

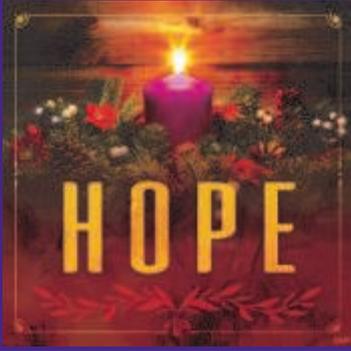


Saint Matthew Catholic Church

December 1, 2019

1st Sunday of
Advent

229 South 28th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-3148
www.stmatthewausau.org



Advent Prayer

God, our loving Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to counter all the forces of evil: sin, suffering and death, and to overcome evil with the force of good; hatred with the power of love, Your great love for us in Jesus.

Help us never to curse the darkness, but to join with You in bringing Your light into this world, the light that is Your Son, born of the Virgin Mary, in Bethlehem. Help us to be instruments of Your light and love by doing one special act of kindness or by being Your special instrument of reconciliation this New Year.

May the Christ Candle we light symbolize our desire to bring light into a world of darkness and hope into a world of despair. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Mass Schedule - Horario de Misas

Weekends

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 noon (Español-Spanish)

Weekdays

Monday: 8:00 am

Tuesday: 12:05 pm

Weds thru Sat: 8:00 am

Confessions

Saturday: 11 am - 12 noon or by Appointment

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

Wednesdays - after 8 am Mass until 5 pm
(Benediction at 4:50 pm)

1st Fridays - Benediction after 8 am Mass

Rosary

Daily before Mass & Wednesdays at 4:30 pm

Mon, Weds, Friday - with Prayer for Priests

Vespers - Evening Prayer: Wednesdays - 5 pm

Baptism

The parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class. Godparents are encouraged to attend. You must register one week before the class by calling the Parish Center at 715-842-3148.

Next Baptism Class: Monday, January 13th
at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center Patio Room.

Bautismo

Para Bautismos los padres y padrinos deben tomar una clase de preparación. Generalmente las clases son el primer martes de cada mes a las 6:30 pm en el centro parroquial.

Para mayor informes y registrarse para la clase llame a Joy al 715-842-3148.

Parish Center Office (Oficina): 715-842-3148

221 S 28th Avenue

(Behind school/atrás de la escuela)

Hours/Horas: Monday-Thursday: 8 am - 4 pm

Friday: 8 am - 12 noon



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:44



Preparing for Christmas

By Ann Lankford

Taking time during Advent to prepare ourselves spiritually can result in a truly meaningful Christmas Day and Christmas Season, celebrating the birth of the most important Person in all of history: Jesus Christ. The traditional customs of our Catholic Faith provide us with important ways to prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child.

Advent means coming and the four weeks leading up to Christmas are to be different than our ordinary routine. Yet it is not meant to be a time of celebration, as that really begins on Christmas Eve. Advent is to be spent preparing our hearts for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to save us from sin and eternal death. This focus of spiritual preparation and joyful anticipation can be difficult to maintain in the hectic hustle and bustle of the materialistic side of this sacred season.

An important point for Advent is to keep everything simple by placing a limit on shopping and baking, while setting aside time for quiet prayer **and for simply being with family members. Most of us don't need more gifts, but rather more time with each other.** It is an opportunity to gather the family and prepare by remembering the darkness that pervaded the time of the people of God as they awaited the birth of the Savior.

One traditional custom is the Advent wreath, which helps us to stay focused on this time of preparation and can be assembled by using evergreen limbs from a tree in the yard and four candles. The evergreens, which retain their green, vibrant life through the year, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ who was victorious over sin and death through His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The light of the candles shines in the darkness, which is most evident during this time of the year as it is darker due to shorter daylight hours. We use candles in the Advent wreath and put lights on a Christmas tree, signifying the **coming of Christ who is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God.** Jesus is the Light of the world!

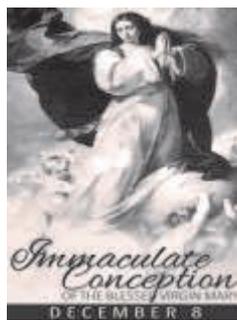
Specific times of quiet prayer are important during Advent. One way is to look at the Scripture Readings for Christmas, pondering the words and allowing the Holy Spirit to make a connection between the reading and your own life. If you are interested in a simple Prayer Card with the Scriptures surrounding Christmas, go to diolc.org/deeper and click on "Praying with Scripture".

The words of Advent hymns provide the story of the first Christmas and stir our hearts with their beautiful melodies. Some of the best-known **Advent hymns are "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"; "O Come, Divine Messiah"; "Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming" and "Creator of the Stars of Night." The words can be found on the internet and used for a time of peaceful meditation.**

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession during Advent frees us from the effects of sin, such as selfishness, anger, lack of forgiveness, guilt, bitterness. As our hearts are purified, there is more room for Christ to bring us His joy.

Acts of Charity also need to be part of our preparations for Christmas. We can give to our favorite charity; pray for the persecuted Christians in the Middle East and even donate so that they will have housing in time for winter; visit an elderly neighbor; send a Christmas card to a friend; show kindness to the person we find hardest to love. Above all, we can spend more time with family.

The preparation of our hearts for Christmas will make the coming of Emmanuel – God with us – mean so much more. We will then receive the Christ Child in Holy Communion in such a way as to transform our lives to be more joyful and hopeful!

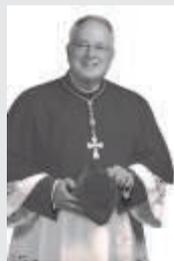


Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Celebrated December 9th

Since December 8, 2019, is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9th.

However, you are NOT obligated to attend the Mass on Monday, December 9.

Bishop Callahan's Advent Prayer Request



Prayer is a joyful method of keeping us aware of the promises of future and realized glory as we make our way through the weeks of Advent. Remember you are in my daily prayers.

If you have a particular intention for which you would like me to pray at Christmas Mass, visit: diolc.org/pray or call 608-352-9565.

Keep alert, maintain your vision in Christ. Blessed Advent to you all!



Best Advent Ever

Today we begin the new liturgical year in the Church with the 1st Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas. It is also a time for us to prepare to welcome Jesus more fully into our lives. The Dynamic Catholic organization has come up with a simple, free and enjoyable program to help us to do just that during this Advent. It is called "Best Advent Ever." Through short video reflections e-mailed to you each day, you can enter fully into this Advent season. More information on how to take advantage of this opportunity can be found at:

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>



Advent Candles and Wreaths

Available for purchase in the Angelorum.

\$5.00 - Advent Candles (1 box/set)

\$6.00 - Metal Wreath

Please place payment in the box on the table or in an envelope (with note for what money is for) and put in the Collection Basket.

Feast Day - December 7 - Saint Ambrose of Milan



"No one heals himself by wounding another."

"The devil tempts that he may ruin; God tests that He may crown."

"The Lord was Baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism."

St Ambrose



Eucharistic Adoration in the Area

St Matthew: Wednesday - after 8 am Mass until 5 pm
Benediction at 4:50 pm

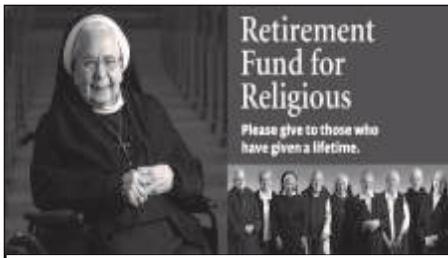
1st Friday - Benediction after 8 am Mass

Pax Christi Adoration Chapel Marathon:

Sunday: 12 noon - 11 pm, Tuesday: 9 am - 11 pm,

Wednesday: 9 am through 8 pm Thursday, Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

St Therese Rothschild: Tuesday after the 8 am Mass until 8 am Friday
After 6 pm, ring main entrance doorbell to enter. To volunteer: 715-359-8352.



Retirement Fund for Religious
Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Give in thanksgiving.
"The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.



Share Sunday Next Weekend
Before Mass, please place your donations in one of the large blue "Share Sunday Buckets" that can be found in the transition space in church. The buckets will be carried forward in the Offertory procession. The Circle of Joy thanks you for your ... in helping them to help those in need!!
God bless you for helping your neighbor!!



Christmas Pot Luck
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Christmas Party
Thursday, December 5th
12:00 noon at St Therese Church

Remember to bring shoebox presents for Sister Felicia's Indian School.



Members please bring a dish to pass.



ATTENTION CRAFT SHOPPERS
Will you be out crafting in the next few weeks – like a lot of us? We're always looking for new and unique crafters, so if you happen to find a "unique" crafter that you think would be a good addition to Holly Hall, please pick up their card and indicate what their craft is. Put the card in an envelope with my name on it and drop it into the collection basket.
Thanks much – Sharon Drefcinski

April 1, 2020, "Census Day" is just around the corner.
The US Constitution: Article 1, Section 2, mandates that the country conduct a count of its population once every 10 years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.
The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community for the next decade. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the US House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.
Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire: online, by phone, or by mail. This will mark the first time that you will be able to respond to the census online.

"GIVEN" - Unveiling the Mystery of Marriage
Marriage Enrichment Retreat for All Couples
February 8, 9-3:00, St Therese Church - Rothschild
Couple cost: Engaged-\$25 / Dating & Married-\$40
Questions: contact dkitzhaber@diolc.org

GIVEN is a short, powerful retreat for couples who are married, dating, or engaged. It is an opportunity to share, learn and celebrate marriage with other couples through engaging talks, music, adoration, prayer and reconciliation. This new format has been well received and will be offered on February 8th in Rothschild at St Therese Church. For more information, go to: <https://diolc.org/marriage/marriage-enrichment/>

That Man is You! Dec 4 - Week 11- "**Battle Against the Flesh, World, Devil**"



- The Four B's
- Where the Devil Shows His Face
- No Amount of Gain is Worth Your Life
- A Truly Abundant Life
- The Reworking of Your Soul
- No Spoiled Clay



Buy **SCRIP Gift Cards** for Everyone this Christmas!!!
They make great gifts and help the parish at the same time!

SCRIP "Special Orders" need to be placed by December 15th, to receive them before Christmas!

Call St Matthew Parish Center: 715-842-3148 for "Special Orders" or to buy SCRIP in stock. SCRIP is also sold after weekend Masses in the Angelorum. (Volunteers are needed to sell SCRIP after weekend Masses, please call the Parish Center: 715-842-3148 if you can help.)

Thank you to those of you who have bought SCRIP!
"Spotlighted SCRIP Businesses"

Fleet Farm: Check out Toyland and their snow throwers are in stock.
In Stock: Walgreen's, T.J. Maxx, Roundy's-Pick'n Save, Holiday Gas
Special Orders: Delta Airlines, Princess Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean



Knights for Life – Blood for Life
Thursday, December 12th from 2:30 - 7:00 pm
in Abts Hall at St Agnes's in Weston
The *Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council* serving St Mark, St Agnes and St Therese Parishes is sponsoring a Blood Drive.
The Blood Bank's levels are low and are in need of blood for our community. We are asking families and friends to help support this effort by donating blood to give life to those in need. You can go to the website of the "*Blood Center of Northcentral Wisconsin*" for more information regarding donating blood. <https://www.bcnwi.org/>

Substitute Teachers Needed at the Middle School and High School!



Requirement: Associates Degree or higher.
Will need to complete online substitute teacher training from CESA 2

If interested, please email resume or completed employment application (located on our website) to: snevienski@newmancatholicsschools.com
Applications or resumes may also be dropped off at Central Office.
Please share if you know someone who may be interested.

Additional Events

- ✓ December 14, Saturday: 11 am - 2 pm "**St Agnes Sweet Shoppe**" (St Agnes Parish, Abts Hall, 6101 Zinser St, Weston) Let Us Do Your Holiday Baking! Fancy Cookies & Candy Available by the Pound. Top Raffle Prize: \$750. Luncheon featuring homemade soups, sandwiches and pies.
- ✓ December 14, Saturday: 9 am - Noon - "**Annual Christmas Cookie & Bake Sale**" **Sacred Heart of Jesus** (Cassel) Items sold by the pound.
- ✓ December 15, Sunday: 5 pm, Cocktails; 6 pm, Dinner & Show - "**Ye Olde Madrigal Feast**" **St James Catholic Church** (Amherst - Call Michelle for questions at 715-600-4145) **Featuring the Midwest's Merry Carolers Madrigal Troupe.** \$40/person (age 12 & under: \$25) To buy tickets call 715-572-3406
- ✓ December 20, Friday: 6:30 pm - "**Come Let Us Adore**" - St Mark Parish (602 Military Road, Rothschild 715-359-5206) The Nativity Story told through contemporary music. Featuring a choir & orchestra from area parishes. Tickets available at the door: \$8 Adults, \$5 Children 6-12 yrs, Free-under age 5
- ✓ Ongoing Need: Marathon County Literacy Council needs volunteers to help teach reading, writing, and other subjects. Please contact Connie Heidemann at 715.679.6170, e-mail: mclitofwausau.org.



This Week at Saint Matthew

Monday, December 2

Spanish Catechism Class - Parish Center Library: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, December 3

Gospel of Matthew Study - Church-**Emily's Rm: 10:30 am**-Noon & 6:30-8 pm

Wednesday, December 4

That Man Is You! - Parish Center Patio Room: 6 am
Peacemaker Quilters - Parish Center Patio Room: 1 pm
Religious Education Classes - Holy Name School: 6:15 - 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 5

Jubilee House Free Community Meal - School Cafeteria: 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Healing Fire of the Spirit Prayer Meeting - **Church, Emily's Rm: 6:00**-7:30 pm

Saturday, December 7

First Reconciliation Retreat - St Matthew: 8 am
Share Sunday Weekend

Sunday, December 8

Share Sunday Weekend
Parish Breakfast with St Nick - School Cafeteria: 9:00 - 11:30 am
Confirmation Rite of Enrollment during 10 am Mass
RCIA - Rectory: 6:30 pm

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2019-2020 Target: \$71,505

All those wishing to include their gifts on the 2019 tax statement, must mail in their pledges to the diocese prior to December 20th, 2019. Gifts postmarked after December 31, 2019 will be included in the 2020 tax statements.

Send all payments to:



Diocese of La Crosse
P.O. Box 4004
La Crosse, WI 54602-4004

Electronic Giving Donors have until 11:59 pm on 12/31/2019 to make last minute gifts for tax year 2019.

All pledges have the opportunity to budget their support on a monthly basis **concluding June 30th, 2020. If you haven't done so, please fill out your pledge card as soon as possible (if lost-call Ann at the Parish Center, 715 842-3148, and she can assist you with this matter). Thank you and God bless you.**



Thank you for generously supporting Saint Matthew Parish!

Minimum budgeted amount needed weekly\$9,612.00

Stewardship Last Weekend.....To be announced.
SCRIP Last Weekend.....To be announced.

Celebration of Sacraments

Marriage - Arrangements must be made six (6) months in advance with Fr Bob.

Call **Dorothy** at 715-432-5519 to make arrangements for:

- ❑ Anointing of the Sick - available when you are seriously ill or before a scheduled surgery.
- ❑ Visits to the Homebound - visits to your home, assisted living facility, or nursing home.

Hospital Visits - Let the hospital know when you are admitted that you would like to have Fr Bob or Fr Peter visit you.

Intercessory Prayer - Call **Bonnie** at 715-675-9876 when you need extra prayer. Our prayer group is always ready to pray for you!

* You may also call the Parish Center at 715-842-3148

Parish Staff (715-842-3148)

Pastor - Rev. Robert Thorn
Associate Pastor - Rev. Peter Kieffer
Deacon - Rev. Mr. Tom Tierney
Pastoral Care - Dorothy Giallombardo
Secretary - Ann Graveen
Finance Secretary - Barb Splinter

Plant Manager - Jason Seliger
DRE & Hispanic RE - Joy Orozco
Bulletin Editor - Rosemary Beever
rosemarybr@stmatthewwausau.org
Deadline Next Bulletin: 3 pm Monday



Mass Intentions

December 2 - 8, 2019



Pray for Us

Monday 8:00 am - **Living & †Deceased** Butzen & Beever Families
Tuesday 12:05 pm - **†Betty Nass**
Wednesday 8:00 am - **†Mary Kohnhorst**
Thursday 8:00 am - **†Sharon Seubert**
Friday 8:00 am - **†Louis Kraus, Sr.**
Saturday 8:00 am - **†Kenneth Peterson**
4:30 pm - Helping Hands Volunteers & Supporters
Sunday 8:00 am - **†Geraldine Radtke**
10:00 am - **†Vern & †Dorothy Henaman**
12 noon - Saint Matthew Parishioners



This Week's Scripture Readings

Monday, December 2

Is 4:2-6/Ps122/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 3 - Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Lk 10:21-24

Weds, December 4 - St John Damascene, Priest/Doctor of Church

Is 25:6-10/Ps 23/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 5

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 6 - Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, December 7 - St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5, 6-8

Sunday, December 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



Weekend - Liturgical Ministers

Saturday December 7 4:30 pm	Sunday December 8 8:00 am	Sunday December 8 10:00 am
Lectors		
Mary Holm Norm Howe	Tom Roovers P Thomson	Lee Peek
Eucharistic Ministers		
D Baxter N Felty F Heil L Heil L Lach J BOCKE* M BOURGUIGNON*	W Thomson P Thomson G Dederich D Janssen C Janssen T ROOVERS* MP ROOVERS*	P McDonald S Crow A Boller B Britten J Fergot T BRZEZINSKI* D EVERT*
Ushers and Greeters		
J Rolefson M Baxter Dave Mayer	T Mullaley N Schmitt A Seubert	J Reeves D Whipple J Willemon
Servers		
Check the Schedule	Check the Schedule	A Peek M Peek
Musicians		
Lynn Meyer Nancy Losinski	Carla MacDonald Annette Southworth	Gordon Crow Nancy Losinski
Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)		Kelly Ziegelbauer



Advent Communal Penance Services

Several priests are available for individual confessions.



Sunday, December 1: 1:00 pm - St Anthony, Athens

4:00 pm - St John, Edgar

7:00 pm - Nativity BVM, Marathon

Sunday, December 8: 3:30 pm (post-Packers) - Holy Name

Tuesday, December 10: 6:00 pm St Paul, Mosinee

Wednesday, December 11: 1:00 pm St Paul, Mosinee

Wednesday, December 11: 5:00 - 6:00 pm - St Anne

Sunday, December 15: 6:30 pm - St Matthew

Tuesday, December 17: 6:30 pm - St Michael

Wednesday, December 18: 5:00 - 6:00 pm St Anne

Saturday, December 21: 10:00 am - Resurrection

Monday, December 23: 6:30 pm - St Therese

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain... Rev 21:4

Our Prayers & Sympathy go to the Family and Friends of:



Bill Palm

He died October 19, 2019

He is the Son of Glorianne Palm

Jean Wisnewski

She died November 19, 2019

She is the Mother of Lyonel Wisnewski

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen

Donations for Advent and Christmas Candles and Flowers

To beautify the church and sanctuary and to honor the birth of Jesus you may donate a candle or flowers in memory of loved ones.

Place your donations in an envelope, include your name and the name of the person you are remembering and put in the collection basket at Mass or mail to:

St Matthew Parish Center

221 S. 28th Ave

Wausau, WI 54401



Thank You and May You have a Blessed Christmas Season!!!

St Matthew's Men's Club Christmas Dinner

Members, Wives, & Guests

Tuesday, December 10 - 5 pm Social, 6 pm Dinner

School Cafeteria



Menu
Baked Chicken - Beef Tips with Noodles
Dressing - Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
California Veggie Medley - Garden Salad
Dinner Rolls - Apple or Cherry Pie

Catered by Lisa's Catering

Christmas Dinner

\$15 per person includes 50/50 Raffle

White Elephant Gift Exchange

(Men bring a gift for a man, Ladies bring a gift for a lady).

RSVP by Sunday, December 1 to: Mike Bourguignon 715-241-0030

Glen Yeager 715-848-1106 or Joel Stubbe at joelstwob@yahoo.com

Membership dues for 2020 are \$5.

All men of St Matthew Parish are always welcome to attend.

Catholic Women's Club

Monday, December 2nd at 12 noon
at St Michael's Parish - Krasowski Hall

Join us for lunch and enjoy Christmas Songs played on the guitar by David Berg!

*Please bring items for the Warming Center.

Dues: \$10.00 Meal: \$13.00

For Reservations call: Peggy: 715-842-2845 or Kathy: 715-842-7200



Buy St Matthew 2020 Calendar Raffle Tickets

Have you bought Raffle Tickets to win cash throughout the year of 2020 yet?

Ways to use St Matthew 2020 Calendar Raffle Tickets:

- Buy one or more for yourself
- Sell to your Hunting Camp Friends
- Give them as Christmas Gifts
- Buy some & resell them to relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc

Cash Prizes:

- \$150 Cash Prize drawn each week (you can win multiple times, up to 52 times!)
- **\$200 Cash Prize week of Mother's & Father's Day**
- **\$250 Cash Prize week of St Matthew's Feast Day**
- \$8,000 total to be awarded throughout 2020!!

Tickets will be sold until December 31st, so hurry and buy your *St Matthew Calendar Raffle Tickets* now! Tickets can be bought after weekend Masses or from the Parish Center.

Calendar Raffle Ticket Update

655 sold (44%) - 845 unsold (56%) - 4 weeks left to sell!

Thank you to all who have bought tickets and who are helping sell tickets! If you can help sell, please contact Sheila at 715-848-1106 or sheilay@charter.net. Thank you!

**Proceeds of the Calendar Raffle Tickets are used towards expenses of St Matthew Parish.



Parish Christmas Breakfast Everyone is Invited!

Sunday, December 8th

9:00 - 11:30 am

School Cafeteria

Special Guest: St Nicholas

Our New Parishioners will be our honored guests. Please join us and welcome the newest members of our parish family.

We encourage families with children to come for breakfast as we will have a special guest just for the children, and the young of heart!

St Nicholas!!!

He will share his story with the children and give them a little treat!!

Come hungry, when Ken cooks breakfast you will enjoy a hearty breakfast and no one ever goes away hungry! Ken always has a couple surprises up his sleeve too, you don't want to miss it!

Free-will offering will be accepted.

Welcome Our New Parishioners:

Curtis & Tracie Barthel
Tyson & Theresa Cain
Benjamin Check
Joseph & Jennifer Gack
Edward & Marjorie
Giallombardo

Sally Hawbaker
Terrance & Joann Hornung
Scott Jolly
Terry & Mary Kubsch
Vitula McMahan
David & Kimberly Wuthenow