

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God December 31, 2022 & January 1, 2023

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

Website: www.stcharlesgenoa.org

Mass Schedule & Intentions for January 2 – January 8, 2023

01/02/23	Monday	NO MASS
01/03/23	Tuesday	8:30 AM Health & Wellness of Steve Trussoni
01/04/23	Wednesday	NO MASS
01/05/23	Thursday	8:00 AM † Bernard Domke
01/06/23	Friday	8:00 AM † Francis & Jean Nickelotti
01/07/23	Saturday	4:00 PM Health & Wellness of Steve Trussoni
01/08.23	Sunday	9:30 AM People of St. Charles

Volunteers

Lectors

Sat. Jan. 07: 4:00 PM: Tom Jeffers

Sun. Jan. 08: 9:30 AM: Jayne Ballwahn

Servers

Sat. Jan. 07: 4:00 PM: Volunteers

Sun. Jan. 08: 9:30 AM: The Mitchell Family

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Jan. 08: 9:30 AM: Kevin Mitchell

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. Jan. 07: 4:00 PM: Volunteer

Sun. Jan. 08: 9:30 AM: Volunteer

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Tue. Jan. 03: Tom & Pam Jeffers; Carolyn Umberger

Mon. Jan. 09: Ed & Priscilla Martin; Tom Naegle

Ushers (Month of January 2023)

Saturday: Steve Woodhouse & Larry Kelsey

Sunday: Keith Magnuson & Arnie Trussoni

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 December 24 & 25, 2022

Adult Envelopes \$8,520.00

Plate Offering \$ 237.00

Flowers \$ 50.00

Total: \$8,807.00

From the Pastor's Desk

Ready to Receive

Peace to you! Merry Christmas (it is still Christmas)! And Happy New Year to you all! I hope that these holy days have brought you all many blessings and graces. And I have been praying for everyone's safety if they are travelling to see family and friends during these days. I was able to spend a couple of days with my family and another day with a couple of priest classmates from St. Paul and from Denver. To be able to spend time with people is a great blessing! We had a good crowd for our Christmas Eve Mass here at St. Charles. It was a blessing to have some of the children of our parish lead us in singing carols before the Mass began. Did you know that the first Mass ever celebrated at (the current) St. Charles church was on Christmas Day, 1901? And so, Mass has been offered in our church for 121 years now. Wow!

On this first day of the civic year, we as Catholics celebrate a few things. The first is the "Octave Day of Christmas." That simply means the 8th day ("octave" means eight...like octopus, or octagon) of celebrating Christmas. There are only two octaves in the liturgical year, Easter and Christmas. The second thing we celebrate on this day the "Circumcision of the Lord," an event in Jesus' life which we hear about in our Gospel reading. On the 8th day of Jesus' life, Mary and Joseph had Jesus circumcised. Circumcision in the Old Covenant of Abraham and Moses is the precursor to baptism in the New Covenant. Circumcision is the religious rite of the Jewish people which signifies that they are one of God's chosen people and members of the covenant with God. It was Jewish law that all males were to be circumcised on the 8th day. Lastly, and perhaps most emphatically, we celebrate the Solemnity (the highest kind of celebration) of Mary, the Mother of God. We have a day to reflect upon a key aspect of the great mystery of the Incarnation (God taking on human nature in the Person of Jesus Christ); namely, that since Jesus Christ is God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, and Mary is His mother, then Mary is the Mother of God. God the Father is Jesus' father. Mary is Jesus' mother. Jesus' divinity comes from the Father. His humanity comes from His mother. However, Jesus is not a demi-god. He is fully God and fully man.

Because Mary is the Mother of God, we have a special veneration or honor toward her. She is the New Eve, by whose obedience all humanity has received Our Savior. By her "yes," she undid the "no" of our first parents. She is the first of Jesus' disciples and a model for all Christians. She is also our Mother. This is because, by baptism, we are made members of the Body of Christ. We are "grafted" into Christ. And because we have such union with Christ, we can truly call His mother our mother. Christ Himself indicated this truth when He said while hanging on the Cross, "Behold, your mother."

We look to Mary as our model, our "coach," in how to receive the will of God and all of the graces and blessings which He desires to bestow on us. Mary and St. Joseph obeyed the Law of God given through Moses. They also obeyed the instructions of God given by the angel to name Mary's baby, "Jesus," which means "savior." They followed God's will in terms of the laws given by God through Moses which applied to all the People of God and they followed His will in terms of their particular role they were to play in God's plan of salvation. This is a model for us. We are called to follow God's will that applies to all of the new People of God ("the Church") by the laws given through the leaders of the Church. The reason is that God gave authority to His apostles and their successors so that His mission of salvation would continue. The Church's task is to safeguard the "deposit of faith" which is what we need to know and believe in order to be saved, and to be a steward of the mysteries, that is, the Sacraments, which are the ordinary means that Jesus instituted for us to receive His saving and sanctifying grace. The Church is a human family/society, and so we also have rules that govern how we are to worship, grow, and live with each other. These can be distilled down into what are called the "precepts of the Church," which we are obliged to follow under pain of sin (the sin of disobedience to Christ's Bride). These 5 precepts form the "minimum" standards for living out our Catholic Faith together and for **receiving** God's gifts.

1. *You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.* We must "sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord" (Sunday), as well as the principal feast days, known as holy days of obligation. There are 5 such holy days in the USA: Jan 1, Aug 15, Nov 1, Dec 8, and Dec. 25 (do you know the names of each of these feast days?). This precept requires attending Mass, "and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification

of these days." In short, the Church is guiding us toward **receiving** the fulfillment of our need to worship God with other members of His Family and our need for rest from the ordinary labors and activities of life.

2. *You shall confess your sins at least once a year.*

We must prepare for the Eucharist by means of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). This sacrament "continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness." The Church is inviting us to **receive** the mercy and forgiveness of Christ so that we can be truly free from the power of our sins.

3. *You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.*

This "guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy." Believe it or not, there was a time when most Catholics only received the Eucharist once or a few times each year. The Church wants us to **receive** the gift of the Eucharist (this is in connection to first receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation if we have committed any mortal sins), because the Eucharist, being Christ Himself, is the source of the Christian life. Notice that this precept is distinct from the first precept, which requires us to "attend" Mass.

4. *You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.*

"The fourth precept ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart." The Church, as a loving mother, desires us to **receive** the Good News of Jesus and to grow in spiritual discipline and maturity. Jesus' first action after being anointed with the Holy Spirit was to fast for 40 days in the desert. Then His first public words of preaching were "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

5. *You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.*

"The fifth precept means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability." The Church wants us to **receive** the gifts which can only come from giving. One of these gifts is the detachment from earthly goods. Another is growth in the virtue of charity, which is true love for our neighbor.

The quotations above are from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraphs #2041-2043. There is much more to say about the topic of the Precepts of the Church (I could write a whole article about each one of them), but the point of mentioning them is for us to ask the question of ourselves, "Which of these precepts do need to receive and live out in my life, like Mary and Joseph received the Law of Moses and lived it out in their family?" As we begin this new civic year, my wish is that all of us at St. Charles parish will grow in our desire and capacity to receive what God wants to give us! Jesus Christ is the True Shepherd of the Church and of our parish. But are we receiving His "directions" and following His promptings? With the support, example, and prayers of Mary, our Mother, we will grow in our desire to receive and act upon the grace which the Holy Trinity desires to pour out upon us.

St. Charles Borromeo, pray for us!

-Fr. Daniel Sedlacek

St. Charles Parish News

Parish Christmas Gift

There are still some copies of *Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Live Joy Every Day* by Chris Stefanick available. If you were travelling during Christmas, please make sure you pick up your copy of St. Charles' Christmas gift to you this weekend.

New Parish and School Website

We launched a new website for our Parish and School. Please check it out at www.stcharlesgenoa.org. The website is not complete, it still needs some "filling out." Your feedback and ideas are welcome! If you have ideas for website content (photos or text), please send them to Fr. Sedlacek or talk with Sally Emerson or Mary Kate Donovan.

"Inspired by the Spirit" Capital Campaign Update

There are 157 parishes in the Diocese of La Crosse, including our parish. All of us are embarking on the "Inspired by the Spirit" Capital Campaign. This will be a 5-year campaign to support both the Diocese and our local parish. The Diocese's portion will fund three things: The 2022-2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal, repairs to the Diocesan Center (especially Christ the King Chapel), and providing "seed money" for the new Catholic

Foundation of West Central Wisconsin. Our parish is working to launch this campaign this Spring 2023. If you would like to offer your input about what should be on our parish case statement, please contact Fr. Sedlacek. You will be hearing more details in the coming months. Please begin to pray about your commitment to this campaign and start planning your budget for the next 5 years.

St. Charles School News

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 www.Raiseright.com/shop or download the RaiseRight app. You can use the app or website to immediately buy and use eGift cards. At certain times throughout the year we place an order for physical gift cards. We will let you know when those orders will happen. Please reach out to Megan Olson with any questions at 608-385-7815 or mjtrussoni@gmail.com.

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.

GIVEN Retreat - Jan. 28, 2023

GIVEN is a short, powerful retreat for couples who are married, dating and engaged. It is an opportunity to share, learn and celebrate marriage with other couples through engaging talks, and adoration, prayer and reconciliation. GIVEN retreats help couples foster a deeper relationship that is rooted in Jesus Christ and His Church. This mini retreat will:

* Encourage a greater devotion to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist

* Develop a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage through Theology of the Body
* Provide couples the encouragement to live the vocation of marriage well in a culture that is increasingly more hostile to the sacrament. Married, Engaged and Seriously Dating Couples are invited to attend. Speakers will be Ted and Julie Imgrund and Michael and Jacqueline VanHemmert. Cost: \$45 per couple. Location: St. Joseph church, Boyd, WI. For more information, contact Chris Rogers at crogers@dioc.org. Register here: www.argentasoftware.com/interfaces/49870/frmEventTicketSalesForm.aspx?EventID=3725

Crosswoods Camp is Hiring for Summer Staff Positions!

If you love being outdoors, are musically talented, can juggle, or make bird calls, we have the perfect job for you! Our small, dedicated staff leads weekly groups on adventures (such as rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking) alongside skits, talks, and worship music to help lead youth to Christ. If this sounds like you, or a friend, please send inquiries or requests for an application to Camp Director, Shelby Saenger, at kaufers2386@gmail.com.

Parish Events Calendar

Wed. Jan. 04: Confirmation Preparation Group 6:30-8:00 PM
Thurs. Jan. 05: Parish Holy Hour and Confessions 6:00-7:00 PM
Sun. Jan. 15: RCIA Gathering 10:30 AM – Noon
Wed. Jan. 18: Middle School Group 6:30-8:00 PM