

First Sunday of Advent December 2 & 3, 2023

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

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

Website: www.stcharlesgenoa.org

Parish Office: 608-689-2642 Email: office@stcharlesgenoa.org

Pastor: Fr. Daniel Sedlacek

frdanielsedlacek@gmail.com

Mass Schedule & Intentions for December 4 - 10, 2023

12/04/23	Monday	NO MASS
12/05/23	Tuesday	8:00 AM † Stuart Johnston
12/06/23	Wednesday	NO MASS
12/07/23	Thursday	8:00 AM † John & Joan Gehde
12/08/23	Friday (Immaculate Conception)	8:15 AM † Susanne Pedretti Cleghorn 7:00 PM People of St. Charles
12/09/23	Saturday	4:00 PM † Patricia "Pat" Pedretti
12/10/23	Sunday	9:30 AM People of St. Charles

Ministry Volunteers

Lectors

Fri. Dec. 08: 7:00 PM: Jayne Ballwahn

Sat. Dec. 09: 4:00 PM: Kathy Pedretti

Sun. Dec. 10: 9:30 AM: Tim Gillespie

Servers

Fri. Dec. 08 7:00 PM: Salvatori, Arianna &
Lorenzo Trussoni

Sat. Dec. 09: 4:00 PM: Volunteers

Sun. Dec. 10: 9:30 AM: Felicity & Perpetua
Mitchell & Oscar Levendoski

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Dec. 10: 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*

Gift Bearers

Please sign up your family on the sign-up sheet in
the back of church or contact Kelly Hutchinson.

Rosary Leaders/Volunteer

Sat. Dec. 09: 4:00 PM: Volunteer

Sun. Dec. 10: 9:30 AM: Volunteer

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Mon. Dec. 04: Tom & Pam Jeffers; Carolyn
Umberger

Mon. Dec. 11: Ed & Priscilla Martin; Tom Naegle

Ushers (December 2023)

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

Sundays: 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM

2nd Thursdays: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration:

1st Fridays: After the 8 AM Mass

2nd Thursdays: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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 15 & 16 2023

Estimated Weekly Need **\$7,032.69**

Adult Envelopes \$ 435.00

Plate Offering \$ 243.00

Religious Education \$ 40.00

Flowers \$ 304.00

Total: \$1,022.00

From the Pastor's Desk

Key to a Good Advent: Grow in Knowledge of the Faith

Peace to you! Happy Advent to you! Advent is a beautiful time of preparation and anticipation. We are preparing for the 2nd Coming of Jesus, while recalling His first Coming at Christmas. Let us prepare with love, hope, joy, and peace. And with learning more about our deep and rich Catholic Faith!

I received some great Ask the Pastor questions from one of our 4th grade parishioners. Thank you for asking! I answered the first one last weekend and now will try to answer the other two. What questions do you have?

Would we still have to get baptized IF Adam and Eve didn't sin?

Answer: This is a very deep and theologically-minded question! Wonderful. I think a humble answer is "we don't really know." It is very difficult to answer this question because of the fact that, well, Adam and Eve DID sin and there was a Fall from grace and now all humanity needs to be saved by God. It is hard to know what exactly the world would be like or what God would have done if there had been no Fall. I think that I would argue that baptism would not be necessary, in a strict sense, if there had not been a Fall. However, God's plan, from the beginning, was to unite us to Him forever. Or, as St. Peter said in his 2nd Letter to make us "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pt. 1:4). This is true whether or not Adam and Eve sinned.

In this Fallen world, baptism has been instituted by Jesus Christ, our Savior, as the means by which we receive the grace of God, His salvation, adoption into God's family, and freedom from Original Sin. And so, baptism really is necessary for us. St. Peter wrote, "Baptism . . . now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pt. 3:21). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "The Lord himself affirms that baptism is necessary for salvation [Jn 3:5]... Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament [Mk 16:16]" (CCC 1257).

What if someone did not have the Gospel proclaimed to them or did not have the possibility of receiving baptism? Can they be saved? The *Catechism* states: "Those who die for the faith, those who are catechumens, and all those who, without knowing of the Church but acting under the inspiration of grace, seek God sincerely and strive to fulfill his will, are saved even if they have not been baptized" (CCC 1281; the salvation of unbaptized infants is also possible; see CCC 1260–61, 1283).

Why do they ring the bells 3 times during the Eucharistic prayer?

Answer: I will first answer why we ring bells at all? Bells are important for us Christians. We have bell towers on our churches and the bells are consecrated with a very special blessing. The use of bells in worship goes back to the Old Testament temple, when the garments of the Levitical priests would have little bells sewn on the fringes of the vestments (see Exodus 28:33-35). They are meant to be another way to praise God. Or as the Psalmist sings, "Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! (Psalm 150:5-6) In the Mass, handbells were eventually used by altar servers to mark important moments. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* says, "A little before the Consecration... a minister rings a small bell as a signal to the faithful. The minister also rings the small bell at each elevation by the Priest, according to local custom" (No. 150).

And so, there are two main reasons the bells are rung at Mass. 1) The bells help us to pay attention at important parts of the Mass. 2) They are a "joyous noise" at the pivotal moments in the Mass. The two main moments the bells are rung at Mass are at the epiclesis, the prayer which invokes God the Holy Spirit to come down and transform the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. The bells are rung once here. They are rung three times during the consecration and transformation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus (the "Holy Eucharist" or "Blessed Sacrament"). When the priest holds up the Host and the chalice, the bells are rung so that the people remember this is the most sacred moment when they should look up and adore Jesus, who is now present sacramentally on the altar.

Why three times? I am not 100% certain, but it is a long-standing tradition. The number three invokes the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). It also makes a superlative. In Hebrew, in order to say that something was the "greatest," you would say "great, great, great." That is why we sing "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts..." because we are saying that God is the "holiest." And so, my guess is that we ring the bells three times during that part of the Mass because it is the most holy and most joyful part of Mass, the moment when

heaven and earth meet in the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, offered for our salvation and made present to us again in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

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

St. Charles Parish News

Holy Days and Christmas Masses

Friday, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a holy day of obligation. Mass times will be 8:15 AM and 7:00 PM that day.

Christmas is also a holy day of obligation and falls on a Monday this year. That means that Sunday, Dec 24 is the 4th Sunday of Advent in the morning and Christmas Eve in the evening. We will have the normal weekend Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent. For Christmas, we will have a 4 PM Mass on Sunday (Christmas Eve) and 9:30 AM Mass on Christmas morning. There are two obligations to be fulfilled for Mass attendance, the 1st for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and the 2nd obligation for Christmas. You fulfill those two obligations by attending one of each Mass.

St. Charles School Christmas Concert

Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! The St. Charles School children will be performing "Oh, What a Glorious Night" on Tuesday, December 12th, 7:00 pm. It will also be livestreamed on Facebook. The children's artwork will also be on display that evening. All parishioners are welcome to come and enjoy a night of art and music.

Please Support Project Milk in this Season of Advent

Advent is a time for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. A season of candlelight, reflection, preparation and celebrating with gift giving. Help the Diocese of La Crosse Rural Life Committee spread joy to the world with a monetary gift to help support Project Milk. Project Milk was founded in 1984 to aid in feeding the poor children of Casa Hogar, Peru by providing whole fat milk powder. Each year Rural Life gathers monetary gifts to ship 40,000# of milk powder at an approximate cost of \$80,000. Advent is a perfect time to aid in controlling hunger and malnutrition. Your monetary gift is 100% used to feed these children. To give, visit frjoesguild.org/donate, and select "Project Milk" as your designation. Checks can also be sent to the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave S, La Crosse, WI 54601, with the memo line "Project Milk."

Fulfilling Pledges for the *Inspired by the Spirit* Capital Campaign

Some of you have asked for clarification about when you will receive reminders to fulfill your IBTS Capital Campaign pledges. If you pledged to give annually, then you will receive your annual reminders the month you made your pledge (likely May or June). If quarterly, then every 3 months starting from when you made your pledge (so, Sept, Dec, March, June). If monthly, then on or near the 15th of every month.

If someone wants to change when they receive their pledge reminders (perhaps they want it in December rather than June), then you can contact the Office of Stewardship and Development at the Diocese of La Crosse in writing, either by email or via USPS. Send your pledge reminder with their preferred schedule. They prefer written requests, so they have a proper paper trail. But they can also work with phone calls, too. Email: jreiter@diolc.org. Mail: Office of Stewardship 3710 East Ave S, PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Phone: 608.791.2685

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Gatherings

Our parish is offering an opportunity for adults to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Our gatherings are opportunities to learn more, find answers to your questions, and grow in faith without needing to commit to becoming Catholic. Our gatherings are on Sundays after the 9:30 AM Mass. Next meetings: Dec 3, Dec 17.

Pilgrimage for Life - January 17-21, 2024

The Office of Family Life at the Diocese is excited to offer the Pilgrimage for Life. We will be traveling by coach bus to Washington, DC to participate in the annual March for Life. This opportunity is for anyone ages 13 and up. The estimated cost is estimated to be \$400 per person. All information and registration link can be found at <https://diolc.org/yya/youth-opportunities/pilgrimage-for-life/>

St. Charles School News

Santa Sale – Items and Help Wanted

If anyone is getting ready for the holiday visitors by cleaning out closets and cupboards, keep in mind saving items for our Santa Sale on December 15th. We could use like-new or gently used coffee cups, candles and holders, other knick-knacks, and items for men's gifts. We do have enough books, videos, and picture frames. We need a few volunteers to help kids shop or wrap gifts on the afternoon of December 15th. Contact Jessie Cina at stcharlespto@outlook.com or the Parish/School Office.

Box Tops for Education

We can support our School by buying Box Tops products, scanning our receipts, and turning them in via the Box Tops App. There are other ways to send in your earnings as well. Find more information in the church vestibule. Little by little, we can make a big difference!

Scrip Gift Card Orders - Due Dec. 13th

The holidays are fast approaching! From finding the perfect gift to taking a break from the hustle and bustle of the holidays, there's a gift card for every need. Earn money back for St. Charles Parish by purchasing gift cards. The order form for physical gift cards is available in the vestibule. Orders are due back by December 13th (drop off at school office). Cards will arrive before Christmas. As always, you can use the RaiseRight app to buy and use electronic gift cards immediately. Contact Megan Olson with questions: Mjtrussoni@gmail.com or 608-385-7815.

Other News from the Diocese and our Community

Healing Mass and Prayer Service – Dec. 4

Are you in need of prayer for healing in spirit, mind, or body? We are ready to pray with you for God's gift of healing. On Monday, December 4, at Sacred Heart Church - Cashton there will be Confessions and Adoration starting at 4:30 pm; Mass at 5:30 pm; and a healing service beginning immediately after with Confessions and Adoration continuing. Catch the article on this important ministry in the latest issue of Catholic Life.

The Greccio Experience - Nov. 29 to Dec. 17, 2023

In 1223 (800 years ago), St. Francis set up a live nativity scene in a cave in the quaint Italian village of Greccio. Creches (nativity scenes) will be on display for self-guided tours, Monday-Friday at San Damiano Chapel, Viterbo University Campus. *Entrance on Franciscan Way. A prayer service will be held at 5:30 p.m. on opening night, Nov. 29.

Cookie Walk and Craft Sale – Dec. 9

Mary, Mother of the Church Parish will be holding their Cookie Walk & Craft Sale on Saturday, December 9, in 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, Scrip gift cards, and raffles are available for sale. Serving continental breakfast and lunch (homemade soup and chili). Hourly Door Prizes.

Cookie Walk and Craft Sale – Dec. 9

At Holy Trinity Parish, Leo Hall on Saturday, December 9. Cookie Walk (Fancy Cookies can be purchased by the pound) from 8:00 a.m. until gone; Craft Sale featuring 10 tables of crafts from local parishioners and vendors from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe – Dec. 12

Nearly 500 years ago, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Saint Juan Diego in Mexico. The Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12th. All are invited to celebrate at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse. The day includes a 12:15 PM Bilingual Mass offered by Cardinal Burke. Learn more at GuadalupeShrine.org/events

“Hope’s Door” Pregnancy and Family Resource Center

Hope's Door is being planned as a state-of-the-art pregnancy resource center for the La Crosse area. It will be an interfaith, Christ-centered facility that will offer compassionate assistance to women and families, including mentoring and classes, as well as medical resources like ultrasounds and abortion pill reversal treatment. Its services will be in harmony with Catholic teaching. Bishop Callahan is encouraging the faithful to offer their prayers and financial support to Hope's Door. To see a flyer and brochure, visit www.dioc.org/respect-life

Parish Events Calendar

Sun. Dec. 03: Fellowship after 9:30 AM Mass. OCIA 10:30 AM - Noon

Mon. Dec. 04: Healing Mass and Prayer Service in Cashton 5:30 PM

Fri. Dec. 08: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at 8:15 AM & 7:00 PM

Thur. Dec.14: Parish Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

Sun. Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 PM

Mon. Dec. 25: Christmas Day Mass 9:30 AM