





December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sun	12/24	8:00 AM 10:00 AM ***** 4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Bill and Mary Matuszak by Barbara Socha Mass at St John's Gerald Saindon CHRISTMAS EVE MASS Mass at St John's Stanley Skinkis For All to Embrace Hope, Peace, Joy & LOVE during this Christmas Season!		
Mon	12/25	***** 8:00 AM 10:00 AM	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS For All to Embrace Hope, Peace, Joy, & LOVE during this Christmas Season! Mass at St John's Living & Deceased Members of the Coonen & Kline Families		
Tues	12/26		NO Services		
Wed	12/27	8:15 AM 9:00 AM	Communion Service at St John's Communion Service at St Sebastian		
Thurs	12/28		NO Services	January - April 2024 Liturgical and Cleaning Schedules are on the long table in the lobby of church.	
Fri	12/29		NO Services		
Sat	12/30	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's Helen Rozmiarek		
Sun	12/31	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of Joseph & LaVerne Vande Corput by Family Mass at St John's Vivian Tremi		
Mon	1/1	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	For Health and Happiness in the New Year! For the Health of Phyllis Pelishek		

Lighting Candles in Church

Question: Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer: Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two—there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness—the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically “shining a light” on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered.

What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

— Father John Muir

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, “**But she was greatly troubled at what was said.**” An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her *precisely when she is troubled*. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, “**Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God.**”

The Parish Office will be Closed on 12/25 and 12/26.

Merry Christmas!



DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday 8:00 AM	Julie Skinkis	Clarence Gruszczynski	Ella Ambrosius	Kurt Schuh
December 31			Olivia Ambrosius	Jim Soltvedt
Monday 8:00 AM	Henry Van Ess	Jessica Melchert	Liberty Schroeder	Dick Stedl
January 1 New Years Day			Graham Kisling	Fred Fleming

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 2,565.00
Loose Collection	\$ 140.00
Votive Candles	\$ 9.50
Mass Intentions	\$ 30.00
Christmas Flowers Fund	\$ 85.00
Retirement Collection	\$ 50.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Cathedra Corp. Envelopes	\$ 112.67
The Catholic Foundation	\$ 50.00
Robinson Heating & Cooling	\$ 314.65
Cleaning/mop heads	\$ 21.00
Food for Homeless Shelter	\$ 100.00
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 1.83

*** 12/17/23 Bulletin Correction:

CW donation to Emmanuel Lutheran	\$100.00
*Inclusive Community Playground	
CW donation to Good Shepherd	\$500.00
* Bus Fund	

Prayer for Advent ~ Week 4

Dear Lord,
Visit our homes! Visit our families!
Bring your goodness and light
to every broken heart we've met
on this journey of life.
Your presence brings healing
and rebirth. Come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.



LIVE THE LITURGY

God's plans are not always what we imagined.
Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say
"Yes, Lord" — and God will show you that His
imagination is better than yours.



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.



In order for your contributions to be counted for taxes in 2023, one of the following MUST be done:

- Drop off at Parish Office - By Thursday, **December 28th**
- Mail to Parish Office – postmark by **December 30th** **OR**
- Put in collection during Mass, by Sunday **December 31st**
(donations given during collection will be counted for 2023).

Loose Collection on Christmas, will be distributed as follows:

- 50%** to Community 2000 in Seymour
- 50%** to Emmanuel Lutheran in Seymour
- * Support of Inclusive Community Playground



NOMINATE an individual who lives their faith in the workplace for the 2024 Faith That Works awards!
The "Faith That Works"

nomination form along with requirements and nominee criteria are available online at bit.ly/nominateFTW. Deadline is December 31, 2023. For information, visit www.thecompassnews.org or call 920-272-8212. Sponsored by: On Mission Media for the Diocese of Green Bay.

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 5:30pm, 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
Additional Questions/Info: Fr Mark Mleziva, Vocation Director
vocations@gbdioc.org RSVP: www.gb vocations.org/registration

The Four Christmas Trees by the Altar, were donated in memory of Martin & Rose Marie Wied. Thank You!



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

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