

ST. MALACHY RE NEWSLETTER

Advent/Christmas 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/29. Religious Ed classes
- 12/3. 3rd grade Mass
Youth Group Outing
- 12/6. Religious Ed Classes
Work time-care pkgs.
3rd-6th Reconciliation
- 12/10 Family Faith Formation
Parish 100th Anniversary
Communal Penance
- 12/13 Religious Ed Classes
Keep Christ in Christmas
poster entries due
- 12/20. Nativity Program
7th-12th Reconciliation
- 1/7 Youth Group XMas Party
- 1/10 Youth Group @ Sacred
Heart, Fr. Travis Crotty
- 1/14 Confirmation Retreat



WHAT'S GOING ON?

3rd Grade Youth Mass/December 3 8:30am

3rd graders will participate in Mass ministries including usher, greeter, gift bearer, and music. All children are invited to join in the Youth Choir this first Sunday of Advent



Care Packages/December 6 6:30 pm

Many hands mean light work! Parents and other volunteers are asked to come help put together care packages for the young adults of the parish and for the schools our parish children attend.

Parish 100th Anniversary/December 10

Look for an invitation and RSVP to attend a breakfast provided by the parish as we celebrate 100 years of a Catholic Church in Madrid! The celebration will follow 8:30 am Mass.



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Illustrate what the phrase "Keep Christ in Christmas" means to you. Open to grades PreK-8th and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, due December 13.

Nativity Program/December 20 7:15 pm

Join the children of the parish as they present the story of Christ's birth through the words of the Gospel. The program will be held in the church this year. We will collect donations for our sponsor children,



Youth Group Christmas Party/January 7 12 pm

8th-12th graders are invited to join in a bowling and pizza party at noon at Tiger Bowl. Bring a White Elephant gift (\$10 value) for the exchange to ring in the new year & season.

Confirmation Retreat/January 14 8:30 am

Watch for more information to come for a retreat for our 9th and 10th graders preparing for Confirmation. The topic will be living your faith everyday through sports & activities.



CATHOLIC TRADITIONS

ST. NICHOLAS DAY: DECEMBER 6

ST. NICHOLAS WAS A GENEROUS BISHOP OF SMYRNA, WHICH IS IN PRESENT DAY TURKEY. WHO GAVE GIFTS TO THE POOR AND INSPIRED OUR MODERN-DAY SANTA. OBSERVE HIS FEAST DAY BY LEAVING OUT CHILDREN'S SHOES OR STOCKINGS TO BE FILLED WITH SMALL TREATS AND TOYS FROM ST. NICHOLAS.



VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE: DECEMBER 12

THIS FEAST CELEBRATES THE APPEARANCE OF THE VIRGIN MARY TO JUAN DIEGO, A POOR PEASANT IN MEXICO. SHE LEFT HIM WITH THE SIGN OF ROSES TO SHOW TO THE BISHOP AS PROOF OF HER APPEARANCE. CELEBRATE TODAY WITH MEXICAN FOOD, ROSES, OR HOSTING A TRADITIONAL MEXICAN LAS POSADAS CELEBRATION WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

ST. LUCY: DECEMBER 13

ST. LUCY WAS A YOUNG GIRL WHO TOOK FOOD TO CHRISTIANS SECRETLY HIDING IN THE ROMAN CATACOMBS. THE CANDLED WREATH ON HER HEAD WAS TO LIGHT HER WAY AND ALLOW HER TO CARRY MORE FOOD AND HELP MORE PEOPLE. CELEBRATE HER FEAST DAY WITH SPECIAL BREAD OR CINNAMON ROLLS!



JESSE TREE

OBSERVE THE SYMBOLS OF OUR FAITH FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT THAT PROPHECY THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS. PURCHASE A KIT OR CREATE ONE YOURSELVES!

ADVENT WREATH

LIGHT A CANDLE EACH WEEK TO REPRESENT HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE AS WE ANTICIPATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS! PURCHASE OR CREATE YOUR OWN FAMILY WREATH.





CATHOLIC

Advent

SHOPPING & TO-DO LIST

- ☐ ADVENT WREATH & CANDLES
- ☐ JESSE TREE KIT
- ☐ CINNAMON ROLLS FOR ST. LUCY'S DAY
- ☐ GOLD COINS FOR ST. NICHOLAS DAY
- ☐ MEXICAN DINNER FOR GUADALUPE
- ☐ GIFTS FOR GODPARENTS/GODCHILDREN
- ☐ OUTFITS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
- ☐
- ☐ SEND CHRISTMAS CARD/GIFT TO PRIEST
- ☐ FIND OR MAKE ADVENT PLAYLIST
- ☐ SCHEDULE MASS TIMES IF TRAVELING
- ☐ STOCK UP ON RELIGIOUS STAMPS
- ☐ SCHEDULE RECONCILIATION



Advent Playlist

In the Bleak Midwinter-James Taylor
Of the Father's Love Begotten
O Come Emmanuel-JJ Heller
Come Thou Font-Chris Tomlin
Ave Maria-Josh Groban
Hail O Queen-Damascus Worship
Messiah-George Friederich Handel
Let there be Light-B & K Torwalt
Receive-Audrey Assad

The season leading up to Christmas can be a busy one! Concerts, gifts, and traveling to visit family can overshadow important aspects of Advent as a season of preparation and longing for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas! Consider a few practices to help you observe Advent while keeping things simple:

-Schedule spiritual aspects of the season such as Reconciliation and Christmas Mass, especially if travelling.

-Shop online at Catholic retailers and include faith elements into gifts for people such as godchildren & parish priest.

-Prepare your home for the liturgical season of Advent. See these links for ideas:
[Advent in the Catholic Home](#)
[Decorating for Advent](#)

-The USPS always has a religious-themed stamp. Stock up on these to use through the whole year as an easy way to evangelize



Catholic Gift Guide



Sinsiniwa Bakery



Sock Religious



Corda Candles



Shining Light Dolls



Brick House in the City



Abundance of Grace



Chews Life



Annunciation Designs



Saint Cards



Just Love Prints



Elizabeth Clare



Catholic All Year

HOLIDAY

Mass Times

Sign up for
Mass Ministries!



GIFT GIVING

Looking for a meaningful, faith-based way to donate this season?

[World Vision](#)
[Gift Catalog](#)
[Sponsor a Child](#)

[Cross Catholic Outreach](#)

[Catholic Charities](#)

[Sioux City Diocese Seminarian Fund](#)

[Sioux City Diocese Annual Appeal-
Together as One](#)

[St. Malachy RE Wish List](#)

THANKSGIVING

Wed 11/22 4:30 pm @ St. Malachy
Thursday 11/23 8:00 am @ Sacred Heart

COMMUNAL PENANCE

Sunday, December 10
1:00 pm Sacred Heart
3:00 pm St. Malachy

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24
4:00 pm St. Malachy
5:30 pm Sacred Heart
10:00 pm Sacred Heart

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25
8:30 am St. Malachy
10:00 am Sacred Heart

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

(Observed)
Sunday, December 31
8:30 am St. Malachy
10:00 am Sacred Heart