

A Catholic Faith Community Including...

***St. Wenceslaus,
St. John the Evangelist and
St. Scholastica***

***A Place to Belong
(Handicapped Accessible)***

215 Main Street East, New Prague, MN 56071

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

December 24 & 25, 2011



A Prayer for Christmas & New Year



O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,
thank You for the gift of Christmas which illumines a New Year.
May the gift of this time be one of grace for our faith community
and all its members—

- A time to grow in faith and love
- A time to renew our commitment to following the gift your Son, Jesus

May the New Year be a blessing for us all:

- A time to cherish our loved ones and friends
- A time to renew our efforts at work
- A time to embrace our faith more fully.

As you, O Lord, first walked on our earth thru the gift of your Son, Jesus,
walk with us, in every day and every hour of this coming New Year,
that the light of Christ might shine through us,
in spite of our weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may we remember this year,
that we are pilgrims on the sacred path of union with You. Amen!

Blessings on your Christmas and the New Year!

----Father Kevin Clinton & Father David Barrett

St. Wenceslaus Church Site

PARISH OFFICE: 952-758-3225
PARISH FAX: 952-758-2960
SCHOOL OFFICE: 952-758-3133
FAITH FORMATION OFFICE:
 952-758-5131
LITURGY SCHEDULE:
MASSES ~ WEEKEND
 Sat 4 pm & Sun 8:30 & 10:30 am
MASSES ~ WEEKDAY
 Wed, Thurs & Fri 8:00 am
WORD & COMMUNION ~ WEEKDAY
 Mon & Tues 8:00 am

Staff:
Fr. Kevin I. Clinton
Pastor
 952-758-3225
Fr. David Barrett
Regional Associate Pastor
 952-758-0469
Deacon Bob Wagner
Pastoral Associate
 952-758-0463
Mary Higgins
Pastoral Ministry Associate
 952-758-0464
Peter Guzulaitis
Parish Business Administrator
 952-758-0465
Ruth Weinandt
Accountant
 952-758-0466
Tammi Tikalsky & Ann Marie Witt
 952-758-3225
Parish Administrative Assistants

SACRAMENTS:
Reconciliation
 Sat 3 pm ~ in the Church
Baptism
 Preparation Required
 Phone 952-752-3225
Confirmation
 Preparation Required
 Phone 952-752-5131
Marriage
 Preparation Required

Kim Doyle
SWS Principal
 952-758-3133
Jodi Chromy
Little Spirits Preschool
 952-758-0480
Ann Marie Witt
SWS Development Director
 952-758-3225
Donna Mae Kadrlik
Director of Liturgical Music
 952-758-4201
Laura Schoenecker
Confirmation & Youth Alive
 952-758-5131
Andrea Gibbs
Youth Ministry
 952-758-0477
Maintenance Department
 952-758-2327

**Weekly Bible Readings can be found by
 visiting www.usccb.org/nab/**

Calendar Corner

Thank you to the following calendar sponsor;
 New Prague Mini Storage, Inc
 12/18 #2664 Myles Pavak 12/22 #Sue Blanchard
 12/19 #2213 Mike Kveene 12/23 #3329 Keri Smith
 12/20 #3076 Dennis Seurer 12/24 #3461 Loretta Tuma
 12/21 #3033 Steve Schoenbauer

Our Act of Faith

Weekly Financial Gifts

Total collected for the week of 12/18.....	\$27,466
Collections at Mass.....	\$18,409
Electronic collections.....	\$9,057
Over budget for the week.....	+\$ 11,476
Budgeted for next week.....	\$37,134

Please note:

Actual Collections YTD.....	\$376,916
Over Budget YTD.....	+\$ 6,471

PARISH AND AREA

We Welcome You to St. Wenceslaus!
 Bruce & Cathy Halloran, Faye Matters, Richard &
 Raeann Rosik and Brian & Maria Thorstad.
 These families were accidentally omitted from last
 week's bulletin. We apologize for this oversight.

A very special thank you

Thank you to all our Music Ministers for your dedication, time and talent, especially throughout this Advent Christmas Season! Thank you for your tremendous support of this community sung prayer. We are blessed to have the gift of music enrich our hearts. Thank you to the worshipping community of St. Wenceslaus for your active participation in our liturgies, especially through your singing. We are honored to be a part of this great expression of prayer. Blessing to you all!

Donna Mae Kadrlik, Music Director

A night for the two of you...

Save the Date—Feb. 4th 2012.

St. Wenceslaus Parish will host a Cana Dinner in the PAC. Mark your calendars for this "Romantic Night Out". Watch for details in upcoming bulletins.

Our Church looks beautiful!

Thanks to our special Dec. church cleaning crews: Dan and Connie Kneip, Bob and Jean Kehrwald, Bob and Renee Brinkman, Bruce and Cathy Halloran, Al Sticha, Carolyn Dorzinski, Jack and Ann Pint, Connie Schoenbauer, Noreen Gehlen, Stevie and Renee Bowman, Lisa Leverson, Ji Hyun Kim, Judy Kubes, Diane Vaughan and Doreen Schoenbauer.

Paper Drive

Please note: The paper drive will resume on Jan. 14th, 2012 from 9:00 - 10:30 am and continue every 2nd and 4th weekend of the month. Call Eric or Lisa Schmid 758-5553 for more information.

"Who do I thank?"

That question was asked of us numerous times at the five Le Sueur County Adopt-a-Family distribution sites last weekend. Who DO we thank?

We thank the generosity of:

- * the individuals, families, groups, classrooms, businesses and clubs who chose a family or child to shop for OR gave generous cash donations...
- * the groups who donated books and toys
- * the knitters and crocheters who made so many warm mittens, scarves, and hats
- * the crafters who made beautiful quilts and sewing projects
- * the people who filled the "Mittens for Many" box time after time
- * the many local youth groups and religion classes who donated money or shopped
- * the helpers who loaded the trailers with bags of presents
- * the area school classes, public and parochial, who adopted children or donated money or toys
- * the volunteer "Super Shoppers"
- * St. Wenceslaus, Holy Trinity, LeSueur County Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord~ Christmas

December 25, 2011

- * the Le Sueur County Social Services office, especially Cindy W.
- * New Prague Lutheran Church for providing space for gift storage and their special collection
- * the Revival Band for the benefit dance
- * The Fitness Center for their emergency collection

First, we were overwhelmed by the increased need this year. Then, we were overwhelmed by the extraordinary generosity of the New Prague community.

Thanks to all of you, 385 families (up from 348 last year) 879 children (up from 814 last year) will have a brighter Christmas! We know yours will be brighter because you helped someone in need!

THANKS TO EVERYONE!

LeSueur County Adopt-a-Family Program
St. Wenceslaus YAC Group
Kathy McNamara

Congratulations to our newly baptized!

Holden John Scheffler, Lillian Ann Marie Klehr
& Elijah James Holen

Suicide Grief Support Group

Join us from 7-8:30 pm Tue. Dec. 27 in the *Jameen Mape Conference Room* at the "Mayo Clinic Health System in New Prague". Please enter through the emergency room doors and follow the signs. Anyone affected by a suicide death is welcome. No registration or fee is required. For more information, call Sally Schmid at 758-4735.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Homebound Eucharistic Ministry

A recently widowed woman would like communion brought to her home twice a month. If you would like more information about this ministry, please call Mary Higgins at 758-0464. Thank you.



FAITH FORMATION

March For Life

Jan. 19-24, 2012 marks the 2nd annual *St Wenceslaus March for Life* in Washington DC. Travel with over 300 teens from MN to join the 400,000 others in Washington as we rally for life! The trip costs \$300.00 plus meals while traveling.

**Permission Slips can be found on the church website as well as at the back of church. Please contact Andrea at 758-0477 or andrea.gibbs@saintwenceslaus.org with questions.

More Junior High fun!

On Fri. Jan. 27, there is no school, but there IS "Chillfest"! This is a lock-in with about 400 youth from around the southern metro. We leave St. Wenceslaus by bus and travel to St. Hubert's in Chanhassen for Mass. From there we head over to the Chaska Community Center for a full night of swimming, dancing, laser tag, inflatables racquetball, basketball and ice skating! There will be a lot of food and fun. We then go to the Chanhassen Movie Theatre to see a movie before we board the buses to come back to St. Wenceslaus.

This night full of fun is for our 6-8 grade youth. We will need adult chaperones (must go through a background check/ Virtus training). The cost for the 12 hours of fun, food, transportation & movie, is only \$40. Any student who brings an adult chaperone will get a discount of \$30! **This great event can't happen without you!**

We will leave at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 27, and are scheduled to return at 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 28. Registration forms are available online, at the office or call Andrea, 758-0477 for more info. **DEADLINE is Jan. 18th.** Don't wait to register, call your friends!

Merry Christmas! ~ The Faith Formation staff



SCHOOL NEWS

A Note From...

Ms. Becky Smisek~ 6-8th grade teacher
I am the coach of our St. Wenceslaus

School Lego League. This league meets everyday to build and discuss our 2011 Food Factor Challenge. My students need to build, test, and program an autonomous robot to solve a set of Food Safety missions as well as research, develop, and share their innovative food safety solutions. Once we complete these missions, we head off to compete with other schools around the state in a regional tournament held in December. This year, 27 teams competed to advance to the state tournament, SWS 7/8th grade Robo Revolution team was one of them!

Fun fact- My family and I have all (husband and 3 children) graduated from a Catholic School!



Ice Fishing Event

Join us for our 2nd annual ice fishing contest on Feb. 19th. Raffle tickets may be purchased from school families; drawings take place throughout the day for prizes. The contest is FREE, all you need is a jig stick, the bait is provided.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday, December 26:

Fatima Prayer Cell after am service- Chapel
Parish office closed

Tuesday, December 27:

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord~ Christmas

December 25, 2011

Fatima Prayer Cell after am service- Chapel

Wednesday, December 28:

Early AM Scripture study, 6:45-7:50 am- Pius X

Fatima Prayer Cell after am service- Chapel

Private party, 6-9 pm- PAC

Adult Choir rehearsal, 7-8:30 pm- Choir rm

Thursday, December 29:

Friday, December 30:

Adoration, 9 am-11 pm- Chapel

Saturday, December 31:

No Paper Drive

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

Private party, 10:30 am- 3:30 pm- PAC

Sunday, January 1:

PARISH LITURGY

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

Monday & Tuesday, December 26 & 27

8am.....Word & Communion Service

Wednesday, December 28

8am.....Mass

Thursday, December 29

8am.....Jack, Dennis & Marty Witt

Friday, December 30

8am.....Theophil & Sylvia Tupy

.....Kyle Lunder,Edward Simon

Saturday, December 31

4 PM.....John Oniskin, Milton

Marek

Sunday, January 1~ New Year's Day

8:30 &10:30 am.....Mass

Tax Benefits of Charitable Contributions to St. Wenceslaus

Here are four strategies related to charitable contributions to St. Wenceslaus that could help you save on your taxes.

If you itemize deductions, a cash gift (in the form of a check) to the Church may entitle you to a charitable contribution deduction reducing your income tax.

The actual cost of a gift to the Church is reduced by your tax savings. For example, if you are in the 21% tax bracket (15% Federal + 6% MN), the actual cost of a \$100 donation is only \$79 (\$100 minus the \$21 tax savings). As your income tax bracket increases, the real cost of your contribution to the Church decreases, making contributions more attractive for those in higher income brackets. For a person in the highest tax bracket of 43%, the actual cost of a \$100 contribution is only \$57.

Donate appreciated stock to Church or sell stock at a loss and donate the proceeds.

If you have shares of stock that are currently worth more than you paid for them and you have held the shares for more than one year, consider donating the shares directly to the Church. You can claim an itemized charitable contribution deduction for the full market value of the shares at the time of the donation and pay zero capital gains on the donation to the Church. If the stock is worth less than what you paid for it, then you should consider selling the stock first, deducting the loss on your taxes, and then giving the proceeds to the Church. That way you will both benefit the Church and be able to deduct the capital loss on your tax return.

Make charitable donations to the Church directly out of your IRA.

Typically a distribution from an IRA is a taxable event, but donations from your IRA up to \$100,000 made directly to the Church do not increase your income taxes if you are age 70 1/2 or older. The proceeds must be sent directly to St. Wenceslaus. In addition, this will assist in keeping overall income lower, which may reduce the taxability of Social Security income. (The Federal Government has not determined if this deduction will be available in 2012. Please consult your tax advisor on the 2012 availability of this option.)

Give the gift of grain.

Gifts of grain to the Church can be a very viable and desirable option for farmers. Giving grain instead of cash can help farmers save on self-employment, Federal and Minnesota Income Taxes. A farmer will deliver the grain to his local elevator or co-op, transfer the ownership of the grain to the Church and ask for a warehouse receipt showing St. Wenceslaus as the owner. Farmers cannot claim the commodity gift as a charitable contribution, but it never shows up as income to the farmer. The total tax savings will be in the range of 30 to 40% (for a taxpayer in the 15% Federal bracket) compared to reporting the grain income on your tax return and paying the taxes. A review of your tax situation would be needed to determine a closer estimate of potential tax savings.

The information presented here is for illustration only. Please consult your tax advisor to fully understand the ramifications the options above will have on your taxes as a result of your charitable contribution to St. Wenceslaus.