

Welcome to The Church of the Sacred Heart

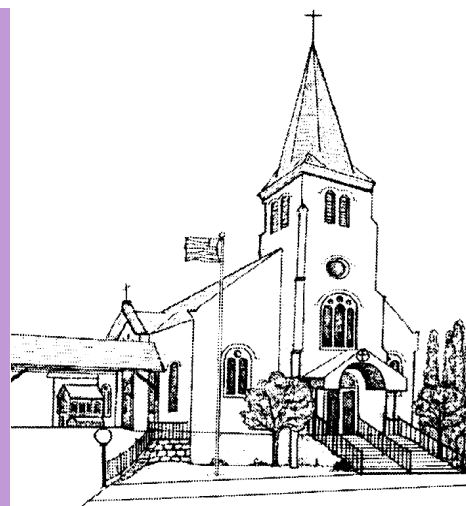
The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

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:

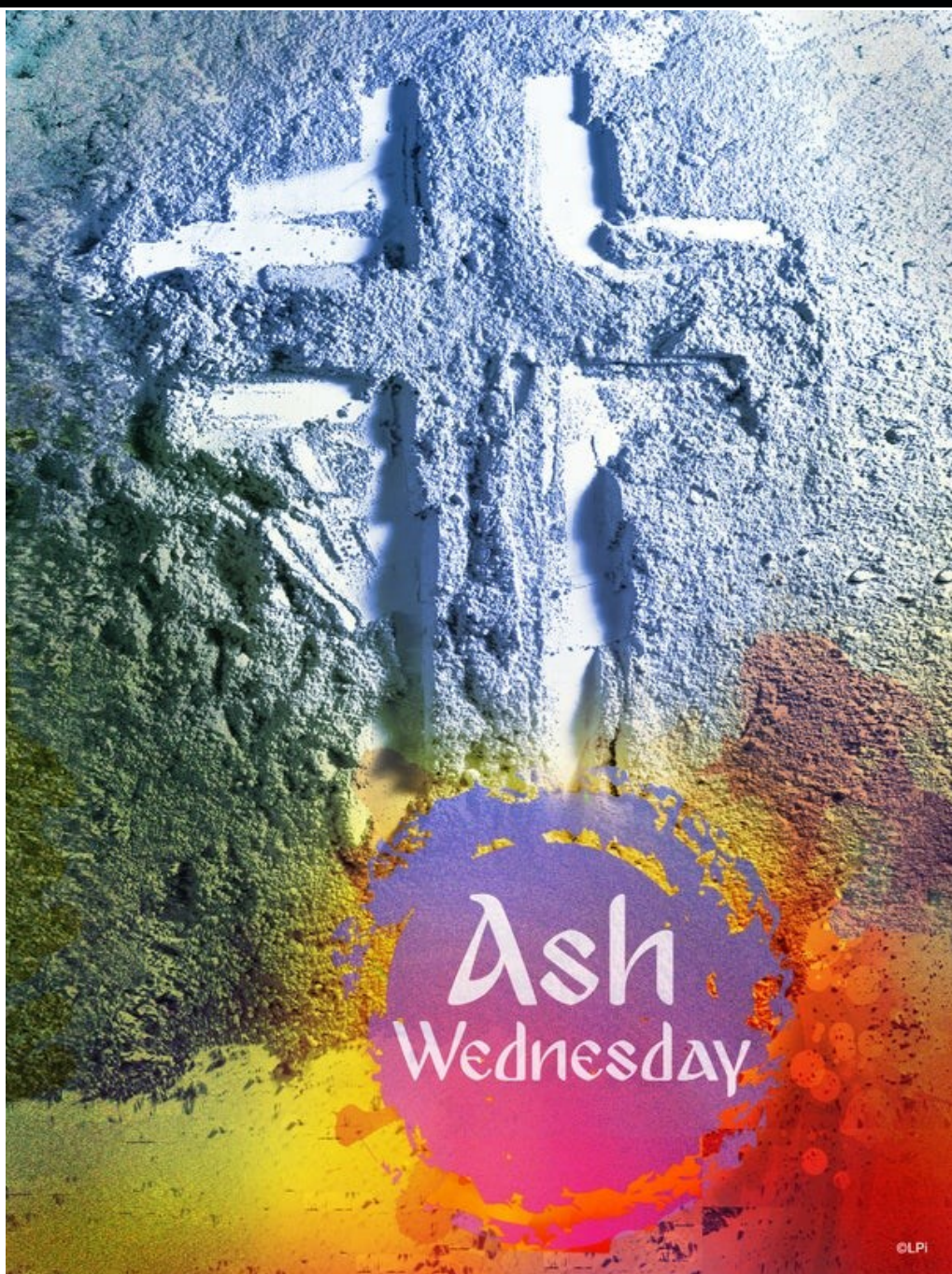
Fr. Chuck Brambilla
Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald

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



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 14, 2021

ON FEBRUARY 14 & LENT

Today we celebrate not only Saint Valentine's Day, but also the last Sunday before the Lenten season. Saint Valentine's Day is about love, but so too is Lent, that is, improving our love with God. Let me begin with some thoughts about February 14th.

We might ask ourselves who was Saint Valentine and how did he represent a day of love, romance, affection, and friendship? Although there are several legends surrounding the life of Saint Valentine, the most common one refers to a man who was martyred on February 14th, during the 3rd century A.D., by the Roman Emperor Claudius II. The Emperor had thought that married men would not become soldiers thus outlawing marriages in Rome. Therefore, Saint Valentine began helping these persecuted Christians, secretly marrying couples in love, and eventually he was imprisoned. A few centuries later, Pope Gelasius made February 14th the Feast of Saint Valentine, who had now become known as the "Patron Saint of Love."



Over the years, the day gained popularity in Europe where people exchanged gifts and hand-made cards. The tradition arrived in the United States in the 1840's with the swapping of colorful red and white heart-shaped cards. From cards and gifts of candy given by children and others as a sign of friendship, to teenagers and adults giving red roses, cards or perhaps enjoying a special dinner with one another. These traditions have continued for more than 1500 years, to declare our love for others. The love we show may be a "phileo" type of love, which is a love of fondness and friendship or it could be a "Eros" type of love, which is romantic based. There is also another type of love, called "Agape", or unconditional love. This is the love a parent has for their child or a spouse for their partner. Furthermore, this kind of love is what our God has for us. In turn, we are to respond to this unconditional love with loving words and actions. We realize, more than we would like to admit, we make choices to not love God as completely as we should. Due to our sinful nature, we human beings make choices that lead us away from being loving people, thus pulling us further away from God.

In a few days, we begin our annual Lenten journey. This journey is designed to intentionally free ourselves from sinful and non-loving ways, so that our hearts may be more open to encounter God's unconditional love for us, thus bringing us closer to God. This journey is a time to put away our selfishness and stop turning a "blind eye" to the poor around us. This journey is a time to break the complacency we may have in our spiritual lives. So how might we go about choosing to be more loving?

We live in a materialistic society, but maybe each time we want to buy something, instead we ask ourselves... is this a want or a need?

If we can live without it, maybe we can give others more and begin to work on sharing. Sharing our resources with others, along with trusting that God will provide even more for us when we give of ourselves, is a great way to become less selfish.

Complacency in our spiritual lives leads to a dull faith life, which does not please our God. During Lent, look for a new way to pray, listen to uplifting music, praise God, count your blessings, share your faith, or read something to inspire your faith life.

Remember, Lent is our time to renew and deepen our relationship with God. We do this by spending time in prayer, fasting from things we really do not need, and giving some of our financial resources to others who are truly in need.

This Saint Valentine's Day not only recall your love for others but recall your love for God. Choose to love God more deeply during this Lenten journey. Have a blessed journey during Lent and may you always know God loves you unconditionally.

Father Shane

Ash Wednesday Services

St. Gregory's 9:00 am Fr. Nygaard
Sacred Heart 9:00 am Fr. Shane
St. Gregory's 4:00 pm Deacon Kevin
Sacred Heart 6:00 pm Fr. Chuck
St. Gregory's 7:00 pm Fr. Chuck

LENTEN RESOURCES

Lenten reflection and devotional materials are available in the back of church. Please take one home with you today!

2020 Contribution Statements

Statements for your record of contributions to Sacred Heart Church for the past year will be mailed out this week. Thank you for your ongoing support.

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.

The Turtle Priest Book

A benefactor has purchased 200 copies of Fr. Shane's book, "The Turtle Priest." They are available in the back of the church. If you would like to make a donation to the church, you may put a check in the drop box by the ramp entry door made out to Sacred Heart Church or brought to the office during business hours. All proceeds will go to Sacred Heart Church.

Catholic Charities Food Distribution

February 18th will be the next drive up food distribution from 10:00 am until 11:30 am here at Sacred Heart for 60 and older. Further questions please contact the Parish office.

Catholic Service Appeal

The Kick off for CSA is on the 28th of February.

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.

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, Janet Yurick



February 20& 21 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.

February 27 & 28 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.

Jesus Calling...Enjoying Peace in His Presence

GIVE YOURSELF FULLY to the adventure of today. Walk boldly along the path of Life, relying on your ever-present Companion. You have every reason to be confident because My Presence accompanies you all the days of your life-and onward into eternity.

Do not give in to fear or worry, those robbers of abundant living. Trust Me enough to face problems as they come, rather than trying to anticipate them. *Fix your eyes on Me, the Author and Perfector of your faith*, and many difficulties on the road ahead will vanish before you reach them. Whenever you start to feel afraid, remember that *I am holding you by your right hand*. Nothing can separate you from My Presence!

HEBREWS 12:2; ISAIAH 41:13



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