

St. Joseph + St. Matthew + St. Teresa

Good Thunder

Vernon Center

Mapleton

The Catholic
Diocese of
Winona

Welcome!

We're here to help you begin or continue your faith journey, so you can find true peace, happiness and purpose in life. If you would like to join one of our parishes, contact any staff member and we will be honored to officially welcome you home!

Tri-Parish Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph
Sunday 8:00 am at St. Teresa
Sunday 10:00 am at St. Matthew

Weekdays: Please see Inside Bulletin

Holy Days See Inside Bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration held before daily Mass

Tri-Parish Office

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm
Address: 104 West Silver Street
Mapleton, Minnesota 56065
Phone: (507) 524-3127
Email: sjsmst@hickorytech.net
Website: www.sjsmst.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SJSMST
Mass Times: (507) 387-8806

Tri-Parish Staff

Father Jason Kern, Pastor
(507) 524-4628
frjkern@hickorytech.net

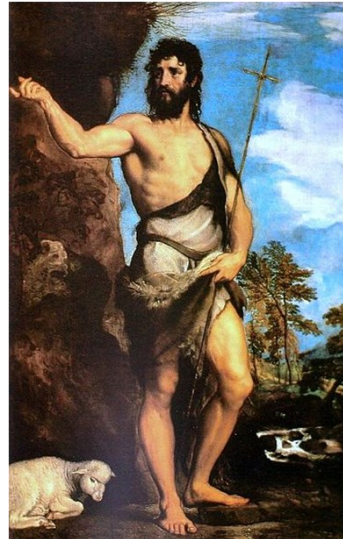
Deacon Chris Walchuk
(507) 469-5563
cwalchuk@frontier.com

Carol Cyr, Tri-parish Manager
(507) 524-3127
sjsmst@hickorytech.net

Darla Graf, Bookkeeper
(507) 524-4646
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Connie Peters, St. Joseph Faith Formation
Cindy Young, St. Matthew Faith Formation
Karen Langworthy, St. Teresa Faith Formation

December 7, 2014 Second Sunday Of Advent



Wait

**A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the
LORD!**

Isaiah 40:3

The Sacrament of Baptism

Pre-Baptism preparation is required. Please contact the office at least one month before the desired date.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick Please notify the office if you or a family member is in the hospital or homebound and would like a pastoral visit.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

One half hour before each weekend Mass, 8a.m. Thursday at St. Teresa or by private appt. with Fr. Kern

The Sacrament of Marriage

All Catholics need to meet with the priest or deacon at least 6 months before being married. Contact the office at least 6 months in advance of your wedding.



From the Heart - by Fr. Kern

Prepare the way of the Lord! In order to properly prepare for anything, you have to adjust what you are doing and be more intentional about making ready the item needing preparation. I think of the little cooking that I do and how rarely can I brown the meat and also get the vegetables chopped and ready or the potatoes peeled, etc. in time for it all to come together at the right time. I am too slow and inexperienced and so I need to peel potatoes and chop vegetables first or I will end up burning something or losing a finger slicing something else. By preparing the way of the Lord, we need to slow down and stop some of the hectic stuff we do and allow ourselves to focus on welcoming Jesus into our hearts. Advent is a time that is supposed to slow us down and cause us to reflect, instead it's a busy time of year in worldly standards and so we end up doing even more to get everything done in time for the parties, celebrations, decorating, etc. Where does that leave us in our preparations for the coming of the Lord? I love this time of year with holiday (holy day) cheer and anticipation with family and friends, yet I lament how quickly it will be here and gone. I pray for the grace to settle my heart on welcoming Jesus more deeply and being knocked over by the incredible grace of the Incarnation where Jesus took on human flesh in order to redeem us.

One of the great graces we have in the Church to prepare our hearts to welcome the Presence of God more deeply is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To have the grace to be wholly restored in relationship to our Creator is incredibly powerful. If it has been a long time or a short time since your last confession, don't hold back only because it is awkward or feel like you don't really need it. I make a habit when I visit brother priests to have them hear my confession. Last week I went to St. Peter and Paul Church in Mankato as they weekly offer confessions on Saturday's at 11:00am. What a gift that is for them to have two priests hearing confessions each week. Our Advent Penance service with individual confession and absolution is on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00p.m. at St. Teresa. I am planning to have three other priests come to help with confessions that night. It is such a special grace to have all the ways that we have offended God and our neighbor be forgiven and to start fresh—I hope you will take advantage of such a special gift to help you slow down and prepare your heart for the coming of your savior.

Seven Traits of an Amazing Parish from the website amazingparish.org:

- A Reliance on Prayer
- A Real Leadership Team
- A Clear Vision
- The Sunday Experience
- Compelling Formation
- Small Group Discipleship

Mass Intentions, Readings, & Saints

Monday, December 8 The Immaculate Conception
 Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12;
 Luke 1:26-38
7:00 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa *Reparation for our sins*
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew † *Charlene Wallace*

Tuesday, December 9 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin
 Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96:1-3, 10-13; Matthew 18:12-14
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph *Reparation for our sins*

Wednesday, December 10 Advent Weekday
 Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10; Matthew 11:28-30
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Matthew † *Beatrice Forsythe*

Thursday, December 11 St. Damasus I
 Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145:1, 9-13; Matthew 11:11-15
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Lillian Pfeffer*
3:30 p.m. Mass at MCH † *Larry Langworthy*

Friday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Zechariah 2:14-17; Judith 13:18-19; Luke 1:26-38
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Fr. Jerry Dorn*

Saturday, December 13 St. Lucy
 Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;
 Matthew 17:9-13
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Leonard Stein*
5:00 p.m. Loaves and Fishes Mass at St. Joseph
 † *Mike and Rose FitzSimmons*

Sunday, December 14 Third Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Luke 1:46-50, 53-54;
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
8:00 a.m. YELL Mass at St. Teresa *People of the Tri-parish*
10:00 a.m. Youth Mass at St. Matthew † *Bill Wendlandt*

Meetings and Events in the tri-parish

Wednesdays 1 p.m.	Quilters group at St. Teresa
Wednesdays 4:15 p.m.	Rosary at St. Teresa
Thursdays 9 a.m.	Study of the <u>Joy of the Gospel</u> at St. Teresa
Thursday, Dec. 11 6:30p.m.	St. Matthew Pastoral Council
Wednesday, December 17 7:00 p.m. Tri-parish	
Communal Penance Service at St. Teresa	
Thursday, Dec. 18 6:30 p.m.	St. Teresa Finance Council

New ministry schedules for St. Joseph and St. Teresa are available at the entrances to each church. If you are scheduled for a ministry, please pick up a schedule at your parish.



God, grant healing and peace to the sick of our communities who have requested our prayers:

Bill Barnard, Ken Irvine, Pat Borchert, Cathy Lentz, Becky, Jared Springer, Mavis Treanor, Maureen Springer, Kathleen Abrahamson, Yolande Abrahamson, Chris FitzSimmons

If you or a member of your family would like our prayers, please call 524-3127 and ask to be put on this prayer list. Each name will remain on the list for eight weeks unless the office is notified to leave the name for a longer amount of time.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes will be held on Wednesday, December 10

Reminder: In case of bad weather, faith formation class closings and Mass cancellations will be announced on the following stations: KTOE 1420 AM, KEEZ 99.1 FM, KJLY 104.5 FM Also on KEYC TV (also on their website)

Special Advent class! **On Wednesday, December 10th and 17th, Deacon Chris will lead a Bible Study on the infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke.** The study will begin at 6:15 p.m. in the gathering space classroom at St. Teresa. Come and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about Our Lord's birth and prepare for His coming.



St. Teresa: The Christmas story will be presented on **Sunday, December 21st** after mass. Any child in grades pre-K through 5th is welcome to participate. Practices are as follows: *Sunday, Dec. 7th and Dec. 14* from 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the gathering space *Saturday, December 20th* 9—10:30 a.m. (practice in costumes) Parts will be assigned the first practice; please call Ann at 524-3274 if your child would like to participate but cannot make the first practice.

It's not too late— you can still register for the **Catholic Heart Work Camp (Mission Trip)** July 19-25 in Detroit Lakes, MN Contact the office to register. All high school students and those just graduating may attend. See website for more information: <http://heartworkcamp.com/dates/detroit-lakes-mn/> or talk to Father Kern.



Thank You!

A Huge THANK YOU to all who came to the Spaghetti feed, provided bars, or helped work the event! We are off to a great start on our fundraising efforts for youth activities happening next summer! THANK YOU for your support!

Parish News

Joy missing this Christmas? Come join us for **caroling and a chili and soup supper** on Sunday, Dec. 21. **Meet in the basement of St. Teresa Church** at 2:45 pm. Please remember that there will be Adoration taking place in the church, so keep voices down as you enter. We will begin caroling at 3 p.m. and be back by 5 p.m. for supper. Chili and soup will be provided, complimentary side dishes welcomed. Carolers from all three parishes are most welcome!



Nativity scenes and other gift ideas are available from the gift store. Christmas items are on display at St. Teresa gathering space. Bring Christ into Christmas.

St. Joseph. Our "Advent" Loaves and Fishes Mass is Saturday, December 13th. Please bring food donations for the local food shelf. We begin with Mass at 5:00, then celebrate with food and fellowship and Advent crafts for the kids. Our CCW+ Group will also host a cookie exchange.



St. Matthew Christmas Choir Everyone is welcomed— and encouraged— to come and sing in the choir for Christmas Eve Mass, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. Practices will be held on Wednesdays: Dec. 10th and 17th beginning at 7 p.m.

If you had your picture taken for the tri-parish directory and are only receiving the free 8x10, that picture is available at your home parish, not where you got the picture taken. The pictures will be on a table near the entrance to church.

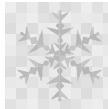
Christmas Flowers. If you would like to donate for Christmas flowers, you may use the envelope marked for that purpose or use a plain envelope marked "Christmas Flowers". You may include a list of the names of people you would like to remember. The envelopes can be sent to the Tri-Parish office or placed in the offertory basket.



St. Matthew The Christmas Program will take place after the 10 a.m. Youth Mass on December 14th. **Immediately following the program, a luncheon will be served by St. Margaret Circle.** There is no cost for the lunch. It is our gift to you! Please plan to come and celebrate this holy time of the year with worship and then food and fellowship with your church family!



St. Teresa: Snowshoveler's sign up: We are still in need or help! There are sign-up sheets at both church entrances for families to take care of the clean up after a snow fall. Your help in this task is greatly appreciated. Please be generous with your time.



St. Joseph Annual Christmas Charitable Giving Drive Please bring new or very clean like-new coats, hats, and gloves for children to adults to St. Joseph Church by December 20th. A box will be available in the gathering area for drop off. The items will be donated to those in need this Christmas. This is an excellent opportunity to give to Christ through those in need.



Contribution envelopes for 2015 are available at each church. Please pick up your envelopes as soon as possible. If you do not see a box for you and would like one, please contact the tri-parish office, 524-3127. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Community News

When life hurts, there is help. Call Catholic Charities for confidential, caring counseling services. Most types of insurance are accepted and a sliding fee is available for those without insurance. Visit us at ccwinona.org or call: 507-387-5586 (Mankato)

Stewardship of Treasure

God's generosity will never be outdone by our own.



St. Teresa: (November 29)

Weekly collection...	\$1638.50
Amount collected year to date...	\$58,398.40
Amount budgeted year to date ..	\$69,618.00

St. Matthew (November 30)

Weekly collection.....	\$4584.00
Amount collected year to date...	\$21,077.05
Amount budgeted year to date...	\$28,089.00

St. Joseph (November 30)

Weekly collection	\$953.29
Amount collected year to date...	\$17,603.68
Amount budgeted year to date	\$24,860.00



Ministry Roles

December 13 St. Joseph 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Youth

Minister of Communion: Mary Caven,
Leah Davis

Hospitality: Youth

Gifts: Youth

Servers: Ben Trio, Will Trio

Money Counters: Rachel Depuydt,
Sarah Caven

December 14 St. Teresa 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Youth

Minister of Communion: Cliff Anderson,
Marcie Anderson

Hospitality: Youth

Gifts: Youth

Servers: Will Stencel, Cole Stencel,
Andrew Hoppe

Money Counters: Eugene Langworthy,
Tammy Schmidt

December 14 St. Matthew 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Youth

Minister of Communion: Neal Wallace,
Sheila Lewis

Hospitality: Youth

Servers: Chloe Cumbee, Lilly Majeski

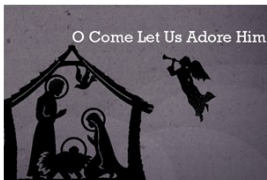
Money Counters: Jodi Roelofs, Linda Anderson

Ministry schedules are available on the web-
site: sjmst.org

Our Catholic World



Diocese of Winona History Books are now available for purchase. Look for them after Mass at each church; they are also available from the tri-parish office. These books are hard cover, full color, "coffee table" quality with a wealth of information about the history of the diocese and a full page on the history of each parish. The cost for this beautiful book is only \$35.



*Let us prayerfully watch for the
coming of the Lord*

After the 8 a.m. Mass on Sundays of Advent, Fr Kern will expose the Eucharist on the Altar at St. Teresa Church and begin the time of Adoration. Adoration will then continue until 6 p.m. (4 p.m. on Dec. 7) when Father will close with Benediction. There will be books and other materials to aid you in your time before the Blessed Sacrament.

Since we can never leave Our Lord alone, there are sign up sheets available at each church to make sure someone will always be present from 9 a.m.-Benediction each Sunday. We will have half hour slots and you can sign up for one, two, or as many as you want! Please consider if you will be able to make that commitment and promise to Jesus

Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin, all hope consists in confession; in confession there is a chance for mercy. --St. Isidore of Seville

In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance --St. Thomas Aquinas

The Advent Tri-parish Communal Penance Service will be held at St. Teresa Church on Wednesday December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be another opportunity for confession at a penance Service St. Casmir in Wells on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m. Prepare for the coming of the Lord!

Monday, Dec. 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Since Mary, under the title Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States, we are under obligation to attend Mass even though the feast falls on a Monday this year.

Ministry Roles for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

St. Teresa 7 a.m.

Reader: Marcie Anderson

Ministers of Communion: Marcie Anderson, Gloria Langworthy

Hospitality: volunteer

St. Matthew 7 p.m.

Reader: Cindy Young

Ministers of Communion: Denise Peterson, Judy Pentico

Hospitality: Steve Young family