



Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10–14 / Romans 1:1–7 / Matthew 1:18–24

Scan QR
code for
news and
events



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus.”

MATTHEW 1:20–21



Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

Reflect

How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?

HISTORIC ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Listed on National Register of Historic Places

Parish Founded 1847
sbcatholic.church

ST. MEINRAD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Founded 1861
smcatholic.church

One Family In Faith

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sanctuary Lamp
December 21, 2025
LuminaryTo make a memorial
gift for a luminary,
scan the QR code.St Boniface Parish +Franklin Delano Cox
St. Meinrad Parish +James "Jim" Lee and +Kathleen Ann (Seng) Ebert

ORDO (Order of Prayer)

Lectionary 10
Eucharistic Prayer II
Mystery of Faith A

DATE / TIME

CALENDAR EVENT

LOCATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00 a.m.

12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

3:15 to 3:45 p.m.

3:35 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

Mass (May - October at 7 a.m.; November - April at 8 a.m.)• *Mass begins at 8 a.m. through Saturday, April 25, 2026***Confession** (confessional at glass chapel located at the main entrance)**Confession** (confessional at glass chapel located at the south entrance)

Rosary (For an increase of vocations to the single chaste life and marriage)

Mass Missa Pro Populo "Mass for the People"**Monte Cassino Shrine****Church (SM)****Historic Church (SB)**

Historic Church (SB)

Historic Church (SB)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:00 a.m.

8:05 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

8:40 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**Mass +Poor Souls in Purgatory**

Rosary (For increased vocations to priesthood, diaconate & consecrated life)

Mass +Sylvan Robert and +Margaret "Marge" Rose (Luebbehuse)
(Anniversary of Death) Fetter

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Mass (Parishioners, pilgrims and guests welcome)

F3 OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)**Historic Church (SB)**

Church (SM)

Church (SM)

Church (SM)

Archabbey Church

Church: South Sacristy (SM)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

3:50 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

Rosary (For the sanctification of life from womb to tomb)

Mass +Dennis "Denny" Lee and +Nina Marie (Rothgerber) Mullis;**+Michael Joseph Mullis**• *Third Monday, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Pastoral Council*• *Fourth Monday, 5:15 to 6 p.m. Pastoral Council Officers
No meetings in April, July, August, November*

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Pack 102 Cub Scout Meeting

Historic Church (SB)**Historic Church (SB)**Parish Center/Shelter House (SB): Room 105
Parish Office: Room G

Parish Center/Shelter House (SB)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:15 a.m.

8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

8:15 to 9:00 a.m.

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSES AT 11:30 FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**Mass +Charles Edward "Skip" Fischer (Anniversary of Birth)**

Reserved for Team D

Deacon Mike's Series: "How God's Covenants ... Are Fulfilled in Jesus"

Parish Staff Meeting

• *First and third Tuesdays of month, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Formation sessions for sacraments and pastoral counseling*• *Second and fourth Tuesdays of month, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Parish Commission Meetings*

Parish Office: Office C

Parish Office: Room G

Office: Room G-A

Parish Office: Room H

Parish Center/Shelter House (SB): Room 105

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE (Parish Office Closed)

3:30 p.m.

Mass Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord**Loved Ones Remembered in Memorials and Honor Roll**

4:00 p.m.

Private Event

6:00 p.m.

Mass Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord**Loved Ones Remembered in Memorials and Honor Roll**

Church (SM)

Parish Center/Shelter House

Historic Church (SB)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY (Parish Office Closed)**Mass Nativity of the Lord****Loved Ones Remembered in Memorials and Honor Roll****Historic Church (SB)**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

7:15 a.m.

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR (Parish Office Closed)**Mass World Peace**

Church (SM)

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PARISH

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE

LOCATION

19630 N. 4th St.
Saint Meinrad, Indiana

PHONE: 812-357-5533 (Main Number)
info@myparishfamily.church

PARISH WEBSITES

sbcatholic.church
smcatholic.church

MAILING ADDRESS FOR PARISH OFFICE AND ALL LOCATIONS

PO Box 8
Saint Meinrad, IN 47577-0008

ST. BONIFACE PARISH CENTER LOCATION

11715 E. County Road 1550 N
Fulda, Indiana

PHONE: 812-357-2100

PARISH STAFF

Reception/Main Number	Monday-Wednesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday 9 to 11 a.m.	812-357-5533
<i>To email a staff member: Use first name, first initial of last name, @myparishfamily.church</i>		
Communications	Ms. Mary Jeanne Schumacher	812-357-6056
Evangelization and Discipleship	Ms. Jessica Fischer	812-357-6065
Facilities and Safety	Mr. George Schaefer	812-357-6054
Facilities and Grounds Assistant	Ms. Maddie Gudorf	812-357-6052
Gift Recorder	Ms. Chloe Mohr	812-357-6053
Liturgical Music	<i>Actively seeking to fill position</i>	812-357-6058
Office Assistant	<i>Position open</i>	812-357-6059
Parish Office Custodial Services	Ms. Sue Wiederkehr	812-357-6053
Parish Secretary	<i>Position open</i>	812-357-6051
Pastor	Father Paul Nord, OSB	812-357-6739
Permanent Deacon	Deacon Mike Fish	812-357-6055
Sacramental Assistant	Father Joseph Cox, OSB	812-357-6611
Sacramental Assistant	Father Michael Reyes, OSB	812-357-6611
Seminarian Intern	Seminarian Kris Garlitch	812-357-6611
Cemetery Sexton Records and Plot Sales	<i>Actively seeking to fill position</i>	812-357-6050
• St. Boniface Cemetery Commission	<i>Position open</i>	812-357-6050
• St. Meinrad Cemetery Commission	Mr. Brian Greulich, Chair	812-608-0756

PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS/SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY

Parishioners seeking sacraments should visit the Sacraments tab on our website to begin enrollment and required preparation. To access this information, enter "sacraments" in the search feature at sbcatholic.church or smcatholic.church.

Baptism Preparation: Families seeking baptism should contact Jessica Fischer, Evangelization and Discipleship Coordinator, to schedule preparation and formation sessions at least two months before the child's birth.

Marriage Preparation: Couples wishing to marry at St. Boniface or St. Meinrad churches must contact Jessica Fischer, Evangelization and Discipleship Coordinator, at least six months before their wedding date to arrange marriage preparation and formation sessions. At least one person in the couple must have been a parishioner for one year.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office to request a priest for this sacrament of healing. **If you require a priest due to severe illness or danger of death, please call 812-357-6600.** Be prepared to provide your name, location and contact information. The priest on call will respond as soon as possible.

Families should use this number immediately when a loved one is admitted to an area hospital, long-term care center or hospice. Hospital, long-term care and hospice chaplains do not always contact the Parish Office promptly, which can leave parishioners and families without needed parish-based pastoral care or the [Last Sacraments](#).

WELCOME VISITORS AND GUESTS

Want to support the mission and ministry of our parish family?

Scan the QR code to make a one-time or recurring gifts using debit cards, credit cards, or eChecks (ACH).



DATES FOR PARISH PICNICS

- St. Boniface: 1st Sunday in August sbcatholic.church/summer-picnic
- St. Meinrad: 3rd Sunday in September smcatholic.church/fall-picnic

Note: No weddings are scheduled on picnic weekends or on weekends of parish patron feasts.

BECOME A MEMBER

We would love to have you as a parish family member if you are new to the area. If you have remained under your parent's membership but are now an adult, we encourage you to register independently. Register at the parish office or [contact us](#) using the QR code, so we can welcome you.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Counter Hours: Monday - Wednesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 9-11 a.m.
(Central Time)

By appointment: Thursday and Saturday
Office Closed Holy Days and Observed Holidays

BULLETIN DEADLINE

MONDAY 11 A.M.

Generally, each issue's copy deadline is Monday, six days before the Sunday cover date. Scan the QR code to fill out a form with news for the bulletin.



VIEW CEMETERY INFO ONLINE

To visit the parish cemetery directories, type "cemetery" in the search box on the parish website. You can view gravestones, locate family graves, and see what plots are available.

LOCKED OUT? REPAIRS NEEDED?

To report a safety concern or maintenance or repair need, type "maintenance" in the search box on the website. When you fill out an online form, a parish staff member or Facilities and Grounds Commission member will respond as soon as possible.

In an emergency that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or emergency medical personnel, call 911 immediately.





December 'Wish List' for Families Served by Catholic Charities Tell City



The December "Wish List" for Catholic Charities Tell City is **canned soups and Vienna sausages in pop-top cans**.

To deliver items, please use the handicap entrance at each church and place items in the container marked North Spencer Community Action Center at the Marian Altar or in the box in the narthex near the prayer intentions book.

Parish churches are open daily from dawn to dusk. Catholic Charities will distribute the items to local individuals

or families in need. For information, contact [Ms. Sue Kloeck](#), Service and Outreach Commission Chair.

Online November 27, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

December 'Wish List' for North Spencer Community Action Center



The December "Wish List" for North Spencer Community Action Center is **oatmeal, cereal, and dry milk**.

To deliver items, please use the handicap entrance at each church and place the items in the container marked North Spencer Community Action Center at the Marian Altar or in the box in the narthex near the prayer intentions book.

Parish churches are open daily from dawn to dusk. NSCAC will distribute these items to local individuals or families in need.

To learn more about North Spencer Community Action Center, contact Ms. Bobbi Fromme, NSCAC Director, at 812-937-2796 or visit www.northspencercac.com. For more information, contact [Ms. Sue Kloeck](#), Service and Outreach Commission Chair.

Online November 27, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

How to Contact the Prayer Line

Do you have a request or special need?

- Type **PRAYER REQUEST** in the search box on the website to submit an online request
- Call 812-357-6063 or scan the QR Code with your smartphone



Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention

December: For Christian areas of conflict



Oh God, who through the precious blood of your Son reconciled the world to yourself: today we pray for Christians who live in contexts of war or conflict.

May they be seeds of reconciliation, showing mercy and seeking justice, building bridges between divided communities and always forgiving, as they have been forgiven by you.

May their presence and testimony contribute to reconciliation, to heal wounds and inspire others to build and follow a path towards peace.

Lord Jesus, who called peacemakers blessed, help us to become active instruments of peace in our communities, even when surrounded by violence and division.

Holy Spirit, guarantor of true hope: help Christians to be beacons of hope, keeping an unwavering faith and working tirelessly for a more just and peaceful world, trusting that a future of peace is possible with the Lord's help. Amen.

Join Us in the Ministry of Prayer

Recent Prayer Requests Received

Updated December 10, 2025

* Intentions listed for 30 days, unless otherwise requested.

- For the repose of the soul of Larry Edward Aders, Herrin, IL, who died on November 25, 2025 (12/10)
- Easton K, St. Meinrad Parish, health and healing (12/8)
- Dana S, surgery and healing recovery (12/8)
- Karen K, St. Boniface Parish, health and healing (12/8)
- For the repose of the soul of Marilyn Cecelia (Kerstiens) Mullis, St. Meinrad Parish, who died on November 30, 2025. (12/1)
- For the repose of the soul of Michael "Mike" Joseph Gramelspacher, St. Boniface Parish, who died on November 21, 2025. (11/24)
- For the repose of the soul of James "Jim" Theodore Mehling, St. Meinrad Parish, who died on November 7, 2025 (11/9)
- Romilda P, St. Boniface Parish, health and healing (11/29)
- Delores W, St. Meinrad Parish, in thanksgiving for prayers and a return to health (11/12)

To add a prayer request, type "prayer request" in the search box on the parish website, or scan the QR code at left.

The Mission of Our Parish Family

St. Boniface Parish and St. Meinrad Parish exist to nurture an intentional faith-filled Catholic Community which inspires and empowers all people to follow Jesus Christ. We will continue to "Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2) by living the Word of God, celebrating the sacraments with meaningful worship, and calling one another to prayer, Christian service, and fellowship rooted in the living tradition of a rich German-Catholic heritage.



Fulda Development Announces Cash Bonanza Winners



Thank you to all who supported the 2025 Fulda Development Cash Bonanza drawings, making this year's fundraiser a huge success. Winners for the month of November are: Kevin Voegerl, Etta Begle, Dave Wagner, Eric King, and Ron Fuhrman.

Online December 12, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

Congratulations to Newly Baptized Maelyn Josephine Schlachter



Congratulations to Maelyn Josephine Schlachter, who was baptized at St. Meinrad Parish on Sunday, November 30, 2025, by Deacon Mike Fish.

Parents are Matthew Vincent and Morgan May (Hessig) Schlachter. Godparents are Lance Robert Elmer and Sarah Mae (Schlachter) Smith. Maelyn was born on April 4, 2025.

Online December 11, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

Mass Schedule Announced for Christmas and New Year's



St. Boniface Parish and St. Meinrad Parish announce the Mass schedule for Christmas and New Year's. On Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, Mass will be celebrated at 3:30 p.m. at St. Meinrad Catholic Church and at 6 p.m. at Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church.

On Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, Mass will be celebrated at midnight at Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church. Hymns and carols will be sung 30 minutes before Mass at the parish churches on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1) will be celebrated Wednesday, December 31, at 4 p.m. at Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church, with the patriotic rosary prayed before Mass at 3:15 p.m.

On New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, Mass will be celebrated for the Solemnity of Mary at 8:30 a.m. at St. Meinrad Catholic Church.

Online December 4, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

Fulda Resident Enjoys Time in Alaska as Jesuit Volunteer



Claire Snyder, daughter of Kerry and Vickie Snyder of St. Boniface Parish, is serving another year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest in Bethel, Alaska. JVCNW is a volunteer organization that focuses on values of community, simplicity, social and ecological justice, and spirituality and reflection.

Claire (bottom left in photo) lives in a community of other volunteers and serves as the Teen Empowerment Specialist at Tundra Women's Coalition. TWC has a shelter and outreach programs that provide safe, empowering, and culturally relevant services for victims of violence.

Here, Claire organizes and hosts a teen group, Teens Acting Against Violence, that focuses on domestic violence intervention and prevention. She also participates in community education on similar topics in local schools and nearby villages.

This is her second year of service – she served at L'Arche Tahoma Hope in Tacoma, Washington in '23-24. She stayed in Tacoma and worked at L'Arche in between.

Claire is enjoying getting to know the wider community of Bethel and all the new experiences Alaska has to offer!

Online December 18, 2025 | Bulletin January 4, 2026

HISTORIC ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND ST. MEINRAD CATHOLIC CHURCH - ST. MEINRAD, IN IS ATTENDING



OBOC CONFERENCE 3 1/6-7/10

Our high school youth will attend this liturgical summer conference at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, where they will learn how to become liturgical leaders at our parish.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: jessicaf@myparishfamily.church



HISTORIC ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Listed on National Register of Historic Places

Parish Founded 1847
sbcatholic.church



Eucharistic Adoration (Quiet Prayer) Wednesday Evenings at St. Boniface



An additional opportunity for **Eucharistic Adoration (Quiet Prayer with Jesus)** is available at Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church.

Each Wednesday, Eucharistic Adoration will be held **from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. while students attend F3 (family faith formation) sessions.**

Any parishioner, friend or neighbor is welcome to attend during any or all of the adoration time.

For information, contact Jessica Fischer, Discipleship and Evangelization Coordinator, at f3@myparishfamily.church.

Your Parish Needs Updates to Your Contact Information

St. Boniface and St. Meinrad parishes would like to keep the most current information about parishioners on record. If you have made a change in the past year - a new email address, phone number, address, or other information - please email the changes to info@myparishfamily.church, call the Parish Office at 812-357-5533, or stop by during office hours. This will be especially helpful for accessing your financial contribution statement in early 2026.

Interested in Learning More about Permanent Deacons?



"Are You Called to Be a Deacon?" Brochures about the formation and ministry of permanent deacons are in the back of each church.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is accepting new applications for the Permanent Deacon Formation. This is normally done once every five years.

A new group of permanent deacon candidates will start their formation in September 2026. If you know of a Catholic man in our parishes whom you think would serve well as a Deacon, tell him.

Online December 10, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

If you require a priest due to severe illness or danger of death, please call: 812-357-6600.

Be prepared to provide the attendant with your name, location, and contact information. Father Paul or the priest on call will respond as soon as possible.

ST. MEINRAD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Founded 1861
smcatholic.church

Congratulation on Baptism of Briggs Keith Weiss on November 22



Congratulations on the baptism of Briggs Keith Weiss on November 22, 2025, by Father Paul Nord, OSB, at Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church. Parents are Jeffrey Allen and Kyla Rae (Gogel) Weiss.

Godparents are Cody Michael Weiss and Toshia Nicole (Mosby) Adams.

Also in the photo is their daughter, Breckhett Jo.

Online December 11, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

Visit the parish website for more

News and Events:

sbcatholic.church or smcatholic.church

FAMILY DAY FOR VOCATIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026
9:00AM - 12:00PM
CATHOLIC CENTER



Join us for a day of prayer, learning, and FUN!
Here's what you can expect:

- ✓ Eucharistic Adoration & Mass
- ✓ Crafts & Activities for ALL ages
- ✓ Meet seminarians, priests, & religious

Noon: Special Lunch for High School Students

REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://HEARGODSCALL.COM/FAMILY-DAY-FOR-VOCATIONS](https://HEARGODSCALL.COM/FAMILY-DAY-FOR-VOCATIONS)

Liturgical Year: Christmas

Jesus, our God and Savior, was born on Christmas.

Chapter Summary

Christmas is the liturgical season when the Church celebrates both the Birth of Jesus Christ and the mystery of His presence in our lives. Jesus is known as Emmanuel, which means "God with us." As Catholics, we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas: that without loss of His divinity, the Son of God was born into our world as one of us to save us from our sins. The Christ candle and wreaths are used during Christmastime to remind us of Jesus' coming as our newborn King, who was victorious over sin and death. Catholics are required to attend Mass on Christmas Day because it is a Holy Day of Obligation. During the Christmas season, we try to live with the virtue of hope. Several symbols and traditions remind us to live with hope, including candy canes and the colors of Christmas: white, red, and green.

More for Parents

Christmas is the liturgical season when we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ. As parents, it is important for us to celebrate Jesus' Birth throughout the season, not only on December 25. With your children, come up with ways to celebrate each day of the Christmas season as a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. One idea is to do a different fun activity as a family every day in honor of Jesus' Birth. Another idea is to throw Jesus a birthday party. Your children can pick the theme and help set up decorations to celebrate Jesus' Birth. Celebrating the joy of Jesus becoming man is important for our children to grasp fully the meaning of this season.

Virtue in the Family

When we participate in the Christmas season, we live the virtue of hope. By becoming man, Jesus gave us hope for eternal life. Hope gives purpose to our lives.

Practicing Hope This Christmas

- As a family, choose a Christmas symbol explained in the lesson: a candy cane, Christ candle, or wreath.
 - Place this symbol somewhere in the house as a reminder for everyone.
 - Use this symbol during family prayer time and ask God to help your family live with hope every day.
 - Discuss with your children situations in which you have practiced the virtue of hope. Help your children understand that our hope comes from God and that He will never forsake us.
- As a family, deliver candy canes to residents at a local nursing home. Tie a note on each candy cane that contains a message of hope. Your visit will bring joy and hope to those residents who may not receive visitors. Spreading hope and love as a family is a great way to participate in the season of Christmas.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- Christ candle
- Emmanuel
- wreath

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.

Parishioners: Scan the QR code for free, unlimited access to our parish family's FORMED subscription.

Catholic content for all ages!



This Week on Formed

Week of December 21, 2025



The Story of Christmas | Benjamin Cello Christmas Special

In this special hour-long television event, Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas" by Brother Joseph and "The Shadow of His Wings" puppet theater.



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



What Catholics Believe About Christmas: Traditions, Santa Claus

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



PASTOR'S LETTER

Sunday Scripture Commentary by Father Paul Nord, OSB

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Response: Psalm 24:1-6

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
In these last days of Advent, the Church
prepares us for Christ's coming by praying
the "O Antiphons."

Each of these "O Antiphons" calls upon
Christ by a different title: "O Wisdom, O
Leader (My Lord) of the House of Israel, O
Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Radiant
Dawn, O King of all nations, O Emmanuel
(God with us).

Each of these call upon Christ, urging Him
to come now to save us!

December 17: O Wisdom of our God Most
High, guiding creation with power and
love: come to teach us the path of
knowledge!

December 18: O Leader of the House of
Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty
power!

December 19: O Root of Jesse's stem, sign
of God's love for all his people: come to
save us without delay!

December 20: O Key of David, opening
the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come
and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21: O Radiant Dawn, splendor
of eternal light, sun of justice: come and
shine on those who dwell in darkness and
in the shadow of death.

December 22: O King of all nations and
keystone of the Church: come and save
man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23: O Emmanuel, our King and
Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our
God!

Come Lord Jesus! Maranatha!

Ahaz was king of Judah. Damascus and the
northern kingdom of "Israel" attacked

Jerusalem and Judah.

In response to this threat, King Ahaz
chose to make an alliance with the King of
Assyria. The prophetic message of Isaiah
criticizes King Ahaz of Judah for trusting in
this foreign alliance. Instead, the King
should have trusted in God alone.

"The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: 'Ask for
a sign from the LORD, your God'" (Isa
7:10). King Ahaz is being invited to trust in
God's protection. God even offers Ahaz a
sign as proof, that he might believe. But
Ahaz trusts in his alliance with Assyria, not
in the Lord God.

He does not want a sign from God, so he
refuses: "I will not ask! I will not tempt the
LORD!" King Ahaz is pretending to be
pious. In reality, he does not want to put
his faith in God. No sign will change his
mind.

For this reason, Isaiah reprimands Ahaz,
who belongs to the royal "house of
David." Isaiah says that despite King Ahaz'
unfaithfulness, "the Lord himself will give
you this sign: the virgin shall conceive,
and bear a son, and shall name him
Emmanuel" (Isa 7:14).

The name "Emmanuel" means "God is
with us." The birth of this son is an
indication of God's presence among his
people. We recognize that Jesus Christ
fulfilled this prophecy in a wonderful way.
In the Incarnation, the Son of God
became man. He thus united divinity with
humanity in his own person. This fulfills
Isaiah's prophecy – "God is with us" – in a
stunning way which shows God's
immense love for humanity.

From St. Paul's letter to the Romans,
these verses are the beginning of Paul's
letter. Paul begins by introducing himself
as "a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an
apostle and set apart for the gospel of
God." By calling himself a "slave," Paul
indicates that he seeks to do God's will,
not his own. Paul recognizes that God
chose him to be "an apostle" with the
mission of proclaiming Christ's Gospel to
the Gentiles.

Paul notes that Christ's gospel was
"promised previously through his
prophets in the holy Scriptures" – that is,
in the Old Testament. Paul describes

Continued on page 11



December Birthdays

- 1 Ben Mangum, Travis Brown, Rich Peters, Luke Rickelman, Pat Scherer, Vickie Snyder
- 2 Amanda Kern, Karen Peters
- 3 Alexis Nadin
- 4 Andy Gray, Tanner Feltner, Maison Ficker
- 5 Crystal Auffart
- 6 Kayla Arnold, Rosie Scott
- 7 Anita Hedinger
- 8 Cinda Schipp
- 9 Jenna Kress
- 10 Vanesa Auffart, Wyatt Haake
- 12 Esther Gehlhausen, Ron Scherzer, Jordan Boehman, Lindsey Hagedorn
- 13 Mark Hagedorn, Tammy Sprinkle, Anna Fischer
- 14 Kara Forler, Luke Mullis
- 15 Jeremy Schipp, Jack Gogel, Rebecca Greulich, Jackie Waninger
- 16 Lyla Kate Gray, Brent Beier, Christopher Kern, Mark Schilling
- 17 Sam Jent, Adrienne Collignon, Adalyn Haefling, Joe Harper, Jerod Schaefer, Ashley Sitzman
- 18 Jackson Echelbarger, Rachel Berg, Blake Ficker
- 19 Mark Schatz, Hayley Arnold, Adryan Oeding, Sharon Schwindel
- 20 Marja Schatz
- 21 Logan Kloeck, Hayley Waninger, Chris Lutz, Brianne Hopf, Donna Seifrig, Payson Berg, Easton Greulich
- 22 Trenton Zimmerman
- 23 Mary L. Denning, Lacey Schepers
- 24 Ron Boehman, Joe Ficker, Alan Waninger
- 25 Chad Vaal
- 26 Nathan Sitzman
- 27 Brian Schaefer, Luke Ebert, Anna Mae Werne, Linda Mae Dilger, Adele Harper
- 29 Clint Scherzer, Anja Greulich, Daniel Roos
- 30 Danny Fischer
- 31 Cindy Greulich

Please note: If your name is missing, incorrect or misspelled, email communications@myparishfamily.church.

HISTORIC ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Listed on National Register of Historic Places

Parish Founded 1847
sbcatholic.church



ST. MEINRAD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Founded 1861
smcatholic.church

GRADES 7-12
INVITE A FRIEND!

Epiphany
SUNDAY



YOUTH GROUP (CYO)
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

6-7:30 P.M. (CENTRAL)
ST. BONIFACE PARISH CENTER

Need Help Locating a Building?

View the E911 address listing of any of the parish locations by typing "**locations**" in the search feature at the top of the website, sbcatholic.church or smcatholic.church.

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Continued from Page 9

Jesus as both "descended from David according to the flesh" and also the "Son of God."

Paul proceeds to invoke the Holy Spirit, which enables Christians to share in God's holiness. He also cites Christ's resurrection from the dead, by which we are redeemed. Paul is reminding his readers of essential elements of Christ's Gospel, which Paul proclaims as an apostle.

Through Christ, Paul has "received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith" – particularly "among all the Gentiles." Paul is Jewish, but Christ called him to proclaim Christ's Gospel to the nations of the world – far beyond his own Jewish people.

For this reason, Paul is writing to the Christians in Rome – a community which included many Gentile Christians. The Christians in Rome are "beloved" by God, and they are "called to be holy" – as God is holy.

Paul concludes his greeting to Roman Christians: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." This is a standard greeting phrase that Paul also uses in the opening verses of his first and second letters to the Corinthians, his letter to the Galatians, his letter to Philemon, his letter to the Philippians, and other letters.

Matthew's Gospel begins with the genealogy of Jesus (1:1-17), which includes many names and counts 42 generations – from Abraham to King David to the Babylonian Exile to Jesus the Messiah. Today's gospel reading (1:18-24) follows, describing "how the birth of Jesus Christ came about."

Parishes to Sponsor Handel's 'Messiah' on WITZ-FM Radio

Once again, St. Boniface Parish and St. Meinrad Parish are the proud and principal sponsors of the Christmas Eve presentation of the Handel's "Messiah" on WITZ Radio, Wednesday, December 24, 2025, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. CT. Tune in to 104.7 FM.

Through the generosity of our parish family, we share our blessing with others as we share this evening with others, especially the sick, homebound and infirm throughout the tri-state area, as we remember and celebrate the birth of Messiah.

Online December 17, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

Planning Meeting Scheduled for St. Meinrad Parish Annual Fall Picnic



St. Meinrad Parish Fall Picnic leadership and stand chairs will meet with Father Paul Nord, OSB, on Monday, January 5, 2026, at the Parish Office for a fall picnic planning meeting. The meeting time is 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Online December 18, 2025 | Bulletin January 4, 2026

Mary is "found with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matt 1:18). Luke's Gospel reports similar words from the angel Gabriel when he explains to Mary how she will bear a son: "The holy Spirit will come upon you" (Luke 1:35).

Joseph knows that he has not fathered the unborn child, and so he "decided to divorce her quietly." In this way, Joseph intends to mercifully shield Mary from shame. But before Joseph can divorce Mary, "the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream."

Several things are notable about the angel's message. First, the angel addresses him as "Joseph, son of David." This calls to mind Messianic prophecies that God's kingdom would come through a descendant of David. Second, Joseph is told that Mary's pregnancy is due to the action of God's Holy Spirit.

Third, Joseph is told: "you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." "Jesus" is the Greek version of the Hebrew name "Joshua" (Yeshua), which means "Yahweh saves." Thus, Jesus' name indicates his role in God's plan – to be God's agent of salvation. Fourth, the angel cites Isaiah 7:14: "the virgin shall... bear a son... [and] name him Emmanuel." See the commentary for today's first reading.

When Joseph awakes, he is immediately obedient to what the angel told him in the dream. Joseph was earlier described as "a righteous man." He is also a man ready to cooperate with God's will. God reveals his plan to Joseph in a partial, mysterious way – and Joseph trusts.

In Christ Jesus,
Father Paul, OSB

Parishioners Invited to Decorate Trees of Remembrance



This year a Tree of Remembrance will be located to the left of the main entrance at both St. Boniface and St. Meinrad parish churches. The tree will feature a placard with a spiritual message with simple decorations. A basket of ornaments and markers will be nearby for you to write your loved one's name and add it to the tree.

The Tree of Remembrance will allow us to pray for all those who have gone before us and continue to be remembered at this special time of year.

How to Begin with Online Giving

Here are links to get started:

- sbcatholic.church/sunday-holy-day/
- smcatholic.church/sunday-holy-day/

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End-of-Year Reminders for Giving, Holiday Schedule, and Bulletins

Still Time to Make a Difference: There is still time to help those who are financially struggling with your regular support of the St. Nicholas' Helping Hands Fund.

Assistance by the Service and Outreach Commission has helped individuals with the co-pay for their medications, provided shoes for some local students, and purchased some regulation sports gear needed for a youth who could not otherwise participate.

While responding to requests is limited by the amount in the fund, anyone with a need can make a request by email; requests must come from the individual in need or a family member.

An envelope for this parish-based ministry is included in the monthly envelope packet. Please make sure your check is made payable to the parish church, clearly marking in the memo:

SNHH Fund #4098. If you would like to support this fund or have questions, contact the Service and Outreach Commission chair, [Sue Kloeck](#).

Christmas Holiday Hours and Bulletin Publication: The Parish Office will be closed December 24 – January 1 for the Christmas Holiday. Father Paul will be in the office by appointment for pastoral care and counseling and sacramental preparation and formation. He will also be available after Masses. Due to the holiday schedule, there will be no bulletin on the weekend of December 27-28.

Share Your Family Milestones: News to share with your parish family! We want to hear from you as it happens. For birth announcements, anniversaries, awards and recognitions and to list upcoming community events and programs, visit the recently updated "News To Share" form from the home page by entering News to Share at the search feature. Learn how to also submit photos and videos when you submit your news.

Financial Gifts: Your Gift Makes a Difference

Your generous support sustains our parish ministries, programs and activities throughout the year. Consider directing your gift to ongoing mission and ministry needs or to one of our permanent endowments that ensure the long-term care of our church buildings, cemeteries and pastoral ministries for generations to come.

Year-End Charitable Giving

Start planning your year-end charitable giving now. When you itemize deductions, charitable gifts are subtracted from the amount subject to tax, providing welcome savings at tax time while supporting your parish community.

Qualified Charitable Distribution

A qualified charitable distribution remains a tax-free way to give to your parish or other qualified 501(c)(3) organizations, including funds managed by the Catholic Community Foundation and the Community Foundation Alliance of Perry and Spencer Counties.

You must be at least age 70½ to use a qualified charitable distribution. Beginning in 2023, Required Minimum Distribution begins at age 73. Check with your financial advisor for guidance.

ST. MEINRAD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Founded 1861
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In recent years, some parishioners have adopted this practice to meet their annual stewardship obligations with a yearly tax-free gift to support parish ministries, programs and activities. Others have designated their qualified charitable distribution as a perpetual gift to one or more parish endowments to support ongoing and future pastoral ministries or the long-term care of church buildings or cemeteries.

For more information or a confidential conversation about qualified charitable distribution, contact the Parish Office at 812-357-6050 or finance@myparishfamily.church.

EOY Deadline: Any contributions for this calendar year will need to be postmarked by December 31, if mailed, or submitted online by midnight on December 31. The drop box on the door of the Parish Office will be checked each day, as well.

For the EIN number for your parish and a complete list of endowments and their fund numbers, which your financial advisor may need, please use the QR code to visit the website page.



Join Us to Celebrate the Feast of St. Meinrad on Sunday, January 18



The St. Meinrad Feast Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2026, with a Mass celebrated at 8:30 a.m. at St. Meinrad Catholic Church followed by a free catered breakfast at 9:45 a.m. at the St. Meinrad Community Center.

There will be prizes given away and activities for children. No reservations are needed, and all are welcome. For more information, [email](#) Nancy Graman.

Online December 18, 2025 | Bulletin January 18, 2026

Larry Edward Aders, Herrin, IL, Dies on November 25, 2025



In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Larry Edward Aders, 69, of Herrin, IL, who died on November 25, 2025, at his home.

He is the brother of Rose (Scott) Fischer of St. Meinrad Parish and a nephew of Anna Mae Werne, also of St. Meinrad Parish.

The Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at St. Meinrad Catholic Church, followed by burial in St. Meinrad Cemetery. Visitation will be at the church one hour before Mass.

Online December 10, 2025 | Bulletin December 21, 2025

Liturgical Ministers: To reset your password or username in Ministry Scheduler Pro, go to the log in page and click on "Forgot Password." MSP will ask for your email address and send you instructions on making the change. If you don't see the email right away, check your Spam/Junk folder (or Gray Mail folder for PSC users).

Still having problems? Scan the QR code to contact Jessica Fischer, Evangelization and Discipleship Coordinator, via the MSP Feedback Form.

Substitutes: Thanks to those who have been using the substitute request, which goes to all those in your subgroup (e.g., lectors for 8:30 a.m. Sunday). To accept a request, please log in and accept so everyone in your subgroup can see the request has been filled.

Deadlines: Deadlines to submit your ministry availability are: November 1 (for December 1-January 31 schedule), January 1 (February 1-May 31 schedule), May 1 (June 1-August 31 schedule), and August 1 (September 1-November 30). Changes submitted after these dates do not update the schedule.

 Liturgical Ministry Schedule Ministry Scheduler Pro	Saturday, December 20 at 4 p.m. Vigil Mass for Sunday Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church	Sunday, December 21 at 6 a.m. Mass for Sunday Historic St. Boniface Catholic Church	Sunday, December 21 at 8:30 a.m. Mass for Sunday St. Meinrad Catholic Church
Porter	Brett Gruber	Lee Ray Tempel	Alex Graman Jeff Graman
Sacristan	Courtney Blalock	LeeRay Tempel Clara Tempel	Janelle Brentlinger Mike Brentlinger
Bell Ringer (Five minutes before Mass, three assigned liturgical ministers peal bells for 2 minutes.)	Ryan Hildenbrand - Tower Bell #1 NOT FILLED - Tower Bell #2 Brett Gruber - Tower Bell #3	NOT FILLED - Tower Bell #1 NOT FILLED - Tower Bell #2 LeeRay Tempel - Tower Bell #3	
Livestream for Rosary	NOT FILLED		NOT FILLED
Rosary Leader	Amanda Gudorf Michael Gudorf		Sally Gravatte
Livestream for Mass	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED
Hospitality (Greeters)	Karen Peters - Main Door	NOT FILLED - Main Door	Susan Ippoliti and Karen Springston - Main Door
Priest	Father Paul Nord, OSB - Principal Celebrant	Father Paul Nord, OSB - Principal Celebrant	Father Paul Nord, OSB - Principal Celebrant
Deacon	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED
Acolyte of the Altar	Aidan Haefling	Marshall Snyder	J.D. Brentlinger
Acolyte of the Word	Jase Burden	Beckett Kress	Anna Springston
Crucifer (Cross Bearer)	Charlotte Sitzman	Axl Schroer	Kylie Sitzman
Candle Bearer	Livy Schaefer Edmund Sitzman	Liam Kress Ayla Schroer	Nicholas Lutz Clay Sitzman
Proclamation of the Word	Carsten King - First Reading Michael Gudorf - Second Reading Michelle Blalock - Prayer of the Faithful	Kerry Synder - First Reading Vickie Snyder - Second Reading Vickie Snyder - Prayer of the Faithful	Karen Springston - First Reading Leah Brentlinger - Second Reading Karen Springston - Prayer of the Faithful
Offertory Collection (Review listed Mass Intention. Invite family members to present the offertory gifts at the Offertory Procession.)	Paul Haefling Nick Hildenbrand Michael Gudorf Kasen Hildenbrand	Clara Tempel Denny Rickelman Alfred Birchler Jim Mullis	Gary Graman Tom Kloeck Mark Ruxer Larry Waninger
Signal Bell at Consecration (At the time of the <i>Epiclesis</i> , when the acolytes kneel at the altar, ring the tower bell until the acolytes again stand following the proclamation of the mystery of faith.)	Ryan Hildenbrand - Bell #3	NOT FILLED - Bell #3	
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Individuals assigned to patens gather near Altar of St. Joseph, chalices near the Altar of Mary)	Michelle Blalock - Paten Maddie Gudorf - Paten Michael Gudorf - Paten Courtney Blalock - Chalice Pam Davis - Chalice Wyatt Gudorf - Chalice Becky Wesner - Chalice Maddie Gudorf - Pyx (loft) Pam Davis - Chalice (loft)	Alison Collignon - Paten Faith Schaefer - Chalice Kerry Snyder - Chalice Alison Collignon - Pyx (loft) Faith Schaefer - Chalice (loft)	Karen Mangum - Paten Caleb Mohr - Paten Kathy Ruxer - Paten Jessica Fischer - Chalice Brittany Forler - Chalice Brianne Hopf - Chalice Cindy Sitzman - Chalice Caleb Mohr - Pyx (loft) Cindy Sitzman - Chalice (loft)
Livestream for <i>Memorare</i> (Camera angle to include statue of Blessed Virgin Mary above BVM altar)	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	Michael Blalock
Angelus Bell (Post-Mass)	NOT FILLED - Bell #1	NOT FILLED - Bell #1	
Hospitality (Post-Mass)	Renae Harper	NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED

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AREA AGENCIES

Catholic Charities Tell City

Sister Michele Intravia, OSU 812-547-0903 (o)

Knights of Columbus #5599 (SM)

Mr. Luke Mullis 812-660-0913 (m)

Martin's Cloak Food Pantry

Mrs. Ramona Gehlhausen 812-309-1256 (m)

PASTORAL COUNCIL

OFFICERS

Chair	Amy Dilger
Vice Chair	David Fromme
Secretary	Sue Kloeck
Member-at-Large (SB)	Ellen Haefling
Member-at-Large (SM)	Position open
COMMISSION CHAIRS	
Evangelization and Discipleship	Position open
Facilities and Grounds (SB)	Neil Collignon
Facilities and Grounds (SM)	Jerry Sitzman
Finance (SB)	Shannon Tuley
Finance (SM)	Pam Davis
Heritage and Marketing (SB)	Position open
Heritage and Marketing (SM)	Position open
Pastoral Ministries and Activities	Position open
Strategic Planning and Stewardship (SB)	Position open
Strategic Planning and Stewardship (SM)	Position open
Service and Outreach	Sue Kloeck
Worship	Taylor Blalock

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Bereavement Luncheon Ministry (SB)

Mary Wagner, coordinator 812-357-2002 (h)

Bereavement Luncheon Ministry (SM)

Dolores Scherzer, coordinator 812-357-2571 (h)

Cemetery Commission (SB)

Position Open, chair

Cemetery Commission (SM)

[Brian Greulich](#), chair

Fall Picnic (SM)

Nancy Graman, chair

Men's Society (SB)

Jim Gogel, chair

Ladies Sodality (SB)

Brenda Kleiser, chair

Summer Picnic (SB)

Position Open, chair

Note: Only landline phones are listed due to the risk of scams.

ONLINE GIVING: How To GET STARTED

If you would like to switch to online giving, here are some tips:



- St. Boniface Parish and St. Meinrad Parish both use Realm for online giving. It is easy to use and secure.
- With online giving in Realm®, you can make one-time or recurring gifts using debit cards, credit cards, or eChecks (ACH).
- All gifts made online immediately show up in your giving history, along with any other online, text, or offline contributions.

- Whether a new or lifetime parishioner, a friend or neighbor, or an area business that supports the mission and ministry of St. Boniface Parish and St. Meinrad Parish in Spencer County, Indiana, Realm Online Giving 24/7 and Realm Mobile Giving will work for all your giving needs.
- With Realm Mobile Giving, giving is never out of reach. Parishioners can give online with their mobile phones by signing into Realm from their mobile browser. Realm also takes advantage of mobile phone cameras. iPhone users can save time by scanning a credit card to quickly enter their payment method.
- **Here are links to get started:**
sbcatholic.church/sunday-holy-day/
smcatholic.church/sunday-holy-day/
- If you have questions or need help setting up an account, contact the Parish Office at 812-357-5533 or email info@myparishfamily.church.

ST. BONIFACE

ST. MEINRAD

	PARISH CENSUS	
	FY 2025-2026	
176	# of Households	224
MASS COUNT		
In-Person	December 8-14, 2025	Livestream
59	Monday	8
21	Tuesday	6
12	Wednesday	7
7	Thursday	7
5	Friday	11
117	Saturday (Vigil for Sunday) 4 p.m.	22
42	Sunday 6 a.m.	16
109	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	24
Church Capacity:	360 (SB) Parish #076; 430 (SM) Parish #137	
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP		
Updated:12/19/2025	November 24-30, 2025	
\$135	Online Giving	\$310
\$1,009	Offertory	\$1,307

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One Family In Faith

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sanctuary Lamp
December 28, 2025
LuminaryTo make a memorial
gift for a luminary,
scan the QR code.St Boniface Parish +Franklin Delano Cox
St. Meinrad Parish +James "Jim" Lee and +Kathleen Ann (Seng) Ebert

ORDO (Order of Prayer)	
Liturgy of the Hours	I
Lectionary	1
Eucharistic Prayer	IV
Mystery of Faith	C

DATE / TIME

CALENDAR EVENT

LOCATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:00 a.m.	FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST Mass (May - October at 7 a.m.; November - April at 8 a.m.) • Mass begins at 8 a.m. through Saturday, April 25, 2026 Confession (confessional located at the main entrance) Confession (confessional located at the south entrance) Rosary (For an increase of vocations to the single chaste life and marriage) Mass <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> "Mass for the People"	Monte Cassino Shrine
12:15 to 1:00 p.m.		Church (SM)
3:15 to 3:45 p.m.		Historic Church (SB)
3:35 p.m.		Historic Church (SB)
4:00 p.m.		Historic Church (SB)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

6:00 a.m.	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Mass +Oscar John and +Marie Leona (Oeding) Gessner	Historic Church (SB)
8:05 a.m.	Rosary (For an increase of vocations to priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life)	Church (SM)
8:30 a.m.	Mass +Urban Frank and +Alvina Elizabeth (Loechte) (Anniversary of Death) Fendel	Church (SM)
8:40 a.m.	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church (SM)
9:30 a.m.	Mass (parishioners, pilgrims and guests welcome)	Archabbey Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

3:50 p.m.	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY Rosary (For the sanctification of life from womb to tomb)	Historic Church (SB)
4:15 p.m.	Mass +Eugene "Gene" William Gudorf • Third Monday, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Pastoral Council	Historic Church (SB)
	• Fourth Monday, 5:15 to 6 p.m. Pastoral Council Officers No meetings in April, July, August, November	Parish Center/Shelter House (SB): Room 105 Parish Office: Room G

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:15 a.m.	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY Mass +Pauline Mildred (Bockhold) Schaefer	Church (SM)
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Reserved for Team E	Parish Office: Office C
9:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Parish Staff Meeting • First and third Tuesdays of month, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Formation sessions for sacraments and pastoral counseling	Parish Office: Room G-A Parish Office: Room H

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

3:15 p.m.	Patriotic Rosary	Historic Church (SB)
4:00 p.m.	Mass +Deceased Members of Parish Family	Historic Church (SB)
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Church reserved for liturgical music practice	Church (SM)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

8:00 to 11:00 a.m.	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY Church cleaning	Church (SM)
8:30 a.m.	Mass <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> "Mass for the People" Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)	Historic Church (SB)
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Church reserved for liturgical music practice	Historic Church (SB)/Church (SM)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

7:15 a.m.	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY Mass For Healing of Stroke Patients of All Ages	Church (SM)
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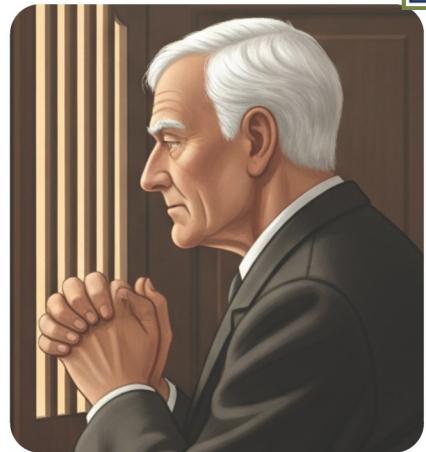
Parishioners and guests, scan QR code for giving options.



Dear Padre,

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).



The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–
12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5,
9–14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10;
7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8
Sunday
December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or
3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



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