

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
THE MOTHER CHURCH OF EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Parish Office / Mailing Address:

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First Sunday of Advent | 11-30-2025

Second Sunday of Advent | 12-7-2025



**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!

Sunday/Daily Masses, Reconciliation

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 at 9:30 am 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 Heideberger
763-670-8594
tina.joeheideberger@gmail.com
Confirmation: Danielle Miller
651-674-7382
danielle@stgregorynb.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

Simplifying this Advent

The use of violet vestments and omitting the Gloria until Christmas signifies that we have begun a new liturgical year with the season of Advent. In Advent, we prepare for Jesus' coming—both in time at the first Christmas and at the end of time. For the rest of 2025 and up to Christ the King of the Universe in 2026, we will be in Year A, which means that we will mostly follow the Gospel of St. Matthew (a.k.a. the best Gospel, or at least the one written by my namesake).

Continuing the tradition of providing a book for Advent, you will be able to read through "The Forgotten Way" by popular Catholic author Matthew Kelly. The book will help all of us (myself included) focus on how to speak well (i.e. truthfully and lovingly) by walking through the Letter of St. James from the Bible. As Kelly reminds us, governing your speech is a sure path to holiness.

A great way to start off the new liturgical year and to prepare our hearts (once again, myself included) for Jesus at Christmas is to make a good Confession. Besides the regular opportunities from Tuesday to Saturday, I have added two additional times this Advent. There will be "drop-in" (i.e. come any time) Confessions at Sacred Heart on Tuesday, December 16th from 5 to 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m.

St. Gregory's, Fr. Chuck will join me in a Reconciliation Service with individual Confessions.

The Youth Nativity play at St. Gregory's returns this year. KIC (Kids in Christ) families are invited to a dress rehearsal and party during regular KIC time on Wednesday, December 10th. A performance open to all followed by a potluck will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 3 p.m.

In a month where our schedules fill up, I would encourage you and your household to try to keep things simple. To that end, you may even find it helpful to say "No" to some non-Church things. Christmas Day is December 25th and the Season of Christmas follows that, but too often people are worn-out from shopping, hearing secular Christmas songs, and parties to really enjoy the actual reason for the season—Jesus.

May you experience joy this Advent by focusing on the two primary things that God has given us—Church and family.

-Fr, Matt



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.

PRAYERS FOR:

George & Carole Stenger, Pat Mihm, Audrey Larson, Kim Wall, Ken & David Kirchberg, 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, Umbreit Family, Margery Steininger, Violet Pearson, Tori Yurick-Schieber, John Urlaub, Al & Mary Petschl. 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 3rd

9:00 am †Cheryl Wendorff

First Saturday, December 6th

9:00 am † Parishioners

Sunday, December 7th

8:30 am †Joe, Elsie & Becky Moore

Monday, December 8th

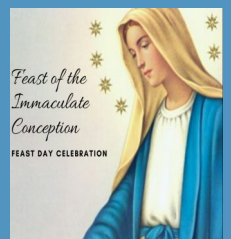
7:00 pm Parishioners

Wednesday, December 10th

9:00 am † George Curwick

Sunday, December 14th

8:30 am †George Curwick



The parish continues to have Formed.org, which can be described as "Catholic Netflix." Here is how to sign up to watch their movies.

1. Visit FORMED.org
2. Click Sign Up
3. Select "Sign Up As A Parishioner"
4. Find St. Gregory's by parish name, address, or zip code (55056)
5. Enter your email – and you're in!



SYNOD-RECLAIMING SUNDAY'S



As we continue our "Reclaiming Sundays" initiative for the year, the theme for December is "Music and Prayer." The Church season leading up to Christmas is Advent, so pray with an Advent wreath. If daily seems like too much, aim for each Sunday of Advent. Light a candle (or the number of candles representing which week of Advent we are in) and pray as a family. Start with the sign of the Cross, ask God to prepare your households' hearts for Christmas, pray a prayer or two that everyone knows (e.g. Our Father, Hail Mary), and sing a song such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

PARISH NEWS

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. **The next gathering will be on Thursday, Dec. 4th at 7pm-8pm.** All men are welcome!



BIBLE STUDY

Join Fr. Matt for Bible Study every Friday at 9:15 AM in the Romero House, 6385 Maple St., North Branch



BAPTISM PREP CLASS

Parents seeking Baptism for their child are required to attend a single Baptism class, which we offer on the second Thursday of each month at the Parish Hall at St. Gregory's, 6:30-7:30pm. Call the Parish Office to sign up.



First Week of Advent – A Season of Hope
This Sunday, November 30, we begin the holy season of Advent—a time of joyful expectation as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. The first candle of the Advent wreath, the **Candle of Hope**, reminds us that even in darkness, God's light is near. As we enter this new liturgical year, may we slow down, pray more deeply, and open our lives to the hope that Christ brings.

"Come, Lord Jesus!"



Second Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Peace

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we light the second candle on the Advent wreath—the Candle of Peace. As its gentle flame grows beside the Candle of Hope, we are reminded of John the Baptist's call to "*prepare the way of the Lord*." This week invites us to clear space in our hearts, seek reconciliation, and welcome the peace that Christ alone can give. May the light of this candle guide us toward deeper trust, calmer spirits, and a renewed readiness for the coming of our Savior.

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

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 in the Parish 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.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Christmas Caring Tree at the Rush City Library
Spread some holiday cheer! From **November 18–December 12**, stop by the library and **pick a tag from the Caring Tree** to make a local child's Christmas brighter.

Library Hours:

Tuesday: 10 AM – 7 PM

Wednesday: 10 AM – 5 PM

Thursday & Friday: 12 PM – 5 PM

Saturday: 10 AM – 1 PM

Together, we can make the season merry and bright!



Wedding Banns –Third Announcement

The Banns of Marriage are announced for:
Beau Bellmore, Betty Dailey, who intend to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on **Saturday, December 6, 2025**, at **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**. Let us keep **Beau & Betty** in our prayers as they prepare to enter into this sacred covenant of marriage.

ADVENT EVENTS

The Advent Penance opportunities are:

*December 16, 5:00-6:30pm at Sacred Heart

*December 17, 6:30pm Service at St. Gregory

The free Advent book, "The Forgotten Way" by Matthew Kelly will be available by the church library while supplies last.



Immaculate Conception (Monday, December 8) is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are the following: 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart; 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at St. Gregory.

Friday, December 12th is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Although this is *not* a Holy Day of Obligation, you are invited to 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Gregory's with Tamales from Jose at Rush City's El Mezcal to follow.