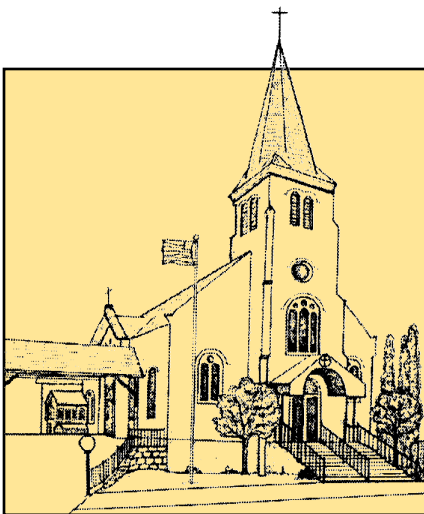




Sacred Heart

Catholic Church of
Rush City, MN

Celebrating & Sharing God's Love

THE LORD
HEALS THE
brokenhearted.

PSALM 147



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 1~28~2024
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 2~4~2024

ABOUT OUR PARISH

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
faithformationshc@hotmail.com
Confirmation: Dion Scott
651-674-7382
dion@stgregorynb.org

Parish Office / Mailing Address:
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Today we begin the week known as Catholic Schools Week, which was obviously an important week at my first two assignments that each included a parochial school. It might seem odd to focus on that given that neither parish has a parochial school. However, the week can teach us a lot about how we are to view formation in faith. Although the default option for families in northern Chisago County is the public school system (or perhaps a charter school), there are a few St. Gregory's families that send their PreK-8th Grade kids to St. Peter's School in Forest Lake (and before it closed its K-8 operations, some Sacred Heart kids attended Immaculate Conception School in Pine City). Other parents choose homeschooling (including in the form of a coop). In the public square, the Minnesota Catholic Conference (www.mncc.org) continues to advocate for school choice vouchers—something that parents just across the border in Packer land have access to.

I went to public schools up until college, so I have seen both the Catholic school side and the public school side. Even the best Christian teacher in the best public school cannot begin class with a prayer. For kids that do not have religion class at school, it is all the more important for parents to ensure their children are formed in the faith. Faith Formation ("Kids in Christ" at St. Gregory's), DOC (Disciples of Christ; a.k.a. Confirmation), and high school Youth Group are all important offerings for this purpose. However, participating in Sunday Mass and prayer at home (as a family, as a couple, as an individual) will do the most to pass on the faith to your kids.

Although the college landscape has changed a bit since COVID, I think it is still important to talk about higher education. The Cardinal Newman Society, which gets its name from the great English writer and bishop Saint John Newman, publishes a yearly guide on Catholic universities (<https://cardinalnewmansociety.org/college/>). Sometimes when we talk about Catholic colleges, we treat them all as equally good on being faithful to Catholic teachings and identity. However, you will not find my two Catholic alma maters on the Newman list. The ones that are on the list that are closest to us would include University of Mary (Bismarck, ND), Benedictine College (Atchinson, KS), and Franciscan University (Steubenville, OH). My Archdiocesan brother priest (Fr. James Burns) is doing great things, too, as President of St. Mary's in Winona. Also, even if a child (or a grandchild) doesn't go to one of these solidly Catholic colleges, show them where the Catholic community is on campus. A place like the St. Lawrence Center at the U of M has lots of ways for students to connect. Many campuses (like my alma mater of MIT) also have a presence of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students; www.focus.org) young adult missionaries.

In summary, education is about the formation of the entire person—body, mind, and spirit. We pray for the current youth as they are our future leaders and saints.
~Father Matt

Remember in our Prayers.....

Fran Michnowski, 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, Betty Anderson Schlipp, Steve Yurick, Mary Jane Dahl, Jim Brenna

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.

Parish / Community News

The **new parish small groups** will be starting close to Ash Wednesday (February 14th). [Here is the initial set of groups:](#)
Sundays from 9:45-11:15 a.m. at the Parish House, Gary & Kristie Frazier and Jeanne Kay
Mondays from 6-7:30 p.m. at Wayne & Elizabeth Herberg's house
Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at Rushseba Senior Living Center, Sandy Pelant
Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Parish House, Connie Blomquist
Fridays from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Parish House, David Prickett

Catholic Charities Food Distribution

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



The next Finance council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 6th at 7pm inside the Parish house.

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

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study with Father Matt will meet each Friday after 8:30am Mass in the Romero House.

CATHOLIC WATCHMEN

The next gathering of the Catholic Watchmen will on February 1st at 7:00 p.m. in St. Gregory's Parish Hall.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All high school youth of St. Gregory's and Sacred Heart are invited to the next Youth Group gathering on Sunday, January 28, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Gregory's Romero House (6385 Maple St., North Branch). Permission slips can be obtained through the Faith Formation Office.



YOUTH MINISTRY & FAITH FORMATION

EXTREME FAITH CAMP JULY 22-26

Youth of our parish have a new and exciting opportunity to attend Extreme Faith Camp 2024 at Trinity Woods in Trego, WI July 22-26 (travel times TBD). Participants include incoming 6-8th Grade (as campers), 9-10th Grade (Prayer Team), and 11-12th grade (Extreme Team) - (*grade as of 2024/25 school year).



We have 15 spots reserved, but can take more if spots are available. Registration has opened, and forms will be coming soon. Don't delay if your child is serious about going!

Cost: \$525 until March 15th, then it will increase. A \$100 deposit is due with each registration form and will go towards the total cost. All youth who commit to going will be asked to participate in fundraising to help with the cost. Fundraising events are planned. Contact Liz Long (liz@stgregorynb.org) if you are interested.

Giving is Faith in Action



Next weekend is the kick-off for the Catholic Appeal services.

LENTEN 2024

THIS YEAR THE LENTEN SEASON STARTS ON FEBRUARY 14TH— MARCH 22ND. MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT LENTEN ACTIVITIES.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14th

Mass with Ashes- 9:00 am - Fr. Matt (Sacred Heart)
 Mass with Ashes - 7:00 pm - Fr. Matt (Sacred Heart)
 Mass- 9:00 am - Fr. Fitzgerald w/ Dn. Kevin (St. Gregory's)
 Mass-4:30 PM- Fr. Fitzgerald(St. Gregory's)
 Communion Svc. -6:30 pm -Dn. Kevin (St. Gregory's)

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday night at 7pm following the 6pm Lenten Supper

Sacred Heart Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday - March 24 -8:30am
 Holy Thursday - March 28 -7:00pm
 Good Friday - March 29 -7:00pm
 Holy Saturday - March 30 -8:00pm
 Easter Sunday - March 31 -8:30am



You are invited to attend a

Sweet and Savory Social and silent auction!

Saturday, February 10th from 6:00pm

St. Bridget's Church in Lindstrom. Bid on fun silent auction items as you enjoy desserts and hors d'oeuvres. All proceeds benefit Options for Women in North Branch.

RSVP 651-674-2121

or info@pregoptions.org.

(Reservations preferred but not necessary.)



Small Groups Update



Last weekend, as most of you are aware, was the Invitation Weekend for Small Groups. If you have given us an interest form, someone will be in-touch with you soon (if you haven't already received a contact). It's not too late (nor will it ever be--these groups are ongoing) to sign-up for one, so please contact Shawn (St. Gregory's) or Marsha (Sacred Heart) if you would like to do so.

Volunteers Needed!

We need your help to serve our Faith Formation classes. We are currently in the need of substitute teachers. If you are interested please contact the Parish office @

320-358-4370

Thank you!



Mass Intentions

Weekly Celebrants

Wednesday, January 31st

9:00 am † Parishioners

Sunday, February 4th

8:30 am † Elsie Moore

Wednesday, February 7th

9:00 am † Thomas Solorz

Sunday, February 11th

8:30 am † McGuire Family

Wednesday, January 31st

9:00 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt
 9:00 am | St. Gregory| Dn. Kevin-CS

Sunday, February 4th

8:30 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt w/ Dn. Kevin
 10:30 am | St. Gregory| Fr. Matt w/Dn. Kevin

Wednesday, February 7th

9:00 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt
 9:00 am | St. Gregory| Dn. Kevin-CS

Sunday, February 11th

8:30 am | Sacred Heart| Fr. Matt
 10:30 am | St. Gregory| Fr. Matt