

From the Pastor's Desk:

It is official! MERRY CHRISTMAS! While the culture tries to tell us that season of Christmas is past, the Church tells us that the great season of Christmas has begun. Right now, we, as a Universal Church, are in the midst of the "Octave of Christmas". We celebrate spiritually, with a greater intensity this great feast. Some of the things that we do different liturgically is to say the Creed and even the Gloria during the weekday Masses. (Recall, that during the Advent season, the Gloria is omitted and falls silent.)



You have heard it said that "Time flies when you are having fun!" It must be for me personally "beyond fun" to being "FANTASTIC", as the weeks of Advent, these first days of Christmas and really these past six months (as of this coming Tuesday, December 30th) have been like being in a rocket ship, travelling at the speed of light.

This weekend, the Universal Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. Early on, in the first beginnings of this sacred union of St. Joseph, the Blessed Mother and the Christ Child, this Holy Family was on the move. Mary and Joseph were on the move to register when Mary was heavy with child. Mary and Joseph were on the move when the Holy Family fled into Egypt to escape the corrupt leaders know as Herod. And in today's gospel from St. Luke, the family is also on the move, as they have come with the new-born Christ Child to have him circumcised in the great temple and city of Jerusalem.

Simeon greets the Holy Family as a very old man. One could say that Simeon's life is past; yet with Advent and Christmas "HOPE", he continues to look among the people moving in and out of that great wonder of the ancient world, the Jewish temple, if he might catch a glimpse of the future Messiah. Simeon sees something in that newborn that even Mary and Joseph have yet to see, as St. Luke writes: "*The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him...*".

Then Simeon is moved to prayer, asking that God would let him "move on" to the next world, as he had experienced the fullness of life here on earth by encountering the Messiah.

During the Christmas season, there is a lot of movement of people. People are driving or flying to and from family and friends. There is movement to the malls to buy things...and then to return them. Of course there is movement to the Church, as a large portion of the Christian faithful still believe it is not Christmas unless they attend a service or a Mass.

Yet, while Christmas is about so much "physical" movement, it is much more about a "spiritual" movement. Moving from sinfulness to sainthood, from the culture to entering Christ in a more profound spiritual way.

May this Christmas be as memorable for you and your family as it was for Simeon who encountered the Holy Family and the Christ Child that first Christmas season. May your hearts "move" closer to Christ through this intense sacramental and spiritual time. Merry Christmas!

Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

Stewardship of Treasure

Adult (132)	\$ 7,576.00
Electronic Giving	3,886.25
Junior/Junior Christmas	41.40
Plate	411.15
School Rent	125.00
Christmas Flower/Decoration Offering	468.00
Christmas	680.00
Holy Day (Immaculate Conception)	115.00
Grand Total	\$ 13,302.80

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

Special Collections

Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 144.00
-------------------------------	-----------

Stewardship

As we enter more deeply into the season of Christmas, I wish to thank each and every one of you that have extended such generous stewardship in the first half of our fiscal year. It is nice to report that our stewardship on the weekly level is up (and certainly the D.M.A.), not to mention all those of you that have done so much volunteering from work on the rectory to regaling us in song through our newly formed parish choir. May you know of your goodness and the gratitude that I extend to you as pastor! Merry Christmas!!!!

Thought for the Week

"To look at the star means receiving light and giving light, radiating in the world around us the light that we have received, so that it can provide orientation to others too."

-Pope Benedict XVI

Happy 95th Birthday

We wish a Happy 95th Birthday to Francis Neubert on December 28th!!!! Congratulations!!!



Bulletin Printing:

Many of you may have noticed the changes that our parish bulletin has undergone these past few months. Thank you to the many of you that have complimented (in the affirmative) about your appreciation with the new changes. However, going to a better grade paper and a more expansive bulletin, requires more expense. Paragon Printing, which is the publisher of our bulletin, does the production of our bulletin largely at cost. At this point the parish relies on the businesses and organizations to cover the cost of the weekly bulletin. At the present time, we do not have sufficient advertisers to sustain the publication of our parish bulletin. If we cannot remedy this situation, the parish may have to seek out an alternative means for publishing our parish bulletin. If you have a business or know of a business that would be willing to advertise their services on the back of the bulletin, please contact Paragon Publishing at 507-345-1297 or e-mail at paragon@hickorytech.net. You are also welcome to call Holy Rosary parish office as well. Thank you for your consideration.



helping with community service projects. A retreat is being planned in February with the youth of the parish. 30 kids are showing up on Wednesday evenings for gym/open time. Majority of students involved in the youth program are junior high age. Worship Committee: All Souls’ Day Mass at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday resulted in a capacity crowd with the choir loft filled. Worship is planning to do this Mass on Sunday annually closest to All Souls’ Day. Harvest decorations were well received. Much work is being done to create a new and expanded environment for Christmas this year.

Father reported that the D.M.A. is at 52% of the goal. Father is hearing favorable comments regarding the liturgy and Mass attendance. The Mankato area priests have returned to the tradition of meeting regularly to discuss parish life. Discussions will involve how our parish can work more closely together in the years ahead rather than doing everything independently. (No decisions or plans are in place at this time.)

The Pastoral Council continued to discuss the pastoral concerns of the parish. The area focused in at this time involved the “Parish Structures”. Church – Strengths: Beautiful space, adequate size, nice sanctuary, pretty-well maintained, newer windows and stained glass, newer boiler, lighting improved in social hall, roof 09, church is air conditioned. Church – Weaknesses: Length of the church, can’t see in the cry room, no gathering/narthex area, no visitation area for funerals, slow elevator, too many steps into church, flooring under the pews is original and worn, air conditioning improper functioning, need to paint, improve sanctuary lighting, kitchen outdated, ceiling in social hall updating needed, greater security for the church, bridal room – needs updating, need new church sign. Men’s bathroom update ventilation. School Building – Strengths: large space, available for rental for community, sufficient space for religious education, witness to Catholic education. School – Weaknesses: High maintenance/heating costs, need for more nursery space, much asbestos in pipes and ceilings, under-utilized space, largely sits empty most of the time, insufficient rent payments for the cost to maintain, boiler system is original, windows are original, built as an elementary school, not handicapped accessible, roof repairs due to flat roof construction.

The meeting adjourned. *The next scheduled meeting is being set for Monday, January 26th at 6:30 P.M.* Future Business: continued pastoral planning/discussion.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK

Holy Rosary is now on Facebook. Please check out the site & “Like” us - follow the link from our website – www.holyrosarynorthmankato.com



PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 24, 2014

Holy Rosary – Conference Room

The Holy Rosary Pastoral Council convened in the Conference Room, beginning with prayer. Nearly all of the members were in attendance. C.C.W. is working on the annual Christmas bake sale, joint Christmas Party along with the K. of C., among other projects. Religious Ed. classes are already on their ninth class for the year. A living rosary was said, safe environment has been implemented, First Reconciliation is being finalized and children are being picked up in the gym this year, that has worked well. The theme of religious education is “Compassion Just Like Jesus”. Confirmation has been set by the Diocese for February 28th, with 21 students to be confirmed. A \$500.00 grant was given to the religious ed. program through Catholic Aid. (Father is visiting/teaching all of the classrooms this year.) Youth Group: 16 students have been



During the season of Advent Loyola students reached out to local families in need of support. Intermediate and High School students donated funds and shopped for gifts requested by families in our parishes, presenting the wrapped gifts at Mass on Friday. Primary students collected items needed by new mothers and their babies. During our final Advent prayer service, students blessed the gifts and prayed for those who will use them. The gifts have been delivered to Mankato Birthright.

We have rescheduled our celebration of our National Catholic Schools Week all-school Mass for Tuesday, January 27 at 9:30 at St. Joseph the Worker parish. All are welcome.

At this time of gift-giving and receiving all of us at Loyola thank you for your generous support and lasting commitment. We are proud to be your parish school.

The little children sang at their Christmas program, "There are 365 days of Christmas each year!" Every day, may you seek and find the Christ Child living in your heart and in everyone you meet, and may His blessings of peace and grace be yours each day.

FR. ED ARDOLF ENDOWMENT FUND

This fund is now at \$129,052.00. 85% of the earnings of this fund go to pay tuition at Loyola Catholic School for Holy Rosary families. Contributions to this fund may be dropped off at the parish office or sent to Amy at Loyola.

Sunday, January 4th, 2015

Start the new year out right – spend some quality time renewing your marriage. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are January 9-11 in Bismarck, February 6-8 in Buffalo, February 13-15 in Windom, February 20-22 in Fargo, March 20-22 in Baxter. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: southmnwwme.org or contact John & Mary Beth at applications@southmnwwme.org or 507-838-8178.

Readings for the Week

- Mon:** 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35
- Tues:** 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40
- Wed:** 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18
- Thurs:** Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21
- Fri:** 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28
- Sat:** 1 John 2:29-3:6, John 1:29-34
- Sun:** Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

1. Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.), Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical Care and Diocesan Audit:
DUE: \$78,103.92
Pd. To Date \$32,670.18
2. Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.)
DUE: \$27,708.85
Pd. to Date: \$42,221.00
(*We are at 152% of our goal! This is unbelievable! YEA!!!)
3. Loyola Catholic School Assessment:
DUE: \$238,000.00
Pd. to Date: \$75,500.00

Total Assessments 2014-2015:	\$ 343,812.77
Total Paid to Date 2014-2015:	\$ 150,391.18

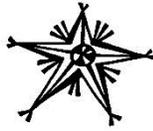
Christmas Flowers and Decorations

A small number of memorials were not included in the flier that was handed out at the four Christmas Masses this year. We would like to honor those that did not make our brochure and we received after the flier had been published. The following memorials that we wish to recognize, include:

- 1) In remembrance of Jan Barnett by Meigan Westermann
- 2) In remembrance of Jack Cline by Mary Cline
- 3) In remembrance of Dean Como by Sue Como
- 4) In remembrance of Maury & Florence Evans, George & Doris Bakalyar, Phyllis LeRoy & Harlon McCargar by Nancy & Kurt Evans
- 5) In remembrance of the Henrickson & VanLoy Families by Kim & Sherry Henrickson
- 6) In remembrance of Lynn & Bee Kiffe, Don & Marge Nelson by Tom & Barb Kiffe
- 7) In remembrance of Kathleen, Francis & Patrick Hunt, Bette Montgomery by Kevin, Beth & Luke Montgomery
- 8) In remembrance of Rita & Bill O’Dea, Fran & Dick Harris by Mike & Diane O’Dea
- 9) In remembrance of Harold Reichert by Randy Reichert
- 10) In remembrance of all those unable to be with family during this holiday season by Chasity, Tim & Logan Senesae
- 11) In remembrance of Helen & Nick Hadbavny, Eleanor & John Tarasovitch by Jim & Denise Tarasovitch
- 12) In remembrance of LeRoy & Anna Zenk by Pat Zenk
- 13) In remembrance of the Martinka Family by Mike & Jill Martinka
- 14) In remembrance of Richard Friedrichs by Velma Bunde

Christmas Wishes

Blessings and best wishes as we celebrate the great season of Christmas now and through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. May these days be filled with joy and rejoicing as we recall once again the birth of Christ and the birth of our eternal salvation through Him. May you feel the joy of Christ not only at this time of year, but equally throughout the entire New Year of 2015! God Bless You!



Christmas "Thank You"

The special liturgies of the Christmas season, just don't "happen", but involve lots of planning and preparation, many weeks before the actual day. I would be remiss if I did not thank all those who have helped in big or small ways with the work involved for Christmas. A special word of thanks to our Worship Committee and assisting volunteers who gave up a couple of evenings as well as an afternoon to get the church ready. A special thanks to all of the liturgical ministers and particularly the servers for coming for additional practices in preparation for the Mass. I would be remiss if I did not extend a profound thank you to our choirs. I want to thank our newly formed adult choir for saying "Yes", for their hours of practice as well as for singing at the late Mass. I also wish to thank the boys and girls who sang at the 10:00 A.M. Mass as well as for those that accompany them and direct them. To our musicians, staff, to *James Marquardt for donating his time and equipment to scrub the church rugs (which were in a desperate need of cleaning), to the staff and anyone else who have helped in any way, "Thank you so much and have a very Merry Christmas"!



New Year's – Solemnity, Mary, the Mother of God

As you are well aware, the New Year is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. We not only celebrate the start of the calendar year, but also how Christ started His earthly existence through the Blessed Mother. There will be two Masses offered for the Holy Day. There will be two Masses offered, beginning on New Year's Eve, December 31st at 5:00 P.M. and then again on New Year's morning at 9:00 A.M. May we give honor to the woman who helped initiate the beginnings of our eternal salvation! Happy New Year!



Pastoral Thank You

Thank you to all of you that took the time out of your busy Advent time to send a Christmas card, write a note, give baked goods, send a monetary/card gift or extended to me some personal kindness or expression of gratitude, thank you so much. I feel very welcomed at Holy Rosary! The greatest gift I could want this Christmas, I received already on June 30th by becoming pastor of Holy Rosary. It was too big to put in a stocking, but I still love it! Thank you for being so great!!!



Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers the soul of +Mary Cline who passed away last week and whose Memorial Mass of cremated remains was celebrated this past Monday, before Christmas. Mary was a lifetime member of Holy Rosary and had been blessed with a long life. For many years, she and her family owned the Variety Store in downtown North Mankato. May Mary and all who have died rest in the peace of Jesus Christ.

Liturgical Calendars

There are still a few liturgical calendars available at the church entrances. If you have not picked a calendar up, please help yourself to them as long as they last. They are significant, as they hold all of the feast days and especially the Holy Days of Obligation, etc. We thank the area businesses who are the benefactors of these calendars for graciously donating them for our use.

Mission Trip Supplies

I am going on a mission trip to our diocesan San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala in mid-January. If anyone would like to donate small school supplies (colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc.) or over-the-counter medicines (Tylenol, Advil, etc.), please contact me at #507-317-0617. I hope to take a full suitcase of supplies to them.

Thank you!
Arlyce Anderson

K of C Council #5551 News

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



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

Money Counter for January, February and March 2015

Marilyn Rieff, Shirleen Gulden, Jan Nelson & Jan Brumm

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 28:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 7:30 am – Rosary in Church
- 8:00 am – Mass – + Wally Zellmer
- 9:30 am – Rosary in Church
- 10:00 am – Mass – George & Margaret Maurer Families
- *No Morning Pre-School*

Monday, December 29:

5th Day in the Octave of Christmas

- 8:10 am – Rosary in Church
- 8:30 am – Mass – Steven & Jennie Helget
- 9:15 am – *No Bible Study for month of December*

Tuesday, December 30:

6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

- 8:10 am – Rosary in Church
- 8:30 am – Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 31: Mary, The Holy

Mother of God Vigil – HOLY DAY OF

OBLIGATION

- *No a.m. Mass*
- *Parish Office Hours 9:00 am to 1:00 pm*
- 4:30 pm – Rosary in Church
- 5:00 pm – Vigil Mass - Mary, The Holy Mother of God – + Albin Hartung**
- *No Parish Choir or Children's Choir Practice*
- *No Faith Formation Classes*

Thursday, January 1: Happy New Year!

Mary, The Holy Mother of God – HOLY DAY

OF OBLIGATION

- *Parish Office Closed*
- 8:30 am – Rosary in Church
- 9:00 am – Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass – + Chuck Grausam**

Friday, January 2:

St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen

- 8:40 am – Rosary in Church
- 9:00 am – Mass – + Charles & Iola Orcutt

Saturday, January 3: The Epiphany of the Lord

- 4:30 pm – Sacrament of Confession
- 4:30 pm – Rosary in Church
- 5:00 pm – Mass – + Henry Nowacki

Sunday, January 4: The Epiphany of the Lord

- 7:30 am – Rosary in Church
- 8:00 am – Mass – People of the Parish
- 9:30 am – Rosary in Church
- 10:00 am – Mass – + Sebastian, Gloria Lena & Emmanuel Anthonisamy

Liturgical Roles – January 3-4

Lectors

- 5:00 pm:** Brian Eggersdorfer & JoAnn Borchert
- 8:00 am:** Gene Brandt & Mike Brumm
- 10:00 am:** Chris Cain & Roxi Lang

Eucharistic Ministers

- 5:00 pm:** Patrick & Wanda Hull, Nicole Hull, Marsha Murphy, Gretchen Etzell, Steve Caron
- 8:00 am:** Margaret Ayers, Peter Backes, Bernie Bastian, Terri Compton, Mary Homan, Michelle Ellingworth
- 10:00 am:** Kathy Ulman, Mark Traxler, Paul Stevens, Deb Stachon, Mike & Diane O'Dea

Altar Servers

- 5:00 pm:** Larkin Hansen, Emma Nieregger, Jonathan Hull
- 8:00 am:** Ben Cahalan, Lauren Cahalan, Danny Collins
- 10:00 am:** Andrew Kohrs, Haley Kohrs, Abi Lang

Presentation of Gifts

Confirmation Candidates & Family

- 5:00 pm:** Ellie Hoffman & Family
- 8:00 am:** Nick Eichers & Family
- 10:00 am:** Haley Kohrs & Family

Ushers

- 5:00 pm:** Larry & Maggie Bennett, Bob Meyer, Tom Rheaume
- 8:00 am:** Ben Levandowski, Doug & Jake Homan, Gary Zellmer
- 10:00 am:** Doug Helget, Steve Fink, Steve Enderle, Brandon Bernard

Music Ministry

- 5:00 pm:** Myra Schroepfer/Vicki Galli
- 8:00 am:** Julie Gruber/Jeanne Makela
- 10:00 am:** Youth Choir/Kathy Jo Johns/Jeanne Makela

Rosary Leaders

- 5:00 pm:** Eileen Wadekamper
- 8:00 am:** Sharon Lenz
- 10:00 am:** Donna Wolf

Rosary Leaders: Please pick up your new schedule in the Rosary Chapel

**Liturgical Roles for
Mary, The Holy Mother of God Masses**

Lectors

Dec. 31
5:00 pm: Dan Gowanlock & Steve Caron

Jan. 1
9:00 am: Laura Guetter & Dolores Portz

Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 31
5:00 pm: MaryBeth Nygaard,
Patrick & Wanda Hull, Nicole Hull,
Kathy Frederickson, Karen Etzell

Jan. 1
9:00 am: Craig Amundson, Kevin Mettler,
Peter Backes, Margaret Ayers,
Cathy Neve, Darlene Schorn

Altar Servers

Dec. 31
5:00 pm: Mitchell Biauouette, Jonathan Hull,
Jack Roering

Jan. 1
9:00 am: Jake Homan, Ben Cahalan,
Lauren Cahalan

Gift Bearers

Dec. 31
5:00 pm: Bob Norman Family

Jan. 1
9:00 am: Jess Kelly Family

Ushers

Dec. 31
5:00 pm: Larry & Maggie Bennett, Bob Meyer,
Tom Rheume

Jan. 1
9:00 am: Bill Fasnacht, Doug & Jake Homan,
Carl Steffensmeier, Kurt Schroeder

Music Ministry

Dec. 31
5:00 pm: Tom Bachmann/Vicki Galli

Jan. 1
9:00 am: Julie Gruber/Jeanne Makela

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS...

**PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR ISAAC
KOLSTAD AND ALL OF OUR SICK AND
INJURED OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH**

Our prayers continue to go out to Isaac Kolstad as well as all of the sick and injured in our parish who are at home, in the hospital, nursing homes or assisted-living residences. May God bless them and keep them under His guidance and protection!

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Nick Blace	Matt McGraw	Anna Drummer
Jared Hiniker	Christopher Schmidt	
Ann Winkler	Jonathan Heintz	
Dana Schiller	William Backes	
Mark Hansen	Ben Barsness	
Alex Ek	Sean O'Dea	
Timothy Eick	Daniel Fitterer	



FOR OUR FAMILIES

Monday	Jason & Logan Kohlmeyer
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	Kenneth & Brenda Keenan
Thursday	Steven Tuma & Kelli Conway
Friday	Lawrence Mejia
Saturday	Robert & Darla Makela
Sunday	Nathan & Jessica Kirschner

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Mary Jane Ledwein, Tom Grausam, Don Haley, Jan Schmidt, Doris Lorentz, Bill Goettlicher, Lenore Sweers, Dolores Spreter, Richard Flynn, Jr., Krystal Portz, Lydia Meehling, Jan Brumm, Steve Fitterer, Kathy Eggersdorfer, Nancy Marquardt, Gabriel Speckel, Shannon Murphy, Harriet Senesac, Lisa LaPoint Leland, David Bruender, Marilyn Bastian, Betty Kothhoff, Isaac Kolstad, Nancy Wesely, Liz Brumm, Susan Zenk, Paul Blaschko, Catherine Atchley, George Holzerland



PRAYER CHAIN

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

Lost and Found

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

