



From the Pastor's Desk:

*“Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing is impossible for God.”*  
 -St. Luke

“Happy Advent!” It sounds strange to read those words as so much of the world has been wrapped up in Christmas. When Christmas Day finally arrives, people will already be gearing up for the after-Christmas sales.

I recall a few years ago coming back to the parish after being at home on Christmas Day. As I was driving on Highway 212, I already saw a couple of Christmas trees laying on the curve on Christmas night.

It is not “impossible” to keep the spiritual watch of Advent. My home right now is pretty well void of anything Christmas. Hopefully, by the weekend, I will start to see if I still have the energy of putting up a tree, after decorating the church for numerous hours.

Part of the theme of “Advent Watching” comes out loud and clear in this familiar gospel that we hear again this weekend even though we heard it on the Holy Day of Obligation, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. There must have been for both Mary and Elizabeth a great sense of “Advent Awe” while watching and waiting for these two holy children to be born, as first-time mothers.

In these final days of the Advent season we can still be spiritually “alert” and “watchful” when it comes to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There are two penance services this Sunday at St. Joseph the Worker and at Holy Rosary. I have also scheduled a couple of evenings at 7:00 P.M. for individual confessions as long as there are penitents. But in order to go to confession, we need to be “spiritually alert”. **FOR THE HOLIER WE ARE, THE MORE ATTENTIVE WE BECOME TO OUR OWN SINS AND OUR SINFUL NATURE. THE LESS HOLY WE BECOME, THE MORE WE WILL BE ATTENTIVE TO THE SINS AND FAILINGS OF THOSE AROUND US.**

Back in the 300’s, Saint Ephrem, a deacon of the Church wrote in the spirit of Advent about the importance of keeping a spiritual watch over our souls and avoiding sin. This is what he wrote in part: *“Keep watch; when the body is asleep nature takes control of us, and what is done is not done with our will but by force, by the impulse of nature. When deep listlessness takes possession of the soul, for example, faintheartedness or melancholy, the enemy*

*overpowers it and makes it do what it does not will. The force of nature, the enemy of the soul, is in control.”*

Let’s not get ahead of ourselves (spiritually speaking) and savor these final moments of the Advent season. May we remain watchful and ready to the end of the season. Take a step in faith and come to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, if it has been a few years. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! Do not delay!

Rev. Paul van de Crommert  
 Pastor

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Adult (144)	\$ 7,051.00
Electronic Giving	1,319.75
Junior	56.29
Plate	263.25
School Rent	327.00
Church Lines	415.00
Votive Candles	55.45
Christmas Flower/Decoration Offering	856.00
Christmas	334.00
Holy Day (Immaculate Conception)	90.00
Liturgy Supplies	359.28
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,127.02</b>

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

**Special Collections**

Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 596.00
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**Stewardship**

As we are in the final moments of the Advent Season, I ask for your generous support as we come to celebrate the Feast of Christmas. The Christmas collection is arguably the largest collection that is taken up in the entire year, with Easter being a close second. We ask for your generosity as you have been doing with such zeal these past months. The parish has many expenses and we continue to chip away at our Diocesan and school assessments.

Attached to this bulletin is an envelope for a second collection we will be taking at the Christmas Masses. It will help to defray our assessments that are still in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Just a few extra dollars will help us get to the half-way point of \$172,000.00 by December 31<sup>st</sup>! This stewardship goal is within reach. Thanks again for your great stewardship!

**Thank You – Altar Cloths**



We are grateful to an anonymous benefactor who has graciously donated the two new linen altar cloths that will adorn our high altar as well as the main altar of sacrifice this Christmas time and throughout the year. God is blessing us with these wonderful souls that are covering the various needs of our church and parish as they arise. Thank you so much!

**Welcome New Holy Rosary Parishioners**



Since the start of the fiscal year or July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2014, Holy Rosary parish has welcomed 25 new families to our parish families. That is just GREAT! This week we welcome in a special way 4 households that have joined our ever growing parish family. These families include 1.) James Decker, 2.) Tara Hanson and her two sons Colton and Cale, 3.) Eric Masters and Tanya Perez, as well as 4.) Elaine Wolf. Welcome home to our parish family! We are glad to have you with us!

**Thank You – Christmas Flowers and Decorations**



You did a marvelous job in responding for our need for Christmas flowers and Christmas decorations. As I stated, we are starting largely from “scratch”, but a good deal of what we are doing this year we will again be able to use next year. To date, we have collected a total of \$2,824.85. Although many of the bills have still yet to come in after Christmas, I can confidently say that the monies received will more than cover our expenses. Again, thank you for your great generosity. The Worship Committee and I feel the pressure of making sure that what we set up in the sanctuary, will equal to your great donations.

As I am writing the bulletin, we are putting the finishing touches on the memorial flyer that will be handed out at the four Christmas Masses. Please make sure to take one from the ushers as you leave church.

**Lost and Found**



A set of brown-framed eye glasses were found in church recently. If you have lost a pair of glasses, please call the parish office during office hours.

We have also recently found a set of keys on a simple key ring. If you have lost your keys, perhaps we have them. Again, please call the parish office during office hours.

**Bulletin Printing:**



Many of you may have noticed the changes that our parish bulletin has undergone these past few months. Thank you to the many of you that have complimented in the affirmative, about your appreciation with the new changes. However, going to a better grade paper and a more expansive bulletin, requires more expense. Paragon Printing, which is the publisher of our bulletin, does the production of our bulletin largely at cost. At this point the parish relies on the businesses and organizations to cover the cost of the weekly bulletin. If you have a business and would be willing to advertise your services on the back of the bulletin, please contact Paragon Publishing at 507-345-1297 or e-mail at [paragon@hickorytech.net](mailto:paragon@hickorytech.net). Thank you for your consideration.

**Liturgical Calendars**



Recently, the Church liturgical calendars were set out at the church entrances. If you have not picked one 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.

**K of C Council #5551 News**

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



\* The Red Cross blood drive on January 8 is from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm in church lower hall. Donors are needed.

**Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



We wish a Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Frances Neubert on December 28<sup>th</sup>!!!! Congratulations!!!

**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.



During Advent, students at Loyola Catholic School brought a greater meaning to Christmas through their band concerts (Grades 5-12), High School Choir concert, and Christmas Choir concerts and programs (Pre-K through Grade 8). Students also raised funds and purchased food and clothing for our Christmas Basket Families and contributed infant items to Birthright. We're grateful to be able to talk so openly about Christ and to bring Christ to others through our prayers, music and service.

We're grateful to all who volunteer their time for Loyola; serving in the lunchroom, and classrooms, supervising on the playground, volunteering for our many fundraising projects, Christmas luncheons, and other special projects. Thank you to our donors for your generosity throughout the year, to the parents who choose and support Loyola, and to all who pray for us. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

### Sunday, January 4th, 2015



Start the new year out right – spend some quality time renewing your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are January 9-11 in Bismarck, February 6-8 in Buffalo, February 13-15 in

Windom, February 20-22 in Fargo, March 20-22 in Baxter. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [southmnwwme.org](http://southmnwwme.org) or contact John & Mary Beth at [applications@southmnwwme.org](mailto:applications@southmnwwme.org) or 507-838-8178.

### Readings for the Week

**Mon:** 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1: 46-56  
**Tues:** Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24, Luke 1: 57-66  
**Wed:** Isaiah 62: 1-5, Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25, Matthew 1:1-25  
**Thurs:** Isaiah 52:7-10 (16 a-b-c), Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-8  
**Fri:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22  
**Sat:** 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:1a, 2-8  
**Sun:** Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 (17b), Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Luke 2:22-40

### 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>	Jeff & Jodi Egeland Family
<b>Tuesday</b>	No Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	Justin & Jessi McCollum
<b>Thursday</b>	Amy Olson Family
<b>Friday</b>	Rachel Roemer Family
<b>Saturday</b>	Marc & Shannon Zika Family
<b>Sunday</b>	Mary Lindberg 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, George Holzerland



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

Marilyn Rieff, Shirleen Gulden, Jan Nelson & Jan Brumm

**Thank You - Diocesan Ministries Appeal**

**WE DID IT!** It is pretty “awesome” that in the span of just three weeks we were able to achieve this large Diocesan Ministries Appeal goal of \$27,708.85 and beyond. We had the largest number of families participating from a single parish in our diocese with 213 households participating. There are many parishes in our Diocese that have smaller amounts and would certainly like to be in the situation that we are in! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all of you that have given either large or small amounts.

After the 10:00 A.M. Mass, in which I had announced again that we were at 97% of our goal and needed an additional \$867.85; a most gracious couple came to me and told me that they would write a check before they left the church in the amount of \$1,000.00! Praise the Lord! Since then, I was informed by staff on Tuesday evening that we went way beyond the goal according to the Diocesan website. At this point we are at 152% of our goal or \$42,221.00 as the grand total. You folks are unbelievable!!! In the months ahead, we will apply the overrun to our two other assessments. **GOOD JOB HOLY ROSARY! THANKS SO MUCH!!! Merry Christmas early!**

**Thought for the Week**

*“The sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true ‘spiritual resurrection,’ restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God.”*

*-Catechism of the Catholic Church*

**“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](http://www.holyrosarynorthmankato.com)

**PRAYER CHAIN**

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

**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 \$32,670.18

2. Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.)

DUE: \$27,708.85

Pd. to Date: \$42,221.00

(\*We are at 152% of our goal! This is unbelievable! YEA!!!)

3. Loyola Catholic School Assessment:

DUE: \$238,000.00

Pd. to Date: \$75,500.00

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Total Assessments 2014-2015: \$ 343,812.77

Total Paid to Date 2014-2015: \$ 150,391.18

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I am so thankful that after three weeks appeal, we have achieved and surpassed our D.M.A. goal by so much! I was in shock when the staff told me on Tuesday evening how well we did beyond 150%! Thank you! More than 200 hundred households gave this year which is substantially higher than in previous years! To stay on target with our assessments and to be at the 50% mark, we will need to have paid off \$171,906.38 by December 31<sup>st</sup>. That means that before the end of this month, we need to take in/pay off \$21,515.21. That is another tall stewardship order. I have confidence that we can do it. A generous Christmas collection will allow us to keep up and stay on target. Thanks!

**Advent Penance Services - THIS WEEKEND**

I saw a good number of our Holy Rosary people at the two Penance Services last weekend at St. John’s and at the Church of St. Peter and Paul. I am anticipating that many of you might have an open heart and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this weekend, if it has been a long time. The times of the two services this Sunday are:

\* **Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>; St. Joseph 3:00 P.M.**

\* **Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>; Holy Rosary 5:00 P.M.**

I have also scheduled a couple of private times on Monday and Tuesday that are listed in the coming events. I will remain in the confessional as long as there are penitents. (Please come in through the front doors or through the handicapped access on Monday and Tuesday.) 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

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, December 21: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

\*Parish Choir Practice following 10:00 am Mass

#### Penance Services

\* St. Joseph the Worker 3:00 P.M.

\* Holy Rosary Church 5:00 P.M.

\*6:30 pm Staff & Volunteer Appreciation Party  
Church Social Hall (invitation only)

### Monday, December 22: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church

8:30 am – Mass – + Ricky Gish

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

7:00 pm Individual Sacrament of Confession.

(\*Please use front doors or handicapped access doors. I will stay in the confessional as long as there are penitents.)

### Tuesday, December 23: Advent Weekday

8:10 am – Rosary in Church

8:30 am – Holy Communion Service

7:00 pm Individual Sacrament of Confession.

(\*Please use front doors or handicapped access doors. I will stay in the confessional as long as there are penitents.)

### Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Day

\*No a.m. Mass

\*Parish Office Hours 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

4:00 pm Vigil Mass for Christmas – Living & Deceased  
Members of Wadekamper & Mohs Families

\*9:30 - Carols with Parish Choir

10:00 pm – Solemn Evening Mass of Christmas  
+ Edwin Goettlicher

### Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day

7:30 am - Rosary in Church

8:00 am – Christmas Mass + Pat Nelson

9:30 am – Rosary in Church

10:00 am – Christmas Mass + Norbert Gag

### Friday, December 26 Feast of St. Stephen the

#### Martyr

(\*Parish Office Closed)

\*No a.m. Mass

### Saturday, December 27: The Holy Family of Jesus,

#### Mary & Joseph

4:30 pm – Rosary in Church

\*5:00 pm – Mass – + People of the Parish

Baptism after mass: Mason Masters

### Sunday, December 28: The Holy Family of Jesus,

#### Mary & Joseph

7:30 am – Rosary in Church

8:00 am – Mass – + Wally Zellmer

9:30 am – Rosary in Church

10:00 am – Mass – George & Margaret Maurer Families

\*No Morning Pre-School

## Liturgical Roles – December 27-28

### Lectors

5:00 pm: Eileen Wadekamper & Dan Gowanlock

8:00 am: Mark Traxler & Michelle Fischer

10:00 am: Jennifer Spaude & Chris Cain

### Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm: Maggie Bennett, Patrick & Wanda Hull,  
Nicole Hull, Mary Beth Nygaard, Paul  
Stevens

8:00 am: Gene Brandt, Steve Caron, Mark Traxler  
Cathy Neve, Craig Amundson, Arlyce  
Anderson

10:00 am: Dennis Haga, Tom Koch, Tim McGowan,  
Curt Stanke, Kathy Ulman, Brent Friedrich

### Altar Servers

5:00 pm: Reid Gruenes, Riley Gruenes, Zachary  
Eggersdorfer

8:00 am: Grace Ellingworth, Ben Ellingworth,  
Carson Fischer

10:00 am: Jordan Moore, Jaiden Moore, Rachel  
Kohlmeyer

### Presentation of Gifts

#### Confirmation Candidates & Family

5:00 pm: Katie Eggersdorfer & Family

8:00 am: David Weber & Family

10:00 am: Brennan Corbett & Family

### Ushers

5:00 pm: Bob Meyer, Tom Rheaume, Larry Bennett,  
Scott Smith

8:00 am: Bill Fasnacht, Ben Levandowski, Chris  
Sturm, Gary Zellmer

10:00 am: Shawn Reynolds, Tom Kohls, Steve Fink,  
Glen Vershelde

### Music Ministry

5:00 pm: Julie Gruber/Jeanne Makela

8:00 am: Lori Christiansen/Jeanne Makela

10:00 am: Kathy Jo Johns, Myra Schroepfer, Nancy  
Evans, Tom Bachmann/Vicki Galli



## Liturgical Roles for Christmas Masses

### Lectors

Dec. 24  
4 PM Maggie Bennett & Jim Theuninck  
10 PM Marsha Murphy & Tim McGowan

Dec. 25  
8 AM Mike Brumm & Dolores Portz  
10 AM David Lamm & JoAnn Borchert

### Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 24  
4 PM Jim Theuninck, Maggie Bennett, Eileen Wadekamper, Brian Eggersdorfer, Dawn Matz, Rebecca Gruenes  
10 PM Kathy Frederickson, Jackie Cesario, Sherry Henrickson, Gretchen Ezzell, Patrick & Wanda Hull

Dec. 25  
8 AM Terri Compton, Cathy Neve, Craig Amundson, Arlyce Anderson, Peter Backes, Liz Schroeder  
10 AM Darlene Schorn, Mike & Diane O'Dea, Curt Stanke, Kathy Ulman, John Kuchinka

### Altar Servers

Dec. 24  
4 PM John Fink, Larkin Hansen, Elaine Adams  
10 PM Dan Collins, Jonathan Hull, Sheamus Westermann, Elias Westermann, Mitchell Bigaouette

Dec. 25  
8 AM Jake Homan, Tony Weber, David Weber  
10 AM Hailey Barker, Jolee Slechta, Mitchell Bigaouette

### Gift Bearers

Dec. 24  
4 PM Tom Wyrowski Family  
10 PM Brandon Bernard Family

Dec. 25  
8:00 am Gary Zellmer & Family  
10:00 am Steve Kaiser & Family

### Ushers

Dec. 24  
4 pm Larry Bennett, Doug & Steve Helget, Brent Friedrichs, Paul Stevens  
10 pm Brandon Bernard, Anne Richardson, Paul Stevens, Tom Rheaume

Dec. 25  
8 am Chris Sturm, Carl Steffensmeier, Gary Zellmer, Bill Fasnacht  
10 am Bob Stachon, Chuck Schoettler, Jim Barker, John Jagerson

### Music Ministry

Dec. 24  
4 PM Kathy Jo Johns, Myra Schroepfer, Nancy Evans, Tom Bachmann/Vicki Galli  
10 PM Parish Choir/Elaine Wolf/Sister Adelyn  
Dec. 25  
8 AM Corinne Ort, Kathy Jo Johns, Iris Clark, Myra Schroepfer, Julie Gruber /Jeanne Makela  
10 AM Youth Choir/Kathy Jo Johns/Jeanne Makela



### Which Christmas Mass Shall I Attend?



There is no question that the early Mass at 4:00 P.M. is a Mass of ease for parents with young families as well as for those advanced in years that have a difficult time in the mornings. **I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE ABLE, TO ATTEND THE MASS AT 10:00 P.M. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND SOLEMN MASS AS WE BLESS THE CRIB AND THE FULL CHOIR IS PRESENT.**

(We have all of our servers lined up for the 10:00 P.M. Mass, which maybe is a sign that the faithful are prioritizing this important Christmas liturgy.) I was always taught that there are special graces that come to us when we attend the liturgy that is nearest the time of the Savior's birth. Our small sacrifice to come to this later Mass will not go unnoticed by our Divine Lord.