

St. Joseph + St. Matthew + St. Teresa

Good Thunder

Vernon Center

Mapleton

The Catholic
Diocese of
Winona

Welcome!

We're here to help you begin or continue your faith journey, so you can find true peace, happiness and purpose in life. If you would like to join one of our parishes, contact any staff member and we will be honored to officially welcome you home!

Tri-Parish Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 p.m. at St. Teresa
Sunday 8:00 am at St. Matthew
Sunday 10:00 am at St. Joseph

Weekdays: Please see Inside Bulletin

Holy Days See Inside Bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration held before daily Mass

Tri-Parish Office

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm
Address: 104 West Silver Street
Mapleton, Minnesota 56065
Phone: (507) 524-3127
Email: sjsmst@hickorytech.net
Website: www.sjsmst.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SJSMST
Mass Times: (507) 387-8806

Tri-Parish Staff

Father Jason Kern, Pastor
(507) 524-4628
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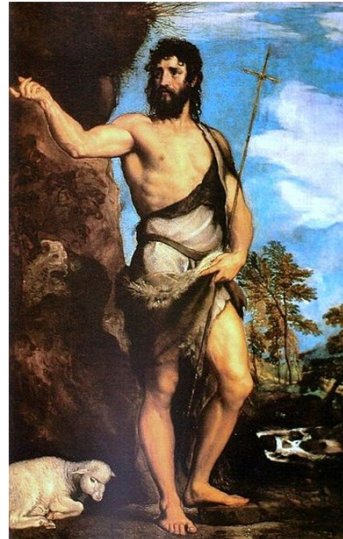
Deacon Chris Walchuk
(507) 469-5563
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Connie Peters, St. Joseph Faith Formation
Cindy Young, St. Matthew Faith Formation
Karen Langworthy, St. Teresa Faith Formation

November 30, 2014 First Sunday Of Advent



Watch

May he not come suddenly
and find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to all: "Watch!" Mark 13:37

The Sacrament of Baptism

Pre-Baptism preparation is required. Please contact the office at least one month before the desired date.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick Please notify the office if you or a family member is in the hospital or homebound and would like a pastoral visit.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

One half hour before each weekend Mass, 8a.m. Thursday at St. Teresa or by private appt. with Fr. Kern

The Sacrament of Marriage

All Catholics need to meet with the priest or deacon at least 6 months before being married. Contact the office at least 6 months in advance of your wedding.



From the Heart - by Fr. Kern

Thank you to everyone who has generously signed up for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This is going to be an awesome Advent! We have at least one person signed up for every slot this first weekend. I am encouraged by your response and desire for this time in prayer. If you have not signed up, please commit yourself to a half hour time in prayer and join us before our Eucharistic Lord in giving your heart and soul to Him. God is so amazing to us and He will transform and renew us with grace. Come be with Jesus and prepare your heart to receive His awesome love.

A few tips for your time in prayer:

Come with desire to prayer. What do you want from God? What does your heart need? Think not just about physical need, but what spiritual needs do YOU have and not just others in your life.

Be willing to just receive love. You have all heard a priest, religious, or family member tell you God loves you—let Him prove it. Prayer is more about receiving from God than it is giving to God. The best way we worship Him is in an affective movement of the heart in a response of thanksgiving over how much He loves us.

If something is moving in your heart stay with it and rest in the grace being given to you. We often like to stay on the surface and move on to the next thing instead of going deeper in prayer. Prayer is more like scuba-diving where we dive to the depths of our own heart and plunge into God's presence. We cannot get caught just riding the boat along the surface of the heart.

Enjoy your time—don't put any pressure on your prayer time to do a certain thing or accomplish stuff but to be at peace in the One who is Peace.

Kneel, sit, stand, lay prostrate—pray as your comfort level allows—Just pray!

A few practical's for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament:

Please arrive early (even 5 minutes early!) for your scheduled time as the person before you might have a commitment to get to

If inclement weather happens on a Sunday please watch the local news stations for cancellation.

If the person scheduled after you does not show up please stay and cover their time slot. **Jesus may never be left alone** while exposed on the altar. If you are unable to stay for the time please call the parish office at 524-3127 and press 2 for Fr. Kern's extension and I will cover the missing adorers slot. Please make every effort to attend your scheduled time. If you are unable to cover your time slot because of health/emergency/weather please let me know as soon as possible.

Mass Intentions, Readings, & Saints

Monday, December 1 Advent Weekday
Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-9; Matthew 8:5-11
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Claire Bach*

Tuesday, December 2 Advent Weekday
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph *Intentions of the Conley Hiller family*

Wednesday, December 3 St Francis Xavier
Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23:1-6; Matthew 15:29-37
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Matthew † *Charlene Wallace*

Thursday, December 4 St. John Damascene
Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27;
Matthew 7:21, 24-27
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Theresa Healy*
3:30 p.m. Mass at MCH † *Jack Krough*

Friday, December 5 Advent Weekday
Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Ruth Daly*

Saturday, December 6 St. Nicholas
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-6;
Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5-8
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Marcella Johnston*
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph *People of the tri-parish*

Sunday, December 7 Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85:9-14;
2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *John Breiter*
10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Matthew † *Charles James Flemming*

Meetings and Events in the tri-parish

Wednesdays	1 p.m.	Quilters group at St. Teresa
Wednesdays	4:15 p.m.	Rosary at St. Teresa
Thursdays	9 a.m.	Study of the <u>Joy of the Gospel</u> at St. Teresa
Thursday, Dec. 4	6:30 p.m.	St. Teresa Pastoral Council

Mass times change next week. Mass times for December— February are as follows:

Saturday 5 p.m. St. Joseph
Sunday, 8 a.m. St. Teresa
Sunday, 10 a.m. St. Matthew

New ministry schedules for St. Joseph and St. Teresa are available at the entrances to each church. If you are scheduled for a ministry, please pick up a schedule at your parish.



God, grant healing and peace to the sick of our communities who have requested our prayers:

Ken Irvine, Pat Borchert, Cathy Lentz, Becky, Jared Springer, Mavis Treanor, Maureen Springer, Kathleen Abrahamson, Yolande Abrahamson, Chris FitzSimmons
If you or a member of your family would like our prayers, please call 524-3127 and ask to be put on this prayer list. Each name will remain on the list for eight weeks unless the office is notified to leave the name for a longer amount of time.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes will be held on Wednesday, December 3

Reminder: In case of bad weather, faith formation class closings and Mass cancellations will be announced on the following stations: KTOE 1420 AM, KEEZ 99.1 FM, KJLY 104.5 FM Also on KEYC TV (also on their website)

Upcoming Service Opportunities for Youth:

Wednesday, December 3 – Spaghetti Feed fundraiser
Youth volunteers needed for shifts between 3:30-7:30
Help set up tables, serve food, clear tables, dishes

Sunday, December 7 – Collect food at Kiwanis Lights – Sibley Park

Need volunteers from 3:30-6 (including travel)
Help collect food for Loaves & Fishes from 4-5:30

The Tri-Parish Youth are sponsoring a Spaghetti Feed as part of the Snowflake Dazzle festivities on December 3, from 4:30-8 PM, at St. Teresa's Dining Hall. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!



Supper is provided and a free-will donation will be collected with all profits going toward the Catholic Heart Work Camp (mission trip) and Steubenville conference happening next summer. (Corrected dates for Steubenville: July 10-12)

Adult volunteers (as well as youth) are needed the night of the event. We are also in need of 8 families willing to donate a pan of bars for the event.

Please contact Jason or Karen Langworthy if you can help with any shift from 3:30-9 or if you can provide a pan of bars. Thank you!

Great opportunity for youth entering 9—12 grade next fall: **Catholic Heart Work Camp (Mission Trip)** July 19-25 in Detroit Lakes, MN REMINDER: \$85 deposit is due December 5 See website for more information: <http://heartworkcamp.com/dates/detroit-lakes-mn/> or talk to Father Kern.

The next meeting of the Tri-parish Junior High Youth Group will be Friday, December 5 from 6:30—9 p.m.



St. Teresa: The Christmas story will be presented on **Sunday, December 21st** after mass. Any child in grades pre-K through 5th is welcome to participate. Practices are as follows: *Sunday, Dec. 7th and Dec. 14* from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the gathering space *Saturday, December 20th* 9—10:30 a.m. (practice in costumes) Parts will be assigned the first practice; please call Ann at 524-3274 if your child would like to participate but cannot make the first practice.

Parish News



St. Joseph. Our "Advent" Loaves and Fishes Mass is Saturday, December 13th. Please bring food donations for the local food shelf. We begin with Mass at 5:00, then celebrate with food and fellowship and Advent crafts for the kids. Our CCW+ Group will also host a cookie exchange.

Father Kern will offer a **Mass of Anointing** on Thursday, December 4 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mapleton Community Home. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven Sacraments of the Church. Any member of the Catholic faithful who is in danger of death, becomes seriously ill, is injured or is suffering from a decline due to advanced age is encouraged to receive this Sacrament. One need not be at the point of death. Any parishioner desiring this healing sacrament is encouraged to attend this Mass.



Advent wreaths and candles are available at each church. Donations requested are: \$3 for candles, \$5 for brass wreath, and \$8 for a brass wreath with foliage. The Advent wreath is a great way for families to focus on the coming of Our Lord in this holy season.

Consider beginning or continuing this tradition in your home this year. Prayers to accompany the lighting of the candles will also be available.

Christmas Flowers. If you would like to donate for Christmas flowers, you may use the envelope marked for that purpose or use a plain envelope marked "Christmas Flowers". You may include a list of the names of people you would like to remember. The envelopes can be sent to the Tri-Parish office or placed in the offertory basket.



Copies of the Magnificat Advent Companion are available at all churches. Using this booklet is a great way to properly prepare for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas!



Contribution envelopes for 2015 will be available soon. If you wish to receive envelopes and have not in the past please call the office. Also, if you have received envelopes in past years but do not wish to receive/use them call the office as well. If you would like to start or change having your contributions automatically transferred, authorization forms are available. Thank you for your generosity.



St. Teresa: Snowshoveler's sign up: It's that time of year! There are sign-up sheets at both church entrances for families to take care of the clean up after a snow fall. Your help in this task is greatly appreciated. Please be generous with your time.

Community News

Open House for **Birthright of Mankato** at 330 Stadium Road, Suite 201B in Mankato from 1-4 P.M. on Sunday, December 7. (Second floor of Jake's Stadium Pizza)

The Maple River Drama Club is holding a Silent Auction at the Mapleton Home and Hardware in the green room on Wed Dec 3rd, 2014. Bidding begins at 4 and will end at 7:30 p.m.. Winners will be announced by 8:00 p.m. There will be many new and gently used items to bid on. These items have been generously donated by local businesses and supporters of the Maple River Drama Program. All proceeds will go directly to the Maple River Drama program to help fund the 2016 musical and to purchase needed equipment. We hope to see you there!

Stewardship of Treasure

God's generosity will never be outdone by our own.



St. Teresa: (November 22)

Weekly collection...	\$5927.63
Amount collected year to date...	\$56,759.90
Amount budgeted year to date ..	\$66,454.00

St. Matthew (November 23)

Weekly collection.....	\$654.00
Amount collected year to date...	\$16,493.05
Amount budgeted year to date...	\$26,750.00

St. Joseph (November 23)

Weekly collection	\$1862.00
Amount collected year to date...	\$16,650.39
Amount budgeted year to date	\$23,730.00



Ministry Roles

December 6 St. Joseph 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Patty Thomas

Minister of Communion: Patty Thomas,
Jim Wieseler

Hospitality: Dan and Teresa Sohre family

Gifts: Dan and Teresa Sohre family

Servers: Ella Sohre, Kelsey Sohre

Money Counters: Kim Kleven, Shellie Grover

December 7 St. Teresa 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Jason Klein

Minister of Communion: Tony Bach,
Anita Rigdon

Hospitality: Dan and Sherry Kraft,
Tom and Gina Massop

Gifts: Kevin and Denise Donovan

Servers: McKenzie Reuter, Kole Wenner,
Julia Langworthy

Money Counters: Tammy Schmidt,
Bob Bissonette

December 7 St. Matthew 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Tony Wendlandt

Minister of Communion: Mary Lee Corey,
Cindy Young

Hospitality: Tony Wendlandt,
Matt Demuth family

Servers: Henry Cooling, Thomas Cooling

Money Counters: Maria Sanders, Kitty Cumbee

Ministry schedules are available on the website: sjsmst.org

Our Catholic World

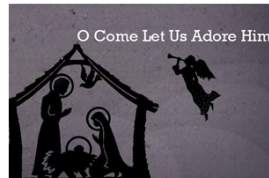


Please pray for our country!

"The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times."

--Saint Padre Pio **Every Wednesday at 4:15 p.m.**
St. Teresa Church

Diocese of Winona History Books are now available for purchase. Look for them after Mass at each church; they are also available from the tri-parish office. These books are hard cover, full color, "coffee table" quality with a wealth of information about the history of the diocese and a full page on the history of each parish. The cost for this beautiful book is only \$35.



Let us prayerfully watch for the coming of the Lord

At 9 a.m. on the first Sunday of Advent, and after the 8 a.m. Mass the next three Sundays, Fr Kern will expose the Eucharist on the Altar at St. Teresa Church and begin the time of Adoration. Adoration will then continue until 6 p.m. (4 p.m. on Dec. 7) when Father will close with Benediction. There will be books and other materials to aid you in your time before the Blessed Sacrament.

Since we can never leave Our Lord alone, there are sign up sheets available at each church to make sure someone will always be present from 9 a.m.-Benediction each Sunday. We will have half hour slots and you can sign up for one, two, or as many as you want! Please consider if you will be able to make that commitment and promise to Jesus to stay with Him awhile. Of course, anyone can come at any time during the day to pray without being signed up.

This is a great opportunity to take some quiet time amidst all the busyness and noise to truly focus on the true meaning of Christmas.
Attend as a family!

Monday, Dec. 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Since Mary, under the title Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States, we are under obligation to attend Mass even though the feast falls on a Monday this year.



Question: What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Few doctrines of the Catholic Church are as misunderstood as the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Many people, including many Catholics, think that it refers to the conception of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That event, though, is celebrated at the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25, nine months before Christmas). What is the Immaculate Conception?

Answer: The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.. As Father John Hardon SJ ... writes, the Blessed Virgin's "freedom from sin was an unmerited gift of God or special *grace*, and an exception to the law, or *privilege*, which no other created person has received." http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/Imm_Concept_FAQ.htm

Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the tri-parish:

Monday, December 8 7 a.m. St. Teresa

Monday, December 8 7 p.m. St. Matthew