

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. Joseph (1st, 3rd, 5th)
At St. Matthew (2nd, 4th)
Sunday 9:00 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

Father Jason Kern, Pastor
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Deacon Chris Walchuk
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Jonah Lippert Tri-parish Director of
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
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November 27, 2016 First Sunday of Advent



Watch

Therefore, stay awake!
For you do not know on which day
your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:42

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

As I enter into retreat this week my heart is filled with gratitude to the Lord for all the blessings that He continues to bestow in my life. It is easy to dwell on negatives or difficulties and even faults whether they be personal or other people's that affect us. Yet, when we slow down and acknowledge the many good things in our lives we really do have so much to be grateful about. While I had to miss the ecumenical service this year for Thanksgiving in our communities and was gone for Thanksgiving Day itself, my heart is full of gratitude for all that God is doing in my life. I am very blessed to be a priest and to serve our parishes. It is important for us to slow down and acknowledge the gifts we have been given. For me personally, the pace of life I keep at times prevents me from expressing how grateful I am. It prevents me from processing all the incredible graced moments that enter my life. It prevents me from enjoying time with the people who have come to mean so much to me. Yet, while this is true in some respects, it is not true in every respect. We have time for what we make time for. We have time for the things that are most meaningful if we make the time for these people and things. I spend an hour of prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every day because I know that my whole life is dependent on living in Communion with Him. My priesthood and truly my life does not make sense if I do not make Jesus the center of all my activity and ministry. I also am blessed to spend time with many wonderful people I work with and associate with regularly. I am blessed with enriching friendships and family members who love me. I am blessed with the kindness, support, and friendship of many parishioners and young adults at the Newman Center. I am blessed to journey through life with all of you whether it be regular Sunday Mass, funerals, weddings, or other events and happenings. Thank you for all you do for our Tri-Parish but even more for the Kingdom of God through your own family and sphere of influence.

As we end the Liturgical Year and prepare for Advent and Christmas to follow we are abundantly blessed to know God is near and desires to draw ever nearer to us. It is impossible to guess how long I will be the pastor here, but I do need to be sure to say thank you for following my lead, while not always perfect. I hope you are able to see the blessings God has bestowed upon our communities and lives. Even if things aren't perfect, we must strive forward, pressing on to carry out God's will for His Church. Jesus is good. I will conclude this week as I enter into my retreat and week of prayer with a quote from Pope Francis in his Apostolic letter to conclude the Year of Mercy where he quotes an early Church letter:

Mass Intentions, Readings, Saints

Monday, November 28 **Advent Weekday**
Isaiah 4:2-6; Psalm 122:1-9; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, November 29 **Advent Weekday**
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24
Rosary for Vocations 8:30 a.m. at St. Joseph

Wednesday, November 30 **St. Andrew**
Romans 10:9-18; Psalm 19:8-11; Matthew 4:18-22
4:15 p.m. Rosary for our country at St. Teresa

Thursday, December 1 **Advent Weekday**
Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27;
Matthew 7:21, 24-27
11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *George Pluym*

Friday, December 2 **Advent Weekday**
Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31
10:30 a.m. Mass at MCH † *Theresa Healy*

Saturday, December 3 **St. Francis Xavier**
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 † *Claire Bach*
5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph *People of the tri-parish*

Sunday, December 4 **Second Sunday in Advent**
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12
9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Teresa † *Darlene Morgan*

Meetings and Events in the tri-parish

Wednesdays 1 p.m. Quilting at St. Teresa

No Bible Study Thursday morning Dec. 1

Tuesday, Nov. 29 7 p.m. St. Matthew Finance Council

“Clothe yourselves in joy, which always is agreeable and acceptable to God, and rejoice in it. For all who are joyful do what is good, think what is good, and despise sadness... All who put aside sadness and put on joy will live in God.” Pope Francis continues, “The experience of mercy brings joy. May we never allow this joy to be robbed from us by our troubles and concerns. May it remain rooted in our hearts and enable us to approach with serenity the events of our daily lives.”

May your Thanksgiving weekend and start to Advent be a reminder that God is entering in and desires to bring His mercy and love into our hearts. Thank you Lord.





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

Maureen Springer, Lucille Schubbe, Stanley Gartner, John Pluym, Toos Roelofs, Dennis Anderson, Alyssa Clark, Jan Samuelson, Jerry Wersal, Jim Carey, *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

Classes will be held Wednesday, November 30



Wednesday, November 30
Spaghetti Feed during Snowflake Dazzle

Serving 4:30—7:30 p.m. Free will donation

Tri-parish Youth Group will be sponsoring a spaghetti feed as a fundraiser for the youth group trips next summer. This will be during Mapleton's Snowflake Dazzle, so plan to attend and then enjoy the festivities around town.



Attention all 6th-12th graders!

The Tri-parish Youth Group is hosting a Planning meeting at St. Teresa's on Friday, December 9th from 6-8 pm, (pizza & snacks provided!) to schedule its major monthly events for the coming year—do you want to go skating in December? Sledding in January? Indoor Rock-climbing in February? A camp-out in Vernon Center? Capture-the-flag next to St. Joseph's? All youth group events have three Features: Faith, Food, & Fun. Come to let us know what you desire most to know about your Catholic faith, and how you want to explore the life God has given you together with your friends!

"Dear young people, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are."



Eat Wings—Raise Funds

for the Tri-parish Youth Group

Tuesday, November 29 5:00—9:00 p.m.

Buffalo Wild Wings will donate 15% of your

bill to support the youth trips next summer!

You will need to bring along a ticket to get the credit. Tickets will be available from the youth and at all parishes.

Please come out and support the youth!

Parish News

Contribution envelopes for 2017 are available. 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 please let us know and we will not get them for you next year.. If you would like to start or change having your contributions automatically transferred, authorization forms are available. Thank you for your generosity.



Snow is coming! **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.



Correction: There was an error in the newsletter concerning Mass times for Christmas. On December 24 5:00 p.m. Mass is at St. Matthew and 7:00 p.m. Mass is at St. Joseph. Sorry for the error.

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.



St. Teresa: The large tree and other decorations will be put up in the gathering space on **Sunday, Nov. 27** after the youth breakfast. Please stay and help if you are able. Many hands are needed for this task. Help make our church welcoming and beautiful!

Bernie and Dilly Langworthy are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary! Come celebrate with them on Sunday, December 11, from 3-5 p.m., at Maggie J's. The couple requests no gifts please.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for a day to pray and pay for the Belize Mission Trip! There are still many dates open— please consider making the commitment to pray for the success of the mission and to support the work with a financial donation.

Thank you also to all those who worked at the fundraiser breakfast on October 30th and those who attended. It was very successful and almost \$2000 was raised to purchase supplies for our work in Belize!

Many people lost the little they had in the hurricane that hit a few months ago. We will help with some rebuilding as well as other projects.

Caregiver Support Group This monthly support group is for anyone who provides care to a family member or friend with Dementia or other progressive illness. It is informal and meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us for our next session on December 6, 3-4:30 pm, at St. Teresa Catholic Church in Mapleton. Please use the north entrance near the parking lot. Topic: Improving Communication in Dementia Care; DVD and discussion. No charge to attend; pre-registration is not required. Questions? Call Sister Joyce Kolbet at VINE Faith in Action (386-5583).

Give THANKS for the gift of your spouse! Take some time to spend a weekend away from all of the chaos and enjoy each other on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are Feb 17-19, 2017 in Windom, MN and Apr 21-23, 2017 in Hutchinson, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website

VINE CONDUCTING SURVEY ON RURAL TRANSIT
Countywide public transportation is coming to rural Blue Earth, Nicollet & Le Sueur counties. Please help us shape the new transit system to best fit our community's needs by taking a short online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tricountytransit>. Have questions or need a paper copy of the survey? Contact Mike at 507-720-5470 or mikel@vinevolunteers.com.

Stewardship of Treasure

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



St. Teresa (November 20)	
Weekly collection	\$5736.00
Amount collected year to date	\$75,721.95
Amount budgeted year to date	\$68,460.00

St. Matthew (November 12)	
Weekly collection	\$2140.76
Amount collected year to date	\$12,356.56
Amount budgeted year to date	\$26,000.00

St. Joseph (November 19)	
Weekly collection	\$2873.00
Amount collected year to date	\$16,536.96
Amount budgeted year to date	\$23,457.00



Ministry Roles

December 3 St. Joseph 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Jen Berkner

Minister of Communion: Mary Caven,
Leah Davis

Hospitality: Jay and Cassie Winters

Gifts: Jay and Cassie Winters

Servers: Will Trio, Taylor Hollerich

Money Counters: Cassie Winters, Shelli Grover

December 4 St. Teresa 9:00 a.m.

Reader: Shelly Holt

Minister of Communion: Jim Swanson,
Arleen Swanson

Hospitality: Karmen Bartholomew, Sheryl Olson,
Luke and Karen Fox family

Gifts: Ted Landsteiner, Samantha Passer

Servers: Landon Fox, Anthony Kunkel,
Jon Kunkel, Kendall Wede

Money Counters: Kay Proehl, Sandy Miller

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

Let us understand that God is a physician, and that suffering
is a medicine for salvation, not a punishment for damnation.

---St. Augustine of Hippo

Our Catholic World



Results so far for the
2016 Diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal

	# of donors	Amount	Goal	% of goal
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St. Joseph:	9	\$2025	\$4,860	42
St. Matthew:	9	\$1810	\$4,890	37
St. Teresa:	44	\$6630	\$14,310	46

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. **If you have not yet given to this campaign, please consider doing so.** If you do not still have the envelope that was mailed to you, you can get pick one up at church.

*Let us prayerfully watch for the
coming of the Lord*



Beginning on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent, at 10 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.

Since we can never leave Our Lord alone, there will be sign up sheets available to make sure someone will always be present from 10 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. Of course, anyone 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.

Sunday, December 11 Gaudete Sunday "Rejoice in the Lord always"

The third Sunday in Advent, Gaudete Sunday, provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation—especially prayer and fasting—for Christmas. It is a time of rejoicing as we near the coming of the Lord.

To celebrate this day we will have a special time of prayer and music and a short presentation by Fr. Kern during adoration, 11:00 a.m. to noon.
There is a breakfast at St. Teresa that day so you can stay for breakfast and then stay to rejoice in the Lord!



This weekend at each church there will be Advent wreaths, candles, and the Magnificat Advent Companion available to help with your advent preparations for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Check out the kiosk in the St. Teresa gathering space for some new additions. New books and CD's will help you prepare for Christmas and the Feast of Mary, Mother of God!