





December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Sun	12/3	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Lynn & Dale Nooyen and Otto Worsch Family by Henry & Janice Nooyen Family Mass at St John's David & Rosemary Vande Hei	
Tues	12/5	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's Living & Deceased Members of the Coonen & Kline Families	
Wed	12/6	8:15 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM	Mass at St John's Helen Rozmiarek Communion Service Faith Formation	
Thurs	12/7	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's Rose Kleist	
Fri	12/8	8:15 AM 6:30 PM	June Linsmeyer by Jan Rosenhelm Mass at St John's Unborn Babies	Holy Day of Obligation 
Sat	12/9	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's Bob Fellion	
Sun	12/10	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Thanksgiving for Blessings by Milton & Bev Krause Mass at St John's Gerald Saindon	Confession 6PM. No Service.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TODAY ~ IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MASS ~ 9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? **"Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep."** Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.
- Father John Muir



**God's blessings to Eleanor Mary Willems,
daughter of Devin & Morgan,
who was baptized in our parish
on November 26, 2023!**

Prayer for Advent ~ Week 1

Dear Lord, In this season of bustle, help us to stay watchful and alert to the spaces and places You are calling us to bring Your love and light. Amen.



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



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

In the Unexpected

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

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

DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBTORS	GREETERS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday	Amanda Nagel	Dcn Rich Matuszak		Clara VanderHeiden	Fred Fleming
December 10				Gracelynn VanderHeiden	Dick Stedl

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$	725.00
Loose Collection	\$	175.00
Votive Candles	\$	11.50
Christmas Flowers Fund	\$	45.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Brightspeed	\$	227.22
St John's Costshare	\$	5,190.57
WE Energies	\$	459.50
Diedricks Heating & Cooling	\$	52.50
WeShare CC Fees	\$	2.52

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.

American Legion Auxiliary Fundraiser: Please come and have a delicious supper and one of the many ice cream treats at the Seymour Dairy Queen on December 12th from 4pm to 8pm. A percentage of sales during this time will be donated to "The Honor Flight" programs for Veterans. Members of the Seymour Auxiliary will be present to greet and assist customers. See you there!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Wine Distribution

Question: Why haven't Catholic Churches gone the way of disposable cups for wine distribution?

Answer: If a Catholic has ever attended a Protestant worship service and saw the communion service that was offered for that community, one of the things that might have stood out was the use of small, disposable cups for distributing the wine or grape juice. This is in stark contrast to the precious metal chalices used in Catholic churches

during the Mass. Although practices for Protestant Christians can vary (ranging from large shared chalices, to personal-use cups, to dipping the bread in the wine/grape juice), the norms governing Catholic practices are fairly direct: "Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, then ordinarily they should be gilded on the inside. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, sacred vessels may also be made from other solid materials that, according to the common estimation in each region, are precious ... they are to have bowls of nonabsorbent material" (nos. 328-330). Rather than being a commentary on the beliefs or practices of those other communities, these rules are intended to highlight the reverence that Catholics have for the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, which become the Body and Blood the Lord.

Bellin Health Seeking Volunteers for Eucharistic Ministry
If interested, please contact: Bellin Health Volunteer Service reps:
Dawn McCole (920)433-3697 / Kimberly Sommers (920)433-3632.

YOUTH CHOIR

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



ADULT CHOIR

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

Christmas Flower Donations



are being accepted!

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!

Christian Women Society ~ Annual Bake Sale ~

**Next Sunday,
December 10th**



* Each Parish Family is asked to bring 2 pre-priced items to donate to the bake sale.

* Purchase some delicious baked goods for yourself ... or surprise for someone else!

ANNUAL Christmas GIVING TREE
Helping those in need! 
The Salvation Army Giving Tree

All Unwrapped gifts, with Angel Card attached, need to be in the Parish Hall by Sunday, **December 3rd.**

There will be a table marked "Extra Gifts" if you'd like to give, but did not pick a card. Gas/Food Cards are welcome!

CONFESSION: December 10 at 6:00 PM.

No Service. Multiple Priests Available in Church & Parish Hall.

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