



Church of the Sacred Heart

Parish Office / Mailing Address:

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Third Sunday of Advent | 12-15-2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent | 12-22-2024

WELCOME VISITORS! TO SACRED HEART

If you are visiting Sacred Heart for the first time today, we would like to say **WELCOME!** Maybe you've been away for while or just passing through. Either way we would like for you to feel at home here. If you would like to join our Parish family we would be honored to have you as a member. Please feel free to call the Parish office if you have any questions or would like to join the parish. We would like to help in anyway!

SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are Open to All Adults
The parish small groups continue to welcome new participants, even on a trial basis. For more information on the groups, contact Fr. Matt (fathermatt@stgregorynb.org).

Mondays from 6-7:30pm at the Herberg's
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 & Jan Walz.

1st and 3rd Sunday from 9:30-11:30 in Parish House.

Men's small group, **3rd Saturday** of each month @St. Gregory's from 7:30am-9am.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8:30am. - 12:30 pm.

OUR MISSION

Sacred Heart parish is a community of Catholic Christian believers, established by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. We strive to grow in holiness through prayer, celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments, and reflection on the scriptures. We work hard to build the kingdom of God through evangelization, catechesis and service for all.



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

PARISH OFFICE

Admin Asst: Marsha Marcussen

Bookkeeper: Mary Felix

mary@stgregorynb.org

Project Asst./Music: Steve Yurick

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FAITH FORMATION

Sacred Heart :Tina Heidelberger

763-670-8594

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Confirmation: Dion Scott

651-674-7382

dion@stgregorynb.org

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merry Christmas! Our savior has been born!

We are so happy that you chose our parish for Christmas worship. On behalf of the staff and other parishioners, we look forward to growing in friendship with you and your family in the year ahead. If you are traveling for Christmas, we pray that you have a blessed celebration elsewhere, and we look forward to celebrating with you in the Christmas season when you return.

I want to highlight some of the major things happening at Sacred Heart and St. Gregory's. Our parishes launched a small group ministry back in Lent. The 70 or so people in the current 12 small groups at both parishes have all appreciated growing in faith and fellowship. They also experience the Church in a rather organic way, just like the early Christians. These parish small groups are specifically designed to welcome new members. If you would like to learn more about small groups, you may do one of the following: (1) contact the parish office, (2) talk with someone who is involved in a group, or (3) speak with Fr. Matt. As a reminder, it is Archbishop Hebda's goal that every Catholic be involved in a parish small group; that is my goal for the parishes, too.



I have appreciated our parishes' hospitality towards those at Masses (including funerals). We are in the process of focusing on fellowship after each of the Masses. Sacred Heart had many volunteers step up to make egg bakes and provide fruit, donuts, and coffee for its first monthly hospitality on December 1st. At St. Gregory's, there has been a long-standing tradition to gather together for at least coffee and donuts after each Sunday Mass (we always welcome additional volunteers). Saturday, January 11th will mark the first time we offer Hospitality after the 5 p.m. Mass; it will be part of a monthly "Hospitality Weekend" along with the fuller spread Coffee Sunday (2nd Sunday of the month).

This summer we will be sending a group of middle schoolers to Extreme Faith Camp in Trego, WI and a group of high schoolers to a Catholic Heart mission trip to Helena, MT. We continue Faith Formation for ages PreK to Confirmation (note: PreK/K and Confirmation are at St. Gregory's) as well as events for all our youth.

A big focus has also been on Adult Faith Formation. We have already had sessions on Prayer, The Bible, and Grace & the Sacraments. In January, we will begin a set of Teaching Masses through which adults and youth will come to a greater knowledge and love of what happens at Mass. On February 13th at 6 p.m., St. Gregory's will be hosting an Archdiocesan event called "Reclaiming the Lord's Day"--how Christians can find joy and fulfillment by properly observing Sundays each week.

As you have your own family celebrations, please know that all of us here at the parish family are praying that you and your loved ones have a Merry Christmas!

-Fr. Matt Shireman



God Hears Prayer

"Prayers for the sick"

Lord, look upon me with eyes of mercy, may your healing hand rest upon me, may your life-giving powers flow into every cell of my body and into the depths of my soul,

cleansing, purifying, restoring me to wholeness and strength for service in your Kingdom and especially for.....

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, Jim Brenna, Mary Debevec, Jody Kliegle, Ken Kirchberg, Mark Stenger, Umbreit Family, Margery Steininger, Amen!

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.

COMMUNION VISITS

Are you or someone you know homebound and desiring to receive Holy Communion? Or in need of Confession or the Anointing of the Sick (which is not just for people who are actively dying)? Let the Church come to you! To set a time that works for you, please contact the parish office.

Mass Intentions

Wednesday, December 18th

9:00 am † Mary Jane Dahl

Sunday, December 22nd

8:30 am † Mary Jane Dahl

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 23rd

5:00 pm Parishioners

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

9:00 am Parishioners

Sunday, December 29th

9:00 am † Ellen Rothenbacher



Parish/Community News

Catholic Charities Food Distribution

The next food distribution of frozen meals for seniors 60 and older will be on **Tuesday, December 17th from 11:00am-12:00 pm**. Meals are available in quantities of 20 per calendar month.

Catholic Watchmen meets at 7 p.m. on first Thursdays at St. Gregory's. The January 2nd will be in the St. Gregory's parish hall. All men of Sacred Heart and St. Gregory's are welcome.

Fellowship & Hospitality

A fellowship gathering will be held in Wey hall immediately following Mass on the **first Sunday of each month**; join us for refreshments, food, community, and conversation after worship. **We are looking for more volunteers to assist with hospitality. If you are interested, please contact the office.**



We are excited to announce that the CCW has officially changed its name to **Sisters of Sacred Heart**. Please note that there will NOT be any meeting in the month of December.

YOUTH MINISTRY & FAITH FORMATION

DOC CLASSES

We still need two **Prayer Partners**, please see sheet in back of Church.



Christmas Schedule

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 am Mass with Fr. Matt

CHRISTMAS EVE (12/24)

5:00 pm Mass with Fr. Chuck

CHRISTMAS DAY (12/25)

8:30 am Mass with Fr. Chuck &
Deacon Kevin

MARY MOTHER OF GOD (1/1/2025)

9:00 am Mass with Fr. Matt

STEWARDSHIP



Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our **Stewardship** values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of

us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need. We pray that we may resist the lure of holiday advertising and instead concentrate on the **Stewardship** message of simplicity and trust that is found in the Christmas manger scene.

Advent is a time to emphasize preparation through prayer. While Lent emphasizes a spirit of repentance through prayer and fasting, Advent's prayers are prayers of humble devotion and commitment, prayers for deliverance, prayers of gladness and joyful expectation, prayers that await the light of Christ coming into the world.

During Advent we anticipate the Lord's coming with hope. It is that hope, however faint at times, that keeps us from despair and the darkness of sin and its destructiveness. It is a hope that urges us to be kind, loving and compassionate toward one another. It is a hope that encourages our faith in a merciful God who continues to pour His grace upon us. We don't know when Christ will come again to bring human history to its completion. But we celebrate with gladness the great promise of Advent and we rekindle that positive, joyful spirit within us because we know, as Zechariah prophesied, that the light of Christ will shine on all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and He will guide our feet into the way of peace. As we continue our journey through Advent, be sure to talk to your children, friends or family about the importance of repentance. Christ was born for us, and He asks that we come to Him and seek forgiveness for our sins.

Deacon Jack McKenna

All About St. Nicholas: As Christmas approaches each year, something changes. People become more cheerful and light-hearted, thoughtful and generous. In a word, as Christmas nears each year, people become more human. There is something about the spirit of Christmas that brings out the best in people. Christmas today is a fascinating amalgamation of the birth of Jesus and the legend of a fourth-century bishop. There is something about Christmas that draws people, even non-Christians, to celebration.

Then of course there is Santa Claus and the question most parents dread: Is Santa real?

The answer? Yes. Santa Claus is real and he lived an incredible life, hundreds of years ago. But he didn't go by the name Santa Claus. He was known as Nicholas.



Who is Saint Nicholas? Saint Nicholas, an early Christian bishop of Myra (modern-day Demre, Turkey), became known for his deep care for his people and his miraculous acts. Like Jesus, who prioritized meeting people's physical needs before preaching, Nicholas understood that it's hard to listen to God when you're hungry or suffering. He believed in addressing both spiritual and material needs.

Poverty remains a significant barrier to human flourishing, and Christians are called to help those in need. The story of Saint Nicholas, like many others, is one of generosity and compassion. For example, he secretly gave gold coins to a poor man with three daughters, saving them from a life of hardship.

Saint Nicholas's life of selfless service stands as a reminder that true generosity and love for others should not be confined to one day of the year, but practiced daily, much like the spirit of Christmas.