



ST. BARTHOLOMEW, TREMPPEALEAU



ST. MARY'S, GALESVILLE



Sunday Bulletin December 17, 2023 Year B

Parochial Administrator: Father Sebastian Saleth Pitchai

Phone: 608-534-6652

Deacon Kent Jacobson

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Our website: www.saintbartholomew.net

Emails: Fr. Sebastian - ssebastian@diolclergy.org

Secretary: Cherie - secretary@stmstb.diolcparish.org

Parish Councils

St. Bartholomew Parish

Finance: Dan Lilla, Ed Smith, Roger Amundson, Larry Sonsalla, Tom Greylak, Patty Behan, Kris Krett, Laurelle Lettner, Joe Plunger.

Pastoral: Cherie Schwertel, Darlene Schlessner, Roger Amundson, Daniel Lilla, Rebecca Lamberty, Al Joyce, Candice Guenther, Kay Richtman.

St. Mary Parish

Finance: Tom Ladwig, Dave Mueller, Becky Harris, Sandy Salsman, Bruce Reedy, Roger Betthauser, Don Teska,

Pastoral: Kent Jacobson, Dave Mueller, Cindy Baer, Alice Baldini, Sarah Sagler

Rejoice, The Savior is Near

My Dear Brothers and Sisters, the third Sunday of Advent is a Sunday of joy (Gaudete). Having come thus far in our journey, the Church says to us that we must continue our journey with new zeal and expectation.

In the first reading Isaiah bursts out in Joy as he experienced the divine presence and hand of God tremendously at work in his life and mission: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me to..." This is a song of joy and satisfaction of an empowered person. He recounts what God has done in his life.

We are filled to be strengthened for the last phase of our journey this Advent. So, in appreciation for this, we shout for joy to the Lord. This is the great joy that Gaudate Sunday provokes. That is, the joy that our Savior is near.

Our second reading is an explicit exaltation from Paul to us, especially on this great and joy-filled Sunday of Advent. First, it is an exaltation to be happy, joyful, and cheerful because our journey so far has been so good.

Second, it is an exaltation to "*Pray constantly*," to be vigilant. Therefore, for Gaudate Sunday to be truly meaningful, it must provoke a great feeling of joy and thankfulness.

The gospel reading of today is the prophecy and clarion call of the "Prophet of Prophets," John the Baptist. He says that: "*The voice that cries in the wilderness, make a straight way for the Lord.*" It is a way of keeping us alert so that we do not lose focus of where we are actually going to: "It is NOT Christmas yet!" The joy of this Sunday foreshadows the fullness of joy that Christmas brings.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, as we rejoice today, God will not fail us until we have received Christ, the fullness of our joy and salvation. Surely, He will not fail us because: "All His promises are yes and amen."

Have a Blessed Gaudate Sunday. God Bless You All!

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

SBT

SMG

Envelopes	\$ 2,643.00	\$ 785.00
Plate	283.00	193.25
Electronic Dep.	683.15	197.40
Christmas Flowers	125.00	90.00
Rel. Retire. Fund	539.00	370.61
Youth Envelopes	12.00	2.00
Total Offering	\$4,285.15	\$ 1,638.26

Counters: Dan Kelleher, Lori Mahoney

Intentions December 18 - December 24

Monday: NO MASS

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. St. Mary

Exposition and Confession at 5:00 p.m.

+ Eileen Harrison

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Rick Kowalewski

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

Exposition and Confession at 9:00 a.m.

+ Roger "Jesse" James

Friday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Robert Gloede

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. St. Mary

+ Living and Deceased of the Klein & Hammer Families

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. St. Bartholomew

+ For the Poor Souls in Purgatory

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Deceased Members of the Suchla Family

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. St. Mary

All the People of Our Parishes

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY, Dec. 23

ST. MARY- 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: Sandy Salsman, Volunteer

Lectors: Becky Harris

ST. BARTHOLOMEW - 5:30 p.m.

Ushers: Phil Palzkil, Volunteer

Server: John Severson

Lectors: Kirk Shimek

Communion Minister: Karen Shimek

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY Dec. 24

ST. BARTHOLOMEW - 8:30 a.m.

Ushers: Craig Boyer, Jason Hilton

Servers: Jaylen Hilton, Logan Hammel

Lectors: Anne Bagley

Communion Minister: Anne Bagley

ST. MARY- 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Steve Grover, Justin Sagler

Lectors: Cindy Anderson

Servers: Sarah Sagler

FAMILY PRAYER CORNER:

At 7:00 p.m. Every evening all parish families are asked to pray: **1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and 1 Glory Be to the Father** with this intention in mind: **For all people that they may have a joyful life**

Personal Prayer Request: For a sister or brother (living or deceased).

Christmas Mass Schedule

	St. Mary's	St. Bartholomew's
Caroling starts at	3:35 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve:	4:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Christmas Day:	10:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.



ATTENTION ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISHIONERS.

- ♦ Welcome to Jacob Thompson and Mary Barbara Wood. They have registered in our parish.
- ♦ Please volunteer for Ministries on the sign-up sheet, on the table in the vestibule for Christmas Masses.
- ♦ **Need prayers** for any health or anxiety issue - big or small. Contact the prayer chain, Doreen Backler, 608-534-6118, Ethel Ouellette, 608-534-6520 or the Knights of Columbus (Greg Goltz) @ 608-865-1518.

ATTENTION ST. MARY PARISHIONERS

OUR MISSION: To love God, love others and go make disciples!

OUR VISION: To awaken the faithful, reach the Lost, and make Church matter!

- ♦ **St. Mary's PCCW Advent Project:** We are collecting items for the Galesville Elementary School. Items needed are individually wrapped (non-peanut) snacks, child size mittens and hats, place in the box in the entrance. Monetary donations are also appreciated to pay for students who can not afford to pay field trip fees. Make checks out to St. Mary's PCCW and placed in an envelope, these can be put into the collection basket.
- ♦ **Christmas Church Cleaning- December 18th 4:00-6:00 at St. Mary's.** Please come help for a couple hours to get our church ready for this special holiday. When we get a good turnout for this event our efforts as a church family working together really show how much we care.
- ♦ Please pick up your church envelopes for 2024. They are in the vestibule of the church.
- ♦ **NEED GOD'S HELP?** Contact St. Mary's Prayer Chain, Ellen Karow 582-2688 or ekarow@hotmail.com or the Knights of Columbus (Greg Goltz) @ 608-865-1518.
- ♦ **OCIA Thursday evening, Dec. 21st, 6:15 PM, St. Mary's Rectory.** SYMBOLON 1.5: Who is Jesus? - Just a Good Man or Lord of Our Lives?

PASTORAL COUNCIL ITEM FOR YOU:

- + OUR VISION: "Awaken the faithful, reach the lost, make church matter."
- + Who are the faithful? Generally, those initiated into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist.
- + Who's asleep? The 83% of those who don't go to Mass weekly; the 38% who don't know the teachings of the Church (especially that of the Real Presence of Christ – Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity – in the consecrated host); & those living as, what the Bishops call, "baptized pagans."
- + God, through His Word & His Church, call all in these conditions to wake up! To change! To learn! To live!

COMMUNICATION TO ALL

- ♦ Confessions: Our children at St. Bartholomew's will get a chance to receive confession on Wednesday evening during their classes. Parents may come if they would be interested. Father is willing to hear confessions at anytime, please call the office to let him know when you are coming.
- ♦ **Christmas Eve Masses.** St. Mary's singing starts at 3:35pm for the 4pm Mass. St. Bartholomew's starts at 7:30pm for the 8pm Mass. Please come, listen and join with us. There will be narration between carols to tell the story of Mary and Joseph and what was happening while they were traveling to Bethlehem.
- ♦ **Our women and men religious offer gratitude.** A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gifts help, visit retiredreligious.org.
- ♦ **LIVING WATER!** Sunday evening, Dec. 17th, 6:00-7:30 PM, St. Mary's Rectory. Teaching on "Mission – Our Deepest Identity" with Lavinia Spirito.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL: Please remember to turn in your pledge card for the annual appeal

The assessment for our churches and the amount collected thus far are given below:

St. Bartholomew **Target** \$ 23,530.00; **Pledged** as of 12/14/23 \$14,295.00

St. Mary **Target** \$ 13,050.00; **Pledged** as of 12/14/23 \$ 2,735.00

As you can see, we have a long way to go on this appeal. Please help to provide important services that benefit our parishes.

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DECEMBER 21**



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