



# Our Lady OF THE Prairie

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 25, 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](http://www.ourladyoftheprairie.com)

## PARISH STAFF

### PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |  
mkaluza@olp.church

### DEACON

Michael Daly | mdaly@olp.church

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nora Wermerskirchen |  
nwermskirchen@olp.church

### PRINCIPAL OF PARISH SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Katie Cates | kcates@olp.church

### FACILITIES MANAGER

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

### PARISH COUNCIL

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

### SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

### FINANCE COUNCIL

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

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER



### Ever Ancient Ever New

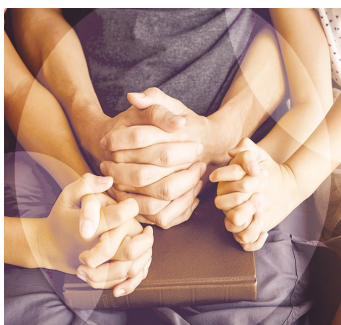
The Christmas story is timeless, and we never tire of repeating the story that changed the world. Christmas is a time for families to gather and tell the Christmas story and tell their own stories of tradition. It's a time of being with family and friends to tell stories and make memories. Each Christmas also makes room for a new beginning, because Jesus' coming made a new beginning in salvation history! A child is born to us to show us the way. Heralding His coming is a bright star to cast light on the evil of sin and allow the love of God to penetrate the hearts and minds of those who stray. By celebrating Christmas, we recognize that we too can begin anew and allow the faith in our heart to grow.

The memories of that Christmas night in Bethlehem bring good news of great joy each and every time we remember that God so loved the world, that He gave us His son! Angels and shepherds recognize this joy. And so can we participate in their joy, if only we ponder what the birth of a savior means for us and our salvation. The coming of Jesus brings the dawn of a new era to the world. The message of the angels is to not be afraid.

Christmas is a both a new beginning for us to accept the gift that Jesus and overcome our fears. Amid an unstable and chaotic world, God's own son was born as a baby so that we would not fear the coming of God like the coming of an invader, but rather one who needs our attention.

May the celebration of Christmas be a time for us to give our attention to God and allow his love to penetrate our lives so that we might grow as Christians to be a great light to all in Belle Plaine and beyond!

Merry Christmas!  
Father Michael Kaluza



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE...

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

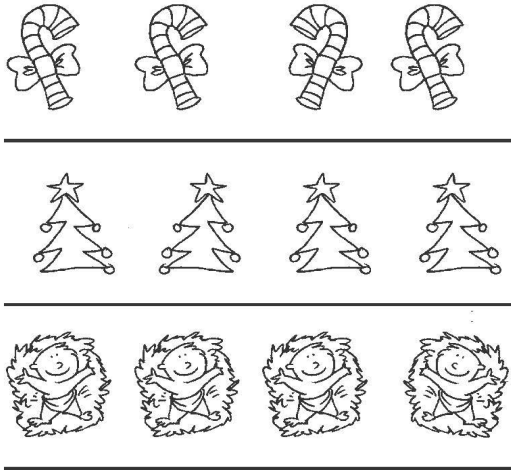
Bud Steen  
Lisa Pobuda  
Joe Lajeunesse  
Cara Miller  
Susan Fahey  
Gary Gerbeling

Jean Dockter  
Genny Mesenbrink  
Stan & Eileen Effertz  
Tom Fahey

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.

**PUZZLE**

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way. Then color in all the pictures.



**MISSION**

I will give canned food, sheets, blankets, or money to help a homeless shelter.

**GROWING WITH THE Gospel**  
CYCLE A

**COLOR**

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas • Luke 2:1-14



**GOSPEL**

Imagine how the Christmas story may have happened today: Joseph drove Mary in their jeep through sleet and snow to the city of his birth to be counted. No motels had rooms. A homeless shelter attendant said, "We have no beds, but you can sleep in the broom closet." Jesus was born the next day in a sleeping bag in a closet with three mice, a couple of cats and a dog. God and his angels were happy.

**PRAYER**

Lord, thank you for my bed. Give others a place to sleep.

**DRAW**

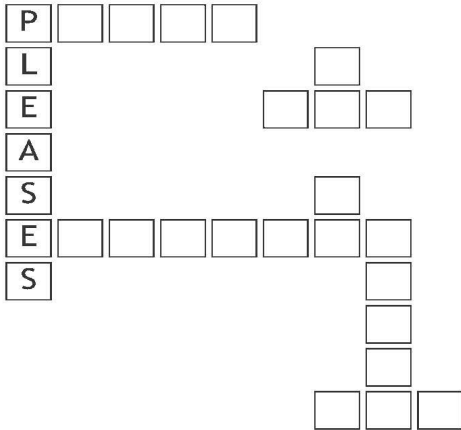
Draw Jesus, Mary, and Joseph with mice, cats, and a dog in a closet.



## PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.



## MISSION

You can praise God like the angels did. Go Christmas caroling together as a family. Sing all of your favorite songs together.

# GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE A

## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas • Luke 2:1-14



## GOSPEL

Long ago, God promised to send a Savior into the world. So when Jesus was finally born in Bethlehem, the angels praised God. The angels shared God's great news with the shepherds, so they could find Jesus and praise God, too.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus into the world. I want to praise you like the angels did.

## DRAW

Draw a picture of the angels sharing the news with some very surprised shepherds.





December 16, 2022

# The “Know it all” News

Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church and School, 200 East Church Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

## The Principal Says...

We are working our way around the Advent wreath in preparation for the arrival of Jesus. Students have been working hard in their individual classrooms learning about Advent and how each week brings us closer to His arrival. To help us get more in the giving spirit, students crafted and decorated ornaments. Some of these ornaments and crafts were brought home, but many of the students wanted to spread some Christmas cheer and donate them. Hopefully they bring a smile to those who receive them.

Next week we have a fun filled week planned. We have a festive sweater day; we will go on a field trip to the Old Log Theatre and have our Christmas around the World celebration. What I am looking forward to the most is our Christmas Program at 7:00pm on Thursday December 22nd. All are welcome to attend. Mrs. Gleason has been working hard with the students. I cannot wait to see the final production!

Teaching wise, my first-grade friends are working on spelling and writing words with the digraphs and three letter consonant blends at the beginning and end of words. 4th graders were working on spelling words with inconsistent vowel sounds and contraction words. Their reading comprehension skill was to distinguish fact versus opinion. 5th grade reading comprehension skill was identifying the cause and effect and main idea versus supporting idea. Finally, 6th grade reading comprehension skill was sequencing events and using figurative language to enhance the story.

There are a lot of great things happening at OLP!

Take care and God Bless,  
Ms. Cates

## Calendar of Events

- 12/18—4th Sunday of Advent
- 12/19—Festive Sweater Day
- 12/22 - 8:45am-Noon Old Log Theatre PreK-6 cold lunch day
- 12/22—Prek-6 Christmas Program at 7pm
- 12/23 - 8:30am Mass hosted by grades 2-3 & Dec. Saints of the month announced at Mass
- 12/23 - Christmas around the world/Class parties
- 12/23—Pizza lunch hosted by OLP P.T.A.
- 12/24—Christmas Eve Masses offered at 3:00pm, 4:15pm & Midnight
- 12/15—Christmas Day Masses offered at 8:00am & 10:00am
- 12/30/22—1/2/2023—Christmas Break
- 1/3/2023—School Resumes

## A Word from Father Michael...

Merry Christmas!

As we approach Christmas vacation may we take time to thank God for the wonderful holiday that celebrates the incarnation (word made flesh)! Jesus came to us as a child so that we might not be frightened of God’s appearance on earth and that we might rejoice at the coming of the Lord! Jesus is truly the reason for the season and the one who allows us to have life in God and the possibility of eternal life.

Christmas is a favorite celebration that brings families and friends together to celebrate. It is because God chose to become incarnate that we can even more appreciate the gifts of mercy and salvation that are bestowed upon us as God’s family. May we treasure the gift of Christmas and allow it to help in our conversion to make our lives ever more holy! Upon our return from Christmas vacation, we will spend time learning more about ourselves, the church and God!

God bless you,  
Father Michael Kaluza



# Here's what's happening in the classroom:



## Mrs. Olson (Teacher Ashley) Preschool

Wow we've had a lot of fun with all this fresh snow. I wonder what everyone did on their snow day? The kids were excited to return to school with all the snow. Next week we will be wrapping surprises for parents. Then we will be singing at our Christmas concert. The kids have been practicing! Maybe you've heard them sing J-E-S-U-S! That's a wrap we learned a lot about our 5 senses this month. Have a Merry Christmas!

## Miss Schroers Kindergarten & 1st Grade

The kindergarten and first graders are learning about Advent and Christmas during religion and working hard to be like our saints! This month we have been learning about Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, two great examples of strong faith, generosity, and kindness. In Catechesis, our class is learning about the Annunciation, the great names of the Messiah, and Mary the mother. In reading, we are identifying vowels and consonants, building words, and beginning to learn about sentences and sight words in kindergarten. Kindergarten is also learning to identify and make different shapes while the first graders are beginning their unit in place value. We are all very excited about Christmas in our classroom. We will be reading Christmas books and some doing fun Christmas crafts and activities before break. Have a very Merry Christmas!



## Mrs. Hennen 2nd & 3rd Grades

Our second and third graders are anxiously waiting for the Christmas Season. We are trying to do acts of kindness each day during Advent to prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. We enjoyed learning about the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Feast Day of St. Lucy. In our reading classes we are focused on contraction words, possessive nouns, homophones and homographs, and subject-verb agreement. Our Social Studies lessons are focused on our communities this year. We will be learning about our history through time and place. In our science class we are learning about the life cycle of plants and plant traits. This week's Mystery Doug: How polar animals survive the cold. Second grade is measuring things in the classroom using standard and metric units of measurement, and third grade is focused on division and multiplication facts. Next week we will do some fun spelling game reviews and not start a new unit. Hope to see you at the program Dec. 22.



## Mr. Lopahs 4th, 5th & 6th Grades


As we head into our Christmas Break, I am feeling so proud of all our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders! We have come so far this school year and I am very excited about what is to come in the New Year!! In Language Arts students are working very hard on their Book Report Poster! This will be a very comprehensive review of their book, and some students even read two books to compare/contrast! For Math students are ready to test out of their current skills. 5th and 6th graders are finishing up adding and subtracting fractions that have unlike denominators, while the 4th graders are ready to move on from multiplication by 2-digit numbers. US Regions has been a theme for most of the school year so far, and they will be ending this unit with a Giant Test! This will include all 50 states, their capitals, and fun facts about each state. I think they are ready!! And in Science we have just concluded a very cool unit on Coding! Students used Cue robots to design a code to go around the room and do special actions. All the students gained a lot of STEM experience with this activity!!



## Mrs. Gleason Music

Our students are busy practicing songs for our Christmas pageant titled "Christmas Around The World". All are welcome to come to the performance on December 22nd @ 7pm.

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



Church Painting collected as of 12/18/2022

**\$213,696.48**

## STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

For the Week of December 18, 2022

Weekly Collection Goal for Month .....	\$ 8,073.00
12/18/2022 Collection (Week 25).....	\$ 9,663.90
<b>CURRENT WEEK SURPLUS.....</b>	<b>\$ 1,590.90</b>
Contribution Goal YTD (12/18/2022).....	\$201,825.00
<b>**Total Contributions YTD (12/18/2022) \$196,561.58</b>	
Deficit.....	-\$ 5,263.42)
Plus current week collection.....	\$ 0.00
<b>YTD Deficit.....</b>	<b>-\$ 5,263.42)</b>

Attendance at 4:15pm Mass .....	154
Attendance at 8:00am Mass .....	156
Attendance at 10:00am Mass .....	196
Live stream views of Mass .....	39

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

### Automatic Contributions

Did you know your contributions can be automatically deducted from your checking, savings, or credit card account? For more information call the parish office at 952-873-6564 or check out our website.



God of love, Father of all,  
the darkness that covered  
the earth has given way  
to the bright dawn  
of your Word made flesh.

Make us people of this light.  
Make us faithful to your Word  
that we may bring your life  
to the waiting world.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Thank  
You

A **Special Thank You** to all the families that helped to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

Many hands make light the work!

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas  
from



Our Lady of the Prairie  
Catholic Church



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](http://www.archspm.org/totustuus) or contact:  
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 or Nancy Palacheck | 651-291-4489 | [totustuus@archspm.org](mailto:totustuus@archspm.org)



ARCHDIOCESE  
 OF  
 SAINT PAUL &  
 MINNEAPOLIS

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK DECEMBER 26, 2022—JANUARY 1, 2023

### MONDAY 12/26

Parish Office Closed  
Christmas Break No School

### TUESDAY 12/27

Christmas Break No School  
6:30 pm | Mass

### WEDNESDAY 12/28

Christmas Break No School  
8:30 am | Mass  
Coffee & donuts after 8:30am Mass

### THURSDAY 12/29

Christmas Break No School  
8:30 am | Mass

### FRIDAY 12/30

Christmas Break No School  
8:30 am | Mass

### SATURDAY 12/31

4:15 pm | Mass

### SUNDAY 1/1

8:00 am | Mass  
9:00 am | Choir practice in the church  
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](mailto:nwermerskirchen@olp.church) by noon on Monday for the following Sunday's publication.

## 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](mailto:kpumper@ourladyoftheprairie.com).**

## 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

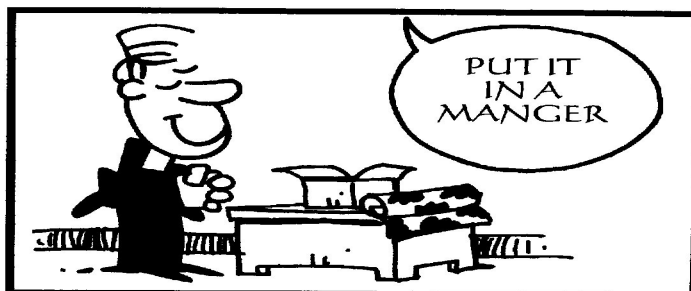


Our Lady of the Prairie  
Catholic Church

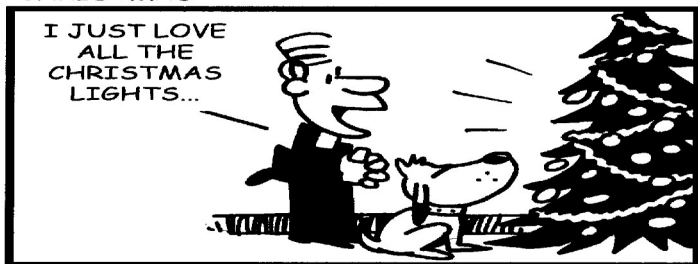
**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 31, 2022 & JANUARY 1, 2023**

MINISTRY	4:15PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
Lectors	Joe V	Dr. Tim H	Pat S
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion *If Deacon Mike is not present.	Karen V Sarah W Sheila H *Volunteer	Susan C <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b> *Volunteer	Nora W <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b> *Volunteer
Ushers	Scott W <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Jim G Emmett G Peter F <b>VOLUNTEER</b>
Servers	Liam G Quinnlyn G Eli W	<b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Cole C <b>VOLUNTEER</b> <b>VOLUNTEER</b>

CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**TUESDAY, 12/27**

6:30pm d. Margaret Meger

**FRIDAY, 12/30**

8:30am d. Teresa Witt

**WEDNESDAY, 12/28**

8:30am d. Jeffery O'Brien (AOD)

**SATURDAY, 12/31**

4:15pm liv&d. Members of the Larry Buesgens Family

**THURSDAY, 12/29**

8:30am d. Frank & Margaret Huber

**SUNDAY, 1/1**

8:00am For the Parish  
10:00am d. Steve & Diane Henning

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2022—JANUARY 1, 2023**

Monday 12/26 | Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday 12/27 | 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday 12/28 | 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Thursday 12/29 | 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Friday 12/30 | Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday 12/31 | 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

Sunday 1/1 | Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

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

**Angie's Learning Center**  
 Belle Plaine | M-F 6am-6pm  
**(952)-873-3951**  
[www.angieslearningcenter.com](http://www.angieslearningcenter.com)

**JIM CONNELLY MONUMENTS**  
 Do you have an interest in looking at cemetery monuments?  
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 Blessings to all:  
 Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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