

St. Sebastian Parish  
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**December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

Sun	12/10	8:00 AM <b>10:00 AM</b>	Thanksgiving for Blessings by Milton & Bev Krause <b>Mass at St John's Gerald Saindon</b>	<b>Confession 6:00PM. No Service.</b>
Tues	12/12	<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's</b> <i>Living &amp; Deceased Members of the Cismoski &amp; Schuster Families</i>	
Wed	12/13	<b>8:15 AM</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM	<b>Mass at St John's</b> <i>Deceased Members of the Liebergen Family</i> Communion Service Faith Formation	
Thurs	12/14	<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's</b> <i>For the Homeless</i>	
Fri	12/15	8:15 AM	For Forgiveness & Healing	
Sat	12/16	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's</b> <i>Adrienne Cumicek</i>	
Sun	12/17	8:00 AM <b>10:00 AM</b>	In Memory of Rick De Ruyter Love, Family <b>Mass at St John's</b> <i>Living &amp; Deceased Members of the Coonen &amp; Kline Families</i>	

**NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TODAY — SEE YOU NEXT SUNDAY!**

***GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE***

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "**The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**" It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

— Father John Muir

***RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS*** *By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*  
**The World Is Pregnant**

There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes — none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye.

"For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen.

The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us.

***"We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."* — 2 Peter 3:13**

**Thank you to  
Douglas & Patty Karcz  
for sponsoring  
the  
December  
bulletin,  
in loving  
memory of  
Joseph & LaVerne  
VandeCorput.**



**CONFESSION**  
**December 10 at 6:00 PM**

**No Service.**

**Multiple Priests  
Available  
in Church &  
Parish Hall.**



DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBTORS	GREETERS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday	Frank Van Ess	Don Eisenreich		Jackson Banker	Kevin Matuszak
December 17				Brady VanderHeiden	Don Eisenreich

#### INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 1352.00
Loose Collection	\$ 149.00
Votive Candles	\$ 14.00
Christmas Flowers Fund	\$ 290.00
Christian Women / Hall Rental	\$ 35.00

#### DISBURSEMENTS:

St Therese of Little Flower	\$ 694.60
AON Insurance	\$ 731.41
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 1.83



#### Christian Women Society Annual Bake Sale is TODAY after Mass.

**You Know You Want Some!**

**Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!**

**Retirement Collection:** Next weekend, our parish will take a Retirement Collection. This will be to benefit two groups of people who have served us faithfully. We will have the opportunity to give to the National Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps our retired sisters, brothers and religious order priests. We also have an opportunity to give to the retirements needs of the senior priests in the Diocese of Green Bay. You may donate to both of these groups, or just to one. Please use an envelope provided on ledge on either side of the stairs, when walking into church.

#### On MISSION

Our weekly e-newsletter starts in January - Sign up now!

On Mission e-newsletters will land in inboxes beginning January 2024

<https://connect.gbdioc.org/s3/OnMissionEnewsletter>

#### Prayer for Advent ~ Week 2

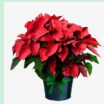
Dear Lord, Open our eyes to the people You have specifically placed in our path, so that we can speak healing & comfort to them. Help us to prepare for the coming of Your kingdom, together. Amen.



#### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Christ is making a journey into each of our hearts this Advent. Clear away whatever blocks his way. Make straight the path. Invite him in.

**Christmas Flower Donations** Please put your donation & intentions in an envelope marked Flower Fund. You can put it in the collection basket, drop off or mail it to the Parish Office. Thank you for helping to decorate our church for the Christmas Season!



#### St. Andrew Dinner

Wednesday, December 27, 2023  
5:30-8:00 PM

#### Calling all high school & college-age men!

Join us for a gathering of disciples open to the priesthood (Age 14+). The evening includes Mass with Bishop Ricken at 5:30 p.m. and dinner/formation with the Vocations team & seminarians to follow. Local priests, pastoral leaders, and campus/youth ministers are invited to bring men from among their flock.

#### St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

140 S Monroe Ave, Green Bay WI 54301

#### Additional Questions & Info

Fr. Mark Mleziva, Vocation Director  
vocations@gbdioc.org

**RSVP:** [www.gb vocations.org/registration](http://www.gb vocations.org/registration)



**Thank you to everyone that helped organize, and provide a better Christmas to those in need, in our very own community!**

**If you would like to request Mass Intentions and/or Sponsor the Bulletin, please contact Laurie in the Parish Office.**

#### YOUTH CHOIR

**Next Practice - December 23rd @10:00am**  
**SING - December 24th 8:00am Mass**  
**Questions: Contact Jessica Melchert**



#### ADULT CHOIR

**Next Practice - December 23rd at 9:00am**  
**SING- Dec 24th, 6pm Christmas Eve Mass**  
**Questions: Contact Jill VandeHei**

**Ministry of the Sick:** Please notify the parish office if a member of your family is confined to their home or is hospitalized. Also, please inform the hospital of your affiliation with your parish.

**Baptisms:** Please call the parish office two months in advance.

**Marriage:** Please call St. John's parish office eight months in advance.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Please call St. John's parish office.

**Anointing of the Sick and Dying:** Please call St. John's parish office.

**Fr. Sengole Dass**  
**St. John Parish Office - 833-6140**

**DC. Richard Matuszak**  
**833-2294 or 609-5292**

**St Sebastian Parish Office - 833-2558**  
**Current Hours: Mon & Thurs 8:00 - 4:00**  
**Wed: 8:30 - Noon, Closed: Tues & Fri**