



Church of the Sacred Heart

The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

Parish Office / Mailing Address:

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Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time | 8-24-2025

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time | 8-31-2025

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!

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.

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-
Resuming September 8, 2025!

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. **We're off for the summer—back in the Fall!**

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



WEEKDAY/WEEKEND MASSES

Sunday 8:30 am

Wednesday 9:00 am

1st Saturday of each month 9:00 am

Weekend Mass @ St. Gregory's - North Branch

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 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

FAITH FORMATION

Sacred Heart :Tina Heidelberger

763-670-8594

faithformationshc@hotmail.com

Confirmation: Education Office

651-674-7382

education@stgregorynb.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

Pilgrimage Recap

I would say that the first pilgrimage that I have ever led—the pilgrimage to the Marian shrines in Wisconsin—overall went quite well as you will see in this recap. We had a coach bus with 26 pilgrims on it. I will briefly recap the highlights of the trip here.

On the first day, we went to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine outside of LaCrosse, WI. There was a Canon Law conference happening that day. A couple of weeks before the trip, I learned that Cardinal Raymond Burke (who had the original vision for the Shrine) would be presiding at the High Mass that our group would be at. First, though, we had to navigate the hill—some of us walked up it while others rode in golf carts. I celebrated the high Mass with many other priests, including my classmate Father Tim from the Diocese of Sioux Falls. We descended the hill for lunch only to re-ascend for a talk in the Shrine church. Following the talk, pilgrims could stay in Adoration, visit the Stations of the Cross, Rosary mosaics, shrine to the unborn, or the votive candle chapel. We had some more driving to do before checking into our hotel in Appleton, which included basically a “Holidome.”



Our second day was the one that I was most looking forward to. Even though I had lived in Milwaukee for 5 years, I did not know about what is now called Our Lady of Champion Shrine just east of Green Bay. It is the only Church-approved Marian apparition site in the United States (Mary is believed to have appeared to Adele Brice in October 1859). The Shrine is located on the grounds on which Mary appeared and on which people were saved from the massive 1871 Peshtigo Fire. Our day started with our group Mass in the Shrine Church. One of the highlights for many people on the trip was a talk that one of their staff people gave about Our Lady of Champion. The message of Our Lady of Champion is applicable to our own times—that we are all called to form young people in the faith so they are

prepared their whole lives in how to access the 7 Sacraments. Much of the group joined me in a rosary around the grounds where the people who had been saved from the fire had prayed. Back in Appleton, we had a more leisurely evening with dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings (they handled our large group quite well), desserts, and time in the hot tub and saltwater pool.

The final day of the pilgrimage was at Holy Hill Basilica in Hubertus (the closest big city is Milwaukee). I had visited Holy Hill a few times while I was at Marquette; however, it is still pretty impressive when the large basilica on top of the hill appears over the trees and farmland. We learned in the history talk that essentially the holy site had started with a cross being put on top of the hill, then a small church, and now a large church recognized as one of the country's 93 basilicas. On our visit, we started with some time to explore. I descended to the start of the Stations of the Cross (which I had not done on previous visits), which also meant that walking the Stations was a real hike! A tower with a bunch of steps provided some excellent steps, although you can imagine that not everybody participated in it. In the afternoon, I offered a group Mass in the Basilica. Before boarding the bus for our return journey, pilgrims had a chance to visit the gift store and pose for a group photo.

I do not know if or when I will lead another pilgrimage—either around here or somewhere internationally. From my own experience, Rome is a great place to get to as a Catholic and the Holy Land is a great place (when a war isn't happening, so we continue to pray for them) to get to as a Christian to get to. I will discern whether another pilgrimage would be a good opportunity for us as a parish to plan and go on.

Fr. Matt Shireman

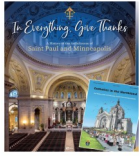


PARISH/COMMUNITY NEWS



Sisters of Sacred Heart Meeting & Fall Festival Planning

Please mark your calendars for our next **Sisters of the Sacred Heart meeting**, which will be held on **Thursday, September 18th at 6:30 PM**. In addition, the next **Fall Festival** planning meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 PM**.



History Books and Graphic Novels: Available The Archdiocese's **history books (\$36)** and **graphic novels (\$16)** are now available for purchase in the church office. Stop by during office hours to get your copy!

Calvary Cemetery

A parishioner has offered to pay for a new, sturdier fence at the parish's Calvary Cemetery. If you or someone you know would be interested in taking down the partially-damaged (due to snow plowing) fence, or at least hauling it away after being taken down by an outside contractor, please contact Steve at the office.



Catholic Watchmen will resume on **Thursday, September 4th at 7 PM at St. Gregory's**. We're kicking off the fall with a **bonfire social**, so come out for a relaxed evening of conversation, faith, and fellowship.

All men are welcome — whether you've come before or it's your first time. Hope to see you there!



Diaper Drive for Options for Women

We're collecting **diapers and pull-ups in sizes 4, 5, and 6** for Options for Women. A **collection basket** is located at the **back of the church**. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will go to support families in need!

Living Stewardship Daily

This Sunday reminds us that being a disciple of Christ is not about convenience—it's a daily commitment. Stewardship isn't just about giving on Sunday or serving when it's easy. It's about how we live every day.

God calls each of us to be good stewards of the gifts we've been given—our time, talents, and treasures. That includes showing kindness at work, being present for our families, helping a neighbor in need, or offering quiet prayer for someone going through a hard time.

Let's challenge ourselves this week to live out our faith beyond Sunday—because true stewardship is a lifestyle, not a moment.

Ordinary Time – Sundays 21 & 22

In these weeks, Jesus reminds us of the importance of recognizing who He is and living accordingly. As He calls us to take up our cross and follow Him, may we seek to grow in faith, serve others, and walk daily with Christ at the center of our lives.

We ask ourselves: **"Who is Jesus in my life, and how am I responding to His call?"**

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Kick-Off – Wednesday, September 17th

Our Faith Formation program will begin on **Wednesday, September 17th from 6:00–7:30 PM** with a special kick-off evening. **Both children and their parents** are invited to attend this important first session. Join us as we start a new year of growing in faith together!

Heavenly Father,

In Your loving mercy, look upon all who are sick. Give them comfort in their pain, strength in their weakness, and hope in their trials. May they feel Your healing presence and know they are never alone. Surround them with compassionate caregivers and fill their hearts with peace.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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, Dorothy Kliegle, Jim Brenna, Jody Kliegle, Ken Kirchberg, Umbreit Family, Margery Steininger, Violet Pearson, Dick Johnson, Tori Yurick-Schieber. 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, August 27th

9:00 am Eva Dittrich

Sunday, August 31st

8:30 am Sue Roth

Wednesday, September 3rd

9:00 am † Jim Kirchberg

Saturday, September 6th

9:00 am The Hungry

Sunday, September 7th

8:30 am † Joe & Elsie Moore

