

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church

(Handicapped Accessible)

215 Main Street East, New Prague, MN 56071

website: <http://www.saintwenceslaus.org>

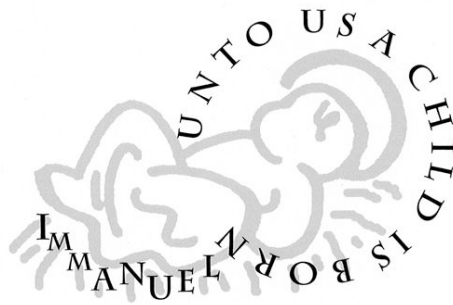


December 21 & 28, 2008

“Rejoice”

The 4th Sunday of Advent we light the “Angels Candle.” But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see, - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.” Lk 2:10

Notice how our circles of light in our Advent wreath have multiplied, what once was a single tiny flicker is now a ring of brightness. “Fear not, for unto us a child is born! If the darkness is frightening or scary to you, remember darkness gives way to light! “During the days and weeks to come look for God’s presence in unlikely places.



Dear Lord, We pray for peace on Earth, A Christmas when all people will find room at the table of blessings and plenty. Amen

2008 Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve-Wed. Dec 24th
3PM Mass, 5:30PM Mass, 9:30PM Mass

Christmas Day-Thurs. Dec 25th
10:30 AM Mass

New Year's Day-Thurs Jan 1st
10:30 AM Mass

4th Sunday of Advent & Holy Family

From the Pastor's Desk,

*When peaceful silence lay over all,
And night had half run her swift course,
Your all-powerful Word leapt down from heaven.*

--Wisdom 18:14-15

As I write this Christmas message to you I am looking at a picture of a galaxy taken by the Hubble Telescope in 2007. The picture reveals to the human eye the "Sombrero Galaxy." It is one of thousands of amazing views of the Universe we live in. The Sombrero Galaxy is a brilliant jewel in the vastness and beauty of space. It is between 10 and 13 billion years old and 50,000 light years across. It contains between 600 and 800 billion stars. It took 30 billion years for the light of this jewel to reach our eyes. And in the center of this galaxy there is a super massive Black Hole whose gravity is generated by matter 1 billion times the mass of our sun.

In this 21st Century, advances in communication, exploration and science continue to expand our understanding of the world and universe we live in. The mystery and beauty of Creation leaves us in awe. The mystery of human life and the reality of death continue to pre-occupy our minds and hearts with deep questions like: "Where are we? Who are we? Why are we here?" and "What should we do, while we are here?"

In the time and space we now live in, we will never be able to adequately answer these questions to the satisfaction of our minds and hearts. But, again this Christmas we celebrate not being alone in this vast universe we call "God's Creation." A relationship has been established between our littleness and the mystery that is God. This relationship started not on our initiative, but on the initiative of the mystery that is God. What better way for the love of the Universe's Creator to be present to us, than through one of our own kind!

The mystery that is Jesus Christ's conception and birth should keep any self-importance among any of us in check for a while. Who is this God who "leapt down" from such heavens? What else can we do but worship and wonder?

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones!

Fr. Kevin Clinton



The Parish Office will be closed, Christmas Eve day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Day and New Year's Day so the staff can be with their families.

Due to the Christmas Holiday we will not produce a new bulletin until Jan. 3 & 4.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Dec 22: 1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Dec 23: Mal 3:1-4; 23-24, Lk 1:57-66

Dec 24: 2 Sam 7:1-5; 8b-12; 14a,16; Lk 1:67-79

Dec 26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Dec 27:1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a & 2-8

Dec 29:1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Dec 30:1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

December, 21 & 28, 2008

Dec 31:1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Jan 02: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Jan 03: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

For safety reasons weekday Mass or Word and Communion service will be canceled when the school starting time is delayed or school is canceled, due to the weather. On non-school weekdays, KCHK Radio will make an announcement of the canceled 8AM liturgy.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

The Next Baptism Prep Session for couples having their first baby is January, Monday the 12th at 7PM. There will not be a class held in the month of February. Please call to register by noon on the Monday of the session.

Reminder: *Baptisms are not held during the season of Lent which begins this year on February 25th. The next Baptism Prep session will be April 13th.*

Child Care during Sunday morning Masses is going well for both the parents and the little tikes. For the safety of other small children as well as our new expensive TV screen there are **NO Balls allowed in the nursery area**. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Bevcomm's Local Access Channel will broadcast our Sunday Mass. One person has already volunteered to record the Mass on the weekends. Is there anyone else who would be willing to do it? If there were a few people, we could work out a schedule to divide the responsibility. Please call Sr. Ginny at 758-0463 if you can help.

The Jan 4th and Jan 18th "What Makes Us Catholic" session is about scripture and Tradition. Please pick up a donut and beverage before coming to the Pius X room.

January Birthday Coffee will be celebrated Thursday, January 8th in the Church Basement after the 8 AM Mass. Come and celebrate your birthday or/and join others who are celebrating.

PARISH NEWS

Our Act of Faith ***Weekly Financial Gifts***

Actual for the Week 12/14/08	\$ 16,901
Actual Collections YTD	\$ 327,471
Budgeted Collections YTD	\$ 338,486
Under Budget YTD	\$ -11,015
Next week Budget (12-21-08)	\$ 18,494

*Please remember St. Wenceslaus Endowment Fund
in you wills and other estate planning.*

**ADORATION WILL BE HELD BOTH FRIDAY, DEC. 26TH
AND FRIDAY, JAN. 2ND.**

4th Sunday of Advent & Holy Family



A Special Thank you to all the Music Ministers for sharing their gifts, giving their time and supporting our congregation's prayer throughout this Advent/Christmas Season. It is a privilege to minister with all of you. Your leadership and music has touched many people. Also, thank you to the families that shuffle their children from one rehearsal to another and the spouses who support their loved ones in this ministry. You all deserve our gratitude. A reminder there will be no rehearsals, Dec. 23, Dec 30, and Dec 31. Rehearsals will resume on Jan 6th and 7th with Celebration Christmas Parties!

Peace to all, Donna Mae Kadrlík

WANTED PEOPLE WITH GREEN THUMBS

To care for the altar flowers for the months of Jan, Feb & March. Please sign up in the East Sacristy on the flower cooler or call Jen at the parish office 758-3225. Thank you.

CALENDAR CORNER

Thank you, Steve Skluzacek Construction, Steve Tupy Tire Service, P. Skluzacek Builders, our calendar sponsors.

Congratulations to these 2008 Winners!

12/14 #1871 Jeff Dresow	12/15# 3388 Hal Budach
12/16 #3334 A. Schoenbauer	12/17#2015 Vicky Ginter
12/18 #1971 Ron Geiger	12/19 #1345 J & J Meyer
12/20 #3065 K & A Kreger	12/21 #2888 JoAnn Zaun
12/22 #2862 Brenda Witt	12/23 #1172 Melissa Wolf
12/24 #1171 J & D Ryan	12/25 #3443 Travis Kubes
12/26 #3489 F & D Nickolay	12/27 #2500 T & J Knettel
12/28 #2777 Harold VonBank	12/29 #1278 LeRoy Mamer
12/30 #1829 Mary Ellen Devine	12/31 #3467 Joan Marxen

REMINDER: Please turn in your calendar raffle tickets!! These make great Christmas gifts. All purchased stubs need to be in the parish office by Dec 29th. We Will Draw on the 30th!!!



KICKBALL TOURNAMENT for first year Confirmation Youth! Sunday, Jan 11 after class until 1:30PM. Kickball games, pizza, cards, and board games. Bring \$3 for food. Lots of fun!

Reminder to 7th and 8th grade youth – please get your forms turned in for the **30 hour famine** as soon as possible.

All parish youth in grades 9-12 are encouraged to attend a presentation and small group discussion entitled “Safe and Sacred Places” on January 7, from 7-8:15 PM in the Multipurpose Room of the PAC.

Winterblast was just that – a BLAST - thanks to the wonderful behavior and participation of the 60 middle school youth who went, along with High School Youth Alive leaders; Alyssa

December, 21 & 28, 2008

Brown, Aly Chromy, Casey Heid, Molly Larson, Alex Perkinson, Danielle Tikalsky, and Andrea Wick. I also appreciate the involvement of the hardy parents who joined me in staying up all night supervising; Kathy Anderson, Anne Ouradnik, Deb Sirek, Jeff Smith, and Mary Wick. We are a blessed faith community. - Laura

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you from the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry staff.



The Knights of Columbus will hold its 2nd Annual pancake breakfast with 100% of the profits going to St. Wenceslaus School. Join us in the Parish Activity Center on Jan 11 from 8 AM to 1 PM. Serving all you can eat cakes, sausage, coffee, milk and juice. Can we beat last year's donation?

The St. Wenceslaus School staff would like to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!!!

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday, Dec 22:

Fatima Prayer Cell after AM service, Chapel

Tuesday, Dec 23:

Fatima Prayer Cell after AM service, Chapel

Thursday, Dec 25:

Private Christmas Party, 1-6PM, PAC

Private Christmas Party, 1-6PM, Church Basement

Friday, Dec 26:

Adoration, 8AM-11PM, Chapel

Saturday Dec 27:

Fr. Kevin's Bible Study, 9:30-11AM, Pius X Room

Private Christmas Party 12:30-5PM, PAC

Sunday, Dec28:

Donuts after Mass

Wednesday, Dec 31:

Early morning bible study, 6:50-7:50AM, Pius X room

PARISH LITURGY

M-F Rosary 7:30 AM Sat. at 8:00 AM

Monday, December 22 & December 23

8 AM.....Word & Communion Service

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

3:00 PM.....Mass

5:30 PM.....Mass

9:30 PM.....Mass

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:30 AM.....Mass

Friday, December 26

8 AM.....Word & Communion Service

Saturday, December 27

4 PM.....John & Jean Gehlen

.....Albert (Dick) Terwedo

5:15 PM.....Private Baptism

4th Sunday of Advent & Holy Family

December, 21 & 28, 2008

Sunday, December 28 *Holy Family*

8:30 AM.....Marc Simon, Dennis & Marty Witt
.....Barb Pexa

10:30 AM.....Francis Langer, Hilda Bruzek
.....Albert Skluzacek

Monday, December 29 & Tuesday, December 30

8 AM.....Word & Communion Service

Wednesday, December 31

8 AM.....Emil & Elsie Novak

Thursday, January 1 Mary Mother of God

10:30 AM.....Mass

Friday, January 2

8 AM.....Mass

Saturday, January 3

8 AM.....First Saturday Devotions

4 PM.....Mass

Sunday, January 4

8:30 AM.....Francis Vavra, Stanley & Bessie Holey

.....Rita Shambour

10:30 AM.....Bruce, Edmund & Ludmilla Walerius