

FROM THE DESK OF FR. TIM: It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those we pass on the streets? Is this Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for Christmas. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas is a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is the holy season that we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus. Jesus brought great joy into our world and that joy helped a broken humanity. Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for our sins and bring salvation into our lives.

As we celebrate Christmas, be mindful of what Jesus can do for you. What you can do for Jesus, may be renewing a friendship with someone, forgive someone who has wronged you, maybe help feed the poor. Tell someone that you love them, whether it is a family member or friend. There's so much that we can do to celebrate Christmas, but most of all give thanks to God for sharing with us the birth of His Son, Jesus. We celebrate by coming to Mass on Christmas and every Sunday to thank God for the many blessings that he has given us throughout our lives. Mass on Christmas will be celebrated for all of St. Patrick's Parish. A Blessed Christmas to all of you, if you are traveling, please, be safe.

Liturgical Ministers for the Nativity, Dec 24-25, 2014

Wed, 4:00 pm:

Sacristan-

Servers-G Sorenson, M Sorenson

Proclaimer-C Sutura

Leader-C Ambrose

Euch Min-K Swinney, S Maloney, L Drinkwalter, L Kallhoff, J Sellman

Greeters-D Rasmussen, T Belknap, R Belknap, D Eitemiller

Music-C Dickerson, Children's Choir

Wed, 10:00 pm:

Sacristan-B Scheopner

Servers-

Proclaimer-R Bauer

Leader-M Lane

Euch Min-A Lane, C Baehler, M Baehler

Greeters-B Cebula, S Cleveland

Music-P Chasek, Mass Choir

Thu, 9:00 am:

Sacristan-R Horse

Servers-Z Wordekemper, C Bila

Proclaimer-A Curd

Leader-K Pope

Euch Min-J Calamari, T Calamari, S Pourier, L Rischling, L Jamison

Greeters-R Bila, C Bila, R Bohnenkamp, S Rischling

Crestview-J Songco

Hosp/Prairie Pines-J Songco

Music-Fr Tim

Liturgical Ministers for Dec 27-28, 2014

Sat, 5:30 pm:

Sacristan-

Servers-R Menke, C Twarling

Proclaimer-C Kuskie

Leader-N Gallegos

Euch Min-K Drinkwalter, L Drinkwalter, M Baehler, W Keene, R Keene

Greeters-T&D Menke, M Menke, R Koza, K Koza

Music-P Chasek, D Kuskie

Sun, 9:00 am:

Sacristan-

Servers-A Swinney, C Swinney

Proclaimer-H Kent

Leader-C Janssen

Euch Min-J Sorenson, D Paris, C Rasmussen, J Stack, R Stack

Greeters-S Katen, B Borges, J Ramm, G Klein

Crestview-M Cogdill

Hosp/Prairie Pines-J Songco

Music-P Chasek, D Chasek, D Kuskie, High School

Gluten-Free Hosts—If you have celiac disease and are required to be on a gluten-free diet, please see Fr. Tim before Mass so a gluten-free host may be consecrated for you at Communion.

Cleaning Schedules

Church Cleaning for Main Sanctuary,

Saturday, December 27 (or whenever convenient during the week): Kaci & Alisyn Swinney, Luanne Witt, Emily, Tom & Anne Hinman.

Church Window Cleaning for the month of

December: John Songco

Sunday Offering: *Contributions needed weekly to meet budget: \$6,000* (12-14) Reg: \$5,065.95; Online: \$845.00; Bldg: \$0.00; Children: \$13.00; Imm Concept: \$603.00; Ret Religious: \$845.84. ***Thank You for Your Generosity!***

Special Offering—*Thank you!* "We can certainly call you friends because of the way you care for our retired members," writes a religious brother. Your gift to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious benefits some 35,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests. May God bless you for your generosity!

Christmas Flowers—Anyone wishing to donate funds for buying flowers to decorate the church for Christmas may do so by placing the contribution in an envelope marked "Flowers" and place in the offering basket. Thank you!

Checks dated "December 2014" will be posted to your 2014 contribution statement up to Sun, Jan. 11. ***Any check dated "2014" received after Jan. 11 will be posted to your 2015 contribution statement.*** Please use "2014" envelopes for "2014" and "2015" for "2015." They will be posted accordingly. Thanks!

Music Practice—Practice for the mixed choir for the Christmas Eve 10 pm Mass will be held after the 9 am Mass on December 21, with an additional practice on Monday, December 22 at 6:30 pm in the church. Anyone who is interested in singing for this Mass is welcome to join us even if they do not serve as a music minister, as long as they attend at least one of the practices. We'll meet in the church at 8:30 pm to practice one more time on Christmas Eve, and will begin caroling around 9:30 pm before Mass.

Prayer Requests

Prayer Line – If you have a prayer request, please call Darlene Yantzi, 432-5432; Mary Baehler, 432-4994.

R.I.P. Please remember in your prayers Jim Wilburn who died recently.

THIS WEEK

Sun 9:00 AM—Mass [+Bill & +Don Tyree]
10:00 AM—Music practice

Mon No Mass

6:30 PM—Music practice

6:30-7 PM—Reconciliation

8:00 PM – AA (closed), in the parish center

Tue 5:30 PM—Mass [George & Rhonda Bamsey]

6:30-7 PM—Reconciliation

Wed Parish office closed

4:00 PM—Children's Christmas Mass [+Vivian Linden]

10:00 PM—Christmas Mass [+John Melton]

Thu Parish office closed

9:00 AM—Christmas Mass [Parishioners]

7:00 PM—No RCIA

8:00 PM – AA (open), in the parish center

Fri Parish office closed

7:30 AM—Mass [+Bob Bowen]

Sat 4-4:30 PM—Reconciliation

5:30 PM—Mass [+Bob & +Therese Hinman]

8:00 PM—AA (open), in the parish center

Sun 9:00 AM—Mass [+Dr. Richard & +Betty Loosbrock]

Parish Health Notes—*Comforting the bereaved* during the holidays. Grief shared is grief diminished. Call, write notes, visit. The greatest pain of the griever is loneliness. Bring them a little gift as a symbol of your love and compassion. Invite them out for coffee, to take a walk, to visit a museum, to see a play, a movie, etc. Talk about the deceased. Many people erroneously think that this is painful for the bereaved. On the contrary, it is part of the healing process to talk about the loved one. Tell the griever that you are praying for them. Perhaps you could invite them to go to church and out for coffee on one of the days between Christmas and New Year's. In the end, it is simply caring with compassion. One friend, one person who is truly understanding, who takes the trouble to listen to us as we consider our problem, can change our whole outlook on the world.—Dr. Elton Mayo Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Knights of Columbus News

- Sunday, January 11—Regular meeting at 6 pm
- Sunday, January 18—Knights' Free-throw Contest, 1 pm, Assumption Arena
- Sunday, January 25—Knights' After Holidays Party, more information TBA

Inspirational

Social Ministry Quote: "We are celebrating the feast of the Eternal Birth that God has borne and never ceases to bear in all eternity. But if it takes not place in me, what avails it? Everything lies in this, that it should take place in me." Meister Eckhart

Next Sunday's Readings ~ *The Holy Family, December 28, 2014* ~ Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 (Duties toward Parents) Colossians 3:12-21 (Plan for Family Life) Luke 2:22-40 (God's Anointed One)

Note from Fr. Berger: In last Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist was asked, "Are you the Prophet?" After Mass Saturday, a woman asked me, "Who is this Prophet they ask about?" I had to admit I didn't know. I did research, and found a pretty good answer. It's in an envelope Fr. Tim has, for this woman (whom I don't know), if she wishes.

Thank you —Fr. Bernard Berger

Religious Formation News

If you are interested in decorating a "FAMILY" tree to display in the gathering area, please contact Kaci at the office. Your tree can be decorated with pictures or memorabilia from your family. You may include a family history or even funny family stories. There will be two trees available if you do not have one of your own. You may set up your tree in the gathering area after Mass on any weekend during Advent.

Religious education classes will begin again on January 14 for the Preschool through 10th grade classes and on January 11 for the Confirmation students. Parents and sponsors are asked to attend class. We will meet in the media room at 10:30.

Thanks to all who participated in the Parade of Lights. The float was beautiful, the children were merry and the weather was perfect. Pictures are available on the church website.

The Nativity was performed last Sunday afternoon. The kids and adults did an excellent job performing the story of the first Christmas. Thank you to all who attended and helped with practices. Pictures are on the church webpage as well.

Congratulations to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students who were recognized at the communal penance service Wednesday night. A HUGE thank you AND an even BIGGER you are appreciated and important to all of the catechists and parents. You have been so supportive and excellent role models of the faith to your children.

Keep an eye out for remind messages pertaining to children's Christmas choir practices. The choir will be singing at the 4:00 pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve.

I am looking for highly motivated, outside-of-the-box thinking individuals to come together and form a fundraising committee for the youth. The second half of this faith formation year is filled with multiple opportunities for youth to participate in faith filled events and retreats. Any interested individuals are encourage to contact Kaci ASAP. YOU ARE NEEDED!!!

In Appreciation—Thank you to Cheri Schrack for organizing the volunteers who made cookies to be served after the Reconciliation service last Wednesday and much thanks is also extended to all who provided the delicious cookies!!

Happy Birthday Wishes—are extended to Alma Sauser on December 23!!

Workshop—*Growing and Cultivating a Stewardship Heart* is a call and invitation to the people of God in the diocese to not only learn about stewardship but also to take leadership opportunities and implement plans and visions for their parishes. **All are welcome**-Attend any of the scheduled workshops. Choose the one that fits your schedule. There is no charge for these workshops. Lunch is provided. **All workshops are 8:30 am-4 pm**
Sat, Jan 17—Alliance Deanery, Alliance Holy Rosary Church
Sat, Jan 14—Kearney Deanery, St. James Church, Kearney
Sat, Feb 7—Grand Island Deanery, Blessed Sacrament Church, Grand Island
Sat, Feb 21—North Platte Deanery, St. Joseph Church, Broken Bow
Register online: <http://ministries.gdiocese.org/StewardshipRegistration.aspx>. For more information or to register by phone: Michael Davis, Lay Ministry Office, 800-252-9325.

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WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday, 5:30 pm
Sunday, 9:00 am

DAILY MASSES: Inside Bulletin
TELEVISED MASS: Thursday, 6:00 pm, Channel 2, Cable TV

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 4:00 pm or by
appointment (For Changes In Regular Schedule, See
Inside Bulletin)

WHEN TRAVELING: Find Mass times around the country at: www.MassTimes.org

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth to a Virgin named Mary.

AVE MARIA
Gloria Plena

Hail Mary
full of grace
the LORD
is with you

Behold
you will conceive and
bear a son and
you shall name him
JESUS

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Fourth Sunday
of Advent

December 21, 2014

O Lord, my Rock, my Savior!

WELCOME - We extend our hearts in a warm welcome to you whether long term residents or newly arrived in the Parish. We thank God that you are with us. If you are not registered, please fill out this form. Place it in the offering basket or mail it to the Parish Office.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ New Parishioner _____ Student _____ New Address _____ New Phone _____ Moving, please remove from list
_____ Interested in learning more: _____ The Catholic Faith _____ Annulment Process _____ Baptism _____ Marriage

Offering Envelopes? Yes _____ No _____ Other Needs _____