

Readings for the Week

Go to www.sacredheartrushcity.org. Access the Readings under "Daily Bread" or go to Ministries - Lectors and click the link at the bottom of the page to listen to the readings.

****Weekend Offerings ****

Envelopes (75)	\$2,054.00
Plate	\$ 437.28
Building Maintenance	\$ 35.00
Total	\$2,526.28
Budgeted Amount	\$2,405.00

**** Church Donations ****

Stipends/Stole	\$ 140.00
Cemetery	\$ 50.00
Use of Kitchen	\$ 200.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 600.00
Youth Fundraiser	\$ 909.00
Candles	\$ 4.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 10.00
Total	\$1,913.00

**** Other Donations ****

CCHD	\$ 268.68
Total	\$ 268.68

The Catholic Servant

Will host a St. Nicholas Party, Friday, December 5, 7:00-9:00 pm in Rowan Hall, St. Helena Catholic Church in Minneapolis. The evening features Christmas music sung by the University of St. Thomas Chamber Singers, gourmet desserts, punch, coffee and wine, and St. Nicholas will bring treats for the kids. Cost is \$25/single, \$35/couple, \$5/child with a limit of \$45 for families of 3 or more children. Please call 763-502-0792 for more information and to register.

Significance of Direction

When they began reconstructing of the church, she was upset and eventually left the parish. The new church was not being constructed in the east-west direction; that was her complaint. "Why?" I asked her. "We should celebrate mass facing the east," said Martha. I immediately sensed where it was coming from. Jesus is supposed to appear in the clouds in the eastern horizon and hence we look to the east, awaiting his second coming. "East or west, we need to be turned to Christ." I said, "Isn't that more important." Somehow it came to me spontaneously. However, she insisted, "but we know he'll appear in the east."

Looking forward to the second coming of Christ is a recurring theme in the readings in the first part of Advent. We prepare for it. That involves being turned towards or focused on Christ, our hope and salvation. It is not our bodily direction that matters, but the direction of our lives. Is our life directed towards Christ? Or is it directionless in its wanderings? It could be that our directions are constantly shifting. We need to turn to him. That is what Jesus' words intended, "Be watchful! Be alert" (Mk13:33). Being watchful for Christ would require turning away from distractions. Actually in what direction are we?

~Fr. Xavier

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Give each other the best Christmas gift possible! Attend the December 13 & 14 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at the Dakota Ridge Hotel on 35E and Yankee Doodle in Eagan.

Visit www.marriages.org for a listing of retreats or call 651-454-3238

Prayer Corner

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--and remember God's promise to our world; Christ, our Light and our Hope, will



This Week at Sacred Heart

Sunday, November 30

6:30 pm Gamblers' Anonymous

Monday, December 1

6:30-8:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, December 3

8:30 - Noon Adoration

6:00 pm Youth Choir

6:30 pm Faith Formation and
First Reconciliation

Thursday, December 4

1:00-3:00 pm Cards

7:00 pm RCIA

Saturday, December 6

4:00 pm Mass

5:00-7:30 Men's Club Dinner

*The present is the ever-moving shadow that divides
yesterday from tomorrow. In that lies hope.*

Mass Intentions

For the Week of November 23 - 29

Tues	8 am	Word & Communion
Wed	8 am	Word & Communion
Thurs	8 am	Word & Communion
Sat	5 pm	Frances Debevec †
Sun	9 am	Parishioners

Happy Anniversary!



Randy and Julia Chilson (19 years)

Cary and Robyn Koehnle

Jeffrey and Sherry Seidl (11 years)

Birthdays of the Week

11-30 Dawna Frankhouser-Korf, John Maher, Joseph Wegleitner, **12-2** Mikayla Ertz, Thomas Kost, Daniel Olson, **12-4** LaVern Anderson, **12-5** Richard Mihm, Frank Mitchell, **12-6** Jennifer Groshens,

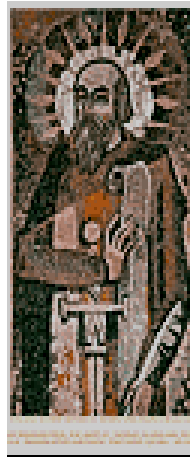
Happy Birthday

Saints of the Week

Dec 3 *Francis Xavier, priest; † 1552* at age 46 on the island of Sancion off the China coast; from Navarre; one of the founding Jesuits; preached in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Japan; with St. Therese of the Child Jesus (1 Oct.), co-patron of the Apostleship of Prayer and of the foreign missions.

Dec 4 *John of Damascus, priest, doctor; † 749*; last of the Greek Fathers; first of the East to formulate a comprehensive synthesis of Christian dogma; defended the veneration of icons; composed hymns and preached many homilies in honor of the BVM, especially her assumption.

Dec 6 *Nicholas, bishop; † 4th c.*; bishop of Myra in Asia Minor; model pastor noted for charity; popularized as Santa Claus (anglicized from Dutch "Sinter Claus"); patron of children, bankers, pawnbrokers, sailors, perfumers, brides, unmarried women, travelers, fishermen, dock workers, brewers, poets, and prisoners; also of Russia, Greece, Sicily, Lorraine, and Apulia in Italy where his relics are enshrined in Bari.



Why the Year of St. Paul?

Periodically, the Church sets aside an entire year to encourage all of us to focus on some particular and important aspect of our Faith. This year, we are given an opportunity to honor one of the great saints and founders of the early Church — the Apostle Paul.

In order to commemorate the 2000 anniversary of his birth, Christians all over the world celebrate "The Year of St. Paul" from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009.

St. Paul brochures will be available in church after Mass.

**** Next Week Liturgical Roles ****

Saturday, December 6, 2008 5:00 pm

Lector: Connor Sherrill
Commentator: Dan Weber
Communion: Rick Kosloski, Lauren Weber,
Deacon Larry
Gifts: Stenger Family
Ushers: Matt Stenger, Bob Waters,
Tom Waters
Servers: Ashley Masters, Kyler Sempel

Sunday, December 7, 2008 9:00 am

Lector: Judy Anderson
Commentator: Rose Lekatz
Communion: Jim Yanta, Sue Yanta,
Deacon Larry
Gifts: Peterson Family
Ushers: Bill Peno, Tom Kost, Dennis
Kaufmann
Servers: Eddie Johnson, Blake Minke,
Logan Lekatz

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Bring the family and come join us on Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 535 - 8th Street SW, Pine City, for crafts and goodies, bake sale, general store, and silent auction. See Bulletin for more details!

CCW Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

Come join in the cookie sale sponsored by St. Theresa's Circle which will be held during the Rush City Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 6. All cookie donations for the cookie sale can be brought to the Schneider Building (across from the library in town) at 1:30. Please contact Circle Leaders Sally Carlson or Mary Jane Dahl with any questions.

**6th Annual
Men's Club Dinner**

Come join us on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm for the 6th Annual Men's Club Dinner here at the Church of Sacred Heart. Tickets will be sent to all parishioners in the mail and can also be purchased at the Parish House or Fabric, Fashions and More. Adults will be \$8.50 (\$8.00 in advance), children ages 6-11 are \$5.00 and children ages 5 and under are free. They will be serving beef and pork roast, mashed potatoes, corn, green salad, dinner rolls, cranberries and pies. The funds raised by the dinner will be used for replacing the windows in Wey Hall. Please tell all your friends and family!

Christmas Eve Dinner
(Organized by the Marcussen Family)

Church of the Sacred Heart
Wey Hall
Wednesday, December 24, 2008
Beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone Welcome - No Charge
Reservations Appreciated - Please Call 320-358-4370



Those Who Need Our Prayers

Joe Bergstad, Donald Dahl, John Gorman, Clarence McDonald, Betty Odendahl, Cecilia Ott, Renee Schmidt, Vivian Peltier, Sharon Westman, William Kalkbrenner, Dallas Erickson, Marcia Kentener and daughter, Ginger Rorick, Chris Johnson, Elinor Capechi



Time Change for Mass on December 6

Please note that Saturday, December 6, we will hold Mass at 4:00 pm so that you may enjoy the Men's Club Dinner beginning at 5:00 pm.

Vocation Views

It's Advent; almost Christmas! A Season of Dreams Come True. Be on Guard. The Lord may call you to follow Him.

Bible Study

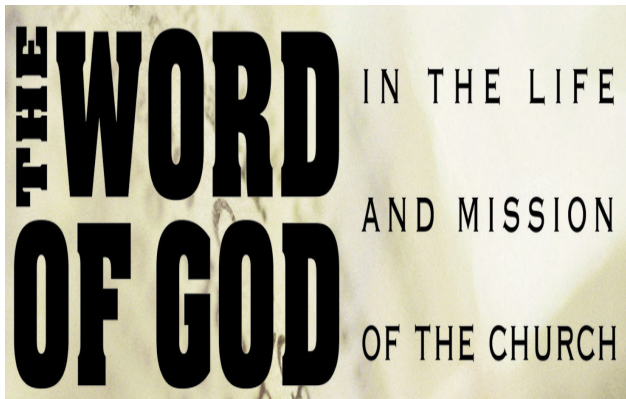
The RCIA group will meet on Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 pm in the Parish House. We will study the Scripture for the second week in Advent Mark 1: 1-8. Our topic for the evening will be Mark and the New Testament. Come and join our journey.

~Deacon Larry

RCIA

The Bible Study group will meet Monday, December 1 at 6:30 pm in the Parish House. We will read and discuss Matthew Chapter 25 where Jesus continues to instruct his disciples about what their attitudes and behavior should be as they await his coming. Come and learn, join in the discussion!

~Deacon Larry



Faith Formation Teacher Opening


There is an opening for the 6th Grade Faith Formation class for the remainder of the year. Anyone interested may call the Parish Office or contact Deb Prudhomme.

Volunteers Welcome

We would appreciate volunteers to help us decorate the Faith Formation classes on Wednesday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. Please contact Deb Prudhomme or the Parish Office if interested.

Sacred Heart Advent Program and Reach Out to a Baby Project

Sunday, December 14, at 9:00 am, the Sacred Heart Youth Choir lead by Phyllis Keating presents the Sacred Heart Advent Program: God is With Us. Children from all grades of the Sacred Heart Religious Education will help lead the Mass and program. Haylie Gilbert and Emma Peterson will be featured in "Evangeline the Reluctant Angel". Teri Jungels will present "Waiting: a Monologue by Elizabeth", and the Youth Choir will lead other musical selections. Everyone is invited to the Advent Program and Mass. The Sacred Heart Youth will also lead the Celebration of the Mass. Following Mass, there will be a fellowship sponsored by the 4th graders lead by Julie Gilbert in Wey Hall.



reach out to a BABY

The Faith Formation Advent Program also included the Reach Out to a Baby Program that focuses on gathering needed baby items for the Pine City and Cambridge Pregnancy Resource Centers. If you would like to make a donation, it can be dropped at the Advent Program or any scheduled service or at the Sacred Heart Parish Office or Church from Tues-Thurs. 9-1 pm.

The Season of Advent Is Here



This Sunday is the first week of Advent. Advent means 'coming.' This is the season in which we celebrate the coming of the Lord, looking forward to His coming at the end time and looking back in time to the earthly coming of Jesus. The Advent wreath is a popular symbol of this time and each Sunday an extra candle is lit to indicate the progress of the season. By entering the Season of Advent we have begun a new liturgical year also.

It is a time of expectant waiting for the Lord and preparations include internal cleansing and reorienting of our lives. John the Baptist will remind us of that need. The sacrament of reconciliation is important in this preparation. We have scheduled communal penance services on Wednesday, December 17 and Sunday, December 21. The Wednesday evening service, beginning at 6:30 pm, is intended for the Faith Formation students, teachers and parents. The Sunday 7:00 pm service is for adults of the parish. Let us plan to make this season fruitful in our personal lives.

~Fr Xavier