

# WELCOME to ST. JOHN EVANGELIST PARISH



## DECEMBER 24, 2022 FOURTH 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

Email .....[stjohnnev@btsje.org](mailto:stjohnnev@btsje.org)

Website .....[stjohnkohler.org](http://stjohnkohler.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](mailto:zach@btsje.org)

**Directors of Religious Education:**

Jeanne Bitkers (Gr. 4K-6)

Phone: 920-452-9623 ext. 220

E-Mail: [jeanne@btsje.org](mailto:jeanne@btsje.org)

Teresa Bettag (Gr. 7-12)

Phone: 920-452-9623 ext. 218

E-Mail: [teresab@btsje.org](mailto:teresab@btsje.org)

**Co-Directors of Catholic Life Center:**

John O'Dell E-Mail: [john@btsje.org](mailto:john@btsje.org)

Mary Waitkus E-Mail: [maryw@btsje.org](mailto: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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

2nd Reading: Roman 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

*"Behold, I am  
the handmaid  
of the Lord.  
May it be  
done to me  
according to  
your word."*

LUKE 1:38

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:

*"Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born, let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with promise of eternal happiness."* – Saint Leo the Great



## Merry Christmas to you and your family!

I hope that you all have a very blessed and joyful Christmas season. Even if there is sadness or fear in your life right now, I hope the birth of the baby Jesus "swallows up" your challenges and difficulties (to use Saint Leo's words from above) – even if it is just for a short time.

When you come to Mass or visit the Church during this joyful time, I invite you to look carefully at the nativity scenes in our churches. As we look at that image of the baby Jesus, it reminds us that Jesus became human and took on human flesh so that He could be close to us. He knows what it means to be tired and hungry, to be happy and laugh, and to eat and be merry! As we look at the images of Mary and Joseph, they remind us how much they loved baby Jesus – and also remind us to love Him with the similar warmth and affection. As we look at the images of the sheep, the donkey and the ox, they remind us of the goodness of the world around us. Maybe we feel like we are just a sheep or donkey, or ox, but even the barn animals can love Jesus and teach us to love Him, too!

Let's look at our nativity scenes in church, in our homes, or on our yards with great love for Jesus who loves us.

Christmas should remind you of how much God loves you, and so do I! It is such a joy and blessing for me to celebrate my second Christmas as your priest – and I am so grateful for the generosity and kindness you have all shown to me in so many ways! I pray for you every day!

Wherever you're from, whatever's going on in your life, I pray that this year's celebration of Jesus' birth brings you great peace, joy, and love!



# MASS INTENTIONS

3

|                 |                    |                        |                |  |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>December 23</b> | <b>St. John's</b>      | <b>4:00 pm</b> | †Bill Kreisa and Ed & Ethel Kreisa by Bette Kreisa Kluge; Norbert Haen by David & Nancy Schleicher |
| Sunday          | December 24        | St. John's             | 9:00 am        | †Casey Doolittle by Andy & Tracy Kissel  |
| Sunday          | December 24        | Blessed Trinity        | 10:30 am       | Mass for Parishioners  |
| Sunday          | December 24        | St. John's             | 4:00 pm        | †Kendra Versey by Versey Family  |
| Sunday          | December 24        | Blessed Trinity        | 4:00 pm        | †Juergen Pietzner by Family, †Ulrich Bartels by Shelly Bartels                                     |
| Sunday          | December 24        | St. John's             | 10:00 pm       | Mass for Parishioners  |
| Monday          | December 25        | St. John's             | 8:30 am        | †Frank Plesetz by Kathy & Family   |
| Monday          | December 25        | Blessed Trinity        | 10:30 am       | †Carol Schuessler by Family, †Carol Margaret Flerchinger by Dave Elder                             |
| Tuesday         | December 26        | Blessed Trinity        | 9:00 am        | †Susan Alfonsi by Family   |
| Wednesday       | December 27        | St. John's             | 7:00 am        | †Ted & Phyllis Biskup  |
| Thursday        | December 28        | Blessed Trinity        | 9:00 am        | †Bill Heimerl by Judy Heimerl  |
| Friday          | December 29        | St. John's             | 7:00 am        | †Norma Leffingwell   |
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>December 30</b> | <b>Blessed Trinity</b> | <b>4:00 pm</b> | †Ben Woveras by Family, †Kay & Jim Altmeyer by Mattek & Schueffner Families                        |
| Sunday          | December 31        | St. John's             | 9:00 am        | Mass for Parishioners  |
| Sunday          | December 31        | Blessed Trinity        | 10:30 am       | †John Klopf Sr. by Ron & Marlene Krueger, †Barbara Stodor by Ruth Pedroni                          |
| Monday          | January 1          | St. John's             | 9:00 am        | †Kendra Versey by Family   |

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD:** Is **Monday, January 1, 2024.** Since this falls on a Monday it is not a holy day of obligation. There will be a Mass at St. John Evangelist Parish at **9:00 am.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Will be offered at Blessed Trinity Parish on Saturday, December 30 at 3:00 pm and at St. John Evangelist Parish on Sunday, December 31 from 8:00 to 8:45 am.

**FINANCIAL: DECEMBER 17:** Collection: (contribution envelopes, electronic giving and loose offering): \$9,085.00.

**MISSION SOCIETY:** The Mission Society will not meet on Tuesday, December 26 and January 2. Quilting begins again on Tuesday, **January 9, 2024.**



**ALL PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:** All Parish Offices will be closed on Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 25 in Observance of Christmas. All emails and voicemails will be returned as soon as possible on Tuesday, December 26. The Parish Office will also be closed on Wednesday, December 27 beginning at 11:30 am.



**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, January 6, 2024: Tracy Kissel & Faye Rogers.**



**WELCOME TO THE PARISH:** Please welcome Paul & Jessica Hanley and their daughter Cathrine to the Parish.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

2:30 pm Reconciliation  
4:00 pm Mass

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30 - 8:45 am Reconciliation  
9:00 am Mass  
4:00 pm Christmas Mass  
10:00 pm Christmas Mass

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:30 am Christmas Mass

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00 am Mass

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:00 am Mass

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 Reconciliation  
9:00 am Mass



## WINTERFEST 2024:

Will take place on **Sunday, January 28, 2024** from **10:00am** until **2:00 pm**.

Volunteers are needed.

Please use the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B44A9A82BA0F85-46883314-winterfest#/> to volunteer. If you have problems or don't have internet, please contact the parish office to volunteer.

## 2023 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS:

All 2022 Contributions must be to the Parish Office no later than **Friday, December 29** or included in the collection at the Masses **December 30/31** to be counted in the 2023 tax year. If you would like to check on your contributions so far this year, please contact the Parish Office during normal hours (7:30 am - 3:30 pm).



## LAY MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES & DECEMBER 31

| MASSES  | Sunday<br>December 24,<br>4:00 pm            | Sunday<br>December 24,<br>10:00 pm | Monday<br>December 25,<br>8:30 am | Sunday<br>December 31,<br>9:00 am  |
|---|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lector  | Bridget Bullard<br>Charlotte B.              | Colleen Kuhn<br>Susan Vavra        | Gerry Loth<br>Hollyann B.         | Gerry Loth<br>Diane Hart           |
| Servers   | Anthony J.<br>Patrick B.                     | Volunteer<br>Volunteer             | Joseph B.<br>Volunteer            | Sophia H.<br>Brett H.              |
| Extraordinary<br>Ministers of Holy<br>Communion | Susan Vavra<br>Diane Hart                    | Clyde Kometer                      | Judy Loth                         | Nick Cinquepalmi                   |
| Ushers  | Bob Hiers<br>Randy Miller<br>Aaron Justinger | Tom Reilly<br>Volunteer            | Peter Guske<br>Jim Sarafin        | Aaron Justinger<br>Rob Holzrichter |
| Sacristan                                       | Dave and<br>Diane Hart                       | Connie<br>Katchkey                 | Julia Rodemeier<br>Steve O'Neil   | Nick Cinquepalmi                   |



## CHRISTMAS 2023

*“And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:12*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's no accident that when Jesus was born, he was placed in a manger. Think of it – the Son of God, born among us in absolute poverty, and placed in a trough meant for animal food. He became our Bread of Life. “This King of Kings came to us as food, feeding a starving humanity ‘with his tender love,’” Pope Francis once said. How true, and that continues today with the ultimate gift we receive at every Mass – Jesus in the Eucharist.

This Christmas, we are in the second year of the Eucharistic Revival, a special time in our Church when we are called to renew our devotion to the Eucharist. Jesus is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, and is there to sustain us in all that we do. Come and receive Him at Mass, and never go hungry. Sit with Him in Adoration and find comfort in the love He has for you, today and always.

As we look to resolutions for the new year, I suggest you resolve to make this extra effort to deepen your relationship with Christ. What an amazing opportunity to focus on the Eucharist as the Source and Summit of our faith – for it is through the Eucharist that we are united with Christ and with one another.

May peace and joy be with you and your family this Christmas, and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Jerome E. ListECKi*

**Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKi**

Archbishop of Milwaukee



# Dear Padre,

***The Bible talks about Jesus' brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary's only child?***

The Catholic Church's position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to "the brothers of Jesus" or to his "sisters" (see Matthew 13:55–56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19–21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term "brothers" (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn't restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to "brothers in arms" as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of "cousins" as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340–420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered "the brothers of Jesus" as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●



VIRGIN AND CHILD, ASIA (ARTIST UNKNOWN)

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

| MONDAY                                     | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                                      | FRIDAY                                  | SATURDAY                                | SUNDAY   |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| December 25<br><i>Nativity of the Lord</i> | December 26<br><i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i> | December 27<br><i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> | December 28<br><i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> | December 29<br><i>Christmas Weekday</i> | December 30<br><i>Christmas Weekday</i> | December 31<br><i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i> |
| Is 52:7–10                                 | Acts 6:8–10;  | 1 Jn 1:1–4   | 1 Jn 1:5–2:2                                  | 1 Jn 2:3–11                             | 1 Jn 2:12–17                            | Sir 3:2–6, 12–14   |
| Heb 1:1–6                                  | 7:54–59   | Jn 20:1a, 2–8  | Mt 2:13–18                                    | Lk 2:22–35                              | Lk 2:36–40                              | Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17                                       |
| Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14                   | Mt 10:17–22   |  |   |   |   | Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40                                    |

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.***

**ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021**