

The First Sunday in Advent November 26 & 27, 2022

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

707 Eagle Street, P. O. Box 130, Genoa, WI 54632

Pastor: Fr. Daniel Sedlacek

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Parish Office: 608-689-2642

Email: stcharle@mwt.net

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Mass Schedule & Intentions for November 28 – December 4, 2022

11/28/22	Monday	NO MASS
11/29/22	Tuesday	8:30 AM † Roger Heinemann
11/30/22	Wednesday	NO MASS
12/01/22	Thursday	8:00 AM † Patricia "Pat" Pedretti
12/02/22	Friday	8:00 AM † Pauline Berra
12/03/22	Saturday	4:00 PM † Patricia Woodhouse
12/04/22	Sunday	9:30 AM People of St. Charles

Volunteers

Lectors

Sat. Dec. 03: 4:00 PM: Tom Jeffers

Sun. Dec. 04: 9:30 AM: Kelly Hutchison

Servers

Sat. Dec. 03: 4:00 PM: Volunteers

Sun. Dec. 04: 9:30 AM: Felicity, Perpetua & Abigail

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Dec. 03: 9:30 AM: Kelly Hutchison

If you would like to participate as Lector, Server, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion please call Tom Jeffers at (608) 689-2683

Rosary Leaders

Sat. Dec. 03: 4:00 PM: Volunteer

Sun. Dec. 04: 9:30 AM: Volunteer

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Mon. Nov. 28: Arnie & Diane Pedretti; Dorothy Stokke

Mon. Dec. 05: Tom & Pam Jeffers; Carolyn Umberger

Ushers (Month of December)

Saturday: John Nicklay & Tim Woodhouse

Sunday: Conrad Kirby & Tom Urbanek

Sacraments and Prayers

Church Hours

The church is open every day from 7 AM - 7 PM.

Confession:

Saturdays: 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

1st Thursdays: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration:

1st Thursdays: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

1st Fridays: After the 8 AM Mass

Baptism: Contact parish at least 2 months prior: 608-689-2642

Marriage: Contact parish at least 6 months prior to the wedding to schedule a date and preparation meetings with the parish priest.

Anointing of the Sick and Homebound

Inform the parish office at (608) 689-2642 if someone is seriously ill and needs the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Prayer Requests - Call 608-689-2642 - requests will be passed to Father Sedlacek & the prayer chain.

Sacrificial Giving November 19 & 20, 2022

Adult Envelopes \$1,286.00

Plate Offering \$ 85.00

School Donation \$ 20.00

Mission Sunday (Prop.Faith) \$ 30.00

Total: \$1,346.00

From the Pastor's Desk Staying Awake and Advent Wreaths

Peace to you! I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and some time to look with gratitude upon all the blessings that God has given us. I also hope that all our hunters had good success! I know that this time of year with the holidays can be difficult for some people, especially those who are mourning the loss of loved ones. It has been one year since my grandfather Leonard passed away and boy do I miss him being around. May he and all of our deceased loved ones rest in the peace of Christ and enjoy the eternal "holy days" of the heavenly homeland. This Sunday is the 1st Sunday of Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas and also the first days of the new liturgical year. This year, Advent is the longest it can ever be (28 days), since Christmas is on a Sunday this year and the 4th week of Advent is a full seven-day week. Next year, Advent will be the shortest it can be (only 21 days).

The name "Advent" comes from the Latin *ad venio*, which means "to come to." "Adventus" means "arrival" or "coming." During this time the Church exhorts us all to prepare ourselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's first "advent" or coming into the world as the incarnate God and Savior of the human race. And so, we are to prepare for this celebration by making our souls fitting dwelling places for the Redeemer who comes to us in Holy Communion. We are called to obtain the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to pray, and to fast as we await the arrival of our Savior. Advent is not as strict as Lent and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. Our more immediate preparation during Advent for the worthy celebration of Our Lord's Nativity helps us to be prepared for His final coming as judge, both at our deaths and at the end of the world.

The first week of Advent focuses on preparation for the Lord's Second Coming. The main message of Jesus to His disciples is "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." The 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent focus on the figure of St. John the Baptist, who is a model for us in how to "stay awake" and be prepared for the coming of the Messiah. And the 4th Sunday of Advent has us focus on the events immediately before the birth of Jesus.

Other than going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (by far the most important way to prepare ourselves for the Lord's Coming), a greater focus on prayer, self-denial, and works of charity help us to prepare our souls for Christ's coming. Other devotions help as well. Two that I like are the Advent Wreath and the Advent Calendar. The following is a great explanation of the Advent Wreath which I got from www.catholiceducation.org.

The actual origins of the Advent Wreath are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. Definitely by the Middle Ages, Christians "baptized" this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which

represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food. On the First Sunday of Advent, the father of the family blesses the wreath, praying: "O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen."

Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

St. Charles Borromeo, pray for us!
-Fr. Daniel Sedlacek

St. Charles Parish News

Pick up for Christmas Wreath and Maple Syrup

Christmas Wreaths will be available for pick up this weekend, Nov. 26 & 27, after Mass at the parish garage. Maple Syrup will be sold after the weekend Masses.

Baby Jesus Christmas Collection for Ukraine

Chalice of Mercy, a mission to Ukraine founded by Valentyna Pavsyukova in Chippewa Falls in 2007, is having a *Bambino Gesù* ("Baby Jesus") Christmas collection for Ukraine from all the parishes in the diocese. Our school and parish are participating. You can find the list of items in the entryway of church. Please only donate the requested items. Please drop off donations at the School by **Monday, Dec. 5**. All these gifts will be shipped by air and will arrive before Christmas and be distributed by the Chalice of Mercy team in Ukraine. Monetary donations are also needed to cover the cost of shipping the collection over to Ukraine. Those can be made online at: <https://chaliceofmercy.org/donations/donate/> or by mailing a check to Chalice of Mercy, N13740 Fairview Rd., Fairchild, WI 54741

RCIA Wednesday, November 30th

Curious about the Catholic Faith and want to learn more? Thinking about becoming Catholic? Never have been Confirmed? Consider joining RCIA. Our next meeting will be Wed. November 30th 6:30-8 PM in the school. For more information about RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) or to sign up, contact Fr. Sedlacek.

Church Cleaning Day, Sat. Dec. 3rd

St. Charles Catholic Women's Group will be cleaning the church on Dec. 3rd at 1:30 pm. We invite others to help us clean before the holidays. Dusting, wax removal from the carpets, and cleaning the pews. Supplies provided just bring a bucket.

Holy Day on Thursday, December 8th

It is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of the United States of America. Mass times at St. Charles church are 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM. Here are some other Mass times at nearby parishes:

Wed. Dec. 7th

5:30 PM – Blessed Sacrament, La Crosse
6:30 PM – St. Mary's, Viroqua

12:00 PM – MMOC, La Crosse
12:10 PM – St. Mary's, Viroqua
12:10 PM – Cathedral of St. Joseph, La Crosse
5:10 PM – Cathedral of St. Joseph, La Crosse
5:30 PM – MMOC, La Crosse
6:30 PM – St. Mary's, Coon Valley
7:00 PM – Roncalli Newman Center

Thurs. Dec. 8th

6:30 AM – Cathedral of St. Joseph, La Crosse
8 AM – Blessed Sacrament, La Crosse
12:00 PM - Roncalli Newman Center

PTO Bingo Night Saturday, December 10th from 6-9 pm in the cafeteria.

A poster with more information will be coming next week. If anyone would like to donate a raffle basket, drop it off at the school before December 9th. Thank you.

St. Charles School News

Accepting Donations for Santa Sale

If anyone is interested in donating any new or slightly used items for the Santa Sale, please drop them off at school by Dec. 7th. The Santa Sale is an opportunity for our students to shop for gifts to give to their families.

RootinCrown Consignment Store

RootinCrown is taking donations between 10 AM and 4 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Appointments are still required for gently used furniture consignment. St. Charles earns a 60% share on clean and gently used furniture valued over \$50. To qualify for this offer, make an appointment with Mary Jo at 608-519-9500. Encourage family, neighbors and friends/social contacts to support our school by shopping at the RootinCrown and liking them on Facebook. www.rootincrown.com

School Shop Scrip Program

Thanks to everyone who have been using the Scrip program. If you haven't already, it is easy to join and start earning money for our school. Either create an account on Raiseright.com/shop or download the RaiseRight app. You can use the app or website to immediately buy and use eGift cards. More information to come when we place the next order for physical gift cards. Please reach out to Megan Olson with any questions at 608-385-7815 or mjrussoni@gmail.com. Thanks!

Other News from the Diocese and our Community

Volunteers Needed at La Crosse Warming Center

Catholic Charities at the La Crosse Warming Center, located at 413 3rd St S, La Crosse. Hours of operation this season (November 1, 2022 - April 31st, 2023) are from 6:30pm till 8:30am 7 days a week. They can use your help as often or as little as you have time for! There are two ways you can sign up! Through the Assistant Coordinator Karla Hein, who is the lead for scheduling folks at the La Crosse Warming Center. Karla can be reached at khein@cclse.org, or you can call or text at 608-668-9005. She can also send you the link to their Sign-up Genius site where you can look ahead and sign up for available days/times at your convenience.

Saint Joseph Cathedral Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 3, 2022; 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Beautiful and unique gifts, handmade greeting cards, artwork, Christmas decor, religious items, raffles and bake sale.

Cookie Walk & Craft Sale: Dec. 10th

Mary, Mother of the Church Parish will be holding their Cookie Walk & Craft Sale on Saturday, December 10, at the Parish Hall located at 2006 Weston Street, La Crosse, from 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Homemade cookies will be sold by the pound, plus homemade Candies, Breads, Pies, Handcrafted Items and Scrip Gift Cards available for sale. Serving Continental Breakfast and Lunch (homemade soup and chili). Raffles and hourly Door Prizes.

Parish Events Calendar

Wed. Nov. 30: RCIA Group 6:30-8 PM

Thurs. Dec. 1: Parish Holy Hour with Adoration and Confessions 6-7 PM

Thurs. Dec. 1: Women's Group Meeting 6:30 PM

Wed. Dec. 7: Confirmation Preparation Group (Parents and Students) 6:30-8 PM

Thurs. Dec. 8: Holy Day of Obligation: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mass at 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM

Sat. Dec. 10: St. Charles School Fundraiser and Bingo Night

Mon. Dec. 19: Confessions at Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, 9 AM – 6 PM with multiple priests each hour