

The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 17 & 18, 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

Website: www.stcharlesgenoa.org

Mass Schedule & Intentions for December 19 – 25, 2022

12/19/22	Monday	NO MASS	
12/20/22	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Health & Wellness of Steve Trussoni
12/21/22	Wednesday	8:00 AM	† Robert "Bob" Stevenson
12/22/22	Thursday	8:00 AM	† Bernard Domke
12/23/22	Friday	8:00 AM	Health & Wellness of Steve Trussoni
12/24/22	Saturday (Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord)	4:00 PM	† Bernard Domke
12/25/22	Sunday (The Nativity of the Lord)	9:30 AM	People of St. Charles

Volunteers

Lectors

Sat. Dec. 24: 4:00 PM: Stephanie Nicklay

Sun. Dec. 25: 9:30 AM: Tim Gillespie

Servers

Sat. Dec. 24: 4:00 PM: Grady & Reid Nicklay

Sun. Dec. 25: 9:30 AM: Kanoa & Nalani Rodgers
Salvatori & Arianna Trussoni

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Dec. 25: 9:30 AM: Marj Gillespie

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. 24: 4:00 PM: Volunteer

Sun. Dec. 25: 9:30 AM: Volunteer

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Mon. Dec. 19: Conrad & Nancy Kirby; Keith
Magnuson

Mon. Dec. 26: Arnie & Diane Pedretti; Dorothy
Stokke

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 December 10 & 11, 2022

Adult Envelopes \$1,206.00

Plate Offering \$ 85.00

Immaculate Conception \$ 10.00

Votive Candles \$ 24.00

Total: \$1,325.00

From the Pastor's Desk

O Antiphons: Come Lord Jesus!

Peace to you! I have to confess, that I am pressed for time to write this article this week and so I am going to do a “re-print” of my article from last year. As they say, “Repetition is the mother of learning.” Many families have their own unique little “traditions” that happen this time of year around Christmas. I am blessed that most of those in my family centered around our Catholic Faith and in anticipating and eventually welcoming the Person of Jesus Christ into our lives and our home. One of these family traditions was the singing of the “O Antiphons” each evening before supper while lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. There are seven of these “antiphons,” one for each day in the seven days leading up to Christmas Eve (December 17-December 23). An “antiphon” is a short prayer-song which focuses on a theme during a liturgy (Mass or Liturgy of the Hours). For example, at every Mass there are specific antiphons that can be spoken or sung during the entrance procession and during the reception of Holy Communion. The antiphons that are sung from December 17 through December 23 are perhaps the most popularly known, because they form the verses of the hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” These antiphons are particularly ancient and focus our attention and prayer on various titles and aspects of the One whose coming had been foretold of old through the Prophets.

Roman Catholics have been singing these antiphons since at least the 700's AD, but there is evidence that they are older than that and perhaps go back to Apostolic times. They are called “O Antiphons,” because each of them begins with the exclamation “O.” These antiphons were the inspiration of the popular hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” which was written sometime before the 12th century, and were translated into English by John Neale in the 1800's. Each of the seven antiphons (originally written in Latin) begins by addressing Jesus using an Old Testament title for the coming Messiah. These seven names or titles, all from the Book of Isaiah, are:

- Dec. 17, *O Sapientia* (meaning O Wisdom), from Isaiah 11:2-3.
- Dec. 18, *O Adonai* (O Lord or Ruler), Isaiah 11:4-5 and 33:22.
- Dec. 19, *O Radix* (O Root of Jesse), Isaiah 11:1.
- Dec. 20, *O Clavis* (O Key of David), Isaiah 22:22.
- Dec. 21, *O Oriens* (O Radiant Dawn), Isaiah 9:1.
- Dec. 22, *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), Isaiah 2:4.
- Dec. 23, *O Emmanuel* (O God with Us), Isaiah 7:14.

Each of these titles refer to the prophecies of the coming Messiah. The repeated use of the word “come” highlights the longing of all mankind for a Savior, one who will save us from our sin and despair. One really fun aspect of the O Antiphons is that if you take the first letter of each Latin name and reverse the order — that is, begin with E from Emmanuel, then Rex Gentium and so on — you will spell the words ERO CRAS, which in Latin means “I shall come tomorrow.” This serves as an intense reminder from Our Lord to prepare well for the celebration of the Christmas Liturgy which is near, and a joyful reminder that He is near to all of us in our trials and difficulties.

I know that many of us have lost loved ones in the past few years. As much as the time around Christmas and other holidays are filled with joy as we spend time with our family and friends, it can also be difficult for those who are grieving the physical absence of a loved one. I wanted to share with you a prayer-poem. The author is unknown. I hope it comforts those who are remembering their deceased loved ones and praying for them, and that it increases our hope in the salvation won for us by the Christ-child, who is the Wisdom of God, Adonai, the Root of Jesse, the Key of David, the Radiant Dawn, the King of the nations, and Emmanuel, God-with-us.

“Christmas in Heaven”
I'm wondering what Christmas in Heaven is like
As I grieve alone and pray
Longing for the one who has gone before
To spend Christmas in Heaven today.

And so in my dreams, I wander far
From the scenes and sounds of earth
'Till I catch the strains of the Heavenly choir
As they sing of the Christ Child's birth.

The angels and saints I vision there
As they join in the festive way
And there 'mid the throng is my loved one
Spending Christmas in Heaven today.

There's joy in the faith that teaches
When our life's work here is done
Of a place in Heaven awaiting
And the crown we've worked for is won.

In our grief may we learn well the lesson
So to work and to suffer and pray
As to merit the joys of our loved one
And spend Christmas together some day.

Challenge: For the remaining days of Advent, pray the O Antiphons with your family, or sing together the verse which corresponds to them from the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Below is the full text of the O Antiphons.

Dec. 17: "O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation."

Dec. 18: "O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."

Dec. 19: "O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid."

Dec. 20: "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come,

break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom."

Dec. 21: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death."

Dec. 22: "O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come, and save the creature you fashioned from the dust."

Dec. 23: "O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

St. Charles Borromeo, pray for us!

-Fr. Daniel Sedlacek

St. Charles Parish News

New Parish and School Website!

Earlier this week we launched a new website for our Parish and School. Please check it out at www.stcharlesgenoa.org. I thank Sally Emerson and Mary Kate Donovan for all their work on this project and their continued work to maintain the website and keep it up to date. 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 or Mary Kate.

Advent Confession Opportunities

The full schedule posted in the church entryway bulletin board with various times when the Sacrament of Reconciliation is being offered at all the area's parishes. Find below some nearby options.

Monday, Dec. 19th 9 AM – 6 PM at St. Joseph's Cathedral, La Crosse (multiple priests every hour)

Thursday, Dec. 22nd 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM at St. Charles (visiting priest)

Saturday, Dec. 24th 8:00-9:00 AM at Immaculate Conception, Lansing, Iowa

Monday – Saturday 8:00 AM & 11:45 AM (until all heard) at Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sundays: 8:30 AM; 10:30 AM; 12:30 PM (until all heard) at Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Charles School Christmas Concert: Dec 20 at 7 PM

Please come and join us for some Christmas cheer! The St. Charles School students will be performing "Music Brings Us Together - Christmas Around the World" on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm in the school gymnasium. We will share our singing talents, along with performances on the bells and tongue drum. Our art show will be going on also, so please stop by and see how creative and hardworking we've been!

Capital Campaign and Diocesan Annual Appeal 2022-2023

As you know, this time of year is usually when we conduct our Diocesan Annual Appeal to support the wonderful ministries of our Diocese. This year will be slightly different. The Annual Appeal for the 2022-2023 year has been incorporated into the Inspired by the Spirit Capital Campaign. This comprehensive, all-parish campaign effort began in parishes this past spring and is being conducted throughout this fall and through the first half of 2023. It will not only incorporate and support the ministries through the Diocesan Annual Appeal but will also provide an opportunity for every parish in the Diocese to raise funds for their own parish needs, the Diocesan Center, and the new Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin. Our parish is assigned to the second block of the campaign timeline, which will not launch until spring 2023. You will be hearing more details in the coming months. Please begin to pray about your commitment to this campaign and begin planning to budget for giving to our parish. If you would like to make an end of the year gift to our parish for 2022 which you would like to go toward our parish's Capital Campaign, please contact Fr. Sedlacek ASAP for how to do that.

St. Charles School News

Thank you!

Thank you for all those who were able to make it out for Bingo Saturday night! It looked like everyone had fun and enjoyed the games and comradery! -St. Charles School PTO

CHRISTMAS Gift Card Orders for the Scrip Program

Thanks to everyone who has 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 or download the Raise Right app. You can use the app or website to immediately buy and use E-gift cards. We will be placing orders for physical gift cards to be here in time for Christmas. Orders are due December 15th. Order forms are available in the church vestibule. You can turn in the order form in the school office, in the black box by the front door of the school, or directly through the RaiseRight website or app. Feel free to share with family and friends. Reach out to Megan Olson with any questions at 608-385-7815 or mjtrussoni@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.

Parish Events Calendar

Mon. Dec. 19: Confessions at Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, 9 AM – 6 PM with multiple priests
Thurs. Dec. 22: Confessions at St. Charles (visiting priest) 5:30-7:00 PM
Sat. Dec. 24: Vigil Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord 4 PM. Music program before Mass.
Sun. Dec. 25: Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord 9:30 AM.
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