

Mass Intentions

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., & Sat. – NO MASS
Friday –(Holyday) 2:00 p.m. – Sue Czarnowski (successful surgery)
Sunday – 10:30 a.m. – Ervin & Sylvia Panzer †

Mass for this Monday, December 8th Holy Day of Obligation will be at 2:00 p.m. here at Litomysl with Fr. John Sauer. Masses at Sacred Heart will be at 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. Children will do the readings etc. In Hayfield Mass will be Sunday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. and in Blooming Prairie on Monday, 12/8 at 7:30 a.m.

Mass on Christmas Eve, December 24th will be at 3:00 p.m. here at Litomysl with Father Jon Moore. There will be no Mass here on Christmas Day.

Sunday – 10:30 a.m.

Lec – Clarence Horesji
EM – Bob Prokopec
Cup – Janet Miller & Marie Kubicek
Servers – Al Rysavy & Angel Kasper
Gifts – Chris Deml Family
Ushers – Randy Borchert & Ed Skala
Rosary – Marcella Jenó Singing - Combo

11-30-08– Adult - \$517, Offertory - \$115 Youth - \$24.50,
Fall Coll. - \$4,370, Thanksgiving - \$451

The Litomysl Pastoral Council and the Finance Council will not be meeting in December.

School News:

**St. Isidore School Calendar Winners:
December 7 –Edward & Eilyne Simon, Litomysl**

St. Isidore's School has a Giving Tree on the table in the back of church. Would you be able to take a paper bulb and purchase a gift to help enrich the education at St. Isidore's? Please wrap the gift and put the bulb on it and return it to the tree by December 14th. The staff and students would be very grateful.

St. Isidore School Board will meet on Tuesday, December 9th at 4:00 p.m. in the school library. (Note it is on Tuesday this month, due to the Christmas Program on Thursday.) Everyone is welcome.

The School Board asks that the Finance Council meet with them in January on Thursday, January 8th at 7:30 p.m. (not in December).

St. Isidore's Giving Calendars are on sale.

They sell for \$25 each and \$50 will be given away each week all year. Please ask a St. Isidore's Student or contact the school to purchase yours. Please help this fundraiser to be a great success again this year. They make excellent Christmas Gifts especially for alumni.

The students of St. Isidore School invite everyone as they present the Christmas musical "Once Upon a Christmas Light" this Thursday, December 11th in church. The audience will be entertained with a witty script and uplifting music, and inspired by a profound message of God's love. The times are at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Preschool students will open the performance with some of their favorite songs. Refreshments will be served. Please join us!

From The Pastor ~

This weekend **John the Baptist** takes center stage with his invitation to prepare the way of the Lord. Mark tells us that he came offering a baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Other passages tell us that many people came to John for encouragement and conversion as they sought to live more faithfully the covenant, which God had offered.

As part of our Advent preparation I invite you to take advantage of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**. It is a wonderful way to face our sinfulness, express our contrition and experience the reconciling love of God. I remember as a child our monthly trips to church on Saturday afternoon for confession. Although fewer people avail themselves with that kind of regularity we offer the sacrament every first Sunday after Mass.

From time to time, as I encourage individuals to come to the sacrament they will "confess" that it has been some time and they are unsure of how to proceed. While I understand the hesitation I want to assure you that it is always a great joy to celebrate the sacrament with someone who has been away from it for awhile. There seems to be a special quality to the Lord's presence in those moments. Find an opportunity during this Advent season to come to confession and prepare your heart in this way.

To help those who may need a little reminder of the format and prayers, as well as those who would like to deepen their preparation we are providing a pamphlet that includes the outline of the sacrament, an examination of conscience, and some forms of the acts of contrition. We used to put these out at the Cathedral near the confessional and they were very popular. It seemed like every time we turned around we needed refill their slot. Please feel free to take one for yourself or a friend or relative who might appreciate one.

If you will be doing **year-end giving** for tax purposes remember the parish, the school and the cemetery. All rely, to some extent, on your generosity.

Father John Sauer

Communal Penance Services will be on Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 p.m. at St. Columbanus in Blooming Prairie and on Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Owatonna. Everyone is encouraged to receive the Sacrament before Christmas.

Our 2nd graders will have their First Reconciliation on Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00 p.m. Their First Communion will be Saturday, April 18th at the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

Everyone is invited to the Catholic Aid Council #328's annual Christmas Party at the home of Brian & Tara Jones on Sunday, December 14. Come anytime after 7:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite appetizer & your own beverage. See You There!

Congratulations to Joseph Michael Klecker, son of Michael and Sara, who is being baptized during Mass today. At His Baptism, Joseph is presented to the Lord, we pray he will always remain faithful to his calling. Welcome!

Congratulations to Dan Schiller and Leah Hanson, who will be married here on Saturday. May they have many blessed years together in God's love.

All women of our parish are invited to a Christmas Brunch on Saturday, Dec. 13th at St. Joseph's Church in Owatonna. Mass will begin at 8:00 a.m., followed by brunch and entertainment. Call Leola McNearney for tickets at 451-6648 before Wednesday.

Bell Ringers Needed: Saturday, December 13th. The Salvation Army is having their Annual Kettle Campaign. There's a sign up sheet in the back of church to sign up. Contact Troy Anderson for more info at 363-1701, or e-mail him at yorte21@hotmail.com

Christmas Caroling- Sunday, December 21st, 5 to 7:00 p.m. We'll meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. and carpool to Prairie Manor Nursing Home in Blooming Prairie, sing Christmas carols, and then come back for snacks/refreshments. Please bring some snacks to share afterwards. (Hot Chocolate will be provided.) Contact Troy Anderson for more info at 363-1701, or e-mail him at yorte21@hotmail.com

A Christmas Cantata will be presented by the area community choir. It is a collection of hymns and carols from around the world to remind us of the sacred event - The Birth of Jesus. Sunday (today) 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, Clarks Grove, and at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, Ellendale. Everyone is invited!

Christmas Boxes -

About 25 Christmas Boxes will be given to the elderly and the ill of the parish. They will be packed on Monday, December 22 at 1:00 p.m. All parishioners and school families are asked to help fill the boxes by bringing individually wrapped goodies or fruit to be put into the boxes and leave them on the counter in the kitchen. One member of each guild is asked to come and help pack and deliver the boxes.

Birthright of Owatonna could use clean, warm, infant - size 2 clothing which give away at our office at 140 ½ E. Rose St. We are especially in need of girl's clothing. Call Shirley @ 451-8527 or Nancy @451-8692 for pick up.

The Marine Corps Reserve is asking for "Toys For Tots" Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, and good will. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves, especially impoverished children. For over half a century, one organization- The U.S. Marine Corps - is the unchallenged leader in looking after America's needy children at Christmas. St. Isidore's School students and staff and Holy Trinity Church parishioners are participating in helping the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves with this project. You may bring toys and put them in the back of church. Deadline to bring toys is Sunday, Dec. 14th.

Faith Formation Classes at Holy Trinity

The **5 year old through fifth grade** students meet each Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. in St. Isidore's School. The **6th, 7th, and 8th grade** students meet each Wednesday from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. in the church basement. The **9th & 10th grade** students preparing for Confirmation meet each Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the church basement. All students are encouraged to attend.

Beginning January 3rd Mass here at Holy Trinity will be every Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. with Father John Sauer.

On the last Sunday of each month ONLY, in addition to the Saturday evening Mass with Father Sauer, there will be a 10:30 a.m. Mass here with Father Jon Moore.

On Sundays, December 7th and 14th everyone will be given the opportunity to sign up for the liturgical roles at either of these Masses for Combo, Song Leader, Rosary Leader, Lector, Eucharistic Minister/Hosts, Eucharistic Minister/Wine, Gift Bearer, Usher, Mass Server (*4th grade and up*). *Even if you have done this in the past we ask that you sign up at this time.* Everyone will also have the opportunity to sign up to become a future member of the Litomysl Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, the School Board or the Cemetery Board, or to be an Adult Education (*Bible Study*) Leader. Good Stewardship means not only being generous with your financial support of the church and community, but also being generous with your time and talents.

Beginning Saturday, January 3rd the Rosary will be said in a special place in the basement beginning at 6:40 p.m. Hopefully it will then get the reverence it deserves and many will come and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in this way.