

# S.S. HOLY FAMILY & Gabriel 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: [sgp@prairiecatholic.org](mailto:sgp@prairiecatholic.org)

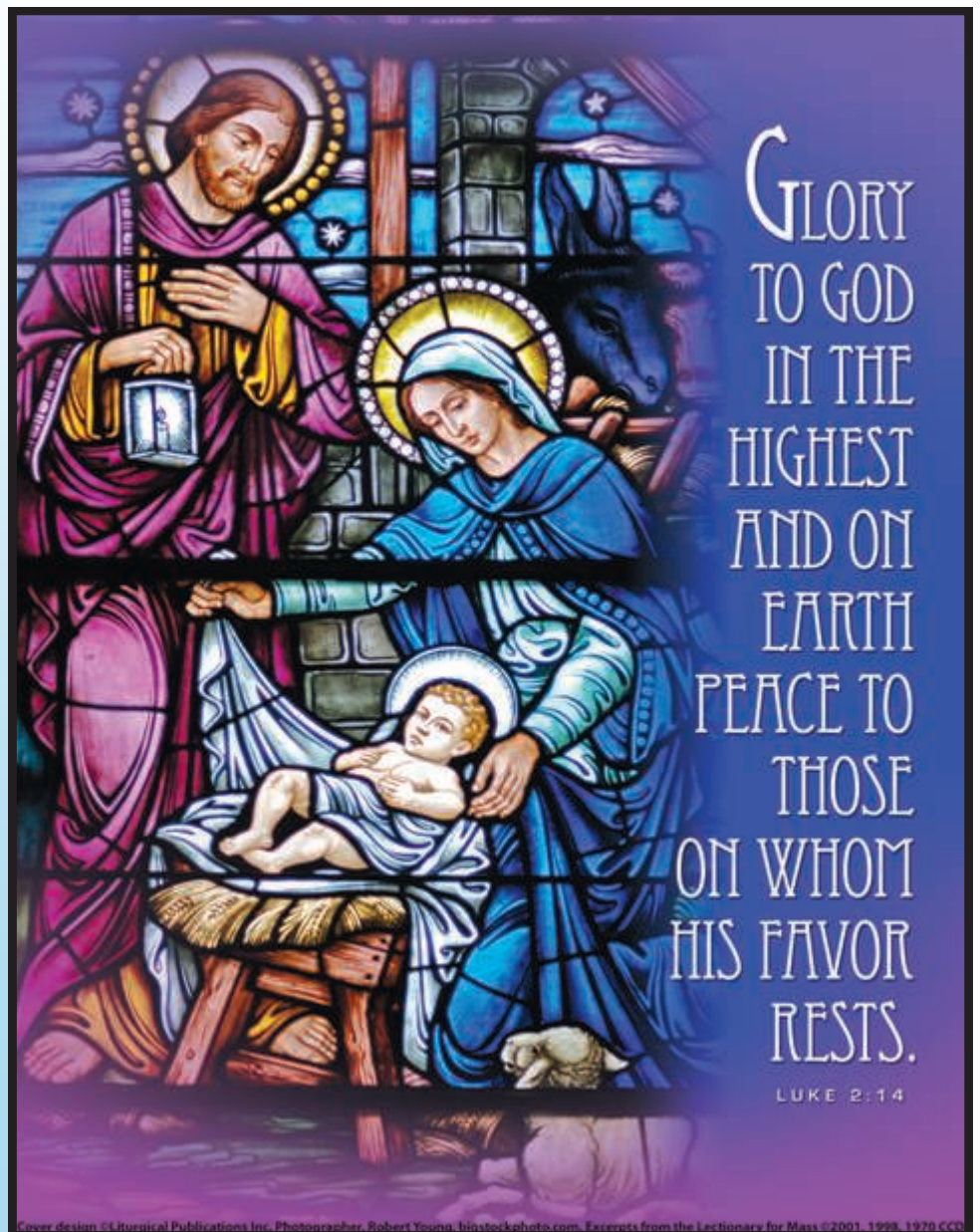
Dir. of Grade School Religious Ed.  
Pat Prochaska: [ppccd@prairiecatholic.org](mailto:ppccd@prairiecatholic.org)

Parish Nursing Program  
Rose Bauer, Shirley Cipra (326-8553)

*December 25, 2016 - The Nativity of the Lord*

REV. JAMES C. WEIGHNER, PASTOR

DEACON MARK GRUNWALD





## St. Gabriel Archangel

### HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR JAN 1ST

LeAnn Craig, Theresa Heal

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS-DEC. 31/JAN 1

Saturday 4:00 pm Laura Meyer, Tom Steiner, Mary Kirschbaum

Sunday 8:00 am Megan Pedretti, Ann Lessard, Deacon Mark Grunwald

### SERVERS-DEC. 31/JAN 1

Saturday 4:00 pm Haley Bedward & Tegan Radloff  
Mitchell Colson & Brady Luster

Sunday 8:00 am Chase & Madilyn Fisher  
Kennedy Kirschbaum & Scout Hall

### LECTORS-DEC. 31/JAN. 1

Saturday 4:00 pm Virginia Konichek

Sunday 8:00 am Rhonda Stubbe

### USHERS-DEC. 31/JAN. 1

Saturday 4:00 pm Richard Steiner, Bob Ziel, Jim Welsch

Sunday 8:00 am Don Osterhaus, John Gillitzer, Mark Hamann, Nathan Mezera

SCRIP WILL NOT BE SOLD THIS WEEKEND



## St. John Nepomuc

### HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR JAN. 1ST

Deacon Mark Grunwald, Janet Lueck

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS-DEC. 31/JAN. 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Deacon Mark Grunwald

Sunday 10:00 am Windy Mezera, Patty Schauf Yager  
Doris Krogman

### SERVERS-DEC. 31/JAN. 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Nick Holler & Sadie Koresh  
Kylie Kramer & Makayla Steger

Sunday 10:00 am Julian DeGidio & Dawson Eastman  
Katelyne & Jesse Lutz

### LECTORS-DEC. 31/JAN. 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Linda Moser

Sunday 10:00 am Charlie Connell

### USHERS-DEC. 31/JAN. 1

Saturday 7:00 pm Don Roh, Bernie Mayer, Alex Schaefer, Mark Forsythe

Sunday 10:00 am Merle Frommelt, Mike Mara, Mark Mara, & Dennis Mezera

SCRIP WILL NOT BE SOLD THIS WEEKEND

***The names for the memorials for Christmas Flowers will be posted in next weekend's bulletin***

WEEKEND MASSES: MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY REQUESTING THE MASS ARE ASKED TO BRING THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE TO THE ALTAR. PLEASE MAKE YOURSELVES KNOWN TO THE USHERS AND SIT NEAR THE GIFTS. THANK YOU!



Tuesday, December 27	8:15 am	St. Gabriel's Church	Communion Service
Wednesday, December 28	8:15 am	St. John's Church	Communion Service
Thursday, December 29	8:15 am	St. Gabriel's Church	† Margaret Wachter
Friday, December 30	8:15 am	St. John's Church	† Caryl Wachuta
Saturday, December 31	4:00 pm	St. Gabriel's Church	† Helen Wilkinson
	7:00 pm	St. John's Church	† Anita Steger
Sunday, January 1	8:00 am	St. Gabriel's Church	† For All Those Entrusted to Our Pastor
	10:00 am	St. John's Church	† Mary Ellen Linder

## 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, Stan Garnsworthy.

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger,’ (Luke 2:11-12).”

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

*God's sign is the baby in need of help and in poverty, exactly the same sign has been given to us...God's sign is simplicity... God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby- defenseless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with his strength. He takes away our fear of his greatness. He asks for our love; so he makes himself a child. He wants nothing other from us than our love, through which we spontaneously learn to enter into his feelings, his thoughts, and his will- we learn to live with him and to practice with him that humility of renunciation that belongs to the very essence of love. God made himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him and love him...Christmas has become the Feast of gifts in imitation of God, who has given himself to us. Let us allow our heart, our soul and our mind to be touched by this fact (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)*

The above reflection called to mind an article I read by George Weigle, where he spoke of Christ's coming into the world turned everything upside down. From the lowliness of Christ's birth, God becoming man, born to a poor working class family, his life is an inversion of all we esteem as humans. We think of a king being born with all the trappings of civilization, the best of everything; but he was born in a stable and wrapped with swaddling clothes. His birth was announced by angels to a group of sheep herders, themselves rejected by their countrymen. His kingdom would not be one formed through military battles or a display of worldly wisdom. His kingdom is one of service to others, based on his teaching known as the Beatitudes. His crown would not be a crown of gold and jewels; his was a crown of thorns. He doesn't enter his city with a procession of power, but riding on a donkey. His throne was not in a palace; rather a cross on a hill outside the walls of the city. His glory is not occupying a world empire, but an empty tomb, the pierced hands of a glorified body, burning memories of a walk to Emmaus, a breakfast of grilled fish on the shore of Galilee. His generals are not the victors of a battle or educated in the art of war, but a group of nobodies that all abandoned him in the moment of his greatest need.

Everything is turned upside down, an inversion of all we hold dear as human beings. When we look with the eyes of the world, the world itself becomes a blur. We need to learn to read the world through the eyes of the Gospels, bringing the real world into a sharper focus. On Christmas morning our expectations change. We worship a new born king, a king who challenges us today and tomorrow, a king who will turn everything upside-down, a king who will lead us in our own journey to join him one day in heaven. May God bless all of you and your families this Christmas season.

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.

IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TO THE ANNUAL APPEAL IN 2016, CHECKS MUST BE REMITTED BY DECEMBER 31.



## THANK YOU:

This is a special time of year, perhaps the one time of the year we have the opportunity to gather with some friends and family. It can become a very hectic time as well, with the various celebrations and other expectations, it can seem as if there simply is not enough time in a day nor days in a week to get it all in. Although it is impossible to isolate ourselves from all the material aspects of Christmas, we can always reserve some time for God; not only on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, but each day throughout the Christmas season. The birth of Christ is such a monumental event in the life of the Church, we celebrate his birth for eight days. In addition to this, the Christmas season extends to the baptism of the Lord (this year Jan 9<sup>th</sup>). Perhaps take in an extra weekday Mass or two, or listen to the various Christmas stories that are told. If schedules prevent this, consider taking 10 minutes or so each day to read these stories in the Gospels, and reflect on this truly awesome event, and how God may be seeking your presence through this personal encounter with the baby Jesus.

By keeping Christ in the center of our lives, we can give new meaning to the gatherings we have with family and friends. There will be a deeper appreciation for them, and our relationship with God can flourish as well. It is my prayer that this Christmas will strengthen your desire to serve God through serving his children in our parish. If you have been away from church for some reason, welcome back. Hopefully your experience of the risen Christ in your heart will spark the desire to return to the practice of your faith. God is here, waiting to welcome you into his open arms.

I would like to thank all those who sent cards, prayers and gifts. These are deeply appreciated. I will hold you up in a special way in one of my Christmas Masses in thanksgiving for such a wonderful community to serve.

*Fr. Jim*

**DURING THE HOLIDAYS OUR BULLETIN HAS TO GO TO PRESS EARLY THEREFORE THE COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 18TH WILL BE IN NEXT WEEKEND'S BULLETIN.**

## CONFESSIONS

St. Gabriel's 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm on Saturday  
St. John's 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm on Saturday

No scheduled confessions on days with weddings or funerals.

## THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

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Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:00 am Mass at St. Gabriel's

10:00 am Mass at St. Johns

Monday, December 26

Tuesday, December 27

8:15 am Communion Service at St. Gabriel's

3:30 pm Mass at Prairie Maison

Wednesday, December 28

8:15 am Communion Service at St. John's

Thursday, December 29

Adoration after the 8:15 am Mass at St. Gabriel's

Benediction at 1:00 pm

Friday, December 30

Saturday, December 31 - **New Year's Eve**

4:00 pm Mass at St. Gabriel's

7:00 pm Mass at St. John's

Sunday, January 1 - New Years Day

8:00 am Mass at St. Gabriel's

10:00 am Mass at St. John's

If you want to have a donation credited to your 2016 contribution statement - please have the donation to us by December 31, 2016. Thank you in advance! Contribution reports will be mailed out by January 31, 2017. The contribution statement for the Diocesan Annual Appeal will come from the Diocesan office.

Prairie Catholic Sweepstake Calendars are 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).

## St. John's 125th Anniversary

125 years ago last week a new parish was created with a procession December 13, 1891 from St. Gabriel's Church south to dedicate the original St. John of Nepomuk Church. The new pastor Father George Kiefner would serve about 150 immigrant families from the Kingdom of Bohemia, many of whom spoke only the Czech language. Bohemian patron Saint John of Nepomuk was a priest martyred in Prague in 1393 in a struggle between the church and the king. Many family names of the founders of St. John's are still active members of Holy Family Parish today.