



Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church

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

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday | 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses
Saturday | 4:15pm
Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am

Weekday Masses
Tuesday | 6:30pm
Wed, Thur, Fri | 8:30am

Holy Days & Holidays
Consult bulletin.

Eucharist Adoration

Wednesday | 9:00am - 10:00pm
Available 24 hours / 7 days a week

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.

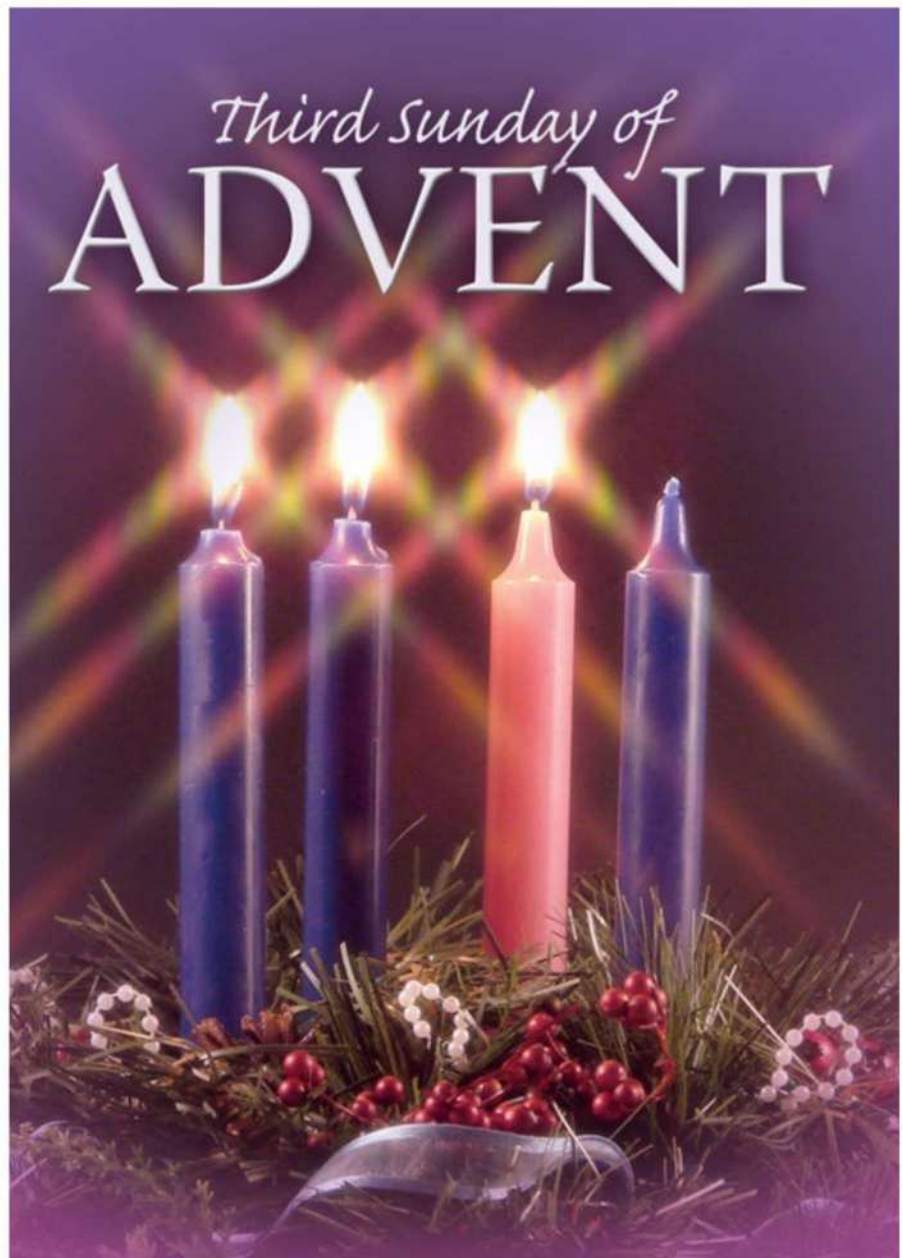
Bulletin Announcements

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

DECEMBER 14, 2025



The Third Sunday of Advent, is known as **Gaudete Sunday**. Gaudete, which means "rejoice" in Latin, marks a shift in the Advent season from a tone of expectation to one of joy. This Sunday invites believers to rejoice in the coming of Christ and the hope of salvation.

Rose-Colored Candle: A rose-colored candle, often referred to as the Shepherd's Candle or Joy Candle, is lit on the Advent wreath to symbolize joy. This is a visual reminder of the joy that comes with the anticipation of Christ's birth.

PARISH STAFF

(952) 873-6564

Pastor

Fr. Michael Kaluza | mkaluza@olp.church

Business Administrator |

Safe Environment Coordinator

Kelly Pumper | kpumper@olp.church

Administrative Assistants

Anita Glisczinski | Bonnie Weber

frontdesk@ourladyoftheprairie.com

Principal of Parish School

& Preschool Director

Sheila Hendricks | shendricks@olp.church

Facilities Manager

Marty Huss | 952.873.6564

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, Ty Buesgens, James Fogarty, Brian Berger, Susan Cole, Greg O'Brien, Jim Glisczinski, Tom Otto, Mona Altman, Edsel Faunillan

School Advisory Council

Ashley Simons, Matt Offerdahl, Kim Baltus, Stephanie Otto, Danielle Campos

Finance Council

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

MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL . . .

Let's Know Jesus

Advent is all about preparation. We are preparing for the return of Christ and we will celebrate his coming as a child at the conclusion of this holy season. Saint James tells us in the second reading that we are to be patient. It is a difficult virtue and so often I find myself struggling like so many of our contemporaries. We have grown accustomed to living in an instantaneous world. In a matter of seconds we can find the sports scores, stock quotes, and news stories. We can turn up the heat, microwave food and do all sorts of marvelous things in no time at all. As we wait for Christmas, let us take some time to reflect on what the season is all about.

If we are waiting for the return of Christ, we have the luxury of time to prepare for that return. So that we might be prepared for his return, we should take time to get to know him. We can read the bible to find out more about Jesus and take those stories and images to prayer. The conclusion we will so often find is that: what is so marvelous about Jesus is not so much that he is God, but that he is God who has taken to himself our human nature. He has become a man whom we can get to know. Jesus tells John's disciples, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see'. That is how we know who Jesus is: by listening to him, by watching him, by being with him, by talking to him: in the normal ways we would get to know anybody else. Peter and the others know who Jesus is because they interact with him in all the normal human ways. In our day and age, we too need to build that relationship with Jesus.

Let us consider how we can interact with Jesus in our time and place. We not only pray, worship, care for the needy, evangelize with our lives, cleanse our souls, but we desire intimacy with Jesus. When we find him we find him fascinating because he is our master, our teacher, our savior, our king and our God, and even our friend. Stay close to the Church and you will always be close to Jesus.

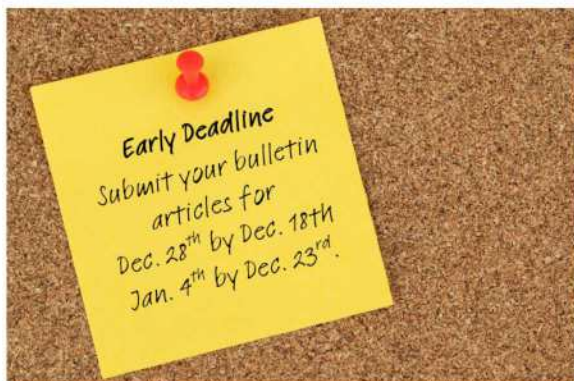
God bless you,

Father Michael Kaluza



Bud Steen	William Busch	Bob Weldon
Deacon Bob Raleigh	Kelly Scott	Ron (Franny) Gerres
Mona Bentfield	Jan Walerius	Annette Schmit Mann
Elmer Lambrecht	Kevin Halloran	Mary Ann Bigaouette
Don Morrison	Pat Sexe	Bruce & Cathy Halloran
Lisa Pobuda	Jessi O'Brien	Barb Wentworth
Kurt Kruger	Betty Wolf	Melissa Kjonaas
Katie Cates	Mary Tuma	Maureen Millard
Chad Feltmann	Briar Fritz	Betty Chard
Fred Welsch	Doris Fahey	

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 at least four weeks.





17th annual
"Blankets Because We Care"

New or Gently Used
Blankets, Coats, Socks

November 22 - January 19

Look for the bin in back of church.

Donations will be given to Sharing & Caring Hands, Loaves & Fishes, and the Children's Hospital in Mpls.

Hope in the Darkness Service

December 21, 2025 @ 5:00pm

St. John Lutheran Church
148 South Chestnut Street | Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Rest in the words, music, candlelight and silence of the night and leave with hope in the Christ Child.



Weather Policy

If school is delayed, closes early or is closed due to poor weather conditions the following activities will not meet:

- All meetings (e.g. CCW, Knights of Columbus, Marriage Encounter).

The following activities will continue unless further notification is provided:

- Daily Mass: Mass is always celebrated Tuesday – Sunday
- Religious Education classes and Adoration.



Our Lady of the Prairie welcomes our new parishioner **Becki Schmitz**. Please make her feel at home in her new parish community.



Basket Collection & Attendance totals are not available due to an early print deadline.

Belle Plaine Police Department
TOY DRIVE

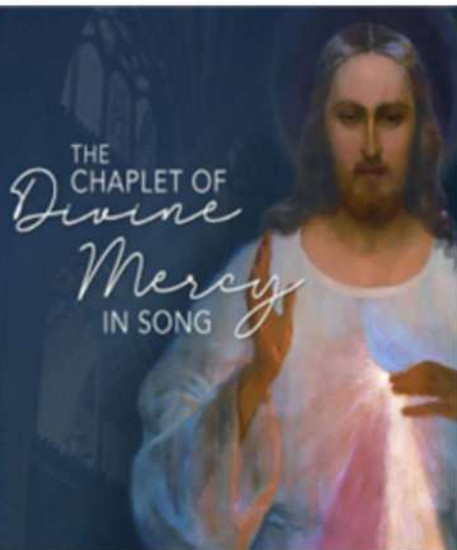


This holiday season some families will not be able to purchase gifts for their children. **This is an opportunity to help someone in need.** All donated toys will be distributed to local children who are far less fortunate.

All toys should be new and unwrapped. Gifts are accepted for children up to 18 years of age. Note: 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.

Families in need of toys can call the Belle Plaine Police Department Monday thru Friday (7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) to make an appointment to shop.



**Tuesday
December 16**
8:30 am
Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church
Carolyn Gleason, Musician

Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School invites you to join in the beautifully sung **Divine Mercy Chaplet**. As a school we collectively pray for each prayer intention when we gather monthly to pray/sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Mark your calendars for this beautiful prayer time together as a community of believers in Christ and His Divine Mercy.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Place your prayer request in the Divine Mercy Prayer Requests box located in the back of the church or in the parish office. Requests will be read aloud during OLP School's monthly Divine Mercy Chaplet .

*Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School
presents*

Lessons & Carols A Shadow Nativity



**Tuesday, December 16
after 6:30 pm Mass**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Monday, December 15	
Tuesday, December 16	
8:30 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song
1:30 pm	Mass at Kingsway
3:30 pm	OLP Staff Christmas Party
6:30 pm	Mass at OLP Christmas Musical following 6:30 pm Mass
Wednesday, December 17	
8:30 am	Mass - donuts & coffee after Mass
10:00 am	Christmas Musical performed at Kingsway
11:00 am	OLP Staff Meeting
3:05 pm	Teacher Staff Meeting
6:20 pm	Religious Education (K-8)
Thursday, December 18	
8:30 am	Mass at OLP
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Men's Small Group in Conference Room
Friday, December 19	
8:30 am	Mass
10:30 am	Funeral Mass: Ronald Schmitz
Saturday, December 20	
4:15 pm	Mass
Sunday, December 21	
8:00 am	Mass
9:00 am	Choir Practice
10:00 am	Mass
11:00 am	Decorate church for Christmas

Saturday, December 20, 4:15 pm	
Greeters	Volunteers (2)
Lector	Sue Schultz
EMHC	Betty Weldon, Dan Flynn, Joe Shimota, Volunteer
Ushers	Keith Heitkamp, Randy Schumacher, Brad Schultz, Matt Schultz
Servers	Volunteers (4)
Gift Bearers	Volunteers
Sunday, December 21, 8:00 am	
Greeters	Dr. Tim & Sue Halloran
Lector	Ken Skluzacek
EMHC	Susan Cole, Janice Teal, Volunteers (2)
Ushers	Paul Guertin, John Edberg, Volunteer (2)
Servers	Teresa Fogarty, David Fogarty, Jeffrey Teal, David Koehn
Gift Bearers	Volunteers
Sunday, December 21, 10:00 am	
Greeters	Craig & Julie Otto
Lector	Joe Vandermark
EMHC	Mary Randklev, Sheila Schmitz, Paula Covington, Jim Covington
Ushers	Caleb Wermerskirchen, Ben Covington, Max Wermerskirchen, Peter Feddersen
Servers	Cole Chessen, Emmett Straus, JD Vandermark, Volunteer
Gift Bearers	Volunteers
EMHC	Carman Meyer (Kingsway) Edsel Faunillan (Lutheran Home)

Heavenly Father, On this Third Sunday of Advent, we pause in the midst of waiting to rejoice in Your promises. You are our source of true joy, in the hope of Christ's coming. As we light the candle of joy, fill our hearts with gratitude for the gift of Your Son. Help us to carry this joy into our homes, our work, and our communities, so that others may see Your light shining through us. May our lives reflect the good news that Emmanuel has come and will come again. Amen

MASS INTENTIONS					
MON	15	DEC			No Mass
TUE	16	DEC	6:30 pm	†	d. Bob Bigaouette
WED	17	DEC	8:30 am	†	d. Susan Fahey
THU	18	DEC	8:30 am	†	d. Deacon Jim Thornton
FRI	19	DEC	8:30 am	†	d. Michael John Leuwer
SAT	20	DEC	4:15 pm	†	For the Parish
SUN	21	DEC	8:00 am	†	d. Kevin Schmitt
			10:00 am	†	d. Teresa Fritz

READINGS
Readings for the week of December 14, 2025
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-3

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

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