Advent Prayer

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.
Reconciliation

When I was home for Thanksgiving I learned that one of my nephews and one of my nieces were preparing for their first reconciliation, which will be happening in Advent. It reminded me of my first reconciliation and how nervous I was to go and confess my sins to a priest. I think the part that I was most nervous about was if I would remember the act of contrition or not. Little did I know that every confessional for the most part has the act of contrition printed off inside for the penitent to use (this is true in our confessional as well).

Our 2nd graders will be doing their first reconciliation on Tuesday, December 17th during the parish reconciliation service. The reconciliation service is from 6:30 until 8:30 pm that night. Of course you can also go to confession during the regularly scheduled times, and I encourage everyone to go during the Advent season. As you know Advent is a season of preparation, and one of the best ways that we can prepare for the coming of Christ is to go to confession. We hear in our second reading this weekend from the letter to the Romans that we are called to "throw off the works of darkness", which means that we are called to get rid of the sin in our lives.

I know for me one of the best feelings that I have is right after I have gone to confession. It's like there is nothing that is separating me from the grace of God. It is during this time, that my prayer gets better. Although you may be nervous before going to confession, I pray that you may get past that nervousness and come and experience the great grace of God in this amazing sacrament.

Let me finish with a story. When I was at Epiphany in Coon Rapids I was praying in the Adoration Chapel. It just so happens that the confessionals are located in the Adoration Chapel there at Epiphany. While I was praying in the chapel, the First Reconciliation retreat was going on, and one of the parts of the retreat was for the parents to show their children the confessional. As one of the parents was showing the child the confessional I heard the little girl yell “I can’t wait to go to confession”. I pray that all of us have that same feeling as that little girl.

God bless,
Fr. Carlson

Parish Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, December 17th
6:30 pm—8:30 pm
We will have several priests available for confession.

“Confession is an act of honesty and courage—an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.” ~ Pope John Paul II
**OPEN ADORATION HOURS**

Take some quiet prayer time in the adoration chapel

**OPEN ADORATION HOURS**

**MONDAYS:** 12:00AM, 12:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM

**TUESDAYS:** 10:00PM

**WEDNESDAYS:** 12:00AM

**THURSDAYS:** 9:00AM

**FRIDAYS:** 12:00AM, 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, 11:00PM (WEEK 4 ONLY)

**SATURDAYS:** 4:00AM, 7:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM

**SUNDAYS:**

Please contact Sara Magnus at 612-708-3382 or via email at saramagnus@hotmail.com if you are available and willing to sign up for an hour each week!

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**PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH**

We invite you to keep in your daily prayers the sick and confined of our parish who seek God’s joy in their infirmity, in particular:

- Elvera Hoops
- Betty Roy
- Mary Rosati
- Viviana Wright
- Bill Ashenbach
- Margaret Davis
- Kon Wurm
- Ruth Colnar
- Kathy Bedford
- Steve Haskins

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**MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**Children’s Choir**

Rehearsals: Wednesday, Dec 18, 6:00-6:30pm

Mass: Sunday, December 22, 10:00am

**Adult Choir**

Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 18, 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Mass, Tuesday, December 24, 10:00pm

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**RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS**

“Thank you’ hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us,” says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week’s second collection.

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat. December 14</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Cy Kerber</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>For the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. December 15</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Jim Goethke, Steven Goethke</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Mona &amp; Jack Aeshliman</td>
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<td>Mon. December 16</td>
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<td>No Mass</td>
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<td>Tue. December 17</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Bernelle Hennessy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. December 18</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Joan Hardy</td>
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<td>Thurs December 19</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Tom Rosensteel</td>
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<td>Fri. December 20</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Alan Ludwig</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. December 21</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>John Willoughby</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Clifford Wolda</td>
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<td>Sun. December 22</td>
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<td>For the Parish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Nick Shipman</td>
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<td>For the Parish</td>
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<td>For the Parish</td>
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<td>John Rosensteel</td>
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<td>Fri. December 27</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Tom Shipman</td>
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<td>Sat. December 28</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Joe Rosensteel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>James Barry</td>
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<td>Sun. December 29</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Mary Mitchell</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15 2019**

**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7,15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Gn 49:2,8-10/Ps 72:1-4,7-8,17/Mt 1:1-17

**Wednesday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19/Mt 1:18-25

**Thursday:** Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a/Ps 71:3-6,16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Friday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday:** Sg 2:8-14/Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21/Lk 1:39-45

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22 2019**

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

**Monday:** Mal 3:1-4,23-24/Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14/Lk 1:57-66

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Ps 89:2-5,27,29/Lk 1:67-79

**Wednesday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29/Acts 13:16-17,22-25/Mt 1:1-25

**Midnight:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3,11-13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

**Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4,6,8,16-17/Mt 10:17-22

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-5,7-8/Mt 2:13-18

**Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6,12-14/ Ps 128:1-5/Col 3:12-21/Mt 2:13-15,19-23
PARISH EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
8:00am Mass (Hospitality)
10:00am Mass (Hospitality)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
7:00pm Parish Reconciliation Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
Faith Formation Classes
6:00pm Children’s Choir rehearsal
7:00pm Adult Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
7:00pm School Advent Celebration in the gym

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
2:30pm Christmas Around the World (school presentation in the cafeteria)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
6:30am Men Who Pray
5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
8:00am Mass (Hospitality)
10:00am Mass (Hospitality)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
Church and school offices closed
5:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
10:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
Church and school offices closed
9:00am Christmas Day Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
6:30am Men Who Pray
5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
8:00am Mass (Hospitality)
10:00am Mass (Hospitality)

YEAR-END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Your Gifts Are Welcome and Appreciated! As we approach the end of calendar year 2019, here are a few ideas to help maximize your financial support for our parish:

Christmas Envelopes: There is a Christmas envelope in your December packet. We hope that you will maintain your regular weekly support along with making a special Christmas contribution.

Stock Contributions: Appreciated stock is a great way to make a contribution AND perhaps maximize your tax benefit. Stocks must be transferred by December 31st for credit in tax year 2019.

IRA Charitable Deduction: Individuals who are 70½ or older may direct distributions from their traditional IRA to eligible charitable organizations. The provision has a cap of $100,000 for charitable distributions from individual IRAs each year. Individuals may exclude the amount distributed directly to an eligible charity from their gross income. The tax incentive regarding IRA contributions provides a marvelous gift opportunity for senior parishioners owning IRA’s. Please consider a direct IRA distribution to St. John’s!

Direct Contribution through Faith Direct: You may wish to consider a very convenient way to offer your regular and sustaining support through our electronic giving process. Automatic deductions can be drawn from your checking account or charged to credit card each month. You don’t have to worry about writing weekly or monthly checks – it’s all handled electronically! Enroll today at https://membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/MN855

Employer Matching Funds: Check with your employer to determine whether a matching gift from your company can double the value of a contribution to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church or Montessori School.

Donor Advised Funds: Establishing a Donor Advised Fund through Catholic Community Foundation can offer immediate tax benefits today while ensuring your ability to give to St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish in an on-going manner for years to come.

Please note that the IRS requires that gifts must be postmarked or received into the parish office by Dec. 31st in order to qualify for a 2019 deduction. Envelopes placed in the collection basket at Tuesday, December 31st Solemnity of Mary Mass will count towards 2019 giving, and those placed in the collection on Wednesday, January 1st Solemnity of Mary Mass will count towards 2020 giving, regardless of check date. We will be accepting one-time checking/savings account gifts until December 26th at 5:30pm EST and live one-time credit card gifts until midnight on December 31st.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Guided by our Roman Catholic faith, St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School prepares students to live out the Gospel message, achieve academic excellence, and joyfully lead by faith, virtue and reason.

SCHOOL ADVENT PROGRAM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH AT 6:00PM
Join us for our Advent Celebration in the school gym with reception to follow. Pray with us through song and scripture reading!

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH FROM 2:30-3:30PM
Mark your calendars for Christmas Around the World. This is a time set aside to hear from the elementary and middle school students how other countries celebrate Christmas. Enjoy a sample taste of traditional food from various countries. All are invited to join in this celebration in the school cafeteria.

JESSE TREE
The Advent Jesse Tree tells the story of God's redemptive plan for the world through symbols, prayers, devotion and scripture readings from the Old and New Testament. The symbols trace the heritage of Jesus Christ beginning with creation and ending with the birth of the Messiah. As staff, we have used the Jesse Tree to shape our morning prayer time together. In the classrooms, children are engaging in the Jesse Tree in their own way (depending on the age). The hallway shows a series of symbols on a string, while E1 has their symbols on a winterized branch. Both are visual reminders that we are in the Advent season, a time of waiting for Christ's birth.

CONGRATULATIONS MRS. GAWARECKI AND FAMILY!
Our Children’s House Guide, Miss Christa, gave birth to a baby boy on December 6th! What a way to celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas! Aaron Francis is a sweet little blessing, making this a family of four. Mom, dad, and big sister Eloise are all thrilled and loving every minute!
IMPORTANT DATES
Tuesday, December 17th:
*First Reconciliation
Wednesday, December 18th
*Confirmation Year 1 meets, Classroom 1
Wednesday, December 25th
* No Faith Formation: Merry Christmas!

LIFELINE
CALLING ALL 8TH—12TH GRADERS!
Join us on January 4th for Lifeline’s Men’s & Women’s Session at the NET Center!

KORY LACROIX will speak to the guys about the Battle for the Heart of Man. Freedom for men today has increasingly come to mean detachment from responsibility, authority, and truth. But Christ set us free that we could live in His fierce love, and live the adventure that He has planned for us!

MICHELE VOLK will address the ladies on Freedom and Femininity. There are many voice vying for our attention to tell us who we are. But only one Voice matters—the Voice of our Creator. Who does He say that we are?

Signup at https://tinyurl.com/sjblifeline
$5 for transpiration.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME TO THE ADVENT CELEBRATION! IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SHARE A MEAL, PRAISE GOD TOGETHER, AND, OF COURSE, EAT SOME DELICIOUS COOKIES!
### Stewardship Update

*Please note that fluctuation in weekly giving is often due to variable timing of annual stewardship gifts.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection(s) as of: 12/9/19</th>
<th>YTD Information (as of 12/9/19)</th>
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<td>Immaculate Conception</td>
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### Church of St. Therese 4th Annual Women's Retreat: Undone

**January 23-25**

Please join the women of St. Therese Parish in Deephaven for a dynamic retreat presented by the John Paul II Healing Center, *Undone - Freedom for the Feminine Heart*. Through a series of talks, teachings and prayer experiences, you will be invited to become undone in God’s presence while deeply receiving the truth of your authentic identity. Registration and information is available on the John Paul Healing Center website under Events, https://jpiihealingcenter.org/events/undone-womens-retreat-deephaven-mn/ Cost: $150. For questions, please email Mary Jo Martin at retreatssttherese@gmail.com or by calling (952) 473-4422.

### Archbishop’s Discernment Retreat

**Saturday, December 28 – Monday, December 30**

**Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo**

The Archbishop's Discernment Retreat is for men who are seniors in high school to age 50 and are discerning priesthood. This retreat is a wonderful opportunity to gain clarity in your discernment process and to meet other men who desire to follow Christ and to know his will for their lives. Cost is $100. Please check with your pastor or local Serra Club for scholarship, if interested. For more information call 651-962-6890.

### Time Talent Treasure

#### Lectors for December 21st & 22nd

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<tr>
<td>Carole Sayer</td>
<td>Patty Shoemaker</td>
<td>John Mugford</td>
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#### Lectors for December 28th & 29th

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<td>John Mugford</td>
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#### Eucharistic Ministers for December:

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<th>5:00 PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1. Mark Spaniol</td>
<td>C1. Judith Bortscheller</td>
<td>C1. Joleen Roy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Dupont</td>
<td>Linda Peterson</td>
<td>Sue Bradley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theresa DeMun</td>
<td>John Behun</td>
<td>Sue O’Donoghue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz Rosenberg</td>
<td>Jean Gray</td>
<td>Sue Brisley</td>
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<td>Open</td>
<td>Nan Twaddle</td>
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