

# HOLY FAMILY Catholic Parish

506 N. BEAUMONT ROAD & 710 S. WACOUTA AVENUE, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN 53821

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Website: [www.prairiecatholic.org](http://www.prairiecatholic.org)

Rev. James C. Weighner, Pastor

Email: [pastor@prairiecatholic.org](mailto:pastor@prairiecatholic.org)

St. John Nepomuc

710 S. Wacouta Ave.

Prairie Du Chien, WI 53821

Phone: 326-6511

**Rectory Office Hours**

8:00am to 4:00pm (Tuesday - Friday)

St. Gabriel Archangel

506 N. Beaumont Rd.

Prairie Du Chien, WI 53821

Phone: 326-2404

**Rectory Office Hours**

8:00am to 4:00pm (Monday - Friday)

**Holy Days**

Mass times to be announced.

**Baptism**

Please call St. John's Rectory office.

**Marriage**

Please contact the parish at least 6 months prior to the wedding date.

**Principal**

Wade Marlow; Ph (608) 326-8624

**Office Managers**

Lana Gratace

Email: [lgratace@prairiecatholic.org](mailto:lgratace@prairiecatholic.org)

Sandy Halverson

Email: [sgb@prairiecatholic.org](mailto:sgb@prairiecatholic.org)

**Dir. of Grade School Religious Ed.**

Pat Prochaska: [ppccd@prairiecatholic.org](mailto:ppccd@prairiecatholic.org)

**Parish Nursing Program**

Rose Bauer, Shirley Cipra (326-8553)

December 18, 2016 - 4th Sunday of Advent

REV. JAMES C. WEIGHNER, PASTOR

DEACON MARK GRUNWALD



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Mt 1:20-21



## St. Gabriel Archangel

### HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR DEC. 25TH

John Chaffee, Mary Prindle

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS-DECEMBER 24/25

Saturday 5:30 pm Rhonda Stubbe, Diane Steger,  
& Deacon Mark Grunwald

Sunday 8:00 am Lucy Cornford, Richard Ambrose,  
Mark Gilberts

### SERVERS-DECEMBER 24/25

Saturday 5:30 pm Allison Lindner, Clare Teynor, Allison  
Kennedy & Volunteer

Sunday 8:00 am Makayla Steger, Emma & Michael  
Burquist, Volunteer

### LECTORS-DECEMBER 24/25

Saturday 5:30 pm Students

Sunday 8:00 am Rhonda Stubbe

### USHERS-DECEMBER 24/25

Saturday 5:30 pm Richard Steiner, Gene Kirschbaum,  
Cliff Stram & Bob Ziel

Sunday 8:00 am Butch Boland, Jerry Matousek, Nathan  
Mezera, John Chaffee

SCRIP WILL NOT BE SOLD THIS WEEKEND.

If some of these times are not convenient for you  
please try to get a sub. Thank you.



## St. John Nepomuc

### HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR DEC. 25TH

Deacon Mark Grunwald, Janet Lueck

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS-DECEMBER 24/25

Saturday 5:00 pm Gene Carlson, Jean Ann Dillman,  
Doris Krogman

Saturday 10:00 pm Deanne Hromadka, Jeri Kluesner,  
Deacon Mark Grunwald

Sunday 10:00 am Barb Frommelt., Karen Hertrampf,  
Deacon Mark Grunwald

### SERVERS-DECEMBER 24/25

Saturday 5:00 pm JWalkers

Saturday 10:00 pm Macey Banasik, Brady Luster, Katy  
Welsch, Makayla Steger

Sunday 10:00 am Katelyne & Jesse Lutz, Shawn & JT  
Egstad

### LECTORS-DECEMBER 24/25

Saturday 5:00 pm JWalkers

Saturday 10:00 pm Andy Banasik

Sunday 10:00 am Rita Krahn

### USHERS-DECEMBER 24/25

Saturday 5:00 pm JWalkers

Saturday 10:00 pm Jim Welsch, Volunteers

Sunday 10:00 am Mike Mara, Dennis Mara, Mark Mara  
Dan Schickert

SCRIP WILL NOT BE SOLD THIS WEEKEND.

If some of these times are not convenient for you  
please try to get a sub. Thank you.



|                        |          |                      |                                       |
|------------------------|----------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, December 20   | 8:15 am  | St. Gabriel's Church | † Bob Boland                          |
| Wednesday, December 21 | 8:15 am  | St. John's Church    | † Al Duve                             |
| Thursday, December 22  | 8:15 am  | St. Gabriel's Church | † Roger Wm. Steiner                   |
| Friday, December 23    | 8:15 am  | St. John's Church    | † David LaBonne (ann.)                |
| <u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u>   |          |                      |                                       |
| Saturday, December 24  | 5:00 pm  | St. John's Church    | Priest's Intention                    |
|                        | 5:30 pm  | St. Gabriel's Church | Priest's Intention                    |
|                        | 10:00 pm | St. John's Church    | Priest's Intention                    |
| <u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>   |          |                      |                                       |
| Sunday, December 25    | 8:00 am  | St. Gabriel's Church | Priest Intention                      |
|                        | 10:00 am | St. John's Church    | For All Those Entrusted to Our Pastor |

## ADVENT SETS THE STAGE FOR CHRISTMAS JOY

When you enter your parish Church any time during the four weeks of Advent, it is one of the very few places in which you will not hear Christmas music. The Christmas season begins the evening of December 24th, not on Black Friday or the day after Halloween. Advent has a feeling and purpose all its own. It is a time of preparation in which your internal preparation is more important than presents, decorations and baking. Setting aside time for quiet reflection will allow you to ponder important questions such as: What does it mean for the world that the Son of God has entered into it? What does it mean that Christ has entered your life? It is essential to recognize that you won't celebrate Christmas very well if you don't reflect and pray about these things, if you do not hunger for Christ's presence, if His birth is not a gift greater for you than any other.

I first came to recognize the need for interior preparation in the season of Advent during a family celebration on Christmas Day. Interestingly enough, it was a year in which I received a larger amount of gifts than usual. And I received a pair of boots that I had wanted for months. After our family completed opening our presents, I noticed a real emptiness in my heart. These feelings were significant enough that I started to ponder, over many days, the true meaning of Christmas and how the things of the world do not satisfy the longing of our hearts. (After a short time, I didn't even like the boots.)

**What does it mean for the world that the Son of God has entered into it?** When Adam and Eve freely chose against God, they separated themselves from Him. God did not abandon our first parents but promised to send His Son as our Savior, to reunite us with our Heavenly Father in a relationship of love. This is made possible through Christ's Incarnation, Death and Resurrection. During Advent, you want to remember the incredible gift of the Christ Child and how life is different for each and every person since Our Lord's victory over Satan, sin and death.

**What does it mean that Christ has entered your life?** Each person is personally sinful and needs a Savior. If you are honest you must admit that you can be selfish, insensitive, lazy, greedy, ungrateful, shallow, uncommitted, spiteful...and the list can continue. You are reminded of the "bad news" of your personal sin so that you appreciate the magnificence of the "good news" of a cure. This is to prepare you for Christmas that is really the joyful "counterpoint" to sin. Advent sets the stage for Christmas joy by reminding you of the harmful effects of sin in your life. After your preparation during Advent, on Christmas you will have a deeper understand of the words at Mass: Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!"

Jesus is your Savior, and therefore you are able to overcome the temptations of Satan, habits of personal sin and eternal death by cooperating with God's grace won for you by Christ on the Cross. Jesus loves you so much that He gave His life for you so that you can be united with Him in Sacraments and prayer, and forever in Heaven. Therefore, you are not alone; Christ is with you. In prayer, He enlightens, strengthens and frees you so that you can live a life of joy and peace, even amidst trials and difficulties. This is true for every single person who accepts the love of God.

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**How do you hunger for Christ's presence?** Life is hectic and you have many things that vie for your attention. Even if you are too busy or exhausted from all that you desire to accomplish during this season, you can ask the Holy Spirit to give you a hunger for Christ's presence and He will answer that prayer. Planning the specified time for prayer each day is important; otherwise it can so easily fall by the wayside.

Making a good confession during the season of Advent is something you don't want to miss. Your burden of guilt and the weight of sin will be taken away, which leads to healing and interior freedom. This cleansing from sin allows more room in your heart for the Christ Child. You can also fast from TV programs or desserts or other things that you like a little too much, which really don't satisfy your heart. Fasting helps increase our hunger for Christ.

Please know that it is not too late to begin the internal preparation for the coming of the Christ Child! In these days, prepare your heart so that the birth of the Christ Child coming as your Savior is your greatest gift on Christmas Day.

Ann Lankford

Director for Catechesis and Evangelization

## PRAYER CORNER

**God, grant healing and peace to the sick of our communities and those who have requested our prayers. Please pray for:** Eileen Sutton, Mary Ann Heisz, Jerry Matousek, LaVern Sutton, Janet Dickman, Peg Stoeffler, Nancy Patzner, Michael Hinrich, William Blake, John & Cheyenne Messling, Earl Nye, Ethel Sebastian, Tara Pellock, Margaret Konichek, Geraldine Barr, Edith Ritchie, Scott LaBonne, Debbie Eden, Ken Fleshner, Carrie Breuer, Graham Shedivy, Mary Gillitzer, Lorna Porvaznik, John Rink, Dale LaBonne, Dallas Valley, Mary T. Shedivy, Lavon David, Diane Fernette, Joe Ludvik, Stacey Johnson, Bernie O'Connell, Frank Tiller, Carl Shedivy, Rosanna Mayer, Marilyn Rybarczyk, Pam Waller, Jackie Cherrier, Jennifer Gilman, Sara Breuer, Rose Miller, Annabelle Stubbe, Karen Carroll, Richard Ginsterblum, Letty Oehler, Howard Gillitzer, Art & Celine Boxrucker, Nora Vickerman, Dave Bohnenkamp, Cecil Olson, Mary Kann, Eugene Gillitzer, Barbara Schwant, Tyler Gillitzer, Lynette Reichmann, Janet Beinborn, Scott Plondke, Richard Gillitzer, Gerald Stram, Joe Barrette, Sally Ann White, Scott Sklenar, Shirley Ambrose, Don McFarland, Vickie Samples, Nancy Aschom, Phyllis Waller, Jack Dahl, Joan Sheckler, Sandi Herreid, Melinda Neumann, Don Ritchie, Sally White, Faye Tesar, Ronnie Schlueter, Dean Heintz, Norb Aschom, Robert McCarty, Matilda Flansburgh, Michele Gale Tiller Karr, Mary Jo Carl, Joseph Hamann.

**If you have a special intention or loved one who is in need of prayers; please let us know so we can include them.**

## BAPTISM

We welcome into the family of God, **QUINN TRINITY SMITH** daughter of Heath & Juli (Becker) Smith through the Sacrament of Baptism. May God continue to bless **Quinn Trinity** and her family.

**Deacon's Corner:** The Deacon as minister of the Word

For centuries, long before the renewal of the permanent diaconate, the deacon has been entrusted with the Book of the Gospels and has had the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel. In the introductory rites of a Mass with a deacon, the deacon carries the Book of the Gospels. This book, containing only the Sunday Gospel readings, is placed on the altar. Consider the rich symbolism of this moment. The deacon, an icon of Christ the Servant, lays the book, a sign of Christ the Word, on the altar, a symbol of Christ the Sacrifice. Then, priest and deacon reverence the altar with a kiss. Later in the Liturgy of the Word, if a deacon is present, it is his duty to proclaim the Gospel. After the readings are done, the deacon rises and standing in front of the priest, says in a low voice, "Your blessing, Father". The priest responds, "May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit". "Amen" is the deacon's reply. After proclaiming the Gospel, the deacon kisses the Book of the Gospels, saying this prayer, "Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away". Note that the Book is left at the ambo. It is not necessary for this sign to be returned to the altar. For a moment later during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, more than a symbol will lie on the altar. At the end of the Mass, the Book of the Gospels is not carried out. The Word proclaimed and the Lord consumed is to be carried out by all present. The work of Christ in the world is to continue in the lives of all who have participated in the Mass. In the concluding rites, one of the imperatives the deacon may use to dismiss the faithful is "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord" - marching orders from our Lord to evangelize and transform the world.

One last thought. At ordination, the bishop presents the newly ordained deacon with the Book of the Gospels and gives him this charge, "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are: Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." These are words that inspire me as a deacon. They are words that should guide us all. *-Deacon Mark Grunwald*

**PARISH SUPPORT**

|                         | <b>This Year</b>  | <b>Last Year</b>   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes for Dec. 11th | \$5,994.00        | \$8,814.00         |
| Plate for Dec. 11th     | 473.46            | 542.73             |
| Holy Day                | <u>1,185.21</u>   | <u>919.00</u>      |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$7,652.67</b> | <b>\$10,275.73</b> |

The second collection came to \$430.61 and will be used for Prairie Catholic School and our Religious Education Program expenses.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The winners of the Money Barrel at the Burgers & Fries supper were Terry Igou & Jake Shedivy (\$66.00 ea.)

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

**Sunday, December 18**

Collection for the local Food Pantry, containers in both churches

**Monday, December 19**

**Tuesday, December 20**

3:30 pm Mass at Prairie Maison

**Wednesday, December 21**

5:00 pm Choir rehearsal at St. John's Church; not too late to sing with the choir. Come to one final rehearsal

6:45 pm CCD classes at St. John's School

**Thursday, December 22**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after th 8:15 am Mass at St. Gabriel's

Benediction at 1:00 pm

**Friday, December 23**

**Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:00 pm Mass at St. John's

5:30 pm Children's Mass at St. Gabriel's

10:00 pm Mass at St. John's

**Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

8:00 am Mass at St. Gabriel's

10:00 am Mass at St. John's

**Prairie Catholic Sweepstake Calendars are now on sale for the year of 2017-2018. \$20.00 per calendar or 6 for \$100. The calendars are available at both rectories or from John Fischer (326-2827). These calendars make great Christmas gifts.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL.** We will continue to list the names of all who responded. We will begin with around 50 parishioners and run them for a few weeks and list 50 or more, so if you don't see your name it will appear in following bulletins.

Mary Barrette, Robert & Cecilia Becwar, Dick & Ann Beinborn, Timothy & Catherine Betzle, Patricia Boland, Patricia Boldt, Richard & Lora Chamberlain, Linda Cherrier, Charles & Teresa Connell, Janette DuCharme, Henry Esser, Russell & Patricia Eulgem, John & Betty Fischer, Paul & Matilda Flansburgh, John Forst, Mary Frydenlund, James & Ruth Gates, Glen & Christa Gillitzer, Randal Ginsterblum, Richard Ginsterblum, Ronald & Dianne Goodman, Donald & Teresa Heal, James Jackson, Robert & Rita Kazda, Jan & Odean Kieser, Gene & Mary Kirschbaum, Aaron & Sarah Kramer, Armella Kueter, Michael & Kathleen Leard, Patricia Lenzendorf, Bernard & Rosanna Mayer, Anne Mezera, Mark & Mary Mezera, Patricia Mezera, Terry & Janet Neisius, David & Marilyn Nies, William Nugent, Terry & Anita Reglin, Frederick & Lynette Reichmann, Lorraine Rice, Lauretta Rod, Nathan Root, Helen Schneider, Robert & Ethel Sebastian, Timothy & Gayle Senesac, Millie Senesac, Monica Shedivy, David & Joan Skemp, Anna Mae Steffensmeier.