

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Advent 1 2 3 4

December 22, 2019

www.HolySpiritStevensPoint.org



THIS WEEK

MONDAY 23 DEC / *Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66*

- **8:15 AM - Mass**, St. Stephen Parish

The Solemnity of the NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS

Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

- **4 PM 24 DEC - Church FDP** (+ Clifford Tomsicek)
- **4:20 PM 24 DEC Kostka Hall FSB** Children's Choir at 4PM
- **7 PM 24 DEC FSB** Celebration Choir at 6:30 (+Linda Miller)
- **9 PM 24 DEC FDP**
- **9 AM 25 DEC FSB** (+ Andrew Smrz)

THURSDAY 26 DEC / *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16, 17/Mt 10:17-22*

- **8:15 AM - Mass**, FSB (+ Louis Rucinski)
- **Parish Offices Closed**

FRIDAY 27 DEC / *1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1, 2-8*

- **8:15 AM - Mass**, FSB (+ Cordelia Cychosz)

SATURDAY 28 DEC / *1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8 /Mt 2:13-18*

- **9 AM - Reconciliation**

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY / 28/29 DEC

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-5/Col 3:12-21/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

- **5 PM Saturday**, FSB (+ Darlene Okray)
- **8 AM Sunday**, FSB - 7:30 - Rosary
- **10 AM Sunday**, FSB (+ John Brzezinski)
- **6 PM Sunday**, FSB (for the parish)



You're Invited for Christmas Dinner

Holy Spirit is serving a Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day for parishioners and community members who may be alone or seeking fellowship that day. Dinner will be served in Kostka Hall from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.



CHRISTMAS REMINDERS

- ◆ The Mass schedule is at left.
- ◆ Consider friends, co-workers, family members and others who you might invite to celebrate Christmas with us at Holy Spirit Parish.
- ◆ If you're able to walk, please park in a nearby university lot.
- ◆ Be ready to welcome and make room for visitors.
- ◆ Incense will enhance our worship at the 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. liturgies.



Please take time this week, to review and complete your Respond to the Spirit materials. **Bring them to Mass when you come to celebrate Christmas.** They can be placed in the baskets at any church entranceway. Thanks to all who've already returned materials!

Year End Giving: Your generosity to the parish throughout the past year is greatly appreciated. There are limited days left in 2019 to make financial contributions. Mailed, post-marked by Dec. 31st, or hand-delivered contributions must be received at the parish office by noon Dec. 31st. According to IRS regulations, any contributions received after Jan. 1st must be applied to 2020.

Mass Presider Key
FSB: Fr. Steve Brice

FTM: Fr. Todd Mlsna
FDL: Fr. Dennis Lynch

FPS: Fr. Placid Stroik
FDP: Fr. Don Przybylski

Dear People of Holy Spirit Parish:

“For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived...” (Matthew 1:20)

Love opens us to mystery. It opens us to the mystery of the other person, to the mystery of life, to the mystery of God. A relationship of love creates an opening in this world for God to enter in. New life is always conceived in a circle of love.

Where people “Awaken” to the present (1st Sunday of Advent) by “Repenting,” letting go of attachments to past or the future (2nd Sunday of Advent), and “Go Tell” others the good news of what God has done (3rd Sunday of Advent), then hearts open in circles of love. And, it is in circles of love that the new life we seek is conceived. Our hope is not in education, technology, medicine, military or government. Our Hope is in Christ, the new life God conceives in circles of love.

And, there is an almost finished Ministry Center next door as living proof. I couldn't have received a better Christmas present than a signed Agreement to Purchase the Newman Center a couple of weeks ago. Let me catch you up on where things stand.

In November, negotiations with the University over the purchase of the Newman Center moved from informal conversation to legal offers. It was a poker game with far higher stakes than I am comfortable playing with. With numerous emails to the parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Building Committee members we offered and counter-offered our way to an offer we were pleased with.

On December 2nd, we signed Counter Offer #4. It included a list of conditions including, for us, getting diocesan approvals and for them getting various inspections done and approval from the UW Board of Regents. I am happy to say at this point we have approval from the Bishop, the Chancellor, the Diocesan attorney, the Diocesan Finance Committee and the Diocesan Board of Consulters (Phew!) Everything is in order on our end. We wait now for the UW Board of Regents meeting after the turn of the year.

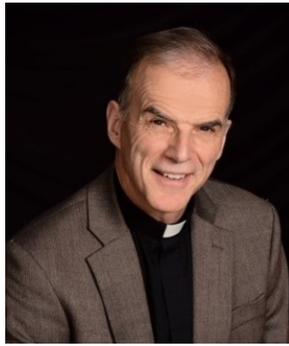
The closing date, the day we receive full payment and turn over the keys to them, is February 28th. That allows us to hold the Busy Student Retreat Feb. 9-13 one last time in the Newman Center. The Quaker community, which has held their Sunday meetings at the Newman Center for over a decade, has asked to have a final celebration there on the 16th. Bishop Callahan has agreed to come celebrate Eucharist with us and bless the new addition on March 8th.

These other fixed events are pointing us in the direction of having our own celebration to say good-bye to the Newman Center the weekend of February 23rd. Moving the beautiful stained-glass Tree of Life will be the visible expression of the heart of our Campus Ministry leaving a much loved home at 2108 Fourth Ave. and settling in to its new home at 838 Fremont St.

Is not this whole experience proof of the Angel's message in today's Gospel. It is by the Holy Spirit of love that new life is conceived. Love for one another, love of our Church, love of the students who surround us at the University. Love conceived the idea of this new ministry center. And by the power of love it is taking flesh.

I pray that your family gatherings this Christmas season will be circles of love where all are open to the mystery. I pray that our Christmas Masses will be circles of love that open us all to the mystery. So may God enter this world again and conceive among us the joy and peace he created us to share. Even in a tumultuous world we can celebrate in joy because Christ is our Hope.

Fr. Steven J. Brice



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

*Disciples called to worship,
sent to serve.*

www.HolySpiritStevensPoint.org

Rectory: 838 Fremont St., 344.9117

Newman Center: 2108 Fourth Ave., 345.6500

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Pacelli Catholic Schools

www.pacellcatholicschools.com | 341.2445

Joining Our Parish: Fr. Steve would be glad to talk with you about parish membership. Send him an email at frsteve@holyspiritstevenspoint.org or call him at 344-9117 to make an appointment.

Celebrating Baptism: Baptism is celebrated at Lord's Day Mass at various times of the liturgical year. If you want to raise your child in the Catholic faith and celebrate your child's baptism, please call Fr. Steve for more information. Parents celebrating the baptism of their first child are asked to complete a baptism orientation seminar.

Caring for the Sick: If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound or anticipating surgery, please call Fr. Steve to schedule a visit and/or the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Campus Ministry: Point Catholic is the name of Holy Spirit's outreach to college students attending UW-Stevens Point and Mid-State Technical College.

You can learn more about campus ministry at our web site.

Facebook: Like us at *Holy Spirit Parish and Point Catholic*. Joining Facebook is easy. Go to www.facebook.com.

Help Us Know of Pastoral Care Needs

It's come to our attention that our records regarding some of our elderly "wisdom figure" parishioners are not accurate. It is sometimes, only after their passing, that we realize that they had been in an assisted-living facility for several months. Systems are in place for these facilities to inform us when our parishioners take up residence, but sometimes those systems fail. The same happens at area hospitals. Parish ministers strive to know of parishioners and families in need of pastoral care. If you can let us know of changing situations, we'd appreciate it.

What is a Mass Intention?

"But for those who believe in your love death is not the end, nor does it destroy the bonds that you forge in our lives." (*Order of Christian Funerals*). It is because we are still in relationship with those who have died that our thoughts and prayers continue to affect them. The Eucharist is our most powerful prayer. From the earliest times Christians formed the practice of offering a Mass for one particular person who had died to comfort and strengthen them on their journey home to God. The person so chosen is called the Intention for that Mass, or the Mass Intention. You can have a Mass offered for a loved one by contacting the parish office. (715-344-9117). You may ask for a specific date. There is a custom of offering a gift in thanksgiving for the Mass of \$10.

Elsewhere

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER: Duane, Perry and Rhody invite everyone to this KC event on Dec. 31st with serving from 5 until 8 p.m. The menu consists of a combo plate of a 6 oz. steak, 4.5 oz. chicken Cordon Bleu and a skewer of shrimp along with sides, dessert and coffee. The cost is \$18 per person. There will be a New Year's Eve toast every hour to recognize the New Year in another part of the world. Come prepared to have a good meal at a great price and enjoy the toasting festivities.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS: Are you looking for a place to work on your crafts and some time to do it? We have the answer! Join us at St. Joseph Parish Center on Saturday, Jan. 11th from 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. for our crafting fundraiser event. The cost per person is \$35 and the registration deadline is December 31st. This is not a class, just a time for you to work on your craft and get your creative juices flowing. For more information please go to togetherinfaith.org and click on "Stewardship Opportunities", or call 341-1617.

TWEETING @PONTIFEX



When we learn to live in forgiveness, we grow in our capacity to become men and women of peace.

Follow Pope Francis (@pontifex) at www.twitter.com

BEING GOOD STEWARDS

Of time, talent and treasure

PARTICIPATION AT MASS

Dec 14/15

5 p.m. — 217

8 a.m. — 223

10 a.m. — 305

6 p.m. — 187

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH GIVING

Dec 14/15.....\$16,900.22

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Target.....\$118,185

Pledged/Contributed.....\$46,160

Under Target.....\$72,025

Number of Contributors — 200 (21%)

Construction Zone Weekly

We've come a long way since May!

