



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

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. (Holidays may have earlier deadlines)

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Please contact 952-992-0140

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

December 15, 2024



The Sheperd's Candle (pink) represents Joy.

During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus. How is Jesus inviting you to experience greater joy this Advent?

Advent Wreath Prayer: "Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen."

PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Kaluza |
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CEMETERY CARETAKER

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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, James Fogarty, Brian Berger, Joan Brueggemeier, Bob Smith, Susan Cole, Greg O'Brien

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ashley Simons, Matt Offerdahl, Loni Scheff, Danielle Campos, Kim Baltus

FINANCE COUNCIL

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

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



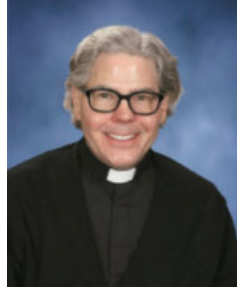
Natalie (Covington) Ruiz
Jordan Ruiz
David May
Dylan May
Sean Alander
Alex Vandermark

and for all military members & their families.

If your family has an enlisted service member, please contact Ginny Morgan: (701) 212-3109 (leave a message).

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

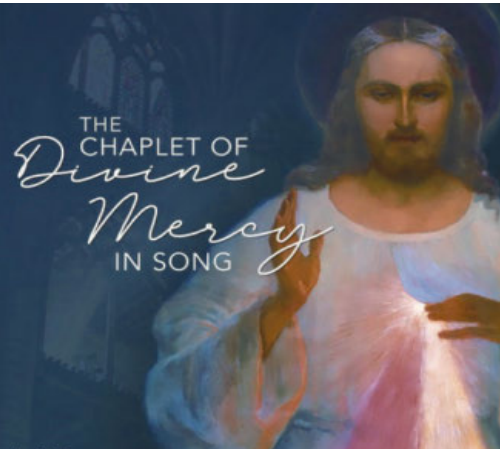
The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday meaning to rejoice! The Mass prayers and readings call us to be joyful as we await the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ! This weekend is symbolized by the rose colored candle on the Advent wreath. We anticipate the coming of Christ as a joyful season filled with hope! It is a time of rejoicing and anticipating the return of the Lord.



As we prepare for the coming of Christ, Saint John the Baptist offers prudent advice in Saint Luke's Gospel – all about doing what is right and good and avoiding sin and evil. We should share with the less fortunate; we should be honest in our commerce; we should be straightforward in our dealings with others. While Saint John the Baptist teaches and instructs, he also directs us to Christ.

Jesus is the focus of the season and as we await the coming of Christ to be celebrated in history at his birth, coming to us today at Mass and his return at the end of time. Good preparation makes us better disciples and always ready for the time when we will meet the Lord face to face.

God bless you,
Father Michael Kaluza



Wednesday
December 18

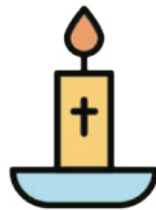
2:15 pm

Our Lady
of the
Prairie Church

Carolyn Gleason,
Musician

God's mercy sometimes touches the sinner at the last moment in a wondrous and mysterious way. Outwardly, it seems as if everything were lost, but it is not so. The soul, illumined by a ray of God's powerful final grace, turns to God in the last moment with such a power of love that, in an instant, it receives from God forgiveness of sin and punishment.

- St. Faustina's Diary, 1698



PRAYER LIST

If you know of someone you would like added to the prayer list, please notify the bulletin editor or Parish Office. Obtain the permission of the person you wish to add before calling or emailing. Names will remain on the list for four weeks.

Bud Steen	Don Morrison
Bob Koenig	Dave Buesgens
Matt Hennen	Eileen Effertz
Deacon Bob Raleigh	Elmer Lambrecht
Ron (Franny) Gerres	Lisa Pobuda
Mona Bentfield	Cheri Brenhofer
Rajen Sidhu	



Families & Individuals Sharing Hope
A PARTNER NETWORK

OLP is a valued FISH Partner, and we thank you for your attention to needs in our area which have been submitted to the network.

View them and see how you can help at:
FISH@fishpartnernetwork.org



Blankets Because We Care

Blanket, Coat, & Sock Drive

Please help us keep our brothers and sisters warm this winter by donating your gently used or new blankets, coats, outerwear, boots, and socks.

Your donation will be given to Loaves and Fishes and some of the monetary donations will also be used to buy and make fleece blankets for the children at Children's Hospital in Minneapolis.

Please drop off your donations **now through January 22nd** in the bin marked "**Blankets Because We Care**" or drop them off at our home: 1109 Rose Court, Jordan, MN. We are also willing to pick up donations, just call! (952) 457-9877.

Thank you for your generosity and may God Bless you!
Jason and Jennifer Schmit Family



DID YOU KNOW ?

The large candles held by the angels on the right and left of the altar are lit in memory of our parishioners, friends, and relatives buried in the Sacred Heart and St. Peter & Paul Cemeteries.



ADORATION CHAPEL

- ◆ Spend time with our Lord anytime at your convenience
- ◆ Accessible 24 Hours
- ◆ No length of time required
- ◆ Call the Parish Office for detailed information and to complete a quick one time registration.



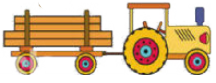
Free Wine Tasting

Join the Council of Catholic Women
January 19th at 2:00 pm
in Roedel Hall

All women of the Parish are invited.

Please Make a reservation with
Maureen Daly: (952) 687-1501

Space is limited.



Belle Plaine Police Department 10th 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 13 - December 23

Toy distribution to families will begin on Wednesday, December 11. Although we will collect toys until Monday, December 23, we ask that you **donate before December 11**, 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 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
to make a reservation.*




WINTER WEATHER 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

STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE For the Week of December 8, 2024

Contribution amounts & attendance not available at time of printing due to holiday submission deadlines.

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.



Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, January 12
8am - 12Noon
Pancakes, Sausage, Orange Juice, Milk, Coffee.
FREE WILL Offering



**Empowering men to live their faith at home,
in their parish, at work and in their communities.**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, December 16

No Mass

Tuesday, December 17

1:30 pm Mass at Kingsway
 6:30 pm Mass
 School Christmas Musical after Mass

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 am Mass
 9:30-10:15 am School Christmas Musical Performs at Kingsway
 2:15 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song
 6:20 pm Religious Ed Class
 5-7:00 pm Women's Small Group in Conference Rm

Thursday, December 19

8:30 am Mass
 6:30-7:30 pm Men's Small Group in Conference Room

Friday, December 20

8:30 am Mass

Saturday, December 21

4:15 pm Mass

Sunday, December 22

8:00 am Mass
 9:00 am Choir Practice
 10:00 am Mass
 Treats & Fellowship after both Masses - hosted by Knights of Columbus

Saturday, December 21, 4:15 pm

Greeters: Volunteers
 Lector: Joe Shimota
 EMHC: Keith Heitkamp, Sue Schultz, Joe Shimota, Volunteer
 Ushers: Keith Heitkamp, Randy Schumacher, Brad Schultz, Matt Schultz
 Servers: Ian Saxe, Andrew "Gus" Saxe, Addy Saxe
 Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, December 22, 8:00 am

Greeters: Tom & Pam Cates
 Lector: Ken Skluzacek
 EMHC: Susan Cole, Bob Fahey, Janice Teal, Sharon Beach
 Ushers: Mark Hartman, Calvin Hartman Volunteer, Volunteer
 Servers: Teresa Fogarty, David Fogarty, Jeffrey Teal
 Gift Bearers: Volunteers

Sunday, December 22, 10:00 am

Greeters: Jim Covington, Mike Buchanan
 Lector: Rick Morgan
 EMHC: Mary Randklev, Nora Wermerskirchen, Paula Covington, Jim Covington
 Ushers: Jim Covington, Jim Gerres, Johan Miller, Jeff Klein
 Servers: Stella Scheff, William Scheff
 Gift Bearers: Volunteers
 EMHC: Mary Moriarty (Kingsway), Ty Buesgens (Lutheran Home)

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 16 Dec	†	No Mass
Tue 17 Dec	6:30 pm	† d. Rev. Lawrence "Larry" Johnson
Wed 18 Dec	8:30 am	† d. Bob & Catherine Lambert
Thur 19 Dec	8:30 am	† d. Gary Halloran
Fri 20 Dec	8:30 am	† d. Brent Meyer
Sat 21 Dec	4:15 pm	† liv & d. Leo Sullivan Family
Sun 22Dec	8:00 am	† d. Kevin Schmitt
	10:00 am	† For the Parish

READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 15, 2024

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a cozy living room. In the foreground, two wooden rocking chairs are positioned, with a colorful, multi-colored quilt draped over them. In the background, a fireplace is lit, with a warm, glowing fire. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting.

The Best Gift

Tuesday, December 17
(following 6:30pm Mass)

at

Our Lady of the Prairie
Catholic Church

A Christmas Musical
Performed by
Our Lady of the Prairie
Catholic School Students

* Kingsway Performance
Wednesday, December 18
9:30am

This multigenerational play is based on a grandparent sharing the true story of Christmas.

Come share in the joy of discovering the best gift ever, the birth of our Lord and Savior!

**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: _____

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In loving memory of:
Brent W. Meyer
 Blessings to all:
 Gerald, Carman Meyer & family

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