



Our Lady OF THE Prairie

CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 3, 2023

PARISH 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 contact the Parish Office (952) 873-6564. We look forward to getting to know you and your baby.

Bulletin Announcements

If you would like to post in the bulletin, please send an email to: bulletineditor@olp.church by noon on Monday for the following Sunday.

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

(952) 873-6564

PASTOR

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mkaluza@olp.church

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Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

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shendricks@olp.church

FACILITIES MANAGER

Patrick Schroers
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DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mark Simons |
msimons@ourladyoftheprairie.com

CEMETERY CARETAKER

Keith Heitkamp |
heitkampkeith@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 Brueggemeier, Sandy Schroers, Bob Smith, Tim Murphy

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ashley Simons, Matt Offerdahl, Loni Scheff, Jason Palo, Kim Baltus

FINANCE COUNCIL

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

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

New Year New Beginnings

Once again, we have the fresh start of a new liturgical year beginning with the First Sunday of Advent this weekend. We have experienced a year filled with many blessings as well as challenges! How fortunate we are to begin the new church year in our freshly painted beautiful church! Our anticipation of many good things to come await us in the coming year!

Advent allows us to look both back and forward. We know that Jesus came for our salvation and the historical presence of Jesus is always remembered and celebrated. We also anticipate the return of Christ and we must always be ready. Advent reminds us to be vigilant and prepared. We know not the day or hour, but we know it will happen. Advent preparations are supposed to allow us ample time for spiritual growth prior to the celebration of Christmas! We cannot decorate a tree yet or unwrap gifts.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel to be watchful and alert! The readings focus on preparedness and our Christian lives are filled with the tension of living in the here and now and being prepared for what is to come! We know in the here and the now that we are preparing for Christmas and the original Christmas is a historical event that we commemorate each year. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is indeed Father who is both origin and destination. So our lives are meant to respond to God's desire for us to be his family. May our new year be filled with many blessings for our parish and families!

God bless you!

Father Michael Kaluza



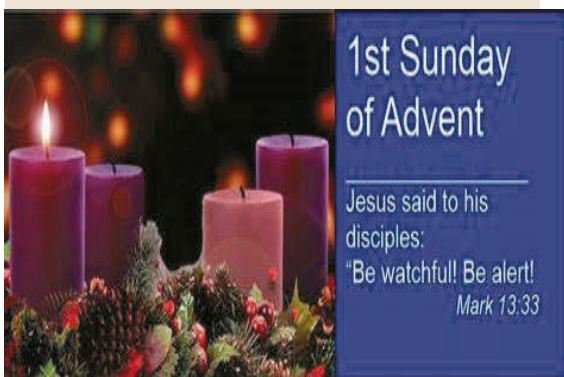
Please pray for . . .

Richard Beach
Mary Jo Gregory
Bud Steen

Sara Meyer
Bob Koenig
Merlin Bartels

Special Intention
Mary Pat Murphy

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.





**STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE
For the Week of November 19, 2023**

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Weekly Collection Goal for Month | \$8,344.00 |
| 11/19/2023 Collection (Week 21) | 10,883.00 |
| Current Week Surplus | (+) \$2,539.00 |
| Church Painting Collection | \$260.00 |
| Attendance at Saturday 4:15pm Mass | 200 |
| Attendance at Sunday 8:00am Mass | 190 |
| Attendance at Sunday 10:00am Mass | 212 |
| Live stream views of Mass | Not streamed |

For the Week of November 26, 2023

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Weekly Collection Goal for Month | \$8,344.00 |
| 11/26/2023 Collection (Week 22) | \$5,332.20 |
| Current Week Deficit | (-) \$3,011.80 |
| Thanksgiving Day Collection | \$204.00 |
| Cemetery Fund | \$1,157.00 |
| Church Painting Collection | \$160.00 |
| Attendance at Saturday 4:15pm Mass | 202 |
| Attendance at Sunday 8:00am Mass | 182 |
| Attendance at Sunday 10:00am Mass | 242 |
| Live stream views of Mass | Not streamed |
| 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.

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.



We are close to achieving our goal.
Please consider putting **Your Faith In Action** by making a donation. CSAF partners with 20 varied outreach ministries, to serve the poor, support life, and strengthen the Catholic faith.



Stop by the Parish Office to schedule

Mass Intentions

Weekday Openings in 2023

Weekend & Weekday
Openings in 2024





Pronouncement of Intent to enter into the

Banns of Holy Matrimony


Anthony Williams & Kelly Huber

December 27, 2023

WALKING THROUGH THE
DECEMBER SAINTS

A Christmas Musical

Presented by
Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School
PreK - 6th Grade



Tuesday, December 19, 2023
Beginning with Mass at 6:30 pm

*Receive beauty, truth, and goodness
in your Advent season. All are welcome!*

WINTER WEATHER CHURCH POLICY

For the safety of our parishioners:

If schools are **delayed, 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 (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

WELCOME New Members

Our Lady of the Prairie welcomes our new parishioners

Larry Fahey

Joseph & Linda Fahey

Please make them feel at home in their new parish community.



Celebration of Baptism

Colton Ralph Graham

son of

Lucas & Julia Graham



Belle Plaine Police Department 9th Annual Toy Drive

The Belle Plaine Police Department will be accepting donations of brand new toys for children in need. All donated toys will be distributed to local children whose families are unable to purchase gifts this holiday season. This is an opportunity to help someone in need.

November 14 - December 22

Toy distribution to families will begin on Wednesday, December 13. Although we will collect toys until Friday, December 22, we ask that you donate before December 12, so families can have a good selection of toys to choose from.

- All toys should be new and unwrapped.
- Gifts are accepted for children up to 17 years of age.
- Realistic looking toy weapons and gifts with food will not be distributed.

While purchasing items for smaller children is a pretty simple task, donors often wonder what to get pre-teens. We recommend sporting equipment, board games, books, hand-held electronics and gift cards.

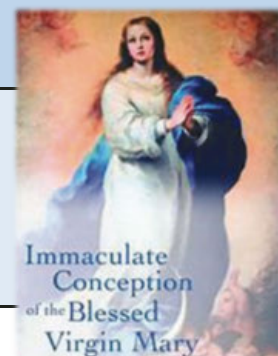
Drop off locations will be at the City of Belle Plaine, Hardware Hank, Coborn's, First National Bank, Cornerstone State Bank, Matt Saxe Chevrolet-Buick, **Our Lady of the Prairie Church**, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church and the Belle Plaine Police Department.

Feel free to contact Belle Plaine Police Department with any questions (952) 873-4307.

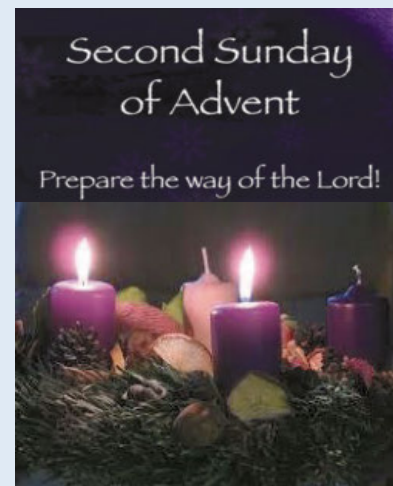
Families in need of toys can call the Belle Plaine Police Department Monday through Friday (7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) to make a reservation.

Weekly Calendar with Readings

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Monday 4 December</p> | <p><i>Isaiah 2:1-5 / Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 / Matthew 8:5-11</i></p> |
| <p>Tuesday 5 December</p> | <p><i>Isaiah 11:1-10 / Psalms 72:1, 7-8, 12-13, 17 / Luke 10:21-24</i> 1:30 pm Mass at Kingsway † 6:30 pm Mass † d. Rev Stephen R. O'Gara • 7:00 pm - KC meeting in Parish Hall</p> |
| <p><i>Feast of St. Nicholas</i> Wednesday 6 December</p> | <p><i>Isaiah 25:6-10 / Psalms 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 / Matthew 15:29-37</i> 8:30 am Mass † d. Shirley McCarthy • Coffee & donuts after Mass • 12 Noon - Ecumenical Lunch in Roedel Hall • 6:30 pm - Communal Penance • No Religious Education Classes K-8</p> |
| <p>Thursday 7 December</p> | <p><i>Isaiah 26:1-6 / Psalms 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27 / Matthew 7:21, 24-27</i> 8:30 am Mass † d. Margaret Breeggemann • 5:00pm - Marriage Prep in Roedel Hall 6:30 pm Mass † Vigil of The Immaculate Conception Lector: Sharon Schmitz EMHC/Ushers/Greeters: Volunteers Servers: Cole Chessen, Volunteers (2)</p> |
| <p><i>The Immaculate Conception</i> Friday 8 December</p> | <p><i>Genesis 3:9-15, 20 / Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 / Luke 1:26-38 / Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12</i> 8:30 am OLP Children's Mass † liv. & d. Guertin Family Greeters/ Lector/Ushers/Servers: OLP Students EMHC: Volunteers 6:30 pm Mass † d. Connie Stuewe Lector: Janice Teal EMHC/Ushers/Servers/Greeters: Volunteers</p> |
| <p>Saturday 9 December</p> | <p><i>Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 / Psalms 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 / Matthew 9:35-10:1, 6-8</i> 10:30 am Mass of Christian Burial † Carl Gansen Funeral 4:15 pm Mass † d. Donald & Mary Jane O'Brien Lector: Sue Schultz EMHC: Betty Weldon, Charlotte Mulroy, Dan Flynn Ushers: Scott Williams, Chris Weldon, Volunteer, Volunteer Servers: Ian Saxe, Andrew Saxe, Addy Saxe Greeters: Dan Flynn • 5:00 pm - Holiday Boutique Vendor Event in Roedel Hall</p> |
| <p><i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday 10 December</p> | <p><i>Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 / Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 / Mark 1:1-8 / Second Peter 3:8-14</i> 8:00 am Mass † liv. & d. Kenneth & Ursula Smith Lector: Sheila Hendricks EMHC: Sharon Beach, Sheila Hendricks, Sharon Schmitz Ushers: Mark Hartman, Calvin Hartman, Volunteer, Volunteer Servers: Teresa Fogarty, David Fogarty, Jeffrey Teal Greeters: Dr. Tim & Sue Halloran • 9:00 am - Choir Practice 10:00 am Mass † For the Parish Lector: Joe Vandermark EMHC: Rick Morgan, Terry Feddersen, Jason Palo Ushers: Jim Covington, Ben Covington, Volunteer, Volunteer Servers: Kenzie Berger, Mason Berger, Volunteer Greeters: Troy & Norma Wermerskirchen Eucharistic Minister - Kingsway: Sue Halloran Eucharistic Minister - Lutheran Home: Mary Moriarty • 10 am - Elyse McCann Confirmation • Treats & Fellowship after both Masses sponsored by Catholic United Financial • Holiday Boutique Vendor Event after both Masses in Roedel Hall • Marriage Encounter meeting off campus</p> |



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary





Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to serving others by praying for us, ministering to all, educating the young, caring for those who are sick and helping those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation will make a real difference by providing essential care, medicine and other necessities. Please give generously.

Top row, from left:
 Brother Charles Douglas, SSJ, 88;
 Sister Marianna Danko, SSML, 80;
 Father James Day, OSST, 77.
Bottom row, from left:
 Sister Celeste Burgos, MHSH, 79;
 Sister Brenda Cherry, OSP, 84.

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

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Data Preference (Please check Yes or No.)

The data I provided may be used to complete this transaction and may be used and stored in the records of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Retirement Fund for Religious.

Yes, I agree.

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Please check with your employer about matching gifts.

National Religious Retirement Office • 3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington DC 20017-1194 • Phone (202) 541-3215 • Fax (202) 541-3053

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CHRISTMAS SEASON**



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

Donated By: _____

In Memory Of: _____



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December 9th 5:00 - 7:00pm

December 10th 9:00 am – Noon

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Event Sponsored by OLP Catholic United Financial Council

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___ Sugar Cut-outs

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Brent W. Meyer
 Blessings to all:
 Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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