

# *Celebrating & Sharing God's Love*

## *Sacred Heart Catholic Church*

Parish Office / Mailing Address:

415 West 5th Street PO Box 45

Rush City, MN 55069

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# Hope

**May the Lord  
make you  
increase and  
abound in love  
for one another  
and for all**

1 Thessalonians 3:12



mbeddedfaith.org

### **WEEKDAY/WEEKEND MASSES**

Sunday 9:00 am

Wednesday 9:00 am

### **ADORATION**

Every Wednesday after 9:00 am

Mass until Noon

### **RECONCILIATION**

After mass on every Wednesday of the month or by appointment.

### **PASTOR**

Fr. Matt Shireman

### **DEACON**

Kevin Downie

### **ASSISTING PRIEST**

Fr. Chuck Brambilla

Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald

Fr. Bob Nygaard

### **OFFICE HOURS**

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

### **PARISH OFFICE**

Admin Asst: Marsha Marcussen

Bookkeeper/ Music: Steve Yurick

320-358-4370

shc415@hotmail.com

### **FAITH FORMATION**

Sacred Heart :Tina Heidelberger

763-670-8594

Confirmation: Dion Scott

651-674-7382

dion@stgregorynb.org

**First Sunday of Advent | 12-3 -2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent | 12-10-2023**

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LETTER TO PARISHIONERS

Advent greetings and blessings,

As we prepare for Christmas and reflect on the humble arrival of the Child Jesus 2000 years ago, we also prepare our hearts for when He returns in glory. Here are some ways you are invited to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ this Advent.

- Family Advent Celebration and **Potluck** at St. Gregory's (Sun. 12/3 from 4 to 7 p.m.)
- Reconciliation Service at St. Gregory's (Sat. 12/9 at 10 a.m.)
- Reconciliation Service at Sacred Heart (Tue. 12/19 at 7 p.m.)
- Advent book (free!)—Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist by Dr. Brant Pitre

One of the best ways we can prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord is by celebrating Mass. Here, we truly experience the coming of the Lord when He is present in His Word and He sustains us in the Eucharist.

I look forward to celebrating Mass with you and your loved ones this Advent season and at Christmas! This year, we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent on December 24, followed by the joyous occasion of Christmas on Monday, December 25. In light of this, our Christmas Mass times look different this year (as a reminder, the revised Sunday Mass times go into effect on January 1st). We look forward to welcoming you on the following days and times:

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

- **Saturday, December 23 at 5 p.m. (Vigil) at St. Gregory's**
- **Sunday, December 24 at 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart**
- **Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Gregory's**

## Christmas

- **Sunday, December 24 at 4 p.m. (Vigil) at St. Gregory's**
- **Sunday, December 24 at 5 p.m. (Vigil) at Sacred Heart**
- **Monday, December 25 at 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart**
- **Monday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Gregory's**

I am grateful for your generosity in supporting St. Gregory's and Sacred Heart both in prayer and financially so that together

we can make the name of Jesus Christ known and loved! As we approach 2024, I encourage you to remember to keep us in mind with other end-of-the-year giving.

Thank you, in advance, for joining our parish community in the opportunities for prayer, fellowship and stewardship shared above during this hopeful and joyous season. May God bless you and your loved ones this Advent – and

beyond – as we together prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior.

In Christ ~ Fr. Matt



## Small Groups Update



The SET and I are now entering into the final preparations for bringing small group ministry to the parish in February. Please keep us—as well as others who have discerned that they would like to be leaders and co-leaders—in your prayers as we have a practical training session the week of December 10th.



## Baptized into the Family of God

Josie Judith Nelson

Daughter to  
Cory & Emma Nelson

May God's grace and blessings that you receive on your Baptism, guide you throughout your life.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,  
MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.  
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED  
AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."

—LUKE 3:4-5

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 GCD.

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Dec. 8th  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
©LPI



## PARISH INFO



**Bible Studies** help women grow closer to Christ as they lean on truths found in Scripture to live joy-filled lives. Join other women on **Wednesdays** after Mass at the Rusheba Senior Center **10-11:30 am**. Learn about Woman Saints, prayer and fellowship. Contact Sandy Pelant w/questions 612-245-8986.

### Catholic Charities Food Distribution

The next food distribution of frozen meals for seniors 60 and older will be on **Tuesday, December 19th from 11:00am-12:00 pm**. Meals are available in quantities of 20 per calendar month.

### Retirement Fund For Religious

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the RFFR next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priest who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

## Parish News

Take-out & Deliveries available  
Call for homebound deliveries!

You're Invited to a Free  
Community  
**CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER**

Sunday, December 24, 2023  
6:00pm in Wey Hall of the  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
415 W 5th Street  
Rush City, MN 55069  
**320-358-4370 & 320-358-3145**

## UPCOMING HOLY MASSES AND SACRAMENTS

**Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of Obligation ~**  
Vigil Mass - December 7th, 6:30 p.m.

Day of Mass - December 8th, 8:30 a.m. at St. Gregory,  
**9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart**



**Advent Penance Service ~**

December 9th, 10:00 a.m. at St. Gregory  
**December 19th, 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart**



## 2024 MASS TIMES

Starting January 1st, 2024, some Mass times will change at each parish.

**Sacred Heart Church:**

Sunday—currently 9:00am will move to **8:30am**  
Reconciliation—8:00-8:20am on First Sundays

**St. Gregory the Great Church:**

Saturday—5:00 pm  
Sunday—currently 9:30am will move to **10:30am**



## 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.

## YOUTH MINISTRY & FAITH FORMATION



### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

A service trip is being planned at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids on Saturday, January 6, 2024. This trip is required for 1st and 2nd year Confirmants, and optional for 6th - 8th grade KIC disciples. The bus will depart St. Gregory The Great Church at 8:00 a.m. and will return at noon. Permission forms are due in to the Faith Formation office at St. Gregory the Great Church by December 3.

### DOC SCHEDULE CHANGES

On Sunday, December 3, DOC class will meet at the usual time from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great Church. The Confirmant and Sponsor meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 7 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great Church.

### FRIDAY FUN NIGHTS

Kids in 3rd-5th grade are invited to attend the next Friday Fun Night from 6:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m. on December 8. We will play games, eat snacks, work on a service project, and have a faith activity. Please turn in your permission slips as soon as possible. Email Liz Long: [liz@stgregorynb.org](mailto:liz@stgregorynb.org)



## Mass Intentions

**Wednesday, December 6th**  
9:00 am † Bernie Knoss

**Sunday, December 10th**  
9:00 am † Paul & Elinor Capeccchi

**Wednesday, December 13th**  
9:00 am † Elsie Moore

**Sunday, December 17th**  
9:00 am † Gibson Family



## Weekly Celebrants

**Wednesday, December 6th**  
9:00 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt  
9:00 am | St. Gregory| Fr. Nygaard

**Sunday, December 10th**  
9:00 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt  
9:30 am | St. Gregory| Fr. Chuck w/Dn. Kevin

**Wednesday, December 13th**  
9:00 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt  
6:30 pm | St. Gregory| Fr. Nygaard

**Sunday, December 17th**  
9:00 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Fitzgerald-w/Dn. Kevin  
9:30 am | St. Gregory| Fr. Matt

## Remember in our Prayers.....

Audrey Larson, Kim Wall, David Kirchberg, Carole Stenger, Connie Blomquist, Janet Yurick, Grace Schwaab, Judy Strandmark, Sue Roth, Gerald Mollberg, Erin Hestbeck-Mielke, Amy Granlund, Cheryl Gebhart-Trempe, Marianne Schmitz, Heidi Blatz, Gary Frazier, Shelly Repke, Betty Anderson Schlipp

*We pray for all those in the nursing home and those who are home-bound.*

*In order to keep the prayer corner current, names will be kept on the prayer corner for two months unless requested to come off earlier. If a name comes off that you want put back on, please call the parish office or the contact for your parish to have them put back on.*



## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you or a loved one are ill in any way and would like to have your name included in the Sunday Prayers of the Faithful, contact the Parish office. Also, any prayer request or needs can be written in our Parish Intercessory Book in the back of church at any time.

## ANointing OF THE SICK

Are you or someone you know having surgery? Seriously ill or suffering in mind, body or spirit? Consider receiving the Sacrament of Anointing. This rite is intended to convey God's grace to those who receive it, through the power of the Holy Spirit. To set a time that works for you, please contact the parish office.