ask that you prayerfully consider, in addition to your current giving, offering a Christmas sacrifice to support our parish community.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allows for taxpayers who don't itemize to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations, including our parish. The CARES Act also temporarily suspends limits on charitable contributions. You can learn more at [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

I have great hope that the Lord sees and cares for our every need. He is never outdone in generosity and knows the sacrifices each of us makes in being generous. Thank you for your generosity so that Sacred Heart can continue to serve you, all the parishioners here, and beyond.

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly this Advent season!

In Christ's love and mine,
Father Shane Stoppel-Wasinger
Pastor