

WELCOME to ST. JOHN EVANGELIST PARISH



DECEMBER 3, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULE

2nd & 4th Saturday	4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am
Wednesday & Friday	7:00 am
1st Friday-Pine Haven.....	10:00 am
2nd Friday-Prairie Crossing	10:00 am

PARISH OFFICE

Hours: Monday–Friday 7:30 - 3:30 PM

601 Valley Road, Kohler WI 53044

Telephone.....(920) 452-9623

Emailstjohnnev@btsje.org

Websitestjohnkohler.org

Please contact the Parish Office to:

1. Join the Parish
2. Schedule a Baptism
3. Schedule a Mass Intention
4. Any other questions or concerns

PARISH STAFF:

Administrator: Rev. Jonathon Schmeckel

Phone: 920-452-9623 ext. 206

Anointing or Emergency: 920-550-1145

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Gretchen Free 920-452-9623 ext. 201

Director of Liturgy & Music:

Zach Holzer E-Mail: zach@btsje.org

Directors of Religious Education:

Jeanne Bitkers (Gr. 4K-6)

Phone: 920-452-9623 ext. 220

E-Mail: jeanne@btsje.org

Teresa Bettag (Gr. 7-12)

Phone: 920-452-9623 ext. 218

E-Mail: teresab@btsje.org

Co-Directors of Catholic Life Center:

John O'Dell E-Mail: john@btsje.org

Mary Waitkus E-Mail: maryw@btsje.org

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Finance Council Chair Rob Wenberg

Bob Goldsmith

Ryan Kuhn

PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Chairperson..... Bridgitt Zielke

Vice Chairperson..... Steve O'Neil

Rich Tauferner Norma Horne

Nick Cinquepalmi Paul Gami

Rita Gast Carol Marksteiner

Rick Michaletz

Trustees: Toni Sarafin, Trustee Treasurer

Michael Pellegrino, Trustee Secretary

PRAY THE ROSARY DURING THE WEEK:

Wednesday & Friday at 6:40 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

1st Fridays-6:00 - 6:45 am St. John Evangelist

Sundays 8:00 - 8:45 am St. John Evangelist

1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturdays-3 :00 pm-Blessed Trinity

2nd & 4th Saturdays-3:00 pm-St. John Evangelist

Readings for First Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37



Bulletin Submission Deadline: All requests for bulletin articles must be received by Wednesday noon to be included in that weekend's bulletin. Any articles received after that will be included as space permits. For holiday weeks, the deadline may change. Thank you for your understanding.

From Father Schmeckel:

This Sunday marks the beginning of the season of Advent and our preparation for the celebration of Christmas. All of us have practical and material things that we do to prepare for these great holidays: preparing Christmas cards, shopping, cleaning, and so many other tasks. In all the busyness, don't forget to prepare your heart and your soul for the coming of Jesus, too! In my bulletin article this week, I would like to offer a few ways to prepare spiritually for Christmas!



1. **Prayer.** Advent is a good time to evaluate our current habits of prayer: Do I pray every day? Do I make it a necessary part of my daily routines and habits? Should I increase or change my habits of prayer to better suit my state of life?
2. **Eucharistic Adoration:** Don't forget that Eucharistic Adoration happens every Thursday from 6:00 AM until 9:00 PM at Saint John's and from 8:00 until 8:50 AM at Blessed Trinity Parishes.
3. **Daily Mass.** During the season of Advent, we might consider adding a weekday Mass to our routine. Weekday Masses are often much shorter than Sunday Mass (approximately 30 minutes) – so you might be able to come quickly right before work, school, or other obligations.
4. **FORMED.org:** Both of our parishes help to pay for a subscription to FORMED.org – a website that has thousands of videos, audiobooks, workbooks, and more to help you grow in your faith. **These resources are available for you and your family to use at no cost for you.** Go to FORMED.org and search for "Blessed Trinity Sheboygan Fall" (for Saint John parishioners as well). This site will unlock an enormous amount of solid and dependable Catholic formational, educational, and entertaining content for you. I have set a goal for our parishes. **My hope is to have 50 new individuals or families sign up to use FORMED before Christmas.** If you are not already signed up, please consider doing it today.
5. **The Sacrament of Penance.** Last Sunday, I wrote about making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession. This is a very straightforward way to prepare for Christmas. Please take a look at the extended hours and additional opportunities and avail yourself of the graces of this great Sacrament of Mercy.

This Friday, December 8, is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – a Holy Day of Obligation.** Mass times will be as follows:

Thursday, December 7 – 5:15 PM – Blessed Trinity Parish

Friday, December 8 – 6:45 AM – Saint John Evangelist Parish

Friday, December 8 – 6:30 PM – Blessed Trinity Parish

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a feast celebrating Mary's conception without sin in the womb of her mother, St. Ann. From that moment she was preserved from the stain of Original Sin. Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is also the Patroness of the United States. Because of that, this Holy Day is also a good time for us to take the opportunity to pray for our country!

And just a reminder: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered 45 minutes before every Holy Day Mass..

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Will be offered at St. John Parish on Saturday, December 9 at 3:00 pm and Sunday, December 10 from 7:15 to 8:45 am.

MASS INTENTIONS

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Saturday	December 2	Blessed Trinity	4:00 pm	†Alfred & Rita Grusznski by Children, †Gi & Gen Hefling by Mattek & Schueffner Families, †Tony Bonde by Ken & Ann Johnson
Sunday	December 3	St. John's	9:00 am	Mass for Parishioners
Sunday	December 3	Blessed Trinity	10:30 am	†Thomas, Mary, & Jerome Buechler by Mary Klover, †Leo & Kathryn Schleicher by Leo Schleicher Family
Tuesday	December 5	Blessed Trinity	9:00 am	†Harry & Opal Wathers by Donna Plageman
Wednesday	December 6	St. John's	7:00 am	Poor Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	December 7	Blessed Trinity	9:00am	†Robert Nebel by Bettag Family
Thursday	December 7	Blessed Trinity	5:15 pm	Mass for Parishioners
Friday	December 8	St. John's	6:45 am	†LaVerne Mahloch by Mel & Lorrie Free
Friday	December 8	Blessed Trinity	6:30 pm	†Rosemary Eigenberger by Paul & Jessica Jensen, †Jane Ornelas by Family, †William Lane Jr. by Thomas & Diana Kreutz
Saturday	December 9	St. John's	4:00 pm	†Dennis Dohms by Dan & Diane Dohms, †Dick Schaetz by Bob & Laurie Schaetz
Sunday	December 10	St. John's	9:00 am	Deceased Members of the Tauferner & Schwebel Families by Rich Tauferner
Sunday	December 11	Blessed Trinity	10:30 am	Mass for Parishioners

LAY MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 9/10

MASSES	Saturday, 4:00 pm	Sunday, 9:00 am
Lectors	Colleen Kuhn Carter Udovich	Hollyann Becker Diane Hart
Servers	Volunteer Volunteer	Anthony B. Ben B.
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Patti Cosgrove	Ken Udovich
Ushers	Tom Gast Rita Gast	Rich Tauferner Peter Bustos
Sacristan	Diane Torke	Julia Rodemeier Steve O'Neil
Greeters	Patti Cosgrove	Peter Bustos

ALL PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:

All Parish Offices will be closed on Friday, December 8 in Observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. All emails and voicemails will be returned on Monday, December 11.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses:

Saturday, December 23:

4:00 pm St. John Evangelist

Sunday, December 24:

9:00 am St. John Evangelist

10:30 am Blessed Trinity



Christmas Masses:

Sunday, December 24:

4:00 pm St. John Evangelist

4:00 pm Blessed Trinity

10:00 pm St. John Evangelist

Monday, December 25:

8:30 am St. John Evangelist

10:30 am Blessed Trinity

EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:30 - 8:45 am Reconciliation
9:00 am Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:30 - 11:00 am Mission Society
6:30 - 8:00 pm Choir Practice
6:30 pm "Ten Ways to Appreciate the Eucharist"
Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00 am Mass
4:00 - 5:15 pm Religious Education
4K - Grade 6
6:45 - 8:00 pm Religious Education
Grades 7- 12

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:00 am - 9:00 pm Adoration
2:00 - 3:00 pm Bible Study
Conference Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00 am Reconciliation
6:45 am Mass - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

3:00 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:30 - 8:45 am Reconciliation
9:00 am Mass



FOOD PANTRY:

Please continue to bring **non-perishable** goods for the Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry. They are in need of pasta sauce at this time. **Next Delivery: Monday, December 4: Ken & Lori Udovich.**



Ten Ways to Appreciate the Eucharist:

Presented by Father Bob Lotz on **Tuesdays, December 5 & 12** from **6:30-7:30 pm** at St. John Evangelist Parish in the Lower Level Conference Room (enter through the canopy entrance off of the parking lot). Join Fr. Bob for this two-part presentation based on Kevin Irwin's book Models of the Eucharist which talks about 10 different ways of thinking about the Eucharist. Fr. Bob will show how to use this information to inspire people during preparation for Christmas.



SALVATION ARMY'S "TOYS FOR TOTS":

The Salvation Army has dropped off a box for this year's "Toys for Tots" Drive. Please bring an unwrapped toy for any age child and place it in the box. All toys must be donated by **Sunday, December 10** for pick up by the Salvation Army on Monday, December 11.

FINANCIAL: NOVEMBER 24/25:

Collection: (contribution envelopes, electronic giving and loose offering): \$7,023.44.



St. John Evangelist/Blessed Trinity Senior Singles 55+:

The next after Mass social will be on Sunday, December 10, at Blessed Trinity Parish in the Church Hall. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. RSVP by December 7, by email if you are a current member or if you are new to the group email Mary at maryw@btsje.org or 920-467-4616, Ext. 314.

You are invited!


**Come and spend some time with
our Lord in the Eucharist**

12 Hours of Adoration

WEDNESDAY | DEC 20 | 7AM-7PM

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
115 Plymouth Street, Plymouth WI
With St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church






TMIY
THAT MAN IS YOU!
BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

CATHOLIC MEN'S PROGRAM

@Blessed Trinity CLC
Doors open 6:45am with
lite breakfast/fraternity
program 7am-8:30am



All men 18/over invited
contact Mark Weber 920-980-2112



**WELCOME TO THE
PARISH:** Please welcome
Diane Dombrowski to the
parish.



"GIVING TREE" Christmas Project for Mary's Room

Please take a tag from the Giving Tree, sponsored by St. John Evangelist's St. Anne's Society (or use the shopping list of critical needs) located in the Gathering Space, and return unwrapped gifts to the Giving Tree by morning of **Tuesday, December 5**. For more information or questions, please contact Lori Udovich at udovichlori@gmail.com or (920) 946-5612



**FREE
OUTDOOR
EVENT
FOR KIDS!**

A Visit with St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas returns to Sheboygan! HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital warmly invites you to attend A Visit with St. Nicholas. This outdoor event embraces the traditional spirit of Christmas and celebrates the hospital's patron saint, who was a friend to all children.

From 5 to 6:30 p.m., children (and kids-at-heart!) can meet St. Nicholas and his reindeer! Don't forget to bring your camera or phone to take photos. The first 200 children will receive a goodie bag.

From 5:45 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. listen to the songs of the season performed by Catholic North Youth Choir and St. Dominic's Adult Choir. Enjoy velvety hot cocoa and delicious Christmas cookies.

**Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023
5 to 7 p.m.**

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital
3100 Superior Ave., Sheboygan
Outside, near the Chapel entrance

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

In the spirit of the season, while not required, **please bring new winter hats and mittens** for those in need in our community.




Welcoming the Season of Advent:

Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas begins this Sunday, December 3rd. It is the season of preparation leading up to Christmas Day. During these four weeks we anticipate the coming of Jesus as a baby. It's a time full of reflection, excitement, and hope as we prepare to celebrate His birth.



Advent, as a season of preparation, offers a wonderful opportunity to engage in activities that create a deeper connection to the true meaning of Christmas. Whether it's creating an Advent wreath, reading and discussing daily Scripture readings, or participating in acts of kindness and charity, these intentional activities foster a sense of anticipation and reflection.

Creating your own Advent wreath is a simple and meaningful activity. It's not too late to do that, and it only takes a few steps to create a wreath with four candles for a table in your home. The wreath can be a focal point for prayer and reflection. Each Sunday of Advent gather around the wreath, recite some prayers, and light a new candle to mark the progression of the Season and cultivate a sense of anticipation and reverence as you await the birth of Jesus.

Setting up a nativity crèche, a set of figures representing those who were present in Bethlehem during Jesus' birth including the Baby Jesus, Joseph and Mary, shepherds, angels, magi, and a variety of farm animals, helps those who see it reflect on Jesus' humble beginnings during the Advent Season. Catholics traditionally hide the figure of Baby Jesus and only add Him to the scene on Christmas Day. Nativity crèches come in all shapes and sizes. Most are small and can fit on a table. (It is said that the first nativity scene was actually created by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223.)

Putting up a Christmas tree can also serve as a reminder that for thousands of years the evergreen tree has been a sign of hope and life. For ancient people, it was a reminder during the winter season that sunlight and good weather would come again. Christmas trees are seen in homes and on display everywhere. For Christians their beauty and light can serve as a reminder of the hope we have in Jesus. Glowing warmly at the darkest time of year, they remind us that the light of Jesus still shines through the darkness just as it did when He was born on that first Christmas Day.

There are also quite a few important (and fun) feasts and celebrations during the Advent season. Look ahead to see what's coming up so you can plan small celebrations throughout the season.

All these intentional activities during the Season of Advent can foster a sense of anticipation and reflection and can also help us look forward to and prepare for a Christmas filled with faith, hope and love. May these four weeks of Advent also be filled with blessings for you and your loved ones.

~Jeanne Bitkers, Director of Religious Education 4K - Grade 6



NATIONAL

Eucharistic Revival

SIGN-UP REMINDERS:

July 17 – 21, 2024 National Eucharistic Congress (Indianapolis, IN). The deadline to register for the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Haines and Bishop Schuerman has

been extended to **Sunday, December 10.** This is the first

National Congress in 83 years. Speakers include Bishop Robert Barron, Fr. Michael Schmitz, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, and Cardinal Christophe Pierre plus dozens more. Please visit: <https://www.archmil.org/evangelization/Eucharistic-Revival/Pilgrimage-to-10th-National-Eucharistic-Congress.htm> to get more information and to register.

St John's Adoration: every Thursday 6:00 am to 9:00 pm (enter through the canopy entrance off of the parking lot). If you would like to be a regular Adorer (one hour of your time a week) or be Substitute Adorer (fill in for regular Adorers), please contact Susan iamsgtv@gmail.com. **All are welcome to stop and spend any amount of time with Jesus!**



WINTERFEST 2024:

Mark your calendars for Winterfest 2024 which will take place on **Sunday, January 28, 2024.** More information will be in future bulletins. In mid-December, watch for information on signing up to volunteer.



Sheboygan
South
Catholic
Parishes

Come to me.

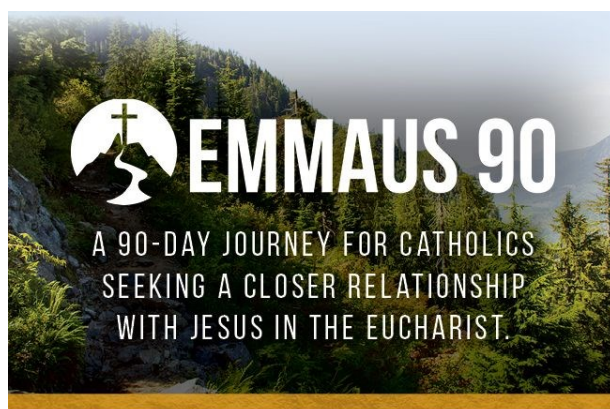
Matthew 19:14



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH SENSORY FRIENDLY MASS

SUNDAY, DEC. 10, 2023 • AT NOON

12 HOURS OF RECONCILIATION: Will be held at St. Peter Claver Parish on **Tuesday, December 19 from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm.** There will be multiple priests on hand to hear Confessions.



> DAILY PRAYER PROMPTS

> WEEKLY FORMATION LIVESTREAM OR VIDEO

> DAILY CHALLENGES

> A COMMUNITY WALKING WITH YOU

COST

\$20/Per Pilgrim (includes one hardcopy Guidebook)

\$40/Per Family (includes electronic Family Guide and two hardcopy Guidebooks; additional Guidebooks for older children can be purchased for \$20 each)

Begins Jan. 1, 2024 | Guidebook supplies are limited

Register by December 10 to ensure you get a printed copy

MORE INFO AND REGISTER AT
WWW.ARCHMIL.ORG/EMMAUS-90



ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE

Customize your journey to fit your schedule!
To connect with a small group, sign up in the back of church at either parish or contact Mary at the CLC at 920-467-4616, Ext. 314

Where are You Sending Me?

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said; 'send me!'" Isaiah 6:8

Date:

Friday, January 5 & Saturday, January 6, 2024

Location:

Friday, Blessed Trinity Church, Sheboygan Falls.

- 5:30 p.m. Adoration (optional)
- 6:30 p.m. Mass
- 7:15 p.m. Hearing the voice of Baby Jesus
 - *Featuring Reverend Michael Lawinger*
- 8:30 p.m. Social time and dessert

Saturday, Lakeland University, Plymouth

- 9 a.m. Continental breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. How To Hear The Lord's Voice: Does God Have A Mission For Me?
 - *Featuring Gina Loehr*
- 11 a.m. Small group #1
- 12 p.m. Lunch & sacred solitude time
 - Reconciliation
 - Contemplation and prayer
 - Walking rosary
- 2 p.m. Small Group #2
- 3:15 p.m. Small Group #3
- 4:30 p.m. Closing

Cost: \$35 per person early bird price (both days)

Includes: Friday reception, continental breakfast, lunch & custom journal

- \$45 per person after December 23 (both days)
- \$35 per person for just Saturday
- \$10 per person for just Friday



Registration: Register online at <https://bit.ly/3FFa37V>

Pay via check or cash at any Sheboygan County Catholic Parish office.



Where are ^{You}
sending me?

Saturday Small Group Sessions Options:

Attendees preselect 3 small groups to attend

Prayer: Connecting with the Present... In Loving Presence

Hosted by Laura Hancock

Healing Beyond Circumstance: The Path to Healing, Wholeness and Holiness *Hosted by Christine Immel*

Building Your Domestic Church: Practical Tips for Cultivating Faith In Children & Grandchildren *Hosted by Grace Mazza Urbanski*

Where Are You Sending Me? Listening For the Voice Of God *Hosted by Monica Meagher, MDiv.*

Pietra Fitness Exercise Class *Hosted by Sherry Winkel*

Life Transitions *Hosted by Carla Schommer*

Learn more about our presenters here: <https://bit.ly/40pLCVJ>



Dear Padre,

Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News. ●



This first page of the Gospel of Mark is from a fourteenth-century Armenian illuminated manuscript painting by Sargis Pitsak.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8	December 9	December 10
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Advent Weekday	Second Sunday of Advent
Is 2:1–5	Is 11:1–10	Is 25:6–10a	Is 26:1–6	Gn 3:9–15, 20	Is 30:19–21, 23–26	Is 40:1–5, 9–11
Mt 8:5–11	Lk 10:21–24	Mt 15:29–37	Mt 7:21, 24–27	Eph 1:3–6, 11–12	Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8	2 Pt 3:8–14
				Lk 1:26–38		Mk 1:1–8

Helping Catholics Apply Gospel Messages Today!

Find hope and inspiration in the award-winning *Liguorian* magazine. Subscriptions available for as little as \$12 per year. Visit Liguorian.org for details.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] ...is at the door to our heart. He knocks. Do you know how to listen to the Lord...who has come today to visit you...? He came to Bethlehem, he will come at the end of the world, but every day he comes to us. Be attentive, look at what you feel in your heart when the Lord knocks.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29, 2020