

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART



415 West 5th Street
Rush City, MN 55069

Parish Office

Mailing Address:

PO Box 45

Rush City, MN 55069

Phone: 320.358.4370

Fax: 866.779.1580

Wey Hall: 320.358.3145

Email: sacredheart@q.com

Website: sacredheartrcmn.org

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. Thomas Fitzgerald

Secretary—Interim

Janet Yurick 320.358.4370

Bulletin Editor

Barbara Schleicher 651.674.4056

Bookkeeper

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 18, 2016

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

On the history of my Christmas Trees

When I was growing up, we always had a very large, real Christmas tree, and under it were laid numerous presents. I don't recall who decorated the tree or how it was done, but I do remember it always had candy canes on its branches. Then, after I left home, I didn't put up or assist in putting up a Christmas tree until I was ordained in 1994. During the first year that I was a priest, my pastor spent hours decorating the tree he put up in our rectory living room. My only participation was watching him hang the ornaments, which included the few that had been given to me. This tradition continued all four years that I was at Saint Pius X in White Bear Lake.

After being assigned to Saint Boniface and Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Minneapolis in 1998, my plans were not to have a tree, thinking that it took too much time to decorate only to have to take it all down after Christmas. A month before Christmas, Micky, a parishioner from Saint Pius X, who knew my attitude about Christmas trees and was aware that I wasn't going to put one up at the Saint Boniface rectory, told me that I must get a tree; she would come over one afternoon to decorate it. If I wouldn't get a tree myself, Micky indicated that she would get one for me. Ultimately, I gave in and purchased a Christmas tree.

As it happened, for the next three years that I was in Northeast Minneapolis, I decorated a tree. Then I moved to Notre Dame Parish in Denver, and to my joy, I had the option for the first two years of whether I wanted to put up a tree. I did not! During my third Christmas in the Mile-High City, when I lived in a small rectory at Saint Rafka, there technically wasn't room to put up a tree. Therefore, there was no tree decorating in the rectory.

Once I moved to North Branch, I still didn't want a tree. However, when Sophie arrived as my housekeeper and cook, she insisted that I get a Christmas tree in 2005; happily, she agreed to beautify it for me. Don, the previous maintenance man, then went and got me a tree that I didn't choose, and Sophie completed the task of adorning the tree. From 2005 to last year, this same process happened each Christmas. However, for several of those years, I picked out the tree with Don, and then later Kyle brought them into the rectory and set them up. Sophie decorated the tree and would take the decorations down. Last year, with the help of a friend, we decorated the tree ourselves, (well, the friend did most of the work), and once again Sophie took the tree decorations down.

This year I drove out to Phil Carlson's tree farm, the parishioner who offered to help with our mission trip fundraiser, and chose a tree. With the same friend, we decorated the tree, but this year I helped more. I am quite grateful this year to have a Christmas tree of my own choosing. I may, in fact, take down the decorations myself- just maybe!

Have a blessed final Advent week, Father Shane

Desiring Patient Fidelity - Often in the Midst of Great Poverty
Praying with the Nativity scriptures can offer us support for our everyday lives. The gospels paint us beautiful portraits of how Our God comes to us in the midst of great poverty. The age of Elizabeth, Gabriel's annunciation to Mary, no room in the inn, enemies out to get the newborn, all surround the central mystery - our God is faithful. Our God's fidelity is not only not limited by great poverty, it is most apt in places of great poverty. Whenever I ask, "How can this be a place of promise?" or "How can I expect God to be present in this mess?" I am being invited to experience the mystery of the Incarnation in my life. Eventually, I begin to look for and to really anticipate special intimacy with Jesus in the difficult, challenging, painful, empty, power-less situations of my life. If I desire to find intimacy with God in all things, I'll pay special attention to the poverty places of my life.

Patience That Becomes Fidelity.

To grow in patience is to grow in fidelity. Being faithful implies a host of things. It doesn't mean we are perfect. Fidelity begins with patience and it leads to living our faith with trust in God. The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* has these synonyms for "faithful":

Loyal - a firm resistance to any temptation to desert or betray;

Constant - stresses continuing firmness of emotional attachment without necessarily implying strict obedience to promises or vows;

Staunch - suggests fortitude and resolution in adherence and imperviousness to influences that would weaken it;

Steadfast - implies a steady and unwavering course in love, allegiance, or conviction;

Resolute - implies firm determination to adhere to a cause or purpose.

Each image of what fidelity looks like could be meditated on in the days ahead.

Desiring Patient Fidelity...

One of the biggest mistakes we make is to think that being faithful is a thing in our heads that we just decide to do, or a matter of "will power" that could be contained in a New Year's resolution. In reality, patient fidelity is a gift from God. Yes, it will involve choice and an emotional commitment on our part. It will lead to death to myself more and more. But it is fundamentally a grace from God. Appreciating its power during this holy season allows me to turn to God to ask for the gift. To desire is to know what I need and to long for it. In the days ahead, let's open our hands in prayer, to beg for the gift of patient fidelity. The more we ask, the more we create a space in our hearts to long for the gift and to receive it. The more we long for the gift, the more likely it will be that we will cooperate with the grace we receive. Then, our hands will be open, holding out our whole lives in trust.

Lord, Jesus, my life is in your hands. It has always been your gift. I know you want me to use it better than I do now. I hold it all here for you to take it and receive it. I surrender my life to you today, knowing you will teach me to imitate you in fidelity. I hold up my poverty, my anxiety, all of my sadness. I surrender them to you today, trusting that you will fill me with patience.

With open hands, I ask you to send me to be with others in all the poor places of their lives. Give me your love and your grace, and I will be at peace in my poverty and ask only for the grace to serve you more and more.

Inspired by St. Ignatius' "Take, Lord, Receive" from the *Spiritual Exercises*.

Used with permission from Creighton University's *Online Ministries* site:
onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES

Christmas Flower envelopes are in the pews this weekend. To have your memorials listed in the Christmas bulletin, please put your envelope in this weekend's collection or turn it into the office by 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22.

ELDERLY RELIGIOUS THANK YOU

A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years in their home." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Christmas Dinner (No Charge) will be hosted by the Marcusen family on Dec. 24 at 6:00 p.m. in Wey Hall.

Parishioners are encouraged to bring a dessert to share.

CHURCH DECORATING

Please plan to volunteer some time on Friday, December 23 to help decorate Sacred Heart Church for Christmas. We will start at 10:00 a.m. and continue until finished.

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

Lector: Wayne Herberg, Al Walz

Communion: Liz Herberg, Rick Kosloski, Jeanne Kay

Gifts: Herberg Family

Ushers: Ken Opatz, Dick Ordner

Servers: Elena Herberg, Alexis Murphy

Sunday, December 25

9:00 a.m.

Lectors: Mary Jane Dahl, Sue Roth

Communion: David Prickett,

Kristie Frazier, Elsie Moore

Gifts: Moore Family

Ushers: Ron Peltier, Dennis Kaufmann, Craig Peterson,

Joe Moore

Servers: Connor Frazier, TJ Roth

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Totals for the week of 12/11/2016

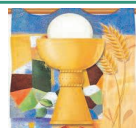
Plate	155.69
Envelopes (46)	3,396.00
Bldg. Maint Env (2)	185.00
CCW Cookie Sale	409.00
Food Shelf	10.00
Kitchen Rental	150.00
Catholic Service Appeal Rebate 2016	2091.25
Immaculate Conception	554.65
Retirement for Religious	577.84
Total	\$7,529.43

Dear Father Stoppel-Wasinger:

On behalf of the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation, I want to thank you and your parishioners for your support of the needed work of the Catholic Services Appeal. This year, a portion of all donations from your parishioners are returned to your parish. Enclosed is a check for \$2,091.25. May it help build up the Body of Christ in your parish community. Gratefully, Tim Healy,
President of the Catholic Service Appeal

Church of the Sacred Heart

MASS INTENTIONS



December 21

December 24

December 25

Open

†Wayne Peshia

†Louisa Rose Perreault

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 21

Fr. Shane Sacred Heart 9:00 am

Saturday, December 24

Fr. Chuck Sacred Heart 4:00 pm

Fr. Shane St. Gregory's 4:00 pm

Fr. Shane St. Gregory's 10:00 pm

Sunday, December 25

Fr. Chuck Sacred Heart 9:00 am

Fr. Fitzgerald 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	

Please advise the office if any of these names can be removed. Thank you.

"Loving God, we ask that you enfold in your tender compassionate care all those in our community whose hearts are breaking and whose worries consume them."

HOLY DAY 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

 GRAFFCO Over 30 Years of Customer Satisfaction	Petroleum Equipment 5973 - 433rd Street Harris, MN 55032 651-674-4047 • 1-800-443-1219 Daniel & Diana Graff	<i>Grandstrand</i> FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES 651-674-4444 6580 Main Street www.grandstrandfh.com	 FAIRVIEW Fairview Lakes HomeCaring & Hospice 11725 Stinson Avenue, Chisago City, MN 55013 651-257-8850 or 800-314-3328 Your local provider of home care and hospice care for 30 years Grief support group meetings at St. Gregory's Tues 4:00-5:30 PM For more information, call Gretchen at 651-257-7837
Cathy Carchedi <i>Sells Houses!</i> www.CathyCarchedi.com Cathy@CathyCarchedi.com 651.248.6897	 EXCAVATING & LANDSCAPING (651) 357-2497 Black Dirt & Class 5 Delivery, Landscape, Excavation & Tree Service	Online Shopping for Catholic Gifts of Faith  www.parishstore.com	 Sunrise Hydraulics, Inc. Cylinder Repair & Machining Hydraulic Hoses & Fittings Jim@sunrisehyd.com www.sunrisehyd.com Contact Jim 651-583-2286
Candi Rindahl REALTOR  RE/MAX Results 651-248-3261 candirindahl.com 651-317-2220 Striving to make your dreams come true!	 GRAPHIC HOMES, INC. Redefining the word quality with every home we build 651-674-0410 www.graphichomesinc.com	AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE Contact John Kirchner to place an ad today! jkirchner@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2458	
 PROVIDE CARE, INC. 5842 Old Main St., Ste. 1 North Branch, MN 55056 Phone: 651-674-8312 Providing creative, quality supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury, challenging behaviors and physical disabilities. Employment opportunities are available! For details and to apply, please visit: www.providecare.com	County Market 5418 St. Croix Trail • North Branch 651.317.2100 www.countymarketnorthbranch.com	 GOLDEN HORIZONS Assisted and Independent Living Facilities 1305 8th Street SW • Pine City, MN 55063 320.629.7272 www.goldenhorizons.org	CARYL & Co. 6369 Main Street 651-674-8297 TOTAL HAIR CARE Paul Mitchell, Alterna, Nioxin & More
Domino's Pizza  5862 Oak Street North Branch MN 651-277-3030	25 Years of Experience  Miller's Roofing & Siding 320-384-0169 • Shingles, Flat & Metal Roofs • Lifetime Vinyl & Steel Siding Fully Insured	Professional TREE CARE • Tree Trimming • Tree & Stump Removal • Stump Grinding JEFF BANNISTER (612) 751-6180	 Jimmy's Johnnys EXECUTIVE RESTROOM TRAILERS PORTABLE TOILETS 20 FOOT STORAGE CONTAINERS WWW.JIMMYSJOHNNYS.COM 651-277-RENT (7368)
East Central Sanitation & Recycling ECS Commercial • Residential • Roll-Off Containers • Rear-Load Containers • Recycling • Refuse Hauling 763-689-2171 • 320-358-4078  Loaner Cars & Towing Available	 CatholicMatch Minnesota CatholicMatch.com/MN	 Stacy Chiropractic Dr. Andrew Ulvin Phone: (651) 462-3243 30962 Fenway Avenue, P.O. Box 298 • Stacy, MN 55079 AndyUlvin@hotmail.com	
 Auto Salon Inc. SPECIALIZING IN COLLISION REPAIR Ph: 320/358-4211 Perry Lindberg, President Fax: 320/358-4333 875 S. Bremer Ave. Metro: 651/674-5519 Rush City shop@perrysautosalon.com	 ANYTIME FITNESS 38873 14th Ave N North Branch, MN 55056 651-674-0580 northbranch@anytimefitness.com  Edina Realty a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate Market Leader 16 Years Running www.NorthBranch.EdinaRealty.com JasonPeltier@EdinaRealty.com 651.674.4019		
 PREMIER CLEAN & RESTORE Expert solutions for carpet, upholstery, hard flooring, odors & floods, Mold Remediation. 651-674-2888	THE FLOWER BOX Daily Deliveries To Rush City 241 Main Street South Pine City, MN 55063 (320) 629-2045 www.flowerboxpinecity.com	 RUSH CITY TIRE & Auto Care, Inc. 320 So. Bremer Ave. 320-358-4440	 Wildflowers FLORAL & GIFT 651-674-6280 www.wildflowersfloralandgifts.com 38830 Forest Blvd.