



Holy Rosary Catholic Church

O F N O R T H M A N K A T O

525 GRANT AVE., NORTH MANKATO, MN 56003 | 507.387.6501 | F: 507.387.7365

Parish Office

507-387-6501 | Fax: 507-387-7365
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Emergency Number

320-522-2180

Religious Education Office

507-345-6765

Accounting Office

507-345-6828

Email

hros2@hickorytech.net

Website

holyrosarynorthmankato.com

Holy Rosary Parish Staff

Father Paul van de Crommert, *Pastor*
Cindy Gawrych, *Office Administrator*
Jim Theuninck, *Accounting/Administration*

Ministry for Sick & Homebound/ Support Staff

Lorraine Klaseus | 507-388-4932

Calvary Cemetery

Board Representative

Tom Kiffe

Loyola Catholic School

Adam Bemmels, Pre-K—12 Principal

Loyola School Office

507-388-0600 | Fax: 507-388-3081

Bulletin Article Deadline:

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm Noon

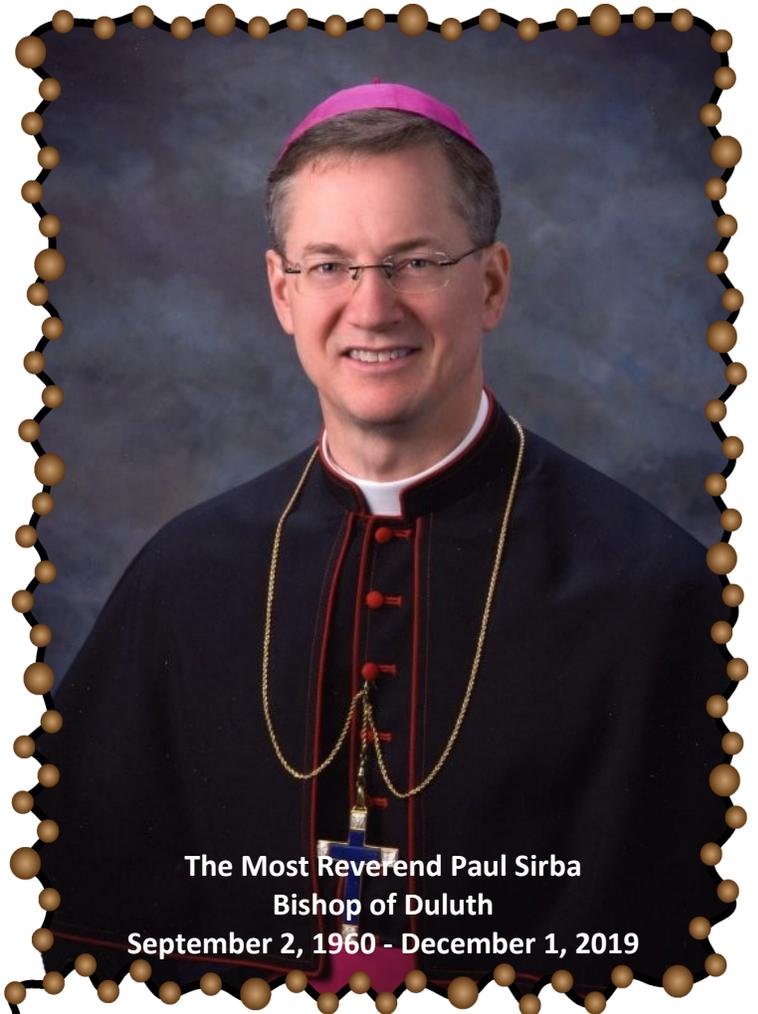
FOR SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT:
[HOLYROSARYNORTHMANKATO.COM/
WORSHIP-SACRAMENTS](http://HOLYROSARYNORTHMANKATO.COM/WORSHIP-SACRAMENTS)



HOLYROSARYNORTHMANKATO

December 8, 2019

2nd Sunday of Advent



The Most Reverend Paul Sirba
Bishop of Duluth
September 2, 1960 - December 1, 2019



"May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun his name shall remain." - Psalm 72 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

the Quill and the Cloth

"I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

-St. Matthew



On the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, November 16th and 17th to be exact, I began my homily that weekend with these words in part: *"...I have to tell you that this past week I lost a particularly good friend of mine that has been passed on and who I have known for 12 years. The two of us spent a lot of time together and you may have seen us around town from time to time and we travelled together out west. Who am I talking about? A classmate? Promise you won't laugh? It is my car. This week I sold my Toyota Highlander."*

Of course, it was a light-hearted lead-in to begin the lessons I proclaimed on that particular weekend. But as we began this new month of December, and particularly this new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent, it is not with a "light-heartedness", but a "heavy heart" when I received word from Bishop John Levoir, after the Sunday morning Masses, that one of my closest friends in my life and in the priesthood, Bishop Paul Sirba, had suddenly passed away at the age of 59. As soon as I got off the phone with the Bishop, I called his oldest brother Joe, who is also a priest and serving in the Diocese of Duluth in the town of Hinckley. Apparently Bishop Sirba's death was sudden, by the side of his car, caused by a heart attack. Attempts to revive him failed and he was pronounced dead at around 9:00 A.M., on Sunday morning, December 1st, on the day we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Blessed Lord.

The job of the priest is to be a proclaimer of Good News. I told his brother, Fr. Joe, that the gospel for the weekend Masses was so timely and so providential, as I proclaimed that gospel three times along with these words: ***"Therefore stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."*** Bishop Sirba died as I hope to die, suddenly, without warning. I know neither he nor I would want to go through terrible surgeries, tenuous health, and to be hooked up to tubes and wires in a hospital. God spared him of all of these things and he died a faithful and loyal servant of the Lord until his death, for which I am most grateful!

Bishop Paul and I met back at the St. Paul Seminary early on in my seminary days in St. Paul in the middle of the 1980's. He was in his third year of major seminary and I was just beginning major theology. The seminary was going through a "rough spiritual patch" back then which included a good deal of theological "experimentation," and the few of us who were

more like-minded with the Church and her teachings, tended to stick together. In short order, we became friends and the then, Paul Sirba, invited me to come with him at times to the rectory of St. Agnes Church in St. Paul, which was his home parish. It was there, where a small group of seminarians and the wise-old, long-time-pastor, the late Msgr. Schuller gathered us around a table, talked about the Church and her many troubles. At that table he gave us food and drink, the courage and grace to stick with the priesthood, and to be ordained for our respective Dioceses.

The future Bishop Paul Sirba, was ordained in 1986, at the Cathedral in St. Paul and offered his First Mass in Latin, facing the high altar at St. Agnes. Two years later I would be ordained and he was present at my ordination along with a special place of honor liturgically at my First Mass in Slayton. He came to visit me as an associate in Winsted. I visited him as the associate at St. Olaf in downtown Minneapolis. He came as "far west as Canby", and I visited him when he returned to the seminary to be a Spiritual Director at St. John Vianney. He wanted to come to Olivia, shortly after I arrived and the house was in much need of repair. I told him, *"Paul, just wait. Don't come until I have the place cleaned up and painted."* He would just laugh and say, *"I am coming because I want to see things before and after the Dutchman has cleaned it all up."*



And he came in spite of my protests. He was there at the re-dedication of the Church of St. Aloysius and visited several times here at North Mankato. I visited and stayed at his rectory at Maternity of Mary in St. Paul. Every so often we would talk on the phone, talking about the joys and sorrows of the priesthood. He was one of the only priests that I could talk to about deeply spiritual things. When we talked he treated me as if I were his only friend, although he seemed to know nearly every priest in Minnesota. He always claimed I was

(continued on page 7)



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“I know the answer is Jesus Christ. Hope is found in the dying and rising of Jesus. The day of restoration and renewal will happen through the mercy of Jesus and our full cooperation in the work of the Redemption of Jesus Christ. I can also hear Jesus saying, “I’ve got this.”

- 9th Bishop of Duluth, Bishop Paul Sirbat

Advent Penance Service

Next Sunday is already the Third Sunday of Advent and also the time that we are called to REJOICE! One of the great spiritual reasons we as Catholics are called to REJOICE is that we have a sacramental belief in the forgiveness of sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Next Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 P.M., we will be celebrating a Communal Penance Service for our parish in the midst of the Advent season. The service will include 5 priests (including myself) from the Diocese of New Ulm. In addition to the main Penance Service, I will also be scheduling individual confession times from the 18th – 23rd of December, as well as on Saturdays at 4:30 P.M.

As we have begun the new liturgical year, maybe we will begin with a fresh spiritual start by returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receiving this powerful sacrament of grace for the remission of our sins on this earth. Happy Advent!



Stepping Up in Faith

Collected this week:	\$400.00
Received to date:	\$83,692.22
Goal:	\$175,000.00

It might seem that there is minimal progress taking place but the work continues, (*much below ground*) involving the work on our front entrance. The foundation for the church sign has been completed and the large hole has been filled in as well. (*See the pictures below.*) Many times in construction, it appears like little or no progress is being made when the foundation and footings are being worked on below ground. Then suddenly, almost over-night, the progress seems to take place. I have not been told that they cannot keep their mid-December time-line. That would mean, they would be wrapping things up around the 16th or so of December. I will be happy if the work is completed on or before the Christmas Eve Masses. Thank you for your continued support of this project. Happy Advent as we “await” and “prepare” for its completion.



The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

12:00 pm- 2:00 pm - Confirmation Class (lunch served before)

Monday, December 9: THE IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Not a Holy Day of obligation)

8:05 am - Rosary

8:30 am - Mass - Joe Cook†

Tuesday, December 10: Weekday

No Morning Mass

Wednesday, December 11: [Saint Damasus I, Pope]

9:15 - Mass at Oak Terrace - Wally & Ester Zellmert

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Sewing Group (Lower Level PC)

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Community Meal - School cafeteria**
- ALL ARE WELCOME!

6:00 pm - 7:05 pm - Faith Formation Classes

6:00 pm - Adult Choir Practice - Choir Room

Thursday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:05 am - Rosary

8:30 am - Mass - Vince Geurtin Family

Friday, December 13: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

8:05 am - Rosary

8:30 am - Mass - Peter & Jelaine Schreiner Family

Saturday, December 14: Saint John of the Cross,

Priest and Doctor of the Church

4:30 pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm – Rosary

5:00 pm – Mass - Ken & Pat Thiele Family

Sunday, December 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent

7:30 am - Rosary

8:00 am - Mass - Juliette Shamp†

9:30 am – Rosary

10:00 am – Mass - People of Holy Rosary Parish

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm Confirmation Class (No lunch)

3:00 pm - **Communal Penance Service - Church**



Weekend Ministry Schedule December 14th & 15th

Lectors:

5:00 pm Cindy Gawrych

8:00 am Dolores Portz

10:00 am Roxi Lang

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm Tom & Mary Clare Wryrowski, Brenda Voracek, Tom Koch, Jim Theuninck, Jane Younge

8:00 am Bernie Bastian, Gene Brandt, Mary Homan, Sharon Lenz, Cathy Neve, Arlyce Anderson

10:00 am Mike & Diane O'Dea, Curt & Donna Stanke, Ryan Howe, Maxine Davis

Altar Servers:

5:00 pm Connor McGraw, Anna Voracek, James Voracek (C/B/B)

8:00 am Ben Ellingworth, Matthew Helget, Gus Nelson (C/B/B)

10:00 am Hannah Linnes, Ethan Westermann (C/B/B)

Presentation of Gifts:

5:00 pm Jane Younge Family

8:00 am Jon Ellingworth Family

10:00 am Mike & Diane O'Dea

Ushers:

5:00 pm Karen Winters, Tom Rheaume, Roger Steinbach, Mark Weingartz (*Head Usher*)

8:00 am Craig Amundson, Bill Fasnacht, Leroy Gappa, Doug Homan (*Head Usher*)

10:00 am Brent Friedrichs, Steve Kaiser, Sherry Henrickson, Bob Weigscheid (*Head Usher*)

Rosary Leaders:

5:00 pm Karen Ezzell

8:00 am Sharon Lenz

10:00 am Jeanette Barsness

Music Ministry:

5:00 pm Myra Schropfer/Vicki Galli

8:00 am Benjamin Paul/Michael Steimel

10:00 am Tom Bachmann/Vicki Galli

Money Handlers:

5:00 pm Pat & Wanda Hull

8:00 am Sharon Lenz

10:00 am Curt Stanke

Money Counters - December 2019: Bob Manwarren, Terri Compton, Bob Meyer, John Holden

Bulletin Folders - December 2019: Ruth Fitterer, Rosal Molski, Mary Haley, Ken Thiele, Anne Doyle



Upcoming Parish Events

- **Community Meal - Goulash - Wednesday, December 11th, 5:00-6:00 pm, School cafeteria (all are welcome!)**
- **Adult Choir Practice - Wednesday, December 11th, 6:00 pm, Choir Room**
- **Communal Penance Service - Sunday, December 15th, 3:00 pm, Church**

Parish Advent/Christmas Mailing

Please watch your mail for a letter that is being sent to every registered household in the parish during this season of Advent and is in anticipation for the great feast of Christmas. You are invited to take a few moments to read this letter. If you do not receive the letter by mid December, please call the Parish Office, and we will have one sent to you.



Christmas Wreaths

Calvary Cemetery is now taking orders for Christmas Wreaths to be placed on your loved one's grave. The cost is \$25.00. To order please call Terry Miller at 507-995-1010.





Faith Formation

This Week In Faith Formation

This week in our Faith Formation classes we began with a brief Advent Service for grades 1-8 in church with Father. Father then took a few minutes to review the symbolism of the Advent wreath, and acknowledged our First Graders for their active participation in the weekend Masses. The Eight grade class remained in church as Father taught further on signs and symbols that fill our church. A special thank you to Sandy Lindmeier for the beautiful Advent bulletin board that welcomes students and visitors at our school entrance. An additional thank you to Sandy for all of her artistic hard-work on designing our beautiful bulletin boards throughout our school building.

Confirmation Class - Penance Service



This week is again our Sunday Confirmation session. We have had very good attendance from our young people as well as a few of our adults in attendance. We will be having an abbreviated class next Sunday from 12:45 P.M. to 1:45 P.M. We will not be serving lunch next week after the 10:00 A.M. Mass. **All Confirmation students are required to attend the Penance Service at 3:00 P.M.** Parents and family members are strongly encouraged to attend this Penance Service with their Confirmation student. How does that go: "THE FAMILY THAT FORGIVES TOGETHER IS ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER."

Congratulations 1st Graders!

The students in our First Grade Faith Formation received a special treat for being the first class in our program to proportionately fill in their banner for Mass attendance. We understand that other classes are getting close. This program is designed to encourage that the faith they are taught on Wednesday might be exercised on Sunday through their participation with their parents and family in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Congratulations 1st Graders!

Monarch Meadows Giving Tree

We will again collect money this year for the Giving Tree at Monarch Meadows. Please send any donations you wish to give to your son/daughter to give to their teacher on December 11th. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

All Students Should Come to Communal Penance Service Dec 15th



This Advent, we are asking that the parents, who are the primary educators of the faith to take the time to bring their young people to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Parish Penance Service in two weeks on **Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 P.M.** What a powerful witness and teachable moment for a parent to walk into the confessional. That action alone speaks volumes that we are all in need of the mercy and the forgiveness of Almighty God and not just for our young people when they are about to receive a major sacrament like First Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Confirmation. There will be 5 priests assisting with individual confessions. **Confirmation students and their families are required to be part of this service as part of their class time and spiritual preparation.** "Go in peace, your sins are forgiven!"

Echo Food Shelf Collection



In the past couple of weeks our students brought in 45 pounds of food for the Echo Food Shelf. Thank you for thinking of people at this time of year who are in need. We also brought an additional 58 pounds of non-perishable food items that was collected at the church entrances. This brings us to 103 pounds of food collected so far for those in need during the holiday season. There has been more food donations at the entrances that have been given in the past days, (*but due to the early bulletin deadline*), the additional donations will be posted in next week's bulletin. We will continue to collect non-perishable food items from the students and the parish all the way through the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 22nd. "When I was hungry you gave me to eat."



Welcome Five Servers

This past Monday we trained and further trained 5 more servers for service at God's holy altar. Four of our young people are from our Faith Formation program and one student is from Loyola. We still have more to train and will welcome more as well. Thank you to Lorraine Klaseus and Timothy Cain for their help! Please call the parish office if your child (grade 5 and above) would be interested in being a server.



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

Ruth Baker, Laurice Telshaw, Arnie & Eileen Wadekamper, Mary Kelly, Molly Viehweg, Mary McVicker, Steve Drummer, Ruth Fitterer, Steve Fitterer, Brandon Winters, Nancy Eilbert, Dan Telshaw, Charles Wesely, Craig Van Loy, Delores Haubrich, Orval Marquardt, Amy Cain, Gerard Lorentz, Dave Neubert, Michael Steimel

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 Klauseus at 507-388-4932

For Our Families

Monday	Gerald & Sharon Stoffregen
Tuesday	Marlin & Lenora Hickey
Wednesday	Adam & Heather Huiras
Thursday	Dan Telshaw
Friday	Gordy & Terri Compton
Saturday	Brian Eggersdorfer
Sunday	James & Jenice Fallenstein



For Those in the Military

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

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 Readings

Mon: Gn 3:9-15,20/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:26-38(689) Pss Prop
 Tues: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14 (182)
 Weds: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30 (183)
 Thurs: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 (690A)
 Fri: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19 (185)
 Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (186)
 Sun: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11 (7) Pss III

Join us for Loyola's Barnes & Noble Bookfair, supporting the Loyola band and choir 2021 trip to New Orleans! Saturday, December 14, 10am-4pm at the Mankato Barnes & Noble location in the River Hills Mall. Loyola students will be hosting storytime, crafts, performing mini-musical concerts and wrapping presents. Please be sure to mention Loyola at the checkout counter.

All are welcome to Loyola's Christmas concerts and programs. All events are held at Loyola Catholic School, 145 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato:

- 12/10: 7pm 6-12 Band Concert
- 12/11: 7pm 7-12 Choir Concert
- 12/18: 1pm Christmas Basket Mass
- 12/19: 9am Preschool/PreK Program
10:30am Grades 4-6 Program
1pm Grades K-3 Program

THANK YOU to all who send us Box Tops for Education, Hy-Vee receipts. Your parish support makes all we do, learn, and celebrate at Loyola possible.

Leading through Faith, Academic Excellence, and Service.



Diocesan Ministries Appeal

Thank you to all who have given to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge or gift yet, envelopes are available by the church entrances. You may return your pledge in the collection basket or simply drop it in the mail. You may also make your pledge or gift online at <https://www.dnu.org/dma/>. Either way, your gift will be counted toward our parish goal. Be assured that your gift will only be used to support those ministries designated in the DMA brochure - ministries that are vital to our diocesan church and local parishes.



This Week's Sanctuary Light Intention:
Pearson Family

K. of C. Council #5551 News

December 12 - Planning Meeting
December 19 - General Meeting



“the Quill and the Cloth” continued...

insightful pastorally and practically and always reminded me of my goodness as a priest. Many times at the end of our conversations he would conclude by thanking me for our friendship and telling me how grateful he was that I did not take life too seriously, and for always making him laugh.

Almost ten years ago on December 14, 2009, “Father” Paul Sirba became “Bishop” Paul Sirba of Duluth. I could not have been more proud as a priest and as a friend. A week or two earlier I had called him up and asked if he was busy on a Tuesday? Laughing on the phone he said: *“Come on up whenever you want. The boss is out of town.”* (He was referring to Archbishop Nienstedt, as he was the Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis.) When it was announced a few days later by the Vatican that he had been named the Bishop of Duluth, I called him and said: *“You knew you were becoming Bishop and you never told me!”* He was serious about his faith and reminded me with a chuckle that it was, after all, a “Papal Secret”. Just before the installation, he called me and asked: *“Do you have a good joke I can tell the people at the close of Mass when I have to make my speech?”* I said, *“Sure! Tell them that since the Holy Father called you and asked you to be the Bishop of Duluth, you have been sleeping like a baby.....because every two hours you wake up and start to cry.”* He told that joke that day and the large crowd in attendance roared!

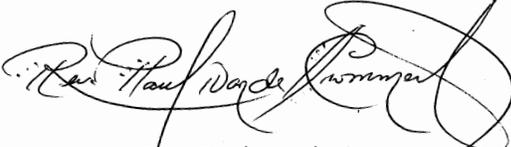
However, his assignment as Bishop of Duluth was something to seriously cry over. He had never desired to become Bishop like some priests, and after he became Bishop, the office did not change him. *(The picture of him at the top of this article was as he truly was, a joyful priestly-priest.)* His Diocese of Duluth was the first in the state to declare bankruptcy, only a brief time after he had been named the Bishop. He told me in confidence many times of the pastoral struggles he had to deal with personally and with personnel as Bishop. Always the reconciler, the peacemaker, and a strong believer in prayer, he remained optimistic in a better Church, if not today, then tomorrow!

In confidence, he had told me several years ago of his heart condition and the need for a pace-maker. I told him that his health condition was a strange occurrence, since his father Norbert, *(whose funeral I attended)*, had lived to be 85. His mother and my mother were almost identical in age. *(His mother Helen is now 96 years old.)* He did not drink, smoke, nor was he overweight. I told him I would be bothered by having such health trouble, at such a young age. He brushed it off. Death did not seem to scare him, because he had a strong belief in the Savior. Whatever was God’s will was his will.

Of all the people, priests and bishops I have known in

my entire life, I know of no one person who was holier or more humble than Bishop Paul Sirba. He told people that we were friends because of my humor and my holiness. I told people we were friends because of his holiness and his humor. In an age of ramped impurity among religious and those in the clerical state, ours was a friendship of fraternal, brotherly love. It was always a joy to talk to him or to see him and I know he felt the same about me on those rare occurrences we met when there was a break in our pastoral work and our schedules lined up. He took his priesthood very seriously as I have tried to do as well.

This weekend we hear of John the Baptist with a “poor” amount of material wealth, but “rich” in announcing the Good News of salvation. Bishop Paul Sirba was very “poor” in earthly possessions from clothes to any sort of creature comforts, but he was “rich” in the proclamation of the Good News. John the Baptist said of the Lord’s coming: *“I am not worthy to carry his sandals.”* Humbly, I never felt quite worthy to call Bishop Paul Sirba my friend; but at the same time, we were so close I wasn’t afraid *(in the name of Dutch cleanliness)* to tell him at the door of my rectory to take off his sandals or shoes, even if he was a Bishop! May Christ find Bishop Paul Sirba worthy to walk into his mansion in heaven and to the joys of everlasting peace. May you rest in peace my dear and holy friend. You will be missed! Happy Advent!



Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor





Community Meal - THIS WEEK - Dec. 11

Community Meal

We had a wonderful response to our last Community Meal of "Tacos in a Bag", although I understand that this meal is more geared for the younger generation. This week on Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M. we will be serving a wonderful meal of goulash that is being catered by Truffles. Along with the goulash there will be a salad, drink and desert. Again, the like last time we hosted our Community Meal, we asked for only a free-will offering and had sufficient monies to cover our expenses, which is wonderful. ***Give yourself a night off from cooking and come to the school cafeteria, both young and not so young and enjoy a delicious meal and some great fellowship.*** Like last time, let's see if we can fill each table with faithful. See you on Wednesday!



Echo Food Shelf Collection Boxes

There are boxes by each of the church entrances for your donation of non-perishable food items that will be given to the Echo Food Shelf, our local food bank for the needy in our community. Please remember those in our own town who are less fortunate and are food insecure this holiday season. Thank you!



K.C. Christmas Tree Lot Is Open!

The North Mankato Knights of Columbus #5551 Christmas tree lot, located next to Blue Skye Mercantile, 237 Belgrade Ave., in North Mankato will be open: Weekdays from 4:00 - 8:00 P.M. and weekends 9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Musician Meeting

Thank you to all of our music ministers who gave up an hour of their Monday evening to attend our Music Meeting and to grow in their musical talent and ability. Thank you to all who share their gift of music with our parish family each weekend through the parish liturgies. Happy Advent!



SINCERE SYMPATHY

To the family of Bishop Paul Sirba†; his mother Helen, and his surviving siblings, Father Joseph, John, Catherine and their families.

- May he rest in peace.



Stewardship of Gratitude

Our Gifts to God & Holy Rosary

Adult Contributions	\$5,762.50
Plate Collection	\$449.00
Electronic Giving	\$3,534.76
Junior Collection	\$40.21
Thanksgiving Collection	\$1,954.00
Christmas Collection	\$110.00
Christmas Flowers	\$130.00
Front Steps	\$400.00
Fall Festival Silent Auction	\$40.00

Weekly Offering Total **\$12,420.47**

Weekly offering goal is set at \$10,300.00

Bridging the Gap **\$0**

Additional Weekly Income **\$1,869.68**

Grand Total * **\$14,290.15**

Total weekly stewardship goal is set at \$13,200.00

Thanks for your gifts of gratitude to God!!!

Stewardship of Gratitude

Although we have passed the Thanksgiving holiday, I am continually "thankful" for the faithful and relentless stewardship that you give to the parish each week. We are down to just some three weeks before the close of the second quarter of the Fiscal Year of 2019-2020, and we are managing to keep our heads above the stewardship waters. Again, thank you for this so very much!

As we come to the close of the Fiscal Year, we ask for your generosity. Tis is of course the "time of giving" and it is the greatest time of stewardship for non-profit organizations, including such institutions as the Church.

I continue to ask for your support for the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. I know some of you have told me that you are giving this year and had not given in the past. May we do our best to achieve or at least come close to our Diocesan designated goal. Please know that for every dollar that you give, 20% comes back to Holy Rosary. Our plan with the money is to work to reduce our Diocesan United Fund for which we pay out as a hard goal more than \$80,000.00. Thank you!

Stewardship Corner

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

Pd. to Date: \$15,533.00

Due: \$80,442.69

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

Rec'd. to Date: \$5,445.00

Due: \$33,183.26

Loyola Catholic School Assessment:

Pd. to Date: \$136,571.97

Due: \$179,571.97

Total Paid to Date 2019-2020: \$152,104.97

Apostolate Stewardship 2019-2020: \$293,197.92

December 9th - Solemnity of Mary

Save the date with the Blessed Mother for Monday, December 9th (not the 8th). The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is still a Holy Day and Solemnity, although not a Holy Day of obligation. You are encouraged to come and to celebrate Mary's conception through her parents St. Ann and St. Joachim which was free of all original sin of our first parents Adam and Eve. Certainly something this holy is worth celebrating! Don't you think?



Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Support the Retirement Fund for the Religious! Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to this week's second collection.

Christmas Masses



The Masses for Christmas will be the same time as in past years. Four Masses will be offered for Christmas with two Masses being celebrated on Christmas Eve at **4:00 P.M.** and again at **10:00 P.M.** There will also be the two morning Masses on Christmas day that will be the same as our normal Sunday schedule at **8:00 A.M.** and **10:00 A.M.** Carols will also be sung prior to the start of each of the Masses, so plan to come early.

The Nutcracker | Mankato Ballet Company

Join the Mankato Ballet Company for "The Nutcracker" on Saturday, December 7th at the State Street Theater at 1 N. State Street New Ulm, MN and December 12th and 13th at 7pm; December 14th and 15th at 1pm and 5pm at the Ted Paul Theater at MSU Mankato.



Welcome to Holy Rosary!



Again this week we welcome another family to Holy Rosary. Please welcome with me Jared and Rachel Jaqua and their three children Olivia, Lauren and Owen. The couple reside here in North Mankato and are employed in the greater Mankato area. We welcome Olivia and Lauren to our Faith Formation program.

Please note that registration packets are available at all of our church entrances. Are you new to the area and would like to join our growing Holy Rosary parish family? Are you new to the area or would like to join Holy Rosary parish? 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!

Adopt a Family for Christmas!

Please join the Social Concerns Committee this year in providing necessities and Christmas joy to a needy family in Blue Earth County. Take a Christmas card from the Christmas tree in the back of the church, purchase the gift on the card, and **return the wrapped gift with the card attached to the gift** and place it under the tree. The wrapped gifts can be brought to the weekend or weekday masses. The gifts need to be returned by December 17 in order to be delivered to the family. Thank you for your generosity.



R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

If you know of someone who is about becoming Roman Catholic or perhaps someone who is short a sacrament to be an adult member of the Catholic faith, we strongly encourage you to have them call the parish office. May we hold up those who are considering full-communication in the Church in our daily prayers. Thank you!

