

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. Matthew
Sunday 8:00 am at St. Joseph
Sunday 10:00 am at St. Teresa

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

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Connie Peters, St. Joseph Faith Formation

Cindy Young, St. Matthew Faith Formation

Karen Langworthy, St. Teresa Faith Formation

December 6, 2015 Second Sunday of Advent



Wait

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."
Luke 3:4*

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.

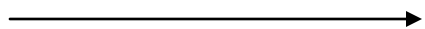


From the Heart by Fr. Jason Kern

Recently, I re-read the book *Time for God* by Fr. Jacques Philippe. It is a small 108 page book that is really a great introduction to prayer. The book gives a wonderful testimony to our need for prayer and helps me to reclaim the reality that prayer is not a set of techniques that follow one another but is rather a grace where I commune with God. In it, the author writes, “Time given to God is not time stolen from other people.” Rather “fidelity in being present to God guarantees the capacity to be present to others and love them truly. Experience proves this: the love of prayerful souls is the most attentive, delicate, disinterested, sensitive to other people’s suffering, and capable of consoling and comforting. Mental prayer makes us better people, and those who are close to us won’t complain about that!” Fr. Philippe goes on to say that progress in prayer is actually progress in love and that we put our prayer into practice by loving others. The only way that we can be truly motivated to pray is by love. We must have within us a desire to love God and to let Him lead our life. In this movement of the heart, we desire His Presence and Peace to order our lives.

This week in prayer I was given a very specific grace to see a way that I had slowly over time allowed myself to become overly focused on some things in the world. Through prayer I was able to talk to Jesus about why I was doing the things I was doing and be purified in my intentions. I didn’t necessarily need to change anything major, but slowly I was allowing something in my life to rob me of peace and lose my intentional love for the Lord by paying too much attention elsewhere. This is how prayer shapes us and molds us into living our daily life for the Lord. Though it is not always easy to be purified in this way, I am ultimately much happier and more fulfilled than I would be living for the anxieties of this world.

I need to share with you something that has come about in my life. I need to make public that starting this January Bishop Quinn has asked me to begin an online degree program of study. It will be easy for you (and was at first for me) to say this is just one more thing I’m being asked to do and argue at the unreasonable nature of it, but let me tell you why I am actually looking forward to the opportunity. First of all I have committed as part of my discipline of life to regular study as a part of living a healthy priestly life. It has been way too easy to sidetrack this with the excuse that I am too busy. By taking one course a semester online and then reporting for about three weeks in the summer, this will force me to build some time of study into my week. Secondly, the degree program that I am undertaking is in pastoral theology in the New Evangelization. The degree is called an STL (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) and is conferred by the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome (the Angelicum) through the faculty of Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit (where I received my graduate degree).



Mass Intentions, Readings, Saints

Monday, December 7 **St. Ambrose**
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85:9-14; Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 8 **The Immaculate Conception**
Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12;
Luke 1:26-38

7 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Deb Wallace*
Rosary for Vocations 8:30 a.m. at St. Joseph
7 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph † *Patti Caven*

Wednesday, December 9 **St. Juan Diego**
Cuahtlatatzin
Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10; Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 10 **Advent Weekday**
Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145:1, 9-13;
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 11 **St. Damasus I**
Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1:1-4, 6; Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
Zechariah 2:14-17; Judith 13:18-19; Luke 1:26-38
7:30-8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Richard Nowak*
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew *People of the tri-parish*

Sunday, December 13 **Third Sunday of Advent**
Zephaniah 3:14-18 ; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18
8 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph † *Gordon Grover*
10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Marion Sonnek*

Meetings and Events in the tri-parish

Wednesdays 1 p.m.	Quilters at St. Teresa
Wednesdays 4:15 p.m.	Rosary at St. Teresa
Thursday 9 a.m.	Bible Study at St Teresa
Tuesday, Dec. 15 7 p.m.	St. Joseph Finance Council

The degree itself is in a field that I desire very much to advance the mission of Church—the New Evangelization—that is: how the Church can bring the faith to the modern world and proclaim Jesus Christ to the world at this time. Perhaps I could say that nothing gets me more animated than this topic. For the three + years since my ordination I have only said yes to God and asked Him for the grace to surrender more. I do that again now. This online program is set up to unfold over the course of four years. Your guess is as good as mine as to what this degree will unfold for me but Bishop has a vision that I trust in even in difficult times for the local church. Thank you for your understanding, patience, and prayers for me.



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

Tom Graf, Eugene Langworthy, Mavis Treanor, Aubrielle Catherine Howley, Kelly (Wittrock) Howley, Bill O'Brien, Lloyd Mitchell,

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 meet Wed., Dec. 9,

Grades 6—10 will be going to a youth gathering in Mankato.

Great opportunity for youth entering 8th—12th grade next fall: **Catholic Heart Work Camp (Mission Trip)** July 3-9 in Fremont, NE. **REMINDER: Permission slip along with a \$90 deposit is due by December 17th!** After this date the deposit is \$100. See website for more information www.heartworkcamp.com/dates/omaha-ne or talk to Jonah Lippert or Father Kern.

On Wednesday, Dec. 9th the 6—10 grade faith formation classes will be attending an event in Mankato at the Loyola Campus Chapel at Good Counsel. The event runs 6:30 pm—9 p.m. A bus will leave from Mapleton at 5:45 and return about 9:30 pm. The event is free. Letters and permission slips were mailed out, please return them ASAP to class, church, or the office.

All youth and adults 6th Grade and older are invited to join Bishop Quinn at "Gaudete", A Jubilee of Mercy Celebration, taking place Wednesday, December 9th from 6:30-9:00 pm at Loyola Catholic School' Chapel. Praise and Worship music is being presented by SONAR. Many area Priests will also be present offering a special focus and opportunity to receive the Grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This event is free to the public.

St Teresa: 4th and 5th grade altar servers: There will be a short meeting in the Gathering Space immediately after Faith Formation class on Wed., December 9th. Please plan on attending.



Parish News

Fundraiser for Youth Group Trips: Pancake breakfast on Sunday, December 13 after 10 AM Mass at St. Teresa. Serving pancakes, sausage, and fruit. Come support the youth of the tri-parish— and enjoy a great meal!

St. Joseph CCW+ units: Don't forget to check the Loaves and Fishes Bulletin Board routinely to see when your unit is on to help. Call Gina FitzSimmons at 507-340-3846 with any questions or to sign up.

Joy missing this Christmas? Come join us for **caroling and a chili and soup supper** on Sunday, Dec. 20th. **Meet in the basement of St. Teresa Church** at 2:45 pm. Please remember that there will be Adoration taking place in the church, so keep voices down as you enter. We will begin caroling at 3 p.m. and be back by 5 p.m. for supper. Chili and soup will be provided, complimentary side dishes welcomed. Carolers from all three parishes are most welcome!



The Radical Mercy of Jesus: What's New About the New Testament?

Great Advent opportunity— **Deacon Chris will present an Advent talk on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church of St. Teresa.**

Come explore the biblical story of God's great outpouring of love and mercy in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

This story of Jesus' mercy will culminate on Wed. Dec. 16th with a Reconciliation Service.

New ministry schedules are available for St. Joseph and St. Teresa for December—February. If you are scheduled for any liturgical ministry, please pick up a schedule at your church. If you just signed up for a ministry, please pick up a schedule as well. Thank you for your gift of your time.

St. Matthew: On Saturday, December 12th the youth of the parish will present a Christmas Program after Mass. Immediately following this joyful presentation, St. Margaret's Circle will provide a supper— free of charge! Please plan to attend both the program and the free supper to enjoy some time this season with your parish family.

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.



St. Matthew: We are looking for a few families that would be willing to shovel the sidewalks at church on a monthly rotation for this winter. If you would be willing to be a part of this rotation, please contact the office— 524-

3127. We have a few interested, but if we could get several families, it would not be too hard on any one.



St. Matthew Christmas Choir Everyone is welcomed— and encouraged— to come and sing in the choir for Christmas Eve Mass, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. Practices will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10th and Wednesday, the 16th beginning at 7 p.m.

St. Joseph. Our "Advent" Loaves and Fishes Mass is Sunday, December 13th. Please bring food donations for the local food shelf. We begin with Mass at 8 a.m., then celebrate with food and fellowship and Advent crafts for the kids. Our CCW+ Group will also host a cookie exchange.



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.



We joyfully welcome into the Catholic family Sarah Catherine Davis, daughter of Landon and Leah Davis, who was baptized at St. Joseph Church on Saturday, November 28., and Inara Lynn Cordes, daughter of Luke and Renee Cordes, who was baptized on Sunday, Nov. 29 at St. Teresa. May the good God abundantly bless Sarah and Inara and their families.

The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness. -Pope Benedict XVI

Stewardship of Treasure

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



St. Teresa: (November 29)

Weekly collection...	\$2638.00
Amount collected year to date...	\$66,535.35
Amount budgeted year to date ..	\$69,610.00

St. Matthew (November 29)

Weekly collection.....	\$686.00
Amount collected year to date...	\$18,674.79
Amount budgeted year to date...	\$29,304.00

St. Joseph (November 28)

Weekly collection	\$597.00
Amount collected year to date...	\$16,641.10
Amount budgeted year to date	\$24,772.00



Ministry Roles

December 12 St. Matthew 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Youth

Minister of Communion: Denise Peterson,
Lynn Demuth

Hospitality: Youth

Servers: Jeff Lewis, Joseph Bennett

Money Counters: Wendy Bennett,
Char Schuch

December 13 St. Joseph 8:00 a.m.

Reader: Youth

Minister of Communion: Connie Peters,
Christine Rahn

Hospitality: Youth

Gifts: Youth

Servers: Ethan McGregor, Taylor Hollerich

Money Counters: Cassie Winters, Dan Sohre

December 13 St. Teresa 10:00 a.m.

Reader: Youth

Minister of Communion: Sue Morrow,
Kay Proehl

Hospitality: Youth

Gifts: Youth

Servers: Julia Langworthy, Grant Klein,
Jackson Walters

Money Counters: Meg Mohwinkel,
Vicki Kunkel

Ministry schedules are available on the web-
site: sjsmst.org

Our Catholic World



Contribution envelopes for 2016 are available at each church. Please pick up your envelopes for the coming year as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity.

Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin, all hope consists in confession; in confession there is a chance for mercy. --St. Isidore of Seville

The Advent Tri-parish Communal Penance Service will be held together with the tri-parish to our south at St. John the Baptist, Minnesota Lake on Wednesday December 16 at 6:30 p.m. Prepare for the coming of the Lord!

Dec. 8 National Day of Prayer

Pray with thousands of others on the Third Annual National Day of Prayer to Fight Against Pornography and Sexual Exploitation. You may go to www.EndSexualExploitation.org/prayer for specific prayer requests.

Let us prayerfully watch for the coming of the Lord



Beginning on November 29 at 11 a.m. at St. Teresa and continuing on each of the Sundays in Advent, Fr Kern will expose the Eucharist on the Altar and begin the time of Adoration. Adoration will then continue until 10 p.m. when Father will close with Benediction.

Since we can never leave Our Lord alone, there will be sign up sheets available to make sure someone will always be present from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. each Sunday. Please consider if you will be able to make that commitment and promise to Jesus to stay with Him awhile. can come at any time during the day to pray without having signed up. Don't worry about how to spend this time in prayer- books and aids for prayer are available for your use.



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!

This is a great opportunity to increase your awareness of the true meaning of Christmas and prepare for the Lord's coming.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Attendance at Mass is an obligation for Catholics. Masses in the tri-parish that day:

St. Teresa 7 a.m.

Reader: Marcie Anderson

Ministers of Communion: Butch Bach, Judy Bach

Hospitality: volunteer

St. Joseph 7 p.m.

Reader: Mary Caven

Ministers of Communion: volunteer

Hospitality: Kim and Scott Kleven

Servers: Ben Trio, Will Trio