

# HOLY CROSS AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

## Pastoral Leadership

- Msgr. Douglas Grams  
Rector/Pastor
- Msgr. John Richter  
Senior Associate
- Fr. Aaron Johanneck  
Parochial Vicar
- Fr. Cornelius Ezeiloaku  
Parochial Vicar
- Dcn. Rick Christiansen  
Permanent Deacon

## NUACS

St. Anthony Elementary  
School (Pre K-6)  
Shelly Bauer, Principal  
(507) 354-2928

Cathedral High School (7-12)  
William Schumacher, Principal  
(507) 354-4511

Administration & Business Office  
(507) 354-2719

## AFC Pastoral Council

### Representatives

Cathedral.....Tim Rahe  
Jackie Finstad  
St. Mary's .....Shirley Laraway  
Paul Wieneke  
St. John the Baptist.....Jim Drexler  
Lester Braulick  
St. George.....Jeff Franta  
Penny Forst  
St. Gregory the Great....Linda Beranek  
Carol Hoffmann

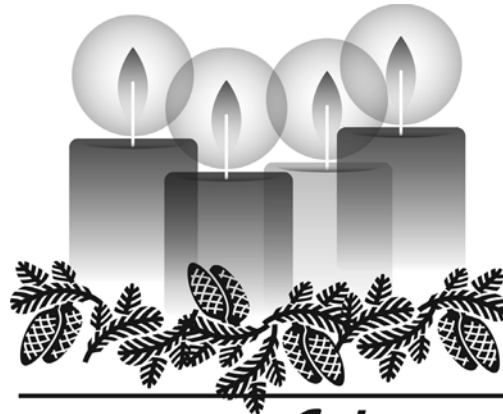
**New Parishioners:** Welcome! We are happy to have you join us. Please call or stop by your parish office to register.

**Baptisms:** Call your parish office to schedule a Baptism. Preparation program required.

**Marriages:** Begin making plans with parish priest at least six months in advance.

**Outreach:** If you know of parishioners who are ill, hospitalized, or homebound, please contact your parish office.

**RCIA:** If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church, please invite them to join the RCIA program. Classes will begin in September. This is a time of prayer, instruction, questions/answers and discernment that will lead up to full union in the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Contact your parish office to register.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Catholic Charities** in the Diocese of New Ulm provide individual, marriage and family counseling, pregnancy counseling, Project Rachael, adoption resources, transition and grief services. Offices are located in Hutchinson, Marshall, New Ulm and Willmar. Call 1-866-670-5163

**Bulletin Copy Deadline** - Monday: noon

## Holy Cross Area Mass Schedule

### Saturday

5:00 pm Cathedral, New Ulm  
5:30 pm St. Mary's, New Ulm

### Sunday

8:00 am Cathedral, New Ulm  
8:30 am St. George,  
West Newton Twp.  
9:00 am St. Mary's, New Ulm  
10:00 am Cathedral, New Ulm  
10:30 am St. John the Baptist,  
Searles  
10:30 am St. Gregory the Great,  
Lafayette  
6:30 pm Cathedral, New Ulm

**Church of  
St. John the Baptist**  
18241 1st Avenue  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
(507) 359-4244  
sjs@newulmtel.net

**Church of St. Mary**  
417 South Minnesota Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
(507) 233-9500  
stmarys@newulmtel.net

**Cathedral of the  
Holy Trinity**  
605 North State Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
(507) 354-4158  
cathedral@holycrossafc.org

**Church of St. George**  
63105 Fort Road  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
(507) 359-9553  
stgeorge@holycrossafc.org

**Church of  
St. Gregory the Great**  
PO Box 5  
440 6th Street  
Lafayette, MN 56054  
(507) 228-8298  
stgregory@holycrossafc.org

## 4th Sunday of Advent December 18, 2016

**Bulletin Connection** *“They shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God with us.’” No other religion makes such a radical claim. To be Christian is to believe that God is truly with us, in the most personal, intimate way imaginable; he is one of us! Through the Incarnation, God became human and laived among us to love us, to guide us, to heal us, and to strengthen us. We have been praying throughout this season of anticipation, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The real magic of Christmas is that we get exactly what we prayed for! Jesus has come. God has answered our prayers and given us what we truly desire: Emmanuel, God is with us.*

*(Liturgical Publications. Resources Center 2013)*

### From the Pastor

**FORMED.org** If you haven't had a chance to check out [Formed.org](http://Formed.org), I encourage you to do so. It is free and is designed for all ages, from young children to adults. There are full length movies, audio presentations, e-books and video series. To access these resources, register at [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) and type in the parish code: ZY2TQG. Formed can deepen your faith, draw families closer together and empower you to make a difference in the lives of others. Check it out!

**AFC VIDEOS** Our AFC website ([holycrossafc.org](http://holycrossafc.org)) has three short videos on our Area Faith Community: “Welcome to Our Faith Community,” “My Faith Matters” and “Returning to the Catholic Faith.” Please share and encourage others to watch the videos, especially those who have been away or are estranged from the Church or are interested in joining the Catholic Church. The videos were produced by Flying Buttress Media.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS AND END OF THE YEAR OFFERINGS** Each parish has a budgeted goal for the Christmas collection. Please be generous as we thank God for the many blessings He has given each of us. Thank you to the generous and consistent givers who help ensure our responsibility to carry out the mission of the Church in our Area Faith Community and beyond. If you have fallen behind on your Sunday offerings, be mindful that the calendar year ends in two weeks. Remember that online giving is now an option we offer. We can never outdo our Lord in generosity. I also encourage you to instill the virtue of stewardship (time, talent and treasure) in your children and grandchildren. Forming good habits when we are young hopefully carries into our adult life. We have much to be grateful for.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE** Next weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Mass times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are found in the bulletin. Also listed are the opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for this feast.

**STEWARDSHIP IS PRAYER – SPENDING TIME WITH GOD** Stewardship involves spending time with God. Recognizing that every day is a gift from God, we strive to spend some of each day with God, through prayer, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, scripture reading, quiet, meditation and other spiritual activities. During this time we ask God how He wants us to use the gifts He has given to us.

**I INVITE EACH OF YOU** to take the opportunity this Christmas to welcome our visitors with hospitality as they celebrate with us. If you don't know the person next to you, reach out and welcome them. Find out who they are and invite them back. Let them experience our warm, caring communities of faith. How do you know who is visiting and who is simply another parishioner you may not know? The answer is simple – be friendly to everyone! Our Lord couldn't find a welcome in Bethlehem. May we always continue to welcome the stranger here, as though they were Christ Himself.

Msgr. Grams

## Mass Schedule for the Week

<u>Date &amp; Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Intention</u>
<b>Monday 19th</b> 7:00 a.m.	Cathedral	+ Ray Portner
<b>Tuesday 20th</b> 7:00 a.m.	Cathedral	+ Wally Ebert
7:30 a.m.	St. Mary	+ Joseph Stueber
8:00 a.m.	St. George	+ Marlin Gleisner
8:20 a.m.	NUACS CHS	+ Jerome & David Franta
9:30 a.m.	Orchard Hills	+ Rosa & Henry Polzine
<b>Wednesday 21st</b> 7:00 a.m.	Cathedral	+ Milvia Baldi
7:30 a.m.	St. Mary	+ Rick Sorenson
8:00 a.m.	St. Gregory the Great	+ Florence Saffert
8:25 a.m.	NUACS SAE	+ Eli James
<b>Thursday 22nd</b> 7:00 a.m.	Cathedral	+ Jo & Theresa Fischer
7:30 a.m.	St. Mary	+ Mary Ann Wesselmann
10:00 a.m.	Oak Hills	+ Erwin Portner
6:30 p.m.	St. John the Baptist	+ D. Chuck Grossmann
<b>Friday 23rd</b> 7:00 a.m.	Cathedral	+ George Dummer
7:30 a.m.	St. Mary	+ Pat Fischer
9:45 a.m.	Ridgeway North	+ Victor Henle
<b>Saturday 24th</b> 8:00 a.m.	Cathedral	+ Alice Henle
<b>Christmas Eve AFC Mass Schedule</b>		
4:00 p.m.	St. Mary	+ Evangeline Veit
4:30 p.m.	St. John	+ Leona Braulick
5:00 p.m.	Cathedral	+ Sheri Ubl
5:00 p.m.	St. Gregory the Great	+ Bennett Juenemann
8:00 p.m.	Cathedral	Mass for the People of AFC
9:00 p.m.	St. Mary	+ Roselyn Freiderich
<b>Christmas Day AFC Mass Schedule</b>		
8:00 a.m.	Cathedral	+ Greg Hoffman, Art/Val Simmet
8:30 a.m.	St. George	+ Jerome Forst
9:00 a.m.	St. Mary	+ Linda Hoffmann Family
10:00 a.m.	Cathedral	+ Marie & Joseph Landsteiner

## Sacrament of Reconciliation Schedule

<b>Monday 19th</b>	11:00 a.m. - noon	Cathedral
	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Cathedral
	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Cathedral
<b>Tuesday 20th</b>	8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	St. Mary
	11:00 a.m. - noon	Cathedral
	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Cathedral
	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	St. George & St. Mary
	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	St. John
<b>Wednesday 21st</b>	11:00 a.m. - noon	Cathedral
	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Cathedral
	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	St. Gregory
<b>Thursday 22nd</b>	11:00 a.m. - noon	Cathedral
	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Cathedral
	5:15 - 6:15 p.m.	St. John
	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	St. Mary
<b>Friday 23rd</b>	11:00 a.m. - noon	Cathedral
	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Cathedral
	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	St. Mary's
	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Cathedral

## Readings for the Week of December 18, 2016

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25  
 Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38  
 Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45  
 Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56  
 Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66  
 Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79  
 Christmas Eve: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Titus 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-14  
 Christmas Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/John 1:1-18

## Stewardship

### Contributions for Week of December 11, 2016

	CATHEDRAL	ST. MARY	ST. JOHN	ST. GEORGE	ST. GREGORY
Actual Adult	13,966.00	6,834.00	1,095.00	9,066.15	1,508.86
Budget Adult	13,192.31	13,163.46	1,635.00	1,538.46	1,076.93
Electronic Transfers	0.00	7,568.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	13,966.00	14,402.00	1,095.00	9,066.15	1,508.86
Year-to-date Actual	300,006.25	296,749.19	49,731.00	38,780.32	24,347.27
Year-to-date Budget	316,615.44	315,923.04	39,240.00	36,923.04	26,846.32
<b>Ahead/Behind</b>	- 16,609.19	-19,173.85	10,491.00	1,857.28	-1,499.05
Student	16.13	16.00	2.00	0.00	4.85
Loose Plate	437.87	85.00	57.04	16.00	27.25
Retirement for Religious	2,208.47	1,375.04	194.00	104.75	120.00
Parish Project Goal	50,000.00	20,000.00	6,000.00	18,000.00	10,000.00
Parish Project (# contributors)	24,611.00 (61)	5,390.00 (24)	1,332.55 (4)	740.00 (5)	200.00 (2)
DMA Goal	62,713.80	40,212.85	7,905.74	7,601.67	6,993.54
DMA Actual (# contributors)	21,170.00 (75)	24,525.00 (75)	2,975.00 (9)	3,710.00 (15)	1,725.00 (8)
Attendance	1064	564	102	116	81



“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.”  
**Matthew 1:24** Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.



## New Ulm Area Catholic Schools

visit [www.nuacs.com](http://www.nuacs.com)

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** The staff and faculty of NUACS wish each of you a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Christmas Vacation:** NUACS students and faculty will be enjoying Christmas vacation beginning December 23. School resumes on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

**Christmas Vacation Office Hours:** The CHS Office will be closed over Christmas break. The SAE/Business Office will be closed after noon on December 23. The office will be open December 26-30 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, be closed on January 2, and reopen on January 3.

**Script – the Perfect Christmas Stocking Stuffer:** Stop by the St. Anthony Elementary or Cathedral High School Office to purchase cards from Applebee's, Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Burger King, Cabela's, Cash Wise, Design Home Center, Happy Joe's, Hardee's, Herberger's, Hy-Vee, JCPenney, Kohl's, Kwik Trip, Lamplighter, McDonald's, Menards, Subway, Taco Johns, Target, Walgreens, and Wal-Mart/Sam's Club.

**Fall 2016 Greyhound Express:** The latest issue of the Greyhound Express is now available. To read online, log on to [www.nuacs.com](http://www.nuacs.com) and click 'alumni' then 'Greyhound Express.'

**Alumni Tournaments:** The annual Alumni Basketball and Volleyball Tournaments will be held on Saturday, December 31, 2016, starting at 9:00 AM in the SAE, HTMS and CHS Gymnasiums. Admission is FREE! A detailed schedule will be sent shortly to team captains. Please contact Sara Rieland, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at 507-766-7593 or [sara.rieland@nuacs.com](mailto:sara.rieland@nuacs.com) for more information.

**Snowfest Tickets:** CHS students are selling Snowfest tickets. The tickets are \$5.00 each with 24 chances to win \$100 to \$500! Please help support our school in this important fundraising effort. CHS students are striving to meet their goal of \$14,000 in student ticket sales in order to earn a free day from school on Wednesday, April 12.

**Snowfest Auction Items/Volunteers:** The Snowfest committee is always looking for unique and interesting donations for the silent and live auctions. If you have an appropriate item to donate, please drop it off at the St. Anthony Elementary Office or call Sara Rieland at 507-766-7593 to arrange for pick-up. If you would like to donate a service, you may drop off a gift certificate to be handed to the winner. In addition, there are many locations where help is needed on the evening of Snowfest. Please consider volunteering your time for this important event.

## Religious Education & Faith Formation News

### CONFIRMATION NEWS!

**Junior Confirmation Candidates:** Please return your Sponsor Books and turn in your paper work. Use the purple Lectionary response forms for Advent. For questions email Julie at [Julie.soehren@holycrossafc.org](mailto:Julie.soehren@holycrossafc.org).

### PLEASE NOTE!

Regular Faith Formation and Religious Ed classes will be held on Wednesday, December 21st, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

## Youth & Young Adult Ministry

December 21st - Come to help decorate our priests' Christmas tree next week. We'll start around 8:15 p.m., just after Religious Ed., and end around 9:30 p.m. Music? Cookies?? We'll have them both! Students 9-12 welcome.

December 30th - Middle School New Years party, 7-9:30pm. Let's celebrate the new year together with some games, snacks, prayer, and maybe a movie as well. Open to all 6th-8th graders. Permission forms can be found on our parish website under Youth Ministry.

Save the Date - January 15th - Youth Ministry Visioning and Discussion. Come to learn, share, and discuss ideas about Youth Ministry for our AFC. This is a chance for us to hear from you about what you would like to see regarding the faith life of our youth. More details coming! - Matthew

For more information regarding Youth Ministry, please search on-line at [holycrossafc.org](http://holycrossafc.org) under the *Ministries* tab you will find *Youth Ministry*.

# Holy Cross AFC News

## Christmas Flowers

If you would like to donate a memorial in honor of a loved one for Christmas Flowers, you can do so on the online giving page: [holycrossafc.weshareonline.org](http://holycrossafc.weshareonline.org) and find the parish you would like to donate to.

### Monday, December 19th - Rosary at Cathedral

Everyone is welcome to come pray the Rosary at 1:00 p.m.

### Monday, December 19th - Knights of Columbus

St. Patrick's Council 1076 will be meeting at 6:40 p.m. in the Cathedral church to pray the Rosary, followed by a 7:00 p.m. meeting in Cathedral Parish Center.

### World Wide Marriage Encounter

"Prepare the way of the Lord." Is 40:3

If you have never attended a Marriage Encounter and would like to find out more, please contact Miki at (507) 227-8229. If you have attended, is it time to refresh your commitment? The weekend is for all couples of all ages of all religious backgrounds. A weekend is also a GREAT gift to your grown, married children! You can even offer to take the grand kids for the weekend, and it is a win/win! The next retreat is scheduled for February 17 – 19, 2017 in Windom. You can apply online at <https://southmnwwme.org/applyWeekend.php>, or you may contact Miki Schultz at (507) 227-8229.

### Gift Certificates Are on Sale for Spring Fever

at St. George for March 18th and March 25th, 2017. Call 354-2428 to reserve yours today!

### Saturday, January 14, 2017 - Sixth Annual Sewing for Sight Event!

You are invited to be our guest for a one day quilting retreat on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at the St. George Parish Center from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Your \$60 registration fee includes all-day sewing space, valet service upon arrival, lunch, dinner, snacks and refreshments, evening wine tasting, quilt show attendance and participation in the silent auction. Independent vendors will be available throughout the day for your shopping convenience. The event is sponsored by St. George Catholic United Financial and Sewing Seeds Quilt Company. Sewing space is limited! Please register early by contacting Jackie Forst at [gj\\_forst@newulmtel.net](mailto:gj_forst@newulmtel.net). All proceeds from this event will be directed to the Foundation for Saving Sight and their mission to support sight saving eye care for the villagers of San-Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. Financial donations or silent auction items are graciously accepted for this charitable event! Our continued commitment is sincere and their need is real. Contributions can be mailed or delivered to 1417 South State Street, New Ulm, MN 56073. Please make checks payable to: Sewing for Sight. For more information contact Jackie Forst (507)276-1069, Ann Wendinger (507)766-3389 or Cindy Wendinger (507)276-2716. Thank you for your very generous and continued support!

**Sunday, January 22nd - March for Life 2017 Pilgrimage** starting at the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and loading a coach bus at 11:20 a.m. for MCCL Rally at the MN State Capital at 2:00 p.m. and returning at 5:00 p.m. Register soon to reserve a seat by calling the Cathedral office at 354-4158. Questions can be directed to trip coordinator Kate Sloom at [sloom@newulmtel.net](mailto:sloom@newulmtel.net).

**Saturday, January 28, 2017 - 75th Church Anniversary** St. Gregory the Great would like to invite all former members and other HCAFC members to our special 75th Church Anniversary on Saturday, January 28, 2017. The evening will begin with a 5:00 p.m. Mass with Bishop LeVoir, followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. and a program to follow. Tickets are \$20 each. To reserve your spot, please send payment and number of tickets requested to St. Gregory's, P.O. Box 5, Lafayette, MN 56054 or call the church office and leave a message at 507-228-8298.

### The Priority of Parents

Good parenting views children as "adults in the making." Parents with this vision are always mindful of forming their children in virtue so they will flourish in their adult lives. Good faith formation is essential to this process as it gives the "end in mind" of character development – union with God for all of eternity! FORMED gives parents the tools to form their children in the faith. ... parents can access great content in their homes and make faith sharing and prayer a habit as a family. Discover all the new children's programs, books, movies, and audio at [formed.org](http://formed.org).

## Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

*The season of Advent is upon us!  
As we begin a new spiritual year, why not make  
a New Year's resolution to spend more time with  
Jesus? Come to worship Him in the adoration  
chapel and make this your best new year!*

**Adorers are needed for the following hour:  
Sunday 11:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 p.m.**

*Please consider taking a committed hour of Adoration  
once a week.  
We need you. You are so important to this ministry!  
Thank you!*

For more information, please call Adoration co-coordinators  
Lora Rahe at 507-354-5563 or 507-276-6838  
Janet Neubauer at 507-276-4039  
Kathy Sonnek at 507-947-3043

**CHAPEL ACCESS:** If you need to access the Adoration Chapel when the church building is locked, contact St. Mary's parish office at 233-9500 during business hours for the code to the keypad located at the building entrance by the chapel.

IN INCLEMENT WEATHER, PLEASE CALL THE ADORATION  
HOTLINE AT 233-9510 TO DETERMINE IF THE ADORATION

CHAPEL HAS BEEN CLOSED.



## Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR DECEMBER 24 AND 25

#### SERVERS

5:00 p.m. Tony Geiger, Cole Wellmann, Alex Hillesheim, Isaac Roufs, Caleb and Ethan Kirchberg  
8:00 p.m. Hunter and Ella Landsteiner, David and Alexis Petersen  
8:00 a.m. David Bode, Nicholas and Noah Wolle  
10:00 a.m. Chris Branch, Will Schabert and three Pontifical Servers

#### LECTORS

Tim Guldan  
Julie Soehren  
Tom Beranek  
Monica Prechel

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Due to space limitations, the Eucharistic Ministers schedule will not be included in the bulletin. It can be found online at [www.holycrossafc.org/ministries](http://www.holycrossafc.org/ministries), or paper copies are available in the work sacristy.

**Sunday, Dec. 18:** Vespers 5:00 p.m., Parish

**Wednesday, Dec. 21:** RCIA at 6:45 p.m. in the Parish Center

**Tuesday, Dec. 20:** Youth Choir at 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

**Thursday, Dec. 22:** Adult Choir at 7:00 p.m.



*Sympathy and prayers to the family of  
William Goebel*

#### VOTIVE LIGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/18

Delbert Fischer Sr.; Lonita Kral; Craig Richter; Victor Kral; Bernie & Grace Lindmeier; Danny Hegler, Robert & Hildegard Roesch; Greg Hoffmann, Art & Val Simmet, Robert & Anna Simmet, Joe & Anna Soukup; Steve Reinhart; Int. Caleb Tyner & Keith Richter; Int. Dave Christian; Don Weise & Mary Weise Weirauch; RS Family; Alex & Alice Portner; Stan & Hazel Schneider; Erwin & Elaine Hillesheim; Pfeiffer, Bonnell & Burdorf; JMF; Edwin Sehr; Good Health for MS & DS; Gervase & Arline Krambeer; Steve Fleck, Joe & Marie Landsteiner; Cornelius Zitzmann; Edwin & Eleanor Mertz; Larsen Family; Holy Souls; George & Alma Schmid & Harold Schmid Wendinger; Helget Family; Sp. Int. L-K; Sp. Int. LN & LK; Wally Neumann; Norbert Ubl; Raymond Portner; Florence & Denny Saffert; Miranda Wurtzberger; Jeanette Altenburg; Richard Guggisberg; Susan Kunz; Wally Bauer; Clarence A. & Dolores Dauer; Craig Dauer; Anton & Minnie Hacker; Tom & Louise Cooling, Bob LeGare; Clarence, Henry & Michael Polzin; Peter Meyer; Living & deceased members of Mary & George Wurtzberger/Margaret & Mike Tauer families; Employment-J; Warren Jorgensen; V.J. Successful Operation; Leroy Joel; Dorothy Manderfeld; For Better Health for BMW; Hugo & Rose Deml; Michael Jutz; Better health for Joe.

## Church of St. Mary

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR DECEMBER 24 AND 25

	SERVERS	SACRISTANS	LECTORS	ACCOMPANISTS	CANTORS
4:00 p.m.	To be determined	Sharon Miller	Sue Schommer	Brenda Lenertz	St. Cecilia Choir
9:00 p.m.	To be determined	Aleda Beranek	Terry Zinniel	Tom Maidl	Kelsey Koch
9:00 a.m.	To be determined	Tom Holzer	Kelsey Kober	Tom Maidl	Adult Choir

**Tuesday, Dec. 20th** - Adult Choir Practice 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 22nd** - St. Cecilia Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.

**Would you consider being at greeter at Mass?** We are in need of more greeters. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please call Maureen Miller at 354-3687.

**Year-end Donation Reminders** - Please keep in mind the following if you are planning to make a year-end donation. The IRS offers the following reminders: Contributions are deductible in the year made. Thus, donations charged to a credit card before the end of Dec. 31, 2016 count for 2016. This is true even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2017. Also, checks count for 2016 as long as they are mailed in 2016 and have a 2016 postmark date. Thank you for your generosity!



*Sympathy and prayers to the family of  
Donald Abraham*

## Church of St. George

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR DECEMBER 25

<b>SERVERS :</b>	Lily Brennan, Audra Bastian, Isaac Franta	<b>GIFT BEARERS:</b>	Mike & Anna Bastian
<b>LECTORS:</b>	Frank Bianchi & Evy Olson	<b>USHERS:</b>	Leon Matties & Tom Maidl
<b>COUNTERS:</b>	Jim Forst & Craig Beranek	<b>MUSICIAN:</b>	Family Choir
<b>EXTRA. MINISTERS:</b>	Terese Gruber, Steve Biebl, Kathy Kokesch	<b>ROSARY LEADER:</b>	Katie Johnson

**Church Cleaning** - Remember: The (\*) person calls the others to remind them.

December 24th at 8:30 a.m. \*Darcy Beranek, Donna, Lyndsey, Mary Jane and Patty Beranek.

**Anyone wishing to donate towards our Christmas Environment** in memory of a loved one may do so by placing your donation along with your name and the name of your loved one in an envelope in the Sunday collection basket, or you can log on to [www.holycrossafc.weshareonline.org](http://www.holycrossafc.weshareonline.org) and donate to the St. George fund there.

**All Mass intentions for St. George** should be directed to: Sheri Liebl, St. George Mass Intentions, PO Box 5, Lafayette, MN 56054. Sheri schedules the Mass intentions for both St. George and St. Gregory's.

## Church of St. Gregory the Great

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR DECEMBER 24

<b>LECTOR:</b>	George Beranek	<b>SERVERS:</b>	Jarrett & Kolbe Platz, Mark Beranek, Josh Liebl
<b>COMMENTATOR:</b>	Neal Hoffmann	<b>EX MINISTERS:</b>	Bruce & Laurie Platz, Chuck Fitterer
<b>MUSICIAN/CANTOR:</b>	Cheri LeBrun & Choir	<b>USHERS:</b>	Ken Liebl, Ben Stadick, Mark Schuelke
		<b>SACRISTANS:</b>	Bobbie Schuelke & Sheri Liebl

**St. Gregory Parishioners:** 75th Anniversary Ticket sales has now been opened to all the public and are on a first come, first serve basis. Seating is limited. If you are still planning to attend, please return your RSVP as soon as possible.

**All ages are welcome to join in on the annual Christmas decorating of the church.** It will take place on Monday, Dec. 19th, at 6:30 p.m. Any and all help is appreciated.

**Please lend us your voice and join the St. Gregory's choir.** Practices will be held every Wed. at 6:30 p.m. until Christmas. All ages welcome!

**Show your talent at one of our most beautiful Masses of the year...** Saturday, Dec. 24th we will have a Music prelude at 4:30 p.m., with Mass to follow at 5:00 p.m. To offer your talent, please contact Cheri LeBrun.

- Reminders:**
1. All end of the year contributions are due to the Church office no later than Dec. 31st. Thank you for your support and generosity throughout the year.
  2. In order to prevent scheduling conflicts and to make sure doors are unlocked or locked, please remember to contact the church office to reserve a meeting space in the hall or rectory. The St. Gregory calendar can also be viewed by going to the HCAFC website at [holycrossafc.org/st-gregory-the-great-calendar.html](http://holycrossafc.org/st-gregory-the-great-calendar.html).

## Church of St. John the Baptist

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR DECEMBER 24

<b>SERVERS:</b>	Isabel & Isaiah Rieser, Shalynn Ubl	<b>EUCH. BREAD:</b>	Kathy Drexler
<b>LECTOR:</b>	Craig Braulick	<b>EUCH. CUP:</b>	Carol Waibel, Sue Schumacher
<b>LEADER:</b>	Jamie Rieser	<b>ACCOMPANIST:</b>	Gayle Waibel
<b>USHERS:</b>	Mike Waibel, Darv Turbes	<b>CANTOR:</b>	Christmas Youth Choir

**Next Saturday, Dec. 24th:** 4:20 p.m. Christmas Eve Prelude Youth Choir

**Next Sunday, Dec. 25th:** No Mass

**Christmas Eve Youth Choir...** There will be a practice Friday, December 23rd at 10:00 a.m. If you missed sign-ups or have friends and relatives, they are welcome to join us.

**Christmas Memorials:** Today is the last day to donate towards memorial flowers for your loved ones. You can call Linda if you were unable to get yours in.

**St. John's CUF Juvenile Party** will be held Saturday, December 31st at Concordia Lanes starting at 1:00 p.m. with bowling and then over to Happy Joe's for Pizza and Pop!! All kids are invited to attend. Please RSVP by this Wednesday, December 28th to Curt Miller 217-6751 if you plan to attend for bowling lane reservations.

**CCW Meeting, January 5th:** 7:00 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE...** CCW January Lunch, January 8th, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

## Community News

**Friday, December 30th - January 1st** - Year-End Retreat at Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse in Collegeville. At the passing of yet another year, take a moment to consider the wondrous mystery that surrounds the phenomenon of time as we know it. All of salvation history assumes both the existence of time and the ability to transcend it, so how might we better appreciate a sacred understanding of time, especially in our own lives? For registration and more information, log on to [www.abbeyguesthouse.org](http://www.abbeyguesthouse.org) or call 320-363-3929.

**Wednesday, January 11th** - Patty Wetterling will be at the Springfield High School sharing her story and talking about "Creating a Better World for Our Children." The event begins at 6:30 p.m. Free will donations are appreciated.

**Sunday, January 15th** - Super Sausage Supper Sunday from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Turner Hall. Tickets are \$9.50 in advance and available at CashWise. This event is sponsored by St. John's Catholic Order of Foresters. All proceeds benefit Southern Minnesota Crisis Nursery in New Ulm.

**City of New Ulm's Tree Advisory Commission** - The City of New Ulm will be conducting an inventory of trees on city parks and streets beginning in early spring 2017. Volunteers are needed to assist with data collection. No experience necessary and free training will be provided. If interested contact Shane at 359-8341 or [shane.omersa@ci.new-ulm.mn.us](mailto:shane.omersa@ci.new-ulm.mn.us).

**Essig Softball 14 & Under ASA Southern Star Softball League** - There has been interest in forming a 14 & Under ASA team. Practices would usually be once per week, and double-header games would be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. For questions or signup, contact Ron Domeier at 354-8424, Marv Hose at 995-3479 or Kyla Franta at 276-2399 before December 31, 2016. For interest in a 16 to 18 years-of-age team, contact Ron Domeier.

**February 3rd - 5th** - Married Couples Retreat at Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse in Collegeville. To learn more or to register, go to [www.abbeyguesthouse.org](http://www.abbeyguesthouse.org) or call the Spiritual Life Office at 320-363-3929.