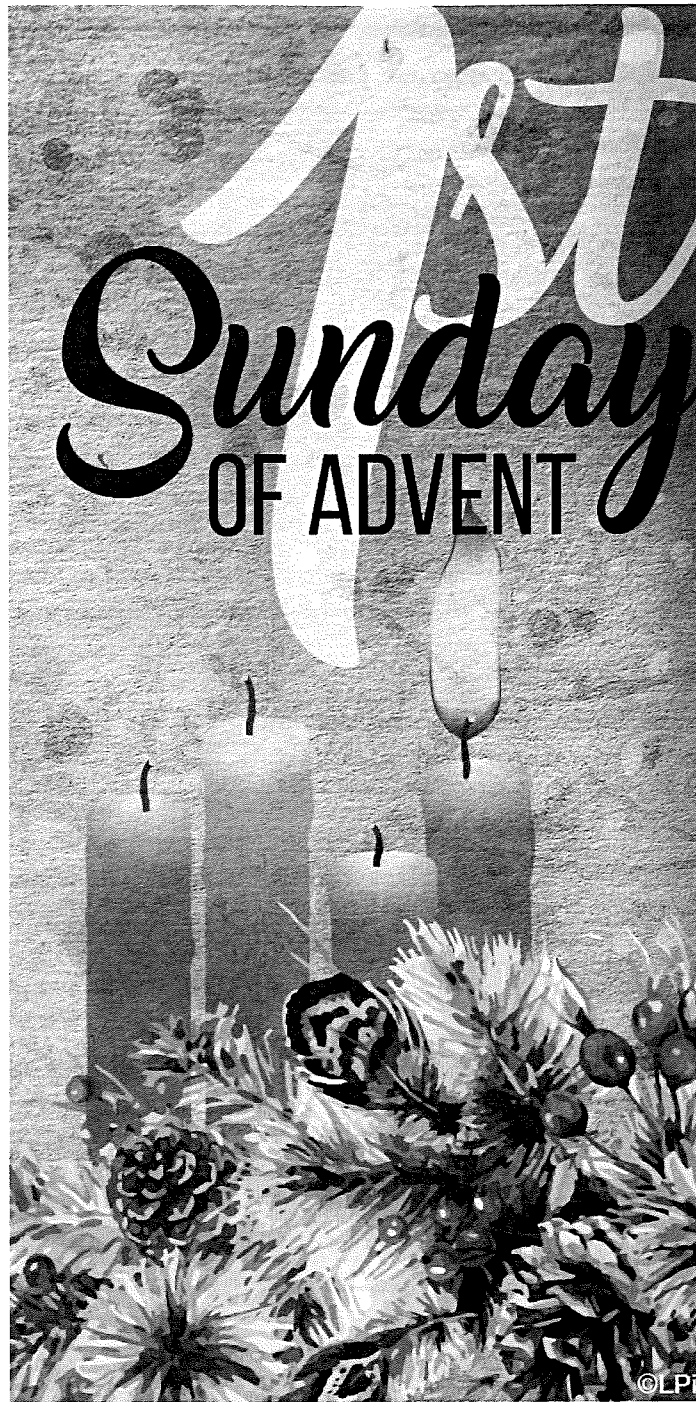


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2018



NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY *Three Sites of Worship, One Community of Faith*

**Including St. Wenceslaus &
The Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica**

215 MAIN STREET EAST ■ NEW PRAGUE, MN 56071 ■ 952-758-3225 ■ NPCATHOLIC.ORG

We welcome you...

Welcome to the greater New Prague Area Catholic Community which includes the Church of St. Wenceslaus and the Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica. We are happy you are here. Should you be visiting just for today, WELCOME! If you are seeking a church home, we would be honored to have you consider joining our faith community. If you are interested in a membership, please phone the parish office for assistance and registration. If you are over the age of 21, we ask that you register. Please feel free to stop by the parish office during office hours to register or you may do so online. Again, we are happy you are here.

At the Church of St. Wenceslaus**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE**Weekend Masses**

Saturday..... 4:00 pm
Sunday..... 8:30 & 10:30 am

Morning Word & Communion

Monday & Friday 8:00 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 am

SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**Anointing of the Sick**

Available to those who are seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call 952-758-3225

Confirmation

Preparation required. Call 952-758-0477

Reconciliation

Saturdays at 3 pm in the church.

Baptism

Preparation required. Call 952-758-3225

Marriage

Six months to one year preparation time required.
Call 952-758-3225

Rosary

Monday – Friday 7:30 am & Saturday 8:00 am in the church.

Fatima Prayer Cell

Monday – Wednesday after 8 am service in the chapel.

Adoration

Friday 9:00 am to midnight in the chapel.

Early Morning Scripture Study

Wednesday 7:00 to 8:00 am – In Parish Office.

Fr. Kevin's Bible Study

Saturdays 8:30 to 10 am – Pius X Room in church basement.

Prayer Chain

Judy: 952-758-2220 or Arnita: 952-758-4943

BeFrienders

Ann Schoenbauer: 952-758-3456 or

Lois Giesen: 952-758-2138

From the Desk of Father Kevin**Advent: Remembering the First Coming & Anticipating the Second!**

It is appropriate to speak of our beginning the season of Advent as "preparing us for the coming of Christ at Christmas time", so long as we recognize that the preparation is about "improving our conscious contact with God!" The change that needs to happen is in us and our "waking up" to God with us NOW. The darkening days of late November and all of December are good for us to realize how much we do NOT see what is real about God's presence and God's hand loving us, guiding us, and protecting us. To observe that there is a lot of darkness in each of our lives is good for our spiritual lives.

The readings on the 1st Sunday of Advent are meant to get our attention in having us acknowledge there will be an end to our world ~ either an end of life as each of us know it ~ one by one or a collective end of life for all of us as we know it. Either way, none of our lives, as we know them now, are going to be around 150 years from now! This is a fact Advent asks us to face, not to frighten us, but to encourage us to see that there is a God who loves us now and will love us into eternity when the realities of the world we live in now ultimately fail us.

So followers of Jesus do not subscribe to "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die". [Most of us know, having eaten too much on Thanksgiving, that eating more doesn't bring about everlasting life. We get hungry again the next day.] We do acknowledge that God is with us and given that fact we are to walk by faith and not only by the sight of our eyes. The mystery of God has jumped into our "human gene pool" in the person of our brother, Jesus Christ, 2,000 years ago. The first coming of Christ expresses God so loving us thru our relationship with God's Son and our human brother, Jesus ~ the Risen Lord. Our being disciples of Jesus unites us with the mystery of God and makes us members of God's family. This fact of our faith can cause us to do what Paul the apostle asked us to do in the second scripture this Sunday. God's powerful expression of love can cause us to increase and abound in love for one another. This love frees us to take risks to rebuild personal lives, our families, and our nation on values of justice, mercy, and the common good ~ because God is with us NOW.

Christopher Hale is the leader of the "Francis Project" which understands God's love as a motive for acting in justice and mercy. He has said:

Christian love is less about feeling and more about action. It's gritty. It's messy. It hurts. In fact, we distrust a love that doesn't suffer and costs nothing."

God is right here with us. We are not traveling alone. We have the opportunity to see the "face of God" in one of our brothers and sisters in the here and now of our lives. Start at home. Open your heart and look around. The light of our faith will show you what you can do. Even the smallest act done with love can make a difference.

We do anticipate another and final "coming of Christ" into our conscious minds. At that "coming" we will not need faith because the reality of who God is and who we are will be crystal clear. The dark days of Advent ask us to know that is where we are heading. I can hardly wait! "Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

Rev. Kevin I. Clinton

Pastor

New Prague Area Catholic Community

Western Catholic Community

A Note Regarding the Feasibility Study

The Western Catholic Community is conducting a Feasibility Study

Each household of the Western Catholic Community should have recently received a letter inviting them to participate in a feasibility study. Mark Davy & Associates, a fundraising consulting firm, has been engaged to conduct the study looking into the future 5-10 years. The study will determine our financial capacity, through a potential capital campaign over a three year period, to update the facilities of one of our Western Catholic Community sites.

Mark Davy & Associates will soon call you to schedule a 30-minute appointment at the church on one of the following dates:

- **Tuesday, December 11 from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Parish Office**
 - o Enter door by the garage
- **Wednesday, December 12 from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Parish Office**
 - o Enter door by the garage
- **Thursday, December 13 from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm at St. Scholastica Church Sacristy**
 - o Enter church by way of ramp or sacristy door

If you want to ensure a date and time that works best for you, please contact Mark Davy & Associates at (952) 929-0444 or visit www.markdavyassoc.com/wcc. If the dates above do not work in your schedule, please contact Mark Davy & Associates for a phone interview at (952) 929-0444 or info@markdavyassociates.com.

Please respond as soon as possible! Results from the study will be shared with parish leaders to help decide our next steps.

Important Information

Weekend Masses

Saturday.....	8:15 pm	St. John's
Sunday.....	8:00 am	St. Scholastica
Sunday.....	10:00 am	St. John's

SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

Reconciliation

Saturday.....	7:45 pm	St. John's
(beginning 11/17/18)		

Baptism & Confirmation

Preparation required. Call the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick

Call the Parish Office.

Marriage

Prep required. Call the Parish Office.

Adoration

Fridays 9:00 am to midnight at St. Wenceslaus Daily Chapel

WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OFFICE

20087 Hub Drive, New Prague 56071
952-758-4642

Deacon Bob Wagner

Pastoral Associate

952-758-3225 (O) 612-703-0808 (C)
Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

Hall Rental:

Patty Giesen 952-758-3008 or email:
kpgiesen003@gmail.com

Prayer Chain WCC:

Carol Bauer	952-457-4057
Noreen Giesen	952-758-2608
Marlene Dohmen	952-492-6879

Mass Schedule Volunteers - St. John's & St. Scholastica

December 8 & 9, 2018	Saturday St. John's 8:15 PM	Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM	Sunday St. John's 10:00 AM
Lector	Carol Weiers	Marlene Dohmen	Jean Boehmke
Eucharistic Ministers	Sandy Kubes	Ann Prochaska, Becky Colwell & Gary Odenthal	Gloria Lemke, Jill Holden & Jonila Weiers
Servers	Samantha & Julia Kubes	Lydia Schmitz & Mathew Schoenecker	Darren, Owen & Sylvia Lemke, Abby Bissell
Gift Bearer Family		Don Hauer Family	Tom Fahey Family

COLLECTION INFORMATION

WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Total Collected 11/25/18	\$2,071
Under Budget for the Week	-\$1,083
Actual Collections YTD.....	\$56,972
Under Budget YTD	-\$12,082
Budget for Next Week	\$3,154

Thank you for your support!

**Bulletin E-mail: info@npcatholic.org
Website: <http://www.npcatholic.org>**

PARISH AND AREA NEWS

Light the Advent Wreath

Blessings to you as you begin Advent this Sunday. There are spots available to sign your family up to light the Advent candle at a Sunday Mass. Call the parish office for more information!



Calendar Raffle

Calendar Raffle packets are available in the back of church. Be sure to pick yours up at any of the Masses.

Advent Blue Books Are In!

The little blue books with brief daily reflections and interesting articles are available in the back of church.

Do You Have Time & A Green Thumb?

Helpers are needed to care of the plants and flowers in church during the winter months from Dec. 24th through the week before Easter. If you, your family, or a small group of friends are interested in a temporary project, call Cathy at (952) 758-5017. If you can't volunteer the entire time, you may want to consider helping for just a week or two.

Adult Discussion Group

The Adult Discussion Group will meet at 6 pm at the Parish House (please enter at the back door) on Dec. 2nd to discuss "Advent & the Incarnation". ALL ARE WELCOME ~ especially newcomers! Bring a friend. Bring a Bible. If you would like more information, call Dave or Susan Karan at (952) 461-3067.



Area Separated & Divorce Support Group

Area Separated & Divorce Support Group will meet Tues., Dec. 4 & 18, 7-8:30 pm, in the Parish Office Building. If you or a loved one is experiencing the loss of a long-term relationship, married or unmarried, you may desire to connect with this group since they understand what you are going through at this time in your life. Questions? Please call Deacon Bob Wagner at (952) 758-0463 or Mary Pieper at (952) 873-6781.

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes has been an outreach ministry serving meals to those in need at St. Mark's Church in Shakopee every other month. Sadly, six of us who started with the program are leaving because of different reasons. Our last dinner will be Jan. 3rd. We are the coordinators of purchasing the food, preparing it, and also serving and clean up. We have a list of dedicated volunteers that we have used each month. If a group or individual is interested in taking it over, please contact Ken and Rosella Kes at 758-3578, Diane Vaughan at 758-3295, or Judy Kubes at 758-6178 for more information.

...Looking forward to tax time?

Have you lost the ability to deduct your contributions since the new tax laws have increased the standard

deduction? There are options for you to give to our church and receive a tax deduction.

1. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD). Owners of IRAs who are at least age 70½ can contribute some or all of their IRA's distribution to charity. An IRA has a required minimum distribution after you turn 70½ ~ this amount is taxed as ordinary income, UNLESS you process the distribution as a QCD!
2. Donor Advised Funds (DAF). You may be able to deposit current and future contributions into a DAF. The amount deposited may be over the threshold that would allow you to itemize the total this current year; while holding the funds in the sponsored DAF for future contributions.

Please check with your tax and/or financial advisor for details and to see if these tax options work for you (and for our church).

Weekend Help Needed

We are in need of a weekend custodian to make sure the church is ready for weekend activities and Masses. If interested, contact Peter Guzulaitis at (952) 758-3225 or peter.guzulaitis@npcatholic.org.

~ COLLECTION INFORMATION ~

St. Wenceslaus Site
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Total for 11/25/18	\$9,874
Under Challenge for Week.....	-\$6,838
Actual Collections YTD.....	\$312,931
Under Challenge YTD.....	-\$36,174
Challenge for Next Week.....	\$16,712

Women's Connection Meetings

December Women's Connection will be Tues., Dec. 4th at Heritage Church at 6:30. Bring a dessert to share and enjoy some soup, Christmas music, and a presentation by Linda Hanner entitled "Make the Season Bright." Call Mary Lynn with questions or if you want to carpool. (952) 486-2311.

December Cursillo Ultreya

Western Ultreya will be held on Sun., Dec. 9th at St. Hubert Catholic Community in Chanhassen. The speaker will be Laurie Forner. Please join us at 7 pm in the North Fellowship Hall. Rosary will be prayed in the family room beginning at 6:30.

Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast & Cookie Walk

St. Anne's CCW will be sponsoring a Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast and the St. Anne's Patrons will be sponsoring a Cookie Walk, Sun., Dec. 9th, 8:30 am-noon at St. Anne's School in Le Sueur.

SUPPORT OUR PATRONS

who make this bulletin possible by their advertising.
EDINA REALTY - PAT SULLIVAN, REALTOR

10th Annual Drive ~ "Blankets Because We Care"

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

Jason & Jennifer Schmit and their 8 children from Jordan are, for the 10th year, collecting and making blankets for Sharing and Caring Hands. Please drop off gently used or new **blankets, coats, hats, mittens or hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo etc.)** in the bin in back of church. Any monetary donations will be used to buy fleece to make additional blankets and/or a cash donation to Sharing and Caring Hands and the Children's Hospital of Minneapolis. Please feel free to drop off any donations at our house (1109 Rose Court, Jordan, MN) or we would also be happy to pick up any donations as well, just call! (952-457-9877) Donations will be accepted through Jan. 13th. Thanks so much for your generosity and God Bless!



FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families ~

Our Disciples of Christ program purchased these for families to help them dig into the Sunday scripture a bit more. If you would like a copy, please feel free to pick one up in the back of church. Supplies are limited so get yours today!

Junior Youth Alive December Meeting Dates

Dec. 5 & 12 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Office Building.

Senior Youth Alive Meeting Dates

Dec. 2 at 5 pm in the Parish Office Building.

How well do you know Jesus?**Like really know him?**

All middle school ages are invited to join an Advent book club!

Follow: *Your Lifelong Adventure with Jesus* by Katie Prejean McGrady. Three Wednesdays beginning Dec. 5th. To register and get your book, contact Pamela at pamela.sherlock@npcatholic.org or call (952) 758-0477. Prepare your heart for Jesus' birth!

SCHOOL NEWS from SWS

**Santa's Workshop**

When: Sat., Dec. 8th, 9-11 am

Where: St. Wenceslaus School Gymnasium

This is a free event hosted by Little Saints Preschool for all preschool age children

and their families! Your kids can visit Santa, have some treats, participate in the activities, and the entire family can enjoy the coffee and cocoa bar. Please join us!

WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY St. John's & St. Scholastica

**God Bless the Newly Baptized**

Welcome and congratulations to *Victoria Ann Lemke*, daughter of Timothy & Amy Lemke. We rejoice with your family on this joyful occasion!

Advent Adoration Saturday Evenings at St. John's

We invite you to join us Saturdays during Advent for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 pm, followed by Adoration, and culminating with Benediction at 8 pm. Confession will be available during part of this time. Mass will take place as usual at 8:15 pm. We hope to see you as we prepare our hearts and souls for Christ this Advent.

Our Lady of Good Help CCW Meeting

Dec. 3rd will be Our Lady of Good Help Council of Catholic Women meeting, rosary at 6:30 followed by pot luck supper. CCW is collecting warm clothing and monetary donations for Partners for Affordable Housing in Mankato. The speaker will share stories and explain how our donations make a difference in so many lives. Please bring hats, coats, gloves, blankets, etc., to St. John's School basement Dec. 3rd, 1-8 pm. Lunch committee: Lois Solheid, Julie Prchal, Mari Estabrooks, Fran Barten, Charlene Skluzacek, and Rose Rynda.

Harvest Celebration Success!

The Peace Center in New Prague and the Food Shelf in Montgomery will EACH receive over \$800 from all your generosity. We want to especially thank Edel's Meat Market, Skluzacek Quality Meats, Mary & Jeff Wick, the 3rd and 4th Degree Knights of Columbus for all their work and gracious donations. Thank you also to all the volunteers that worked and to you for coming!

Catholic United Financial Council Meeting

Join St. John's Union Hill Catholic United Financial council for their annual Pot Luck Christmas party and meeting on Mon., Dec. 10th in Koenig Hall at 7 pm. Lunch committee will be Fran Barten and Lois Giesen. Come early for the rosary!

SAVE THE DATE: Family wrapping party!

The WCC invites families, children, and all to a present wrapping party, taco dinner, and the children's Christmas Mass at St. John's on Wed., Dec. 19th, 3-6:30 pm with Mass at 7 pm. Bring your Christmas presents to have Catholic United members help you wrap, all supplies will be included! Enjoy a taco and conversation while the children create their own Christmas craft. To volunteer to help at these events call Renee at (952) 449-1863.

Nativity Mass Practice:

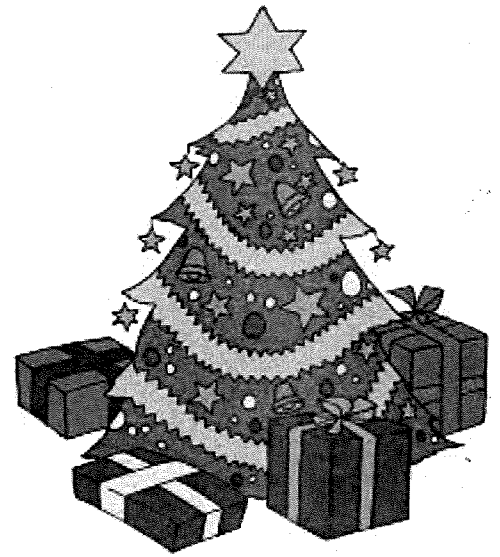
Practice for the children's Mass will be on Wed., Dec. 12th, 7 pm at St. John's and again on Wed., Dec. 19th at 6 pm before Mass. Children of all ages are encouraged to attend practice and the Mass.



Top Ways to “Green” Your Christmas

There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions. (Laudato Si', 211)

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, to cherish our friends and family, and to serve those who most need us. It is a wonderful opportunity to focus on our call to love. Protecting vulnerable people and all of creation can be part of the joy of Christmas. Here are a few ways to “green” your Christmas.



1. Consider buying one fewer gift this year. Instead, pledge to spend time with a special person or donate to a cause that serves the most vulnerable. Producing consumer goods at a large scale requires enormous energy and material resources. Buying even one fewer gift is a move toward a more meaningful and sustainable lifestyle.
2. As the weather changes, adjust your thermostat one degree cooler than you normally set it. Change the setting by several degrees when you are asleep or away from home. Heating and cooling buildings is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in many countries. Reducing your energy use may be the best gift you can give creation.
3. If you drive to purchase Christmas presents, make as few car trips as possible. Combine multiple stops into one trip. Fossil fueled transportation contributes to climate change. You'll spend less time in traffic and generate less emissions.
4. When buying gifts, commit to spending 5 to 10 minutes researching ethical and sustainable sources. A quick Internet search may help you support a small-scale producer and protect the goodness of creation. The story of your gift may inspire its recipient, and the gift will directly benefit the producer and his or her local environment.

“A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment.” (Laudato Si', 222)

Christmas is a wonderful reminder that God loves us. Share the love with creation by taking 1 or more of these simple steps.

From Global Catholic Climate Movement <http://Bit.ly/GCCM-GreenXmas17>

LITURGIES & PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS

INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS
WEEK OF DECEMBER 3-9, 2018

Rosary at St. Wenceslaus
MONDAY – FRIDAY at 7:30 am
SATURDAY at 8:00 am

Monday, December 3

8:00 am Mass – SW

Tuesday, December 4

8:00 am Mass – SW

Wednesday, December 5

8:00 am Rosella Riesgraf – Mass – SW

Thursday, December 6

8:00 am Mass – SW

Friday, December 7

8:00 am Word & Communion – SW

Immaculate Conception Vigils

7:00 pm Don Yackley – Mass – SW

8:15 pm Mass – SJ

Saturday, December 8

8:30 am *Immaculate Conception ~ Mass – SW

3:00 pm Confession – SW

4:00 pm Kris Huhner, Marion Tupy,

Merlin Moore – Mass – SW

7:45 pm Confession – SJ

6:00 pm Adoration – SJ

8:15 pm Mass – SJ

Sunday, December 9

8:00 am Mass – SS

8:30 am Angie & Clarence Ruehling – Mass – SW

10:00 am Joe & Marcella Koenig,

Nick Connelly – Mass – SJ

10:30 am Rosella Riesgraf – Mass – SW

*Holyday of Obligation

MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

WEEK OF DECEMBER 3-9, 2018

Monday, December 3:

No Events

Tuesday, December 4:

Separated & Divorce Support Group,
6:45-8:30 pm – Parish Office Building,
Deacon Bob's Office

Wednesday, December 5:

Early Morning Scripture Study, 7-8 am

– Parish Office Dining Room

Morning Scripture Study, following 8 am Mass

– Parish Office Dining Room

Disciples of Christ, 6:15-7:30 – Campus Wide

Adult Bells & Choir – Choir Room

Thursday, December 6:

No Events

Friday, December 7:

Adoration, 9 am-midnight – SW Chapel

Saturday, December 8:

Prep & Serve Meal at Dorothy Day Center

– St. Paul

Scripture Review w/Fr. Kevin, 8:30-10 am

– Pius X Room, Church Basement

Sunday, December 9:

Children's Liturgy of the Word at 8:30 and

10:30 am Masses – SW Chapel

Confirmation, 8:45-11:30 am – Campus Wide

Young Catholic Families Ornament Making

Party, 9:30-10:30 am – SW Church Basement

STAFF DIRECTORY NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**Rev. Kevin Clinton**

Pastor

952-758-3225

Kevin.Clinton@npcatholic.org

Rev. Eugene Theisen

Associate Pastor

952-758-0469

Eugene.Theisen@npcatholic.org

Deacon Bob Wagner

Pastoral Associate

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Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

Peter Guzulaitis

Parish Business Administrator

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Peter.Guzulaitis@npcatholic.org

Ruth Weinandt

Parish Accountant &

Pastoral Ministry Associate

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Laura Schoenecker

Faith Formation Director

Pre-K through Adult

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Pamela Sherlock

Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator

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Mary Higgins

Adult Faith Formation Associate

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Mary.Higgins@npcatholic.org

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St. Wenceslaus School Principal

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Kim.Doyle@swsaints.org

Jolene Busch

Preschool Director

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Jolene.Busch@swsaints.org

Debbie Gregor

Director of Liturgical Music at SW

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Debbie.Gregor@npcatholic.org

Lisa Levenson

Parish Administrative Assistant

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Lisa.Leverson@npcatholic.org

PARISH BUSINESS OFFICE

215 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071

PH 952-758-3225 FAX 952-758-2960

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

On campus in Parish Activity Center

ST. WENCESLAUS SCHOOL

227 Main St E New Prague, MN 56071

PH 952-758-3133 FAX 952-758-2958

LITTLE SPIRITS PRESCHOOL

On campus of SWS ~ 1950's building

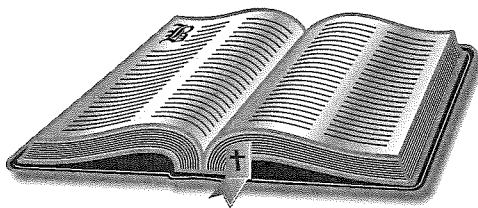
952-758-0480

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

952-758-2327

SCRIPTURE READINGS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 3-9, 2018

**Monday, December 3:**

IS 2:1-5 / MT 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 4:

IS 11:1-10 / LK 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 5:

IS 25:6-10A / MT 15:29-37

Thursday, December 6:

IS 26:1-6 / MT 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 7:

IS 29:17-24 / MT 9:27-31

Saturday, December 8:

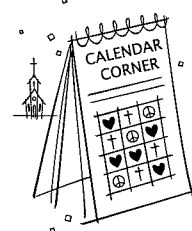
GN 3:9-15, 20 / EPH 1:3-6, 11-12 / LK 1:26-38

Sunday, December 9:

BAR 5:1-9 / PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11 / LK 3:1-6

**CHURCH OF ST. WENCESLAUS
CALENDAR CORNER**

Thank you to the Following Sponsors:
Lau's Czech Bakery and Coffee Shop,
David G. Barta Construction LLC &
New Prague Mini Storage, Inc

**Date:**

Nov. 28, 2018

Number:

0219

Winner:

Roger Brezina



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