



O come, O come Emmanuel

“John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey.”

-St. Mark

From a theological point of view, Easter is the center of the Church year; but Christmas is celebrating the central reality that Christ (although 100% God) became 100% human. Christmas is perhaps so endeared to us as human creatures here on this earth, because we can so identify with Christ as a person and His poverty, as all of us have experienced the wonder of living life and losing out on things because we ran short of stewardship.

The crib of Christ that we will focus in on in less than three weeks, has a unique power to show us once again what it means for God to be “Immanuel” – “God with us”, by becoming a small child. Similarly, in this weekend’s gospel from St. Mark, we also get a glimpse of what it means to have a true messenger of God “with us”, as John the Baptist dresses and eats in a fashion that was most foreign to the people of his time.

John the Baptist knew that he was called by God to deliver a special message about the forthcoming Messiah. As the “Herald of God”, he wanted to be certain that God’s message was not going to be interrupted by his own thoughts and imaginings or those of another. So, John the Baptist excuses himself both culturally and socially from the world and flees to the desert. There, without any distractions, he might have a clear message of how he was to announce the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

John’s dress and dinner was not only “horrific” for those ancient times; his behavior was also very “human” and “holy”. For John was acting and behaving like the ancient prophets of the Old Testament.

Many of the great saints would follow a similar spiritual pattern after John the Baptist, including St. Francis of Assisi. He too, would forage for food and was found wearing little more than forgotten rags as his garments. Yet, it would be St. Francis who also had a particular love for the Christ-child and was the one who would “herald in” the first nativity scene that today has become so popular around the world.

St. Francis had such a tremendous love for the Feast of Christmas in that it showed the sacrifice that the Son of God took on, the bare, frail condition of fallen humanity as both St. John the Baptist and St. Francis took on as well in their lives of holiness.

One of the biographers of St. Francis, Thomas Celano, said at one point of St. Francis: *“More than any other feast, Francis celebrated Christmas with an indescribable joy. He said that this was the feast of feasts, for on this day God became a little child and sucked milk like all human children.”*

From the earthiness of John the Baptist, to St. Francis referring to much of the earth as brothers and sisters, to Christ coming to earth as a small child; may we during this season of Advent be aware that we have come from the earth and because we are completely human and mortal, will one day soon, leave the earth. May these days of Advent draw us spiritually closer to the Christ of Christmas, and to one day come into the eternal presence with Christ in everlasting life. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! Do not delay!

Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

Stewardship of Treasure

Adult (158)	\$ 7,566.00
Electronic Giving	1,888.25
Junior	59.97
Plate	279.00
Gym Equipment Sale	500.00
Religious Education Tuition	65.00
Christmas Flower Offering	75.00
Thanksgiving Collection	429.50
Grand Total	\$ 10,862.72

**(Our weekly budget is set at \$12,750.00)*

Special Collections

Campaign for Human Development	\$ 15.00
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STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your relentless stewardship. Although, this week our collection did not make budget, again this amount exceeds last year’s weekly offering. Thank you for this. **YOU ARE TO BE ESPECIALLY COMMENDED FOR YOUR EFFORTS ON OUR DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL or D.M.A.** What we have taken in over the last two weeks through the Sunday collection, has already reached 72% of our goal or almost three-fourths of what we need. We have taken in \$19,946.00 through pledges and gifts directly to the parish. This is great!!! Our goal is \$27,708.85. We still do not have available the full figures from the Diocese of what has been also sent directly to New Ulm, which is normally a respectable amount. I am having hope that not only our goal will be met that has been set by the Diocese and our Bishop, but also might exceed the amount and reduce our other two assessments even more. Thank you so much for your gifts! God bless you in your great generosity!!!!

DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL



Thank you to all of you that have given/and will give to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge or gift at this time, envelopes are available in the pews and in the back of church. You may return your pledge in the collection basket or simply drop the envelope in the mail. Either way, the parish will receive full credit for your gift that will benefit those ministries that are vital to the Diocesan Church as well as assist our own parish stewardship goal of covering our two major Catholic School and additional Diocesan assessments that total more than \$315,000.00! Whatever you do will be of great assistance! Thank you for your gifts!

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

This week the Universal Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Mother of God. It is of course a Holy Day of Obligation. I have scheduled two Masses for the feast that will be celebrated on Monday morning at 9:00 am and later in the day at 5:15 pm. Mary deserves our honor as we seek her intercession.



For not only is she the Mother of God and the Queen of all of the saints, but she is also our patroness of our parish. We hope to see all of you there! Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS TREES!



Thank you to all of you that donated your artificial trees for our use this year in our Christmas decorations for our sanctuary. We had some more donations this week in this regard. We are still in need of a few more trees that will be used around the crib. The reason for the use of artificial versus real is that our insurance provider, Catholic Mutual of Omaha does not permit the use of lights in real trees. While some parishes might still hold this practice, in the event of a fire, the parish property would not be covered.

FLOWER CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPE

Attached to last week's bulletin was an envelope that will go towards the decorations for Christmas this year that will include the flowers, artificial trees, wreaths and other decorations to make our church and sanctuary festive and solemn. I invite you to place your offering in the envelope and mail in or drop in the collection and we will publish your name and who you wish to remember in a special way through this Christmas offering. We will be



printing a special program that will be handed out at the Christmas Masses as was done in my previous assignments and the Worship Committee informed me was done also for many years at Holy Rosary.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES



Recently, at our Mankato Priest Meeting, we set the schedule for four penance services in our four parishes that you are spiritually encouraged to attend during these weeks of Advent.

- Sunday, December 14th: St. John's – 4:00 pm**
- Sunday, December 14th: St. Peter/Paul – 6:00 pm**
- Sunday, December 21st: St. Joseph – 3:00 pm**
- Sunday, December 21st: Holy Rosary – 5:00 pm**

Of course, confessions will still be heard every Saturday at 4:30 pm, prior to the 5:00 pm Mass. I will also set aside times where I will be present in the confessional prior to the great feast of Christmas. It certainly may be true that you "have done nothing wrong" and not committed any serious sins of commission. Perhaps you might reflect then on the sins of "omission", the "things I have failed to do". Please remember that Advent is still seen by the Church as a "Little Lent", and is an ideal spiritual time to celebrate this important sacrament of the Church.

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers the soul of +Luke Carruth who passed away suddenly while at work more than a week ago prior to Thanksgiving. His Funeral Mass was celebrated this past Wednesday at Holy Rosary with the burial of his cremated remains at a later time. Our deepest sympathies go out to Bridget and her children during this time of great loss. May Luke, and all who have died, be granted the light of everlasting life. May he rest in peace.



Please also remember in your prayers the soul of Msgr. Robert Wyffels. "Fr. Bob" as he preferred to be called, served for many years as pastor at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye, Holy Trinity in Winsted and St. Michael's in Morgan. Father also believed that a parish was not a parish unless it had a Catholic School attached to it. Hard working, he rarely took a day off and rarely would you see him without his Roman collar on. I served for one year (after my summer at Holy Rosary) as a young priest, teaching in the high school. His funeral Mass was held this past Tuesday at Holy Redeemer in Marshall. Blessed be his memory!

Also remember in your prayers the soul of +Richard "Pike" Kozitza who passed away on Monday, November 24th at Pathstone Living. Our sympathies to Richard's family. May he too rest in everlasting peace.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Advent Bake Sale Following Masses – Social Hall*

Monday, December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patronal Feast Day

**Holy Day of Obligation*

8:40 am – Rosary in Church

**9:00 am – Mass – +Phyllis Brunner*

9:15 am – NO Bible Study for month of December

**5:15 pm – Mass – +Dan Stefacek*

Tuesday, December 9: Saint Juan Diego

Cuauhtlatotzin

8:10 am – Rosary in Church

8:30 am – Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 10: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church

8:30 am – Mass – +Pat Nelson

*1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Sewing Group – Lower Level
Parish Center*

6:00 pm – Parish Choir Practice

4 pm, 6 pm, 7:15 pm – Faith Formation

Thursday, December 11: Saint Damasus I, Pope

10:15 am – Mass – Pathstone Living – +Thomas A. Schaezner

11:30 am – Ministerial Meeting (Fr. Attends)

4:30 pm – Trustee Meeting – Loyola Schools

7:30 pm – Pre-Baptism Class – Conf. Room 1

6:00 – 9:00 pm – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:10 am – Rosary in Church

8:30 am – Mass – +Katherine E. Guertin (Osuna)

*12:30 pm – Mankato Area Priest Meeting – St. John’s
(Fr. Attends)*

Saturday, December 13: Saint Lucy, Virgin and

Martyr

4:30 pm – Rosary in Church

**5:00 pm – Mass – +Ike Kennedy*

Sunday, December 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent

7:30 am – Rosary in Church

8:00 am – Mass – +Alvin, Babe, Jack Gosch

9:30 am – Rosary in Church

10:00 am – Mass – People of the Parish

Liturgical Roles – December 13-14

Lectors

5:00 pm: Maggie Bennet & JoAnn Borchert

8:00 am: Linda Hiniker & Cathy Neve

10:00 am: Mark Traxler & Chris Cain

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm Kathy Frederickson, Rick Gruber

Paul Stevens, Dan Gowanlock

Karen Winters, Rebecca Gruenes

8:00 am: Jim Theuninck, Craig Amundson

Arlyce Anderson, Margaret Ayers

Peter Backes, Gene Brandt

10:00 am: Tim McGowan, Marsha Murphy

Mike & Diane O’Dea

Darlene Schorn, Curt Stanke

Altar Servers

5:00 pm: Riley & Reid Gruenes, Mitchell Bigaouette

8:00 am: David, Teresa, Tony Weber

10:00 am: Sheamus & Elias Westerman, Jack Roering

Presentation of Gifts

Confirmation Candidates & Family

5:00 pm: Cole Hunstad & Family

8:00 am: Luke Kolars & Family

10:00 am: Noah Erickson & Family

Ushers

5:00 pm: Blaine Kolstad, David Kreuzer

Tom Rheume, Paul Stevens

8:00 am: Doug Homan, Carl Stevensmeier

Chris Sturm, Gary Zellmer

10:00 am: Bob Wegscheid, Jim Barker

Brandon Bernard, Steve Enderle

Music Ministry

5:00 pm: Tom Bachmann /Jeanne Makela

8:00 am: Corrine Ort, Kurt Schroeder/Vicki Galli

10:00 am: Lori Christiansen/Jeanne Makela

PRAYER CHAIN

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



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.

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

Monday	Lisa Davidson Family
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	Maynard & Shirley Williams Family
Thursday	Brian & Amy Noyes Family
Friday	Damian & Brittany Gruber Family
Saturday	Nicolas & Elma Ubongen Family
Sunday	Steven & Sharon Lenz Family

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, Paul Blaschko, Catherine Atchley

Readings for the Week

Mon: Genesis 3:9-15,20; Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12; Luke 1:26-38
Tues: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wed: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
Thurs: Act of the Apostles 20:17-18a,28-32,36; John 15:9-17
Fri: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab; Luke 1:39-47
Sat: Sirach 48:1-4,9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Sun: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

- Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.), Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical Care and Diocesan Audit:
 DUE: \$78,103.92
 Pd. To Date \$32,670.18
- Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.)
 DUE: \$27,708.85
 Pd. to Date: \$19,946.00
- Loyola Catholic School Assessment:
 DUE: \$238,000.00
 Pd. to Date: \$73,500.00

Total Assessments 2014-2015: \$ 343,812.77
 Total Paid to Date 2014-2015: \$ 126,116.18

By the end of December, in order to stay on target, we need to have paid in assessments almost \$172,000.00. We had a slow start as we paid very little in assessments in the months of July and August. Thank you!

K OF C COUNCIL #5551 NEWS

December 18 – General Meeting
 January 8 – Blood Drive



The Knights of Columbus will be selling fresh-cut Christmas trees and wreaths at the lot next to the Holy Rosary rectory. Hours at the lot will be Saturdays/Sundays 9:00 am – 7:00 pm and Weekdays 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Please check us out!!

VACATION RAFFLE RESULTS

The financial results are in for our Vacation Raffle that was recently held. In 2013, the gross receipts came to \$10,938.00. This year our gross receipts came to \$11,482.00, or an increase of \$544.00. Last year's expenses came to \$4,233.00, while this year's expenses came to \$4,181.25. As a result, this year's profits were up by \$584.75 from last year as this year the total profit came to \$7,300.75, as opposed to last year's profit came to \$6,716.00. Thank you so much for your generosity and support. A special word of thanks to Jim Theuninck and all that assisted him in making the Vacation Raffle another great success. God bless you all!



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"We are losing the attitude of wonder, contemplation, listening to creation. The implication of living in a horizontal manner [is that] we have moved away from God, we no longer read His signs."

-Pope Francis (June 5, 2013)

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING PRESCHOOL

The Christmas Program will be in the gym in the Parish Center, on December 14th just after the 10:00 am Mass. All are welcome!

FAITH FORMATION – GRADES 1-11

Two Friendly Reminders:

1. Our last class for the year will be December 10th. There will be no Elementary Christmas Pageant this year. Students will have their option of Advent Activities, treat & carols or in the classroom with their teachers' plans. Classes will resume on January 7th.
2. There will be no Ash Wednesday Teachers' Retreat this year. Regular classes will be held for the students that day.



LOYOLA CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

One of the many gifts that Catholic schools offer is to be able to immerse our parish children in the liturgical season. As we now anticipate the celebration of Christmas, we are reminded during the season of Advent that spiritual preparation is important.

Our students participate in Advent prayer, music and service activities that highlight the power of this holy season.

We thank you for your prayerful support.

Fr. Robert Schneider
President and Chaplain

THANK YOU KNIGHTS

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for taking on the task of decorating my front door of the rectory with a wreath, trees, evergreen bows and lights. I have never had such a festive and well-decorated front door. In fact, it is decorated so well, the front door is not usable! That is perfectly fine. Thank you Knights for braving the cold and for your "bargain" decorating! It is greatly appreciated!

ECHO FOOD SHELF

We set aside the 2nd weekend of each month to help support our local Food Shelf for those among us who are in need. You are welcome to bring donations, cash or items and put them in the containers. Your help is greatly appreciated and all gifts are tax deductible. Thanks for all that you do to reach out to others in need!



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE HOLY ROSARY WEBSITE LATELY?

www.holyrosarynorthmankato.com

Top Ribbon:

- **“Bulletin”, “Mass Schedule”, & “Calendar” Buttons:** Here you will find links to the Bulletin, Mass Schedule, and Calendar.

Right-hand column:

- **Today’s Readings:** Click on the day and the readings will come right up.
- **Advent in 2 Minutes:** Click on the Advent Wreath for a quick review of the purpose of Advent.
- **“Like” us on Facebook:** you can do this immediately below the wreath, or you can go to Facebook by clicking on the **f** in the upper right-hand corner of the website.
- **Vatican News and Catholic News Service:** The items under each of these headings can change throughout the day. What you see is a kind of headline and then the beginning of a sentence. If you click on the headline you will get a longer story. There are a variety of items that can be read (sometimes audio also) that contain full statements and not just media blurbs that are heard on the radio or TV.
- **Links:** This section will lead you to a wide variety of material, including the website of the Diocese of New Ulm, Saint of the Day, Daily (Mass) Readings, Catholic Directory of Catholic Churches (if you are traveling at any time of the year) and more.

Left-hand column:

- **Calendar:** This will show upcoming Rosary and Masses.
- **Documents:** Here you will find the various ministry schedules.
- **Twitter:** can also be accessed by clicking on the bird in the upper right-hand corner of the website

Middle column:

- **Sunday Liturgy:** Click on the button “Prepare for Sunday”, there is an abundance of information about and reflections on the Sunday Readings here in the form of brief articles. There is also always a prayer-poem that pulls the readings together.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK



Holy Rosary is now on Facebook. Please check out the site and “Like us” – follow the link from our website –

www.holyrosarynorthmankato.com.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA

A DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE



The Diocese of New Ulm is hosting an event to open the Year for Consecrated Life. All are invited, especially youth and families. The event will take place on Sunday, December 7th from 11:00 am – 4:30 pm at the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Convent. Activities include Mass with the Bishop, Lunch with the Sisters, Convent tours/Open Gym with the Sisters, “Sisters Got Talent” Live Entertainment, and Holy Hour with Vespers at the Cathedral. To RSVP for lunch or for more information, contact Sr. Anna at aswanson@dnu.org or 507-233-5320 or go to www.dnu.org.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

All families, especially those with children, are invited to attend an Advent Prayer Service with Bishop John M. LeVoir on Sunday, December 14. The service is at 2:00 pm in Winsted at the Church of the Holy Trinity. This service

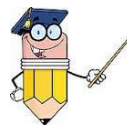


is designed to help us focus on Advent and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, centered on the birth of Jesus. Families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their home nativity set. The figure will be blessed by Bishop LeVoir individually as families come forward in procession. There will be a blessing of families and expectant mothers as they prepare for Jesus’ birth in their hearts. A “swaddling clothes” collection (blankets, sleepers, layette items, etc.) will be taken for babies in need and given to Friends of San Lucas, area Birthright Centers, or First Choice Pregnancy Services. Cash donations will be taken to First Choice Pregnancy Services in New Ulm. For more information, contact the diocesan evangelization and catechesis offices at 507-233-5325.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Theresa House and Welcome Inn are hoping you and your family will reach out to one of their homeless or at-risk families this holiday season. Please contact Partners for Affordable Housing’s Volunteer Coordinator, Onnie, at 387-2115 for details. Opportunities include fulfilling the holiday wishes of a homeless child or family as well as helping wrap and tag Christmas gifts on Wednesday evening December 10th or Tuesday evening December 16th. Thanks for your help.

READING & MATH TUTORS NEEDED



Interested in tutoring children in reading or math? The Good Counsel Learning Center tutors K – 12 students in reading or math for an hour after school between 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The Center is in need of qualified teachers. For further information, call Sr. Dorothy Zeller at 389-4229.

CELEBRATING THE SEASONS

River Valley Catholic Community Presents “Celebrating the Seasons”. There will be a complete chili dinner followed by an Advent/Christmas Program with Scripture and Music. The evening will take place on Wednesday, December 10th. Chili dinner will be from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Scripture & Music will be at 7:00 pm. Suggested donation is \$8.00 for adult, \$5 for child, \$25 family max. Sponsored by Mankato Area Catholic Churches, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Loyola Catholic School and the Knights of Columbus.



BIRTHRIGHT OPEN HOUSE



We love them both...

You are cordially invited to attend the Open House for Birthright of Mankato at our new location. Birthright has been blessed with an ideal location, adequate and welcoming space, and a landlord who shares our philosophy that “It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every baby to be born.” In appreciation for your support of our work, we’d like to invite you to celebrate our new location and get updates on the happenings since we moved in September, and plans for the future. Please join us on Sunday, December 7th from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at 330 Stadium Road, Suite 201B, Mankato, MN (Second floor of Jake’s Stadium Pizza. Park in back, enter back outer door, use stairs or elevator to second floor).

DINNER AND BAKE SALE

Catholic United Financial and St. Mary’s Church in Sleepy Eye are hosting a Dinner and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 14 serving from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Dinner includes Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, carrots, coleslaw, dessert, and beverage. Carry-outs available. Cost will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 11 and under. All proceeds will be donated to the Parish Education Program plus a Catholic United Financial grant of up to \$1,000. Please come help us out!