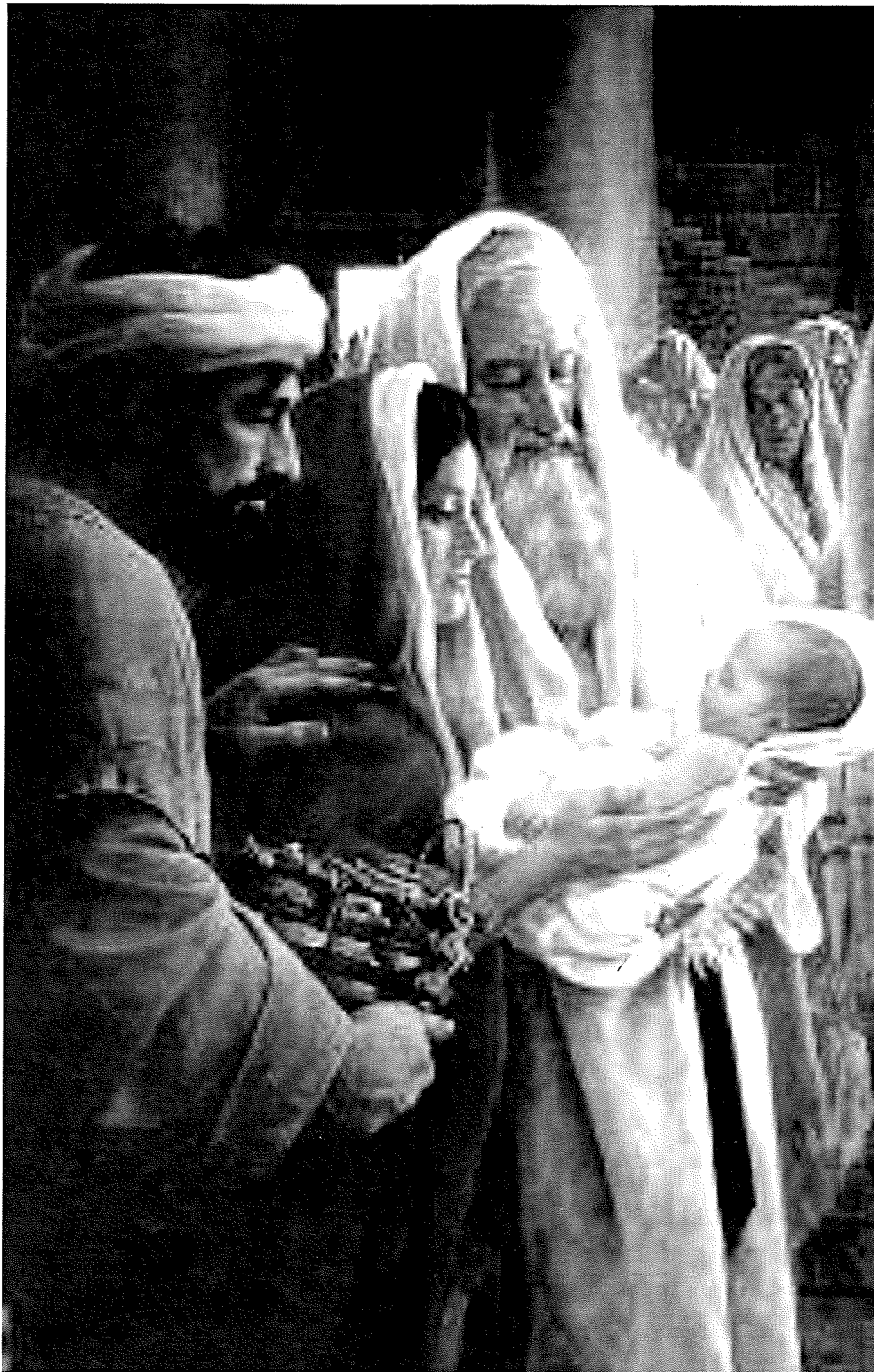


# FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2, 2020



*"for my eyes have seen your salvation"* LK 2:30

## **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..... 8:00 am

**Weekday Masses**

Tuesday-Friday..... 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 in the SW Daily Chapel  
after 8 am service.

**Adoration**

Friday 9:00 am to midnight in the SW Daily Chapel.

**Early Morning Scripture Study**

Wednesday 7:00 to 8:00 am in 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 Eugene Theisen**

## **Padre's Pen – The Presentation of the Lord; Candlemas**

Originally observed in the Eastern Churches of our faith as "The Encounter," the Presentation of Our Lord began to be celebrated in the West around the 6th century. In Rome it had a more penitential character and in France it was celebrated with solemn blessings and processions with candles. It was popularly known as Candlemas.

The candles/lights of this day remind us of Simeon's words upon seeing his savior presented in the temple, "... mine own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel." The light from the Star of Bethlehem at the Nativity has now come into the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. He comes as an infant in His mother's arms. In accord with the Jewish law, she offers him to the Father.

This is Mary's ongoing *fiat*. She continues to offer all that she is and all that she has (including her Son, Jesus). Today's celebration brings to a close the Nativity as our Lord enters the silent years until his public ministry begins (with the exception of the Finding in the Temple at age 12). Today is our opportunity to rededicate our lives to God in the "silent years" of our daily lives and we have no better advocate than our Blessed Mother to assist us. We can ask her to take us in her arms and offer us as well to the Father as she did her Son. We can do this in the prayer of St. Alphonsus Liguori:

*Today, Oh my queen, I also, in imitation of thee wish to offer my poor heart to God... Offer me as thine to the eternal Father and to Jesus, and pray him that through the merits of his Son, and by thy favor, he may accept me, and take me for his own.*

Ad Christum per Mariam (To Christ through Mary),

Fr. Theisen

Parish Debt Last Month	Parish Debt This Month
\$472,565	\$462,654

## Western Catholic Community

### St. John & St. Scholastica

#### Our Lady of Good Help CCW Meeting

Our Lady of Good Help Council of Catholic Women meeting is Mon., Feb. 3rd, 6:30 pm at Koenig Hall, Union Hill. Lunch and meeting to follow. Please bring kitchen items to meeting (dish towels, soap, paper towels, etc.) for the Peace Center. We will have a surprise guest do a demonstration for us.

Lunch committee: Mary Nytes, Jonila Weiers, Millie Odenthal, Sheri Odenthal, and Lori Huebl. All women of the St. Wenceslaus, St. Scholastica, and St. John's churches are welcomed.

#### Catholic United Financial Council Spaghetti Dinner

Fri., Feb. 7th, Catholic United Financial members will be serving Grandma J's infamous homemade marinara spaghetti sauce! This delicious spaghetti dinner includes Grandma J's infamous meat sauce, garlic toast, Caesar salad, and chocolate cake all for only \$9 per adult, \$4 per child. Join us from 4:30-7:30 pm at the KC Hall in New Prague for this scrumptious meal and help support this matching grant fundraiser. Take outs will be available. All proceeds go to support local Catholic education efforts.



#### Mass Schedule Volunteers - St. John & St. Scholastica

February 8 & 9, 2020	Saturday St. John 8:15 PM	Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM	Sunday St. John 10:00 AM
<b>Lector</b>	Sandy Kubes	Megan Odenthal	Angela Sticha
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	MaryCarol Wolf	Judy Pauly, Gary Odenthal & Cindy Jirak	Amy Lemke, Dave Webb & Jonila Weiers
<b>Servers</b>	Mitchel Pomije & Leo Pexa	Lydia Schmitz & Julia Schoenecker	Katelynn & Craig Brezina, Samantha & Brooke Solheid
<b>Gift Bearer Family</b>		Ted Odenthal Family	Don Skluzacek Family

### Important Information

#### Weekend Masses

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

#### SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

#### Reconciliation

Saturday.....	7:15 pm	St. John
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#### Baptism & Confirmation

Preparation required. Call the Parish Office at 952-758-3225.

#### Anointing of the Sick

Call the Parish Office at 952-758-3225.

#### Marriage

Prep required. Call Fr. Eugene Theisen.

#### 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

#### Rev. Eugene Theisen

#### Parochial Administrator

952-758-0469

Eugene.Theisen@npcatholic.org

#### Hall Rental:

**Pamela Sherlock** 952-758-0477 or email:  
pamela.sherlock@npcatholic.org

#### Prayer Chain WCC:

<b>Carol Bauer</b>	952-457-4057
<b>Noreen Giesen</b>	952-758-2608
<b>Marlene Dohmen</b>	952-492-6879

#### COLLECTION INFORMATION

#### WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

<b>Total Collected 1/26/20 .....</b>	\$2,523
Collections at Mass .....	\$1,728
Electronic Collections.....	\$795
Under Budget for the Week .....	-\$631
Actual Collections YTD.....	\$90,112
Under Budget YTD .....	-\$4,504
Budget for Next Week .....	\$3,154

**Thank you for your support!**

**Bulletin E-mail: [info@npcatholic.org](mailto:info@npcatholic.org)**

**Website: <http://www.npcatholic.org>**

## PARISH AND AREA NEWS

### Can I direct my capital campaign gift to a specific site?

Parishioners will have the option to designate gifts to a specific site of worship by indicating this on their commitment card. Parishioners will be receiving their commitment cards in April.

Please pray for God's guidance throughout this process as well as the campaign volunteers and entire New Prague Area Catholic Community. This is an important moment in our parish's history and we thank you for your interest! For more information, visit our website at [www.npcatholic.org](http://www.npcatholic.org) and click on Capital Campaign at the top of the page in the navigation bar.



### God Bless the Newly Baptized (1/19/2020)

Welcome and congratulations to *Jack Thomas Fadden*, son of Thomas & Hayley Fadden, *Laney Jane Sirek*, daughter of Cody & Kendra Sirek, and *Lorelei James Studer*, daughter of

James & Ann Studer. We rejoice with your families on this joyful occasion!

### Area Separated & Divorce Support Group

will meet Tues., Feb. 4 & 18, 7-8:30 pm, in the John XXIII Room of the St. Wenceslaus Parish Activities Center; enter through the gym door from the church parking lot. 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 612-703-0808 or Mary Pieper 952-873- 6781.



### Marriage Enrichment Opportunity

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." ~ *Colossians*

3:12. Experience these at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next available **weekends** are Feb. 7-9 and May 1-3 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [twincitieswwme.org](http://twincitieswwme.org) or contact Brent & Tracy at [applications@twincitieswwme.org](mailto:applications@twincitieswwme.org) or 612- 756-8720.

### Something powerful is happening around here!

Over the past several months, something powerful has been happening in our parish. Many of us who serve in ministry at St. Wenceslaus, St. John's, and St. Scholastica have been gathering to grow in our faith and learn how we can become an even stronger and more inviting parish community. We would like to invite all of you to *The 99 Experience*, a powerful mission event that will be a springboard for our entire parish to deepen our faith as we grow in identity, purpose, and community. *The 99 Ex-*

*perience* is for *everyone*, even those who are currently not active in their faith and would need you to invite them. Prayerfully consider who you know that would benefit from attending *The 99 Experience* and invite them! Join us on Feb. 9, 10, & 11 from 6:30-8 pm in the St. Wenceslaus Church Basement Cafeteria. Call Laura at 952-758-5131 for more information or to register.

### GriefShare Support Group ~

**New groups begin:** Mondays, 6-7:30 pm, March 2nd-June 1st at the New Prague Library (Large Meeting Room)

Wednesdays, 9-10:30 am, Feb. 5th-April 29th at Praha Village in New Prague (Community Room)

For more information or to register call MaryCarol or Ruth at St. Wenceslaus Church 952-758-3225. Email: [MaryCarol.Wolf@npcatholic.org](mailto:MaryCarol.Wolf@npcatholic.org) The cost is \$20 which includes a workbook. If the cost of the program is a burden, please let us know.

### SOUP SUPPER WORKERS NEEDED

Workers are needed for the 26th Annual Soup Supper. For those interested in helping prepare the soup on Mon., Feb. 17th, setting up, or serving, please call Norb Sticha at 758-3888 for more information and signup. Please call even if you have worked in years past. Young and old are encouraged to consider helping out, and a special invitation is made to new parishioners to be a part of a very casual function which offers an opportunity to meet new people and affect the lives of many people.



### SOUP SUPPER BREADS & DESSERTS



Breads and desserts are needed for the **Feb. 17th Soup Supper fundraiser**. Please call Al or Mary Sticha at 758-2753 **by Feb. 12th** with questions on types and quantity of breads and desserts needed. Thank you.

### Weekday Sacristan & Rosary Lead Needed

Have you felt called to either of these ministries? We would like to invite you to consider doing one or both of these on Wednesday morning each week. Please contact the Parish Office at 952-758-3225 if you are interested.

### Do You Have Time & A Green Thumb?

Helpers are needed to care for the plants and flowers in church during the winter months through the week before Easter. If you, your family, or a small group of friends are interested in a temporary project, call the Parish Office at 952-758-3225. If you can't volunteer the entire time, you may want to consider helping for just a week or two.

### SUPPORT OUR PATRONS

who make this bulletin possible by their advertising.

**NEW PRAGUE VETERINARY CLINIC**



## Serve the Poor Support Life Strengthen the Faith

Each year, the Catholic Services Appeal funds 20 Designated Ministries including:

- Over 30 local food pantries that distribute nearly 4 million pounds of food.
- Hospital chaplains serving over 100,000 Catholics.
- Over \$2.5 million in Catholic school scholarships and support.

Contributions go directly to the Designated Ministries. To learn more, go to [www.csafspm.org](http://www.csafspm.org).

### Thank You!

Thank you to the many volunteers and all who participated in our Calendar Raffle! The proceeds from this fundraiser totaled \$17,239.

### ~ COLLECTION INFORMATION ~

St. Wenceslaus Site

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

<b>Total for 1/26/20</b> .....	\$14,587
Collections at Mass .....	\$8,835
Electronic Collections .....	\$5,752
Over Challenge for Week .....	+\$208
Actual Collections YTD .....	\$467,906
Under Challenge YTD .....	-\$32,009
Challenge for Next Week .....	\$14,379

### Celebrate Marriage

Holy Redeemer Church is hosting a Cana Dinner to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage on **Feb. 22nd**. All married couples are invited for appetizers, drinks, Traditional Czech meal, and our speaker Bishop Cozzens. **Reservations and payment must be received by Feb. 8th**. Please call Ted or Anne Doyle at 612-750-4852 or 612-756-0021. The cost per couple is \$45.

### 2020 WINE: Catholic Women's Conference

**Feb. 22nd, 8:30 am-3:30 pm,**

**Our Lady of Grace, Edina**

Please join us for this year's conference with opening Mass celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Hebda, inspiring talks by Dr. Mary Healy and Dr. Carol Razza, and the music of His Own. There will be opportunities for Confession, adoration, shopping, and to pray with prayer teams, along with a lot of laughter, a fabulous lunch, chocolate, and door prizes. ~\$70. Space for 200 women is available for a **Gathering in the Vineyard on Fri., Feb. 21st, 6:30-9 pm**. This extension of the conference will bring together women passionate about living out the New Evangelization. Includes dinner, praise and worship, networking, entertainment, the music of His Own, and a few surprises. \$150 for Friday Social Gathering & Saturday conference. For more information and to register visit [WINEconference.org](http://WINEconference.org).



## FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

### February is Sponsor Month!

February 9th is this year's date for our Confirmation Candidate Sponsor Event. The day begins with 10:30 Mass followed by a light lunch and fabulous speaker. All years preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to attend. For more information or questions, contact Pamela in the Faith Formation Office at [pamela.sherlock@npcatholic.org](mailto:pamela.sherlock@npcatholic.org) or 952-758-0477.

Make a date with your sponsor to do something good and have fun while doing it. The following dates have been reserved at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen for 9-10:30 am.

February 8 ~ Join Code 0EYL74

February 15 ~ Join Code 1378KW

February 22 ~ Join Code KGLPKM

February 29 ~ Join Code 1378K2



## SCHOOL NEWS from SWS

### Kindergarten Registration 2020

It is time to register for kindergarten for fall 2020 at St. Wenceslaus School. We are running a very special tuition schedule this year with every kindergarten family getting a discount for each child who applies. We currently have 18 children registered for our kindergarten program and we are anxious to have a few more apply. Sign up now, then join us for a special kindergarten preview event in February. Our students grow close to God and are taught how to build a strong relationship with Him as they grow older in preschool through grade 8. They do this through regular religion lessons, prayer, practice of traditions and teachings, and by learning to be servants in the world. We are here to prepare our students for the life that God will grace them with now and in the future.

## FAMILY VALENTINE'S BINGO

**Prizes for adults & kids! Everyone Welcome!**

**Lunch Counter Food available for sale!**

Hotdog, chips & a drink \$3 - Other items also available

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**SUNDAY,**

**FEB. 16**

**1-3 PM**

**Doors Open at**  
**12:45 pm**

**St. Wenceslaus Activity Center Gym!**

Bring the whole family for an  
affordable afternoon of fun!

**10 games total. 1 card for all 10 games: \$5,  
3 cards for all 10 games: \$10**

## Ever felt lost, wounded, too busy, hungry for something more?



### Jesus is calling...

You are invited to join our entire parish community for the **99 Experience**, a powerful three evening mission series that will help us all grow in our faith as we explore what it means to have a deepening relationship with Jesus.

*It will be an opportunity for our parish to become a stronger and more inviting community. The 99 Experience is for everyone, no matter where we are on our journey. Prayerfully consider those you know who would benefit from attending The 99 Experience with you and invite!*

**Sunday, February 9 6:30-8:00pm**

**Monday, February 10 6:30-8:00pm**

**Tuesday, February 11 6:30-8:00pm**

It would be great if you can attend all three sessions,  
but come when you can.

**SW Church basement Sun. and Mon.**

**Parish Activity Center Tues.**

*Come for outstanding videos, discussion, prayer and fellowship.*

**Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday evening and Eucharistic adoration on Tuesday evening, at 8 pm.**

Please register to attend by calling Laura at 952-758-5131 or use the link on the parish web site: (npcatholic.org)



**LITURGIES & PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS**INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS  
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3-9, 2020**Rosary at St. Wenceslaus**  
**MONDAY – FRIDAY at 7:30 am**  
**SATURDAY at 8:00 am****Monday, February 3**

8:00 am..... Word &amp; Communion – SW

**Tuesday, February 4**

8:00 am..... Gary &amp; George Bachinski† – Mass – SW

**Wednesday, February 5**8:00 am..... Rebein & Bachinski Families  
..... SWS Mass – SW**Thursday, February 6**8:00 am..... Charles Rebein†,  
..... Ron Callahan† – Mass – SW**Friday, February 7**

8:00 am..... Fritz Hertaust† – Mass – SW

**Saturday, February 8**3:00 pm..... Confession – SW  
4:00 pm..... Mass for the People – Mass – SW  
7:15 pm..... Confession – SJ  
8:15 pm..... Mass – SJ**Sunday, February 9**8:00 am..... Bob Hauer† – Mass – SS  
8:30 am..... Norma Russell† – Mass – SW  
10:00 am..... Jayne Pint Palma† – Mass – SJ  
10:30 am..... Mass – SW**MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR**

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3-9, 2020

**Monday, February 3:**SWS Girls Basketball Game, Gym  
GriefShare Support Group, 6-7:30 pm  
– NP Library**Tuesday, February 4:**Option 1 Parent Meeting for 1st Eucharist,  
6:15-7:30 pm – SW Church Basement  
Separated & Divorce Support Grp, 6:45-8:30 pm  
– John XXIII Rm, SW Parish Activities Center**Wednesday, February 5:**Early Morning Scripture Study, 7-8 am  
– Pius X Room, SW Church Basement  
GriefShare Support Group, 9-10:30 am –  
Praha Village

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

**Thursday, February 6: No Events****Friday, February 7:**Adoration, 9 am-midnight  
– SW Church & Daily Chapel**Saturday, February 8:**Prep & Serve Meal at Dorothy Day Ctr. – St. Paul  
Sponsor Date, 9:30 am-11 am  
– Feed My Starving Children, Chanhassen**Sunday, February 9:**1st Year Confirmation Sponsor Event,  
9-11:30 am – SW Campus Wide  
Children's Liturgy of the Word at 8:30 and  
10:30 am Masses – SW Daily Chapel  
2nd Year Confirmation Sponsor Event,  
10:30 am-1 pm – SW PAC & Church  
The 99 Experience Mission, 6:30-8 pm  
– SW Church Basement**STAFF DIRECTORY** NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**Rev. Eugene Theisen**Parochial Administrator  
952-758-0469  
Eugene.Theisen@npcatholic.org**Peter Guzulaitis**Parish Business Administrator  
952-758-0465  
Peter.Guzulaitis@npcatholic.org**MaryCarol Wolf**Pastoral Ministry Associate  
952-758-0463  
MaryCarol.Wolf@npcatholic.org**Ruth Weinandt**Parish Accountant &  
Pastoral Ministry Associate  
952-758-0466  
Ruth.Weinandt@npcatholic.org**Laura Schoenecker**Faith Formation Director  
Pre-K through Adult  
952-758-5131  
Laura.Schoenecker@npcatholic.org**Pamela Sherlock**Youth Ministry 6-8,  
Confirmation Coordinator &  
WCC Site Coordinator  
952-758-0477

Pamela.Sherlock@npcatholic.org

**Emily Shimota**Youth Ministry, Grades 6-12  
952-758-0486  
Emily.Shimota@npcatholic.org**Mary Higgins**Adult Faith Formation Associate  
952-758-0464  
Mary.Higgins@npcatholic.org**Kim Doyle**St. Wenceslaus School Principal  
952-758-3133  
Kim.Doyle@swsaints.org**Sarah Gullickson**Preschool Director  
952-758-0480  
Sarah.Gullickson@swsaints.org**Debbie Gregor**Director of Liturgical Music at SW  
952-758-4207  
Debbie.Gregor@npcatholic.org**Lisa Levenson**Parish Administrative Assistant  
952-758-3225  
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**

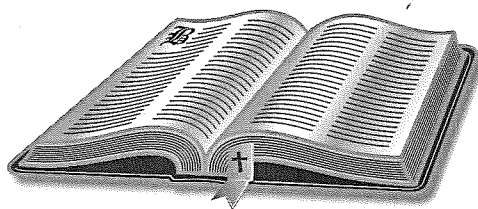
On campus in Parish Activity Center

**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 FEBRUARY 3-9, 2020

**Monday, February 3:**

2 SM 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 / MK 5:1-20

**Tuesday, February 4:**

2 SM 18:9-10, 14B, 24-25A, 30-19:3 / MK 5:21-43

**Wednesday, February 5:**

2 SM 24:2, 9-17 / MK 6:1-6

**Thursday, February 6:**

1 KGS 2:1-4, 10-12 / MK 6:7-13

**Friday, February 7:**

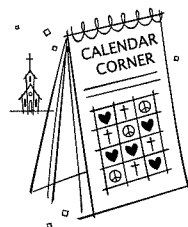
SIR 47:2-11 / MK 6:14-29

**Saturday, February 8:**

1 KGS 3:4-13 / MK 6:30-34

**Sunday, February 9:**

IS 58:7-10 / 1 COR 2:1-5 / MT 5:13-16

**CHURCH OF ST. WENCESLAUS  
CALENDAR CORNER**Thank you to the Following Sponsors:  
**New Prague Mini Storage, Inc,**  
**Bruzek Funeral Home &**  
**Mach Lumber****Date:**

Jan. 29, 2020

**Winner:**Joe & Carol  
Sticha

## ***March for Life Trip 2020***

Hello everyone! My name is Emily Shimota, and I am your Youth Minister. This past week, I went on a pilgrimage along with one of our youth to March for Life in Washington, D.C. and put together this summary of the trip so you can share in our journey! If you have questions or want to speak more about the trip, feel free to email me: [Emily.Shimota@npcatholic.org](mailto:Emily.Shimota@npcatholic.org) or call 758-0486.

### Tuesday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 22:

We traveled with the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and all together we had about 270 youth, priests, chaperones and other youth ministers going to stand up for life. On Tuesday evening, we had a sendoff Mass with Archbishop Hebda presiding and received a special blessing.

We then began our long journey to Washington DC, spending about 24 hours on the bus. We drove through mountains, prayed morning and night prayer, discussed the dignity of the human person and human life, and got to know the other people on our bus. We arrived in DC, checked into our hotel and had Mass, games, heard students' testimonies, practiced our pro-life chants for the March on Friday, and prayed night prayer. Our three pillars for this trip were Prayer, Education and Action.

### Thursday, January 23:

Today we went to Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It was absolutely beautiful, and such an incredible feeling to be with hundreds of young people, parents, youth ministers, priests, nuns and bishops praying for the pro-life movement and the expectant moms and babies.

After Mass, we went to pizza place called "We the Pizza." It was delicious!

We then went to the Holocaust Museum. There are no words to describe the horror of what happened during this time and what we saw at the museum. It relates well to the pro-life movement and what we are fighting for: rights and respect for the dignity of every human person and an end to violence.

We went to the Air and Space Museum after that, and walked around the city. Below is a picture of our group (we were combined with a group from the parish St. Vincent de Paul). Later, we went back to the hotel and had an evening session with everyone else - praying, singing, hearing testimonies from other youth, making signs for tomorrow's March and writing letters to senators and representatives.

### Friday, January 24:

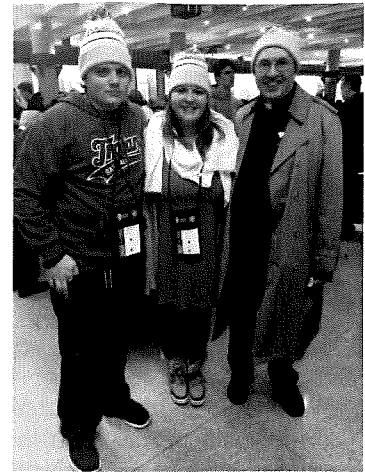
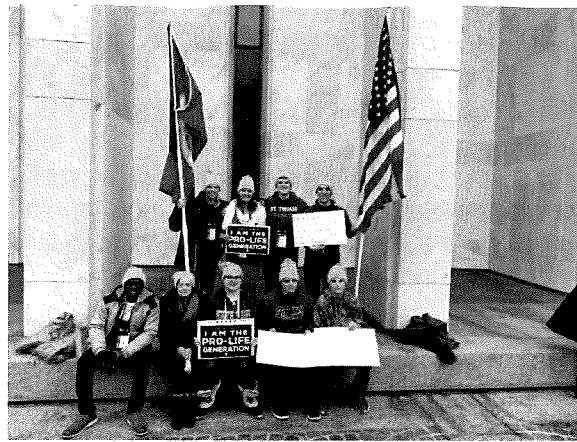
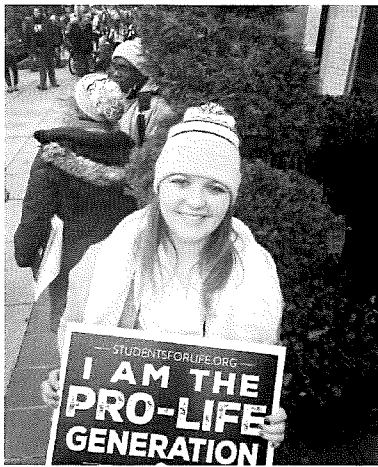
Today was the day - the March for Life! We went to Mass in the morning, which our own Bishop Cozzens celebrated and shared a wonderful pro-life testimony, and then went to the Pro-Life Rally, where we heard speakers, including the President of the United States, who was the first President ever to attend the March for Life.

The March for Life started, and we marched with hundreds of thousands of other people from all over the country to stand up for life. We marched for about two hours to the Capitol and ended at the Supreme Court. The march was very peaceful and joyful, filled with prayer and love.

A Catholic church kindly hosted us and gave us hot chocolate and donuts after, and then we headed back to the hotel and had a celebration featuring a pizza party and swing dancing. What a day! A day filled with emotions, some sadness but mostly hope, faith, joy and love and a conviction of what we are doing is important and making history.







From my post on social media:

*What an incredible experience at March for Life today. I march for a world where all lives, born and unborn, have rights and are valued. I march for an end to violence against the smallest, most defenseless, voiceless and precious members of our society. I march to stand up for the dignity of every human person. Every life matters, and I am proud to stand up and fight for pro-life today and every day.*

*"Our lives end the day we become silent about the things that matter." - Martin Luther King Jr.*

There were four priests and Bishop Cozzens along on our pilgrimage, and one of the priests was Father Skluzacek! We were grateful to have him along with us.

#### Saturday, January 25:

This morning, we got up extra early and packed up our buses. We had Mass at our hotel and then headed off to the National Pro-Life Summit, the pro-life conference featuring many prominent speakers and Students for Life of America. We had the option to attend several different sessions; topics included Bioethics, Men and Abortion, Relationships, Apologetics, Sidewalk Counseling, and many more.

I was able to meet Abby Johnson, former Director of Planned Parenthood and current pro-life activist, whom the movie *Unplanned* is based on. I also was able to meet Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King Jr., who shared her story about abortion.

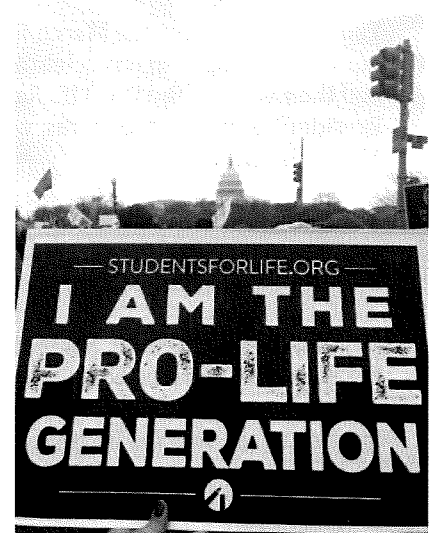
After the conference ended, we got on our bus and headed for home. We had fun on the bus playing games, singing, and having discussions about everything from the past few days. We ended the night with Night Prayer.

#### Sunday, January 26:

This morning, we attended Mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Janesville, Wisconsin. It was a beautiful Mass and some of our youth sang in the choir. We went to lunch after, and made the last leg of the trip home. On the way, everyone shared how the pilgrimage affected them and what they were going to do to continue pro-life work when they get home. We arrived at the St. Paul Cathedral Sunday evening and said goodbye to our new friends. This was an incredible journey.

Jaden, our youth on the pilgrimage, said he is coming back next year for sure and is already excited. His favorite part of the trip was seeing the President of the United States and also understanding more of the pro-life movement so he can share his new knowledge with his friends.

Thank you for following our journey to March for Life. We will be going again next year, so please consider joining us as a youth or chaperone! It is a beautiful, faith-filled, and life-changing experience and we would love to have you along. Mark your calendars for January 26-31, 2021.



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