

Second Sunday of Advent December 9 & 10, 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 11-17, 2023

12/11/23	Monday	NO MASS
12/12/23	Tuesday	8:30 AM † Barry Trussoni
12/13/23	Wednesday	NO MASS
12/14/23	Thursday	NO MASS
12/15/23	Friday	NO MASS
12/16/23	Saturday	4:00 PM † Andrew Lee
12/17/23	Sunday	9:30 AM People of St. Charles

Ministry Volunteers

Lectors

Sat. Dec. 16: 4:00 PM: Tom Jeffers
Sun. Dec. 17: 9:30 AM: Kelly Hutchison

Servers

Sat. Dec. 16: 4:00 PM: Volunteers
Sun. Dec. 17: 9:30 AM: Easton Eckes, Abigail & William Mitch Abigail

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Dec. 17: 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

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. 16: 4:00 PM: Volunteer
Sun. Dec. 17: 9:30 AM: Volunteer

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Mon. Dec. 11: Ed & Priscilla Martin; Tom Naegle
Mon. Dec. 18: Conrad & Nancy Kirby; Keith Magnuson

Ushers (December 2023)

Saturday: John Nicklay & Tim Woodhouse
Sunday: Conrad Kirby & Tom Urbanek

Sacraments and Prayer

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	\$4,007.00
Plate Offering	\$ 178.00
Flowers	\$ 98.00
Building & Grounds	\$ 500.00
Total:	\$4,783.00

From the Pastor's Desk Not Too Late for This Advent to be Great

Peace to you! Happy Advent to you! This is the shortest Advent ever, and so perhaps you are feeling (like me) that you have not done too much to spiritually prepare for the coming of Jesus, both His Second Coming and also His "third coming" to each of us spiritually before then. I remind us all of the "1% Challenge" I gave several weeks ago in my homily. 1% of our day is about 10-15 minutes. Can we give 1% of our time each day completely to God, completely focused on Him? We can do that by reading Scripture, praying devotions, or simply speaking to the Lord from our heart in our own words and listening for Him in the silence. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is another great way to prepare for the great feast of Christmas and to grow closer to Jesus by humbly coming before Him. If you struggle to approach Confession, think of it as approaching Jesus as the baby in the manger. He only wants to show you the depths of His love.

Here is some great Advent advice from both our Bishop and from our patron, St. Charles Borromeo, in one of his letters to his people. I hope these encourage you to "Keep Watch" and to "Prepare the way of the Lord."

From Bishop William Callahan

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the year draws to a close and the hopes for 2024 dawn, I am grateful to have the opportunity to pass along my own Advent greetings to you.

This year's thoughts of our Lord's miraculous birth in Bethlehem, the singing angels announcing his birth, and the star-guided Magi cannot be separated from the heart-rending war on the very soil from which our faith has grown. Truly, the angels' announcement of "peace on earth" seems only a faint memory today. It is by the birth of Christ that peace is restored between heaven and earth in the meeting of the angels and the shepherds; that a new brotherhood is born in the coming of the Magi from the east; that unity is fostered in all of creation in the gathering of man and beast together around the manger. It is at the birth of Jesus that a new light "breaks upon us" (Luke 1:78). Just when the world seems to be engulfed in darkness—it is no mistake that we celebrate Christmas so close to the winter solstice—a new "light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has come and cannot overtake it" (John 1:5). We don't need to watch the evening news to know that sin, suffering, and sadness still abound in too many war-torn regions: many of us can look no further than our own homes and hearts. But we need to watch for the coming of Christ during these Advent days and celebrate all he offers us—salvation, peace, and joy—at his birth.

Let us return, then, to the Holy Land, and let us focus our minds and hearts not only on the suffering its current inhabitants—which cannot be ignored—but on Christ who is born in its midst. If there is to be peace in our world, in our homes, and in our hearts, it will only be found in him. —Bishop Callahan

Letter from St. Charles Borromeo, "The Season of Advent"

Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent... This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace, and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

In her concern for our salvation, our loving mother the Church uses this holy season to teach us through hymns, canticles and other forms of expression, of voice or ritual, used by the Holy Spirit. She shows us how grateful we should be for so great a blessing, and how to gain its benefit: our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if he were still to come into this world. The same lesson is given us for our imitation by the words and example of the holy men of the Old Testament.

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

St. Charles Parish News

Christmas Masses

Christmas is 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, one obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and a 2nd obligation for Christmas. You fulfill those two obligations by attending one 4th Sunday of Advent Mass and one of the Christmas Masses. There will also be a Christmas Eve midnight Mass at St. Mary's in Coon Valley.

Opportunities to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas

What better way to spiritually prepare for the coming of Jesus than by receiving forgiveness of all our sins? Some opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) this Advent are:
Monday, Dec. 18th from 9 AM-6 PM at the Cathedral in La Crosse. Multiple priests available all day.
Wed. Dec. 20th from 7-8 PM at St. Charles. Great opportunity for our families during our MS and HS Religious Ed gathering. Also, before each weekend Mass (normal times). Saturdays from 3:15-3:45 PM and Sundays 8:45-9:15 AM. Also, before the Christmas Masses.

St. Charles School Christmas Concert – Dec. 12th

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.

End of Year Giving to St. Charles

If you would like to any donations to St. Charles Parish to be counted in your charitable giving for 2023, we need to receive them by Christmas Day so that they can be counted and deposited before the New Year. Thank you for all the ways you all give so generously of your time, talent, and treasure to support our parish!

Please Support Project Milk in this Season of Advent

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 in 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 frjoesquild.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

If you want to change when you receive pledge reminders, 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 meeting: Dec 17.

St. Charles School News

Visit from St. Nicholas

The students were surprised by gifts secretly left by St. Nicholas on the morning of December 6th (his feast day)! They received stockings full of goodies from the jolly saint in memory of the gifts that Bishop Nicholas gave to people so long ago. Many thanks to those who helped St. Nicholas organize and deliver these gifts!

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.

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.

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!

Save the Date! Sip n' Paint – Sunday, Jan 14th

Other News from the Diocese and our Community

The Greccio Experience – Now 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.

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

Tue. Dec. 12: St. Charles School Christmas Concert 7:00 PM

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

Thu. Dec. 14: Women's Group Meeting 6:30 PM

Sun. Dec. 17: OCIA Gathering after 9:30 AM Mass

Mon. Dec. 18: Confessions at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman (La Crosse) 9 AM-6 PM.

Wed. Dec. 20: Middle School and High School Religious Ed 6:30-8:00 PM.

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

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