

# St. Mary Help of Christians Church

24588 County Road 7, St. Augusta, MN 56301

December 13, 2015



## Rejoice

### 3RD Sunday of ADVENT



**PARISH:** 320-252-1799  
**SCHOOL:** 320-251-3937  
**WEBSITE:** [www.SMHOC.org](http://www.SMHOC.org)

#### PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jose Edayadiyil, *Pastor*  
Ken Roshia, *Deacon*  
Kelly Kirks, *Principal*  
Shelly Gohmann, *Secretary*  
Jan Minke,  
Faith Formation Director  
Deb Klaverkamp,  
Youth Coordinator  
Kathy Waletzko,  
Music Director

#### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday 8:00 & 10:00 am**  
**Tuesday 6:00 pm**  
**Wed. Thurs. Fri 8:00 am**

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday - 4:00-4:30pm  
(New Sacristy) or by  
appointment

#### NEW PARISHIONERS

Call the parish office for  
more information.

#### RCIA "RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS"

Anyone interested in  
becoming a member of  
the Catholic Faith call  
the Parish Office.

#### BAPTISM PREP CLASS

February 8, 2016 at  
7:00pm. Call the Parish  
Office to register.

#### MARRIAGE PREP

Arrangements must be  
made at least 6 months  
before wedding. Call  
the Parish Office.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the people of St  
Mary Help of  
Christians Parish,  
are called to love and  
serve the Lord through  
our lives.*

*Established in 1856, the  
church is the  
cornerstone around  
which we have built our  
community of faith.*

*We encourage all to  
participate through  
worship, education, and  
sharing of their gifts  
and talents.*

*With the strength of  
our families, the  
optimism of our youth,  
and the wisdom of our  
seniors, we strive to be  
advocates of the  
"Good News"  
as we continue to grow  
and change.*

# Dec. 13, 2015 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent- Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Phili 4:4-7, Lk 3: 10-18

Joy, peace, and hope are at the heart of the Advent Season. This is a beautiful and exciting family time with its Christmas trees, decorations, chill and cold. The attitude of joy resounds in today's readings. The first reading resounds: "Shout for joy," "Sing joyfully," "Be glad and exult." "Fear not..., the Lord is in your midst..., he will renew you in his love." The Responsorial Psalm confirms this command with the refrain, "Cry out with joy and gladness." The second reading, too, is all about rejoicing. "Rejoice in the Lord." Paul offers the Philippians "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding," which "will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." If Christ is the center of one's life, there follows a peace and joy which protects against all the ugliness of life. The Gospel shows the way for true rejoicing. The good news is the preaching of peace and joy resulting from conversion of heart. The ways of the world cannot bring the joy of the Gospel in our hearts. John the Baptist exhorts for a paradigm shift, from the ways of the world to the ways of the Lord. This is a clarion call. As Jesus said to his disciples the day before his death: "I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete" (Jn 15:11). The good news of the Gospel elicits, even demands, joy, gladness, rejoicing, not grave faces and grim groans and moans of misery and sighs of sadness.

What is the reason for joy? St. Paul in today's reading gives us the answer: "The Lord is near." Now we have to say, "The Lord is *here!*" He is with me: Emmanuel. For the paradox of Advent, is that while we are preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, the truth is that Jesus is already here, here in our midst and in our hearts. Advent is a call to experience the presence of God that is within and around us. Am I sensitive to that presence of Jesus? We read in 1 Kgs 19, how the Prophet Elijah searched for Yahweh in the storm, in the earthquake, and in the fire. But we see him hearing God in the tiny whispering sound. We, too, must hear His silent whisperings. He is with us in the living words of the Scriptures that we read, listen to, and meditate. He is with us in this Eucharistic celebration under the appearances of bread and wine.

The crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers ask John the practical question, "What should we do to be happy?" John gives them practical answers that can be summed up in the words: trust in the Lord, be simple, honest and merciful – a trust that demands total surrender to His will, a simplicity that opens us to the dependence on God, an honesty that calls for the end of all the crooked ways and a mercy that embraces all - in sharing and caring. It is by being simple, honest and by sharing and caring for others that our joy will be full. This is the Christian way. This is the way of Christian joy. Ours is a world that can feed the needs of all, but not the greed of all. The culture of consumerism, competition and self-centeredness is eating us all. We become its prey. John the Baptist is preaching straight to our hearts with the hope of a change of heart that will lead us to a change of ways. Please recall the first reading: "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior. He will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in his love." Isn't that remarkable? This is possible when we move from the domain of sin to the domain of good, the ways of the Lord.

To make this season a season of Christian joy and gladness, let's be at the service of others in loving, sharing, and caring. Instead of looking forward to what we might be getting for Christmas, let's concentrate on making this Christmas truly memorable by giving, sharing and caring more. Thus bringing Christian joy into the hearts of others and doubling our own Christian joy. ~Fr. Jose~

## Mass Intentions

- 14 Monday - No Mass
- 15 Tuesday 6:00 pm +Binky Lauer
- 16 Wednesday 8:00 am +Mike & +Mark Meyer
- 17 Thursday 8:00 am Catholic United Members
- 18 Friday 8:00 am Deceased Members of  
Nocturnal Adoration
- 19 Saturday 5:00 pm Parishioners
- 20 Sunday 8:00 am +Frances Witte  
10:00 am +Lorie Fischer

## Readings for This Sunday, Dec. 13th

Zephaniah 3:14-18a  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:10-18

## Readings for Next Sunday, Dec. 20th

Micah 5:1-4a  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45



Make  
straight  
his way.

## Ushers/Greeters - Month of December

5:00pm Joe Voigt & David Meyer  
8:00am Adrian & Judy Ethen  
10:00am Al Hiemenz & Kevin Voigt

## Ushers/Greeters - Month of January

5:00pm Richard & Joan Jendro  
8:00am Jerry & Karen Powell  
10:00am Jim Schmidt & Bruce Braun

## Servers Next Weekend, Dec. 12th & 13th

5:00 pm Laura Klaverkamp & Otto Klaverkamp  
8:00 am Madison Streit & Zack Streit  
10:00 am Nick Jenniges & Karissa Lintgen

## Servers Next Weekend, Dec. 19th & 20th

5:00 pm Bryce Vasek & Pavel Matter  
8:00 am Madison Perreault & Gavin Campbell  
10:00 am Madison Fruth & Aryahna Schwinghammer



## Office Holiday Hours:

The Parish Office will be closed  
Thurs., Dec. 24; Fri., Dec. 25;  
Thurs., Dec. 31; and Fri., Jan. 1, 2016.



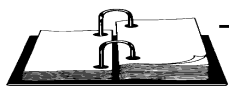
## Nursery Next Sunday,

Dec. 20th:

Ashley Haselkamp & Family







## The Week Ahead

### Monday, December 14

7:00pm Baptism Class

### Thursday, December 17

8:00am School Mass Celebrating Dec/June Birthdays - Hosted by Gr. 1 - Birthday Party for Jesus in school gym following Mass

### Friday, December 18

Bah Humbug! Dinner Theatre - Doors open at 6:00pm for seating.

### Saturday, December 19

Bah Humbug! Dinner Theatre - Doors open at 6:00pm for seating.

### Next Sunday, December 20

9:00am Youth Bible Study

### Parish Support

Adult	\$4,899.88
Youth	30.50
Christmas	575.00
Christmas Flowers	20.00
Immaculate Conception	51.00
Religious Retirement	10.00
Fall Collection	130.00
Votive Lights	54.50
Lighthouse Kiosk	3.00
Organ Restoration	1.00
School Endowment	1.00



### Christmas Eve Masses:

Thurs., Dec. 24 at 5pm & 9pm

### Christmas Day Masses:

Fri., Dec. 25 at 8am & 10am

New Years Day Masses: Fri., Jan. 1, 2016 at 8am & 6pm



### Reconciliation Times for Advent/Christmas

Confessions will be heard in the New Sacristy.

Tuesday, December 22 - 6:30pm-7:30pm

(There will be one extra priest)

Wednesday, December 23 - 8:30am-9:00am

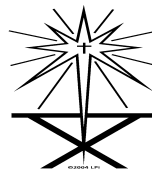
Wednesday, December 23 - 6:30pm-7:30pm (There will be one extra priest)



### Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus & Bake Sale

Today, Sunday, December 13, is our annual breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Serving from 8:00am -11:30am. Come enjoy a delicious breakfast and bring the kids to have their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

**\$10,000 Raffle:** Thank you to all those who purchased tickets this past weekend. Dave & Lu Meemken were the Early Bird winners. If you are looking to purchase a ticket, they are available in the parish office, M-F 7:30-12:00. If you wish to sell some tickets, stop and see Shelly in the Parish Office.



### Faith Formation: Jan Minke

Classes this week, Wed. Dec. 16:

1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> gr. 6:15-7:20p.m.

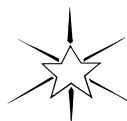
7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> gr. 7:25-8:30p.m.

Hayward's Conf. class 6:30p.m.

*No class next week Dec. 23 or Dec. 30~Christmas break.*

We had our Advent Program last week, but we still have one more week of class before Christmas. As part of our Advent preparation for Christmas we are collecting items for Birthline, an organization that helps young families in need. I've asked the students to consider what gift they would have liked to give the Christ child had they been there on that first Christmas. Whatever we bring to donate to the "least of my people" we are bringing to Christ! Donations can still be brought in this Wed. Dec. 16.

This Sunday of Advent we anticipate with *joy* the coming of our Savior! If we consider all the gifts we receive from God through Jesus the joy has to bubble up from our very souls! In the hustle and bustle of getting everything ready for our Christmas celebrations we sometimes have to remind ourselves of the true JOY of the season! Have a JOYFUL week!!



*"Announcing the Coming of the Light"*

### Greetings from SMHOCS...

Please join us as we celebrate Eucharist as a school family on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have a special blessing for all students and staff celebrating birthdays in Dec. and June. The students in first grade will be assisting with the liturgy. Following Mass, there is a little party for the special December birthday celebrant, Jesus, in the school gym - all are invited. Birthday Cake and Christmas carols will be part of the event. This is a fun, joyous event! Please come and join us!

The students will begin Christmas break on December 21<sup>st</sup> and will resume classes on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. The school office will also be closed during this time.

*Sincerely, Kelly Kirks, Principal*



### Youth Group - Deb Klaverkamp

*Last Youth Group of 2015* meets this Wednesday night! Bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift!

*Registrations are due December 17th* for the Junior High Youth Rally! Join hundreds of other 6th -8th grade students from around our Diocese for a fun day celebrating our faith!

**TEC Retreat** - have you ever thought about making a TEC retreat? This is an unforgettable weekend open to all folks 16 and older (it's not just for kids!) There are several folks looking at making the TEC on January 1-3, 2016. Start your New Year out right! Register on-line ([www.cmtec.org](http://www.cmtec.org)), registrations are also available in the back of church. Contact Deb, 828-0807, for more info. Scholarships are available.