



THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDY CANE

To celebrate Christmas, a candy maker decided to make a candy that would include several symbols of the life of Jesus Christ, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He began with a stick of pure white, solid candy; white to symbolize the Virgin birth and solid to symbolize the firm love Jesus has for all of us. The candy maker made the candy in the shape of a “J” to represent the precious name of Jesus. Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker added red stripes. He used three small stripes to represent the nails that held Jesus on the cross and a large stripe to show the blood shed by Jesus, giving us the promise of eternal life. Then he added the wonderful flavor of peppermint which is a royal gift of spice. So perhaps the next time you look at this familiar Christmas decoration you will remember the candy maker and the real meaning behind the Christmas Candy Cane: The Wondrous Birth of Jesus and His Great Love for all of us.



GOD’S GIFT APPEAL: THANK YOU FOR HELPING SACRED HEART EXCEED THEIR GOAL AGAIN THIS YEAR IN 2023! Sacred Heart is at 104.30% (\$36,820.00 in pledges) with 33.83% participation. Our goal was \$35,302.70.

- CHURCH CALENDARS:** The church calendars for 2024 are here. Please pick one up.
- ENVELOPES:** The new envelopes for 2024 are in the back of the church. If your name was overlooked, please call the office or pick up a box in the back without a label on and when you use the envelopes, please put your name on it so that you will receive credit for it. Students P-12 received theirs in their classrooms.
- STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:** *“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” – LUKE 1:28*
After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.
- HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:**
- **For persons with disabilities:** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

LIVE IN THE WORD OF GOD

Readings for the Week of December 25-31

- Monday: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7 & Luke 2:15-20 (Christmas Day)
Tuesday: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59 & Matthew 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 John 1:1-4 & John 20:1a & 2-8
Thursday: 1 John 1:5-2:2 & Matthew 2:13-18
Friday: 1 John 2:3-11 & Luke 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 John 2:12-17 & Luke 2:36-40
Sunday: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 & Luke 2:22-40



SACRED HEART CHURCH

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652-2519 (Church Office); 652-2072 (Parish Hall)
Fax: 652-2518



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Virginia Pedersen, Secretary – Diane Odstrcil, CCD Coordinator
Paul Reimer & Maartje Murphy, Lay Directors – Maartje Murphy, Parish Council President

4th Sunday of Advent – December 24, 2023

NEXT SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE (12/30-31):		PENANCE SCHEDULE:	
Sat. Eve.:	5:00 pm	Sat. Eve.:	4:00-4:45 pm
Sunday:	9:00 am	Sunday:	8:30-8:45 am
Sunday: (Sykeston)	11:00 am	or by appointment	
		Please call Fr. Dodge	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MONDAY, DEC. 25 – SUNDAY, DEC. 31:

- ROSARY:** **Weekday:** Joanne Stokes.
- MASS SERVERS:** **Weekday:** Brayden Odstrcil; **Christmas Day:** Tristan Schroeder, Oakley Hagel; **Sat. Eve.:** Kirby & Rowdy Freeman; **Sunday:** Oakley Hagel, Edyn & Aniston Hoornaert.
- LECTORS:** **Weekday:** Joanne Stokes; **Christmas Day:** Joanne Stokes; **Sat. Eve.:** Virginia Pedersen; **Sunday:** Monica Neis.
- GREETERS:** **Christmas Day:** Leo & Dianne Straley; **Sat. Eve.:** Steve & Holly English; **Sunday:** Darlene Carr & Holly Retzlaff.
- GIFT BEARERS:** **Christmas Day:** Leo & Dianne Straley; **Sat. Eve.:** Ellen Linderman & Susan Wolsky; **Sunday:** Jerome & Monica Neis.
- USHERS:** **Christmas Day:** Bob Erickson & Henry Simons; **Sat. Eve.:** Paul Reimer & Dave Mahutga; **Sunday:** Chad Hoornaert & Bob Lipetzky.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you have a special prayer need in your family, please call Gemma Bachmeier (652-2129) or Renee Riedesel (652-5295) to start our parish prayer chain.

▼ **PLEASE REGISTER – CLASS COMING UP SOON**

POLICY FOR BAPTISM: For all those parents desiring Baptism for their child, they must first attend a Baptism class. Our next class is **Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.** Once you have attended the Baptism class, you are then free to schedule the Baptism by calling the office at 652-2519.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 25-31:

Mon.	8:00 a.m.	CHRISTMAS DAY + Lisa Nihill
Tues.	7:30 a.m.	ROSARY AND DAILY READINGS ONLY (No Mass or Holy Hour - Parish Office Closed)
Wed.	10:00 a.m.	CHI CHAPEL +Angie, +Clarence & +Dale Blonigen
Thurs.	7:25 a.m.	+ Pat Grosser
Fri.	7:25 a.m.	+ Pat Riedesel
	10:00 a.m.	GOLDEN ACRES + Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sat.	5:00 p.m.	+ Darlene Tennyson
Sun.	9:00 a.m.	+ Fr. Lawrence Haas
	11:00 a.m.	MASS AT SYKESTON - For people of the parishes

ADORATION SCHEDULE:

◀ THIS WEEK

- Every Friday from 3:00-4:00 pm, except the 1st Friday.

There will be no morning Masses on Sunday, December 24th, as the Christmas Eve Mass is at 5:00 pm Sunday at Sacred Heart and 7:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's in Sykeston. Mass on Christmas Day will be Monday, Dec. 25th at 8:00 am. ◀ Note the time

NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGES: There is **NO Tuesday Masses at Sykeston** for the next two weeks, (Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd). There is **NO Holy Hour Adoration on Tuesday evenings** at Sacred Heart for the next two weeks (Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd). Parish office is closed both days as well.

CCD/CYO CLASSES: No class this week (December 27th) because of Christmas break. Class as usual next week (Wednesday, January 3, 2024).

COLORING CONTEST for Kindergarten thru 6th grade is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. **Please return them by Dec. 30th to your teacher or to Diane Odstreil, DRE.**

THANK YOU:

- We would like to offer our thanks for the great Christmas program that we had last Sunday. Thanks to Jane Sauby, Jennifer Hoornaert and the CCD teachers who assisted in the program. Special thanks to the K.C.'s and Altar Society for a fantastic breakfast following the program and to the K.C.'s who handed out treats.
Fr. Dodge and Jessica Skadberg, Christmas Program Director
- A BIG thanks to the ladies who helped out at the Christmas Bake Sale last Sunday and to those who donated to make it a success. We had a wonderful assortment of beautiful baked goods. A more detailed report will be available at the next Altar Society meeting. Just a reminder that if you did not bring something to the bake sale, you are asked to give a \$10.00 donation. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS EVE: Any CCD student, grades 1-8 that are at the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass are invited to be in the procession at the beginning of Mass to carry figurines for the Nativity Set. After communion, these students are to come to the back of the church to carry candles in the lighting procession which will be held after the closing prayer.

EVANGELIZATION CORNER: "God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ROSARY CAMPAIGN: Sacred Heart's goal is 2,000 rosaries by Oct. 14, 2024.

- Rosary Total: 1604

"...some issues involve principles that can never be abandoned, such as the fundamental right to life and marriage as the union of one man and one woman." *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB*

NEW MEMBERS: We are always delighted to welcome new members to our church community as you bring new life to our parish. We ask that you stop by the rectory and register in our parish. That way we can get to know you, welcome you as one with us and you will feel more a part of us.

Welcome This week we are especially pleased to welcome Tanner and Jessica Lembke and Geo who have recently joined our parish.

HEAVENLY WISDOM by *Venerable Fulton Sheen*. "Our Lord was born not just of her flesh but also by her consent."

COME EARLY TO HEAR THE CHOIR SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS STARTING AT 4:40 P.M. ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

As we enter into this hallowed season in which we recall the awesome gift of our Heavenly Father to us, the splendid gift of His Son in response to the Virgin Mary's yes, may we respond with resounding joy in our prayers, thoughts, and daily activities. Jesus, our Lord and Savior is born to us! Oh, what Joy! The angels watched in wonderment and sang "Glory to God in the highest". May our hearts, minds, and souls echo the same sentiment until we can do it with them in person in heaven! Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Fr. Dodge

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023: By law, contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received. **Thus, if you wish to make a contribution for 2023, it must be received by December 31, 2023.**

▼ SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND ▼

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Bishop Folda is asking that a special collection be taken up for humanitarian and parish assistance in the Holy Land. The funds raised will be sent to the Latin Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Thank you for your consideration in this special collection.

SUNDAY COLLECTION, DEC. 17, 2023:

Plate	467.00
Children's envelopes	17.00
Sunday envelopes	<u>2,837.00</u>
Total	3,321.00
A/C Donation	250.00

WEEKLY BUDGET - \$3,922.00

THIS WEEK –

3,321.00– 3,922.00 = (601.00)

ACCUMULATIVE BUDGET (Week 51)

- (34,491.38)