

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. Matthew
Sunday 8:00 am at St. Joseph
Sunday 10:00 am at St. Teresa

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
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Darla Graf, Bookkeeper
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Connie Peters, St. Joseph Faith Formation

Cindy Young, St. Matthew Faith Formation

Karen Langworthy, St. Teresa Faith Formation

December 27, 2015 Feast of the Holy Family



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. Luke 2:51

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. Jason Kern

What a beautiful week in our parishes! I am very grateful to everyone who assisted to make these feast days so special by the time spent from decorating to preparing the liturgy and worship. Thank you to our choir members and musicians for the extra time spent preparing for these holy days. I am very blessed to be the pastor here! I would also like to thank everyone who spent time in deliberate prayer this Advent Season. This is transformative time for each of us and for our parish. Special thanks to those who made the time to pray with exposition and adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. What a special gift.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The weekend after Christmas (even just a couple days) is celebrated as the Feast of the Holy Family as now this family will begin living out deliberately the plan of God for the salvation of the world. They are the first ones who recognize God's plan for the world and recognize their role in the fulfillment of this plan. It's worth reflection: do you see your family as a part of God's plan for the salvation of the world. Jesus entered a human family and in so doing united every family to God. You have a role to play in the salvation of the world because you have a role to play in the salvation of your family. This season where God unites Himself to us, might we reflect on how we can lead and unite others to God. As the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season slows down and the New Year draws near, I know I will reflect on my own willingness to live our God's plan in my life. How does God make His will for me known but through prayer and reflection? May the Lord lead us and bring His healing to us in the places where we do not respond to His will.

Like last year, I will leave in the wee hours of January 1st for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) conference. This year we will depart for Dallas, Texas for what is called the Student Leadership Summit. Every other year FOCUS rotates between a large gathering (over 10,000 students) seeking to reach the hearts with the message of Jesus for as many college students as possible and what the conference will be this year which is a leadership summit seeking to give to the student leaders the gifts to lead others in the faith and help them to be ready to hand on the faith to others. I will return to the parishes in the middle of next week. Fr. Marty Schaefer, the Vice Rector at IHM Seminary, will be here to celebrate mass with us next weekend.



Mass Intentions, Readings, Saints

Monday, December 28 **The Holy Innocents**
1 John 1:5—2:2; Psalm 124:2-5, 7-8; Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday, December 29 **St. Thomas Becket**
1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-3, 5-6; Luke 2:22-35
Rosary for Vocations 8:30 a.m. at St. Joseph

Wednesday, December 30 **Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas**
1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-10; Luke 2:36-40

Thursday, December 31 **St. Sylvester I**
1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13; John 1:1-18
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Poor Souls in Purgatory*
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew † *Donald Graf*

Friday, January 1 **Mary, Mother of God**
Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Saturday, January 2 **Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Doctors of the Church**
1 John 2:22-28; 7:54-59; Psalm 98:1-4; John 1:19-28
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew † *Cecil and Bernardine Dickey*

Sunday, January 3 **The Epiphany of the Lord**
Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12
8 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph † *People of the tri-parish*
10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Lucille Kunkel*

Meetings and Events in the tri-parish

Monday, December 28th

Quilters will not meet at St Teresa from Dec. 23—February 3

Wednesdays 4:15 p.m. Rosary at St. Teresa

Thursday, Jan. 7th 7 pm at St. Joseph All parishes
Pastoral Council meeting

There will only be one mass available in our Tri-Parish for the January 1st holy day of obligation Mary, Mother of God.

Mass will be at 5pm at St. Matthew's.

The following are other options for mass on January 1st:

St. Casimir Wells: 6pm (12/31)

Our Lady Mount Carmel, Easton: 8am (1/1)

St. John the Baptist, MN Lake: 10am (1/1)

St. Peter and Paul, Mankato: 10am (1/1)

St. John, **Mankato**: 9am (1/1)



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

Jim Carey, Kitty Cumbee, Tom Graf, Eugene Langworthy, Mavis Treanor, Aubrielle Catherine Howley, Kelly (Wittrock) Howley, Bill O'Brien, Lloyd Mitchell,
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: no class December 30th.

Great opportunity for youth entering 8th—12th grade next fall: **Catholic Heart Work Camp (Mission Trip)** July 3-9 in Fremont, NE. REMINDER: Permission slip along with a \$90 deposit is due by December 17th! After this date the deposit is \$100. See website for more information www.heartworkcamp.com/dates/omaha-ne or talk to Jonah Lippert or Father Kern.

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

Parish News

Tri-parish Women's Book Club

The next meeting will be Sunday, **January 10** at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Teresa gathering space. We will discuss the book Walking With Purpose, by Lisa Brenninkmeyer. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited for a time of relaxation and interesting conversation.



 Fundraiser for Youth Group Trips: Pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 10 after 10 AM Mass at St. Teresa. Serving pancakes, sausage, and fruit. Come support the youth of the tri-parish— and enjoy a great meal! Free will offering

St. Joseph CCW+ units: Don't forget to check the Loaves and Fishes Bulletin Board routinely to see when your unit is on to help. Call Gina FitzSimmons at 507-340-3846 with any questions or to sign up.

Contribution envelopes for 2016 are available at each church. Please pick up your envelopes for the coming year as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity.



We joyfully welcome Brinnya Noelle Fox, daughter of Lucas and Karen Fox, into the Catholic Family and St. Teresa Parish. Brinnya was baptized on Sunday, December 20th at St. Teresa. We pray for Brinnya and her family that they always remain in God's loving arms.



End of the year contributions must be in the office or post-marked by December 31 in order to count towards tax deductions for 2015. Please consider a gift to your church this Christmas Season, and as always, thank you for your continued generosity.

We celebrated the birth of Jesus, but...

How well do you know Him?

If there is one person we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus. And the best time to get to know Jesus is right now. In his NEW book *Rediscover Jesus*, Matthew Kelly, America's best-selling Catholic author and internationally acclaimed speaker, takes you on a journey to encounter Jesus—the amazing friend who is going to help you answer life's tough questions.

Matthew Kelly gave 35,000 copies of this book to the Diocese of Winona. We have many copies available at each parish— for **free!** Please take one for yourself, and a family member or friend that you know needs to know more about our Savior.

St. Joseph's Loaves and Fishes Mass

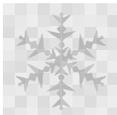
January: Youth Camps and Bingo

Sunday, January 10th beginning with 8 a.m. Youth Mass

After Mass: Downstairs for BINGO and food

- Please bring a donation for the local food shelf
 - St. Joseph's Choir will lead the music liturgy
- All are welcome! All the time.*



 **St. Teresa: Snowshoveler's sign up:** It's that time of year! The sign up sheet for families to take care of the clean up after a snow fall is in the gathering space entry. **It's been a pretty easy job so far this year— but we're bound to get snow sometime! We are poorly covered after the beginning of January.** Your help in this task is greatly appreciated. Please be generous with your time.

Join Bishop Quinn and people from across the diocese for a

Prayer Service for Life Sunday, January 17

3:00 p.m. at the Church of the Sacred Heart, 810 S Cedar Ave, Owatonna

Prior to the prayer service, a March for Life will be held beginning at 2:15. Meet at St Joseph Parish(512 S Elm Ave, Owatonna).

"Every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world's rejection. And every elderly person...even if he is ill or at the end of his days, bears the face of Christ. They cannot be discarded, as the 'culture of waste' suggests!" -Pope Francis



Come together to pray for protection of all life at every stage and in every situation.

Start the new year out right – spend some quality time renewing your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are Feb 12-14, 2016 in Windom, MN and Apr 15-17, 2016 in Hutchinson, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: southmnwwme.org or contact John & Mary Beth at applications@southmnwwme.org or 507-838-8178.

Stewardship of Treasure

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



St. Teresa: (December 20)

Weekly collection...	\$5586.47
Amount collected year to date...	\$78,231.25
Amount budgeted year to date ..	\$79,102.00

St. Matthew (December 19)

Weekly collection.....	\$1479.83
Amount collected year to date...	\$26,114.42
Amount budgeted year to date...	\$33,300.00

St. Joseph (December 20)

Weekly collection	\$2039.00
Amount collected year to date...	\$21,892.10
Amount budgeted year to date	\$28,150.00



Ministry Roles

January 2 St. Matthew 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Lindsey Lanoue

Minister of Communion: Darla Graf,
Justin Davis

Hospitality: David Weir, Donna Kopischke

Servers: Jeff Lewis, Joseph Bennett

Money Counters: Jodi Roelofs, Char Schuch

January 3 St. Joseph 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Maureen Hollerich

Minister of Communion: Leah Davis,
John FitzSimmons

Hospitality: Jay and Cassie Winters

Gifts: Jay and Cassie Winters

Servers: Ben Trio, Will Trio

Money Counters: Eli Depuydt,
Sarah Caven

January 3 St. Teresa 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Kris Miller

Minister of Communion: Debbie Reuter,
Shelly Holt

Hospitality: Noah Geramo, John Hengel,
Shawn and Sara Wenner family

Gifts: Mike and Jan Samuelson

Servers: Adam Dickey, Nathan Trio,
Kendall Wede

Money Counters: Meg Mohwinkel,
Tammy Schmidt

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

Our Catholic World



We celebrate the liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 1st, which is the Octave of Christmas.

Only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave, which is an eight day extension of the feast. The honoring of Mary as the Mother of God can be traced back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. By the 7th century, January 1st was observed as a celebration of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the 13th century, the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ had come to replace the feast honoring Mary; however in 1751, after a push in Portugal for an official feast day celebrating Mary's divine maternity, Pope Benedict XIV allowed Portugal's churches to devote a feast to Mary on the first Sunday in May. Eventually, the feast extended to other countries, and in 1914 began to be observed on October 11. In 1931, Pope Pius XI extended the feast to the entire church, and in 1974, Pope Paul VI removed the feast of the Circumcision of Christ from the liturgical calendar and replaced it with the feast of the "Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God", bringing Mary's feast day back to the first day of the year.



The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.



We fly to thy patronage,
O holy Mother of God;
despise not our petitions in
our necessities,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.
3rd Century; Oldest Known Prayer to Mary

Ministry Roles for Mary, the Mother of God:

December 31 at St. Matthew 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Brad Lanoue

Minister of Communion: Dave Weir, Tony Wendlandt

Hospitality: Neal Wallace family

Servers: volunteer

Money Counters: volunteer