

The Nativity of the Lord December 24 & 25, 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 26 – January 01, 2023

12/26/22	Monday	NO MASS
12/27/22	Tuesday	NO MASS Health & Wellness (Steve Trussoni)
12/28/22	Wednesday	NO MASS † Bob Stevenson
12/29/22	Thursday	NO MASS † Bernard Domke
12/30/22	Friday	NO MASS † Roger Heinemann
12/31/22	Saturday	4:00 PM † Bernard Domke
01/01/23	Sunday (The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)	9:30 AM People of St. Charles

Volunteers

Lectors

Sat. Dec. 31: 4:00 PM: Kathy Pedretti

Sun. Jan. 01: 9:30 AM: Jayne Ballwahn

Servers

Sat. Dec. 31: 4:00 PM: Volunteers

Sun. Jan. 01: 9:30 AM: Volunteers

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Jan. 01: 9:30 AM: Jayne Ballwahn

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. 31: 4:00 PM: Volunteer

Sun. Jan. 01: 9:30 AM: Volunteer

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

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

Mon. Jan. 02: Tom & Pam Jeffers; Carolyn Umberger

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 17 & 18, 2022

Adult Envelopes \$2,311.00

Plate Offering \$ 52.00

Flowers \$ 130.00

In Memory (Frex Furlano) \$ 30.00

Total: \$2,523.00

From the Pastor's Desk

Have a Jolly Christmas!

Peace to you! Merry Christmas! May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ keep you and your family safe in body and soul during these holy days! This is truly one of my favorite times of the year. I like the time with family and various Christmas traditions. I like that we use “outdated” words during this time of year, such as “merry,” “jolly,” “yuletide,” and many others. I like Christmas music. I think that my favorite “religious” Christmas song is “O Holy Night” and my favorite “non-religious” Christmas song has been since I was a kid, “Holly Jolly Christmas.” “Santa Baby” and “All I Want For Christmas Is You” definitely win the award for my least favorite songs (although Mariah Carey’s version is quite catchy and gets stuck in my head), along with “Mary Did You Know.” I know, I know, I will get in trouble for that last one. But I just can’t get over my habit, while I listen to the song, of answering out loud all the questions asking Mary about what she knows. Yes, of course she knew that her baby boy would “save our sons and daughters” and would “rule the nations.” The angel Gabriel told her precisely those things at the Annunciation. Did she know that He would “walk on water” or “calm the storm”? Probably not. How could she? Did she know that He would “give sight to a blind man” or heal the deaf, dumb, and lame? Quite possibly, because she knew Scripture and what the prophets said the Messiah would do when He came (which included healing all these people). In summary, she knew what was revealed to her by God through the Angel. She likely knew what she could deduce from the Scriptures. She obviously did not know every single detail of how Jesus’ life would play out. But the real reason I don’t like the song is because of this line, “This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.” Well, it is true that the fruits of Jesus’ salvation were applied to Mary. That is why she says in her Magnificat, “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Mary needed a Savior like all of us. However, the grace of redemption was given to her in a unique way, by a special grant of God’s grace, at the moment of her conception. We just celebrated this on December 8th, the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Thus, a more accurate line for the song would be “This Child that you delivered has already delivered you.”

My apologies for applying my “philosophy and theology brain” to a song which you really like or which helps you to meditate on the wondrous mysteries of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and our Redemption. But it is important to be clear about these “little things.” However, I DO try to not be a Grinch about such things. Speaking of the Grinch, my favorite Christmas movie is not that one, but “It’s a Wonderful Life.” Next time you watch it, watch it with the idea that George Bailey is a sort of “shadow” of St. Joseph. There are lots of Joseph themes in the movie, including the opening scene of prayer when the Italian, Mr. Martini, begins his prayer for George with, “Joseph, Jesus, and Mary...” I would say that is it a “jolly” movie.

I read an article recently about the word “jolly.” It is one of those unique word that we (sadly) only seem to use around Christmas time. St. Nicholas/Santa Claus is “jolly.” We wish people to have a “holly jolly Christmas.” The Oxford English Dictionary says that “jolly” seems to come from the Old French word “jolif” which means, “festive, merry; amorous; pretty.” The first two ideas have morphed into the English concept of “jollity,” which is a certain kind of joy. As the article put it, “To be jolly is not merely to be happy. Indeed, he who is jolly is necessarily happy, but he who is happy is not necessarily jolly. The word ‘happiness’ can denote merely contentment or satisfaction, but ‘jollity’ is never limited to such states of being. Jollity presupposes such happiness, and builds upon it. To be jolly is to possess a joyful buoyancy of spirit, to be full of warm and energetic cheerfulness. There is, however, a misunderstanding to be avoided at all costs in this definition. The cheerfulness that characterizes jollity is never to be confused with the cheerfulness which is bred of frivolity. The spirit of a jolly man is inimical to frivolity. Jollity is born of an appreciation of the good things that life has given to us; the recognition of the goodness of life fills a man with joy, and puts him in a jolly humor. To be jolly thus presupposes an attitude of gratitude, an attitude which is essentially thoughtful, and which leads a man to engage in wholesome and fruitful merriment. J.R.R. Tolkien’s hobbits provide an example from fiction; their response to the goods of everyday life, such as food, drink, and tobacco, is one of gratitude and exultation.

A frivolous man, on the other hand, cannot be jolly. He is not thoughtful enough to have any real appreciation for the beauty and goodness around him. Rather, he seeks his own gratification by whatever means he can contrive. The things of this world have no meaning except insofar as they are means to bring about his own satisfaction. His own attempts at merriment are hollow and meaningless, hedonistic attempts to gorge himself on as much enjoyment as he can lay his hands on. Such a man’s spirits are not

buoyant but weightless; his “happiness” is not effervescent, but evanescent. With such a warped perspective on life, the frivolous man can never attain joy. It stands to reason, then, that he cannot attain jollity.

To be jolly is truly a profound thing. It is to recognize the winsomeness and levity present in the world around us, and to appreciate it by responding with an exuberance of joy. Jollity, in its proper time and place, is an inestimable treasure. The Book of Ecclesiastes declares: ‘Go then, and eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with gladness: because thy works please God.’ The man who is alive to jollity takes this command to heart. Realizing the goodness of God’s world, he responds in jubilation.

Even in... modern America, where the true meaning of the holiday is widely ignored, the celebration of Christmas is nevertheless widespread. The festival is kept with great fervor and gusto, even by those to whom the birth of Christ means nothing. It seems clear to me that what motivates these continual celebrations is the hunger for jollity. This ‘Christmas spirit’ is a thing of such grandeur that even those who are ignorant of its ultimate source crave it. The pure and unadulterated joy which provokes such wholesome cheerfulness is so beautiful that it cannot help but be attractive. Only by spurning frivolity and empty hedonism, however, and by adopting the position of gratitude in the face of the beauty of human life, can men attain true jollity.”

My only thought I would add to this article is that that Jesus Christ was the most jolly person to ever walk the earth. There are multiple times in Scriptures when Jesus bursts out in joy and praise of God. There was something about Him which attracted enormous crowds of followers.

And so, I wish you a very joyful and jolly Christmas! Remember the Christmas season does not end until Monday, January 9th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Therefore, we have plenty of time to be jolly, in gratitude and praise for all the wonders of God’s love for us! And in being jolly, we will catch the attention of those who are seeking joy, but cannot seem to find it in the frivolous pursuits of this world, but which can only be found in the Source of all Joy, the Child who is “God-with-us,” Christ, and Lord.

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

St. Charles Parish News

Christmas Gifts!

St. Charles parish is giving out a present for each family, a book entitled *Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Live Joy Every Day* by Chris Stefanick. With evidence, experience, and common sense, Chris Stefanick presents nine rules that will empower you to overcome the obstacles that are keeping you from unspeakable joy. No matter the circumstances of your life, *Living Joy* will show you exactly how you can claim the joy you were created for. Merry Christmas!

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 Emerson or Mary Kate Donovan.

Thank you! St. Charles School Christmas Concert

Our St. Charles School Christmas Concert was beautiful! If you weren't able to come that evening you can still enjoy the children's songs by going to the St. Charles Facebook page anytime you "need a little Christmas." Father Sedlacek recorded it and you can find it there!

Thank you! Ukraine Collection

Our parish was able to collect several boxes worth of supplies and donations for the Baby Jesus Christmas collection organized by Chalice of Mercy. Thank you to all of you who have given, either items or financially to cover the cost of shipping! I will keep you updated when I get updates from Chalice of Mercy.

“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. There is a committee which has been advising me about the priorities of our parish and what we would like to do with the parish portion of the Capital Campaign donations. 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. 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

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 raiserright.com or download the Raise Right app. You can use the app or website to immediately buy and use E-gift cards. 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.

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@diolc.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

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