

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 (1st, 3rd, 5th)
At St. Matthew (2nd, 4th)
Sunday 9:00 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
(507) 524-4628
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Deacon Chris Walchuk
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cwalchuk@frontier.com

Carol Cyr, Tri-parish Manager
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Darla Graf, Bookkeeper
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darlatp@hickorytech.net

Jonah Lippert Tri-parish Director of
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
(507) 327-2767
triparish.youthminister@gmail.com

December 25, 2016 The Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ



©2011 Religion - St. - 11 x 11

© Lumen Pictures - No. 1000000000000000

Do not be afraid;
for behold, I proclaim to you good news
of great joy...

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

A most holy and blessed Christmas to you and your family! This Advent has been a beautiful preparation for our Lord to enter our lives in a fuller and deeper way. I am grateful to spend this Christmas as your pastor. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways and you are most certainly a great blessing in my life. While I know that this past year has been difficult as we have changed Mass times and undergone transitions with Faith Formation, we have seen opportunities to work together as well. I am very pleased with the direction that certain things have gone but am still unsatisfied with others. Thank you for your patience with my leadership and my juggling of many different circumstances and situations. I am grateful to have this time as your pastor knowing that while we may not like everything that has transitioned, I remain confident that the faith of our people is being strengthened by many of these changes. Please keep your mind and heart focused on Jesus Christ and prayer and ask Him to bless our efforts to grow in love of Jesus and the Catholic faith and to hand it on to the next generation.

I pray that as you spend time with family and friends celebrating the holy day of our Lord's birth, you will call to mind how beautiful a mystery it is that Jesus has rescued us from sin even prior to His death on the Cross. The Cross and Resurrection is the final word, the saving action. Yet, from the moment of the fall of Adam and Eve, God planned a rescue mission that is fulfilled not in some magical act or fairy tale ending. God's plan was fulfilled by Jesus taking flesh and becoming one with us. God's plan to save us is to unite Himself to us. God enters our lives not just to make us feel okay now that He is here, but by uniting Divinity to our human nature, He has elevated our humanity to now participate in His Divinity.

The author and speaker George Weigel says it well, "Loneliness is the modern predicament and it's getting worse... Social media is no antidote to this isolation, for tweets or Facebook postings (not to mention comment threads beneath online articles) are not substitutes for real conversation. In many cases, I fear, they intensify the loneliness and the self-absorption from which it often springs. Christmas reminds us what Christians have to say to this pervasive loneliness. We say "God is with us," as throughout the Christmas season we celebrate the divine answer to the Advent plea, "O come, o come Emmanuel." That plea did not go unrequited. We see the answer to it in the crèches in our homes. God is with us, not in awe and majesty, but in that most accessible of human forms, the baby who reaches out for our embrace. God is Emmanuel, God-with-us, in the midst of our lives, not outside them. A few years ago I began collecting Fontanini crèche figures, and while the display is

Mass Intentions, Readings, Saints

Monday, December 26 **St. Stephen**
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17;
Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday, December 27 **St. John**
1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1-8
Rosary for Vocations 8:30 a.m. at St. Joseph

Wednesday, December 28 **The Holy Innocents**
1 John 1:5—2:2; Psalm 124:2-5, 7-8; Matthew 2:13-18
4:15 p.m. Rosary for our country at St. Teresa

Thursday, December 29 **St. Thomas Becket**
1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-3, 5-6; Luke 2:22-35
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Margaret Lubitz*

Friday, December 30 **The Holy Family**
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-5;
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
10:30 a.m. Mass at MCH † *Keith Etherington*

Saturday, 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 † *Paul Schmidt Sr.*
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph † *Fr. Paul Halloran*

Sunday, January 1 **The Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**
Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7;
Luke 2:16-21
9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa *People of the tri-parish*

Meetings and Events in the tri-parish

Tri-parish office will be closed Dec. 26, and 27

Quilters will not meet at St Teresa from Dec. 21—Feb. 1

now as big as it's going to get, there's a reason why the manger in our crèche is surrounded by dozens of figures: Decoratively speaking, that's the best way to express my conviction that the Lord of history came into history to redeem history in the midst of history.

He is Emmanuel. He is God-with-us.
We are not alone.

Merry Christmas."

From: <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2016/12/christmas-and-the-divine-proximity>



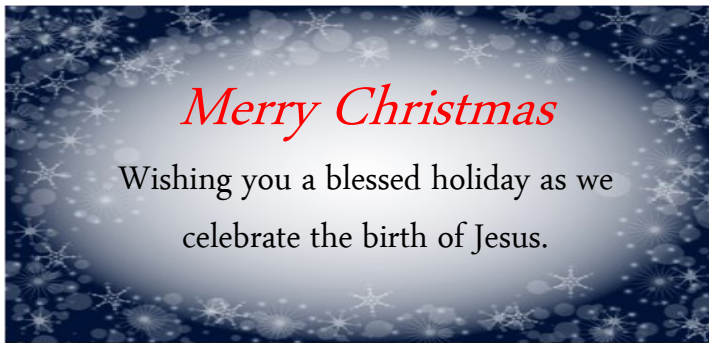
God, grant healing and peace to the sick of our communities who have requested our prayers: Bill Fleming, Maureen Springer, Lucille Schubbe, Stanley Gartner, John Pluym, Toos Roelofs, Jan Samuelson, Jerry Wersal, Jim Carey, *If you or a member of your family would like our prayers, please call 524-3127 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

Classes will NOT be held Wednesday, December 28

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

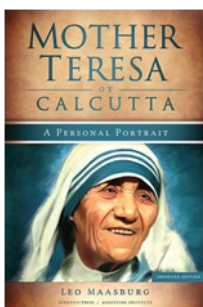


Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated funds for the Mission trip to Belize. Your love for God's poor will touch the lives of many. The list of projects is coming together and information on some of the people we will encounter and work for will be introduced to you soon. There are still dates open on the calendar if you would like to add your name. Please pray for the mission trip.

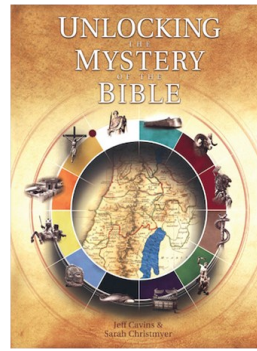
Thank you to all who helped package food for Jesus Food or provided monetary donations to cover the cost of the food. We were able to package food to feed 11,323 starving children!



End of the year contributions must be in the office or post-marked by December 31 in order to count towards tax deductions for 2016. Please consider a gift to your church this Christmas Season, and as always, thank you for your continued generosity.



A Christmas gift to you: There are copies of the book Mother Teresa of Calcutta available at each church. Please take a copy and learn more about this remarkable saint who gives such a shining example of how to see everything in our lives as a message of God's love. The book is filled with stories that reveal a humorous, gifted, wise, and arresting woman who has a message of real hope for our time.



Discover who God is.....

Discover who you are....

Discover someone who knows everything about you— and loves you and has an amazing plan for your life.

Learn how to read the Bible..

Coming in January and March— watch for more details.

Sundays 10:30—11:30 a.m. at St. Teresa begins Jan. 22

Wednesdays 6:30 –7:30 p.m. at the Mapleton library begins Jan. 25

Wednesdays 6:30 –7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph begins March 15

Additional times may be added

Alive in Christ Event



Sunday, January 15

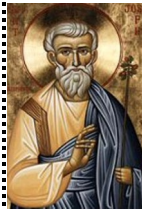
Would you like some powerful help to get to Heaven?

Do you wish you had someone by you to show you the way?



Reclaiming Catholic Culture

An opportunity to encounter the holy aides we have often never learned or have perhaps forgotten or at least have not taken advantage of enough. God has provided many powerful aides to us— and the Catholic Church can teach you what they are. Mark the date, January 15, to learn more.



More information will be available soon.

Community News

Caregiver Support Group

This monthly support group is for anyone who provides care to a family member or friend with Dementia or other progressive illness. It is informal and meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us for our next session on January 3, 3:00 PM, St. Teresa Catholic Church, Mapleton. Please use the north entrance near the parking lot. Topic: Improving Communication in Caregiving – a DVD and discussion. No charge to attend; pre-registration is not required. Questions? Call S. Joyce Kolbet at VINE Faith in Action (386-5583).

Catholic Charities Counseling Services

Catholic Charities provides a full range of counseling services to help individuals, couples, and families deal with a variety of concerns. We accept most insurances or offer a sliding fee for non-insured. Call Catholic Charities at 507-387-5586.

Stewardship of Treasure

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



St. Teresa (December 18)	
Weekly collection	\$7,178.56
Amount collected year to date	\$92,382.72
Amount budgeted year to date	\$81,500.00

St. Matthew (December 10)	
Weekly collection	\$7,058.00
Amount collected year to date	\$20,053.56
Amount budgeted year to date	\$31,200.00

St. Joseph (December 17)	
Weekly collection	\$3,971.50
Amount collected year to date	\$22,054.46
Amount budgeted year to date	\$27,925.00



Ministry Roles

December 31 St. Joseph 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Mary Caven

Minister of Communion: Richard FitzSimmons,
Connie Peters

Hospitality: Landon and Leah Davis family

Gifts: Landon and Leah Davis family

Servers: Ella Sohre, Taylor Hollerich

Money Counters: Maureen Hollerich,
Eli Depuydt

January 1 St. Teresa 9:00 a.m.

Reader: Peg Breiter

Minister of Communion: Owen Dickey,
Deb Hager

Hospitality: Joel and Tracy Schmidt,
Shawn and Sara Wenner

Gifts: Tony and Connie Bach

Servers: Nolan Braaten, Ellie Braaten,
Nathan Trio, Kendall Wede

Money Counters: Ann Walters, Kay Proehl

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

Let us understand that God is a physician, and that suffering
is a medicine for salvation, not a punishment for damnation.

---St. Augustine of Hippo

Our Catholic World



	# of donors	Amount	Goal	% of goal
St. Joseph:	10	\$2125	\$4,860	44
St. Matthew:	11	\$1885	\$4,890	39
St. Teresa:	47	\$6950	\$14,310	49

Results so far for the
2016 Diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal

Please prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to support the annual Diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal. If we do not make our goal by the end of the 2016 calendar year, the Bishop requires that the remaining amount be paid in full from parish funds. Envelopes for the Catholic Ministries Appeal are available at the entrances of each Church; please return your gift by December 31, 2016. You can mail your contribution directly to the diocese, or put your envelope in the collection basket during any weekend Mass. Thank you for your generosity in helping with the needs of the our Diocesan Church.



Contribution envelopes for 2017 are available at each church. If you receive envelopes, please pick them up soon. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Christmas

Reflections:

The Father has given us his Son: for this indescribable gift we are full of joy.

The traditional "Christmas tree" is a very ancient custom which exalts the value of life, as in winter the evergreen becomes a sign of undying life. In general, the tree is decorated and Christmas gifts are placed under it. The symbol is also eloquent from a typically Christian point of view: It reminds us of the "tree of life" (see Genesis 2:9), representation of Christ, God's supreme gift to humanity.

The message of the Christmas tree, therefore, is that life is "ever green" if one gives: not so much material things, but of oneself: in friendship and sincere affection, and fraternal help and forgiveness, in shared time and reciprocal listening.

Blessed John Paul II, in his Angelus message on 12/19/04

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world. from catholic.org

