



Holy Rosary Catholic Church

OF NORTH MANKATO

525 Grant Ave., North Mankato, MN 56003 • 507.387.6501 • F: 507.387.7365

Holy Rosary Catholic Church

“Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us”

Parish Office

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Emergency Number

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Accounting Office

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Loyola School Office

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Holiday Bulletin Deadline - Articles need to be submitted by 12:00 pm noon on Mon., Dec. 19th for the Christmas Bulletin.

January 1st, 2017

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

FOR SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:
HOLYROSARYNORTHMANKATO.COM/WORSHIP-SACRAMENTS

the Quill and the Cloth

*"...And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."
- St. Luke*



The other day I sat down with my Faith Formation Director to take on one of my New Year's resolutions, at the close of 2016. My goal is not to visit all of the classrooms like I did my first year at Holy Rosary, but to actually teach something tangible, as I have done for so many years prior to my arrival at Holy Rosary. With an even larger parish, so often my Wednesdays are taken up with so many other pastoral commitments, including this bulletin with a deadline of Thursday at 12:00 pm. (*I can remember a time when I began the bulletin with the secretary on Friday mornings, and had it completed and run off before the end of the work day.*) So Wednesday is not only "hump" day, but it is also a "heavy" day in terms of parish work. None-the-less, I both need and want to get back into the classroom (or, in this case, the Church) to teach some of the basics of the Catholic faith.

When I was teaching religion classes years ago in the Catholic School, or in the Religious Education Classes for twenty-plus years, I often tried to teach in an "apologetics" sort of way. Apologetics is a branch of Catholic theology that tries to give a "rational defense" of the Catholic faith. Simply telling students that our tenets of faith are something you simply have to accept and believe, like the rote way of learning through the Baltimore Catechism, only works to a degree. Yet, when you try to defend our beliefs "logically" and "rationally", I was sometimes amazed at students, who years later would remind me of things I had said in class that I myself had forgotten.

Perhaps the most basic and the most difficult concept of our faith to believe and accept is the resurrection from the dead. I often would speak about how nature never destroys anything, but it is always recycled, long before recycling became politically correct. I would often talk about the resurrection, in light of the apostles, who were really scared out-of-their-minds, but then witnessed something that made them so "rational", so "calm", so "fearless" that they would even take on martyrdom. Apologetics, as a style of teaching, was done away with in many classrooms following the Second Vatican Council. Feelings were often replaced with factual information.

After nearly 30 years of researching hundreds, if not

thousands, of sermons, I believe more and more that I can convince you of God and His Divine Presence, especially through the Divine Scriptures. For the Sacred Scriptures could not have been written by mere mortal minds. It really required the hand of the Almighty.

Take, for instance, St. Luke, who we heard proclaimed again the Good News at this New Year. St. Luke is remembered best of the four gospel writers for being a great story-teller. We all know that the mark of a great story-teller is their ability to remember details. However, St. Luke not only tells of the physical details of any particular story, but he also tells the emotional and the spiritual details of his characters. Today's gospel is a Good News example of the spiritual detailing in his writing.

For St. Luke reminds us that the Blessed Mother "reflects in her heart" the past events from the Annunciation to the actual birth of her Son, Jesus Christ. Certainly this is a maternal and an emotional reality of most mothers who bronze baby boots or bring out a camera or smart phone to take another picture of a moment of her son or daughter. What I did not know until recently is that St. Luke tells a good portion of his gospel from the perspective of Mary. It is believed that St. Luke knew Mary personally. But, now, here is where the apologetics comes in. Any "rational" person knows that in biblical times in the Mideast, (and still in many parts of the Mideast today), women are considered second-class citizens at best. Yet, imagine, 2,000 years ago, St. Luke centers his Good News message from the perspective of Mary, a woman! This was radical! This was revolutionary! This is another "rational" explanation that the scriptures are truly inspired, ahead of their time and that Christ has truly risen.

There are many that claim that the Catholic Church is behind the times in many areas, including our view of women and their leadership in the Church. There are many Catholics who feel an inequality in the Church when it comes to men and women. Perhaps their argument has some good rationale behind it. However, objectively, rationally, I would like you to consider this: 1.) What religion do you know that acknowledges a woman on the very first day of the calendar year and OBLIGATES every Catholic to celebrate liturgically this reality? 2.) What religion acknowledges of all the men and women to have walked the earth, a woman as the greatest and most perfect human being, as we acknowledge Mary, the Queen of ALL of the saints? 3.) What human being has a higher title, position or award than Mary who we celebrate with the title "MOTHER of GOD"? Wow! I can think of none!

Maybe you might consider a New Year's resolution. No, I am not asking you to give religious instruction at the parish,

continued on page 3

“the quill and the cloth” continued...

although that would be very nice when we are in need of teachers next fall. Instead, make it a New Year’s resolution to spiritually defend the faith (to the best of your ability) in the most rationale and well informed way possible when the Church is being attacked in our world on a daily basis. May Mary, the Mother of God, Mother of the Church and patroness of our homeland, the United States, protect us and watch over us in this New Year of 2017! Happy New Year!



Rev. Paul van de Crommert, Pastor

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the staff and myself, as pastor of Holy Rosary, I want to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year with great prosperity both spiritually a well as materially. May 2017 be filled with HEALTH, HAPPINESS and most of all HOLINESS. May Mary, our Queen and Mother, who we honor at the start of our New Year guide us in that same holy leadership as she guided her only begotten Son. May this year be even better than 2016! Happy New Year!



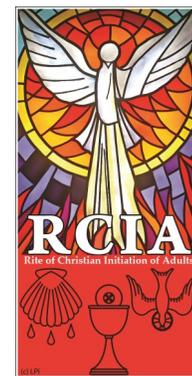
A Sincere Christmas Thank You

I would be remiss as pastor if I did not say a word of sincere thanks to all of you who took the time to extend to me a personal gift materially or monetarily, as well as your thoughtful sentiments through the cards that you wrote, the goods you baked and the food that you prepared. Although I certainly welcome it and appreciate it, even more valuable to me is the sentiment and sincerity in which it was given. Thank you for the time and the effort to minister to me. May these days of Christmas as well as the New Year be filled with an incredible new-born joy that Jesus came into the world to give us the hope of everlasting life. Thank you so much!

-Fr. Paul van de Crommert

Last Call – Calling All Converts

In the coming days I will be in contact again with those that have expressed a potential interest in becoming full members of the Catholic faith. It appears that we may have several souls that are again expressing interest. Recall, last year that we had no one come into the church, but the previous year we had six individuals. If you know of someone that might be interested but is wondering about the time commitment and the expectations, you might share this with them. We will be meeting weekly for an hour or two from January to Easter. Parents and spouses are welcome to come to the classes along with a sponsor that can be any active practicing Catholic (excluding a spouse or parent). There is no financial obligation, no books or materials to buy, and nearly all that have been baptized in another faith are recognized by the Catholic Church and does not require a second Baptism. Call the parish office (387-6501) by no later than January 10th if you might be interested. The first classes are “inquiry” and a time to ask questions and no full commitment to become Catholic. We hope to see maybe, YOU there!



Stewardship of Gratitude

Adult	\$10,908.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,366.13
Junior	\$282.60
Plate	\$1,127.41
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Second Collection - Loyola	\$1,523.00
Christmas	\$7,774.00
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	\$100.00
K of C Donation for Dishwasher Repairs	\$256.00
Rental Income	\$294.50
Grand Total	\$23,641.64

Our weekly goal is set at \$13,000.00

Stewardship of Gratitude

A special word of thanks to our volunteer money counters who graciously came in to count the collection the day after Christmas, even though the parish offices were closed. Thank you for your sacrifice. Christmas collections always appear impressive number wise and this collection is no exception. Of course, in our accounting office, we always want to know how the contributions compare to a year ago. The Good News is that that the collection is down from last year! Now you ask, how can being down be Good News? We are down by “just” \$580.00. Last year we would have had three more Masses and three more collections. My pastoral fear was that we would be down by “thousands”. I did notice that our attendance was noticeably up from a year ago at the 4:00 pm, as well as at the 10:00 pm. If you have not given a Christmas offering, it is still welcome! Thank you for your generous gifts!

The Week Ahead

Monday, Jan. 2: Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, white Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:05 am – Rosary
8:30 am – Mass - Doris Lorentz†
Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 3: Christmas Weekday (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)

7:00 am – Mass at Ss. Peter & Paul
8:15 am – Mass at St. John the Baptist
12:05 pm – Mass at St. Joseph the Worker
7:30 pm – River of Life (Conf. Rm. 1)

Wednesday, Jan. 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

9:15 am – Mass at Oak Terrace (Fr. Paul) - Gladys Koppit
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Sewing Group (Lower Level PC)
6:00 pm - 6:50 pm – Youth Group
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm – Grades 7-11 Rel. Ed. Classes

Thursday, Jan. 5: Saint John Neumann, Bishop

8:05 am – Rosary
8:30 am – Mass - Dick & Carol Arndt Family
12:00 pm - 6:00 pm – K of C Blood Drive (Lower Hall)

Friday, Jan. 6: Christmas Weekday (Saint André Bessette, Religious)

8:05 am – Rosary
8:30 am – Mass - Katherine Trisch†
*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass
9:00 am - 3:00 pm – Eucharistic Adoration
9:15 am – Parishioners' Breakfast at the Perkins
Restaurant (1123 Range St) - *All are invited
3:00 pm – Benediction

Saturday, Jan. 7: Christmas Weekday (Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest)

4:30 pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 pm – Rosary
5:00 pm – Mass - Sherry Kittleson†
6:15 pm – Baptism

Sunday, Jan. 8: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30 am – Rosary
8:00 am – Mass - People of the Parish
9:30 am – Rosary
10:00 am – Mass - Sebastian & Gloria Lena†,
Emmanuel & Hilda Anthonisamy†, & Imparajah†
(Nursery, Pre-K, and CLW during the 10:00 am Mass)

K. of C. Council #5551 News

Jan 5 - Blood Drive Jan 26 - General Meeting
Jan 12 - Planning Meeting

Religious Education Program

Students

Enjoy your Christmas break! Find some time for family, relaxation and the outdoors! Classes will resume on January 4th for grades 7 - 11. Youth Group will meet from 6:00 pm - 6:50 pm. Class time is 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. The next class for grades 1 - 6 is January 11th!

Second Graders Prepare for First Reconciliation

Our second graders are preparing for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation which will be Sunday, January 22nd at 3:00 pm. We ask that you keep our young students in your prayers as they prepare to receive God's grace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, Fellowship and Praise Music

There are several opportunities in 2017 for Grades 9 - 12 to participate in an evening of Eucharistic Adoration.

BLAZE! is right here in Mankato, held at the Newman Center MSU campus. The next BLAZE youth event (grades 9-12) is Friday, Feb. 3rd from 7 - 9 pm. Praise and worship, Adoration, games, etc. group discussions with MSU students. There is no cost for this event—bring friends!

Cor Jesu (pronounced *core yay-zoo*), is sponsored by the Diocese of New Ulm. The next Cor Jesu event is Saturday, January 7th from 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm. It will be held at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. Come for an evening of adoration, contemporary praise music, and fellowship. All ages welcome! Visit www.dnu.org/cor-jesu for more information.

Upcoming Dates

Jan. 4: Youth Group meets 6:00 pm - 6:50 pm; Class for Jr/Sr High Students 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Jan. 11: Class for Elementary - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Jan. 18: Youth Group meets 6:00 pm - 6:50 pm; Class for Jr/Sr High Students 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Jan. 22: First Reconciliation - 3:00 pm in Church
Jan. 25: Class for Elementary - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Latin Mass

A Latin Mass will be celebrated at Ss. Peter & Paul's at 9:00 am on the First Saturday, January 7th.

Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Prayers and support for all of our sick and injured of Holy Rosary Parish

Our prayers go out to 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 Who Are Ill & Special Needs

Rick Giroux, Lynne Olson, Arlo Sandvig, Louise Grilley, Daniel Crowley, Dennis Connolly, Joe Huiras, Jo Lindberg, Ruth Gag, Charles Ulman

Home Visitation: If you wish to have yourself or a loved one receive the sacraments, Holy Communion or a personal pastoral visit, please call our coordinator, Lorraine Klaseus at 507-388-4932

For Our Families

Monday	Charles Ulman
Tuesday	Leora Steinbach
Wednesday	Lucille O'Donnell
Thursday	Patrick Zenk
Friday	Tom & Mary Clare Wyrowski
Saturday	Raymond & Nora Bruce
Sunday	Ben Reichel & Shelby Reinke



For Those in the Military

Nick Blace	Matt McGraw	William Backes
Jared Hiniker	Christopher Schmidt	Ben Barsness
Dana Schiller	Jonathan Heintz	Daniel Fitterer
Mark Hansen	Timothy Eick	Anna Drummer



Prayer Chain

If you have a short term prayer request or prayer of thanksgiving for our prayer chain to pray for, please call Teresa Kolstad at 327-9810.



This Week's Sanctuary Light Intention:

Rod Wersal

This Week's Readings

Mon:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Tues:	1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Wed:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
Thurs:	1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
Fri:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Sat:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 2:1-11
Sun:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Jan. 7th - Jan. 8th, 2016

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

©LPI

Lectors:

5:00 pm	Cindy Gawrych	8:00 am	Nancy Holden
10:00 am	JoAnn Borchert		

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm	Bev Linnes, Nicole Hull, Pat & Wanda Hull, Eileen Wadekamper, *Karen Ezzell
8:00 am	Steve & Shelly Bauer, Mary Beth Nygaard, Gene Brandt, Peter Backes, Deacon Russ Blaschko
10:00 am	Ryan Howe, Darlene Schorn, Mike & Diane O'Dea, John Kuchinka, *Julie Schoettler

Altar Servers:

5:00 pm	Connor McGraw, Emma Niederegger, Jonathan Hull
8:00 am	Ben & Lauren Cahalan, Quinn Kelly (C/B/B)
10:00 am	Elaine Adams, Jacob Reynolds, Andrew Kohrs

Presentation of Gifts:

5:00 pm	Ray & Mary Forsyth
8:00 am	Mike Brumm Family
10:00 am	Les Calsbeek Family

Ushers:

5:00 pm	Bob Meyer, Karen Winters, Steve Enderle, Mark Weingartz (<i>Head Usher</i>)
8:00 am	Christopher Backes, Bill Cahalan, Paul Harguth, Chris Sturm (<i>Head Usher</i>)
10:00 am	Jim Barker, John Jagerson, Bob Wegscheid (<i>Head Usher</i>)

Rosary Leaders:

5:00 pm	Eileen Wadekamper
8:00 am	Arlyce Anderson
10:00 am	Donna Wolf

Music Ministry:

5:00 pm	Jenny Chelstrom/Jeanne Makela
8:00 am	Corinne Ort/Jeanne Makela
10:00 am	Lori Christiansen/Jeanne Makela

Money Counters - Jan. 2017: Bill Fasnacht, Shirleen Gulden, Jan Nelson, Carl Steffensmeier, Arlyce Anderson

Bulletin Folders - Jan. 2017: Anne Frederick, Betty Rykhus, Dolores Portz, Pat Lyons



Stay tuned for information about our Celebration of National Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 30 - Feb. 4, 2017.

Save the dates:

State of the School meeting, January 18 at 7pm, Upper Campus.

Open Houses on January 23 and March 14, 5:30-7:30pm on the Upper Campus, 145 Good Counsel Drive.

Kindergarten Round up, Friday, March 10, 9:30-11am and 12:30-2pm. Come and discover what it means to be part of the Loyola community! Schedule a Family Tour and/or Shadow Day on a day convenient for you. Call 507-388-0600.

Catholic Schools Week Mass: An all-school celebration, Monday January 30, at St. John the Baptist Church. Bishop LeVoir of the New Ulm diocese will celebrate with us. All are welcome.

Energy Assistance Program

With heating season upon us, Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. (GMG) would like to remind residential homeowners or renters of the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). This federally funded program helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households. Please contact your location EAP Service Provider to apply. For help finding your local EAP provider, call 1-800-657-3710. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2017 to be processed for benefits for the 2016-2017 program year. You can find more information online at the Minnesota Department of Commerce website at: <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"For we are so preciously loved by God that we cannot comprehend it. No created being can ever know how much and how sweetly and tenderly God loves them."

- Julian of Norwich (14th Century, England)

March for Life

MCCL March For Life: On Sunday, Jan. 22nd, a charter bus for transportation will be available to those who wish to attend the annual MCCL March For Life in St. Paul. The march begins at 2:00 pm and lasts one hour, including an address on the Capitol steps. Departure will be from Ss. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church at noon. Cookies and beverages will be provided. Suggested donation is \$20.00 for those over 8 yrs old. Call Tom Hoehn at 381-2544 for further details.

Local March For Life: Blue Earth County MCCL march will take place Sunday, Jan. 15th at 1:00 pm. Meet at the old Train Depot parking lot, on the North side of the downtown HyVee.

Stewardship Corner

Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.), Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical, Care Comp Ins, Priest Care Fund, & Audit:

Pd. to Date: \$61,130.84
DUE: \$73,231.32

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

Rec'd. to Date: \$19,320.00
DUE: \$38,768.53

Loyola Catholic School Assessment:

Pd. to Date: \$60,000.00
DUE: \$221,268.00

Total Paid to Date 2016-17: \$140,450.84
Apostolate Stewardship 2016-17: \$333,267.85

Again this week we covered another Diocesan payment for the Diocesan United Fund. I am hoping to wrap up this area of our extended stewardship in the near future. Our stewardship commitments outside of our parish boundaries is always a challenge. We attached with the Christmas bulletin an envelope to assist us with our support of Loyola Schools. We also took up a second collection for the schools as well. If you have not given at this time of year and still would like to give to a good cause, it is welcome. You don't even need an envelope, just simply make the check out to "Holy Rosary" and note in the memo of your check, "Loyola" or "Catholic School" and we will be sure it will go in the proper account. Don't forget to give an offering to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. It is not too late. Thank you for your support! Happy New Year!

Diaper Drive

Holy Rosary Parish Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring a Diaper Drive during the month of January. Baby Wipes and Diapers of any size may be brought to church throughout January and placed in the crib at the



back of church. Diapers and Wipes will go to Options for Women and Birthright. Monetary donations will also be accepted (please put money in an envelope marked CCW Diaper Drive). Money collected will be used to purchase bigger items needed at Options for Women (high chairs, strollers, etc.). This is a CCW community service project – please help if you are able! Thank you!

Welcome to Holy Rosary

Are you New to the area or would like to join Holy Rosary parish? It is now easier than ever and you can do it from the convenience of home. Just go to holynosarynorthmankato.com/membership-registration and download the registration forms to fill out. You can also simply send us your contact information via an easy-to-use form and we will mail you a hard copy of those forms. Come join our growing Holy Rosary parish family!



Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will be set up at **HOLY ROSARY CHURCH on Thursday, January 5th**, from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Donors can go on line and sign themselves up at a convenient time at www.redcrossblood.org and enter HRNORTHKATO as a sponsor code, or call John at 507-995-5238. Get a free tee! Long-sleeve T-shirt shirts are being given away to all donors while supply lasts. This would be a Great way to start donating a unit of your Blood on a regular basis as a New Years resolution. Thank You.

Online Giving - Give it a Try!

"Honey, have you seen our contribution envelopes? They were here in the drawer. Hasn't it been a few weeks since we gave to the church?" Have there been conversations like this in your home? In our busy, fast-paced life, it is easy to get over-whelmed with the many small details of life. Would you like to eliminate one task out of your week and feel good about it? Why not try electronic giving?

The average Catholic is away from their parish some 17 Sundays out of the year. If you are making your stewardship commitments in person, those are 17 weekends of lost stewardship, unless the amount is doubled, tripled, etc. to "catch up". Our new form of electronic giving, WeShare through Liturgical Publications, is easier than ever. Now you can sign up online at holynosarynorthmankato.weshareonline.org or you can still fill in the form and go through the U.S. Mail. The new method of e-giving also accepts credit cards, giving you a printed record of your giving! IT IS SAFE! IT IS SECURE! IT IS SO EASY! MOST OF ALL IT IS SOUND STEWARDSHIP! Why not make a spiritual New Year's resolution and "just try" e-giving! As they say, "TRY IT! YOU WILL LIKE IT!" (*If you have any further questions please call Jim Theuninck at 345-6828.)



Save the Date – Wine and Food Pairing

We are returning again this year to our traditional evening of Wine and Food Pairing at the Loose Moose. The date has been set for Friday, February 10th. Please save the date for a tasty and fun-filled evening. There will be more details forthcoming in the weeks ahead. All of the proceeds will go to support our stewardship commitment to Loyola Catholic School.



9 Days for Life – January 21-29, 2017

9 Days for Life is an annual period of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person's life, at every stage and in every circumstance. Contained within the 9 Days for Life is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22 (also the anniversary of Roe v. Wade). It is a time to not only to pray for an end to abortion, but to pray for the respect and protection of each person's life; to gather together in prayer, action, and fellowship with others. For more information about how to commemorate and celebrate life during these days go to dnu.org and click on the 9 Days for Life calendar event.



SINCERE
SYMPATHY

To the family of **Bob Oshelt**

-May he rest in peace.

Mass at Good Counsel

The Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel is recorded each week and is available on the Mankato Public Access Station, KTV. The viewing times are Wednesdays at 3:00 pm and Fridays at 2:00 pm. KTV can be found on Charter Channel 181 or Consolidated Communications Channel 507. The Mass is also available anytime on the Internet on the KTV website as a live-stream: <http://www.accessktv.org/> (Choose the Watch KTV tab and then the Public Access tab.) The current week's Mass is usually posted sometime on Monday.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Your marriage is meant to be an outward sign of God's love to those around you. Nourish your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next available Weekends are Feb 17-19, 2017 in Windom, MN and Apr 21-23, 2017 in Hutchinson, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: southmnwwme.org or contact Miki at applications@southmnwwme.org or 507-227-8229.



Holy Rosary Catholic Church Pastoral Council Meeting November 17, 2016 Minutes



The Pastoral Council of Holy Rosary Church was called to order at 7:00 pm on Thursday, November 17th, in Conference Room #1. The meeting opened with prayer that was led by Father. The past minutes of September 29th, 2016 were approved as read.

Pastor's Report: Father began by stating that, in this season of thanks, he is thankful for all that has been accomplished in the parish, and certainly to be serving as the pastor. Father expressed gratitude for so much cooperation in so many areas. Father acknowledged that several new members are serving on the Finance Council who are assisting in providing a new direction for the parish resources. The council is moving ahead on the Hunt property with some interested buyers. Plans are to have the property moved or removed by summer. Additional paperwork is still being completed on the endowment, but should be finalized soon. Father again expressed gratitude to the Worship Committee for assisting in decorating in the fall as well as for Christmas. This is a busy time for the Worship Committee. The Pastoral Council is heading into a new direction of evangelization as we continue to foster and encourage growth in the faith of our current members. Father also was pleased to hear that our attendance continues to climb in our Religious Education program and that the rehearsals for the Christmas program are well underway. The Fall Festival was another great success and plans are to celebrate, in 2017, our 3rd annual November Fest(ival).

Committee Reports:

Education Committee Report: Two Youth Ministers have been hired by Father for the youth of our parish on a part-time basis. Their names are Tracy Meadows and Derek Wherley. Both of these people have had experience working with youth and are a great addition to our Religious Education Program. Our first Education Committee meeting of the year was October 6th. We welcomed two new members: Lisa Phillips & Carrie Schill. A Catechist Workshop was held on Sunday, September 11th. There are 7 new catechists. Father and Cathy each held a one-hour session splitting the catechists into two groups. Cathy is thankful for the dedication of the catechists. Cathy talked about the new curriculum - "Image of God" series from Ignatius Press which is PS - 8th Grade. Teachers are very excited about it! Many catechists are spending time planning their lessons with their co-teacher. Cathy talked about moving to a two-year Confirmation Program, beginning in the 10th Grade. Confirmation is the first weekend in March which does not allow for much time to prepare juniors for this important Sacrament. We are using the "Chosen" program in 10th grade and using "Decision Point" by Matthew Kelly in 11th grade along with other materials such as the YOUCAT.

Religious Education Report: Cathy reported that there are over 235 students enrolled - this is more than last year! We have gained several new families from the Mankato area and several students from the Nicollet area for Confirmation prep. We held an Open House for our Elementary students on September 14th which was a huge success! More than 90% of families attended. An Open House was also held for our Preschool/Sunday School & Nursery on September 25th. Our first class for Jr/Sr High students was September 21st. Our original plan was to have it at Minneopa, but, due to the weather, we had Mass in the Church and dinner in the Church Lower Hall. Catechetical Weekend was October 8th/9th. Students made posters in their classes and processed in with them at the Masses. Confirmation Rite of Enrollment was held on October 9th at the 10am Mass with Confirmation students and their sponsors attending. Our required Confirmation Parent Meeting was Wednesday, October 5th. CLW has started during the 10:00 am Mass and is for 1st and 2nd graders. Two new youth ministers have been hired. The Confirmation Retreat was held on November 6th along with the students of Ss. Peter & Paul. Student Masses are being planned to be held throughout the year. Our Elementary students are busy preparing for their Christmas Program titled "Christmas Around the World."

Worship Committee Report: The first meeting of the year was September 12th. We welcomed new members: Rachel Helget & Bill Fasnacht. Father gave the committee an update on the microphone system, sacristy changes and the mural. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin on the first Fridays of the month: October 7th, November 4th, December 2nd. Anointing Masses have been planned for on October 10th at Holy Rosary at 4:00 pm with a potluck to follow, October 27th at Pathstone at 10:15 am, and October 28th at Monarch Meadows at 10:15 am. There were 65 people at the anointing Mass at Holy Rosary this fall followed by a potluck at social. The other Masses of anointing were also well attended. Welcome Sunday with a ministry fair was held on the weekend of October 15th/16th. Fall Decorating was at the end of October/beginning of November. The All Souls' Mass was held on November 6th at the 10:00 am Mass (CCW & KCs assisted) and was well received. The Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be at Messiah Lutheran this year on November 23rd. Lector training will possibly be held in January.

C.C.W. Report: The C.C.W. reported that they had a very successful social event in which they assembled 36 jars of cookie ingredients as well as prepared 100 jars of candy for the November Fest. This event was well attended. Twenty women attended an "Art Night" that was a lot of fun. 280 people attended the Annual Salad Luncheon. Meeting dates were discussed for C.C.W. It was decided that the meeting dates will be held on the last Tuesday of the month and a social event will be held on the first Monday of the month. Once again, the parish Christmas party is being planned with the Knights. The party will be held December 3rd, following the 5:00 pm Mass.

Knights of Columbus Report: Grand Knight Bob Oshel spoke about the primary objective of the Knights of Columbus is to support the priest and the pastor of the parish. Again the Knights assisted with the Fall Festival set-up and take-down as well as will be assisting with the Christmas party. Tree sale will again take place as in the past. The Blood Drive will again be held at Holy Rosary on January 5th from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

Business:

Pastoral Council Study Report: This report has been worked on since shortly after Father's arrival. The report was reviewed by the council, asking for any changes. There were almost no changes to the report. The report will be distributed with the quarterly statement mailings that will be sent out in the coming days. Father will also include a letter about the parish finances and the purpose of this "study" letter.

Fall Festival Review: Some 660-670 people were served at the Festival. The gross income was up, but the expenses were up as well. Profits are expected to increase from last year by more than \$1,000.00. 336 children's tickets were sold in the gym. It is good to have so many young people in attendance. The Festival Committee are all planning to return again next year for the third attempt at the Festival. The Mass was again well attended and well received. Father asked the council for suggestions and recommendations to improve the festival for next year. The council agreed that the return of the festival has been a great success both financially as well as for the faith and community life of the parish.

Evangelization – Small Communities: The Pastoral Council agreed that forming small communities within the parish for social and spiritual outreach will be our next pastoral goal. The parish will be divided into areas through the parish census and specific geographical areas. Leadership will be trained to gather people monthly, or at least two to three times a year, for a meal, fellowship, home Mass or some other activity to build community and encourage the practice of the faith. This may also lead to people in the neighborhood who might have no church affiliation. Planning with this program will continue in the months ahead. Perhaps we may be ready to take a solo flight by the summer of 2017.

Christmas Party: A brief discussion was held to finalize this parish event and to encourage participation.

The meeting closed with prayer. The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held Thursday, January 19th, in Conference Room #1. The meeting closed with prayer.