

December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



The angels sang in wonder and awe, and the shepherds listened. Down went the wall between heaven and earth. Through it poured Love beyond all telling, holding onto our hands, laughing with us, crying with us, just a baby, whose name was Jesus.

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The Gift that Gives Forever

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Luke 2:10–11).

The fact of a savior born for us does not bring us immediate festive joy. Our world remains wounded; wars, selfishness, and bitterness linger. Our hearts remain wounded; pain lingers. For a Christian, just as for everyone else, there will be incompleteness, illness, death, senseless hurt, broken dreams, cold, hunger, lonely days of bitterness, and a lifetime of longing.

The Incarnation does not promise heaven on earth. It promises heaven in heaven. Here on earth, it promises us something else—God's presence in our lives. This presence redeems because knowing that God is with us is what ultimately empowers us to give up bitterness, to forgive, and to move beyond cynicism and bitterness. When God is with us, then pain and happiness are not mutually exclusive, and the agonies and riddles of life do not exclude deep meaning and deep joy.

We need to celebrate Christmas heartily. Maybe we won't feel the same excitement we once felt as children — when we were excited about tinsel, lights, Christmas carols, and special gifts and special food. But something more important is still available, namely the sense that God is with us in our lives, in our joys as well as in our shortcomings.

The word was made flesh. That is an incredible thing. It should be celebrated with tinsel, lights, and songs of joy. If we understand Christmas, then carols will flow naturally from our lips. (Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI)

SANCTUARY LIGHT

December 25 – Dale Tunny
January 1 – Carl and Bertha Mistler
January 8 – Keith and Barb Coyner

MASS INTENTIONS

December 24 – Al and Myrna Kohlman
December 25 – Wayne Schutte
December 31 – Charles Simon
January 1 – Dennis Schwering

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – December 31 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Terry Harmeyer
Gifts: Mark and Rosie Lunsford
Eucharist Minister: Judy Steuri

Sunday – January 1 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Julie Stephens, Jane Pictor
Gifts: Paul and Arlene Gehl
Eucharist Minister: Susan Schutte

Saturday – January 7 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Jack Ferkinhoff
Gifts: Dennis and Flo Wagner
Eucharist Minister: Terry Harmeyer

Sunday – January 8 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Arlene Gehl, Cindy Weisenbach
Gifts: Greg and Amy Kinker
Eucharist Minister: Amanda Schutte

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$3593.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 48.67
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 414.00</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$4055.67
Religious Retirement	\$500.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Capital Improvement	\$190.00

**MAY THE CHRIST CHILD BLESS YOU FOR ALL
THE WAYS YOU SHARE YOUR GOODNESS
WITH THIS FAITH COMMUNITY!**

"The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love. It is the power that gives new birth, forgives sin, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. It is the power of God." ~ Pope Francis

THANK YOU – “For bells are the voice of the Church. They have tones that touch and search the hearts of young and old” (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow). Thank you to Todd Nobbe, Scott Simon, and Doug Stier for being instructed on the use of the bells. And thanks to Ron Wagner for laying the cable needed for the bell system. You are a gift to this parish!

The bells will ring on the hour from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. They will also ring for the Angelus.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – Thank you to John and Joyce Muckerheide; Alaina Kessler; Eva, Sophia, and Makenna Volz; Dennis, Flo, and Austin Wagner; and Lauren, Jason, Blake, Callen, and Nash Wagner for placing the Christmas wreaths on the graves of our veterans. Thank you, too, to Jerry and Lora Truesdell and Kelli Cobler for laying wreaths at St. John, Osgood, cemetery.

MARY & MARTHA CIRCLE – Ladies of the parish, please pick up a 2023 Committee List from the back of church. And please let Sister or Arlene know if any phone numbers need to be updated.

2023 CALENDARS – The company that printed the religious calendars is no longer doing so, and by the time we were informed, it was too late to seek another company. The calendars in the vestibule of church were given to us by Travis Neal.

2023 MEETINGS – Sunday, Jan. 8, 8:30 AM – 175th Committee
- Wednesday, Jan. 11, 4:30 PM – Faith Formation
- Thursday, Jan. 12, 6:00 PM – Finance Committee
6:30 PM – Parish Council

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS ED – NO class on Wednesday, December 28. Keep celebrating Christmas.

JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED – NO class next weekend. Classes resume Sunday, January 8, 8:30 AM.

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL – As of December 13, \$5,750 has been pledged to this year’s United Catholic Appeal from 24 donors. That is one third of our goal. If you have not made your pledge, please do so as soon as possible.







4:00 PM MASS GREETERS
December 31 – Ken Hellmich, Joe Wagner
January 7 – Paul Simon, Ken Hellmich
January 14 – Dennis Wagner, Gary Wagner
January 21 – Brian Horan, Eric Busch
January 28 – Ken Harmeyer, Steve Gilland

10:00 AM MASS GREETERS
January 1 – Paul and Arlene Gehl
January 8 – Tom and Joyce Muckerheide
January 15 – Kevin Tunny, Steve Wagner
January 22 – George and Mary Bultman
January 29 – Paul and Arlene Gehl

SANCTUARY LIGHT – We are accepting intentions for the sanctuary light for 2023, beginning in January. Suggested offering is \$5.00.

THE LORD’S LAUGHTER – Sign outside Calvary Baptist Church: “The Manger was the first King-sized bed.” (via Rev. Harry Mahoney, Dedham, MA)

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH For volunteer not-for-profit organizations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.		RE Classes 6:45 PM Penance Service Grades 3-5 FEAST OF ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE	Finance Meeting 6:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 AM - Noon HALL RENTED in Evening Penance Service at St. Martin, Yorkville	Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM Pick Pockets Blood Pressure Checks
	4	5	6	7	8	9
RE Classes (11th & 12th Grades also) 8:30 AM SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks Pick Pockets Donuts and Coffee		Ladies Christmas Party - Doors Open 6:00 PM - Penance Service, Holy Family, Oldenburg Feast of St. Nicholas	RE Classes 6:45 PM	HOLY-DAY-OF OBLIGATION FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Celebration of Mass 6:00 PM		Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM HALL RENTED
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RE Classes 8:30 AM THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass 10:00 AM VISIT FROM SANTA 11:00 AM	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 	Penance Service, St. Catherine of Siena, Enochsburg 7:00 PM	Christmas Party for Preschool - Grade 5 6:45 - 8:15 PM Penance Service, St. John, Osgood 6:00 - 8:00 PM			Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
RE Classes (Breakfast will be served 8:30 AM) FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass 10:00 AM Donuts and Coffee			NO RE Classes First Day of Winter			 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM Mass with Children
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NATIVITY OF THE LORD  Celebration of Mass 10:00 AM	Christmas Day (observed)					New Year's Eve Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM JAN 1: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD