



# ST MARK PARISH

602 Military Road, Rothschild, Wisconsin

**Advent 4**  
**December 24, 2017**

## Liturgical Schedule

Monday, December 25

Nativity of the Lord Jesus

Sacrament of Eucharist, 8:00 am

Sacrament of Eucharist, 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 26

Saint Stephen

No Sacrament of Eucharist

Wednesday, December 27

Sacrament of Eucharist, St. Claire Hospital, 12:00 pm

Thursday, December 28

Saint John, apostle

Sacrament of Eucharist, 8:10 am

Friday, December 29

Saint Thomas Becket

Sacrament of Eucharist, 8:10 am

Saturday, December 30

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

Sacrament of Eucharist, 4:30 pm

Sunday, December 31

Holy Family of Jesus, Mark and Joseph

Sacrament of Eucharist, 8:00 am

Sacrament of Eucharist, 10:00

Monday, January 1

Mary, Mother of God

Sacrament of Eucharist, 9:00 am

(Not a Holy Day this year)



Steve Erspamer, SM. Liturgy Training Publications. Reprinted with permission

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** - Contact the Parish Offices for baptism dates and to register for preparation sessions.

**SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION** Saturday - 10:30 am

**SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING** - Celebrated in the Spring and Fall or in the home and hospital.

**RCIA** - A catechetical process to assist adults interested in becoming Catholic. Contact the Parish Offices.

**MARRIAGE** - Couples planning to marry are to notify the Parish Offices one year prior to the desired wedding date.

**FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** with the parish, Contact the Parish Offices and ask for Father Slowiak.

**Parish Offices:** 715-359-5206 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm; Tuesday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Pastor:** (Rev) Allan L. Slowiak 715-359-5206

**Religious Education:** Mary Hart 715-359-5206

**Email:** stmarkroths@smproths.org **FAX:** 715-355-8904

**Newman Catholic Schools at St. Mark** 715-359-9662

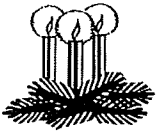
**Information for the bulletin is due at 4:00 pm, Tuesday**

**Web:** www.smproths.org

**Principal:** Tina Meyer

## SACRED WORSHIP

### Advent 4 December 24



Light four candles, pray the prayer and three acclamations each day.

L Heavenly Father, Guide us to live Your way of love and protect us during this week as we come to know Jesus now and to the

end of time. We ask this grace in the name of Jesus our Lord.  
A Amen.

L Lord Jesus, You are the light of the world.  
A Amen.

L You are light in our darkness.  
A Amen.

L Bless us as we gather in Your name.  
A Amen.

### A Reflection of Today's Scripture Texts

-Father Slowiak

2 Samuel 7:1-16 We have here the announcement of God's eternal covenant with the House of David. It is not David who will build a house [in the form of a temple] for God. Rather, God will build a house [in the form of a dynasty of believers] for David, the house which will *stand firm forever*. Here we have the basis for the expectation of a messiah by the Hebrew/ Israelite/Jewish people, an expectation fulfilled [in our understanding in an unexpected way] in Jesus, son of Mary of Nazareth.

Romans 16:25-27 Nothing complex here. Just the conclusion to a letter written to believers which announces the revelation of the plan of God for our redemption and salvation founded on faith in Jesus. Faith is a relationship, a two-way street between God and ourselves. There are obligations for one of faith.

Luke 1:26-38 A birth announcement using a form found a number of times in the Bible to announce the rise in stature/ the birth of person who will stand out/have stood out in the history of salvation. The difference here? The Gospel Community of Luke proclaims to the world that this Jesus is both Son of David and Son of God.

**The History of Christmastime.** Church historians and liturgists reflect that the origins of Advent and the Nativity of Jesus are anchored in nature's cycle of darkness and light. The phenomenon of the winter solstice phenomenon would seem to be the occasion for the date of the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. While the details of the origins are unclear we do know in 274 the Roman Emperor Aurelian declared December 25 the Feast of the Invincible Sun to mark the triumph of day over night. (By that century's reckoning, December 25 was the calen-

dar date of the winter solstice) and by 336 the Christians of Rome kept their own festival on December 25 in honor of the birth of Jesus, their "son of righteousness." Perhaps the Roman Christians rallied against the pagan feast or added their own reasons for joining the culture's festivity, or were convinced that the actual date of Jesus' birth coincided with the winter solstice—all are hypotheses of liturgical scholars.

Second, the development of Epiphany with the astrologers as the celebration of the birth of Jesus was observed in the Eastern Churches and may have occurred along the lines of the Nativity in the Church of the West. We do know that by the end of the fourth century the Epiphany with the astrologers was widespread in the Eastern Churches. The Epiphany with the astrologers celebrated the birth of Jesus two other Epiphanies celebrate Jesus' divinity, His baptism and "first sign" at Cana.

With this focus in mind, Christmas and the Epiphany with the astrologers "frame" the twelve days of Christmas (the days from December 26 through January 6). During these days of festival (which, in the United States, may number more or less than 12 because Epiphany is kept on the Sunday from January 2 to January 8), the Church treasures the closeness and graciousness of the Lord who reveals himself in our flesh.

The Church liturgical historian, (Rev) J. Jungmann writes, "The mystery of the incarnation is the subject of both feasts; but at Christmas we focus on the Son of God taking our flesh, while on Epiphany we direct our attention to Jesus' divinity which is already being manifest in the world." (*The Liturgical Year*, Pueblo Publishing Company, 1981) --a digest of an article by Many Ann Simcoe

### Blessings

#### ... of a Christmas Tree

L God of all creation we bless You for the gift of this tree. May Your blessing be upon all who wait in its beauty, hold memories and wait in its light for the Light of the Word, Jesus; with Jesus forever and ever.

A Amen. -Adapted fro Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, USCCB.

#### ... of the Nativity Scene

*Sign of the Cross*

L This scene is a reminder of God's desire to be close to us.

*The figures can be placed into the scene by the children.*

L Lord God of all creation, we praise You because You love us and sent Your only Son to open eternal life for us again. Bless this nativity scene and let it be a reminder to us of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God and son of Mary for ever and ever.

A Amen. -Adapted fro Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, USCCB.

## In the Liturgy of the Church -Helen Ackermann

The other evening the ladies of the parish were invited to share in a meal celebrating the Christmas Season. It was a time also to reflect on how we celebrate Christmas. Using a booklet to guide us, we were asked to reflect at our tables on the kinds of traditions we keep in our homes. Of course one of the questions focused on favorite recipes. At our table we shared the favorites many of which were handed down through the years. Christmas is a time when connections to the past are strong in our minds.

Today, the last Sunday of Advent, which falls on the 24 December, we are almost at the time of Christmas. We are privileged to hear the gospel recounting the annunciation. Mary in her saying "Yes," to God's will in her life made possible the entrance into the world of God in human form in Jesus, who came to be known as Christ. God wanted and wants us to know of his great love for us. God reveals that love through the birth of his son, his life and death and resurrection. It is our salvation.

What might this have to do with the favorite recipes of Christmas? As I listened at our table during the dinner, I knew that when we make those time-honored recipes they become an announcement too. They are the announcement of love passed on through generations. As God loves us, we love family and friends and we announce that love through our sharing with one another. We gather for the Eucharist. Again, we know it is a meal of love; a love of God made possible through the sharing in the Body and Blood of his Son, Jesus Christ.

As you gather for meals together, be reminded of the love that is possible and know that when we gather as a family of God, we are so privileged to share in the Body and Blood of his Son. Wishing you many blessings during these holy days and many experiences of God's love during the coming year.

**Looking Ahead in Worship.** The Nativity of the Lord (Monday) Stephen, the first martyr (Tuesday) John, Apostle and Evangelist (Wednesday) Holy Innocents, martyrs (Thursday) Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr (Friday)

**St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr (1118-1170).** The young Thomas Becket was a sportsman. He enjoyed hunting but also learning. He studied law and became the assistant of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Bishop trusted his good judgment. When Henry II became king he named Thomas the chancellor. Thomas convinced Henry to make the legal system more just. King Henry wanted Thomas to be the Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas agreed to do this. He became a priest and spent time in reading the Scriptures and ministering to the poor. Soon the King made unjust demands and Henry and Thomas began to clash. Soon Thomas was known as a traitor

and was forced to escape from England. He went into hiding for six years. When he returned to England King Henry's knights struck him down with their swords in the cathedral.

## The Candle at the Marian Shrine



This week in memory of  
Joseph and Dolores Ogiba  
and Ron Sattler

## Liturgical Roles

December 30 and 31

### 4:30 pm

Servers. Stevie S., Ava H.

Lectors. Dennis B., Bob P.

Ministers of Hospitality. Leigh and Bob O.

Ministers of Communion. Joan B., Marie A., Nancy B. (c), Dee V (c), Jeannie Z., 2 volunteers

Pastoral Musicians. Diane S, Ashley M

### 8:00 am

Servers. Sam N., Lillian B.

Lectors. Doug B., Pam Z.

Ministers of Hospitality. Tony S., Tom S, Jerold W.

Ministers of Communion. Mary S., William S., Larry M. (c), Cathy (c), Todd J., 2 volunteers

Pastoral Musicians. Jeanette E., Greg

### 10:00 am

Servers. Preston P., Brigitte L.

Lectors. Colleen H., Claire T.

Ministers of Hospitality. Greg C., Janice and Gerald G, Joan and Kirk W.

Ministers of Communion. Velma J., Pat B., Roxann (c), Kim S (c), Ron H.

Pastoral Musicians. Mary M., Mikki F.

## January 1

### 9:00 am

Servers. Morgan P., Ellery P.

Lectors. Pam and Mike Z.

Ministers of Communion. Bill S. (c), John P. (c),

Pastoral Musicians.

## Pastoral Music —Mary Martin



**A Blessed Christmas** to all musicians who have made the Advent/Christmas season a time of prayerful, holy worship, reminding us of the hope and peace that we know is ours in Christ Jesus.

**The Parish Choir** will sing at the 10:30 pm Liturgy, Christmas Eve (caroling will start at 10:00 pm) and again at the 10:00 am Liturgy, Christmas Day. We are fortunate to

have the following talented instrumentalists joining us Christmas Eve: Kay Kort, Jenna, Samuel and Jeremiah Hansen, Nick and Matthew Peters, Elizabeth Steckman, Jack Tegart, Michael, Christopher and Steven Nicklaus.

**The Youth Choir** will sing at the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Liturgy and will practice prior to that Liturgy at 3:40 pm. Our prelude music will be, "Christ the Lord and Look for the Light." During the procession with the figures for the Nativity scene the choir will be singing, "He is God," Thank you all of the members of the Youth Choir and to the following instrumentalists who will be joining us Christmas Eve: Nick Peters, Matthew Peters, Emma Van Ermen, Bailey Bauer, Jack Tegart, Evan Tegart, Kyrrianna Smith and Hailey Tlusty.

**The Handbell Choir** will practice at 1:15 pm on Tuesday, January 2, in church. The Handbell choir will play at 10:00 am, Sunday, January 7, with Parish Choir for the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Prelude music will be, "Glory to the Newborn King."

## Christmas Memorial



Karen Barclay	Forrest and Carolyn Hayes
Joe and Agnes Biza	Florence and Harvey Kamke
Leslie and Dorothy Brown	Mr. and Mrs. Elroy Kurtzweil
Carol Byrne	Bobby F. Lang
LeRoy and Agatha Carlson	Mr. Frederick J. Lang
Timmy Carlson	Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lang Sr.
George and Virginia Dahm	Bill and Vivian Luebbe
Tom Dobeck	Gene Meyer
Dave Fritz	Leon Meyer
Karen Garica	Ted and Bernice Midlikowski
Edwin Gliniecki	Rayane Josephine Myszka
Verna Belle Gorski	Joseph and Dolores Ogiba
Norbert Gronski	Frank Zoromski

Beske and Ogiba Families  
 Nemec and Pogwist Families  
 Martin and Duir Families  
 Deceased members of the Connor and Spaeth Families  
 Deceased members of the Guyette and Van Hammond Families  
 Deceased members of the Nevinski, Kowalchuk, Hanz and Ziemer Families  
 Deceased members of the Reger and Koskey Families  
 Deceased members of the Ostroski and Wawrzaszek Families  
 Deceased members of the Slowiak and Klisiewicz Families  
 Deceased members of the Straub and Bohmann Families  
 Deceased members of the Tishken Family  
 Members of the McMahan Family  
 Members of the Szarkowitz Family  
 Members of the Van Ermen Family



## CATHOLIC EDUCATION/FORMATION

### **Religious Education** - Mary Hart

*May you and your family be blessed with a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with the love and presence of Christ Jesus.*

### **This week in Religious Ed . . .**

December 25 – No Sessions for Grades 1-6  
 December 2 – No sessions for Grades 7-9  
 January 4 – 6:30 Sessions for Grades 8 and 9  
 January 7 – 10:00 Sunday School – Epiphany Procession  
 January 8 – 6:30 Sessions for Grades 1-6

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

150 years ago (3 March 1868) The Diocese of LaCrosse was established by Pope Pius IX.

In celebration of this sesquicentennial a diocesan history book has been published. The 450 page book includes the history and photographs of every parish of the dioceses as well as diocesan history.

Titled, *Building Upon A Tradition of Faith*, this hard covered copy with pull-outs is available at the Parish Offices now for \$30.00. Pick up a copy for a Christmas, Epiphany or birthday gift or to learn the history of the Diocese of LaCrosse. Page through a copy in the entrances.

## PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

### **Budget Committee**

To keep records in order for the Diocesan Annual Appeal coded pledge cards are in entrances of the church with envelopes. Bring pledge cards and envelopes with your tithe or to the Parish Offices.

To contribute online, enter the parish website at [www.smproths.org](http://www.smproths.org), then the tab Diocesan Annual Appeal then the link to the secure website of the Diocese of LaCrosse.

Direct questions or concerns to 715-359-5206, Amy L. Tishken (Parish Bookkeeper)

### **Current Numbers**

Target                      \$88,410

Total Received \$48,285.23  
 Received this week \$2,720.70  
 We are at 54.62% of the of the Target from 262 parish members. Let's aim for 90% of the Target this year.

Balance \$40,124.77

You may benefit if you pledge your contribution at the online site or mail it in before December 31. Direct questions to Amy (715-359-5206).

**Stewardship of Time and Talent**

Volunteer/community involvement this week by parish members, 106 hours.

**Attendance**

	26-Nov	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec
4:30	139	171	163	169
8:00	132	117	146	153
10:00	<u>241</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>202</u>	<u>194</u>
Total	512	483	511	516



**Operating Income Summary**

	17-Dec	1 Jul-17 Dec	2018	Balance
Adult Tithe	<u>11,520.50</u>	276,957.00	575,000	(298,043)
Student	3.00	187.00	600	(413)
Offering	<u>374.00</u>	9,651.85	23,500	(13,848)
Debt Reduction	<u>300.00</u>	6,026.31	13,500	7,474
Totals	12,197.50	292,822.16		(312,304.15)

**Adult Tithe Summary**

Adult Tithe Budgeted Per Week	11,057.69
Received this Week	<u>11,520.50</u>
Over/Under Budget	462.81
Adult Tithe Received Weeks 1-25	276,957.00
Budgeted Weeks 1-25	<u>276,442.25</u>
Over/Under Budget	514.75

**Other Income/**

**Transfers**

Circle of Joy	200.00	840.00
Retired Religious	385.00	805.00
Christmas	145.00	315.00
Votive Candles	109.95	734.71
Endowment Trust (Holding)	0.00	0.00
Ch Organ Replacement Fund	0.00	6,068.75

**Tithe and Gifts to the Parish**

1. The tithe and gifts for December 31, 2017 will be credited to the 2017 tax year. Any tithe or gifts received on or after January 1, 2018 will be credited to your 2018 tax year.
2. We will make a final mailing for the **Diocesan Annual**

**Appeal** for the tax year 2017 on Friday, December 29 at 2:00 pm. Any Diocesan Annual Appeal contributions that we receive after that date will be mailed but we cannot guarantee that it will be credited to your 2017 tax year.

**SOCIAL CONCERNS**

**Jubilee House**

Scoutmaster Brian Puent with the scouts in the name of the parish served a meal at Jubilee House this past week. Rhonda Czerwonka organized the details with parents. The scouts express their thanks to parish members who provided wonderful salads and deserts. This was a learning model for the boys in the action of social justice and providing for the common good.

**LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW**

Celebrating a 70th birthday was comfortable, a good experience and noted the reality that each of the 25,550 days as Deacon McKeough mentioned is a gift.



Thank you, Mary Martin, Jodi Van Wagner and members of the Ladies Council for opening the idea for the celebration and parish members who organized the brunch with the Ladies Council. Thank you.

Thanks, too, parish members, the catechetical and school

faculty and students and the parish staff for your personal blessings, well wishes, cards and gifts.

Together, let us continue the journey that we acknowledge and celebrate in the scriptures and sacraments.

**SCRIPTURE TEXTS— Holy Family**

Prayer: Lord God, as I meditate on your holy word help me to understand that through my Baptism I have been dedicated to you and your will in my life. Help me to understand how I might best serve your son, Jesus, he who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his

mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.

**Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9**

**R. (7a , 8a) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;  
make known among the nations his deeds.  
Sing to him, sing his praise,  
proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Glory in his holy name;  
rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!  
Look to the LORD in his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

You descendants of Abraham, his servants,  
sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!  
He, the LORD, is our God;  
throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

He remembers forever his covenant  
which he made binding for a thousand generations  
which he entered into with Abraham  
and by his oath to Isaac.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Luke 2:22-40**

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted — and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Questions:

1. If you are a parent, how do you identify with Joseph or Mary on this day's feast?
2. How have the challenges of being a part of a family helped you grow in your relationship with God through his son Jesus Christ?
3. It is said that faith is not taught but caught. As a person of faith, do you influence the young people you know either your own or others in the parish to follow the way of Jesus? Are you open to other ways of being family in our culture?

Prayer: Lord God, I give you thanks for the example of Joseph and Mary who cared for your son, Jesus. Although I do not know much about the early years of your son, I know that he was loved in such a way that he was able to love others too. Help me to love others freeing them from bonds of loneliness and fear. I make this prayer in the name of Jesus, he who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.



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