



Church of the Sacred Heart

Parish Office / Mailing Address:

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Third Sunday of Advent | 12-14-2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent | 12-21-2025

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

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

tina.joeheidelberger@gmail.com

Confirmation: Danielle Miller
651-674-7382

danielle@stgregorynb.org

OFFICE HOURS

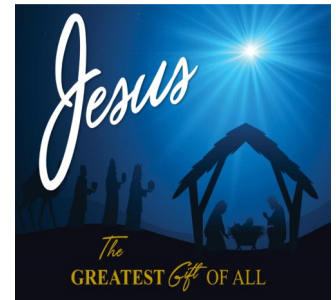
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8:30am. - 12:30 pm.

Jesus—the Greatest Gift

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, it is good for us to reflect on what is truly important. Many of the traditional Christmas stories like A Christmas Carol, The Grinch, or Elf point to the fact that Christmas is more than just focusing on material things. One lesson they teach is that everyone deserves a good family. Another is that caring for the poor is praiseworthy and expected of us (specifically as Christians).

Who can forget the moment in A Charlie Brown Christmas where Linus explains the true meaning of Christmas? He answers Charlie Brown's confusion by citing Luke 2:8-14: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Christmas—literally "Christ's Mass"—puts us back at the first Christmas where the angels were singing the Gloria and a baby was born to a virgin and her husband in a manger—an animal feeding trough. It would be an impressive story if that is where it ended. However, that baby was Jesus, God's own son who became like one of us in order to save us. That event is life-changing and world-changing. But Christmas is also a message that isn't heard enough; you certainly aren't going to get that story on the Hallmark Channel, at an ugly sweater party, or on the nightly news.



We give gifts at times like Christmas to share our love with those who are in our lives (and those in need in our community). The gift we most need and the gift our loved ones most need, however, is the gift of Jesus. Be an "other Christ" (an "alter Christus") to your loved ones this Christmas and throughout the year. Encourage them to speak with God and listen to Him, especially through Sacred Scripture.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas.

-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 Kirchner, 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, Denise Boyd. 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 17th

9:00 am †George Curwick

Sunday, December 21st

8:30 am †Richard Lehman

Vigil Wednesday, December 24th

5:00 pm Parishioners

Christmas Day, December 25th

8:30 am †Amy Prickett

Sunday, December 28th

8:30 am †Mark Stenger



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



During December, the theme for the "Reclaiming Sundays" initiative is "Music and Prayer." The easiest way to grow in this is to make or find a playlist of Catholic hymns. Apps and websites like Spotify can help create a playlist; there are also ones available on sites like YouTube (this month, search for something like "Catholic Advent hymns"). Find the lyrics to the songs (if needed) and sing along as a family.

PARISH NEWS

Sisters of The Sacred Heart

Please mark your calendars for the Sisters of the Sacred Heart meetings, which are held on each 3rd Thursday's in Wey Hall at 6:30 pm. *The next one will be on January 15th, 2026.*



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, February 5th. 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.

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.

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.



Christmas Mass Schedule

*December 24, 5:00pm at Sacred Heart

*December 24, 4:00pm at St. Gregory's

*December 24, 10:00pm at St. Gregory's



*December 25, 8:30am at Sacred Heart

*December 25, 10:30am at St. Gregory's

Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

*December 31st, 6:30pm at St. Gregory's

*January 1, 2026, 9:00am at Sacred Heart

*January 1, 2026, 7:00pm at Sacred Heart

*January 1, 2026, 8:30am at St. Gregory's

May the newborn Christ fill your hearts with peace, your homes with joy, and your lives with His enduring light. Merry Christmas, and may God bless you always.

Archdiocesan Capital Campaign

Thanks to many generous parishioners, our parish reached its stretch goal for the Lord, Renew Your Church Archdiocesan Capital Campaign. Fr. Matt would like to specifically thank the volunteers who personally reached out to many of you. If you have not yet pledged but would still like to do so, please visit <https://www.archspm.org/lordrenewyourchurch/>. Our parish will receive its first distribution check soon. Planning is underway to bring the important initiatives to completion."

A SPECIAL
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

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.