

# Welcome to The Church of the Sacred Heart

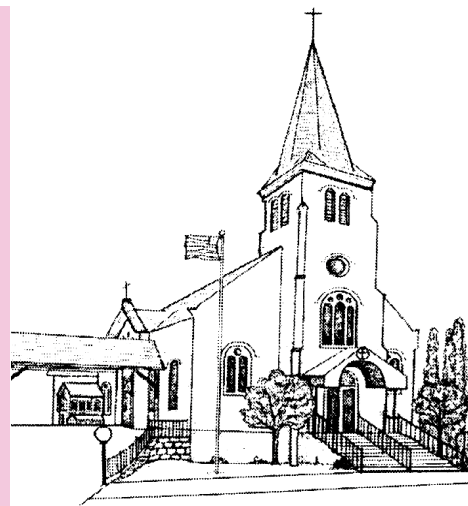
The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

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

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## 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  
651-674-7382  
Minister Scheduling: Amy Prickett  
612-716-9147



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 17, 2021

# ON COMPLACENCY

While I was driving through Eastern Colorado last weekend for my cousin Tina's funeral, I had an abundance of time to ponder about numerous things, as I drove without any music. In particular, I thought of complacency in our lives concerning family and faith.

In our lifetime, with all the mobility to move and live in a variety of locations, many families often live great distances from each other. My own family members live throughout the USA with the exception of the Northeast. Most of my seven uncles, four aunts, and first cousins were born in Garden City, Kansas. My immediate family was the only one to remain in and grow up in Southwest Kansas. Since we stayed in our home area where my grandparents also lived, I was fortunate to know almost all of my cousins. Closest to me was Tina and two sisters. We would spend summers at one or the other's home and for a time, all three of them lived with us when their mother became ill. Until I moved to Minnesota, Tina and I would often visit by phone and continue to see each other.

Then, over the past thirty years, complacency sat in; consequently, we visited maybe once or twice a year on the phone and on occasion would see each other. With Tina's death, it occurred to me with regret, how complacent I had become in our relationship. The funny thing about complacency is that it just sneaks into our lives. We, more times than not, notice that it is damaging our relationships and friendships.

While attending Tina's funeral, I visited with several cousins, most of which I hadn't seen since the last family funeral. Realizing how complacency affected us, a couple cousins and myself promised to be in touch more frequently. Family is just too important to allow complacency to come between us! And let's face it, we're not getting any younger.

Another area where complacency can creep back is within our faith lives. Before, and even now during our current wearisome times, we may have developed an attitude that

we are self-sufficient, needing little of God's help. Furthermore, when things are going well for us, we are prone to forget that it is God who is the one that provides all of our needs. We also may become comfortable in the wealthy culture in which we live in. Yes, it is easy to become too settled in our day-to-day lives.

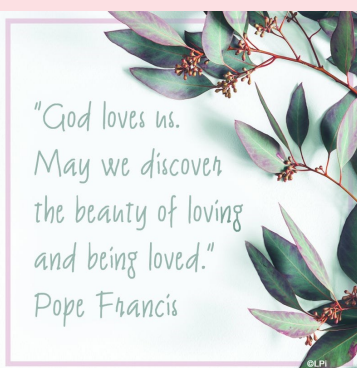
Perhaps one of the most dangerous aspects of spiritual complacency is that we just go through the motion of praying or we no longer have a great desire to get to know Jesus deeply. Our prayer life can become too routine. I have experienced this myself, from time to time over the years. This is why it is good for all of us to step away from our regular prayer practices, participate in a spiritual renewal program, or perhaps attend a special worship opportunity.

One of my concerns about our present circumstances, is that we will become too complacent in our spiritual lives and feel that we can get along without attending Mass or having other forms of communal prayer after this pandemic. Yet with hope, I eagerly look forward to the time when we can offer perhaps a workshop with different forms of prayer or even participate in a retreat. I long for when we can have grander liturgical celebrations such as Holy Week services or marriage and baptism ceremonies.

May we all root out any complacency in our lives, so that we many live a life that is complete with joy and peace.

Have a safe and blessed week,

Father Shane



**Gospel Meditation** ~ Our faith is not just about ideas. It's really about having an encounter with God and, in particular, the Risen Christ! Once we give ourselves over to the notion of God's presence, we have to train ourselves to listen for God's voice and be attentive to God's call. Having companions on our faith journeys is so incredibly important as they can help us fine-tune our listening skills and discern God's voice from others we may be hearing. Faith is all about having these profound encounters not only with God but with our brothers and sisters, and creation itself. Anyone or anything that is alive with God's presence becomes an occasion for God to speak and call us to deeper graces and experiences. "Come, and you will see."

The example and teaching of Jesus, the lives of the saints, those living among us and those glorified in heaven, and the wonder and beauty of creation can all serve to help us listen more clearly and assist in positioning ourselves for this profound God meeting. It is an encounter that can quickly and easily lead to a friendship and intimate intertwining of our souls to their Maker, making a claim on us like no other. Then, the Word of God moves from being just a body of ideas to something we simply accept and do. The person of Jesus Christ swiftly moves from being just a good prophet in word and deed to the incarnate presence of God Himself, the Lamb of God. The voice leads us to the Person behind it.

The Gospel is hard to follow. We can intellectually debate whether what Jesus said is really what we are asked to do. The Gospel ideas do not always make sense in our practical, secular world. The person of God always does. We can debate the practicality and sense of ideas and doing so often keeps the more difficult ones at a safe distance away from us. Jesus said to love our enemy, but we really don't need to do that, our minds try to convince us. It just doesn't make sense. Yet, if we are truly in love with the God who is behind the voice of those words, they make perfect sense. Our deep and intimate love of this God would even find us laying down our lives for Him if necessary. Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

### Catholic Charities Food Distribution

January 21st will be the first drive up food distribution from 10:00 am until 11:30 am here at Sacred Heart. Further questions please contact the Parish office.

### Communion for the homebound

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 if you would like communion brought to your home.

### Calendars

The 2021 Calendars are available at each entry. One or two may be taken for each household.

### Catholic Service Appeal Foundation

Congratulations! Your continuing generosity resulted in Sacred Heart Church receiving an \$811 rebate from the CSAF for surpassing our 2020 goal. With a goal of \$6174, we contributed \$6,580. Thank you!

#### **January 23 & 24 Celebrants**

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

#### **January 30 & 31 Celebrants**

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

### **MONTHLY SECOND COLLECTION 1/23&1/24**

The January second collection will go to support Respect Life. The term "respect life" encompasses a vast array of issues involving the inherent dignity of the human person from conception to natural death. In a particular way on January 22 each year the faithful are called to remember in prayer the massive loss of life that has occurred since the Supreme Court ruled on the case Roe versus Wade in 1973 which effectively legalized abortion in the United States. Part of the donations from this collection will go to Options for Women Pregnancy Resource Center in North Branch.

### **HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE to be offered FRIDAY JANUARY 22 at St. Gregory the Great at 9:30 am.**

January 22, 2021 is designated as the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms. We encourage everyone to attend this hour of prayer.

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.

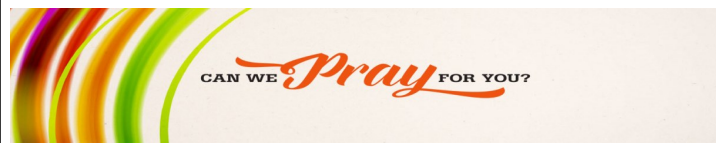
Prayer, at its heart, is an act of faith, asking God to step in and believing that He is both willing and able to listen to us. There is no prayer intention too large or too small — you can ask for God's help with every need.

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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, Ron Schleicher



### **ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD: FAITH AND CULTURE SERIES**

#### **FAITH & CULTURE SERIES JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 9**

Inspired by the thousands of participants at the Prayer and Listening Events, this series connects their stories to the story of the Church. Each virtual event includes a talk, testimonials, and a live panel discussion including Archbishop Hebda.

#### **Registration required to participate live.**

Topics and updated dates are listed below:

1. **Wednesday, January 20:** Sources of Catholic Teaching (Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium, presented by Dr. Bill Stevenson)
2. **Wednesday, January 27:** The Church's Teaching on Sexual Morality and the Family, presented by Dave & Cathy Deavel
3. **Thursday, February 4:** The Church's Understanding on the Dignity of Women, presented by Helen Alvare
4. **Tuesday, February 9:** The Priesthood (Both Baptized and Ordained), presented by Sister Esther Mark Nickel

Dates: Four sessions, January 20—February 9

Time: 7:00pm—8:30pm

Location: Virtual Event, [Register here at https://www.archspm.org/archdiocesan-synod-faith-and-culture-series/](https://www.archspm.org/archdiocesan-synod-faith-and-culture-series/) or on our [website](#) to and a link will be sent to you to participate.