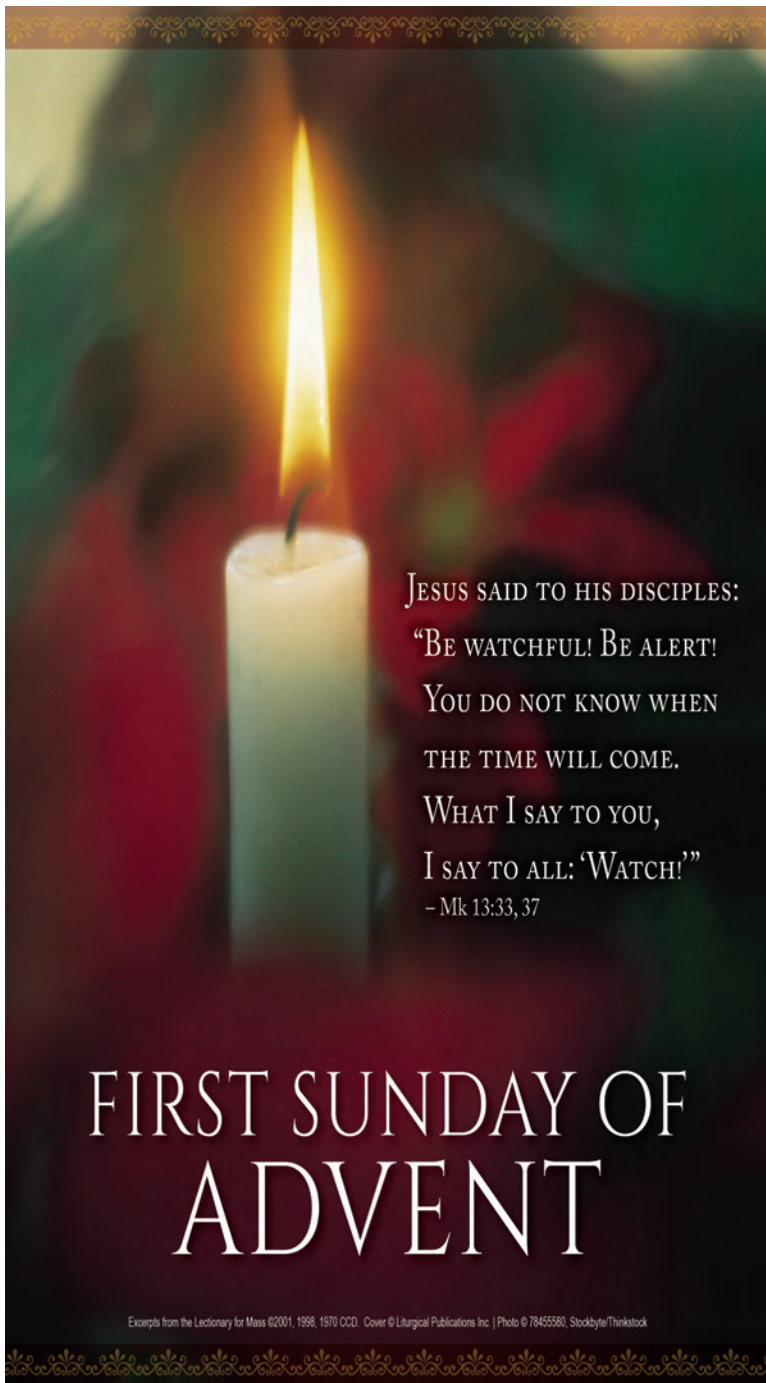


St. Mary Help of Christians Church

24588 County Road 7, St. Augusta, MN 56301

December 3, 2017



JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:
"BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!
YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN
THE TIME WILL COME.
WHAT I SAY TO YOU,
I SAY TO ALL: 'WATCH!'"
- Mk 13:33, 37

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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PARISH: 320-252-1799

SCHOOL: 320-251-3937

WEBSITE: www.SMHOC.org

PRAYER LINE: 320-558-6187

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jose Edayadiyil, *Pastor*

Kelly Kirks, *Principal*

Shelly Gohmann, *Secretary*

Jan Minke,

Faith Formation Director

Kathy Waletzko,

Music Director

Lisa Ludescher,

Youth Coordinator

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)

CEMETERY

JERRY KOLTES 320-252-1354

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.

MARRIAGE PREP

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

BAPTISM PREP CLASS

December 18, 2017

at 6:30pm. Call the
Parish Office to register.

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.*

December 3, 2017 - Mk 13: 33-37(Advent)

Today's Gospel reading begins as follows: "Be watchful! Be alert!" And ends with a note of caution: "Watch." If not, we will be caught unaware. While on earth we are in a constant fight against evil which is plotting treacherous ways and cunning devices to trap its prey. The evil will appear in very many ways and often masks itself as very friendly and innocent. In the first ever episode of temptation and fall in the Garden of Eden, the snake, the seducer, approached Eve in a very attractive and tempting way (Gen 3:1-5). She was not on guard. She was not watchful. So she became a prey. Adam, too, was caught unaware through Eve (Gen 3:6). Cain also became a prey to the demon lurking (Gen 4:7). Rather than being vigilant, people give themselves up to the pleasures of sin and its desires. This is human history. We too are not different. Today we find people become easy victims of drugs, sex, money, fame, luxury, digital media and the virtual world. Many are caught and trapped in such worlds and are serving as their bonded slaves.

Once a disciple who was about to leave the hermitage, approached the Guru/master and said: "Teacher, I am frightened not knowing how to face the world that is very treacherous and deceiving. What shall I do?" The master led the disciple through the thick forest. On the way they found a mongoose fighting a snake. The master said: "Look with a watchful eye." After a long fight the mongoose managed to kill the snake. The master asked: "How does the mongoose kill the snake?" The disciple replied: "The mongoose is so agile, vigilant and active that it escaped the treacherous traps of the snake." The master said: "While in the world see that you are vigilant, and do not get caught into the trap of the world."

We need Christian vigilance as faithful children to have the privilege of entering into His kingdom. Be awake so that sin may not swallow us. ~Fr. Jose

Readings for This Sunday, December 3

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

Readings for Next Sunday, December 10

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Eucharistic Ministers, This Weekend Dec. 2 & 3

5:00pm D. Holovnia, E. Annis, C. Diehl

8:00am W. Koenig, D. Koenig, S. Laudenschach

10:00am T. Yarke, J. Dirksen, D. Dold

Eucharistic Minister - December 8 - Holy Day

8:00am School

6:00pm P. Gohmann

Eucharistic Ministers, Next Weekend Dec. 9 & 10

5:00pm M. Kapsner, K. Moran, P. Kunkel

8:00am G. Gohmann, E. Zipp, J. Minke

10:00am D. Meyer, G. Hopke, S. Gohmann

Ushers/Greeters - Month of December

5:00pm Joe Voigt & David Meyer

8:00am Adrian & Judy Ethen

10:00am Volunteers

Ushers/Greeters - Month of January

5:00pm Richard & Joan Jendro

8:00am Jerry & Karen Powell

10:00am Jim Schmidt & Uteley Kronenberg

Servers This Weekend, December 2 & 3

5:00pm Brooke Wilson & Kendra Wilson

8:00am Bryce Knapek & Natalie Knapek

10:00am Alaina Thull & Andrew Thull

Servers December 8th - Holy Day

6:00pm Tyler Gohmann & Logan Gohmann

Servers Next Weekend, December 9 & 10

5:00pm Madison Fruth & Kaden Fruth

8:00am Thatcher Yarke & Cora Yarke

10:00am Maya Walls & Zachariah Meyer

Mass Intentions

4 Monday - No Mass

5 Tuesday - 6:00pm +Ora Rose Healy

6 Wednesday - 8:00am +Lois Dueval

7 Thursday - 8:00am Stanley Russell

8 Friday - ***Holy Day*** The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am +Tom Staller

6:00pm +Mary Pat Denne

9 Saturday - 5:00pm Parishioners

10 Sunday - 8:00am St. Ann's Christian Women

10:00am +Walter & +Alice Korman

The Week Ahead

Tuesday, December 5

St. Ann's Christian Women Christmas Party & Potluck following the 6pm Mass

Friday, December 8 - Holy Day

8:00am School Mass

6:00pm Mass

Saturday, December 9

St. Ann's Christian Women Craft & Bake Sale

\$10,000 Raffle Kick-Off

Sunday, December 10

10:00am Youth Mass

St. Ann's Christian Women Craft & Bake Sale

\$10,000 Raffle Kick-Off

Parish Support

Adult	\$4,923.84
Youth	25.00
November Auto Withdrawals	3,105.66
Fall Collection	700.00
Christmas Flowers	135.00
Votive Lights	35.50
Funeral Fund	270.00
Stole Fees	150.00
Hall Rent	1,100.00
Organ Restoration	1.00
School Endowment	1.00

Advent at St. Mary Help of Christians:

Our theme for Advent this year is “**Go Light Your World.**” This phrase is from a seasoned praise song... & the message is clear: Share your gifts without expectation; be kind and loving to family, friends, & strangers; listen more & talk less; seek peace; do good while you walk on earth.

These ideas are the main threads that are seamed through our Holiday Musical “**The Quiltmaker’s Gift**” that is currently being performed at SMHOC. As we journey through Advent together...from the dark into the Light of Christ on Christmas Day.....

Go Light Your World! ~*The Liturgy Committee*

Advent Giving Tree: We will again have our Advent Giving Tree with tags for you to take for Anna Marie’s Shelter, Birthline, and Quiet Oaks Hospice House. Please return all items unwrapped to the giving tree by Monday, December 18. Thank you for helping make Christmas a happier time for those in need.

\$10,000 Raffle Kick Off: December 9th & 10th, will be the kick-off for the \$10,000 Raffle. The \$100.00 tickets will be sold before and after the 5:00pm Mass on Sat. Dec. 9th and from 7:30am-11:30am on Sunday, Dec. 10th. Due to rising costs and expenses going up, there are a few changes to the \$10,000 Raffle this year:

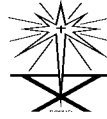
- No Early Bird Drawing
 - Tickets are \$100.00 and **DOES NOT** include admission to the social
 - Admission to the social is \$10.00 per person
 - Incentive - For every 10 tickets sold, you will receive one (1) admission ticket to the social
 - Every 50th ticket drawn will receive their \$100.00 back
 - Time of event will be from 6:00pm-9:00pm
- The social and drawing will be on Sat., Feb. 10, 2018.

In the past few months we have had several donations for big and small projects that have been done here in the parish. **No matter the size of the donation**, we **THANK YOU** for your generosity. The latest donation was from a family for the new piano in church. It is greatly appreciated! The piano that was in the church, will be put in the parish center. Musicians would like to practice in the parish center before masses to allow more quiet time in church. The old piano in the parish center will be sold on the silent auction at the parish festival.

Reconciliation Times for Advent/Christmas

Confessions will be held in the New Sacristy.
 Tuesday, December 12th - 5:30pm-6:00pm
 Tuesday, December 12th - 6:30pm-7:30pm (There will be one extra priest)
 Wednesday, December 13th - 8:30am-9:00am

The St Augusta Lions annual S.A.N.T.A. (St Augusta Night together at) event is at: **Delux Business Center (Delux Liquor, Subway, and Snap Fitness)** on Friday, December 8th, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Lots of fun activities for the family, remember to bring your camera.

**Faith Formation: Jan Minke**

Classes this week, Wed. Dec. 6:
 1st – 8th grade 6:30- 8:00p.m.

Parents! Please watch for a note coming home with your children this Wednesday regarding this year’s Advent Event. It will be on Wed., December 20. The note will give you more details. Also, in case we do get some winter-like weather, please note our inclement weather policy on the schedule you received in September. And please be sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. The 3rd – 7th graders move over to the school each week.

Advent is a time for waiting and being ready. Ready to celebrate the birth of Christ, ready to welcome Him into our hearts each day and ready to meet Him when He comes again! This year’s Faith Formation Theme of living as evangelical disciples keeps reminding us of that same thing, living in a way that brings us into a closer relationship with our Savior and at the same time preparing us for when we meet Him face to face. The excitement of Christmas is something we should feel all year long. In our busy lives we sometimes lose sight of what is truly important. The birth of Christ changed everything and it should change us too. At this time of year our routine makes way for Christmas preparation and celebrations, we change the look of our homes with decorations and lights. May our hearts light up too and shine to light the world!

**Celebrating Advent at SMHOCS**

“Go Light Your World”

During the season of Advent, the students and teachers will be meeting weekly for a prayer service. Classrooms will be using the book *The Quilt Maker’s Gift* to bring the message and understanding of Advent to one another. Service projects will include Toys for Tots and donations for Catholic Charities. Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others.

We are grateful to the Home and School Association for sponsoring a visit from St. Nick on December 6th. The students really enjoy this annual visit and the special treats St. Nick brings with him. These faith-filled events are a special part of school life at SMHOCS.

Please join us as we gather as a school community to celebrate the Eucharist on Friday, December 8th at 8:00 a.m. The students in grade 2 will be assisting with readings and music.

We are excited to announce the SMHOCS annual Christmas program will be presented on Thursday, December 14th at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. All are invited to come and enjoy the students’ musical performance.

Peace to all, Kelly Kirks, Principal

Religious Retirement: Next weekend, Dec. 9 & 10 is the annual collection in which we are asked to express our gratitude for the religious men and women who have served our country with the collection for Religious Retirement.