

Celebrating & Sharing God's Love

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Parish Office / Mailing Address:

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Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, he is a new
creation. The old has
passed away; behold, the
new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



May God's peace be upon
you and remain with you
throughout the year.

WEEKDAY/WEEKEND MASSES

Sunday 8:30 am

Wednesday 9:00 am

ADORATION

Every Wednesday after 9:00 am
Mass until Noon

RECONCILIATION

1st Sunday at 8:00 am

After mass on every Wednesday
or by appointment.

PASTOR

Fr. Matt Shireman

DEACON

Kevin Downie

ASSISTING PRIEST

Fr. Chuck Brambilla

Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald

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

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Confirmation: Dion Scott

651-674-7382

dion@stgregorynb.org

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
12-31-2023

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | 1-7-2024

MARY AND NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

As we approach the New Year, it is a standard practice to reflect on what ways we want to be different in 2024. Many people make New Year's resolutions for exercising, eating, or spending time with family. On the religious side, people may resolve to listen to a daily or weekly podcast (like Catechism in a Year) or to pray every day. But perhaps one thing that could summarize any resolution we would consider is to become holy. And Mary the Mother of God is the holiest human person who has ever lived (or who will ever live). This means that our resolution could be to become more like Mary.

We (especially as Catholics) don't just look at Mary because she has a great story. We also don't just think that she exhibited great faith some 2000 years ago. But she is more fully human now in Heaven. As with any of our loved ones who have gone to their heavenly home, Mary is still in communion with us. God is outside of time and place so He can bind us all together into His family.



A Dominican priest who teaches at the St. Paul Seminary recently spoke to priests about how Mary is the exemplar of everything we do as a Church, as individual Christians. Mary interiorized everything about her Son and Savior that we are meant to interiorize, too; she pondered in her heart everything that Jesus said and did. She was full of faith, adoration of God (through the worship she was able to enter into as a Jew and later as a Christian), and love of God and neighbor (see the 2nd Joyful Mystery of the Rosary—the visitation to her cousin Elizabeth).

As you may recall, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary the Mother God. Although the obligation to attend the Holy Day is abrogated this year as January 1st falls on a Monday, I would encourage people to see that it is good to have the desire to participate in the Holy Day. If God-willing we will be entering into Heavenly worship forever, every Mass we participate in is getting us ready for Heaven. To truly feast and enjoy the blessings in this life, it all starts with worship (Mary lived this out in the great Jewish feasts like Passover). For the purpose of celebrating the Holy Day, you are invited to the 7 pm. Mass on January 1st at Sacred Heart that I will celebrate.

May God bless your 2024 and may you become more like Mary this year!

Fr. Matt



Small Groups Update

Following a Christmas break, the "first wave" of small group leaders will receive further practical training for running small groups during January. Most of the training up to this point has been through videos provided by the Archdiocese (with in-person discussions). However, the format this month is a 15-minute video followed by practicing in-person for the rest of the time (with some planning for the 2/14 launch date thrown in for good measure).

Contact Fr. Matt by email father-matt@stgregorynb.org for more information or questions about any of these events.

BIBLE STUDY Bible study with Father Matt will meet again on January 5th & 12th but not the 19th in the Romero House after 8:30am Mass.



CATHOLIC WATCHMEN The next gathering of the Catholic Watchmen will on January 4th at 7:00 p.m. Meet in St. Gregory's Parish Hall.

Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light? ~By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory." — Isaiah 60:2

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, January 16th from 11:00am-12:00 pm**. Meals are available in quantities of 20 per calendar month.

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

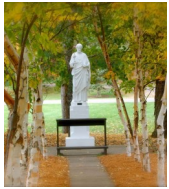
St. Gregory the Great Church:

Saturday—5:00 pm

Sunday—currently 9:30am will move to **10:30am**



Parish/Community News



Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House invites you to a men's three-day silent retreat on the beautiful grounds of Lake DeMontreville guided by the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. The retreat begins Thursday evening January 18,

2024, and ends Sunday evening, January 21, 2023. Free-will donations are accepted. For more information call our office at 651-777-1311 or see our website www.demontrevilleretreat.com.

Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time you've got. Make it count. Central Minnesota Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and is designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. Retreats are held at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. The next English retreat will be held March 1-3, 2024, cost of the weekend is \$70.00. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for retreats.



YOUTH MINISTRY & FAITH FORMATION

NO FF CLASS ON DEC. 27TH: There will be no Faith Formation class on December 27th. Grades 1-8 return to class on January 3.

DOC CLASS & SPONSOR MEETING: The next DOC class will be on January 7th, 1:00—3:00 p.m. Confirmands should bring their sponsors to this meeting.

UPCOMING FIRST RECONCILIATION WORKSHOP: Parents and their child who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year are required to attend the First Reconciliation Workshop on Saturday, January 13 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great.

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 1st
7:00 pm † Parishioners

Wednesday, January 3rd
9:00 am † Open

Sunday, January 7th
8:30 am † Elsie Moore

Wednesday, January 10th
9:00 am † Bob Rothenbacher

Sunday, January 14th
8:30 am † George Stenger
† Michelle Stenger-Fisk

Weekly Celebrants

Monday, January 1st
7:00 pm | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt

Wednesday, January 3rd
8:30 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt
9:00 am | St. Gregory| Dn. Kevin-CS

Sunday, January 7th
8:30 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt
10:30 am | St. Gregory| Fr. Chuck

Wednesday, January 10th
9:00 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt
9:00 am | St. Gregory| Dn. Kevin-CS

Sunday, January 14th
8:30 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Chuck w/
Dn. Kevin
10:30 am | St. Gregory| Fr. Matt

Remember in our Prayers.....

Pat Mihm, 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

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.

Jesus came into the world to save us.



Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." Because there was no room in the inn, Jesus was born in a stable & laid in a manger, which is significant because it is a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God's plan for His birth on earth,

to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas!

Jesus came to give us Himself as food-He literally is the Bread of Life—supernatural bread (this is Jesus Himself) that saves us, that spiritually nourishes & Strengthens us with His grace.

Pray: Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior. Read Luke 2: 1-7 to hear of Jesus' birth.

Encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. He waits for you!