



Church of the Sacred Heart

The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

Parish Office / Mailing Address:

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9-21-2025

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9-28-2025

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 Home

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.

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

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



ALL THE DARKNESS
IN THE WORLD CANNOT
EXTINGUISH THE LIGHT OF
A SINGLE CANDLE.

ST. FRANCIS

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

tina.joeheidelberger@gmail.com

Confirmation: Danielle Miller

651-674-7382

danielle@stgregorynb.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

"Thank you, God, for the food!"

I may as well call this week "Feast Week." On 9/21, Brass Rail Chicken Dinner will take place at Sacred Heart's Fall Festival, Booya at the St. Gregory's Fall Festival on 9/28, and the Options for Women Banquet at Scandia Creamery in between on 9/25. Fortunately for me, I should be able to burn off some of the good calories on some runs. Or, if all else fails, my gym membership re-starts on 10/1.

Believers have given thanks to God for food from the time of our first parents (Adam and Eve) through the rest of the Old Testament and into the age of the Church. Jesus as a Jew would have said grace. He also thanked God for food at times of his greatest miracles—feeding the crowds and instituting the Eucharist.

Our 2nd activity as part of the "Reclaiming Sundays" initiative (focus on prayer during September) is rather simple—pray grace before meals. The standard Catholic grace is listed in this bulletin. Saying grace helps us to grow in gratitude. If we do not tell God thanks for meals, then we turn inwards. We see this with the Israelites during their 40 years in the desert. Rather than thanking God for the miraculous manna and quail, they grumbled against God and sinned. When we do not regularly say grace, we forget our Creator and begin to live like non-believers.

As is the case with any time we are trying to form a habit, we need to practice the activity at every opportunity. If you do not know the grace prayer, place it on the table so that you remember to pray before your meals. Have a copy of it wherever else you may have a meal—for example, your lunchbox at work. If you are having a meal from the drive-thru or at a restaurant, lead others in the meal prayer before digging in. And if you are having a meal at someone else's house but do not feel comfortable asking if you could say grace together, at least excuse yourself to say grace privately.

God, thank you for all you do in our lives. In particular, we thank you for the yummy and nutritious food that feeds our bodies!

~Fr. Matt



Prayer/Mass Intentions

Heavenly Father,
In Your boundless love and mercy, we lift up to You all those who are sick, suffering, or burdened in any way—whether in body, mind, or spirit.
Grant them comfort in their pain, strength in their weakness, and peace in their hearts. May they feel Your presence and know they are never alone.
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, 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, September 24th

9:00 am †Thomas Strandmark

Sunday, September 28th

8:30 am †Amy Prickett

Wednesday, October 1st

9:00 am †Tom & Terry Solorz

Saturday, October 4th

9:00 am –Parishioners

Sunday, October 5th

8:30 am †Joe & Elsie Moore



"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Matthew 20:16

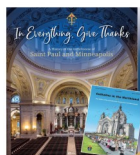
RECLAIMING SUNDAY'S

As we continue through our first month of "Reclaiming Sundays" initiative, our focus continues to be on prayer as a family. Saying grace before a meal (note: there is also a prayer for after a meal) is a valuable way to connect with God and express gratitude for the food received. The meal prayer can be recited as a family or even silently by oneself. It can be a great witness to others of our faith when we are at a restaurant or eating in the midst of others. The traditional Catholic meal prayer goes (feel free to use modern language):

"Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

PARISH/COMMUNITY NEWS

Sisters of Sacred Heart Meeting Please mark your calendars for our next *Sisters of the Sacred Heart meeting*, which will be held on **Thursday, October 16th 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!



Catholic Watchmen – Monthly Gathering Men of the parish are invited to join the Catholic Watchmen on the **1st Thursday of every month** for an evening of prayer, fellowship, and strengthening in faith at St. Gregory's. Come grow as a spiritual leader in your family and community. All men are welcome!

NEW ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY AT

Confirmation/DOC parent meeting is Sunday, **September 21st at 5:30 p.m. at St. Gregory's Hall.** Students do not need to attend the session, but the High School Youth Group kickoff will be going on at the same time in the Romero House.

For more information about Confirmation, please contact **Danielle Miller, Confirmation Coordinator**, at danielle@stgregorynb.org.

In a world that often moves too fast, kindness is a gift we can all afford to give. When we treat others with patience, understanding, and respect, we reflect the love and grace that we ourselves hope to receive. True strength is shown not in how we speak of ourselves, but in how we treat those around us — especially when it costs us nothing to be kind. Choose to see the good, speak with compassion, and deliver your actions with gentleness. It could change someone's whole day — or even their life.



Options
for women & families

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL

FALL FUNDRAISER

Benefit

2025
THURSDAY | 25 | SEPTEMBER

6:00 pm | \$50/ticket | \$400/table

THE SCANDIA CREAMERY
21279 OLINDA TRL N, SCANDIA, MN 55073

Wedding Banns –First Announcement

The Banns of Marriage are announced for:
Garett Schmidt, Kayla O'Meara, who intend to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on **Saturday, October 18th, 2025**, at **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**.

Let us keep **Garett and Kayla** in our prayers as they prepare to enter into this sacred covenant of marriage.

Financial Update

August Income: \$10,198.20

August Budget : \$9916.74

A Time for Family, Faith, and Community

As we gather on this **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**, the Gospel reminds us of God's generous love — a love that's not measured by the clock or by merit, but poured out freely to all who respond to His call.

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to let Sundays become just another busy day — filled with errands, screens, and the pressure to get ahead. But the Church gives us **Sunday as a gift** — not just as a day of obligation, but a day of **renewal**. A day to **rest in God's presence**, to **gather with our families**, and to reconnect with the **community that strengthens our faith**.

Reclaiming Sunday means saying "yes" to **slowing down**, sharing a meal together, attending Mass not out of routine, but out of love — and making space for joy, conversation, and the little graces of everyday life.

As we celebrate our **Fall Festival today**, let it be more than just an event — let it be a reflection of what Sundays are meant to be: a time of **gathering, laughter, and shared blessings**. Let us carry the spirit of today into every Sunday ahead, choosing faith, family, and community — week after week.

