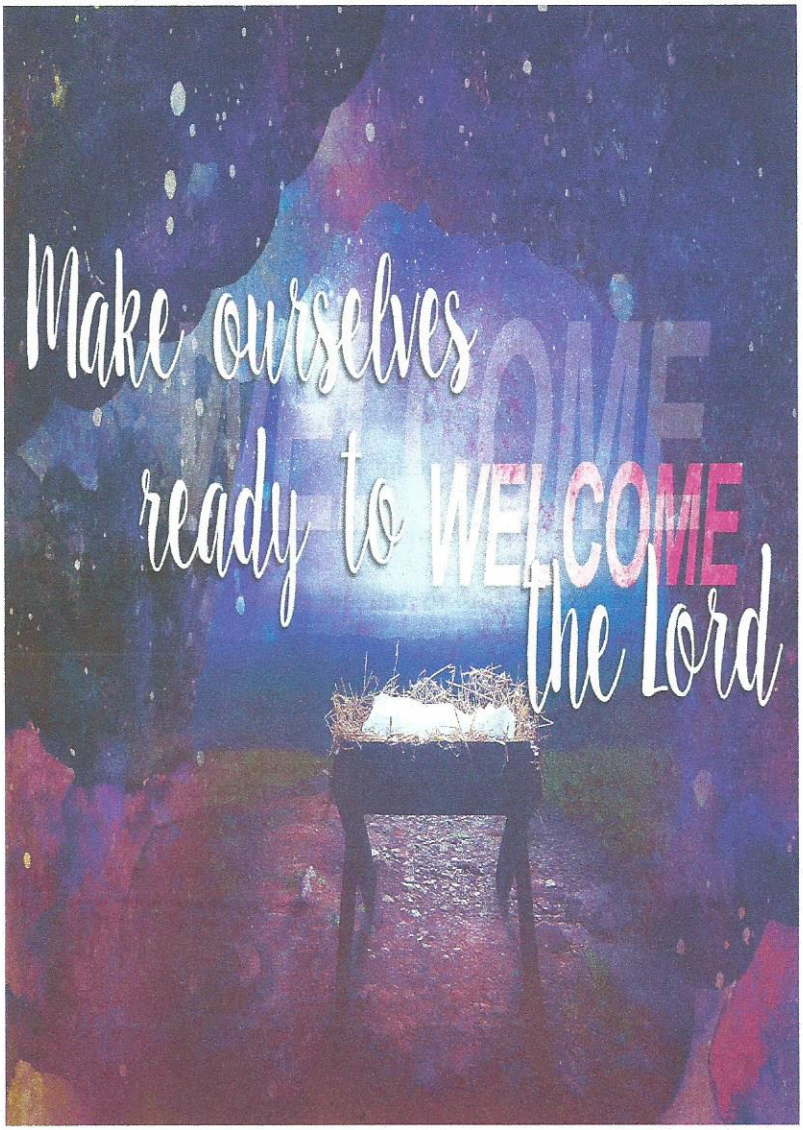
ST. JOSEPH AND ST. JOHN NEPOMUK CATHOLIC CHURCHES

RACINE, WISCONSIN · NOVEMBER 27, 2016



PASTORAL STAFF
Fr. Steven K. Varghese, SAC, Pastor
Kathleen Cook, Pastoral Associate/Administrative Assistant - SJN
Dan O'Connell, Director of Faith Formation - SH, SJN and SJ
Benjamin Horvat, Director of Music and Liturgy - SJN and SJ
David Kirkpatrick, Accompanist/Organist - SJN
Emily Knippel, St. Joseph School Principal
Michael Reth, Business Manager - SJ
Deanne Koleske, Parish Secretary - SJ
Jeanmarie Diehn, St. Joseph School Secretary
Mary Lee Odders, Bulletin Editor - SJ
Russ Blaha, Maintenance - SJ
Thomas Quiroz and Amilia Fletcher, Maintenance - SJN

MASS SCHEDULE
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. - SJN
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. - SJ
Saturday Mass of Anticipation, 4:30 p.m. - SJN and SJ
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - SJ
9 a.m. - SJN

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays: 3:30-4:15 p.m. or anytime by appointment - SJ

TRUSTEES
Dan Peterson - SJN
Suzanne Yde - SJN
John Gates - SJ
Pete Koleske - SJ

COMBINED PASTORAL COUNCIL
Patrick Decker, Chair

CONTACT INFORMATION
St. John Nepomuk Church; 1903 Green Street; Racine, WI
Office/Mailing: 700 English Street; Racine, WI 53402-4799
Office business hours: Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon
Friday, closed
Office phone: 262-634-5647 and fax: 262-634-1436
e-mail: stjohnnepomuk@wi.rr.com
Religious Education Class Absence: 262-634-0703

St. Joseph Church; 1533 Erie Street; Racine, WI
Office/Mailing: 1532 N. Wisconsin Street; Racine, WI 53402-4805
Office business hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Office phone: 262-633-8284 and fax: 262-633-8285
e-mail: info@st-joes.org website: st-joes.org
Preschool: 262-633-0112
Religious Education Class Absence: 262-633-2403
School Office: 1525 Erie Street; Racine, WI 53402-4830
School Office phone: 262-633-2403 and fax: 262-633-4423
website: sjsracine.org
Youth Ministry Office: 262-633-9005

Join us on Facebook at St. Joseph Parish Racine to access archived bulletins and more.

LEGACY GIFT
Please remember St. Joseph Church or St. John Nepomuk Church in your estate planning. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Is 4:2-6/Ps 122/Mt 8:5-11
8 a.m. **NO Mass**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 Mother of Perpetual Help
Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Lk 10:21-24 **Devotions**
8 a.m. - **SJN** + Jerome Groulik

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 St. Andrew (F)
Rom 10:9-18/Ps 23/Mt 4:18-22
* 8 a.m. - **SJ** + Barbara Cramer

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27
8 a.m. - **SJN** + Donald Zahalka

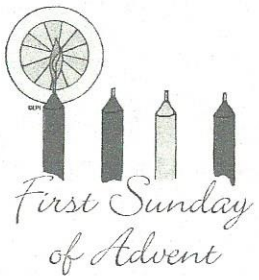
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 Anointing of the Sick
Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31
8 a.m. - **SJ** - The Keefe and Lanser Families: Living and Deceased

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 St. Francis Xavier
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
8 a.m. - **SJ** + Ernest and Elaine Erbe

VIGIL OF SUNDAY
Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
4:30 p.m. - **SJ** + Matt Triggiano and Diana Triggiano Neibaur
- Our Parishioners: Living and Deceased
4:30 p.m. - **SJN** - Our Parishioners: Living and Deceased

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 a.m. - **SJ** + Ann Covelli
9 a.m. - **SJN** + Sr. Dorothy Louise Wortmann, OLVM
10:30 a.m. - **SJ** + Jeremy DeMint

Key: **SJ** - St. Joseph Parish
SJN - St. John Nepomuk Parish
* Mass with St. Joseph School students



ST. JOHN NEPOMUK PARISH'S SANCTUARY CANDLE:
As we adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, please remember in faith,
THE LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUK PARISH.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH'S SANCTUARY LAMP:
As we adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, please remember in faith, **WILLIAM SCHRADER.**

Dear Parishioners,

The central focus of the season of **Advent is the coming of the Lord.** Advent comes from the Latin word **adventus**, meaning **"coming."** Advent is rich with symbols. The Scriptures are filled with images of light and darkness, cacophony and silence, waiting and fulfillment. On this First Sunday of Advent, we begin Liturgical Year A: the year of the Gospel of Matthew, and we use Cycle I for weekdays.

The color of this season is **deep purple**, reflecting the penitential and reflective nature of this season. Both the circular shape and evergreen of the **Advent wreath** suggest eternal and everlasting life.

The focus we have chosen for this season is **"Advent: Live in Hope and Be the Light."** Arrive a bit early at Mass each Sunday and look around your parish for the signs and symbols of the season. Pray and ask: How can I make this Advent a new beginning and sign of hope in my life? How can I bring hope to others? Surely then, the sign of **"hope"** will emerge in your life and you will be the light.

Begin your Advent by joining us at St. Joseph's Church Wednesday, November 30, at 6 p.m. for an **inspirational Advent Reflection evening** with speaker Mary Vogrinc and Christian recording artist Anna Nuzzo accompanied by Rich Sosa. Thank you to our St. Joseph and St. John Evangelization Committee for arranging this for our benefit.

Wishing you a blessed season of Advent,
Fr. Steve

We were able to distribute many Thanksgiving baskets to those in need because of your generosity. Thank you.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday's early publication deadlines, the November 19/20 and 26/27 collection figures for St. John's and St. Joseph's will be published in the December 4 bulletin. We regret any inconvenience.

St. Joseph's and St. John's collection envelopes are returned to the respective parish for accounting purposes, regardless of the collection in which they are submitted.

To be included in your 2016 parish financial support statement, your church support gifts must be received in the collection at Mass by Sunday, December 25; in your Parish Office no later than Thursday, December 29; or by mail Friday, December 30. St. John's and St. Joseph's Parish Offices will be closed Friday, December 30, and Monday, January 2.

ST. JOSEPH | ST. JOHN Evangelization Committee

You are invited to an Advent Reflection
Wednesday, November 30, at 6 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church

Bring your family and friends to a special evening of music, featuring Christian recording artist Anna Nuzzo assisted by Rich Sosa. Guest speaker is Mary Vogrinc, a Catholic lay evangelist who has made presentations worldwide combining inspiration and humor. Join us for an evening of music and inspiration for Advent with lots of humor sprinkled in. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Refreshments will follow.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES
Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. - St. Paul the Apostle Church
Tuesday, December 13, 1 p.m. - St. Lucy Church
Thursday, December 15, 7 p.m. - St. Rita Church

Join Archbishop Listecki in praying for peace and the family on his 8 p.m. daily rosary program on 100.1-FM.

The Food Pantry's current greatest needs are for peanut butter larger than 16 oz., canned fruit (no peaches), boxed potatoes and snacks. Thank you for all your donations! Two SJ volunteers are needed: one for Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. on December 14 and every fifth Wednesday beyond; and one for Thursdays, 9:45-11:45 a.m. on December 15 and every fifth Thursday beyond. One SJN volunteer is needed Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. on Nov. 29 and every fifth Tuesday thereafter. Duties: placing pre-filled bags of non-perishable items and optional items requested by clients into grocery carts and then the client's car. Please call Linda Meredith, 262-456-6035 (SJ) or John Brashaw, 639-7919 (SJN). Donations may be sent to St. Vincent de Paul Society; P.O. Box 44195; Racine, WI 53404. Make checks payable to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

St. John Nepomuk's 2017 Calendar Raffle calendars are available in St. Joseph and St. John Parish Offices. The $25 cost provides 365 chances of winning, as winners are re-entered into the weekly drawing. **Raffle calendars make great Christmas gifts.** Prizes include:

Monday-Saturday—$25	Fourth of July—$100
Sunday—$50	Thanksgiving—$100
New Year's Day—$100	Christmas—$500

They are available for sale **only until December 31, 2016!**

A Christmas Cookie Walk will be held in St. Joseph School cafeteria after all weekend Masses December 17 and 18. This is a grade 8 fundraiser for graduation. **Need Christmas bakery and cookies earlier?** St. Edward's Christmas Fair and Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. to fill your containers with cookies. St. Louis Parish Annual Holiday Cookie Walk and Bake Sale is Saturday, December 10, 2-5 p.m. featuring homemade Christmas cookies, pies, breads, turnovers, stollen (no citron or peel), and more.

The bulletin article deadline is noon Monday, November 28, for the December 4 bulletin. Please send written information to the Parish Office or info@st-joes.org. **Bulletins and inserts are archived** on Facebook at St. Joseph Parish Racine and **st-joes.org.**

If you wish to have Father visit your hospitalized loved one, please call your Parish Office with your request. The hospital no longer notifies the parish when a parishioner is admitted to the hospital. Thank you for your assistance.

The 2017 Mass intention calendars for St. Joseph and St. John Nepomuk parishes are open. A Mass stipend is $10. Please call your Parish Office to make arrangements.

A new crafting, knitting and crocheting group meets at St. Joseph's Parish Center on **first and third Mondays at 1 p.m.** Next on **Dec. 5**. Call Linda Meredith, 262-456-6035.

Senior Group of Sacred Heart, St. Joseph and St. John Nepomuk parishes meets in Sacred Heart's Haban Hall first and third Tuesdays. Next on Tuesday, **Dec. 6**, noon-3 p.m.

A Jesuit Retreat for Men at the Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Illinois December 2-4 offers retreat director Fr. O'Leary, director for the Wisconsin Province of the Jesuits, giving eight conferences. Leaving Racine Friday at 4 p.m.; returning Sunday noon. Please call Jim Poulsen, 638-8042.

Get your tickets now for "Appari†ion Hill," a movie with a message of faith, hope, and love and what comes after Medjugorje. One showing only Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 p.m., at Marcus Renaissance Cinema. Seating limited to 240; the first 100 receiving coupons for popcorn and a drink. Tickets: $13 or two for $25. Call Brian, 262-552-2556, or the Racine Marian Center, 634-1208 Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sold out in New Berlin and Madison. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Council #15659.

Mittenless kids need our help again. Children and their teachers appreciate it so much. The **Mitten Basket** will be in the back of St. Joseph Church. Thanks for your help in our cold weather.

Remembrance Wreaths are available from Catholic Cemetery Association of Racine. The 24" wreaths are delivered from no. Wisconsin ready to be placed on a tri-pod stand. Installed at Calvary, Holy Cross, Holy Family, and Old Holy Cross cemeteries. Cost: $30. Call their office at 639-1071.

Our advertiser dollars pay for our bulletin. Thank them when you patronize their business. Check our ads before the yellow pages. Our Advertiser of the Week: **Sanders Paint and Wallpaper**, 511-Sixth Street, 634-6735.

Please remember in your prayers our men and women in the uniformed services, especially those serving in the Middle East. We beg your protection and guidance for them, O Lord.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH, RACINE, WISCONSIN, believe the Church is the Living Body of Christ, in which we all share responsibility. As the unit of God's Family which fulfills this universal mission of the Church within our community, this parish unites in a spirit of stewardship to offer our time, talents and treasure to foster Catholic Education, and to care for the spiritual, intellectual, moral, and temporal needs of parish members.

Liturgical Roles for December 3 and 4

ACOLYTES

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Grace Liapis and Noah Liapis Nikos Brito (Cross)
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Luca Alvarado and Philip Weiglein Kelynn Adrian (Cross)
	10:30 a.m.	Ellie Rogers and Soledad Sandoval Christian Cervantes (Cross)

LECTORS

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Robert Wemmert
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Michael Iggulden
	10:30 a.m.	Linda O'Connell

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION CIBORIUM

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Mary Ellen Krezinski, Linda Von De Bur
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Lorraine Caspers and Genie Bosch
	10:30 a.m.	Catherine Gundlach, Pat Obernberger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION CHALICE

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	John Nielsen, Mona Swan, and Harold Von De Bur
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Wally Goebel, Betsy Tarczon, and Dave Tarczon
	10:30 a.m.	Doug Gundlach, Rita Lonergan, and Sandra Lindstrom

Dear Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and those being called to join either group,

An update for all current or inactive ministers and lectors, along with an intro. for those who wish to serve the parish and become a part of the ministry, will be held after 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 10, and also after 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 11. Please join us in church for the meeting time most convenient for you. Thank you!

Pat Carbonneau

Order poinsettia altar flowers for Christmas from St. Joseph's Boy Scout Troop 126. Order forms and the return box are on the ushers' table at the back of church. **Orders are due Sunday, December 4.**

Select a tag from the Christmas tree at the back of church and Be a Santa to a Senior! Pick an item to purchase from the senior's wish list, and gift wrap or bag it making sure the tag is visible. Return your gift to the provided box **by Monday, December 12.** Sponsored by Home Instead, which thanks you.

You are invited to the Christmas Concert by the Senior, Children's and Handbell Choirs of St. John's Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 11, at 7 p.m. Pre-concert music at 6:45 p.m. features guest organist Frederik M. Bach. All attending are invited to a reception in the school cafeteria afterwards.

This Week in Our St. Joseph Parish Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27
10 a.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet: Church
NO Religious Education classes: Sacred Heart
4:30-7:30 p.m. - Cheer and basketball practice: Gym
7 p.m. - A.A. meeting: MSMH
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28
3-4:30 p.m. - Basketball practice: Gym
6-7:30 p.m. - Basketball practice: Gym
6:30 p.m. - Boy Scout Committee meeting: MSMH
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
After 8 a.m. Mass - Mo. of Perpetual Help Devotions: St. John
3-4:30 p.m. - Basketball and cheer practice: Gym
4:30 p.m. - Rosary: Church
6-9 p.m. - Basketball and cheer practice: Gym
6:30 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop meeting: MSMH
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30
3-4:30 p.m. - Basketball practice: Gym
6 p.m. - Advent Reflection evening: St. Joseph
After presentation - Refreshments: MSMH
NO Adult Choir rehearsal
7:30-9 p.m. - Basketball practice: Gym
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
6 p.m. - St. John's and St. Joseph's Common Committee Meeting Night: MSMH
NO *Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom*: St. John Parish Center
6-7:30 p.m. - Basketball practice: Gym
7-8:30 p.m. - Adult Choir rehearsal: Church
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
6:45-7:45 a.m. - Men's Faith/Bible-sharing Grp.: Parish Center
8:30 a.m. - Buildings/Grounds Service meeting: Parish garages
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4
10 a.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet: Church
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Religious Ed., gr. 7-11: Sacred Heart
4:30-7:30 p.m. - Basketball and cheer practice: Gym
7 p.m. - A.A. meeting: MSMH

DECEMBER ALTAR LINEN: Mary Lee Odders

SANCTUARY LADIES: Saturday, December 3—Mary Lee Odders, Diane Peterson, and Barbara Schust

COLLECTION TELLERS: Weekend of December 3/4—Debbie Blaustein and Pat Mielke

Please direct prayer requests to the St. Joseph Prayer Chain Team by calling Lorraine Caspers at 639-1070.

St. Joseph's Sanctuary Ladies are in need of additional members for light cleaning duties in church. We have a new vacuum cleaner, too. Teams work Friday or Saturday morning for about an hour on a rotating schedule once every six weeks. Please call Rosa Flegel at 681-1539 for more information.

WE, THE PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUK CHURCH OF RACINE, WISCONSIN, believers in God and living members of the Body of Christ, through prayer and worship, will strive: to make good use of our gifts of time, talent and treasure and to pray for growth of our parish family and all people of God: to be open to the direction of the Holy Spirit by reaching out to all members of the community in a friendly and welcoming manner; to challenge all parishioners to become involved in the life of the parish, thus making St. John's a vibrant Christian community.

Liturgical Roles for December 3 and 4

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Anthony Sosa and Marcelo Sosa
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Emily Kaisler and Zachary Kaisler

LECTORS

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Jim Arens
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Linda Witek also Sacristan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION PLATE

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Peter Sisak
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Mike Stefka

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION CUP

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Jackie Morrow and Nancy Willing Pat Simanek Sacristan
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sharon Stefka and James Madala

We gratefully acknowledge this Memorial Gifts: $50 Memorial Fund in memory of Laura Ruby Hagen Hopper.

Due to early bulletin publication deadlines, the Building and Grounds project update will be in next week's bulletin. Please continue to use the monthly Green envelopes for our parish repairs.

Thank you to Matt and Frank Sisak for repairing the light posts and changing the light bulbs at the entrance of the church and parish center.

Come and join our Seasonal Choir. We need your voice! Advent-Christmas season rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. Many voices will make Advent and Christmas especially meaningful. Call David Kirkpatrick, 774-6963.

Due to early bulletin publication deadlines, the Calendar Raffle winners for the week of November 20 will be in next week's bulletin.

2017 Calendar Raffles make great gifts and only cost $25 each. You have 365 chances to win! **They can be purchased until December 31.** Money can be turned in to the Parish Office, given to the ushers on Sundays, or placed in the Offertory basket at Mass.

We will again have our Annual Christmas Gift Appeal for St. John Nepomuk Parish. It will run from December 2016 through January 31, 2017. **Your mailing will be coming soon.**

This Week in Our St. John Nepomuk Parish Family

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28
8 a.m. - Bulletin article deadline: Parish Office
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
After 8 a.m. Mass - Mo. of Perpetual Help Devotions: Church
Noon - Parish Office closes
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30
Noon - Parish Office closes
6 p.m. - Advent Reflection evening: St. Joseph
6:30-8 p.m. - Choir practice: Church
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
8:30 a.m.-noon - Arts and Crafts setup for Holiday Fair: Parish Center
6 p.m. - St. John's and St. Joseph's Common Committee Meeting Night: St. Joseph School cafeteria
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2
Parish Office closed
9 a.m.-2 p.m. - Christian Mothers' Holiday Fair: Parish Center
9 a.m.-2 p.m. - Czech Ornament Sale: Parish Center
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
9 a.m.-2 p.m. - Christian Mothers' Holiday Fair: Parish Center
9 a.m.-6 p.m. - Czech Ornament Sale: Parish Center
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4
8:30-11 a.m. - Czech Ornament Sale: Parish Center
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Religious Ed., gr. 7-11: Sacred Heart
7 p.m. - A.A. meeting: St. Joseph School cafeteria

The Christian Mothers and Altar Society's Holiday Fair, held in the Parish Center, will be open to the public **December 2 and 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** with many craft and Christmas items, assorted bakery, and a food basket raffle. Come early for the best selection.

Parishioners, we are requesting your bakery donations for the Holiday Fair bake sale. They can be brought to the Parish Center Thursday, December 1, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Friday, December 2, 8:30-9 a.m.,; and Saturday, December 3, 8:30-9 a.m. **We will also need non-perishable food items for the basket raffle.** All donations will be greatly appreciated!

Czech ornaments will be sold in the Parish Center Friday, December 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday, December 3, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, December 4, from 8:30-11 a.m. Come early for the best selection.

Christian Mothers' Craft Group will be selling dog biscuit wreaths for $5 each at our Holiday Fair in the Parish Center on December 2 and 3. **To pre-order, sample wreaths and order forms are by the Scrip tables, or you can call Darlene, 632-6753.** Thank you!

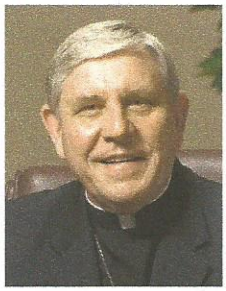
Watch for the **Giving Tree.** Information will be announced at Mass this weekend.

ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE

Proclaim Christ *and* Make Disciples *through the* Sacramental Life *of the* Church.

ignite · renew · energize · ignite · renew · energize · ignite · renew · energize

The Holy Season of Advent: New Year's Resolutions for Discipleship



Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki

With the coming of Advent, a new Church Year begins once again. This is not a random flip of the calendar page or the mundane marking of another year with the next sequential number. Advent is not about human "chronological time." Instead, it is what the biblical writers would call "Kairos Time." Advent is the fullness of time, the time when God acts, a time of call and decision. Advent is God's time!

Advent is inviting us to mark time differently. It is calling us to a conversion of heart where we recognize that our time is not our own! So Advent is the right and perfect opportunity to look at our lives and make our new year's resolutions for discipleship. What resolutions should be at the top of our list? We simply need to listen to the key people and themes within the Advent Gospels to find our way.

Resolution #1: Prepare to Meet Jesus Today

A stark theme of Advent is radical readiness – today and every day. The call of the season is to be "on watch," because we do not know the day or the hour when Christ will return. The Scriptures issue this haunting warning: "And so you be prepared because the Son of Man is coming at a time you do not expect" (Mt 24:44). We do not know when we will need to give an accounting for our lives. So let's live for heaven today through earnest prayer, Sacramental practice, right behavior, and a serving heart.

Resolution #2: Make Way for Jesus through Repentance

John the Baptist is the Advent prophet who challenges us to examine our hearts. He knows that, like the Pharisees and Sadducees of his day, we too can become self-righteous and self-satisfied. And when pride enters our hearts, we become closed off to Jesus. We need to open a door and that door is a repentant heart. John the Baptist sounds the call: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near" (Mt. 3:2). So, let's make a straight path for Jesus through participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

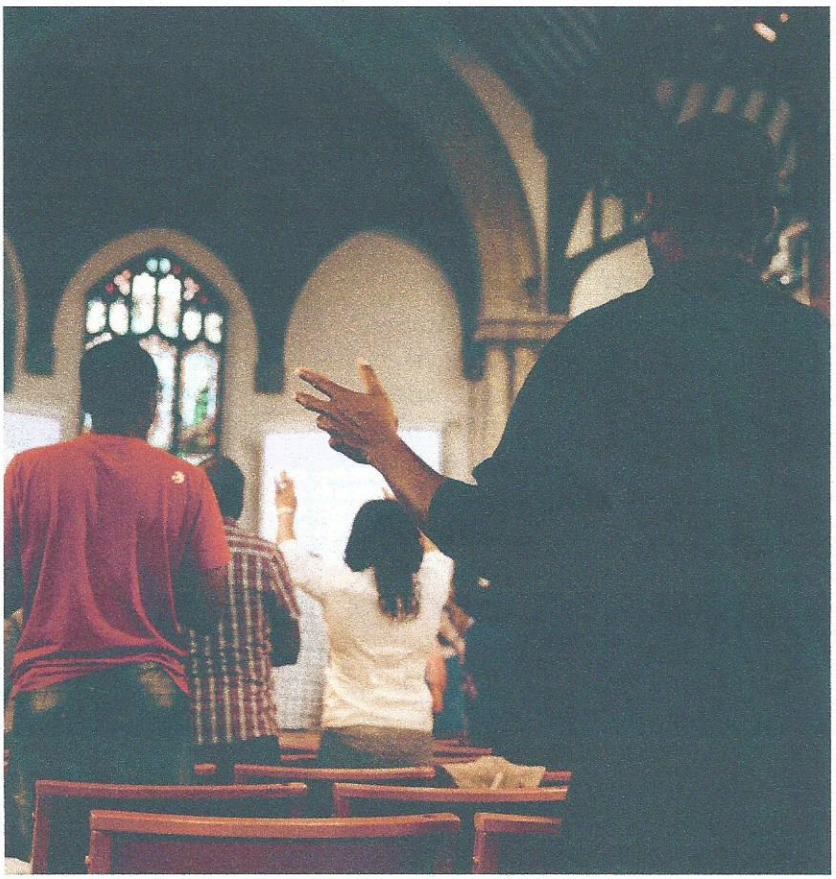
Resolution #3: Worship Jesus as the One Savior and Lord

Advent can easily become a season of excessive distractions, overwhelming busyness, and conflicting priorities. We can lose our focus on what, or more appropriately who, is the center and anchor for our lives. But Jesus eliminates all doubts about who is our one Lord and Savior: "Go announce to John what you hear and see. The blind see and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised and the poor have good news preached to

See ADVENT, Page 2

Archdiocese of Milwaukee – Church on the Move

We are to be a "Church on the move" and to "ignite, renew and energize" the archdiocese. This was Archbishop Listecki's message a little over two years ago at the conclusion of our archdiocesan Synod, which was a time of spiritual renewal and visioning for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



Someone recently recommended that we describe the Synod and the initiatives coming from the Synod as "a new way of doing Church."

We have been given a new mission statement to guide us as we go forward – "Proclaim Christ and Make Disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church." We would all do well to have this mission at the heart of everything we do, personally and as a parish. We would need to approach things differently if this really was the central focus in our lives and in our parishes.

The top priorities of the Synod focused on Evangelization and the Sunday Mass. Each of us is asked to look at ways we could be more hospitable as we encounter people at church. How can we prepare ourselves for Mass, to be in the right frame of mind to encounter Christ? How can we be welcoming to others and make others feel at home at Sunday Mass, especially those who are visiting, are "seekers" or are not "regulars" at Mass or our parish?

We often hear about "stewardship," but don't always connect it to becoming disciples and how living out our faith as followers of Christ, calls us to give ourselves to others. This entails giving of our time and sharing our gifts and seeing God's presence in everyday situations and the people we encounter. Stewardship was another main priority from the Synod and will be a stronger focus for our archdiocese in the upcoming next year.

The Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom was very apparent at the Synod gathering and it continues to be as we look at new ways of being a Church on the move.

ADVENT, from page 1

them" (MT. 11:5). So, let's bow down to Jesus, the Mighty Messiah, in lives of prayer and worship.

Resolution #4: Practice the Obedience of Mary and Joseph

Advent is the season celebrating the coming of the Savior, Jesus. God is up to something big! He is becoming flesh in Jesus to dwell among us, teach us the ways of the Kingdom, and die on the cross for our sins so that we can rise with him to new life. But all of this is predicated on Mary and Joseph saying yes to God's great plans. And in obedience they do just that. "Joseph awoke from sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took home his wife" (Mt. 1:24). So let's practice humble obedience to God's will in our daily lives.

A blessed Advent to you all!

ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE

Parishioners to Deaf Community: "You Belong Here!"

'Interpreting' Evangelization and the Sunday Mass

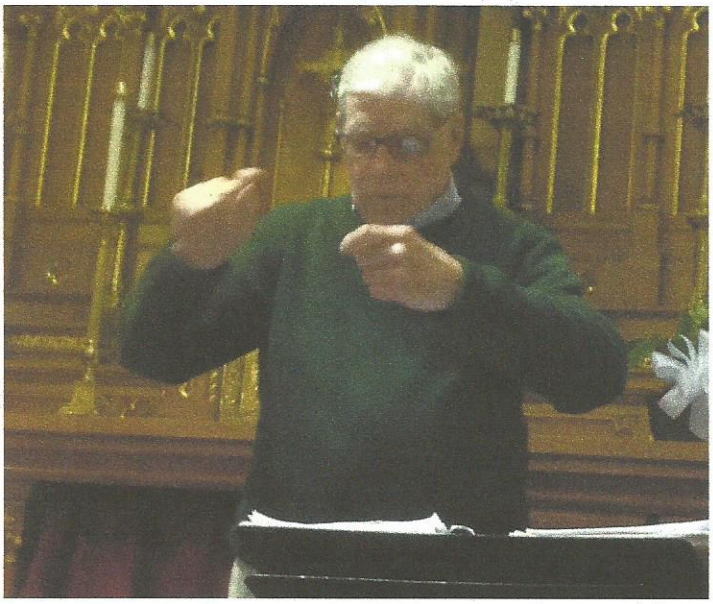
When Archbishop Jerome Listecki said, "We need a culture change, so the Sunday Mass is given primacy of place," the Deaf Ministry Team at St. Andrew Parish, Delavan took that to heart and decided to share more of Catholic Deaf culture with hearing parishioners.

Empower, Encourage

One of the goals of the Deaf Ministry Team was to train and enable more Deaf readers at Sunday Mass, in an effort to empower and encourage that community to participate more fully in the Eucharist. Several people from the Deaf community came forward to serve and today, continue this task of forming disciples.

Additionally, two students from the Wisconsin School for the Deaf (who attend the parish) received their First Communion this year. Wanting to share this joyful day with everyone, the entire Deaf Community celebrated that Sunday, with many of the ministerial roles for the Mass (servers, readers and extraordinary ministers) held by Deaf parishioners. The Mass was celebrated in American Sign Language with Fr. Christopher Klusman, with a voice interpreter for the hearing. It was a wonderful day of praise and worship celebrated by all.

Throughout Wisconsin and beyond, there are Deaf Catholics who hunger for these types of opportunities. It's amazing how the Holy Spirit constantly breathes new life by **igniting, renewing** and **energizing** the Church in southeastern Wisconsin.



Leonard Peacock proclaims the Good News at a recent Sunday Mass in American Sign Language (ASL) to the congregation of St. Andrew Parish. An interpreter voices for the hearing parishioners.

Interested in learning more?

St. Andrew Parish offers religious education for the Deaf to all students from lower elementary to seniors in high school. Classes are taught in American Sign Language (ASL) so the students have full access to learning about God's love in their native language.

The Deaf Ministry Team also prepares students for First Reconciliation (with a Deaf priest who can sign), First Communion and Confirmation.

A Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. that is interpreted in ASL, with a once-a-month Mass in ASL with Fr. Christopher Klusman and Deacon David Sommers, only one of two Deaf priest/deacon pairs in the world.

For additional information about Deaf Ministry at St. Andrew Parish, please contact Patty Kostechka, (262) 728-9751.

Did you know?

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has a whole office dedicated to Deaf/Hard of Hearing Ministry! The office, through the leadership of Fr. Christopher Klusman, associate director, and Terri Matenaer, coordinator, exists to enable all Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to participate fully in the liturgical, educational, pastoral, spiritual, and human concerns ministries in the Church.

To learn more about this vital ministry, please visit www.archmil.org/deafministry.

Format of this Newsletter is Changing

This newsletter began over three years ago as way to help people learn about and prepare for the archdiocesan Synod that was held in 2014. We continued with a similar format following the Synod to keep everyone informed about the efforts that are going into implementing priorities identified through the Synod process.

Recently we have decided on a new way to present the information included in these newsletters. We are going to replace this four-page printed publication with a one-page article from Archbishop Listecki that parishes and schools will be invited to include in their bulletins, newsletters, and emails.

The archbishop's articles will still focus on how the mission and priorities that came from the archdiocesan Synod are guiding the work of parishes and the archdiocese. These columns will be sent to parishes and schools in English and Spanish on a quarterly basis. The new one-page articles will also continue to be included on the archdiocesan website at **www.archmil.org/synod**.

We hope you find this new format easy to read and beneficial. Please contact Randy Nohl, Director of Synod Implementation, at nohlr@archmil.org or 414-758-2216 if you have any questions.

Prayer for the Mission of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

(Shortened Version)

Almighty and ever living God,
we praise you and we bless you,
for you are great indeed!
Grant, we pray,
as on that first Pentecost,
that tongues of fire may descend
upon us,
and that the driving wind of
your Holy Spirit
may blow boldly into our hearts.
Embolden us, O God,
so that we may go forth to proclaim
your Gospel and renew
the face of the earth.
In this Archdiocese of Milwaukee,
we humbly pray for
strength and fortitude
to follow your great commission:
to go and make disciples of all people,
living our faith through
word and deed.
We ask all this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE

ARCHDIOCESE *of* MILWAUKEE MISSION STATEMENT

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through his saving death and resurrection by calling, forming and sending disciples to go and make new disciples. As a people, we are called to encounter Jesus and grow as disciples through the sacramental life of the Church.