

# HOLY FAMILY Catholic Parish

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

*December 24, 2017 - 4th Sunday in Advent*

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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

**Rev. James C. Weighner, Pastor**

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

**Deacon Mark Grunwald**

Email: [denmark@prairiecatholic.org](mailto:denmark@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.

## 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.

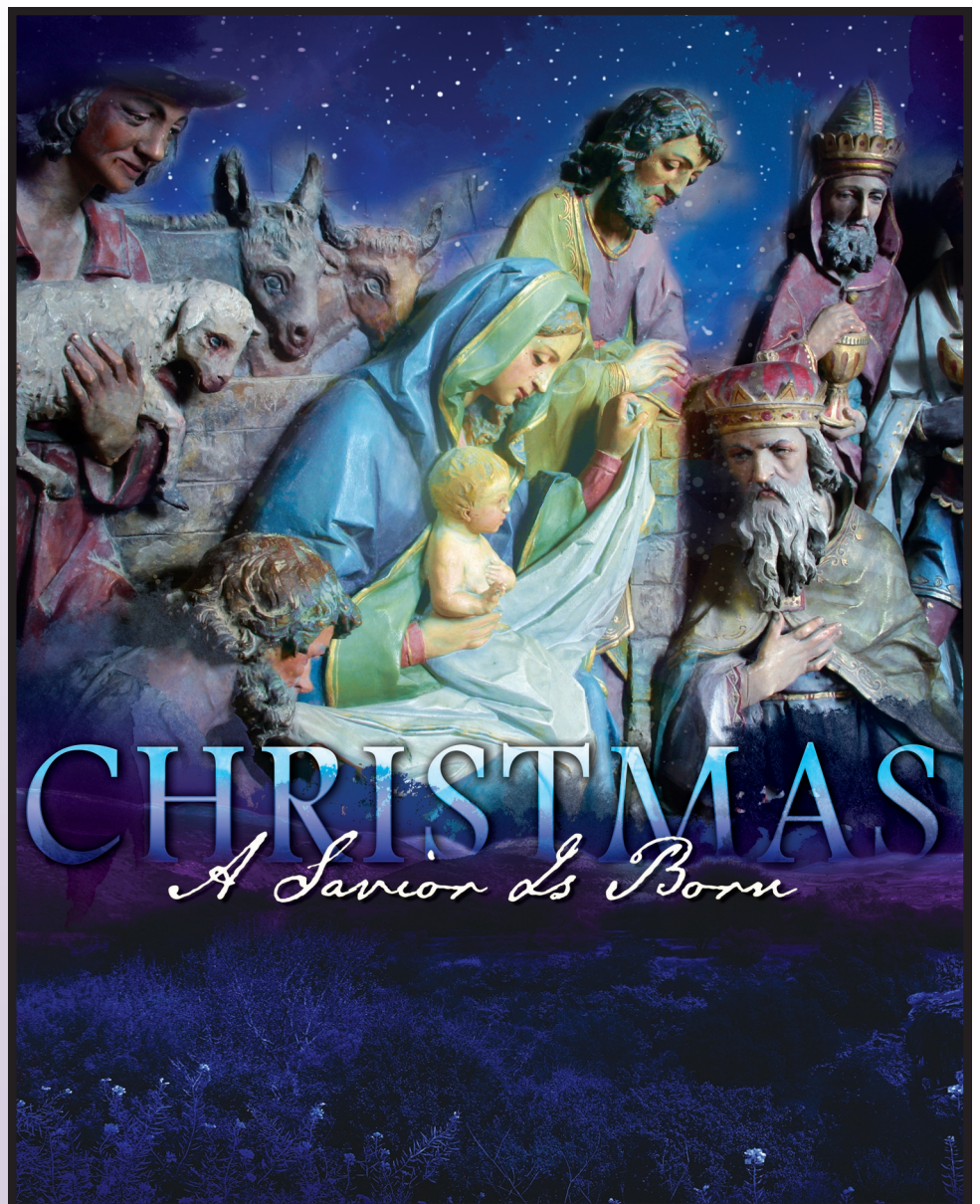
Pat Prochaska: [ppccd@prairiecatholic.org](mailto:ppccd@prairiecatholic.org)

## Parish Nursing Program

Rose Bauer, Shirley Cipra (326-8553)

**REV. JAMES C. WEIGHNER, PASTOR**

**DEACON MARK GRUNWALD**





## St. Gabriel Archangel

### HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR DEC. 31

Nancy DuCharme

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 4:00 pm Mary Kirschbaum, Kathy Schneider,  
Deacon Mark Grunwald

Sunday 8:00 am Donna Steiner, Lucy Cornford, &  
Dave Hemmer

### SERVERS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 4:00 pm Owen Teynor & Mitchell Colson  
Elle & Max Schneider

Sunday 8:00 am Logan Kiesau & Matthias Gerhards  
Logan & Tessa Higgins

### LECTORS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 4:00 pm John Chaffee

Sunday 8:00 am Mark Gilberts

### USHERS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 4:00 pm Richard Steiner, Bob Ziel, Gene  
Kirschbaum & Volunteer

Sunday 8:00 am Dick Tesar, John Gillitzer, Jim  
McGrath & Tom Hampton

### SCRIP WORKERS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 4:00 pm Volunteers

Sunday 8:00 am Volunteers

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!

**New Year's Eve &  
New Year's Day Masses**  
Sunday, Dec. 31 - 4 pm at St. Gabriel's  
Monday, Jan. 1 - 9:00 am at St. John's



## Mass Intentions for the Week

|                        |          |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, December 26   | 8:15 am  | NO MASS                            |                                       |
| Wednesday, December 27 | 8:15 am  | Communion Service at St. John's    |                                       |
| Thursday, December 28  | 8:15 am  | Communion Service at St. Gabriel's |                                       |
| Friday, December 29    | 8:15 am  | Communion Service at St. John's    |                                       |
| Saturday, December 30  | 4:00 pm  | St. Gabriel's Church               | † Margaret Wachter                    |
|                        | 7:00 pm  | St. John's Church                  | For All Those Entrusted to Our Pastor |
| Sunday, December 31    | 8:00 am  | St. Gabriel's Church               | † Mary Gillitzer                      |
|                        | 10:00 am | St. John's Church                  | † Cathy Novak Larson                  |
| New Year's Eve Mass    | 4:00 pm  | St. Gabriel's Church               | Priest's Intention                    |
| Monday, January 1st    | 9:00 am  | St. John's Church                  | Priest's Intention                    |

### 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.)



## St. John Nepomuc

### HOME COMMUNION MINISTERS FOR DEC. 31

Kathleen Deluhery, Joan Poots

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 7:00 pm Linda Moser

Sunday 10:00 am Gene Carlson, Doris Krogman,  
Deacon Mark Grunwald

### SERVER-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 7:00 pm Madilyn Fisher & Ryan Waller  
Ava & Makenna Forde

Sunday 10:00 am Katelyne & Jesse Lutz  
Nicole Rickleff & Gabriel Munson  
Fishler

### LECTORS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 7:00 pm Scott Kennedy

Sunday 10:00 am Norb Aschom

### USHERS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 7:00 pm Tim Looney, Dan Schickert, Alex  
Schaefer, Mark Forsythe

Sunday 10:00 am Paul Porvaznik, Mike Mara, Dennis  
Mezera & Mark Mara

### SCRIP WORKERS-DECEMBER 30/31

Saturday 7:00 pm Volunteers

Sunday 10:00 am Sheila Eastman

## THE HOLY GIFT EXCHANGE

I envision a particular pair of size 11 cowboy boots this Christmas. This species of boot has a throwback 1960s look, with colorful two-toned leather (including turquoise, of course), very pointed in the toe, and worn-in enough to be comfortable (or as comfortable as cowboy boots can be). But these are not just any pair one can find on eBay or Amazon or your local second-hand store. Boots like these are only available through my family's White Elephant gift exchange—and which have been re-gifted for decades.

For any who are not familiar with the Christmas "White Elephant Gift Exchange," it most often consists of a group of friends or family wrapping up items that they no longer want—gag gifts, hard-to-dispose of items, or gaudy goods (like 1960's cowboy boots)—and exchanging and trading among themselves. Even though the White Elephant exchange is meant mostly for fun and entertainment, it represents only one of many ways we have come to this almost-essential aspect of Christmas: gift-giving. Some families draw names, while workplaces and schools have "Secret Santa." Grandparents, of course, play by their own rules.

But amidst the papers and boxes and ribbons is another more fundamental gift exchange that is the Gold Standard of all other methods of Christmas gift giving, one that should be recalled whenever and however we pass gifts between ourselves.

We first hear about this tremendous trade not on Black Friday, but during the weekdays leading up to Christmas. With December 17, the Church shifts Advent into high gear, and her run-up to Christmas sounds a different tone. When December 17 falls on a weekday (in 2017 it fell on a Sunday), we ask God the Father in the Opening Prayer that his "Only Begotten Son, having taken to Himself our humanity, may be pleased to grant us a share in His divinity." The Mass during Christmas day will pray similarly: "O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled Himself to share in our humanity." In fact, at any Mass, the deacon or priest will say similar words as he pours the water (which represents you and me) into the wine (which symbolizes Jesus) as he prepares the chalice: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled Himself to share in our humanity."

This swap of divinity and humanity is one definitely worth sharing in—no need to keep the gift receipt or stand in line at the gift counter to return.

Giving and receiving of humanity and divinity is not, of course, a type of White Elephant exchange, or Secret Santa exchange, or family gift exchange. It's called the "holy exchange." St. Augustine tells us just what this exchange means: with the Incarnation and birth of Jesus, "He effected a wonderful exchange with us, through mutual sharing: we gave him the power to die, He will give us the power to live." (I think we're getting the better end of this deal!)." ."

(Continued on next column)

The Prayer over the Offerings at Christmas Midnight Mass asks that "through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united." One of the Mass' Preface texts (coming just prior to the Holy, holy, holy) recounts that "through Him the holy exchange that restores our life has shone forth today in splendor: when our frailty is assumed by Your Word not only does human mortality receive unending honor but by this wondrous union we, too, are made eternal." Christmas gives to Jesus mortality—and to us eternity.

So whether it's giving gift cards, receiving socks and sweaters, or—if you have been especially good this year—the slickest pair of sixties boots imagination can invent, let them all remind us of that ultimate Christmas exchange: life in place of death, joy instead of sorrow, God's divinity added to our humanity. Gifts like these will guarantee a Merry Christmas for all.

The above is a Christmas reflection by Christopher Carstens, Director of the Office for Sacred Worship, Diocese of La Crosse

## 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, Janet Dickman, Peg Stoeffler, Nancy Patzner, Michael Hinrich, William Blake, John & Cheyenne Messling, Peyton Kraushaar, Earl Nye, Ethel Sebastian, Tara Pellock, Geraldine Barr, Edith Ritchie, Scott LaBonne, Debbie Eden, Ken Fleshner, Carrie Breuer, Graham Shedivy, Lorna Porvaznik, John Rink, Dale LaBonne, Dallas Valley, Mary T. Shedivy, Diane Fernette, Joe Ludvik, Stacey Johnson, Bernie O'Connell, Frank Tiller, Carl Shedivy, Rosanna Mayer, Marilyn Rybarczyk, Pam Waller, Jackie Cherrier, Jennifer Gilman, Rose Miller, Annabelle Stubbe, Karen Carroll, Letty Oehler, Howard Gillitzer, Art Boxrucker, Nora Vickerman, Cecil Olson, Mary Kann, Barbara Schwant, Tyler Gillitzer, Lynette Reichmann, Scott Plondke, Gerald Stram, Joe Barrette, Sally Ann White, Scott Sklenar, Shirley Ambrose, Don McFarland, Vickie Samples, Nancy Aschom, Phyllis Waller, Sandi Herreid, Melinda Neumann, Don Ritchie, Sally White, Faye Tesar, Robert McCarty, Matilda Flansburgh, Joan Marie Tiller, Mary Jo Carl, Joseph Hamann, Janet Kahler, Judy Mezera, Owen Price, Sandra Marx, Kathy Leard, Scott Yeomans, Dorothy Gilkes, Andra Meana, Christine Carlson, M. Catherine Benoy, Irene Mitchell, Gaike Hatlin, Avalo A. Berns, Doris Bohnenkamp, Lyle & Rosella Ahles, Judy Knickerbocker, Millie Senesac, Donna Teynor, Fr. Edwin Thome, Marita Conley, Greta Martin.

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

## IN SYMPATHY

Please remember **Wilbur L. Rupp** in your prayers. His funeral was held at St. Gabriel's of the Holy Family Parish on Friday, December 15th. May God grant him eternal life and comfort to his family.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL. We will list 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.**

Norbert & Nancy Aschom, Anthony Bakken, Florence Becwar, Lisa Breuer, Irving & Carol DuCharme, Nancy DuCharme, Janice Duve, John & Norma Gillitzer, Mike & Trisha Hager, William & Rita Hamann, Donald & Teresa Heal, Michael & Linda Heal, Theresa Heal, Robert Heilmann, Steven & Rebecca Henry, Michael & Debra Henthorn, Eileen Hermsen, Dennis & Martha Hoeger, Gary & Joan Howe, Alan & Deanne Hromadka, David & Connie Hudson, Terry & Kathleen Igou, Bryan & Cathy Irvin, James Jackson, Jerome & Dixie Jackson, Gene & Helen Jelinek, Ronald & Mary Alice Jones, Robert & Rita Kazda, Dr. Jan & Odean Kieser, Gene & Mary Kirschbaum, Gary & Judy Knickerbocker, Virginia Konichak, Aurilla Koresh, Justina Koresh, Lucien & Rita Krahn, Charles & Linda Kramer, Patricia Kramer, Ronald & Nikki Kramer, Doris Krogman, Jeff & Amy Krohn, Gerald & Judith Kuchenbecker, Armella Kueter, Daniel & Dee Kussmaul, Eugene LaPointe, Jack & Mary Ann Leake, Michael & Kathleen Leard, Mark & Katie Lenzendorf, Patricia Lenzendorf, Edward Linder, Norma Lochner.

## ***BAPTISM***

We welcome **HARPER JO SUTTON**, daughter of Clarke & Danyelle (Remington) Sutton into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. May God continue to bless **Harper Jo** and her family.

**Seminarian Arturo Viguera needs our prayers: Pastoral Year, St. Peter, Stevens Point**

*"Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give."* -Matthew 10:8

**SCHOOL NEWS**.....The kindergarten room has been a flurry of activity this December! We have been learning beginning sounds, and decoding new words. The students performed beautifully in the Christmas program. We also rode the Polar Express in our classroom and invited parents and grandparents in for a fun time decorating Christmas cookies! Lastly, the kindergarteners have made a meaningful connection with the true meaning of Christmas thru an interactive Nativity in our classroom! We wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Mrs. Mary Huser

If you want to have a donation credited to your 2017 contribution statement - please have the donation to us by December 31, 2017. Thank you in advance! Contribution statements will be mailed out by January 31, 2018. Your contribution statement for the Diocesan Annual Appeal will come from the Diocesan office.

## **THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

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Sunday, December 24

Mass at 8:00 am at St. Gabriel's and 10:00 am at St. John's for the 4th Sunday of Advent

**Christmas Eve**

**5:00 pm Mass at St. John's**

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

**10:00 pm Midnight Mass at St. John's**

Monday, December 25

**9:00 am Christmas Day Mass at St. Gabriel's**

Tuesday, December 26

3:30 pm Prayer Service at Prairie Maison

Wednesday, December 27

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

Thursday, December 28

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

Friday, December 29

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

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am Mass at St. Gabriel's & 10:00 am Mass at St. John's

**4:00 pm New Year Eve Mass at St. Gabriel's**

Monday, January 1 New Year's Day

**9:00 am New Years Mass at St. John's**

## Liturgical Ministers

### for Christmas Eve & Christmas

Christmas Eve., Dec. 24th at 5:00 pm at St. John's: **Eucharistic Ministers:** Gene Carlson, Jean Ann Dillman & Patty Schauf-Yager; **Lector:** JWalkers; **Servers:** JWalkers; **Ushers:** JWalkers

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th at 5:30 pm Children's Mass at St. Gabriel's: **Eucharistic Ministers:** Nick Nugent, Rhonda Stubbe & Diane Steger; **Lector:** Students; **Servers:** Dustin & Prestin Nolan, Allison Kennedy; **Ushers:** Richard Steiner, Bob DeFord, **Volunteers**

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th at 10:00 pm at St. John's: **Eucharistic Ministers:** Linda Moser, Joe & Sharon Atkins; **Lector:** Rita Krahn; **Servers:** Makayla Steger, Sawyer Swiggum, Emma & Michael Bjurquist **Ushers:** Jim Welsch, **Volunteers**

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th at 9:00 am at St. Gabriel's: **Eucharistic Ministers:** George Eastman, Merle & Barb Frommelt; **Lector:** Nancy Eastman; **Servers:** Makayla Steger, Tommy Mara, Logan & Tessa Higgins; **Ushers:** John Gilitzer, **Volunteers**

**During the holidays** the bulletin has to go to press early so the December 17th collection will be posted in next week's bulletin.

**Prairie Catholic Sweepstake Calendars** are still available at both rectories or from John Fischer. (326-2827) \$20.00 per calendar or 6 for \$100.00.