The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.

Isaiah 35:1-2

Our Annual St. Nick Breakfast Sunday, Dec. 15, 8 AM-noon in the cafeteria sponsored by the Home & School Association on Adults $8. Seniors $6. Children $5. 3 & under free. All you can eat pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, pastries and beverages. Pictures with Santa 8:30-11. Crafts for the kids! Hope to see you there!
Mass Intentions
12/16 Monday
8:30 AM Mass (St. Mary)  8:00 AM Rosary
† Dan Weis (Friends)
† Mary Ann Stemo (MM)
12/17 Tuesday
8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary
12/18 Wednesday
8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary
12/19 Thursday
8:30 AM Mass (St. Charles) 8:00 AM Rosary
12/20 Friday
8:30 AM Mass (St. Mary)  8:00 AM Rosary
† Andrew Kerkman (Russ & Barb Kerkman)

Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/21 Saturday
4:30 PM Mass (Church)
† Peg Elderbrook (Family)

12/22 Sunday
8:00 AM Mass (Church)
Living and deceased members of St. Mary Parish
10:30 AM Mass (Church)
Deceased members of the Chad Novasic family
(Tom & Mary Ann Masiakowski)

Visitation/Communion Schedule
Hospital  Dec. 14-15 Mary Norgaard
Dec. 21-22 Mary Deutsch
Monday- Ellen Voslar; Friday;
1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Wednesday- Karen Ehlen
Burlington Rehab  Wk of 12/15 James Weis
Monday Veterans Home (9:00 AM) Al Raboine, Mary
Repke, Mae Fleming Homes (10:15) Timber Oaks (11)
Tues. Pine Brook (11) Homebound Team, Sr. Emma
Tuesday Riverview (1:00) and Oak Park Place (1:45)
Homebound Team
Friday: Arbor View (10:45): Mae Fleming, Mary
Repke, Al Raboine, Ray Andres. Rosary/Eucharist.
Rosary: Oak Park Place (9:00). Pinebrooke (1:00),
Riverview (3PM) The Bay
(4PM) Annette Kempken

Parish Office Hours
Please note that the Rectory Office will be closed
December 24-27 for Christmas and December 31
and January 1 for New Years. Have a blessed
Christmas Season!

Daily Readings
1st/2nd READING  PSALM  GOSPEL
12/15 Isaiah 35:1-6:10/  Ps 146:6-10  Mt 11:2-11
James 5:7-10
12/16 Numbers 24:2-7,15-17  Ps 25:4-9  Mt 21:23-27
12/17 Genesis 49:2,8-10  Ps 72:1-4,7,8,17  Mt. 1:1-17
12/18 Jeremiah 23:5-8  72:1,2,12,13,18,19  Mt. 1:18-25
12/19 Judges 13:2-7,24,25  Ps 71:3-6,16,17  Lk 1:5-25
12/20 Isaiah 7:10-14  Ps 24:1-6  Lk 1:26-38
12/21 Song of Songs 2:8-14  33:2,3,11,12,20-21  Lk 1:39-45
Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/22 Isaiah 7:10-14/  Ps 24:1-6  Mt. 1:18-24
Romans 1:1-7

Please pray for the health and safety of our
brothers & sisters in Uganda.
Today we celebrate a special Sunday of Advent called Gaudete Sunday. We heard this note sounded by the Prophet Isaiah in the First Reading as he described the joy of nature as the world celebrates God’s gift of freedom for all. And the Gospel also tells us that the people of the time were full of anticipation and joy, wondering whether John might be the Messiah. One commentary on today’s Gospel describes the people as being “on the tiptoe of expectation and joy”. Would a visitor at our parishes here today find us “on the tiptoe of expectation”, radiating joy? Maybe yes, maybe no. Some people do find a great deal of joy in practicing and sharing their faith. Other people find the practice of faith boring or burdensome.

I think this is a good Sunday to ask ourselves: “How freely do we show joy in professing our faith?” There are parts of our world where people are not allowed to practice their Catholic faith freely. Despite this there are many who continue to practice and give witness to their faith with a spirit of joy and satisfaction. Such people we can learn from and hopefully come to a greater appreciation for the tremendous gifts from God that we have received.

Each of us has been blessed in unique ways and each of us has been given the gift of faith, although some make use of this gift more than others. ALL of us are called, however, to put God at the center of our lives. Only when God is at the center of our lives will we be able to share that tremendous joy over our faith that our Readings speak of today on this Gaudete Sunday. Only when God is at the center of our lives will our practice of the faith cease to be boring or burdensome. Only when God is at the center of our lives will we begin to dismiss all anxieties from our minds. Only when God is at the center of our lives will we be able to present all of our needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of love and gratitude. When we view our relationship with God and our faith lives as a gift, a gift that is to be treasured and rejoiced in, then we will be able to experience the greatest sense of joy that our Readings today describe.

Rejoice in the Lord always!
Father Jim Volkert
God Bless Our Troops
Please pray for the safety of all military personnel who are serving our country, especially the following parishioners, relatives or friends of our parish.

Sergeant Katie Aldrich, U.S. Marine Corps
Capt. Caroline Coppernoll, U.S. Army
Jim & Beth Graves, U.S. Air Force,
James Graves, U.S. Air Force,
James Hartzell, PFC, U.S. Army
Jolene Kojis, U.S. Air Force
Steven Kojis, U.S. Air Force
John S. Krause, U.S. Navy
Toby May, Spc. Army National Guard
Joshua Muellenbach, Army National Guard
Hertel Novasic, PV2, Army National Guard
Gregory A. Roberts, U.S. Army First Lieutenant
Tyler Rose, U.S. Marine Corps
First Lieutenant Jacob Schiltz, U.S. Marine Corps
Devon J. Seitz, U.S. Navy
Second Lieutenant Kyle Smith, U.S. Air Force

Thank you
THANK YOU for supporting our book fair and making it a memorable experience for students. This year our total sales were $4292.70, we received a cash profit of $450.00 which will be used to pay the annual library catalog fee. The remaining profit of $1246.35 is in Scholastic dollars which can be used at any time for the library or classrooms from Scholastic. Keep on reading, and we’ll see you at our next fair! New this year The Scholastic Store is available from the book fair page. The school will earn rewards with every purchase when you click ‘Shop Now’ from the page! Explore thousands of best-selling books, collections, new releases, educational toys, games and more. All online items priced as marked, and shipped to your home. -Mrs. Lancour

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE
Thank you for all you do to keep our parish community vibrant.  Pledge Drive Update as of 12/09:
Total sent out 1,080;
- Pledge cards returned 263;
  24.35% percent returned
- Time and Talent forms returned 283.
Please return your pledge cards as soon as possible. Thank you.

Come Visit Us at
Catholic Central High School’s 4th Annual Cookie Walk and Holiday Gift Fair!! Sunday, December 15 9 AM-1 PM ~Main Gym~
Purchase an assortment of homemade Christmas cookies ($7 per pound) for your family and friends to enjoy during the holiday season, while visiting our vendors to finish your holiday shopping.
If you love to bake and would like to contribute to our Cookie Walk, Please contact Georgean Selburg at 262-763-1518
**CCHS Athletic Benefit Calendars**

2020 Athletic Benefit Calendars are now available for $20 each. 365 prizes valued from $20 to $125, with drawings held monthly throughout the year. It is possible to win multiple prizes. Calendars make great Christmas gifts!! Calendars may be purchased at the CCHS and St. Mary Parish offices, or please email jrobson@cchsnet.org. Thank You.

**Bulletin Announcements**
The deadline for bulletin announcements is Tuesday at Noon for St. Mary Parish: email ssmith@stmb.org. Thank you.

As the holidays approach, please take note of our early bulletin deadlines. December 29 Bulletin is due at Noon on Wednesday, December 18. January 5 Bulletin is due at Noon on Thursday, December 26. Information for St. Charles bulletin should be sent to jmorrow@mystcharles.org and for St. Joseph to saintjoe@bizwi.rr.com.

**Christmas Memorial Cards**
Memorial cards and envelopes are available in the church pews. If you would like to remember someone with a memorial, please use the envelopes provided and return by Monday, Dec. 16.

**Prayer Network**
If you would like to add a prayer request to the Prayer Network, please call Mary at 262-206-6927 or email BurlingtonPrayerNetwork@gmail.com.

**Hospital Communion Ministry**
We need a volunteer to take Holy Communion to people at the hospital on Fridays. If you are interested please call the Rectory Office, 763-1500.

**Please bring a non-perishable food item to Sunday Mass for the food pantry.**

**Adult Formation**
St. Mary, St. Thomas, St. Clare, St. Charles and St. Joseph have an adult formation program which is intended bring adults into a deeper knowledge of the Catholic Faith. Any adult, even those who are not catholic are invited to attend. You may attend one session or all sessions held at St Thomas in the gathering space of the church at 6:30 PM.

**Thanksgiving/ Advent Series on Christian Life**
Dec 18 Catholic Social Teaching
Dec 25 No Class for Christmas

**Important Dates:**
As the end of the calendar year approaches, we have been reminded by the Archdiocese that per IRS regulations, charitable contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received or POSTMARKED. If a donor submits a check after year end 2019, no matter what the date is on the check, it may not be credited to 2019. Contributions not put in the collection basket or postmarked 2019 by December 31st will be posted for 2020.

**Weather Emergency:**
When there is NO School the Rectory office is closed.....Adoration is closed.....Masses are cancelled.

**Keep Christ In Christmas**
Keep Christ In Christmas yard signs will be available on the weekend of December 14-15 after all Masses. The signs are being offered through the Knights of Columbus. A donation of $5.00 per sign would be appreciated.

**Thank you from the Tri-Parish Family Life Program:**
The Family Life teen program is truly grateful for your amazing donation to Cold Hands Warm Heart. This service project was a great opportunity for the teens to apply the Gospel to everyday life. That is why we chose Isaiah 43:2 as our event verse; “God will carry you through the storm”.

Cold Hands Warm Heart demonstrates the community coming together in support of one another. This year 21 teens and 6 adults spent October 26th sleeping outside in cardboard boxes in the pouring rain. 31 additional students and 7 adults assisted with the event. The students helped raise awareness to the sad fact that there are neighbors in our community who are without proper housing and food. They experienced a reality that is too common in today’s world. This experience was one they will not soon forget.

On behalf of the teens, TLC, and our Family Life program we thank you for your support and help with Cold Hands Warm Heart. With your assistance we will donate over $31,000 to the Transitional Living Center. This will provide shelter for up to 16 women and children for over four months! It could not have been done without you.

Thank you and God Bless!

**Tri-Parish Mission Statement:**
St. Charles Borromeo, St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception (St. Mary), united in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through His saving death and resurrection, by calling, forming and sending disciples to go out and make new disciples. As a people, we are called to encounter Jesus, and grow as disciples through the sacramental life of the church.
Parish Trustees  Don Siehoff, Phone 262-758-4449
Terri Newbury, Phone: 262-210-0234


Stewardship Report
Total                                                              $19,205.03
Amount still needed for this fiscal year           $481,631.96
Amount Budgeted for fiscal year (52 weeks)  $861,250.00
Amount Budgeted Fiscal Year to Date        $379,618.04
Amount Given Fiscal Year to Date        $379,618.04
Amount needed per week to reach budget (29 weeks)  $16,608.00

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Thank You From
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Please accept our sincere thanks for your donations to St. Vincent de Paul. These donations allow us to help the less fortunate in our communities with rent and utility assistance. Sometimes we think the personal home visits help lift up the spirits of those in need. What so ever we do for the least of our Brothers & Sisters, that we do unto Him.

Tri-Parish Men’s Group
Our Tri-Parish Men’s Group meets at 7:00 PM the first and third Wednesday of every month. The meeting takes place at St. Charles in Andre Hall. All men ages 18 and older are welcome to attend. Please contact Bob Schiltz 262-716-9293 or Joe Aldrich 262-492-2618.

Ministers

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GUARDIAN ANGEL
Mary & Ralph Rice
& Rick Reesman,
Chad Novasic, Aaron
8:00 AM -

Join K of C
Knights of Columbus is looking for Catholic men from our tri-parish community who want to deepen their “Faith in Action”. Contact Chad Novasic 262-763-7837 or chadnov@aol.com, to find out how becoming a Knight helps you and our Parish.