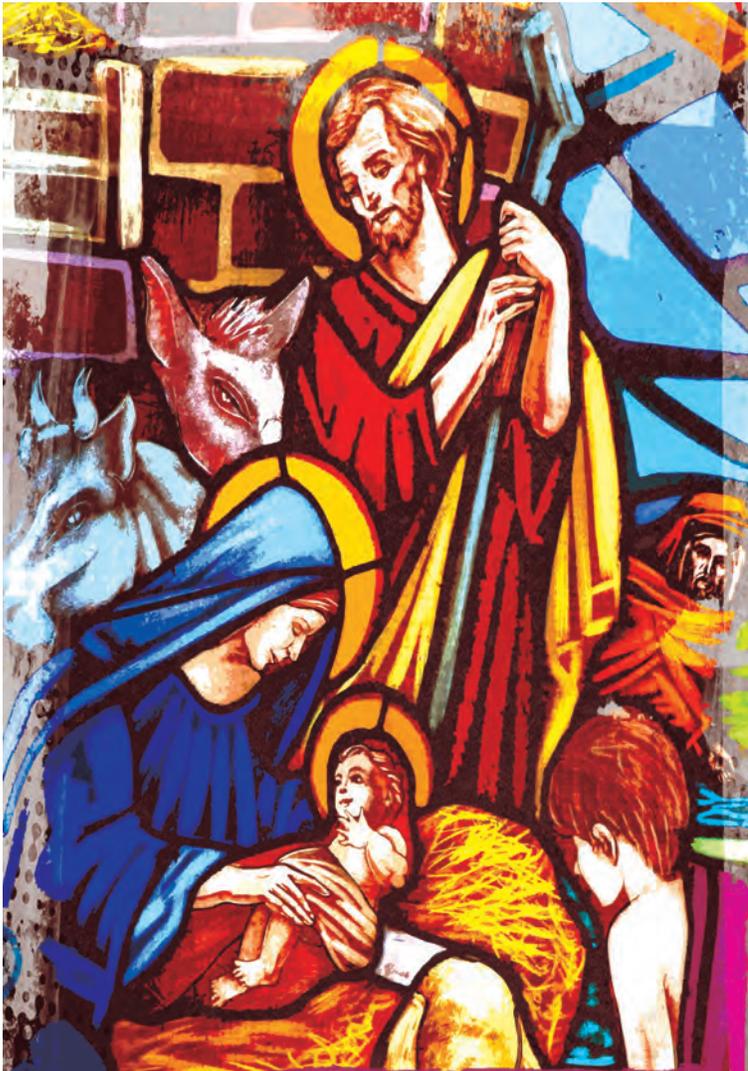


St. Mary Help of Christians Church

24588 County Road 7, St. Augusta, MN 56301

December 30, 2018



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

OLPI

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

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

February 11, 2019
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.*

Lk 2:41-52

Our modern culture promotes and places a very high value on individual freedom. That is a great contribution to human civilization. We can be proud of it. But at times the individual freedom tends to become individualism at the expense of basic human values and it challenges and threatens the community and the very human existence. The modern selfie culture is an example of this trend. How many human lives have been lost because of the craze of selfie culture? Here comes the importance of nurturing families and healthy human relationships. The family is foundation that keeps human civilization and the culture of values forward.

In the Judaism of Jesus' time, as in any ancient culture, there was a strong bond between the families and the individuals – everyone was depended on one's family, and the family counted on each member of the family – there was mutual give and take between family members. Vat II speaks of the family as the domestic Church. The family is the first Church and without families there is no Church. Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. Family needs to be the cradle that connects one to the divine.

We most often miss the beauty and blessings of what we have. It is true of families as well. It is in family that we start learning to be human, caring, appreciative and grateful. It is there that we learn to love, to give, and to serve. It is in family that we can be what we are. But today many miss the blessings of the family.

A little boy greets his father as he returns from work with a question: "Daddy, how much do you make an hour?" The father is surprised and says: "Look, son, not even your mother knows. Don't bother me now, I'm tired." "But Daddy, just tell me please! How much do you make an hour?" the boy insists. The father finally gives up and replies: "Twenty dollars." "Okay, Daddy," the boy continues, "Could you loan me ten dollars?" The father yells at him: "So that was the reason you asked how much I earn, right? Now, go to sleep and don't bother me anymore!" At night the father thinks over what he said and starts feeling guilty. Maybe his son needed to buy something. Finally, he goes to his son's room. "Are you asleep, son?" asks the father. "No, Daddy. Why?" replies the boy. "Here's the money you asked for earlier," the father said. "Thanks, Daddy!" replies the boy and receives the money. Then he reaches under his pillow and brings out some more money. "Now I have enough! Now I have twenty dollars!" says the boy to his father, "Daddy, could you sell me one hour of your time?" Are we so busy in our life that we ignore the basic priorities of life, our families and our dear and near ones?

We take things for granted. By the time we realize it, we will be too late. Perhaps we ignore and don't always appreciate our commitment to the family, the obligation of each one of us towards the good of the family. But what would our families be like if we didn't share the work, if we didn't listen to each other and share our life away from home, if we didn't enjoy and support each other.

It is said that there are two gifts that the parents have to give their children; one is birth, and the other is wings. Parenting means to teach the off-spring to leave the nest giving them wings to fly – to make the children mature. In today's Gospel we find Jesus listening to the teachers and at the same time asking them questions. He is less a teacher and more a student. Still, the teachers of the Law are astounded. Any teacher will know that the best and the most open questions often come from the youth. We can be grateful when we find that kind of upbringing and nurturing—for that searching mind.

The final paragraph of today's gospel gives us an important lesson for us, parents and children, to grasp on this feast of the Holy Family. "Jesus went with his parents back to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and Mary kept all these things that happened in the Temple in her heart." In other words, both Jesus and his parents lived out the transition from Jesus' childhood to his adulthood in harmony and understanding. This was possible because of their faith, trust and love for each other. ~Father Jose

Readings for Next Sunday, January 6

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Looking Ahead:

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 **Holy Day of Obligation**

Solemnity of Mary

Mass at 8:00am
Rosary at 5:45pm
Mass at 6:00pm

Thursday, January 3

8:30am Bible Study
Nocturnal Adoration

Father Jose will be gone January 2, 2019 - January 31, 2019. In case of an emergency, please call the parish office, 320-252-1799, M-F, 7:30am-12:00pm. After hours, if it is an emergency, you can call Shelly at 320-654-1557. Please watch the bulletin for Mass times.

Mass Intentions

31 Monday - **NO MASS**

1 Tuesday - **Holy Day of Obligation, Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**

8:00am +John Decker

6:00pm +Steve & +Shirley Kirchner

2 Wednesday - **NO MASS**

3 Thursday - **NO MASS**

4 Friday - **NO MASS**

5 Saturday - 5:00pm Parishioners

6 Sunday - 8:00am +Charlie Schmidt

10:00am St. Ann's Christian Women

Holiday Office Hours:

The Parish Office will be closed January 1st, 2019.

Nocturnal Adoration Breakfast: The Annual Breakfast for Nocturnal Adoration Members is Sunday, January 13, 2019, following the 8:00am Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers - New Year's Day - January 1

8:00am A. Hiemenz

6:00pm D. Holovnia

Eucharistic Ministers - Next Weekend Jan. 5 & 6

5:00pm E. Annis, C. Diehl, M. Kapsner

8:00am C. Gohmann, T. Fritz, G. Gohmann

10:00am J. Dirksen, D. Dold, G. Hopke

Servers - New Year's Day - January 1

8:00am Chloe Krippner & Maya Walls

6:00pm Bryce Knapek & Natalie Knapek

Servers Next Weekend - January 5 & 6

5:00pm Hayden Hemmesch & Claire Hemmesch

8:00am Logan Gohmann & Maya Walls

10:00am Andrew Thull & Elizabeth Thull

Ushers/Greeters - Month of December

5:00pm Vic & Patty Funk

8:00am Adrian & Judy Ethen

10:00am Josh & Bethany Schwinghammer

Ushers/Greeters - Month of January

5:00pm Richard & Joan Jendro

8:00am Jerry & Karen Powell

10:00am Jim Schmidt & Utley Kronenberg

Parish Support - Weekend of December 22 & 23

Adult \$3,211.45

Youth 11.00

Votive Lights 81.55

Religious Retirement 75.00

Fall Collection 1,200.00

Solemnity of Mary 50.00

Organ Restoration 1.00

School Endowment 1.00

Parish Support - Christmas - December 24 & 25

Adult \$13,541.58

Youth 32.00

5th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more Anniversaries:

If you are celebrating any of these anniversaries in 2019, please call the Parish Office, 252-1799 by January 31st, 2019 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 4, 2019.

SCRIP NEWS: Beginning January 1, 2019, SCRIP will no longer be sold at the weekend masses. Order forms will be on the table in the coat room below the mailboxes. You can drop your order in the drop slot located on the door that leads to the church offices, or drop your order off at the church office M-F, 7:30am-Noon. If you have any questions, please call Lacey Solbro at 320-291-1455.

Funeral Help Needed Please: Men and Women are needed for funeral luncheons: Washing dishes, making coffee, serving, setup and cleanup. If you can help, please call Judy Ethen, 320-252-9141. Thank you!

The Jewelry Stand for the Parish Festival is looking for new or gently used jewelry. If you have any items to donate, please put them in the box marked "Jewelry" in the coat room. Thank you!

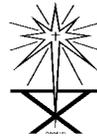
**Faith Formation: Jan Minke**

No classes this week Christmas Break!

Today we celebrate the Holy Family. I pray that you get to spend real time today with your family. I hope that we can learn love and respect from the Holy Family. As we begin the New Year may we cherish our families and each other as God's children.

Parents of 2nd graders: 1st Eucharist Parent Meeting on **Tuesday, Jan.8 following the 6:00p.m. Mass.** Please get this date on your calendars.

Confirmation students- you should have most of your service hours done by now. Please get your forms turned in.

**Greetings from SMHOCS...**

The students and staff will be on Christmas break for another week, classes resume January 7th. I am looking forward to all the learning that will happen in 2019.

Our first student assisted liturgy of the New Year will be on Wednesday, January 9th at 8:00 a.m. The students in grade four will be assisting with the music and readings. Please come and celebrate the Eucharist with the school community.

Happy New Year! Kelly Kirks, Principal

Thank you to everyone who helped minister in any way at our Christmas celebrations. Thank you to the choirs, musicians, soloists and all those who provided the beautiful music at all our Christmas Masses. Special thanks to those who helped with setting up the manger scene, and those who decorated the church. May God bless all of you who are so willing to share of your time and talents with our parish community.

\$10,000 Raffle: Tickets for the \$10,000 Raffle are available in the Parish Office, M-F, 7:30am-Noon. The social will be from 6:00pm-9:00pm on Sat., February 9, 2019.

Youth Envelopes for 2019 - Youth envelopes have been distributed at Faith Formation classes and at the school. If your child attends Cathedral or is home schooled and did not receive envelopes, and they wish to receive envelopes, please contact the parish office.

