

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART



415 West 5th Street
Rush City, MN 55069

Parish Office

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Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Parish Staff Contacts

Pastor

Fr. Shane Wasinger 651.674.4056 Ext. 111

Weekend Assistants

Fr. Chuck Brambilla

Fr. Tom Fitzgerald

Secretary—Interim

Janet Yurick 320.358.4370

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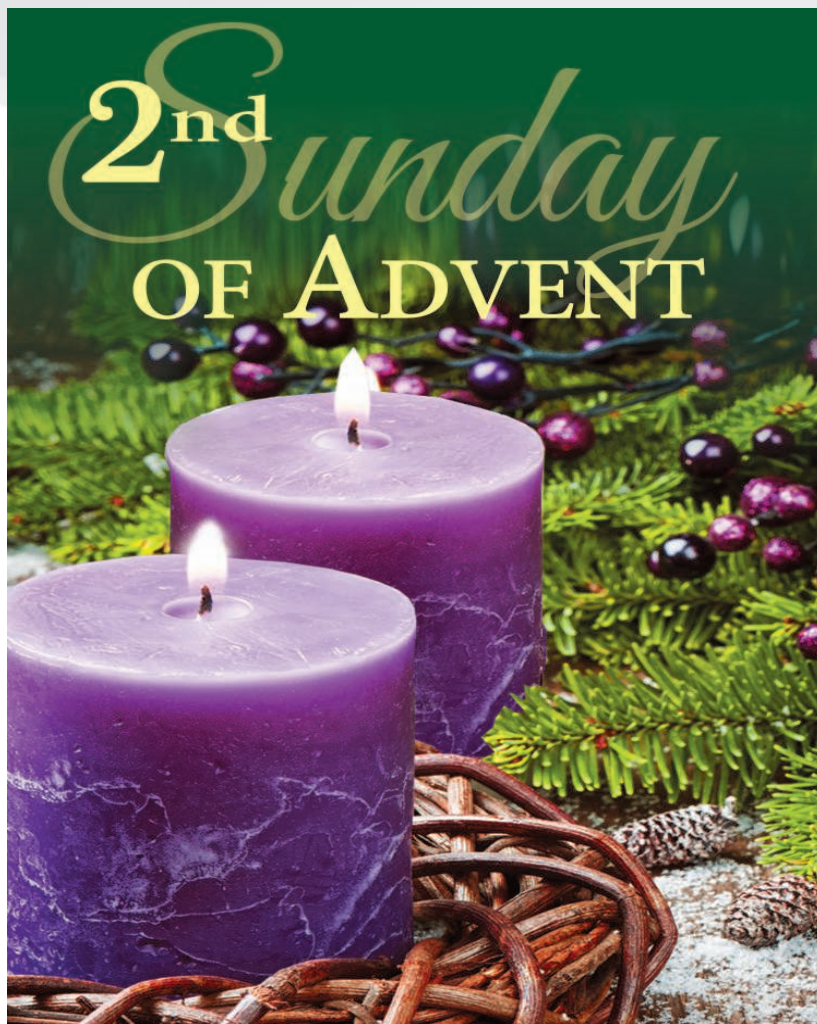
Steve Yurick 320.358.4370

Faith Formation Coordinator

Sue Roth

651.238.1797

sroth6183@hotmail.com



Liturgy of the Eucharist

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Weekdays

Wednesday 9:00 am

First Friday of each month 9:00 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 9:30 am - noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Friday of each month 8:30 am

First Saturday of each month 3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Or by appointment

December 4, 2016

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

On Blessings Out of Suffering

As most of you know, it has been approximately three years since I had my acute pancreatitis attack a few days before Christmas. Since recovering, I have a greater awareness of my condition in December 2013, which brought significant changes to my outlook and attitude about life. The first transformation occurred in April 2015; the second one took place in August of this year and intensified my spiritual awareness of the first one.

With each passing month, I realize just how sick I had been and how close I came to death. This perception of my life-threatening illness becomes more apparent as time goes on. More often than not, once we are removed from a situation and time passes, we see an event or a tragedy in a new light. It's becoming more and more difficult to imagine being in a coma for fifteen days, which caused me to have such weakened muscles that I became incapable of walking for weeks. I needed physical therapy for a period of time and I really disliked it! I wasn't a very good patient.

As I write this, I have been reading a book called, "Letters on the Spiritual Life," by Father Henri J.M. Nouwen. The book is a collection of many of his letters written between 1973 to the year of his death in 1996, and is divided into three periods. The last period is from 1990-1996; I have found these letters convey the rich and deep spiritual life that Nouwen had after his breakdown and own near death experience. Like Nouwen, my critical illness is bearing emotional and spiritual fruits in my life.

The first transformation, in April 2015, just came about without any expectation. Suddenly, I found myself enjoying life more than ever before. Some of the fears I had before were no longer there, or had been diminished. For example, if someone I might be calling wouldn't want to talk to me, I feared rejection; when really they just might be busy. This was an unnecessary fear that is gone- mostly. An even larger fear was sharing my feelings and asking for what I want in a relationship, whether it was a close relationship or not. It is easier for me to share my thoughts and feelings by writing about them than it is to talk about them, although I am getting better at this skill, at least I think I am.

The conversion occurring this past August not only added depth to the first one, but also strengthened my spiritual life. For instance, I have discovered numerous insights while reading the Word of God. A few weeks ago while praying the Liturgy of the Hours (a form of prayer priests are required to do after their ordination), a reading from the Book of Tobit, which I have read countless times over the past twenty some years, suddenly spoke to me. The passage from Tobit 4: 14-19 held a significant meaning to me, and it felt as if God was speaking directly to me. There have been other passages since August that have spoken to me in the same way.

Yes I am grateful for my second chance in life and will be writing more about the fruits of this new life in the future.

Happy Advent, Father Shane

PARISH NEWS

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Your donation works for aging religious. "I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to work". Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

We have an opportunity for one or two families to take over hosting the annual Christmas Eve Dinner. For more information, please contact Marsha at 651.252.8325.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all bulletin announcements to Barb at St. Gregory's until the office position has been filled here at Sacred Heart. Please send to info@stgregorynb.org

ADVENT:

A rich and powerful season of the Church year.

We often miss Advent's power because these December weeks are full of Christmas parties and preparations for Christmas. Each year, the busyness of this season serves to distract us from having an Advent season that truly prepares us for the celebration of Christmas, with all its meaning. To help us this Advent, resources will be taken from: "Praying Advent", Used with permission from Creighton University's *Online Ministries* web site: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>

Getting in Touch with Myself

One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply. We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet.

We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Savior. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: "What is it I long for now?" The answer won't come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent.

UPCOMING LITURGICAL ROLES

Wed, 12/7, 6:45 pm

Lector: Youth
Communion: Chuck Debevec,
Ginny Thorn
Gifts: Youth
Ushers: Joe W., Ted S., Youth
Servers: Alexis Ertz

Saturday, 12/10, 4 pm.

Lector: Kevin Smith
Communion: Jeanne Kay,
Rick Kosloski
Gifts: Opatz Family
Ushers: Ken O., Dick O.
Servers: Alexis Murphy

Thurs, 12/8, 9 am

Lector: Al Walz
Communion: Audrey Larson,
Clarence Larson
Gifts: Moore Family
Ushers: Dennis K., Ron P.
Servers:

Sunday, 12/11, 9 am.

Lectors: Youth
Communion: Kristie Frazier,
Elsie Moore, Jean Peno
Gifts: Youth
Ushers: Bill P., Craig P., Youth
Servers: Maggie Roth

MASS INTENTIONS

December 7 at 9:00 am	Open
December 7 at 6:45 pm	Youth of the Parish
December 8	Open
December 10	Open
December 11	Parishioners

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 7

Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	9:00 am
Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	6:45 pm

Thursday, December 8

Fr. Chuck	Sacred Heart	9:00 am
Fr. Shane	St. Gregory's	9:00 am

Saturday, December 10

Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	4:00 pm
Fr. Chuck	St. Gregory's	5:00 pm

Sunday, December 11

Fr. Chuck	St. Gregory's	8:30 am
Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	9:00 am
Fr. Chuck	St. Gregory's	10:30 am

NEEDING OUR PRAYERS

Marjorie King	Margarette Brooker	Kim Sarago
Jean Amunson	Marvin Johnson	Jim Kirchberg
Arlene Greenhagen	Bill Sempel	Ethel Thomas
Mary Knack	Bev Hurley	Tom McKenzie
Wayne King	Jim Mitchell	Sue Roth
Robby Murry	Judie Peltier	Abby Larson
Heidi Blatz	Eileen Kost	Betty Erickson
David Gaul	Jim Noon	Rose Peloquin
Colleen Najewski	Cecilia Shinler	Nick Cieminski
Joan Parkin	Betty Anderson	Lenny Anderson
Cathy Gamache	Gerald Mollberg	Tom Solorz

Church of the Sacred Heart

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Totals for the week of 11/29/2016

Plate.....	153.97
Envelopes (42)	1,161.10
EFT	
Food Shelf	63.05
Campaign for Human Development	134.00
SHC History Books	25.00

Total

\$1,537.12

Thank you for your generosity.

NOTE: All donations on your 2016 commitments to Sacred Heart postmarked by December 31, 2016 will be recorded on your 2016 statement. All payments after December 31 will be credited to your contributions for 2017. Thank you!

HOLY DAY MASSES

This Thursday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses will be held:

Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 6:45 p.m. at Sacred Heart
Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great
Thursday, Dec. 8 at 9:00 a.m. at both parishes.

There will not be an evening Mass on Thursday, Dec. 8 at either parish. Thank You.

PLAN AHEAD CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24

St. Gregory the Great	4:00 p.m. Fr. Shane
	10:00 p.m. Fr. Shane
Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m. Fr. Chuck

Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25

Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m. Fr. Chuck
St. Gregory the Great	10:30 a.m. Fr. Fitzgerald

Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Mass—Saturday, December 31

Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m. Fr. Shane
St. Gregory the Great	5:00 p.m. Fr. Chuck

Mary, Mother of God—Sunday, January 1

St. Gregory the Great	8:30 a.m. Fr. Chuck
	10:30 a.m. Fr. Chuck
Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m. Fr. Shane

HELP NEEDED:

The Sacred Heart parish office is in need of a receptionist/secretarial support person. For more details contact Steve in the office at 320.358.4370 or Fr. Shane.

The St. Gregory the Great Rectory is in need of a substitute person to help with cooking and cleaning. Please talk to Fr. Shane for more information.

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