



Our Lady OF THE Prairie

CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 18, 2022

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 3:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday | 4:15pm

Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday | 6:30pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday | 8:30am

Holy Days & Holidays

Consult bulletin.

Eucharist Adoration

Wednesday | 9:00am - 10:00pm

SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Confession

30 mins prior to Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage

Make arrangements with the Parish Office six months prior to proposed wedding date.

Sacrament of Baptism

Congratulations! Thank you for accepting and caring for one of God's greatest gifts. As part of Baptism preparation, expectant parents are required to attend Mass weekly. Please speak to Deacon Mike Daly after Mass during the second trimester of pregnancy to begin the formal preparation process. We look forward to getting to know you and your baby.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140



200 East Church Street | Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011
952-873-6564 | www.ourladyoftheprairie.com

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |
mkaluza@olp.church

DEACON

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BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

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nwermskirchen@olp.church

PRINCIPAL OF PARISH SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Katie Cates | kcates@olp.church

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Patrick Schroers
pschroers@olp.church

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION & SEC

Wendi Alessio | walessio@olp.church

CEMETERY CARETAKER

Keith Heitkamp |
papaheitkamp3@gmail.com

LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

TRUSTEES

Charlotte Mulroy, Sue Schultz

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Mike Buchanan, Dan Flynn, Ginny Morgan, Allen Schmitz, Ty Buesgens, Renee Schultz, Leticia Fogarty, Cindy Berger, Joan Bruggemeier, Sandy Schroers, Bob Smith, Tim Murphy

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Ashley Simons, Jessica Fogarty,
Loni Scheff, Jason Palo, Kelli Berger

FINANCE COUNCIL

Dan Neisen, Maria Tracy, Jerome Flaherty, Joe Vandermark, Jim Koepf



A MESSAGE FROM DEACON MIKE



They shall call him Emmanuel...

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Our Lady of the Prairie,

In this week's Gospel, we turn our attention to a man of few words: humble-and often silent-Joseph. As he was preparing to wed Mary, he discovered that she was with child. Facing a challenging situation, Joseph immediately sought to remedy it by quietly divorcing Mary in an attempt to minimize the potential shame that she was sure to encounter. He saw a problem, made a plan, and prepared to execute it with precision. How much of ourselves can we see in Joseph? He took control, made an action plan, and trusted in his pragmatic skills.

But how often are our plans changed? How often are we asked to readjust and think more deeply about the situation with which we have been presented?

Joseph was jarred when an angel appeared in his dreams and shared the simple instructions to take Mary into his home. When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded. Joseph remains silent in this passage (and often throughout Scripture): yet nevertheless he is a man of action. He acted with patient urgency, recognizing that he must immediately take Mary into his home, and trusted the Lord that this child would save people from their sins. Talk about not knowing what lay ahead yet having faith in the Lord!

Jesus came into the world to live as God in human form. Mary was chosen to deliver the child who would become the savior of the world. Joseph answered the call to protect and guide Mary and the newborn in a hostile country. Joseph and Mary trusted God's plan...completely...with humility and obedience. They understood the prophecy from Isaiah, "They shall call him Emmanuel, which means, God with us." They trusted that God was accompanying them on their journey.

As we approach the end of Advent, let us embody Joseph's example: let us embrace the silence. Let us listen to God. And finally, let us act, with patient urgency, to follow God's voice in our hearts.

God bless all of you and wishing you a Christmas filled with great joy and many blessings!

In Christ, Deacon Mike

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE...

Ann Woelfel
Cindy Coughlen
Angela Hennen
Mike Fogarty
Loree Heinkel
Bob Belousek

Lily Jane
Carol Klein
Bud Steen
Lisa Pobuda
Joe Lajeunesse
Cara Miller

Susan Fahey
Gary Gerbeling
Jean Dockter
Genny Mesenbrink

If you know of someone who would like to have their name added to the Prayer List, please notify the bulletin editor. A name will be listed for four weeks. Please get the permission of the person you wish to add before calling or emailing.

**Our Lady of the Prairie
Council of Catholic Women
Flower Fund Donations**

CHRISTMAS SEASON



**Excess donations will be used for altar
flowers during other times of the year.**

Donated By: _____

In Memory Of: _____



STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

For the Week of December 11, 2022

Weekly Collection Goal for Month	\$8,073.00
12/11/2022 Collection (Week 24).....	\$5,779.30
CURRENT WEEK DEFICIT	-\$2,293.70
Church Painting Collection	\$2,400.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$1,229.76

Immaculate Conception 6:30pm Mass.....	128
Immaculate Conception 8:30am Mass.....	121
Immaculate Conception 6:30pm Mass.....	78
Live stream views of Immaculate Conception Mass.....	31

Attendance at 4:15pm Mass	181
Attendance at 8:00am Mass	147
Attendance at 10:00am Mass	209
Live stream views of Mass	27

Total Number of Registered Active Families.....486 Total
 Number of Registered Active Members.....1,293

*Collection week includes envelopes and loose total for that weekend collection.

**Total Contributions YTD includes all envelope, loose, ACH and midweek contributions up to date noted

Church Painting collected as of 12/4/2022

\$198,351.93

This does not include the collection from 12/11/2022

Introducing....



Friends & co™

Are you (or do you know) an older adult
 seeking meaningful connection?

Coffee Talk is open for chatting Monday – Friday 8am-12pm @ 612-746-0728

OR for Visiting Companion, contact Jenny (Hennen) Schipull @ 612-270-3943



Belle Plaine Knights of Columbus donated \$1,000.00 to the OLP church painting fund at the 10am Mass on 12/11/2022. The money was raised at their recent Pancake and Sausage breakfast.



A prayer for the final days of Advent

O Divine One,

You came into our world in the form of a newly emerged child, fresh and fragile as all of us are at our birthing.

You came as a beloved one filled with the radiance of eternal Light. As you grew in humanness, your life and teachings revealed the vast goodness of your inner being.

We now carry your loving Spirit of radiance within us. We can easily miss this gift in the press of our activities and our clouded, inner vision. Skim away the inattentiveness of our minds and the crusts of unloving on our hearts. As we prepare to celebrate the wonder of your birth, help us discern your concealed presence in each part of our life.

Amen. (— From the writings of Joyce Rupp, OSM)

GROWING ⁺ WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE A



COLOR

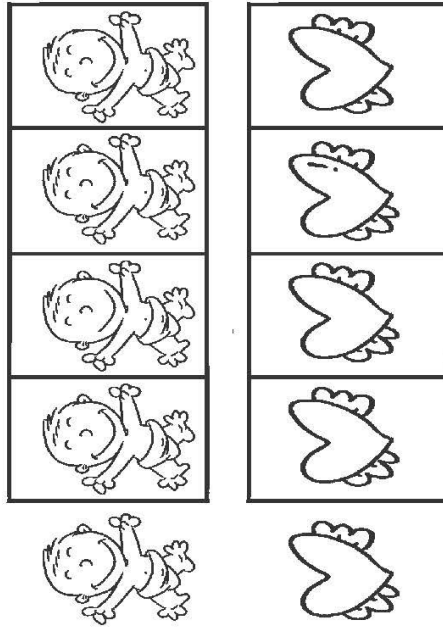
Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



4th Sunday of Advent • Matthew 1:18-24

PUZZLE

In each series color the image within the box that is identical to the one outside the box. Make sure to notice all the details



MISSION

Tonight after dinner, ask your family to light some candles, turn off the lights, and sing some of your favorite Christmas songs about Jesus.

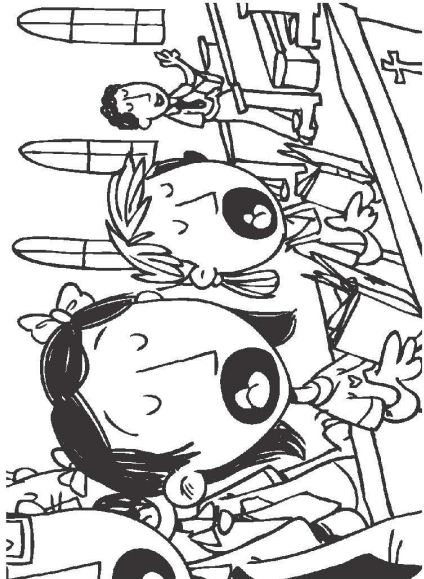


BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER



DRAW

Draw a picture of baby Jesus.



GOSPEL

God brought Jesus into the world as a tiny baby. Jesus was God's Son. He was so powerful that he could have gotten anything he wanted. But Jesus did not come to earth to be a rich, selfish ruler. He did not need a palace or fancy clothes. Jesus came to show you that God is with you all the time. He was born to be the king over your life. He gave up his own life to rescue you from your sins, so that you could be close to God forever.



PRAYER

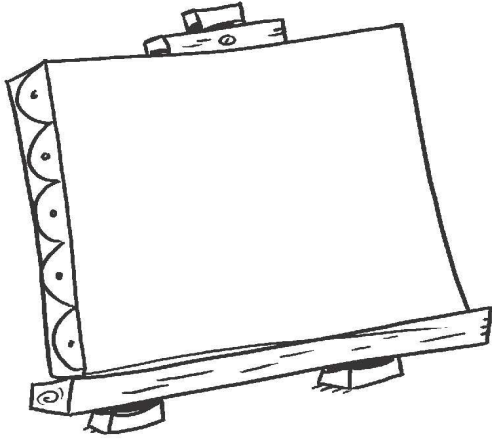
Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me.



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

PUZZLE

Draw a picture of yourself when you were a baby.



MISSION

I will thank my parents for having me and taking good care of me.



GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



4th Sunday of Advent • Matthew 1:18-24



GOSPEL

An angel told Joseph to marry Mary because her baby was through the Holy Spirit of God. They would name the baby Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. God called you by name, too. Before you were born, he could tell you how many hairs would be on your head. He knew how long your feet would be. He knew all the good things you would do for his people.

PRAYER

I am proud that I am your child, Father God.

DRAW

Draw an angel telling Joseph not to be afraid and to marry Mary.



The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is hosting

Totus Tuus teams this summer!



Is God calling YOU to serve?

Bring the good news to the next generation; share the faith, build friendships, answer the call and become a 2023 Totus Tuus Summer Missionary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis!

- College age men and women committed to their Catholic faith who feel called to share it with youth (grades 1-12) in local parishes in the Archdiocese.
- 2 month commitment: 6/2 - 7/29. (Includes a week of training and a week break for the 4th of July holiday)
- Missionaries will receive \$2,520 for their service.
- One vehicle is needed for each team (driver of vehicle is required to be over 21 years of age)

Apply online at www.archspm.org/totustuus or contact:
Father David Blume | 651-962-6892 | fdblume@stthomas.edu
or Nancy Palatchek | 651-291-4489 | totustuus@archspm.org



Join Our Lady of the Prairie for

An advent Season

Evening of Adoration

In the Church

Lead by: Deacon Mike Daly

December 20th following 6:30 pm Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sacred Scripture and Reflection

Advent Music

Benediction

Christmas Around the World



December 22nd @ 7pm

Location: Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church

A Christmas Pageant presented by the students of
Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School

WINTER WEATHER CHURCH POLICY

For the safety of our parishioners, remember our winter weather policy as follows:

- If schools are ***delayed or close early or closed*** due to snow or poor weather conditions, Church, Adoration and all meetings, events and activities scheduled for that day at the church will be cancelled (i.e., PREP, CCW, Knights of Columbus, Marriage Encounter, etc.).
- **We will send an email blast to those of you on our weekly bulletin email list letting you know of closures. If you are not on our email list and would like to be added, please call the office or email kpumper@ourladyoftheprairie.com.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK DECEMBER 19—DECEMBER 25, 2022

MONDAY 12/19

TUESDAY 12/20

1:30 pm | Kingsway Mass
6:30 pm | Mass

WEDNESDAY 12/21

8:30 am | Mass
Coffee & donuts after 8:30am Mass

THURSDAY 12/22

8:30 am | Mass
7:00 pm | OLP School Christmas Program all are welcome

FRIDAY 12/23

Parish Office Closed
OLP School is in session
8:30 am | Mass

SATURDAY 12/24—CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 pm | Mass
4:15 pm | Mass
Midnight | Mass

SUNDAY 12/25—CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 am | Mass
10:00 am | Mass

Bulletin Announcements:

If your group would like to post anything in the bulletin, please send an email to Nora at nwermerskirchen@olp.church by noon on Monday for the following Sunday's publication.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Eve, December 24, and Christmas Day, December 25, fall on a Saturday and Sunday this year. Some may see this as a blessing as do we priests and staff, yet we realize we miss out on one collection because of the combined weekend. I know you will make a concerted effort to be generous this year and bring both your Christmas Envelope and your Sunday, December 25th envelope. Parishes rely on the Christmas collection to carry us into the New Year. Thank you for being conscientious and generous.

Cemetery Price Increase Effective July 1, 2023

All cemetery lots purchased after June 30, 2023, will have an additional charge of \$200.00 (per lot) for perpetual care.

Member—\$700/lot + \$200 for perpetual care

Non-member—\$1,400/lot + \$200 for perpetual care



Our Lady of the Prairie
Catholic Church

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2022

MINISTRY	3:00PM	4:15PM	Midnight
Lectors	Sarah W	Joe V	VOLUNTEER
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion <small>*If Deacon Mike is not present.</small>	Dan F Sarah W Sheila H <small>*Volunteer</small>	Karen V Keith H Charlotte N Jason P	Paula C Susan C VOLUNTEER <small>*Volunteer</small>
Ushers	Scott W VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER	Peter F Brent C Jim G Emmett G	Jim C Ben C VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER
Servers	Liam G Eli W VOLUNTEER	Ian, Addy & Andrew S Kaiden & Jaxson P Cole C	Peter H Luke H Henry H

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2022

MINISTRY	8:00AM	10:00AM
Lectors	Sharon S	Sandy S
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion <small>*If Deacon Mike is not present.</small>	Sharon S VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER <small>*Volunteer</small>	Nora W VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER <small>*Volunteer</small>
Ushers	Mark H VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER	Troy W Caleb W Max W VOLUNTEER
Servers	VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER	Hannah W VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER

MASS INTENTIONS

TUESDAY, 12/20

6:30pm d. Brent Meyer

WEDNESDAY, 12/21

8:30am liv. Jerry & Jackie Smith

THURSDAY, 12/22

8:30am d. Joseph & Catherine Weiss

FRIDAY, 12/23

8:30am d. Barney & Germaine O'Hagan

SATURDAY, 12/24

3:00pm d. Jim & Mary Daly
4:15pm liv&d. Members of the Dan Murphy Family
12:00am d. Tony, Martha & Marilyn Zweber

SUNDAY, 12/25

8:00am d. Robert & Mary Harsh
10:00am For the Parish

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19—DECEMBER 25, 2022

Monday 12/19 | Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday 12/20 | Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday 12/21 | Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45

Thursday 12/22 | 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Friday 12/23 | Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday 12/24 | 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Christmas Masses | Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/
12/24 & 12/25 Lk 2:1-14

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS & GUESTS!
We're happy to have you with us today!

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 Belle Plaine | M-F 6am-6pm
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www.angieslearningcenter.com

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In loving memory of:
Brent W. Meyer

 Blessings to all:
 Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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