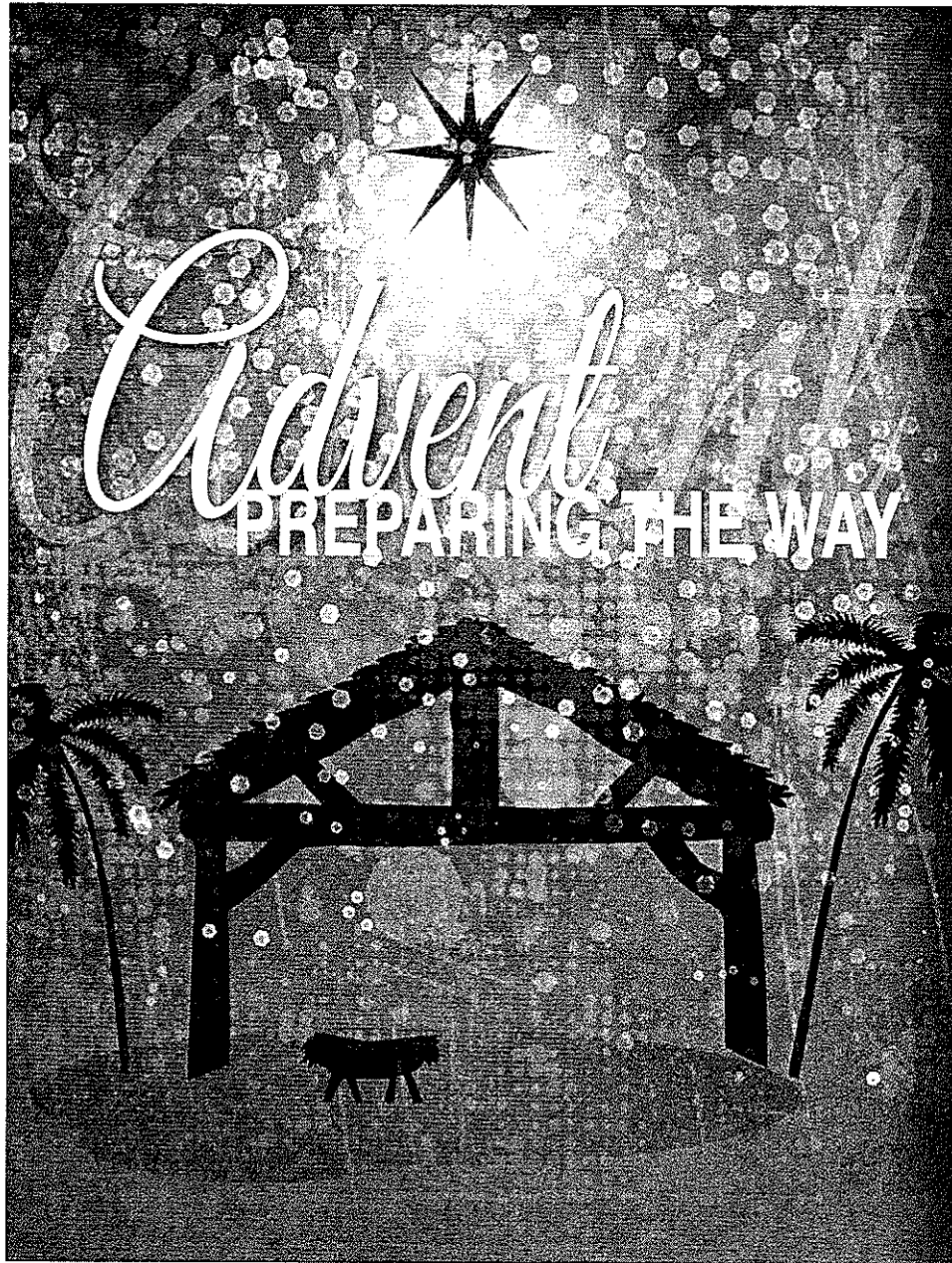


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2016



Welcoming the Christ in one another

NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Three Sites of Worship, One Faith Community

**Including St. Wenceslaus &
The Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica**

215 MAIN STREET EAST ■ NEW PRAGUE, MN 56071 ■ 952-758-3225 ■ NPCATHOLIC.ORG

We welcome you...

Welcome to the greater New Prague Area Catholic Community which includes the Church of St. Wenceslaus and the Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica. We are happy you are here. Should you be visiting just for today, WELCOME! If you are seeking a church home, we would be honored to have you consider joining our faith community. If you are interested in a membership, please phone the parish office for assistance and registration. If you are over the age of 21, we ask that you register. Please feel free to stop by the parish office during office hours to register or you may do so online. Again, we are happy you are here.

At the Church of St. Wenceslaus**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE**Weekend Masses**

Saturday..... 4:00 pm
 Sunday..... 8:30 & 10:30 am

Morning Word & Communion

Monday & Tuesday 8:00 am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 am

SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**Anointing of the Sick**

Available to those who are seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call 952-758-3225

Confirmation

Preparation required. Call 952-758-5131

Reconciliation

Saturdays at 3 pm in the church.

Baptism

Preparation required. Call 952-758-3225

Marriage

Six months to one year preparation time required.

Call 952-758-3225

Rosary

Monday – Friday 7:30 am & Saturday 8:00 am in the church.

Fatima Prayer Cell

Monday – Wednesday after 8 am service in the chapel.

Adoration

Friday 9:00 am to midnight in the chapel

Early Morning Scripture Study

Wednesday 6:45 to 7:50 am - Pius X Room in church basement.

Fr. Kevin's Bible Study

Saturdays 9:30 to 11 am - Pius X Room in church basement.

Prayer Chain

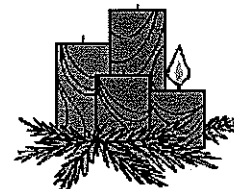
Judy: 952-758-2220 or Arnita: 952-758-4943

From the Desk of Deacon Bob**ADVENT, A TIME OF ANTICIPATION**

All around us the retail world is already celebrating Christmas. Whether we walk through the stores, listen to the radio, or turn on the television, we are being bombarded with Christmas images and innocuous Christmas songs that range from Frosty the Snowman to chestnuts roasting on some mythical fire. Even when we try to Christianize this season, with such platitudes as "Jesus is the reason for the Season," that is not necessarily accurate either. Why? Because it is the Season of Advent, not the Season of Christmas. We are people awaiting with great anticipation the coming of the Christ, not of the past, but the Christ of the future; the second coming of Jesus. It is this joyful anticipation of Jesus' second coming that sustains us during the dark times in our lives. It is the knowledge that when Jesus comes again, he will bring to all humankind the peace, the joy, and the love absent in our present world. At his second coming, Jesus will bring to our Earth the fulfillment of God's reign.

During Advent, we draw parallels between the era of past anticipation with that of our present era of anticipation. Like Israel of old, we long for Jesus to enter into the darkness of our humanity, to bring wholeness to our broken world, to heal the divisions that exist within ourselves and outside of ourselves. Pregnant with this hope, we do not just sit around waiting for the second coming to happen. As a very pregnant Mary brought the presence of Christ within her womb to her cousin Elizabeth, so we, too, need to bring the presence of Christ within ourselves to others. This is why when we express the mystery of our faith at Mass we sing, "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again." At every Eucharistic liturgy, we remember that we are a people of anticipation. However, ours is not a passive and static anticipation. The Body and Blood of Jesus which we receive at Mass, compels us to go forth and bring the presence of Christ to others until that time when he, himself, will come again in glory.

May the Season of Advent be more than just the mere decorating of our homes with lights and garland and the making of special treats reserved for this specific time of year. May our Advent be a time when we prepare ourselves for the Second Christmas, when Jesus returns in glory.

Deacon Bob Wagner*Pastoral Associate***New Prague Area Catholic Community**

Western Catholic Community

From the Desk of Father Dave

Celebrate Jesus Sunday

Don't you just cringe at all the names our post-Thanksgiving days are given? We have Black Friday where you shop so much that the merchants finish in the black even though they have such good deals. I was insane enough to take part in this day a couple of years. I bought some nice gifts, but I wonder if it was worth the stress. Then they have small business Saturday where all kinds of small local businesses try to attract customers. Coming soon, Cyber Monday; where you can get more deals over the Internet. This Tuesday has a snappy name for giving to charity. Make sure some goes to the Church and support all faithful charities that have the goal of making the world a better place. With all these days, I think there might be one missing.

I propose Celebrate Jesus Sunday. It would be in line with those others, only that day's merchandise is out of this world. Most years it falls on the first Sunday of Advent. This is the beginning of the liturgical year. Like the year that starts January one, the liturgical year is worth celebrating. This year we are in the A cycle, so the Gospel readings come from Matthew. We celebrate the season of waiting and preparation for the two comings of Christ. We get ready for the second coming of Jesus as well as the commemoration of the glorious birth of our Savior. Hopefully this is more important than any deal at a department store or a sign that says "Seasons Greetings." Hopefully we can find peace on earth and signs that say "Jesus is the reason for the season."

Try and make Celebrate Jesus Sunday not only this Sunday, but all the Sundays of the year. Invite your friends and family to make celebrating Jesus as a community a top priority. May all your days be filled with God's grace and enjoy breakfast today at St. Scholastica.

Fr. Dave Barrett
Regional Associate Pastor
New Prague Area Catholic Community

Mass Schedule Volunteers - St. John's & St. Scholastica

| Dec. 3 & 4, 2016 | Saturday St. John's 8:15 PM | Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM | Sunday St. John's 10:00 AM |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Lector | Kevin Giesen | Billy Odenthal | Jean Boehmke |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Sandy Kubes | Ted Odenthal, Geraldine Odenthal & Millie Odenthal | Jill Holden, Lori Wooten & Dave Webb |
| Servers | Joseph & Trenton Huebl | Leo Pexa & Mathew Schoenecker | Gloria, Owen & Sylvia Lemke, Katelynn Brezina |
| Gift Bearer Family | | Judy Hauer Family | Tim Lemke Family |

Important Information

- Weekend Masses**
 Saturday 8:15 pm St. John's
 Sunday 8:00 am St. Scholastica
 Sunday 10:00 am St. John's
- Weekday Masses**
 Wednesday 5:00 pm St. John's
 Thursday 5:00 pm St. Scholastica

SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

- Reconciliation**
 Wednesday 5:30 pm St. John's
 Thursday 5:30 pm St. Scholastica
- Baptism & Confirmation**
 Preparation required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett
- Anointing of the Sick**
 Call Fr. Dave Barrett
- Marriage**
 Prep required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett
- Adoration**
 Fridays 9:00 am to midnight at St. Wenceslaus Daily Chapel

WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OFFICE

20087 Hub Drive, New Prague 56071
952-758-4642

Rev. Dave Barrett
Regional Associate Pastor
952-758-0469 (O) 651-470-0970 (C)
Dave.Barrett@npcatholic.org

Deacon Bob Wagner
Pastoral Associate
952-758-3225 (O) 612-703-0808 (C)
Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

Faith Formation:
Carol Weiers 952-873-4569

Hall Rental:
Patty Giesen 952-758-3008
kpgiesen@bevcomm.net

Prayer Chain WCC:
Jackie Henle 952-758-3465
Noreen Giesen 952-758-2608
Marlene Dohmen 952-492-6879

COLLECTION INFORMATION WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Total Collected 11/20/16..... \$2,377
 Under Budget for the Week -\$523
 Budgeted for Next Week \$2,900
 Actual Collection YTD \$60,747
 Over Budget YTD -\$147

Thank you for your support!
Bulletin E-mail: info@npcatholic.org
Website: http://www.npcatholic.org

PARISH AND AREA NEWS

Discipleship Retreat Planning

Plans are being made for our Lenten parish retreat. If you would like to help share ideas, you are invited to come to the chapel at 7 pm on Monday Nov. 28 at 7 pm.

Food Drive Continues Until November 30

We will continue to gather items for the Peace Center until Nov. 30th. You will find collection boxes in the back of church for this effort. Suggested items include: canned fruit, cake mix, Jell-O and pudding mixes, pickles, salad dressing, mayonnaise, egg noodles, pasta sides, canned corn, and personal hygiene products including shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and Kleenex. Thank you!

Adopt A Family Donation Deadline

This is your final opportunity to choose a specific family to shop for or donate cash and have our super shoppers shop for you. Browse family lists after Mass Nov. 26th or 27th. Donation deadline is Dec. 4th. For more information, call Kathy McNamara at (952) 200-4949.

Volunteers Needed to Light the Advent Wreath

The SW Environment & Worship Committee is looking for families/groups to light the candles of the Advent wreath during all weekend masses during Advent. If you would like to help, please call Lynn Sticha at 758-2161 or email lynn.sticha@npcatholic.org.

Young Adult Book Study

The Young Adult Small Group is starting a 5 month book study on *The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium* by Pope Francis. In addition, we will be having an Advent dinner and going to various events together over the coming months. Contact Kelsey Becker at kelsey.r.becker@gmail.com if you would like to join or if you have any questions.

Greeters Needed

We could use a few more greeters at 4 pm Mass to warmly welcome Mass goers and pass out handouts as needed. Greeters are scheduled once a month and help make our parish a more welcoming community. Please call Mary at 758-0464 if you are willing to help.

Do You Have Time & A Green Thumb?

Helpers are needed to care for the plants and flowers in church during the winter months from immediately after Christmas through Lent and Easter. If you, your family, or a small group of friends are interested in a temporary project, call Cathy at (952) 758-5017. If you can't volunteer the entire time, you may want to consider helping for just a week or two.

Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound

Would you like to take communion to parishioners who are not able to join us on Sundays once or twice a month? This could be done on Sunday morning or at a weekday of your choice. People are so very grateful for our visitors who share the love of Jesus with them. Please call the parish office or contact

mary.higgins@npcatholic.org if you would like more information.

Calendar Raffle Reminder

Please remember to pick up your calendar packets and help us save on postage. **This year there is a Change in Prizes awarded. Please read the letter in the packet for more information.**

Advent Blue Books Are In

The little books with brief daily reflections and interesting articles are available in the back of church. Help keep yourself focused on the meaning of the Advent and Christmas season.

Area Separated & Divorce Support Group

Area Separated & Divorce Support Group meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 7-8:30 pm, in the Parish Office Building. The Topic for Dec. 6 & 20, "Make God's Commandments the Constant In Your Life". If you or a loved one is experiencing the loss of a long-term relationship, married or unmarried, you may desire to connect with this group since they understand what you are going through at this time in your life. Questions? Please call Deacon Bob Wagner at (952) 758-0463 or Mary Pieper at (952) 873-6781.



God Bless the Newly Baptized

Welcome and congratulations to *Avery Colleen Krenik*, daughter of Jesse Krenik & Melissa Walerius, and *Grace Agnes Sullivan*, daughter of Brad & Katie Sullivan. We rejoice with your families on this joyful occasion!

Need a bit of help Christmas shopping?

Many teens and adults have benefited from the experience of going on mission to San Lucas Tolimon. We want to give back to the mission. We are taking orders for the Juan Ana Coffee that is harvested, roasted, and packaged at the mission. Purchasing this coffee helps with employment at the mission while it raises funds for their various projects. All proceeds of this sale will go directly to the mission. They have regular roast whole bean, or ground, in one pound bags. Their dark roast is 15 oz. of whole beans. The cost is only \$9 per bag. Orders can be given to one of last year's mission trip teens or by contacting Laura in the faith formation office. Coffee will also be available for sale after all Masses at the SW site on Dec. 10-11.

Ornament Making Party

Sat., Dec. 17th at 8 am in the church basement. Bring your children and make an ornament for the Christmas trees in church and make one to take home too! All supplies will be provided. Contact Lynn Sticha with any questions ~ lynn.sticha@npcatholic.org.

SUPPORT OUR PATRONS

who make this bulletin possible by their advertising.

This week we thank

WACKER DRYWALL, INC., ROGER WACKER

***PLEASE NOTE: Handicapped Parking**

With the parking lot reconstruction, we were able to double the number of spots closest to the entry door near the church elevator. This is the primary door for people who are handicapped or have other mobility issues. During Mass times, please be aware that those spots are reserved for people with a handicapped sign for their cars. If you do not have a permit, please park in other spots of the lot. There are a number of spots near the PAC entry door that you can use. On the weekends, those doors are open and it is a safe, dry way to enter the church.

Thank You!

Thank you for your contributions to the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! Your generous gifts will help CCHD break the cycle of poverty in the U.S. through better education, improved housing, and economic development.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

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 next week's collection and give to those who have given a lifetime.

to win a "sleigh full of toys". All proceeds benefit the American Legion Auxiliary active Military and retired veterans service projects. Questions, call Tonja at (952) 826-9547 or Birdie at (952) 758-3522.

Holiday Breakfast & Sweet Shoppe

Sun., Dec. 4th from 8 am-12 noon at St. John the Baptist Church Hall in Jordan. A tasty breakfast will be served for a free-will offering. Please come join us!

FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY



Summer Faith Formation + Families ~

Reminder that the Advent lesson for your children is Sun., Dec. 4th from 9:30-10:25 am. We look forward to seeing you all back on campus. The catechists have some wonderful things planned for your children. We promise to be done in time to allow your family to get to 10:30 Mass. Thank you!

January 15 ~ 9 & 10 Grade Confirmation Resumes

Freshmen begin with 10:30 Mass and go until 5:30. Sophomores have regular class time ~ 8:45-11:30. Cheryl and Eric's group meets with Father Kevin after Mass. Merry Advent and Christmas ~

SCHOOL NEWS from SWS



School Christmas Concerts

Band/Choir/Piano Students Concert ~
Tues., Nov. 29th at 1 pm for the school kids and 6:30 for parents and guests.
All School Christmas Concert ~ Thurs., Dec. 15th at 1 and 6:30 pm.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| ~ COLLECTION INFORMATION ~ | |
| St. Wenceslaus Site | |
| SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016 | |
| Total for 11/20/16 | \$10,001 |
| Under Challenge for the Week..... | -\$6,720 |
| Challenge for Next Week..... | \$16,721 |
| Actual Collections YTD..... | \$292,071 |
| Under Challenge YTD..... | -\$31,741 |

Military Troop Care Packages

Julie at Awesome Blossoms in New Prague is taking up a collection for our troops. For a list of items requested, please see the bulletin boards at the church entries. Help them feel loved during the holidays while they are away from home. Donations will be accepted at Awesome Blossoms until Nov. 30th. Contact Julie with any questions or to give address information of any troops deployed overseas. (952) 758-4964

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Volunteers needed at Mala Strana Rehabilitation Center in New Prague to escort residents to in-house events. Looking for someone once or twice a month for (4) hours in the morning, weekdays only. Please call Lisa at (952) 758-2511 or (952) 758-0125. Thank you!

Lunch with Santa

When: Sat., Dec. 3rd 11 am-1 pm
Where: American Legion Clubroom, New Prague
Have your picture taken with Santa and buy a chance

**WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
St. John's & St. Scholastica**

Our Lady of Good Help CCW Meeting

Our Lady of Good Help Council of Catholic Women meeting is Dec. 5th at St. John's school basement. Rosary at 6:45 and supper at 7pm. This is a Christmas POTLUCK gathering and a game is planned. Instead of a gift exchange, please bring an item for the homeless, i.e. blanket, pillow, gloves, socks, etc. Lunch committee is: Lois Solheid, Ann Prochaska, Jackie Henle, Anne Meger, Patti Giesen and Fran Barten. ALL women from the WCC Parish are encouraged to attend and join in the fun.

Harvest Breakfast Appreciation

WCC would like to offer our most gracious appreciation to all that attended the Harvest celebration masses and Ham & Egg breakfast! The weekend was a wonderful tribute to our community of agriculture and all of the hard working members we call family and friends. Thank you to all those that attended and to all that assisted in making the weekend great!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Church year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. The 4 week Advent Season helps us to prepare for the coming of Christ with customs and traditions for our hearts and for our homes:

The Advent Wreath

*the three purple candles show our royal heritage, and the need for reconciliation with God and our neighbor



*the one pink candle marks Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday which signifies the joy we feel at being half way to Christmas

*the evergreen wreath represents God's infinite nature and His undying love for us

The Advent Calendar

*adopted from Germany, the Advent Calendar, or Countdown to Christmas Calendar is a concrete way to help children see that Christmas is right around the corner

The Jesse Tree

*the Jesse Tree shows through words and symbols the family tree of Jesus and traces the story of salvation from creation

through the birth of Our Lord
*families may benefit from making a Jesse Tree for their home and can then understand how the 'root of Jesse' is none other than Jesus Himself



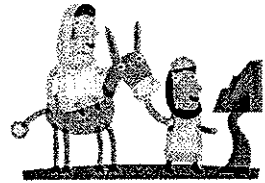
The Giving Tree

*many parishes offer an opportunity for parishioners to give gifts to those in the community who are in need

*we can show our children service to Christ through serving others, by choosing a tree ornament from the Giving Tree

The Journey

*let's not forget that we are always on our journey to prayerfully help bring Christ into the world, just like Mary and Joseph



*in some communities the tradition of Las Posadas is practiced where Mary and Joseph are depicted, going from home to home, searching for lodging in Bethlehem

*Christmas caroling is much the same, as carolers go door to door to bring music and good cheer to the community

*Christmas pageants may transport us from the materialism of today's society back to the reverence and simplicity of the birth of Jesus in the manger



COMING AGAIN IN GLORY!

We often think of the Season of Lent as the time when we make sacrifices and change our lives. But Advent is also a good time to see that we are preparing for something greater than this life. We are preparing for our life in Christ when He comes again in glory to claim His kingdom. Our Advent practices, coupled with prayer and small sacrifices, train us to wait patiently and work to develop our gifts in service to God and those around us.

Children may focus on the Birth of Jesus and the gifts that they will receive on Christmas Day. When we develop family traditions based on customs and religious practices, we provide a solid foundation of religious education for our children. As their fun Advent experiences help kids to anchor their knowledge, their Christian identity will grow. By introducing them to these Advent customs and traditions, we are giving them a legacy of faithfulness which will live on throughout their lives.

LITURGIES & PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS

INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4, 2016

Rosary at St. Wenceslaus
MONDAY – FRIDAY at 7:30 am
SATURDAY at 8:00 am

Monday, November 28
8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW
Tuesday, November 29
8:00 am..... Word & Communion – SW
Wednesday, November 30
8:00 am..... Mass – SW
5:00 pm..... Mass – SJ
5:30 pm..... Confessions – SJ
Thursday, December 1
8:00 am..... Ralph Schmitz – Mass – SW
4:00 pm..... Mass – Philipp Square
Friday, December 2
8:00 am..... Mass – SW
Saturday, December 3
First Saturday Devotions
3:00 pm..... Confessions – SW
4:00 pm..... Dorothy C. Sticha – Mass – SW
8:15 pm..... Mass – SJ
Sunday, December 4
8:00 am..... Bob Hauer, Francis Odenthal – Mass – SS
8:30 am..... Mary Ann Slavik-Svobodny,
..... Julia E. Tupy – Mass – SW
10:00 am..... Living & Deceased Members of
..... the Hubert & Edna Barten Family,
..... Cat Schroeder – Mass – SJ
10:30 am..... Living & Deceased Members of FCCLA,
..... Sr. Shaun O'Meara, Catherine O'Meara Delaney
..... Mass – SW
11:45 am..... Baptisms – SW

STAFF DIRECTORY NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Regional Associate Pastor
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Debbie.Gregor@npcatholic.org
Lisa Levenson
Parish Administrative Assistant
952-758-3225
Lisa.Leverson@npcatholic.org

PARISH BUSINESS OFFICE

215 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071
PH 952-758-3225 FAX 952-758-2960

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

On campus in Parish Activity Center

ST. WENCESLAUS SCHOOL

227 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071
PH 952-758-3133 FAX 952-758-2958

LITTLE SPIRITS PRESCHOOL

On campus of SWS ~ 1950's building
952-758-0480

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

952-758-2327

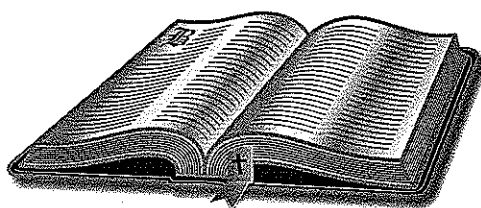
ST. WENCESLAUS MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4, 2016

Monday, November 28:
Basketball Practice, 2:30 pm – Gym
Tuesday, November 29:
BeFriends Training, 7 pm –
Parish Office Dining Room
Bible Timeline Study, 7 pm –
Parish Office Upper Parlor
Wednesday, November 30
Early Morning Scripture Study, 6:45-7:50 am –
Pius X Room, CB
Basketball Practice, 2:30 pm – Gym
Children's Choir I & II – Choir Room
CORETEAM, 5 pm – Faith Formation Office
Youth Alive, 6 pm – Parish Office Upper Parlor
Faith Formation 1-8, 6:15-7:30 pm –
Campus Wide
Adult Bells & Choir – Choir Room
Thursday, December 1:
Teen Choir, 2-3 pm – Choir Room
Boys Basketball Practice, 2:45 pm – Gym
Friday, December 2:
Adoration, 9 am-midnight – Chapel
Saturday, December 3:
Adult Scripture Study, 9:30-11 am –
Pius X Room, CB
Sunday, December 4:
CLW at 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses – SW Chapel
Summer Faith Formation Plus Advent Lesson,
9:30-10:30 am – School
YCF Book Club, 7-8:30 pm –
Faith Formation Office

SCRIPTURE READINGS

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4, 2016



Monday, November 28:

IS 4:2-6 / MT 8:5-11

Tuesday, November 29:

IS 11:1-10 / LK 10:21-24

Wednesday, November 30:

ROM 10:9-18 / MT 4:18-22

Thursday, December 1:

IS 26:1-6 / MT 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 2:

IS 29:17-24 / MT 9:27-31

Saturday, December 3:

IS 30:19-21, 23-26 / MT 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8

Sunday, December 4:

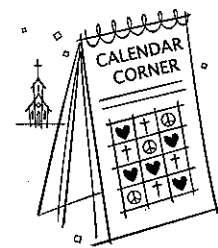
IS 11:1-10 / ROM 15:4-9 / MT 3:1-12

ST. WENCESLAUS CALENDAR CORNER

Thank you to the Following Sponsors:

New Prague Mini Storage, Inc,
Bruzek Funeral Home
& Mach Lumber

| | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 11/20 | #1102 | Ann Krautkremer |
| 11/21 | #1055 | Margaret Knight |
| 11/22 | #1416 | Tammy Murphy |
| 11/23 | #2375 | Ann Tuma |
| 11/24 | #0063 | Lorraine Barta |
| 11/25 | #2157 | Harry Oertel |
| 11/26 | #1772 | Jerre Richter |



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