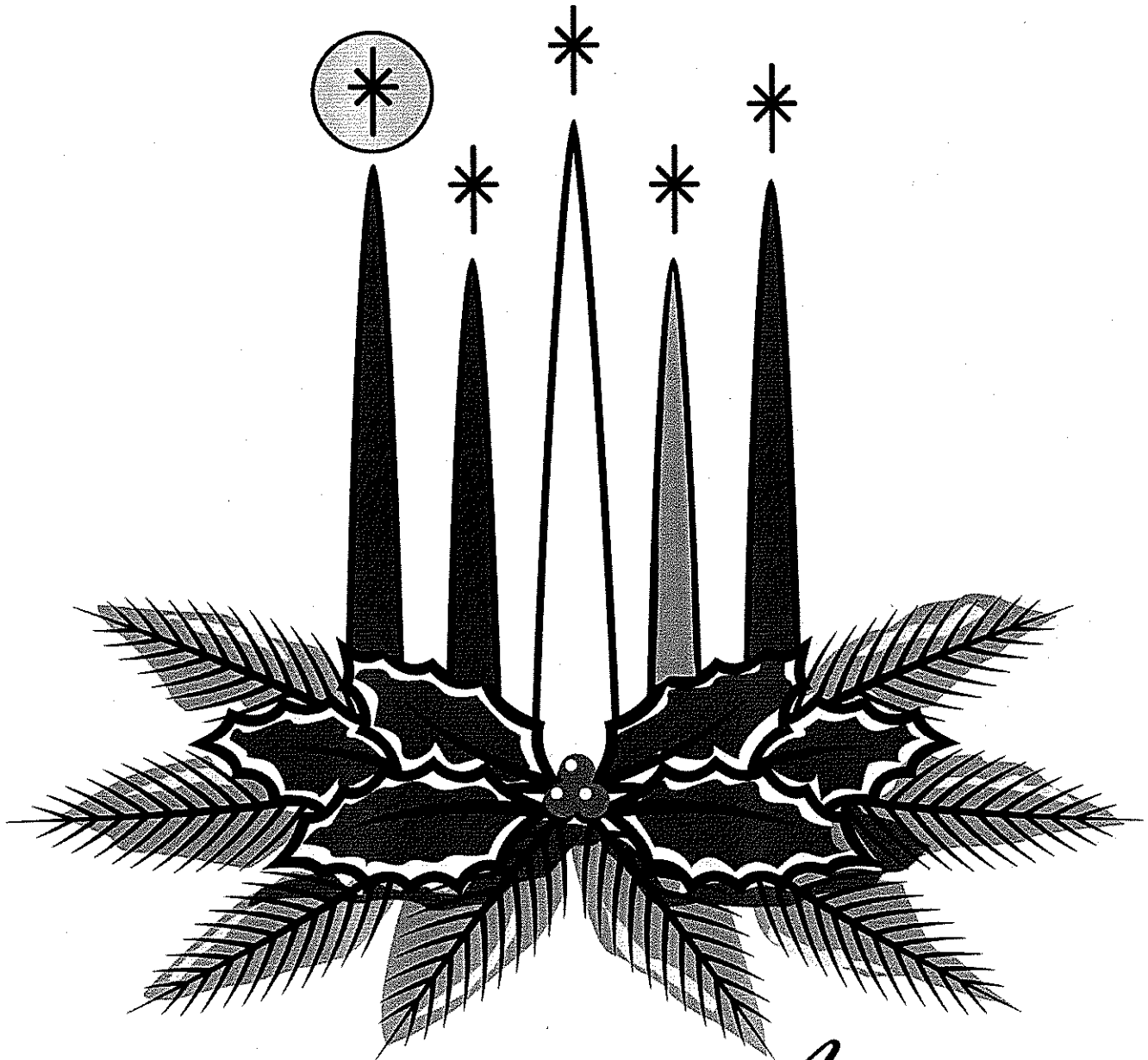


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2017



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
Three Sites of Worship, One Community of Faith

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 952-758-0477

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 8:30 to 10 am – Pius X Room in church basement.

Prayer Chain

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

From the Desk of Father Kevin**The Darkness of Advent Welcomes Christ Our Light!**

In these dark days of December and January, our parish celebrates the incarnation of God personally entering in our human experience. The core Christian belief in the incarnation of God is our hope and the reason for us to confidently embrace the challenges of a New Year.

The first Sunday of Advent Season opens a new liturgical year for the Church. This is a season of hope as we celebrate the past birth of our Savior and anticipate his second coming at the close of human history.

In these dark December days, we also can note the struggle we all have with the reality of SIN injuring us and the communities we are part of. It is the grace of God that allows us to accept healing and forgiveness. We receive Jesus, the Light of the World, when we celebrate the Eucharist (Mass) together. The Eucharist is a "sacrament that reconciles us" with one another and God. There are also times in the schedule for Penitential Services and individual confessions. During both of these occasions, the hope of God's mercy is expressed and a God of compassion and forgiveness personally comes to us.

As we come to the conclusion of 2017, many of our households gift the parish, their spiritual household, with a generous financial support to fund the life of our parish community. I thank you for remembering the needs of your parish.

May the Peace and Joy of this season be with you!

Fr. Kevin Clinton, Pastor

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
New Prague Area Catholic Community****Feast of the Immaculate Conception***Holyday of Obligation***SW:** Thurs., Dec. 7, 7 pm**SW:** Fri., Dec. 8, 8 am**Advent Penitential Celebrations****SW:** Tues., Dec. 12, 6 pm & Sat., Dec. 16, 11 am**Reconciliation at Mala Strana for Residents**

Thurs., Dec. 21, 11 am

Modified 4th Weekend of Advent ~ Sat/Sun, Dec 23/24Sat., Dec. 23 ~ **SW:** Mass 4 pm **SJ:** Mass 8:15 pmSun., Dec. 24 ~ **SJ:** Mass 9 am **SW:** Mass 10:30 am**Christmas Eve ~ Sunday, December 24th****SW:** Masses 4 pm, 6 pm & 9:30 pm

(From 5:30-6 pm and 9-9:30 pm Carols will be sung

Prayerful music will be offered 7-9 pm)

SJ: Mass 11:15 pm**Christmas Day ~ Monday, December 25th****SS:** Mass 9 am**SW:** Mass 10:30 am**Solemnity of Mary****Monday, January 1st****SW:** Mass 10:30 am

Western Catholic Community

From the Desk of Deacon Bob

HOW WE KEEP CHRISTMAS IS DEPENDENT ON HOW WE KEEP ADVENT

As Americans, we live torn between two wholly different Christmas world views. Our nation begins the celebration of Christmas on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. On December 25th, as our nation concludes the Christmas Season, the Catholic Church begins the Christmas Season which will end on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As faithful Catholics living in the United States, how do we reconcile or find any balance between these two very conflicting world views? My parents found a way of reconciling this conflict many years ago.

On the First Sunday of Advent, my father would buy our Christmas tree, and set it up in our living room. My parents would drape the tree with lights and garland. My brother and sister and I would place the ornaments upon the tree. Along the base of the tree was a Christmas tree skirt, on top of which was placed our Christmas crèche. Around the base of the tree my father would set up the train tracks for our Lionel train. The Christmas crèche served a dual role as railroad station/ birthplace of Jesus. However, the crèche was empty of Christmas figurines and no train was placed on the train track.

Where were the figurines of Mary and Joseph? Starting from the furthest place from the Christmas tree, my mother would move them throughout the living room. As the candles were lit on our Advent wreath, Mary and Joseph would gradually move closer to the stable. The lights on the tree would be turned on at night; however, the space below the tree remained empty, a visible reminder to us kids that Christmas was not here yet.

When we came downstairs on Christmas morning, we found the Christmas crèche filled with the figurines of animals and shepherds. In their midst were Mary and Joseph, their gaze fixed upon the baby Jesus. The train would circumnavigate the tree, bringing invisible crowds of people to the stable where they, too, could adore the Christ child.

As we journey in this Season of Advent, basking in the light of Christmas decorations, drowning in the endless choruses of Christmas carols, concerts, and holiday specials, parties and food, let us be mindful that Christmas has not yet begun. The space below the Christmas tree remains empty. The real celebration will only begin when, on December 25th, within the Christmas crèche, we see the figures of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus.

Deacon Bob Wagner

Pastoral Associate

New Prague Area Catholic Community

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

DECEMBER 9 & 10, 2017	Saturday St. John's 8:15 PM	Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM	Sunday St. John's 10:00 AM
Lector	Sandy Kubes	Jim Walker	Jonila Weiers
Eucharistic Ministers	Carol Weiers	Ann Prochaska, Becky Colwell & Gary Odenthal	Dave Webb, Lori Wooten & Amy Lemke
Servers	Brad Kubes & Leo Pexa	Megan & Steven Odenthal	Gloria, Owen & Sylvia Lemke, Teagan Lambrecht
Gift Bearer Family		Don Hauer Family	Nate Sticha 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
 ~ Except 1st Thursday of the month ~
 Mass at Phillip Square at 4:00 pm

SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

Reconciliation

Wednesday..... 4:30 pm St. John's
 Thursday..... 5:30 pm St. Scholastica
 No Confession 1st Thursday
 of the month at St. Scholastica
 Saturdays & Sundays by appointment

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

Hall Rental:

Patty Giesen 952-758-3008 or email:
 kpgiesen@bevcomm.net

Prayer Chain WCC:

Carol Bauer 952-873-6769
Noreen Giesen 952-758-2608
Marlene Dohmen 952-492-6879

Bulletin E-mail: info@npcatholic.org

Website: <http://www.npcatholic.org>

PARISH AND AREA NEWS

A Note to the Parish ~

Fr. Dave Barrett is on a leave. He is being evaluated as a result of an ongoing medical condition. He will not be participating in public ministry during this time and no date for his return has been determined. We ask that you keep Fr. Dave in your prayers. Those of you wishing to extend your support to Fr. Dave are asked to do so by sending cards or letters to the parish office; we will then forward those on to him. Deacon Bob Wagner will be handling pastoral matters in the WCC. There will be adjustments to our liturgical schedule for the month of December. Until further notice there will be no weekday Masses at St. John's and St. Scholastica and we will work with the Archdiocese to find priests for the weekend Masses at those sites. The 8 am Friday Mass at St. Wenceslaus will be converted to a Word and Communion Service beginning December 15th. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Help Wanted

CCW was graciously asked to make the meal for Mickey Redfearn's reception on Dec. 9th here at St. Wenceslaus. If you would like to help make this a memorable event for him, please call Mary Wick at (507) 744-5154 and leave a message or email mary.wick@swsaints.org. Thank you!

Area Separated & Divorce Support Group

Area Separated & Divorce Support Group will meet Tues., Dec. 5th & 19th, 7-8:30 pm, in the Parish Office Building. The topic will be "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.

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Assn. Branch W001

will hold their quarterly meeting on Tues., Dec. 5th at 6 pm at State Bank of New Prague.

Ornament Making Party

Sun., Dec. 10th between 9-11 am in the St. Wenceslaus 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. RSVP: lynn.sticha@npcatholic.org.

Retirement Fund for Religious Next Week

Help care for elders. "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Priest and Seminarian Prayer Sheets

The December Priest and Seminarian Prayer sheets are on the credenzas in back of church. Pick one up and pray for the priests and seminarians listed for December.

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.

Calendar Raffle

The Fund Raising calendar raffle packets are available in back of church. Please pick them up to save on postage. Please read the letter in the packet for more information on the raffle calendar. All are welcome to purchase calendars.

Diaconate Ordination

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, The Saint Paul Seminary and the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis joyfully announce and request the honor of your presence for the Ordination of Michael Frederic Redfearn, and nine other men, to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate through the imposition of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on Sat., Dec. 9th at 10 am at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, 239 Selby Ave., Saint Paul. The ordination Mass is open to everyone. Mickey Redfearn and his family are parishioners here at St. Wenceslaus. Please continue to pray for him and his entire class.

**Note that Deacon Mickey Redfearn will be assisting at the 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses on Sun., Dec. 10th.*

**He tells you
to be alert.**

Discipleship Corner

How am I being a disciple of Jesus?

"I have learned that a disciple is both a learner and a teacher. As a learner, I pray and read the scriptures daily. I listen to Christian radio. I go to church on Sundays to hear God's Word and the accompanying homily. I love to have discussions about God and life with my Christian friends. I do all of this to be enlightened and challenged in my Christian walk."

~ MaryLynn

Why is it important for us to have a personal relationship with Jesus?

"Because there is no one who can better guide us on how to live our lives. He is the bridge between humanity and God. He humbled himself and became one of us...he gets us!"

~ Laura

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who make this bulletin possible by their advertising.

This week we thank

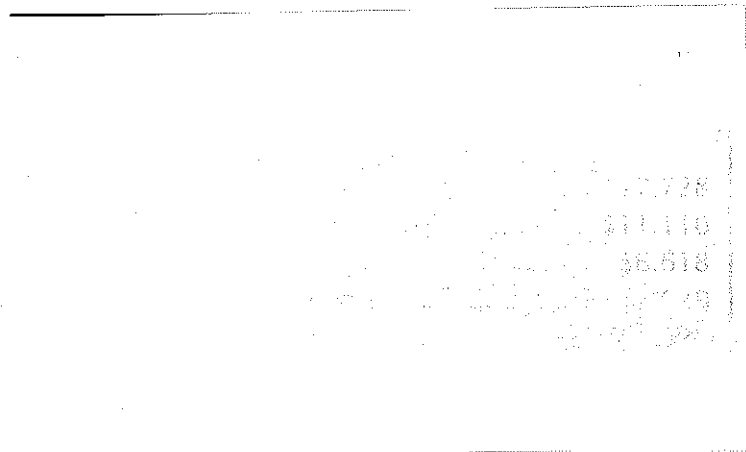
MICHAEL TRAXLER WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

IMPORTANT ~ Parish Pictorial Directory

Our parish pictorial directory is going to print soon. We will be publishing a parish roster with registered families' names, addresses, and the phone number we have on record. If your phone number/address has changed since you registered or you do not want that information published, please call or email the parish office. (952) 758-3225 or lisa.leverson@npcatholic.org. Also, any child age 21 and older will not be listed in the directory if you did not have a photo taken with them.

Thank You!

Thank you for your generous support to the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! It will be used to support those on the margins living in poverty. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to Give" on the left.

**9th Annual "Blankets Because We Care" Drive**

Please help us keep our brothers and sisters warm this winter by donating your new, used, or handmade blankets and jackets. Jason & Jennifer Schmit and their children are, for the 9th year, collecting and making blankets for Sharing and Caring Hands. Please drop gently used or new blankets, coats, hats, mittens, or hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo etc) in the bin located in the back of church through Jan. 19th. Any monetary donations will be used to buy fleece to make additional blankets and/or a cash donation to Sharing and Caring Hands and the Children's Hospital of Minneapolis. We would also be happy to pick up any donations up as well...just call! (952-457-9877). Donations will be accepted through January 19th. Thanks so much for your generosity and God Bless!

December Cursillo Ultreya

Western Ultreya will be held on Sun., Dec. 10th at St. Hubert Catholic Community in Chanhassen. Deacon Francis Tangney will be our speaker. We will begin at 7 pm downstairs in Room 116 (easy access through Door 8 on the south side). Rosary in family room at 6:30 pm.

Waffle Breakfast & Cookie Walk

Sun., Dec. 10th at St. Anne's School in Le Sueur. The St. Anne's CCW will be sponsoring a Dad's Belgian Waffle

Breakfast and the St. Anne's Patrons will be sponsoring a Cookie Walk.

**FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY****Disciples of Christ Families**

Wednesday night, summer+ and at home ~ join us for a family dinner before all events on Wed., Dec. 13th. Check your Disciples of Christ newsletter for more information.

****PLEASE NOTE: The Youth Ministry Event scheduled for Dec. 10th has been cancelled.**

**SCHOOL NEWS from SWS****Santa's Workshop**

Join us at the St. Wenceslaus PAC on Dec. 4th from 6:30-7:30 pm. Santa's "Secret" Workshop will be open for shopping. All pre-school-kindergarten students are invited! Elves will be available to help little ones shop for gifts. Holiday crafts, treats, and fun! For more information, visit [Facebook@SaintWenceslaus](https://www.facebook.com/SaintWenceslaus) or www.saints.org.

School Christmas Program Date

The date for our all-school Christmas program with PreK-Grade 8 students is Thurs., Dec. 14th with 2 performances, 1 pm and 6:30 pm. PreK students will only sing in the evening show.

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

Our Lady of Good Help Council of Catholic Women meeting is Dec. 4th at St John's School. Rosary at 6:30 pm with potluck dinner to follow. All women are welcomed. The speaker will be from Affordable Housing in Mankato. We are collecting warm clothing, coats, gloves, socks, hats, quilts, bed pillows, snow pants, etc., and the speaker will deliver the items to Affordable Housing. There will be door prizes and fun games. Lunch committee: Amy Glyszinski, Jean McDermond, Sheri and Millie Odenthal, Dee Pomije, Ann Hartman, and Dawn Buszmann

Ministry Signup for Christmas Eve Mass

There will be a signup sheet in the back of St John's for volunteers for the Christmas Eve 11:15 pm Mass. Volunteers can either sign up on the sheet, email camera_addict@yahoo.com, or call (952) 250-5194 to sign up.

Catholic United Financial Christmas Party

When: Mon., Dec. 11th

Where: St. John's school basement

We will pray the Rosary at 6:45 with potluck dinner/party to follow.

So . . . you say I can have a

“Personal Relationship”

With a **man** who died over 2000 years ago?

Seriously? **HOW?**

If Jesus Christ were merely a man... not probable – but He is so much more. He came to earth as man to show us how to live, to make us His disciples. BUT he is also 100% God, who is as alive and active in our lives today as he was in the lives of the apostles!

*He **wants** to be in relationship with us... what is our response?*

During Lent, we will be offering a five part series on ways to help us come to know Jesus, reconnect with Him, or to grow even closer. We will be offering these in small groups of 10-12 people with a facilitator and a host.

Groups will be formed in three ways:

- ⊕ People may form a group and leave it closed
- ⊕ People may form a group with a few others but have open spots
- ⊕ People may form a group with all open spots

Host and facilitator will set up their time and day of the week. For groups with open spots, sign-ups will be in the back of church, and on line, during January (more information to follow).

YOU are invited to become closer to Jesus... think about being a facilitator or a host...think about joining a group. Think about using this Lent to work on *THE* most important relationship in your life.

As a **host**, you would be asked to open your home, or a place on campus and be that welcoming face to the group. You would have any information required ready and set up for your guests. We would work with you to make sure you have the technology necessary to make the lessons work (training provided).

As a **facilitator**, you would lead your group through the provided materials and videos (mostly testimonies from people in our pews) and guide them through the discussion questions (training provided).

This is a great opportunity to join fellow seekers as we navigate our faith. There really is no greater gift we can give and receive than to know and share the infinite love of Jesus.

Questions? Contact Laura at laura.schoenecker@npcatholic.org

LITURGIES & PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS

INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS
WEEK OF DECEMBER 4-10, 2017

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

Monday, December 4

8:00 am Word & Communion – SW

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 am Word & Communion – SW

Wednesday, December 6

8:00 am Mass – SW

Thursday, December 7

8:00 am Don Yackley – Mass – SW

7:00 pm Mass – SW

Friday, December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception

8:00 am SWS Mass – SW

Saturday, December 9

3:00 pm Confession – SW

4:00 pm Joseph & Margie Soukup – Mass – SW

8:15 pm Mass – SJ

Sunday, December 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Francis Odenthal,

..... Erwin & Mary Schoenecker – Mass – SS

8:30 am Bessie Zelenka Tuma, Al Zelenka,

..... Rudy Tuma, Angie & Clarence Ruehling,

..... Mary Ann Slavik Svobodny – Mass – SW

10:00 am Edwin & Martha Hrabe,

..... Randy Seurer – Mass – SJ

10:30 am Mass – SW

STAFF DIRECTORY NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Rev. Kevin Clinton

Pastor
952-758-3225
Kevin.Clinton@npcatholic.org

Rev. Dave Barrett

Regional Associate Pastor
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Deacon Bob Wagner

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Jolene Busch

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Lisa Levenson

Parish Administrative Assistant
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Lisa.Leverson@npcatholic.org

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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

MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

WEEK OF DECEMBER 4-10, 2017

Monday, December 4:

Preschool/Kindergarten Christmas Craft & Santa Visit, 6:30-7:30 pm – PAC Foyer

Tuesday, December 5:

SWS Basketball Game – Gym
Exodus Study Group, 7-8:30 pm
– Parish Office, Upper Parlor
Separated & Divorce Support Group,
6:45-8:30 pm – Parish Office,
Deacon Bob's Office

Wednesday, December 6:

Early Morning Scripture Study, 7-8 am
– Pius X Room, Church Basement
Teen Choir, 5:15-6:15 pm – SW Choir Room
Disciples of Christ, 6:15-7:30 pm
– Campus Wide
Adult Bells & Choir – Choir Room
Junior Youth Alive, 6:30-8 pm
– Parish Office, Upper Parlor

Thursday, December 7: No Events

Friday, December 8:

Adoration, 9 am-midnight – Daily Chapel
Marriage Encounter Meeting, 7 pm
– Parish Office

Saturday, December 9:

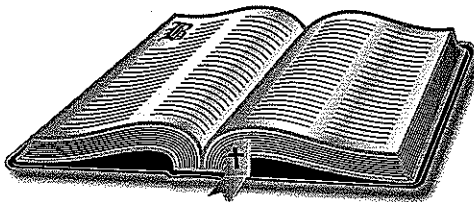
Breakfast & The Word, 8-10 am
– SW Church Basement

Sunday, December 10:

Children's Liturgy of the Word at 8:30 and
10:30 am Masses – SW Chapel
YCF Ornament Making Party, 9:30 am
– Church Basement

SCRIPTURE READINGS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 4-10, 2017



Monday, December 4:

IS 2:1-5 / MT 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 5:

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

Wednesday, December 6:

IS 25:6-10A / MT 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7:

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

Friday, December 8:

GN 3:9-15, 20 / EPH 1:3-6, 11-12 / LK 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9:

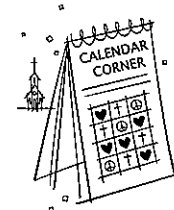
IS 30:19-21, 23-26 / MT 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8

Sunday, December 10:

IS 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 PT 3:8-14 / MK 1:1-8

**CHURCH OF ST. WENCESLAUS
CALENDAR CORNER**

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Number:

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Winner:

Dave Nickolay



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