

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE -
DECEMBER 24, 2023

ST WENCESLAUS CATHOLIC PARISH



Mass Schedule

Saturday:	4:30 PM SW*
	8:15 PM SJ
Sunday:	8:00 AM SS
	8:30 AM SW
	10:00 AM SJ
	10:30 AM SW*
T/W/Th/F:	8:00 AM SW*
Monday:	5:30 PM SW
Wednesday:	5:30 PM SJ

*Our Livestreamed Masses & Rosary may be viewed on our website, npcatholic.org; on our Facebook Page, New Prague Catholic; or on YouTube, search "New Prague Area Catholic Community" at YouTube.com.
One License: 700. A-711205

Parish Contacts

- 952-758-3225 - PARISH
- 952-758-3133 - SCHOOL
- npcatholic.org
- info@npcatholic.org
- [@newpraguecatholic](https://www.facebook.com/newpraguecatholic)
- [@newpraguecatholic](https://www.instagram.com/newpraguecatholic)



#seeyouonSunday

ST JOHN + ST WENCESLAUS + ST SCHOLASTICA

WELCOME

WELCOME to the greater St Wenceslaus Catholic Parish, which includes the Church of St. Wenceslaus, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Scholastica. We are so glad 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. Please feel free to call, or stop by the parish office during office hours to register, or you may do so online. **#youbelonghere**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
952-758-3225

Parish Offices Closed December 25 & 26

SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

Anointing of the Sick - Available to those who are seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call the office.

Confirmation Preparation required.
Call Britt LaVigne at 952-758-0486.

Reconciliation See the schedule or call for an appointment.

Baptism Preparation is required. Call the office.

Marriage Initial in-person visit with priest, followed by six months to one-year preparation time required.

Rosary Monday – Friday 7:30 am in the church.

Fatima Prayer Cell - Thursday in church after Mass.

Adoration Friday 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.

Friday before the First Saturday, Adoration is overnight in the chapel.

Scripture Study Wednesday 7:00-8:00 am – Church Basement.

Prayer Chain Judy Siemon: 952-758-2220
Carol Bauer: 952-457-4057
Marlene Dohmen: 952-492-6879

BeFrienders Ann Schoenbauer: 758 -3456 or
Lois Giesen: 952-758-2138

Hall Rental

SW Lynn Sticha: 952-758-3225
WCC Pamela Sherlock: 952-758-0477

Padre's Pen – Prepare for Jesus Christ.

This week we move almost immediately from the 4th Sunday of Advent into the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas. With Christmas being one of the moveable Feast Days in our liturgical calendar, we can get years like this one or years where Christmas comes later in the week (e.g., next year Christmas will fall on Wednesday because 2024 is a leap year).

This movement is a great liturgical example of Jesus' admonition to be prepared, for we know not the day nor the time. His return may come sooner or later in our lives individually with our own mortality or with His Second Coming. This year took a bit more planning and preparation to get my Christmas cards to all my military friends out in time for Christmas. It is taking a bit more preparation and time to get both a 4th Sunday of Advent homily completed and a Christmas homily at the same time (I've had an idea of my Christmas homily for several weeks... still waiting for the Holy Spirit to strike for the 4th Sunday homily).

The point we should consider is that just as we can no more speed up or slow down the coming of Christmas so too, we can neither speed up nor slow down the coming of Christ. We need to be diligent in our preparations. Jesus Christ is coming! Not just in celebrating His Nativity, but especially intimately and familiarly in our lives. Our lives are a desert without Him, and we must make straight His pathway to our hearts so we will neither impede His coming nor we will recognize Him upon His arrival.

Have a blessed and holy (and short) fourth Sunday of Advent so you may have a Blessed and Holy celebration of Christ's rebirth in your life. A few things of note:

- The Parish Offices are closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25/26.
- Please join us for the titular feast of St. John the Evangelist this Wednesday, December 27 at 5:30 pm at St. John.
- We celebrate the **Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God**, a Holy Day of Obligation (Opportunity), next Monday, January 1 at 9:30 am at St. Wenceslaus.

**Ad Christum per Mariam,
Fr. Theisen**



PARISH NEWS



Bless the Newly Baptized.

Welcome, and congratulations to *Mardy Maclain Williams*, son of Maclain & Stephanie Williams. We rejoice with your family on this joyful occasion.

SPOC Update: PLEASE Help - Volunteers Needed!

We continue preparing and serving a monthly evening meal to over 300 needy people at the SPOC, St. Paul Opportunity Center, (Dorothy Day Center). April and May 2024 have opportunities for you to volunteer. We leave NP at noon and back at 6:30 pm. We always serve the second Saturday of each month. Come as an individual or come with your friends and family. You don't need any cooking skills, only a willingness to serve. I hope you consider this ministry of service and give it a try. Questions or comments please call Norb Sticha. 952.758.3888

Wednesday Bible Study Christmas Break.

The Wednesday morning bible study group will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 27. The group will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 3.



15th Annual Blanket, Coat & Sock 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 to me." - Matthew 25:40

The Schmit Family is again looking for gently used or new blankets, coats, outerwear, and socks to donate to those in need. Your donations will be given to Sharing and Caring Hands, Loaves and Fishes, and the Children's Hospital in Mpls. A box is in Martha's Corner, St. Wenceslaus Church basement through January 20, 2024.

Experience the Beauty of our Music Ministries this Christmas Eve

The St. Wenceslaus Bell and Adult Choir invite you to an evening of caroling before 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Please join us at 8:30 pm.

St. John the Evangelist's Choir invites you to listen to the sounds of the season before the 11:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Please join us at 10:30 pm for beautiful music!



Financial - Week of 12/17/2023

St. Wenceslaus

Total Collected.....	\$25,827
Under Budget YTD.....	-\$4,039
Actual Collections YTD.....	\$367,647

Western Catholic Churches

Total Collected.....	\$7,132
Over Budget YTD.....	+\$5,364
Actual Collections YTD.....	\$86,246

Thank you for your support!

Blessed Karl's Corner -

Merriest of Christmas wishes! May the blessing of the Christ Child be with you today and throughout your entire life.



The LeSueur County Adopt a Family for Christmas Team Thanks You!

All our Christmas gifts have been delivered to the adopt-a-family families! So many churches, schools, service organizations, groups, families, and individuals volunteered, shopped for families, or donated money to make this happen. Winter gear and warm clothing were purchased for six-hundred forty-seven children. Santa Anonymous purchased toys and other non-clothing gifts for the families. Thank you for providing the gifts that will bring warmth in so many ways, for so many children. Christmas blessings to you and your families!





SCHOOL NEWS

Our Mission Statement.

St. Wenceslaus Catholic School is a Christ-centered family community committed to the intellectual and spiritual formation of our students. We provide a high-quality academic program that builds leadership and self-confidence while nurturing a loving relationship with God and encouraging service to others.

Psalm 86:11

**Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I
may live according to your truth!
Grant me purity of heart so that
I may honor you.**




SWS Productions 2024

February 22 @ 6 PM

February 23 @ 5:30 & 7:30 PM

St. Wenceslaus Parish Activity Center
General admission seating
Adult: \$6.00
Student: \$3.00
Call or email for tickets



Snowman Celebration

Hosted By:
St. Wenceslaus School
5th & 6th Graders



January 9, 2024
6:00-7:30 PM



St. Wenceslaus School Gymnasium

FREE INDOOR SNOW THEMED FUN

All children under age 6 are invited!

Dear Parishioners, Parents, Grandparents, and Friends of SWS,

On behalf of the entire staff of St. Wenceslaus Catholic School, we wish each of you a blessed Christmas. May you have amazing days with your family and friends as you enjoy the greatest birthday ever, that of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2024 Class.

Kindergarten registration is now open for classes starting in fall 2024. We will have a fun night for all registered kindergarten potentials and parents on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 pm. Mark your calendar for one of our favorite evenings for all parents, kids, and teachers.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving - The School Endowment Fund.

During this holiday season, please consider giving to the School Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund provides tuition assistance to families who might otherwise not be able to afford to send their children to St. Wenceslaus School. Since its start in 2014, the Endowment Fund has provided over \$40,000 in tuition assistance. As it continues to grow, the Endowment Fund will enable us to provide more families with assistance; with the income generated from the Fund's earnings. This is how donations to the Fund keep on giving!

You can donate online at: <https://swsaints.org/giving/>

Or you can send your donations to:

SWS School

227 East Main St.

New Prague, MN. 56071

Your check should be made payable to SWS Endowment Fund.

If you have any questions or would like more information, you can call:

Kim Doyle, Principal 952-758-3133 or

Chuck Nickolay, 612-840-4756

Thank you, and have a great Holiday Season!!



Kim Doyle, Principal

Art Room Projects - Donations Wanted

- Popsicle sticks
- Glitter/sequence/gems
- Acrylic paint
- Old pins



*No more empty gallon jugs, pine cones, magazines, or wine corks -
We have already received an abundance!*

FAITH FORMATION



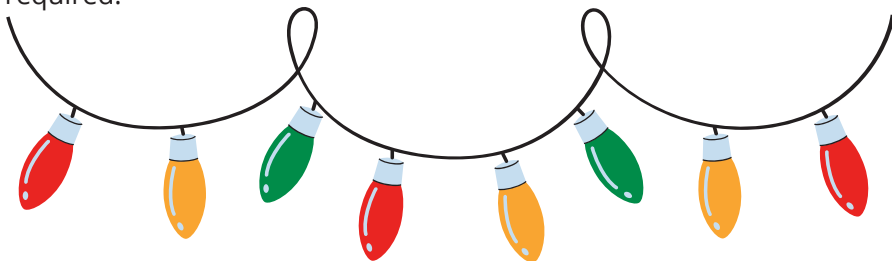
Meet Lisa Evanson!

We are delighted to announce that our next Women Only Night (WON), is WON + One. Men are invited, so grab your + one and join us on February 4, 2024.

Join us as we share an evening of socializing and laughter with our guest speaker for the night. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and Lisa will lift our spirits from 6:30-7:30 pm on Sunday, February 4. Please bring some friends and join us for this great evening! (No RSVP Required!)

Ever since childhood, Lisa has seen life through the lens of God's humor. It wasn't until 2018 however, that Lisa took her gift of joy and laughter to stages across the Twin Cities as a regular at Acme Comedy Club, Sisyphus Comedy Room, and Comedy Corner Underground, and has since been named a 2021 "Top 5 Comics to Watch" by MNComedy.com, 2021 Rick Bronson's House of Comedy "Funniest Person with a Day Job" Finalist, and the 2020 Winner of Acme Comedy Club's Funniest Person Contest.

From 2021-2023 she took a rest from the world of stand-up to travel and work nomadically, asking God for a higher sense of purpose with humor. That answered prayer has led her to perform across various states at women's groups, churches, universities, unemployment groups, career clubs, and more. She's been featured on the FOX 9 Morning BUZZ and lauded in The Star Tribune, City Pages, and most notably, her mother's annual Christmas letter. Lisa is thrilled to meet you all and can't wait to share an uplifting evening of joy and laughter! Contact Laura Schoenecker for any questions or more information: laura.schoenecker@npcatholic.org or 952-758-5131. No registration required.



Christmas Break

We will not be having our regularly scheduled Wednesday Night Disciples of Christ for grades 1-7 on Wednesday, December 27 due to Christmas break.

Additionally, we will not be having class on Wednesday, January 3. This is our night to honor and celebrate those volunteers who work with our children/adults. We have a meal and fun night planned for our catechists and volunteers from our Liturgy of the Word for Children program through our Adult small group leaders! If you fall into any of these categories, we hope you will join us! Please contact Britt or Laura to let us know you are coming! Blessings.

First Reconciliation Information.

We have some big events coming up for our students who have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year.

- Wednesday, January 10 is the First Reconciliation Retreat. This retreat is for all SWS and DOC children and one or more of their parents. This retreat is mandatory for those children who plan to receive this sacrament in January. The retreat begins at 6 pm in the church basement at SW. We will finish by 7:30 pm.
- First Reconciliation for those same children is Saturday, January 13. Children whose last name begins with the letters A through M will come to the SW Church at 8:30 am. Those children whose last name begins with the letters N-Z will begin their prayer service at 9:45 am.

If you have any concerns or questions about this information; please contact Laura at 952-758-5131. Thank you!

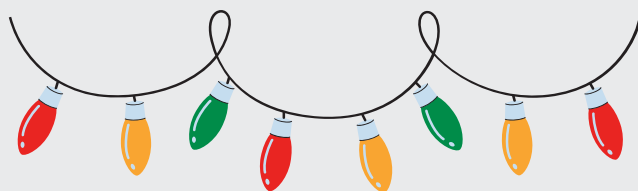


Merry Christmas!

What a special time of year it is to reflect on the knowledge that we have a King-Savior. One who chose to come down to humanity in the humble wood of a stable knowing it would lead to His death on the wood of the cross. Yet He did it for each one of us. This is the greatest love story.

May you accept that love, grow in your relationship with Him, and be a reflection of that love to those you encounter this Christmas season. We are praying you have a blessed and Merry Christmas!

**from your Faith Formation Staff
~ Amber, Britt & Laura.**





CHILL FEST



A multi-church mega- lock-in for middle school students.
January 26, 2024, hosted at the Chaska Community Center



Mass • Ice Skating • Laser Tag • Prayer Room • Pool • Nine Square
In The Air • Karaoke • New Friends • Movie • Photo Booth • Dance
Candy & Snacks • Dodgeball • Rosary Creation Station • Gameshow

Contact Britt LaVigne for details or to sign up! this event is open to
Middle and High School Students

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US

Feast of Saint John the Evangelist and the Blessing of Wine.

Let's fill the pews at St. John in Union Hill for the special 5:30 pm Mass (in conjunction with the regular Blessed Karl weekly Mass) being offered on Wednesday, December 27, in celebration of the Feast Day of our church patron, St. John the Evangelist. On this Patronal Feast Day, all who attend Mass at a church named after the saint have the opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, prayer for our Holy Father, detachment from all sin, including venial, within 20 days before or after), along with the recitation of the Our Father and Apostle's Creed on that day. A plenary indulgence is a favor granted by the Church through the merits of Jesus who removes completely the temporal punishment remaining for sins that have been forgiven in Confession. At this Mass, Fr. Theisen will also be doing the traditional blessing of wine for the Feast of St. John. If you would like to have your wine blessed for this feast, bring the bottle(s) to Mass and Father will bless them. According to legend, wine is blessed on this day, as St. John was served poisoned wine, but survived because he blessed the wine before he put it to his lips. Thus, the wine is turned into a sacramental called the 'Love of St. John'. This sacramental wine is used throughout the year for special occasions, as well as for giving to the sick. At least some of the wine blessed on the feast day should be enjoyed on the day of the feast itself. When it is drunk on his feast day, we drink it as a toast to St. John before dinner. The eldest of the house lifts his glass toward the next eldest and says, "I drink you the Love of St. John," who, in reply, says, "I thank you for the Love of St. John." This is repeated, continuing down the line in descending age order until each person has been toasted.



Mass Intentions & Readings

Monday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18

9:00 am Mass SS - *Judy Mahowald †*

10:00 am Mass SW - *Living & Deceased Family Members of Joseph Vaughan †*

Tuesday, December 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22

8:00 am Mass SW - *Marie Flicek †*

Wednesday, December 27

Feast of Saint John, Apostle, and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a and 2-8

8:00 am Mass SW - *Tom Pexa †*

5:30 pm Mass SJ - *Irene Pyka †*

Thursday, December 28

1 Jn 1:5—2:2 / Mt 2:13-18

8:00 am Mass SW

Friday, December 29

1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 2:22-35

8:00 am Mass SW - *Judith Glisczinski †, Grace Anna Dols †*

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

3:00 pm Confessions SW

Saturday, December 30

1 Jn 2:12-17 / Lk 2:36-40

3:30 pm Confessions SW

4:30 pm Mass SW - *Bella Hertaus †*

8:15 pm Mass SJ - *Viola Michel †*

Sunday, December 31

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 /

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 / Lk 2:22-40

8:00 am Mass SS - *Bob Hauer †*

8:30 am Mass SW - *George & Jeanette Horejsi †, Frank & Eleanor Mikolasik †*

10:00 am Mass SJ - *Genevieve Metzдорff †*

10:30 am Mass SW - *Mass for the People*



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ON DEMAND.

Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.

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