



“What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

-St. Mark

Happy New Year! With the sun setting on Saturday, November 29th, the Universal Church around the world celebrates the new liturgical year and the start of the Advent season. The Advent season is such a brief time. This year, the season of Advent lasts only 25 days, or about three and a half weeks. But the brevity of the season does not delete its spiritual importance. For the season of Advent is all about watching and waiting, penance and prayer.

Last summer, as our maintenance man Kurt Evans was taking me through the church and school to show me where things were, we went down the elevator and at the south (handicapped) entrance, there is a narrow storage area. In that storage area is the beautiful Advent wreath that we once again are displaying in the nave of the church this Advent. As Kurt was pointing this out to me on a hot July day, I made a mental note: “Advent, is a long way off, low priority”. It is hard to believe how quickly the months have melted away (like I hope will happen to any snow we receive this winter) and we are already in the winter season.

The gospel that we hear proclaimed on this First Sunday of Advent is only 13 lines long, but in the course of those few lines we hear the word “WATCH” 4 times. You do not have to be a scripture scholar to know that this word is not only important, but filled with spiritual Good News. Through the writing of St. Mark we are reminded again during the Advent season to be spiritually watchful and alert.

Being watchful and alert is so critically important in our spiritual life, for it is so easy to get stuck in a spiritual rut or routine. Days, months, and years pass by and suddenly we wonder where our life has gone? All our plans and dreams have passed us by, because we were not watchful spiritually on how brief life is or how we have falsely convinced ourselves that we have so much future left to our lives.

It seems to me as an observer of those who die from our parishes, often there is regret at the time of death. The regret is not so much that life has ended for our loved one, but rather that the one who has died had not been “spiritually watchful” of their human relationships. Health, holiness or happiness can quickly pass from our life if we are not attentive and watchful. Similarly, I have seen mourners grieve because death has caught them off guard, and that they were not spiritually “attentive” or “watchful” enough to see that their loved ones are mortal and can pass in an instant.

Advent is a time to slow down spiritually, rather than what society proposes, as a time to speed up physically through shopping, decorating and partying. Advent is a kind

of spiritual courtship, getting to know God better in order that we might be prepared to celebrate the great feast of the incarnation of Christ taking on our human nature (though divine) so that the spiritual wonder of sin is replaced with salvation, death with life, and extinction of our immortal soul with immortality and the promise of everlasting life! Marantha! Come Lord Jesus into our heart! Do not delay!

Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

Stewardship of Treasure	
Adult (167)	\$ 9,554.56
Electronic Giving	3,248.75
Junior	28.59
Plate	318.75
Building Rent	750.00
Loyola Catholic School Subsidy Donation	100.00
Religious Education Tuition	20.00
Christmas Flower Offering	10.00
Immaculate Concept Collection	20.00
Grand Total	\$ 14,050.65
<i>*(Our weekly budget is set at \$12,750.00)</i>	
Special Collections	
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 455.50

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your stewardship this week. Thank you also for your stewardship in supporting our vacation raffle. Thank you too in all of your efforts in helping us reach our Diocesan Ministries Appeal goal in the weeks ahead. We are off to a good start at 54% of our goal! Yeah! Keep it up. Thanks so much!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“No one ever climbed a hill just by looking at it.”



INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR DECEMBER 2014

“That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.”



DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL



Thank you to all of you that have given/and will give to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge or gift at this time, envelopes are available in the pews and in the back of church. You may return your pledge in the collection basket or simply drop the envelope in the mail. Either way, the parish will receive full credit for your gift that will benefit those ministries that are vital to the Diocesan Church as well assist our own parish stewardship goal of covering our two major Catholic School and additional Diocesan assessments that total more than \$315,000.00! Whatever you do, will be of great assistance! Thank you for your gifts!

FLOWER CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPE

Attached to this week’s bulletin is an envelope that will go towards the decorations for Christmas this year that will include the flowers, artificial trees, wreaths and other decorations to make our church and sanctuary festive and solemn. I invite you to place your offering in the envelope and we will publish your name and who you wish to remember in a special way through this Christmas offering. We will be printing a special program that will be handed out at the Christmas Masses as was done in my previous assignments and the Worship Committee informed me was done also for many years at Holy Rosary.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES



Recently, at our Mankato Priest Meeting, we set the schedule for four penance services in our four parishes that you are spiritually encouraged to attend during these weeks of Advent.

- Sunday, December 14th: St. John’s – 4:00 pm**
- Sunday, December 14th: St. Peter/Paul – 6:00 pm**
- Sunday, December 21st: St. Joseph – 3:00 pm**
- Sunday, December 21st: Holy Rosary – 5:00 pm**

Of course, confessions will still be heard every Saturday at 4:30 pm, prior to the 5:00 pm Mass. I will also set aside times where I will be present in the confessional prior to the great feast of Christmas. It certainly may be true that you “have done nothing wrong” and not committed any serious sins of commission. Perhaps you might reflect then on the sins of “omission”, the “things I have failed to do”. Please remember that Advent is still seen by the Church as a “Little Lent”, and is an ideal spiritual time to celebrate this important sacrament of the Church.

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS TREES!



Thank you to all of you that donated your artificial trees for our use this year in our Christmas decorations for our sanctuary. We are still in need of a few more that will be used around the crib. Of course the question is being asked as to why we are using artificial as opposed to real? The reason is that our insurance provider, Catholic Mutual of Omaha, does not permit the use of lights in real trees. While some parishes might still hold this practice, in the event of a fire, the parish property would not be covered.

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers the soul of +Monica Haack who passed away rather suddenly a week ago on Saturday. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated this past Wednesday at Holy Rosary. Our sympathies to Jim and to the children.



When I was a seminarian at the time that Fr. Ed Ardolf was pastor, I got to know Monica quite well. Monica is perhaps best remembered for her writing of poetry and before I departed for the seminary in the fall of 1987, she had given me a framed copy of perhaps her most famous poem “The Eternal Daisy”. There are still copies of her poem in the parish office as well as in the social hall. May this dear lady who wrote about the “Eternal Daisy” be given the bright promise of “Eternal Life” in the Kingdom of God. May she rest in peace.

TRANSITIONS



It is with regret that I am informing you that our current Administrative Secretary, Mary Homan, has tendered her resignation, effective December 5th. Mary has accepted another position that will focus more on her accounting talents which she is more akin to. Mary indicated to me that when she had accepted her present position (early last fall), she was not aware that this assignment would entail such a large portion of secretarial duties. As pastor and staff, we hate to see Mary go as she is most capable and she has been a joy to work with over these past few months. Our prayers and best wishes go out to her as she takes a new step in her employment opportunities.

Fortunately, having hired many staff over the years, things such as this, do occur. As a result, I have retained on file, all of the applications of those individuals that applied for the position, and will be in contact with some of the top candidates in the coming days. At this point there does not appear to be the need to start the whole application process over again. I am hoping that in short order I will have (once again) a new Administrative Secretary in place. Thank you for your patience during this time (again) of transition.

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 1: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church
8:30 am – Mass – +Mary B. Kunkel
9:15 am – Bible Study
6:00 pm – *CCW Christmas Party/Potluck – Social Hall*

Tuesday, December 2: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church
8:30 am – Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 3: St. Francis Xavier,

Priest

9:00 am – *Loyola Elementary School Mass – (Fr. Paul)
Good Counsel Campus – +Colleen Bianchi*
3:00 pm – *Penance Service with the School Sisters of
Notre Dame (Fr. Attends)*
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – *Sewing Group – Lower Level
Parish Center*

6:00 pm – *Parish Choir Practice*
4 pm, 6 pm, 7:15 pm – *Faith Formation*

Thursday, December 4: St. John Damascene,

Priest and Doctor of the Church

7:40 am – Rosary in Church
* 8:00 am – Mass – +Jon Schwarz
6:00 – 9:00 pm – *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday, December 5: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church
8:30 am – Mass – Donna Affeldt

Saturday, December 6: St. Nicholas, Bishop

* *Advent Bake Sale Following Mass – Social Hall*
* *CCW & KC Parish Christmas Party Following Mass
Social Hall*

4:30 pm – Rosary in Church
* 5:00 pm – Mass – +Henry Nowacki

Sunday, December 7: 1st Sunday of Advent

* *Advent Bake Sale Following Masses – Social Hall*
7:30 am – Rosary in Church
8:00 am – Mass – People of the Parish
9:30 am – Rosary in Church
10:00 am – Mass – +Sebastian, Gloria Lena,
Emmanuel Anthisamy

Liturgical Roles – December 6-7

Lectors

5:00 pm: Eileen Wadekamper & Dan Gowanlock
8:00 am: John & Nancy Holden
10:00 am: Tim McGowan & Jennifer Spaude

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm: Mary Beth Nygaard, Maggie Bennett
Steve Caron, Brian Eggersdorfer
Karen Ezzell, Need Sub
8:00 am: Michelle Ellingworth, Elizabeth Schroder
Mary Homan, Cathy Neve
Jim Theuninck, Need Sub
10:00 am: Tom Kock, John Kuchinka
Dawn Matz, Darlene Schorn
Kevin Mettler, Deb Stachon

Altar Servers

5:00 pm: Jolee Slechta
8:00 am: Danny Collins, Jacob Reynolds
Grace Ellingworth
10:00 am: Jordan & Jaiden Moore, Jack Roering

Presentation of Gifts

Confirmation Candidates & Family

5:00 pm: Emma Matter & Family
8:00 am: Meghan Resner & Family
10:00 am: Joelle Anderson & Family

Ushers

5:00 pm: Larry Bennett, Bob Meyer
Ann Richardson, Need Sub
8:00 am: Craig Amundson, Bill Fasnacht
Doug & Jake Homan
10:00 am: Scott & Brady Smith
Bob Stachon, Glen Vershelde

Music Ministry

5:00 pm: Myra Schroepfer /Janelle Campeau
8:00 am: Corrine Ort, Kurt Schroeder/Jeanne
Makela
10:00 am: Kathy Jo Johns, Nancy Evans/Vicki Galli

PRAYER CHAIN

If you, or someone you know, would like to be included in our prayer chain, please call Karen Ezzell, 387-7877



FR. ED ARDOLF ENDOWMENT FUND

This fund is now at \$129,052.00. 85% of the earnings of this fund go to pay tuition at Loyola Catholic School for Holy Rosary families. Contributions to this fund may be dropped off at the parish office or sent to Amy at Loyola.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS...

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR ISAAC KOLSTAD AND ALL OF OUR SICK AND INJURED OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH

Our prayers continue to go out to Isaac Kolstad as well as all of the sick and injured in our parish who are at home, in the hospital, nursing homes or assisted-living residences. May God bless them and keep them under His guidance and protection!

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Nick Blace | Matt McGraw |
| Jared Hiniker | Christopher Schmidt |
| Ann Winkler | Jonathan Heintz |
| Dana Schiller | William Backes |
| Mark Hansen | Ben Barsness |
| Alex Ek | Sean O'Dea |
| Timothy Eick | Daniel Fitterer |
| Anna Drummer | |



FOR OUR FAMILIES

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday | Joseph & Jill Kratzke Family |
| Tuesday | No Mass |
| Wednesday | James & Denise Tarasovitch Family |
| Thursday | Justin & Andrea Hawker Family |
| Friday | Brian & Margaret Novak Family |
| Saturday | Patrick & Joyce Shain Family |
| Sunday | Michael & Janet Brumm Family |

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Mary Jane Ledwein, Tom Grausam, Don Haley, Jan Schmidt, Doris Lorentz, Bill Goettlicher, Lenore Sweers, Dolores Spreter, Richard Flynn, Jr., Krystal Portz, Lydia Meehling, Jan Brumm, Steve Fitterer, Kathy Eggersdorfer, Nancy Marquardt, Gabriel Speckel, Shannon Murphy, Harriet Senesac, Lisa LaPoint Leland, David Bruender, Marilyn Bastian, Betty Kotthoff, Isaac Kolstad, Nancy Wesely, Liz Brumm, Susan Zenk

Readings for the Week

- Mon:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11
Tues: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
Wed: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37
Thurs: 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 2:1-3; Matthew 25:14-30
Fri: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
Sat: Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 10:1-9
Sun: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

- Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.), Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical Care and Diocesan Audit:
DUE: \$78,103.92
Pd. To Date \$32,670.18
- Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.)
DUE: \$27,708.85
Pd. to Date: \$14,994.00
- Loyola Catholic School Assessment:
DUE: \$238,000.00
Pd. to Date: \$71,500.00

Total Assessments 2014-2015: \$ 343,812.77
Total Paid to Date 2014-2015: \$ 119,164.18

We broke a stewardship milestone this week! We broke the \$100,000.00 mark for the amount of assessments we have paid out since the start of July. That is no small accomplishment. By the end of December, in order to stay on target, we need to have paid in assessments almost \$172,000.00. We had a slow start as we paid very little in assessments in the months of July and August. Thank you!

K OF C COUNCIL #5551 NEWS

- December 4 – Planning Meeting
December 6 – 6 pm Parish Christmas Party & Meal
December 18 – General Meeting



The Knights of Columbus will be selling fresh-cut Christmas trees and wreaths at the lot next to the Holy Rosary rectory. Hours at the lot will be Saturdays/Sundays 9:00 am – 7:00 pm and Weekdays 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Please check us out!!

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The CCW and the Knights of Columbus will be hosting the 2nd Annual Parish Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6th following the 5:00 pm Mass. Stop down with the entire family for a pasta supper which will be provided along with games for the kids and a special visit from Santa himself!!



CALVARY CEMETERY WREATHS



Calvary Cemetery is now taking orders for Christmas Wreaths to be placed on your loved one's graves. For further information please go to www.calvarymankato.wordpress.com or call Terry Miller at 507-995-1010.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the Worship Committee, staff and additional volunteers for taking down the fall decorations and working at putting up our decorations for this brief season of Advent. What would we do without you? Thank you so much for enriching our house of worship. May God reward you!

CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL GRANT

We are grateful for recently receiving a grant in the amount of \$500.00 from Catholic United Financial for our religious education program at Holy Rosary. This grant will assist in the work of teaching chastity and abstinence in our religious education program. Our thanks to our Director of Religious Education, Maggie Bennett, for seeking out this grant for the benefit of our parish and program.

ROSARY LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

- Dec 7 – Eileen Wadekamper, Sharon Lenz
Donna Wolf
- Dec 14 – Karen Etzell, Dennis McCabe
Jeanette Barsness
- Dec 21 – Mary Helen Kennedy, Arlyce Anderson
Darlene Schorn
- Dec 28 – Paul Stevens, Margaret Ayers
Curt & Donna Stanke



VACATION RAFFLE THANK YOU!!



A BIG “Thanks” to all of the Guests in attendance, Hospitality Committee, Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Weber’s Catering, American Bottling, those that donated silent auction items, pie ladies, Klaseus Family (popcorn), High Spirits Liquor for donating beer & wine, Insty Prints for ticket printing, plus anyone that I may have forgotten. The 2014 Vacation Raffle was a huge success story!!

THANK YOU FOR THE HELP CHANGING THE MISSALETTES

Thank you to the following people for helping change the missalettes in the church this past week: Dennis McCabe, Bob Meyer, Shirley & Gene Brandt, Leo Bernardy, Ted Genelin, Gary Zellmer, Dave Mutch, Bill Fasnacht, Sandi Linsmeier, Lorraine Klaseus, Kurt Evans, Darlene Schorn, Pat & Elmer Heirigs. Thank you for time, it was greatly appreciated!



Loyola students will participate in Advent prayers and service opportunities during this blessed season. Primary students will pray around a “living Advent wreath” each week and create a Nativity display near our school Chapel. Children will collect baby items and donations for our local chapter of Birthright. Intermediate School students will be assigned a family through their homeroom teachers and will begin the work of their annual Christmas Basket Project. The Intermediate School will have a Christmas Basket Mass December 19th at SSPP Church at 8:15 am. High School students will be assigned a family through their guided study teachers and will begin the work of their annual Christmas Basket Project. Throughout the month, students will collect items to wrap up for local families which can be distributed by Christmas day.

Join us for Advent and Christmas programs and concerts:

- Dec. 12 Loyola High School Concert Choir, 7pm, Blessed Theresa Chapel, GC campus
- Dec. 18 Primary School program, 9am and 1:30pm and Preschool program at 10:30am, LCS gym, GC campus
- Dec. 8 Loyola Intermediate Band Concert at 7:00pm, Good Counsel Gym.
- Dec. 16 Loyola Intermediate (4-8) Christmas Program at 6:30pm, SSPP Church

On December 8, Primary and High School students will join the Sisters in celebrating Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass is at 10am in the Sisters’ Chapel.

Join us at Barnes & Noble on December 6 for our Loyola Book Fair. There will be story-time, students entertaining with songs, volunteers to gift-wrap your Barnes & Noble purchases, and lots of Advent/Christmas spirit. Barnes & Noble will donate a portion of your receipt to Loyola...just mention our school at check out. Find details on our website.

Thanks to our local pastors, Loyola high school students and third graders will have an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 10.



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

A DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE



The Diocese of New Ulm is hosting an event to open the Year for Consecrated Life. All are invited, especially youth and families. The event will take place on Sunday, December 7th from 11:00 am – 4:30 pm at the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Convent. Activities include Mass with the Bishop, Lunch with the Sisters, Convent tours/Open Gym with the Sisters, “Sisters Got Talent” Live Entertainment, and Holy Hour with Vespers at the Cathedral. To RSVP for lunch or for more information, contact Sr. Anna at aswanson@dnu.org or 507-233-5320 or go to www.dnu.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Theresa House and Welcome Inn are hoping you and your family will reach out to one of their homeless or at-risk families this holiday season. Please contact Partners for Affordable Housing’s Volunteer Coordinator, Onnie, at 387-2115 for details. Opportunities include fulfilling the holiday wishes of a homeless child or family as well as helping wrap and tag Christmas gifts on Wednesday evening December 10th or Tuesday evening December 16th. Thanks for your help.

**ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER
PREPARE THE WAY FOR JUSTICE, HOPE
AND PEACE ON EARTH**

Saturday, December 6, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sacred Space Ministry, Good Counsel, Mankato, MN.

“Advent is a season of courage! It is a season for midwives and those who give birth to hope and peace.” *Megan McKenna*. Along with shopping, parties, caroling, tree decorating and baking, take time to prepare your heart, your spirit, your psyche for the coming of Christmas. This day will include input, reflection, stories and sharing. Fee: \$40, includes lunch. Please register by December 2, 2014. mjwelter@ssndcp.org or 507-389-4266.



JOB OPENING

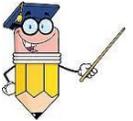
Options for Women/Mankato is a Pregnancy Resource Center looking for a part-time Executive Director (20 hours a week). This person will serve as the primary community ambassador, client advocate and donor developer. The main duties will include day to day administrative operations of

staff and volunteers and the execution of services and programs for our clients.

We are looking for a mature individual with a strong belief in the sanctity of human life, a bachelor’s degree and/or two years’ experience in a non-profit organization and /or two years’ supervisory experience with strong communication, leadership, administrative and counseling skills. Get more information and Job Description at www.optionsmankato.org. Please email resume’ to info@optionsmankato.org by December 5, 2014.

READING & MATH TUTORS NEEDED

Interested in tutoring children in reading or math? The Good Counsel Learning Center tutors K – 12 students in reading or math for an hour after school between 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The Center is in need of qualified teachers. For further information, call Sr. Dorothy Zeller at 389-4229.



CELEBRATING THE SEASONS

River Valley Catholic Community Presents “Celebrating the Seasons”. There will be a complete chili dinner followed by an Advent/Christmas Program with Scripture and Music. The evening will take place on Wednesday, December 10th. Chili dinner will be from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Scripture & Music will be at 7:00 pm. Suggested donation is \$8.00 for adult, \$5 for child, \$25 family max. Sponsored by Mankato Area Catholic Churches, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Loyola Catholic School and the Knights of Columbus.



CUB & BOY SCOUT ITEMS WANTED

New and used Cub and Boy Scout uniforms and scouting items as well as camping gear are needed. These items will be donated to a local pack and troop. Items will then be distributed to scout families where needed. Please call Dan Sargent for more information at 507-388-5967. Thank you for your help!

