

December 25, 2016
Christmas

Saint John Catholic Church



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Higgins
Pastor

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Dear Parishioners,

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. First of all, a big thank you goes out to all who helped with the decorating and Liturgical Services such as ministers of music and ministers at the Altar. We just can't have a true celebration without the goodness and dedication of folks who come together to bring about a wonderful environment for us to celebrate the Feast of Christmas.

I would like to share a reflection with you that was written by Bishop Robert F. Morneau, pastor of Resurrection Parish in Green Bay, WI, and retired auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay. It speaks not only to the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, but also of Our Blessed Mother. This article was published by Liturgical Press in "Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas, Waiting in Joyful Hope 2016-2017".

Scripture: *The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. (Luke 2:16).*

Reflection: *Often at weddings and funerals, Franz Schubert's Ave Maria is sung. Several passages of the beautiful hymn and prayer merit pondering in our hearts, just as Mary reflected upon the amazing message she heard from the shepherds in Bethlehem.*
Gratia plena! *Mary is one full of grace, favored in a unique way by God in her participation in the mystery of our redemption. The grace that filled her being was that of life, love, and light. The Lord of all life was with her, dwelling within her womb; the Spirit of love radiated from her reflective and tender heart; the light of God's glory shone in her words and very presence. The grace that she received she gave to all whom she encountered.*
Mater Dei! *Mary is proclaimed the mother of God for she bore the Christ who was human and divine. As the mother of Jesus, she became the mother and model for the church. A good mother is one who listens and loves. Mary was obedient to the word she heard from God; Mary was responsive in her active concern for all she met. Mary's obedience and self-giving mirrors our Eucharistic celebration.*
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus! *We ask Mary to pray for all of us, we who are sinners and in need of redemption. That prayer is not only when we face the mystery of death, but in our everyday life as we struggle to be free from sin and faithful disciples of the Lord. Our pilgrimage is long and difficult. We need much grace to be true to our baptismal commitments.*


I would also like to update everyone on our approval for the stained glass window project. We have received approval from Bishop Richard Pates to move forward to repair, update and protect our beautiful stained glass. The cost for the project is \$26,956 and if everyone continues to fulfill their 50/50 Capital Campaign Pledges along with funds already in the building fund we should be able to pay the cost of the project. We would like to invite everyone to help with the cost of the project. You may make donations to the St. John Building Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

May we always look to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit for our salvation and direction and may we also look to Our Blessed Mother who points us to Him. Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fr. Ray

Parish News & Events

December 25, 2016
Christmas

This Week's Calendar w/Mass Times & Intentions, Birthdays & Anniversaries	Sunday 12/25 Christmas Day No Regular Mass	Monday 12/26 <i>No Office Hours</i> <i>Mondays or Fridays</i>	Tuesday 12/27 Wednesday 12/28 8:30am MASS For Mable E. Richter	Thursday 12/29 Birthdays: Sr. Nesta 6:30pm Mass For John W. Brincks	Friday 12/30 Birthdays: Cade Suhr	Saturday 12/31 Sunday 1/1/17 8am Mass For the People	
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E-Bulletins & Updates

Weekly bulletins are published online through both our websites and via your personal email address - *if* you have provided us with your current email contact information. The bulletin comes to your personal address at 9am each Saturday. It is also available on our website by Friday afternoon. Please contact the church office to subscribe.

Visit: adairstjohn.org to view our bulletins.

Thank you very much to all who have made donations to our Faith Formation collection projects!

Your generosity goes a long way in helping those who are less fortunate to not only enjoy the holiday, but to learn that they are loved.



A Joyful Christmas

Financial Report For:	December 18, 2016	<i>Mass Cancelled Due To Extreme Weather Conditions</i>	Regular Tithes \$0.00	Special: \$0.00	Altar Furn. Fund \$6,100.00	Due: \$300.00	<i>generous this week since there was no collection last weekend - Thank You!</i>
			Children \$0.00	Repair Fund \$9,128.70	ADA Balance	<i>Please consider being extra</i>	

Liturgical Ministers January 1, 2017	Cross Bearer: Cody Moreland	Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Les Elgin	Lector: Theresa Elgin	Host: Les Elgin	Cup: Adella Vogl Scott Suhr	Servers: Carley Fagan Cole Plowman	Traveling Chalice: Rich & Grace Kennedy
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Holy Father's December Prayer Intentions *Universal:* That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving. ***Evangelization:*** That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

NOVOS Young Adults If you're a young adult looking for social, spiritual and service activities, check out Novos Young Adults. Events happen every second and fourth Thursday of the month and occasionally on weekends. For more information, go to the Novos Young Adults Facebook page.

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM: Preparation class for parents and godparents is required. Please contact the church office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Preparation for marriage must begin at least six months before the anticipated date of the wedding. Please contact the church office to set up an appointment to speak with Father.