

St. Mary Help of Christians Church

24588 County Road 7, St. Augusta, MN 56301

December 25, 2016



PARISH: 320-252-1799
SCHOOL: 320-251-3937
WEBSITE: www.SMHOC.org

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jose Edayadiyil, *Pastor*
Kelly Kirks, *Principal*
Shelly Gohmann, *Secretary*
Jan Minke,
Faith Formation Director
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

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 13, 2017 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.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Call the parish office
for more information.

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.

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2016 - The Nativity of the Lord

Mt 1:18-25

We are in the season of Christmas and New Year. It is a season of joy. In today's reading, we hear the fulfilment of the promise of God: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." (Mt 1:23). The various events that lead to the mystery of incarnation are not that joyful and pleasant. In the context of the announcement of the birth stories of John the Baptist and Jesus we have the following sentences: "But now you will be speechless and unable to talk" (Lk 1:20). "But she was greatly troubled at what was said" (Lk 1:29). "Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly" (Mt 1:19). For those who undergo such trials and temptations, it is very painful and confusing. Faith alone is the antidote in such situations of life.

For anyone who wants to receive the true joy of life, he/she has to walk through the narrow road of confusion, anxiety, tension, pain and suffering. It is not an easy road. It is faith that strengthens us on the way – a faith that goes beyond all reasonings. It is faith that enables them to see the hand of God working in the events that happen. The creation account that we read in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis witnesses how the biblical author sees the hand of God in the created universe. It is a faith reading of the creation of the world. The mystery of incarnation is a miracle of faith: the faith of Mary, Joseph and thousands of people through whom the promise was kept alive beginning with the father of faith, Abraham (Mt 1:1-16).

In our lives both pleasant and unpleasant things happen. We have to trust in the promise of God and keep alive the hope in the fulfilment of the promise of God. How we respond to the events of life create us. Positive responses will create us whereas negative responses will lead us to failure, frustration and destruction. It is our responses that create us. Let us be creative by being positive and see everything in the light of faith in God who is the reason for everything that exists. Let this season of Christmas be a season of trust in God that allows us to embrace the New Year with hope in the promise of God who made us all, the children of God through the mystery of incarnation. ~Fr. Jose~

Readings for This Sunday, December 25th

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Readings for Next Sunday, January 1, 2017

Numbers 6:22-27

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

Ushers/Greeters - Month of December

5:00pm Joe Voigt & David Meyer

8:00am Adrian & Judy Ethen

10:00am Allen Hiemenz & Kevin Voigt

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 24 & 25

5:00pm Isaac Voigt & Trevor Voigt

9:00pm Seth Walls & Maya Walls

8:00am Jack Massmann & Will Massmann

10:00am Brandon Rosha & Kate Schreifels

Servers Next Weekend, Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

5:00pm Andrew Hayward & Sam Hayward

8:00am Karissa Lintgen & Jady N Kivel

10:00am Julia Knapek & Bryce Knapek

Office Holiday Hours: The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, 2017.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

26 Monday - No Mass

27 Tuesday - 6:00pm +Larry Reiter

28 Wednesday - 8:00am +Deceased Members of Peter & Mary Czech Family

29 Thursday - 8:00am +Rita Witte

30 Friday - 8:00am +Steve & +Shirley Kirchner

31 Saturday - 5:00pm +Cyril Heid

1 Sunday - 8:00 am Christian Women
10:00 am Parishioners



The Week Ahead

Friday, December 30

5:00pm School Meat Raffle at the Club Almar

Parish Support

Adult	\$5,703.15
Youth	12.26
Christmas	475.00
Immaculate Conception	25.00
Solemnity of Mary	25.00
Fall Collection	500.00
Food Shelf	525.00
Religious Retirement	75.00
Funeral Fund	750.57
Votive Lights	47.25
Organ Restoration	1.00
School Endowment	1.00



Greetings from SMHOCS...

Merry Christmas!!!! The students and staff will be on Christmas break until Tuesday, January 3rd. The school office will also be closed during this time.

Tuition may be dropped off at the Parish Office during Christmas break.

Sincerely, Kelly Kirks, Principal

\$10,000 Raffle: 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.

Ushers Needed: We are working on the 2017 Usher schedule. We are in need of ushers for the **10am Mass for May 2017 and the 10am Mass for December 2017**. Please contact the Parish Office if you are willing to commit to one of these mass times and months. Thank you!

Youth Envelopes for 2016 - Please pick up in the entryway in the church. If your child attends Cathedral, is home schooled and did not receive envelopes, and they wish to receive envelopes, please contact the parish office.

Baptism Congratulations to:

Kellen James son of Zachary & Abigail Laudenbach

Thank you for all of your items you donated to Anna Mari's Alliance. We are always grateful for your donations.

5th, 25th, 40th, 50th & 60th Anniversaries: If you are celebrating any of these anniversaries this year, please call the Parish Office, 252-1799 by January 31st, 2017, to let us know so that your name can be sent to the Office of Marriage and Family. You will then be receiving an invitation for a Mass offered by Bishop Kettler on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 1:00pm

Married Couples Retreat - February 3-5, 2017

Love in marriage: The place where you are standing is holy ground!

Presented by Christine and Rich Codden

Chris and Rich Codden have been married for thirty-nine years. Chris is the director of the Office of Marriage & Family for the Diocese of Saint Cloud. Rich is semi-retired, driving school bus. Chris and Rich are speakers for the diocesan marriage preparation course and train mentor couples for the engaged.

The retreat starts with supper on Friday at 5:30 p.m. and concludes after lunch on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$295 per couple for a double room and includes the retreat conferences and all meals. Couples who wish to commute may join us for the retreat conferences and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. The cost is \$75 per couple.

To learn more or to register for this retreat, go to www.abbeyguesthouse.org or contact the Spiritual Life Office at 320-363-3929.



Faith Formation: Jan Minke

Merry Christmas!! I hope that all of our preparations for Christmas in our homes and in our hearts bring the joy of Christ with us, to life. "The God of glory, who is full of mercy, sent His Son!"

No Wednesday night classes this week:
Christmas Break.

2nd year Confirmation students Spirit and Service due date Jan. 1, 2017. Retreat date Jan. 29, 2017.

My wish for us all is that we can relax and enjoy family and friends throughout this Holy season. May we take the time to unwrap the gift of our faith and continue to learn about it and all that it can do in our lives and the lives of others. May you make your faith your own this year, learn to love it and defend it and grow in it! Praise God for the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace in our hearts. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests!" Luke 2:14



Merry Christmas from the staff of
St. Mary Help of Christians Church.

We Wish You All

A glad and peaceful

Christmastide

With all its memories sweet;

May Hope, Peace, Joy and

Love be yours,

With kindly friends to greet;

The echo of the angel's song,

The star's clear guiding light,

The **Christ** child in your

heart and home,

To make this

Christmas bright.