

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

*“And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.”*

*-St. Matthew*



Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Happy Feast of the Epiphany! In the Catholic Church, we have much to celebrate in these days!

A good number of you asked me if I had a “good” Christmas or a “relaxing” Christmas. I can say with confidence that it was *not* relaxing. The days leading up to Christmas feel like finals week between the hours of confessions, church decorating, bulletin/homily preparation, server practices, etc. Then of course I head home to the farm on the perfect Christmas day with dry roads and no snow. I am home only about three hours and it started to rain. Fearing that the next day would be miles of icy roads, I headed home on Christmas night. I drove for about 20 miles at 35 M.P.H. on glaze ice with white-knuckle driving, but luckily drove out of the weather. So, relaxing? Not exactly. Busy? Yes!

As hectic as the holidays can get for priests and pastors, I would not want it any other way. My parents always use to say that the “preparation” is the work while the “actual work” is relatively easy. As the years go by, I would have to agree. For I often find myself stressing out the last two days before Christmas when I still do not have the sermon out of my head and on the paper, and so many other deadlines that still need to be met.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Scholars believe that the Magi most likely arrived years later to visit the Christ Child and not while He was still lying in the manger. The word Epiphany means literally “an awakening”. The dictionary defines “epiphany” as “*a moment of striking personal realization or insight*”.

In spite of the busyness of the days leading up to Christmas, I had a bit of a personal “epiphany” on Christmas eve at the 4:00 P.M. Mass and then again at the 10:00 P.M. Mass. For as I stood before the assembly while offering Mass at the altar at those two Masses, I felt an incredible feeling of peace, relaxation, and a sense of feeling that I was “home”. From the servers to the set-up in the church, those who sang and everything in between, the Masses went so smoothly, as I experienced in past years and assignments. For that reason, I can truthfully say it was a “good” Christmas.

This past weekend I again had some former parishioners attend Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family. They later

commented that I seem so much more relaxed. The word they used was “comfortable”. Perhaps I am.

I was so encouraged to see the church not only full at 4:00 P.M., with an abundance of young children who came forward at the time I played a song on the guitar, but also that the church was “comfortably” filled at the 10:00 P.M. Mass which is such a special liturgy. One of you “good” parishioners left a note on the sacristy counter with a small gift that read, so simply: “*What a beautiful Christmas Mass at 10:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve, and the 10:00 A.M. Mass on Christmas day was the best Mass ever, angelic, sacred, refreshing. Happy New Year.*” (Congratulations to our two choirs of adults and children who did such a nice job at two of the Masses at Christmas!) Notes like the one that I just shared, and so many others, are worth far more than gold, frankincense and myrrh.

May this New Year of 2015, be for you as “good” as this past year, and most especially these past six months have been for me. May God grant to you an abundance of His gifts of love, mercy and joy in 2015! Have a great year and a great week!

*Rev. Paul van de Crommert*  
Pastor

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Adult (128)	\$ 12,469.00
Electronic Giving	2,095.75
Junior/Junior Christmas	193.94
Plate	2,039.32
School Rent	70.00
Christmas Flower/Decoration Offering	50.00
Christmas	10,240.00
Diocesan & Catholic School Assessments	2,024.75
Faith Formation Tuition	65.00
Misc.	20.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,267.76</b>

**Stewardship**

Thank you for your generous stewardship over the Christmas holiday. It appears that our stewardship collection from Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family is up by nearly \$7,000.00 from a year ago at this time. This added revenue will help us to keep pushing forward and chipping away on our stewardship mountain to our Catholic School and Diocesan assessments. Your stewardship has been fantastic. Your giving is “God-sized”. Thank you so much for your generous spirit of giving! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Mission Trip Supplies**

I am going on a mission trip to our diocesan San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala in mid-January. If anyone would like to donate small school supplies (colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc.) or over-the-counter medicines (Tylenol, Advil, etc.), please contact me at #507-317-0617. I hope to take a full suitcase of supplies to them.

Thank you!  
Arlyce Anderson

**Liturgical Calendars**

There are still a few liturgical calendars available at the church entrances. If you have not picked a calendar up, please help yourself to them as long as they last. They are significant, as they hold all of the feast days and especially the Holy Days of Obligation, etc. We thank the area businesses who are the benefactors of these calendars for graciously donating them for our use.



**Holy Rosary Council of Catholic Women**  
**Minutes of Meeting on November 3, 2014**

The Holy Rosary CCW November meeting was called to order by Co-President Marilyn Streit at 6:30 pm in the parish center. Dolores Portz read the opening prayer.

Arlyce Anderson read the minutes of the October meeting and these corrections were made. Father Paul van de Crommert said the 6:00 Mass that evening and the Christmas party on Saturday, December 6th will be after the 5:00 pm Mass. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Sharon Theuninck gave the treasurer's report. The total income for the month was \$4,466.90 and the expenses were \$1045.76. The checking account balance on October 31, 2014 was \$7,600.82, the savings account balance was \$1,458.32, the CD balance was \$5,633.03 with the total for all being \$14,692.17.

The agenda was approved as printed.

**Commission Reports:**

**Scholarship:** Arlyce stated that scholarship applications are due March 15. Parish members may use the money for education, training or spiritual growth to aid them in parish ministry.

**Spirituality:** Dolores Portz talked about the Forty Days for Life campaign. Over 200 people spent over 480 hours in prayer this year. Dolores also mentioned that the Options for Women organization will operate out of the old Newman Center on MSU campus. It was purchased by an individual and Options for Women will rent the building.

**Service:** Julie Gruber mentioned that Pedal Past Poverty and Fair Trade leaders would like to speak at our meetings.

**Old Business:**

The rummage sale profit was \$689.35.

Sharon Lenz gave the Fall Luncheon report. She passed out a copy of the fall luncheon history going back to 1975. This year we served 257 people and ticket sales were \$1,410. The craft and bake sale total was \$1,661.55. The total income for the luncheon was \$3,442.55 with some expenses still to be paid. A concern was made about workers sampling food on the serving table. Dining room etiquette needs to be addressed.

Father Paul van de Crommert asked to be put on our agenda. He stated he would like our minutes to be published in the bulletin so all the women know what is happening. He wants to decorate the high altar for Christmas, with the crib on the right side of the altar along with two artificial trees. He would like the CCW to purchase the altar cloths.

Father also said the Remembrance Mass held last Sunday at the 10:00 am Mass had standing room only. About half of the families who had someone pass away during the year attended the Mass. There were 70 – 80 people for coffee and rolls after Mass. He hoped this Mass would be held each year the first Sunday in November.

The first weekend of Advent, Father has a family coming to sell Holy Land articles. The first Sunday in Lent he would like to sell religious articles. The CCW would be asked to help if possible.

There will be two Masses for Thanksgiving, one on Wednesday evening and one Thursday morning.

Parish Council Report – Marilyn said the vacation raffle is coming up and there are still tickets available. The wine and food pairing dinner will be February 13 at the Loose Moose.

**New Business:**

The Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service will be held at Holy Rosary at 7 pm. We will make coffee and apple cider and will need ushers. Bars will be brought by the other churches.

The CCW Christmas party will be Monday, December 1 with a potluck dinner. Everyone is asked to bring a \$5 wrapped Christmas gift.

The parish Christmas party will be held after the 5:00 Mass on Saturday, December 6. There were 250 people in attendance last year.

Dolores led us in the closing prayer for vocations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Arlyce Anderson



Christmas is a season where we celebrate the great gift of Christ among us. It is good for us to recognize the gifts that are family. We often take them for granted.

In December the Juniors had the opportunity to do a three day retreat. I had the privilege of celebrating Mass with them. It was deeply impressive to see the result of the cooperation of Parish, family and school in bringing our Juniors to a powerful awareness of the presence of God in their lives. The Eucharistic celebration was marked by reverence and enthusiasm as the Junior class celebrated the Eucharistic feast with me.

We can be grateful for all the efforts made by our parish to insure that our children have the opportunity for a Catholic education. I can certainly attest that the sacrifices being made are worth it.

Blessings in 2015!

(Rev.) Robert Schneider - President and Chaplain  
Loyola Catholic School

**Parking Please!**



One of the physical challenges that several people have been recently expressing to me as pastor has been the issue of parking. Unfortunately, Holy Rosary does not have very much off-street parking and most likely this will be a continuing problem in the near future. Recently, some of our neighbors are expressing concerns that parishioners are blocking sidewalks and driveways, making it difficult for the local residents to get out of their driveways with their vehicles while Mass is underway. Please be sensitive when parking your vehicle before Mass. We will try and address the problem at Worship Committee and the Pastoral Council as to how we can better handle the parking situation in the future.

**Christmas Flowers and Decorations**

A small number of memorials were not included in the flier that was handed out at the four Christmas Masses this year. There are still additional fliers available at all of the entrances for you to pick up. Last weekend's bulletin included additional remembrances that were not able to be included in the flier. We have received an additional memorial that we wish to acknowledge:

In remembrance of Patty Gebhardt and Dutch Neubert by Dave & Patty Neubert

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

1. Diocesan United Fund ( D.U.F.) Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical Care and Diocesan Audit::  
DUE: \$78,103.92  
Pd. To Date \$33,682.18
2. Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.)  
DUE: \$27,708.85  
Pd. to Date: \$42,891.00  
(\*We are currently at 155% of our goal! 55% of these monies [that are already part of our grand stewardship total] will be used to pay off Catholic school and Pastoral Center assessments by June 30, 2015)
3. Loyola Catholic School Assessment:  
DUE: \$238,000.00  
Pd. to Date: \$94,333.20

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Total Assessments 2014-2015:	\$ 343,812.77
Total Paid to Date 2014-2015:	\$ 171,906.38

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If you notice in our totals this week, the numbers have significantly risen. The second collection brought in \$2,024.75. This amount was divided between the Diocesan assessments and the Catholic school assessments. In order to be half-way through our assessments, I needed to give Loyola the additional amount of \$17,833.20 this week in order to be at the 50% mark for our total assessment coverage of \$171,906.38. I am pleased to report that because of YOUR EXCELLENT STEWARDSHIP, we are now standing at the 50% mark of paid stewardship assessments at the same time we are half-way through the fiscal year. We are "spot on"! The credit goes out to you, good stewards! Thank You!

**FR. ED ARDOLF ENDOWMENT FUND**

This fund is now at \$129,052.00. 85% of the earnings of this fund go to pay tuition at Loyola Catholic School for Holy Rosary families. Contributions to this fund may be dropped off at the parish office or sent to Amy at Loyola.

**Thought for the Week**

*"...Respond generously to the Holy Spirit, according to your state in life, and do not be afraid to be generous with the Lord."*

*-Pope Francis*

**Bad News about the Bulletin**

Perhaps one of the areas in the parish that many of the faithful take for granted is the weekly parish bulletin. Over the years, in spite of the amount of labor and expense that goes into printing a weekly bulletin, people are quick to say that they “do not” read it, or if they “do” read it, it is not worth the paper that it is being printed on. With great generosity, we hand out the bulletin to everyone who leaves the church (contributor or not), and even mail the parish bulletin out with no cost to the faithful for either postage or paper.



As you can tell, as pastor, I put a lot of effort into the publication of the weekly bulletin. The staff and I dedicate many hours getting it ready for publication. Since my arrival, we have expanded the bulletin, improved the graphics and published it on a higher quality paper. All of this takes time and money.

I feel blessed as many of you have told me that you like the changes that we have made with Holy Rosary’s bulletin as well as that you find it most informative.

This past Monday, I and our parish secretary had an hour long meeting with Paragon Printing and Mailing. Whitney Voss is the owner of this printing firm. He and his staff informed me that they have been losing money on putting out the parish bulletins for our parish and the churches of the Mankato area for some time. For years, the sponsors absorbed the costs and the patronage of the people for those businesses provided the bulletin to the parish at no charge.

One of the Mankato parishes pulled their bulletin from Paragon and another parish recently has decided to pull their bulletin and print their bulletin in house. At this point, Holy Rosary has neither sufficient equipment or staff to print our bulletin at the office. In addition, the quality would be less and would cost more as we are presently leasing our copier with a set amount per copy.

Therefore, WE ARE IN NEED OF ADVERTISERS. WE ARE IN NEED OF THOSE WHO ARE ADVERTISING NOT TO PULL THEIR ADS. WE ARE IN NEED OF INDIVIDUALS/ORGANIZATIONS WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO TAKE OUT A HALF OF AN AD FOR A YEAR AT THE COST OF \$250.00 OR A FULL AD FOR \$450.00 FOR THEIR BUSINESS, A MEMORIAL FOR A LOVED ONE OR AN ORGANIZATION THAT WILL PROMOTE PRO-LIFE, PRIESTLY VOCATIONS, ETC.

At this point, we are anticipating an additional cost to the parish of \$400.00 per month in order to help Paragon simply cover their expenses and break even on our bulletin. That comes to an additional \$4,800.00 per year and absorbs pretty much most of our increased offering from this year’s Christmas collection! Please contact Paragon Publishing at 507-345-1297 or e-mail at [paragon@hickorytech.net](mailto:paragon@hickorytech.net). You are also welcome to call Holy Rosary Parish office as well. Thank you for your help in this matter!

**K of C Council #5551 News**

January 8 – Blood Drive  
January 8 – Planning Meeting  
January 22 – General Meeting



**Blood Drive – January 8<sup>th</sup>**

The American Red Cross will be set up for a blood drive at Holy Rosary Church on Thursday January 8th from 12:00 to 6:00 pm. Blood Donors can go online at **REDCROSSBLOOD.org** and use sponsor code 0176082 and schedule yourself in, or call John at 507-995-5238 and together we will schedule you in at a convenient time. **WALK INS are always welcome but we prefer them to wait until after 1:30** so that there is not a huge wait for donors at the start of the drive. The Double Red Cell machines will be on hand for the double red cell collection also. The American Red Cross is in Urgent need for new donors and younger donors. Thank You Donors for your past support.

**T.E.C – Together Encounter Christ**

Together Encounter Christ is a wonderful three-day retreat for youth and adults that can be a life-changing experience for your teen who is perhaps less than enthusiastic or is enthusiastic about the faith. Many people from Holy Rosary parish have made this retreat as well as your present pastor.



The next Riverbend TEC retreat is scheduled for January 17-19, 2015 in New Ulm. Information and application forms can be found on the Web site [www.riverbendtec.org](http://www.riverbendtec.org).

For more information please contact Fr. Denny Labat at 320-523-1271 or by e-mail: [riverbendtec@gmail.com](mailto:riverbendtec@gmail.com).

**The World Meeting of Families**

The Office of Family Life directed by Sister Candace Fier is busy planning for the World Meeting of Families to be held September 22-27, 2015 in Philadelphia. The six dioceses of Minnesota have decided to make this event a pilgrimage. It is hoped that the Diocese of New Ulm could send 60 people to this seven-day event. Those attending from the diocese will serve as ambassadors, bringing the experience back to the diocese to those who could not attend.



To reserve a spot or sponsor a partial or entire trip for an attendee who can’t afford the trip, please contact Sister Candace at 507-359-2966.

**The Week Ahead**

**Monday, January 5: Feast of St. John Neumann**

- 8:10 am – Rosary
- 8:30 am – Mass – John Odden
- 9:15 am – Bible Study
- 11:00 am – Mass - Good Counsel Campus -**  
+ **Thomas A. Schaezner (Celebrant: Fr. Paul)**

**Tuesday, January 6: Christmas Weekday**

- 8:10 am – Rosary
- 8:30 am – Holy Communion Service

**Wednesday, January 7: Christmas Weekday**

- 8:10 am – Rosary
- 8:30 am – Mass – Susan Zenk
- 9:50 am – Mass - Loyola High School -  
+ Brendan Kroehler
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Sewing Group -**  
*Lower Level Parish Center*
- 4 pm, 6 pm, 7:15 pm – Faith Formation**
- 6-7 pm – Holy Rosary Choir Practice - Choir Room**

**Thursday, January 8: Christmas Weekday**

- 8:10 am – Rosary
- 8:30 am – Mass – Mark Fallenstein
- 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm – Diocesan Priest Meeting -**  
*Holy Redeemer, Marshall (Fr. Paul Attending)*

**Friday, January 9: Christmas Weekday**

- 8:10 am – Rosary
- 8:30 am – Mass - Joe & Martha Phillips
- 1:00 pm – Mankato Area Priest Meeting**  
*(Fr. Paul Attending)*

**Saturday, January 10: The Baptism of the Lord**

- 4:30 pm – Sacrament of Confession
- 4:30 pm – Rosary
- 5:00 pm – Mass - + LaVaughn Drummer

**Sunday, January 11: The Baptism of the Lord**

- 7:30 am – Rosary in Church
- 8:00 am – Mass - + Roy Dauffenbach
- 9:30 am – Rosary
- 10:00 am – Mass - People of the Parish
- 2:00 pm – Music on the Hill – Good Counsel Chapel**

**Readings for the Week**

- Mon:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tues:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
- Wed:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
- Thurs:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
- Fri:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
- Sat:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
- Sun:** Is 55:1-11, 1 Jn 5:1-9, Mk 1:7-11

**Liturgical Roles – January 10-11**

**Lectors**

- 5:00 pm:** Joe Kunkel & Jim Theuninck
- 8:00 am:** John & Nancy Holden
- 10:00 am:** Tom Koch & David Lamm

**Eucharistic Ministers**

- 5:00 pm:** Eileen Wadekamper, Dan Gowanlock, Kathy Frederickson, Rick Gruber, Mary Beth Nygaard, Gretchen Etzell
- 8:00 am:** Kurt & Elizabeth Schroeder, Mary Homan, Peter Backes, Arlyce Anderson, Jim Theuninck
- 10:00 am:** Dennis Haga, Brent Friedrichs, Rebecca Gruenes, Tim McGowan, Darlene Schorn, Jackie Cesario

**Altar Servers**

- 5:00 pm:** Zach Eggersdorfer, Mitch Biagouette
- 8:00 am:** Jake Homan, Tony Weber, David Weber
- 10:00 am:** Isaiah Rentchler, Spencer Spaude, Elaine Adams

**Presentation of Gifts**

**Confirmation Candidates & Family**

- 5:00 pm:** Cole Hunstad Family
- 8:00 am:** Luke Kolars Family
- 10:00 am:** Mykenzie Hendrickson Family

**Ushers**

- 5:00 pm:** Bob Meyer, Anne Richardson, Paul Stevens, Blaine Kolstad
- 8:00 am:** Craig Amundson, Chris Sturm, Jake & Doug Homan
- 10:00 am:** Jim Barker, John Jagerson, Tom Kohls, Steve Kaiser

**Music Ministry**

- 5:00 pm:** Joe Kunkel/Janelle Campeau
- 8:00 am:** Corinne Ort & Kurt Schroeder/Jeanne Makela
- 10:00 am:** Tom Bachmann/Vicki Galli

**Rosary Leaders**

- 5:00 pm:** Karen Etzell
- 8:00 am:** Dennis McCabe
- 10:00 am:** Jeanette Barsness

**Money Counter for January, February and March 2015**

Marilyn Rieff, Shirleen Gulden, Jan Nelson & Jan Brumm

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS...**

**PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR ISAAC KOLSTAD AND ALL OF OUR SICK AND INJURED OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH**

Our prayers continue to go out to Isaac Kolstad as well as all of the sick and injured in our parish who are at home, in the hospital, nursing homes or assisted-living residences. May God bless them and keep them under His guidance and protection!

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY**

Nick Blace	Matt McGraw	Anna Drummer
Jared Hiniker	Christopher Schmidt	
Ann Winkler	Jonathan Heintz	
Dana Schiller	William Backes	
Mark Hansen	Ben Barsness	
Alex Ek	Sean O'Dea	
Timothy Eick	Daniel Fitterer	

**FOR OUR FAMILIES**

<b>Monday</b>	Matthew & Elizabeth Rorvig
<b>Tuesday</b>	No Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	James & Julie O'Hara
<b>Thursday</b>	James & Rosemary Schmitz
<b>Friday</b>	Leslie Yost
<b>Saturday</b>	Dale & Teresa Compton
<b>Sunday</b>	John & Mary Slater

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

Mary Jane Ledwein, Tom Grausam, Don Haley, Jan Schmidt, Doris Lorentz, Bill Goettlicher, Lenore Sweers, Dolores Spreter, Richard Flynn, Jr., Krystal Portz, Lydia Meehling, Jan Brumm, Steve Fitterer, Kathy Eggersdorfer, Nancy Marquardt, Gabriel Speckel, Shannon Murphy, Harriet Senesac, Lisa LaPoint Leland, David Bruender, Marilyn Bastian, Betty Kotthoff, Isaac Kolstad, Nancy Wesely, Liz Brumm, Susan Zenk, Catherine Atchley, George Holzerland

**PRAYER CHAIN**



If you, or someone you know, would like to be included in our prayer chain, please call Karen Etzell, 387-7877

**"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK**



Holy Rosary is now on Facebook. Please check out the site & "Like" us - follow the link from our website - [www.holyrosarynorthmankato.com](http://www.holyrosarynorthmankato.com)

**Upcoming Parish Meetings**

The next meetings of our major councils/committees in the New Year and topics will be as follows:

**Pastoral Council** – January 19th at 6:30 P.M.  
(Continue Pastoral Planning) (\*Please note the change in the date!)

**Worship Committee** – January 26th at 6:30 P.M.  
(Review Christmas – Lent Planning)

**Finance Council** – February 9th at 7:00 P.M.  
(Review Diocesan Audit)

All of our meetings will be held in Conference Room I in our former school building.

**Bands of Marriage**

Mary Nieman and Lucas Ezarski (1-24-15)

**Baptismal Blessings**

Our prayers and best wishes go out to Mason Masters who was baptized in the waters of Baptism last Saturday, on the Feast of the Holy Family. Our congratulations go out to Eric Masters and Tanya Perez on this special day. May Mason have the beginning of a life-time relationship with Christ and His bride, the Church. Welcome!



**Welcome**

Please welcome to our Holy Rosary family our newest household and member. Please welcome Jeanne Sheehy. Jeanne is retired and residing here in North Mankato! Welcome to our growing parish family!

**Pastoral Thank You**

Again, thank you again to all of you that took the time out of your busy holiday season to send a Christmas card, write a note, give baked goods, send a monetary/card gift or extended to me some personal kindness or expression of gratitude. Thank you so much.



*the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them*