

My dear friends in Christ,

Unusual weather conditions in our country this December is begging us all to stay home rather than wandering around doing the busy chores of Christmas. Nothing can stop us from doing the right thing, that is to get the best stuff we want to gift to our children. We want to make sure that we are able to offer the right gift our children would love to unwrap on the Christmas Day. Of course, we all know that Christmas is all about giving, not receiving. As we are getting closer to the great feast of Christian life, I would love to reflect on a few important things about Christmas.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone (Isaiah 9:1).” These words of the prophet directly refer to Jesus, the newborn baby, the Word incarnate, who enters into our life in dazzling beauty. His entry into our lives is so visible to all the people of good will. As the gospel says, his coming brings peace and joy to all those of good will. By good will what I understand is that one should be spontaneous, transparent and credible in everything he/she does. Our Pope Francis is such a great model for spontaneity and transparency. He will just walk into a crowd, hug a handicapped person, and show that he is Christ to that person. The Pope stated recently that all those who swindle money in public life need to be punished severely. He demands transparency in every leader of the Church. When he presents the true values of Jesus in everything he does, then he becomes a credible witness to the love of Christ.

I am very happy to wish that the qualities of Pope Francis reside in you throughout the next year so that you will experience the Peace and Joy our Savior brings to us in this Christmas season. Let us be more spontaneous in our relationships, more transparent in our public and private life, and more credible in what we say and do that so everyone may find the joyful presence of Jesus in us every day. I will be gone for the whole month of January to India. I will as usual miss you all--but not the Minnesota cold. You are always very dear to me in the love of God. Wherever I go, I will keep you all in my prayers. Wishing each and every one of you **A Merry and Joyful Christmas!!!**



Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Xavier Ilango

Weekday Mass Schedule Dec 23-29

Mon. 5:30 p.m. No Mass
 Tues. 5:00 p.m. +Deceased Members of John & Mary Kraker Family
 10:00 p.m. Children of Sacred Heart Parish
 Wed: 8:30 a.m. +John & Mary Kraker and Rosalee Kraker
 Thurs: 9:00 a.m. +George Guck
 Fri. 7:30 a.m. +Val Koehnen
 Sat: 5:30 p.m. +Lillian Buschette
 Sun. 8:30 a.m. Pro Popolo

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

PASTOR

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Tuesday/Wednesday
 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Youth Ministry/DRE:

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Music Director:

Kathryn Karg
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Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Louann McGlynn
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Mass Times

Monday 5:30 pm
 Tuesday-Thursday
 9:00 am
 Friday 7:30 AM
 (Care Center)
 Saturday 5:30 pm
 Sunday 8:30AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 4:30PM

ADORATION:

Tuesdays: 9:30AM-6 PM

The parish office now has nice Mass cards. If you wish to have a Mass said as a gift, you may want to check out these cards.

Our Christmas Masses are:
Christmas Eve: Children's Mass at 5:00 pm and another Mass at 10:00 pm; *Christmas Day* at 8:30 am.

We again need to schedule the usual ministries for Christmas and New Years. The sign-up sheets are in the vestibule. All Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, and Servers are asked to check the schedule and sign up as available for these Masses.

We will pray the Rosary during Advent starting 25 minutes before each of the weekend Masses.

The 2014 Liturgical Calendars are in the vestibule. Please take one per family while they last.

The calendars are paid for by the sponsors listed at the bottom. Please thank them by giving them your business.

Thank you to Carol and Verlin Aarness for their generous purchase of beautiful new Communion vessels for our parish in memory of their son Jeffrey Aarness.

Father Ilango will be gone to India from December 26 to January 31. Father Theisen from St. John's Abby will be here for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Masses in Father Ilango's absence.

Parishioners' Prayer Requests

Parish families have asked us to keep in our prayers their loved ones who are ill

Please pray for:

- Barbara Hanson
- Luella Baumgart
- Casey Courneya
- Dave Goebel
- Tammy Soyring
- Ken Jacobson
- Norman Buseth
- Harry Schurmann
- Cecil Cook
- Ron Jensen
- Emily Martin
- Sue Turnbull
- Carol Lormis
- Diane Quiram
- Henry Schreiner
- Debbie Ehler
- Kylee Jean Miller
- Dan Hodgson
- Bette Daggett

Collections Dec 15, 2013

Collection Basket	Attendance:	Needed per Week to Reach Budget:
Adult \$ 2,963.00	322	\$4202.29 —This figure includes all sources of parish income (i.e., funerals, flower collections, fall dinner, etc), not just the Sunday collections.
Loose 317.49		This week's Total:
Children 5.00		\$ 3,285.49
Total: \$3,285.49		604.70
		\$ 3,890.19

Other Budgeted Income

Vigil Lights	\$ 14.00
Directory photos	180.00
Christmas Baskets	20.00
Mass Prayer Cards	95.70
Building Fund	295.00
Total	\$604.70

Other Parish Fund Raisers: FACC—\$ 323.86

Non-Parish Collections: Retired Religious—\$ 110.00

UPCOMING:

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Masses @ 5:00 pm (Children's) and 10:00 pm
Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass @ 8:30 am
Dec 31: Mass at 5:30 pm—the Eve of the Solemnity of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation
Jan 1: Holy Day Mass at 9:00 am
Jan 6: Christian Mothers Meeting/Epiphany Party at 6:00 pm
Jan 6: KC's meeting 7:00 pm at Church

Ministry Schedule for Dec 29, 2013

	5:30 PM	8:30 PM
FCC— Glenn and Bev Roberts		
Ministers	Kathy Ulschmid	Barb Rice
Of Holy Communion	Jeanie Wothe	Jerilyn Beckman
	Russell Karasch	Mark Byer
		Kathy Peichel
		Karen Nelson
Lectors	Keith Adams	Christine Daggett
Ushers	Don Ulschmid	Tim Stenger
	Leonard Schrandt	Bud Hensel
Servers	Matthew Daggett	Kaitlyn Wake
	Isaac Courneya	Charlton Wake
	Cath. Jaroszewski	Madison Ketter
	Grace Jaroszewski	

**Note to ministers: This schedule does not reflect any recent changes or substitutions you may have made.*

Circle 6 is in charge of donuts in December
 Circle 7 will be in charge of donuts in January



*****Youth*****

Children's Bibles for Sale:
 Grades 1-4: **The Catholics Children's Bible** \$30 Soft cover, \$38 Hardcover.
 Grades 5-8 **Breakthrough the Bible for Young Catholics:** \$25 soft cover and \$32 hard cover.
 See Cheryl to see examples of these wonderful Bibles. Order by December 11, 2013. They make Great Christmas presents!

Christmas Pageant, December 24, at 4:30PM before the 5:00PM Mass. All youth in the pageant must be at Church by 4:00PM, Thanks

Teens interested in attending:
 Steubenville North-St Paul University of St Thomas • July 25 - 27, 2014—Cost: \$190 **Youth please register for Steubenville** as soon as possible. If you have any questions please see Cheryl

Thank You!

The **Christian Mothers** want to thank all who participated in the recent Brunch and Basket event on December 8 and the Parish Bake Sale on December 14 & 15.

Proceeds from each event: Brunch — \$343.00; Basket Silent Auction — \$636.00; Parish Bake Sale — \$780.00

The **Christian Mothers** thank everyone who participated in our Brunch and for donating and/or purchasing the beautiful baskets from the silent auction. Another thank you to all who brought for or bought at the Parish Bake Sale.

The **Christian Mothers Epiphany Party** is on January 6, 2014, at 6:00 pm. The meal is potluck. Please bring a \$10 gift if you want to participate in the gift exchange. KC's are invited to the party.