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........................................................ 5:00 pm
Sunday............................................................. 8:30 & 10:30 am

Morning Word & Communion
Monday............................................................. 8:00 am

Weekday Masses
Tuesday-Friday.................................................. 8:00 am

If you are homebound or ill, the previous weekend’s Mass may be viewed on our website ~ npcatholic.org

**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
Fridays from 3:00-4:00 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.
(not being held at this time)

Fatima Prayer Cell
Monday – Wednesday in the SW Daily Chapel
after 8 am service. (not being held at this time)

Adoration
Friday 9:00 am to midnight in the SW Daily Chapel.
(not being held at this time)

Early Morning Scripture Study
Wednesday 7:00 to 8:00 am in Pius X Room
in church basement. (not being held at this time)

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

BeFrienders
Ann Schoenbauer: 952-758-3456 or
Lois Giesen: 952-758-2138

Padre’s Pen ~
Ascension of Our Lord and Memorial Day

With the celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord this weekend, we know that we are coming to the end of the Easter Season. The season will close with the Solemnity of Pentecost next weekend and then we enter Ordinary Time. We can look at the progression as though the seed of eternal life is planted in us through the Resurrection. The Ascension is the rising of the Son (i.e. the sun) and the descent of the Holy Spirit is the rain that works to germinate the seed. Ordinary Time then becomes the season of growth in faith until the final harvest.

Living and serving in a rural area really is a great blessing. I was able to bless 9 farms/fields on the Feast of Isadore the Farmer and I am very excited to see that many of the fields are already poking through showing new life. It is a great metaphor for all of us as we begin the process of re-opening our Churches and our small businesses. The growth begins small but will mature over time. We, as people of faith in the One True God, know that it is our God who reigns and will cause the growth in our community.

**Memorial Day Mass** ~ Mass on Memorial Day will be at the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery Chapel, rain or shine. There will be no livestreamed Rosary or Mass that day from the church. It will be rain or shine because I will offer the Holy Sacrifice from inside the chapel itself. If it's nice out, the readings/homily/etc. will be from a podium outside while the Eucharistic Sacrifice will be offered from the altar inside. If it's raining, all will be from inside (planning to bring some type of sound system). This is a similar set up to what I have seen in the Holy Land in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Since the altar in the Sepulcher is inside a small chapel (inside the bigger church) the ministers and maybe a few people are inside while the congregation can hear from the mic’d up ministers.

The church will not set up chairs outside (as it has been done in the past). If you come, please bring your own folding chair and please keep the proper social distancing between groups that are not of the same family.

Ad Christum per Mariam,
Fr. Theisen

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parish Debt Last Month</th>
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<td>$436,796.85</td>
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Today, we will learn a bit more about staff member, Lisa Leverson. Lisa is the Administrative Assistant for our parish...or as some of us on staff refer to her – the glue that holds it all together.

What was your role as Administrative Assistant pre-pandemic? **Lisa:** My role pre-pandemic was to communicate with parishioners via the weekly bulletin and the website, through emails and phone calls, and assisting those who would come to the parish office. I worked closely with Father Eugene creating the liturgy calendars for each month and assisting him any way I could. For the weekend liturgies, I would straighten up the church a bit and get the necessary documents to the sacristy for the lectors and for Father to use during the Masses. In addition, I would help my coworkers if they needed assistance with anything. There’s much more, but I wouldn’t want to bore everyone with all of the details.

How has that role changed over the last two months? **Lisa:** When the threat of the pandemic possibly bringing our state to a halt hit the news, we had to act fast to get our Masses livestreamed and figure out how we were going to communicate all of the changes with the parishioners. Our staff was doing a lot of serious multitasking at that point. While Pamela took care of streaming on Facebook Live to get us running right away, MaryCarol and I figured out a permanent solution to have our Masses livestreamed with the equipment that we had; we had just recorded the Masses prior to that. At the same time, I was helping Ruth get Online Giving up and running on our website. Not long after we had accomplished those, we started working from our homes. That was quite an adjustment! I felt so disconnected from everyone. For the most part, I was still able to do what I had done before at the office, except answer the door!

*Continued on Page 4...*
PARISH AND AREA NEWS

Continued from Page 3...

What blessings have you noticed that have come out of this time in our parish?

**Lisa:** I think we have become a more tight-knit faith community in all of this. Through God’s grace, we had enough volunteers to call every single household in our parish to check in and see how they were doing and if they needed anything. Some of the callers continued to check in with those they were concerned about. Other parishioners were coming forward to volunteer to bring groceries to those who couldn’t get out. The compassion and care of our parishioners has been a bright light in this dark time.

What do you miss about the way it used to be?

**Lisa:** I miss the personal contact with everyone. I’m an introvert, but I don’t like being this isolated! Sometimes I just want to give someone who is hurting a big hug. Who would have ever thought that giving someone a hug could lead to such serious consequences?!

Anything else you would like us to know?

**Lisa:** Please know that the staff is doing everything we can to prepare for public Masses. When we get the go-ahead, we will be ready. Blessings to all ~ Lisa

**Our Livestreamed Masses & Rosary may be viewed on our website, npcatholic.org; on our Facebook Page, New Prague Catholic; or on YouTube, search “New Prague Area Catholic Community” at YouTube.com.**

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

(to pray anytime you are unable to physically participate in Communion)

*My Jesus,*

*I believe that You*

*are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love You above all things,*

*and I desire to receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment*

*receive You sacramentally,*

*come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace You as if You were already there*

*and unite myself wholly to You.*

*Never permit me to be separated from You.*

*Amen.*

Memorial Day Mass

Mon., May 25th, 9:30 am at the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, rain or shine. Please bring your own lawn chair and keep the suggested social distance of 6 ft. Wearing masks is recommended.

Capital Campaign Update

In April, we paused our capital campaign due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Campaign Committee has continued to meet and discuss when we may begin again. This effort is necessary to maintain and enhance our three sites. St. Wenceslaus is also seeking to eliminate the parking lot debt and pay for city assessments.

Thank you to those who have already stepped forward and made financial gifts and commitments! At this time, we are continuing to plan the best time to re-launch. If you are ready to make a commitment, please do so. Initial funding for this effort is essential to pay expenses and begin specific projects and initiatives. You can make a gift by requesting a commitment card from the parish office. Please contact Lisa Leverson at 952-758-3225 or email: lisa.leverson@npcatholic.org. We will then mail you a commitment packet to fill out.

As the campaign process continues, please know we are fully aware that some may be financially overwhelmed right now and are focused on making ends meet. We also know there are others who are able and willing to give. Please prayerfully consider continuing your annual giving and making a capital campaign commitment when asked to the best of your situation and ability. Updates will continue on our progress and plans for the future!

An Invitation from the Green Team ~ 2020

We have many beautiful rain gardens, perennial gardens, annual gardens, and planters that beautify our buildings and accent the parking lots. Help is needed from students, adults, and families to keep our plantings healthy and looking good all summer. Please consider adopting a garden for the summer or select a week or more to help weed and water:

1. the gardens around the school
2. the Mary Garden or
3. the walkway gardens west of the PAC.

Use this Sign-Up Genius link to volunteer. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c45abae2ca7f49-green. Contact Kathy McNamara at Kathy.mcnamara@swsaints.org or 952-200-4949 for more information.

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FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

First Communion Families ~

All families should have received an email offering them three dates to sign up for First Communion (barring any Government or Archdiocesan changes). The dates will be June 21, June 28, and July 12. Please indicate your choice using the link in your email. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Laura in Faith Formation; 952-758-5131. Thank you.

Summer Disciples at Home, Grades 1-7:

With the ever-changing landscape of our Disciples of Christ (Faith Formation) program, many of you have opted to do a Home Study program this year. We normally begin the home study in the fall. This year we are offering you the ability to start in the summer. Hopefully by next week, all supplies will be ready to roll out. If you have not signed up and want to do this program, please sign up on our website, npcatholic.org, Faith Formation tab, Registration & Forms. All participants will receive an email letting you know when books will be available for pickup. Call Laura at 952-758-5131 or email: laura.schoenecker@npcatholic.org for more information.

Wednesday Night Disciples of Christ (past year)

Those students in grades 1-3 have workbooks from this past school year. We would like to make these available for you to pick up. We think our Grade 2 students would find these especially valuable since their books deal with First Communion. These books will be available in the entryway of the Parish Activities Center next week, May 27-29 and June 1, from 10 am-4 pm.

Confirmation Update:

Well ~ if this isn’t a Choose your own Adventure story come to life. I have some new news about potential Confirmation dates:

June 7, 2:00 pm: We hope/plan to Confirm 10th Grade
Please note that the Baccalaureate Mass has been moved to 10:30 Mass on this date. Please understand we are trying to do our best with these crazy options! Let me know if you would prefer the 14th.

June 14, 2:00 pm: We hope/plan to Confirm 9th Grade and our members who did their Sacrament prep elsewhere. We will be welcoming 9 candidates who are members here but did their preparation at St. Patrick.

What we need from you:

• Please fill out a Sacrament Registration Form.
• Baptism Certificate
• We cannot Confirm without these documents. Baptism Certificates must not be dated prior to October 2019. In other words, they must be newly minted, freshly dated, and recently signed by the Priest from that parish.

If your candidate was baptized at St. Wenceslaus, St. John, St. Scholastica, St. Joseph (Lexington), or St. Benedict we will take care of it for you ~ Please get your forms in ASAP. We want to be prepared when the day comes

Let me know if you have any questions! pamela.sherlock@npcatholic.org

Pray hard!

SCHOOL NEWS from SWS

ST WENCESLAUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TUITION TRANSFER GRANT

$1,000 TUITION TRANSFER GRANT FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Transfer Grant available to all transfer students enrolling in Grades 1-8 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Please contact Kim Doyle at (952) 758-3133 or kim.doyle@swsaints.org

To help us stay in touch with you, please make sure that we have updated contact information. Please email your updates to info@npcatholic.org or call 952-758-3225. Thank you!
Sunday, May 24, 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Right where you belong
We each have a need to belong that doesn’t start with the playground or end with the work shift. Psychologist Abraham Maslow categorized the need to belong as number three on a hierarchy of essentials: right behind physical needs (food, clothing, and shelter) and safety. Catalog the people who are essential to your happiness and the social groups that include you as a member. Then consider this: God has chosen you to be one of God’s people. And Jesus counts you as one who belongs especially to him.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11a (59). “They belonged to you, and you gave them to me.”

Monday, May 25, 2020
MEMORIAL OF GREGORY VII, POPE

Cherish your freedoms
Pope Gregory VII fought hard for the separation of church and state because he lived in a time (11th century) when the church was subject to civil authorities, and abuses of power were rampant. In the face of enormous opposition, this great reformer extricated the church from the control of external rulers and strengthened the unity of the whole church under the centrality of the papacy. On this Memorial Day, remember that religious freedom is one of the founding principles of our country, worthy of the sacrifice of many. And one that our faith demands that we respect for all.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33 (297). “In the world you will have trouble; but take courage, I have conquered the world.”

Tuesday, May 26, 2020
MEMORIAL OF PHILIP NERI, PRIEST

God provides
It’s fitting Philip Neri was canonized in 1622 with Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, and Teresa of Ávila. Ignatius was a friend, Francis was an influence, and Philip took to heart Teresa’s quip: “From... sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!” The affable Philip won over so many different kinds of people for Christ in 1500s Rome—using humor, humbleness, and holiness—that he’s called, with Peter and Paul, an apostle of Rome. “Cast yourself into the arms of God,” he said, “and be very sure that if he wants anything of you, he will fit you for the work and give you strength.” That is comforting at a time when many of us feel stretched to the limit.


Wednesday, May 27, 2020
MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP

Look for God in unexpected places
Lest Saint Augustine of Canterbury be confused with Saint Augustine of Hippo: the two are not the same. Augustine of Hippo was a fourth-century doctor of the church. Augustine of Canterbury was a sixth-century Benedictine missionary sent by Pope Gregory the Great to Christianize the British Isles. He is known as the “Apostle to the English,” and his legacy includes an approach to evangelization and conversion that shows a respect for indigenous practices. Rather than condemning, he consecrated and incorporated popular Anglo-Saxon rites into Christianity. What practices from popular culture today might we consecrate into contemporary Christian practice?

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 (299). “As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”

Thursday, May 28, 2020
EASTER WEEKDAY

Celebrate our finest gifts
Shavuot, or the Feast of Weeks, which our Jewish friends observe today, has a connection to the Catholic Solemnity of Pentecost. Just as Pentecost this Sunday comes seven weeks after Easter, Shavuot is celebrated seven weeks after Passover. In the biblical era, important dates for planting and harvesting were marked by religious holidays. Shavuot celebrated the wheat harvest seven weeks after Passover. Christians thank God for the abundant gift of the Holy Spirit.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 (300). “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.”

Friday, May 29, 2020
EASTER WEEKDAY

Keeping the peace
In 1972, Pope Saint Paul VI declared, “If you want peace, work for justice.” Today we observe the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The U.N. deploys peacekeepers around the world to provide “a unique and dynamic instrument... to help countries torn by conflict create the conditions for lasting peace.” The work of Catholic social justice organizations like Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Worker, and Cross Catholic Outreach go a step further by “tending the sheep” of the poor, the oppressed, the refugee, the dispossessed. Do your part today to support the social outreach of your church.


Saturday, May 30, 2020
EASTER WEEKDAY

Just do it!
Some argue that “believing the right things” is enough of a response to the call to discipleship. But Jesus emphasized doing. Orthopraxy (right practice) goes hand in hand with orthodoxy (right belief). In this time of global suffering, our faith response is required. It flows out of our faith assent, but we can’t stop with professions of faith. Take your faith out to meet the great need you find around you today.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25 (302). “There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.”

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time

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LITURGIES & PRIEST’S MASS INTENTIONS
INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS
WEEK OF MAY 25-31, 2020

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

LIMITED ATTENDANCE ONLY
Monday, May 25
9:30 am..........................Ruth Giesen — Mass — SW Cemetery
Tuesday, May 26
8:00 am..........................Sally Schmid — Mass — SW
Wednesday, May 27
8:00 am..........................John Harty — Mass — SW
Thursday, May 28
8:00 am..........................Chuck Kajer, Lloyd Ambroz — Mass — SW
Friday, May 29
8:00 am..........................Fr. Theisen’s Ordination Anniversary
Saturday, May 30
5:00 pm..........................Leonard Pexa — Mass — SW
8:15 pm..........................Mass — SJ
Sunday, May 31
8:00 am..........................Mass — SJ
8:30 am..........................Dorothy Saube — Mass — SW
10:00 am..........................Mass — SJ
10:30 am..........................Mass for the People — Mass — SW

STAFF DIRECTORY
NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Rev. Eugene Theisen
Parochial Administrator
952-758-0469
Eugene.Theisen@npcatholic.org

Open Position
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952-758-0465

MaryCarol Wolf
Pastoral Ministry Associate
952-758-0463
Mary.Carol.Wolf@npcatholic.org

Ruth Weinandt
Parish Accountant & Pastoral Ministry Associate
952-758-0466
Ruth.Weinandt@npcatholic.org

Laura Schoenecker
Faith Formation Director, SEC Pre-K through Adult
952-758-5131
Laura.Schoenecker@npcatholic.org

Debbie Gregor
Director of Liturgical Music at SW
952-758-4207
Debbie.Gregor@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

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
952-758-2327

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO MEETINGS/EVENTS BEING HELD AT ANY OF OUR PARISH SITES.

MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR
WEEK OF MAY 25-31, 2020

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David G. Barta Construction LLC

Date:
May 20, 2020

Winner:
Rich & Shirley Ziskovsky

SCRIPTURE READINGS
WEEK OF MAY 25-31, 2020

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Date:
May 20, 2020

Winner:
Rich & Shirley Ziskovsky

CHURCH OF ST. WENCESLAUS
CALENDAR CORNER

Date:
May 20, 2020

Winner:
Rich & Shirley Ziskovsky