

Third Sunday of Advent December 16 & 17, 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 18 - 24, 2023

12/18/23	Monday	NO MASS
12/19/23	Tuesday	8:30 AM † Angie & Warren Shanky
12/20/23	Wednesday	NO MASS
12/21/23	Thursday	8:00 AM † Rob Hunder Arneson
12/22/23	Friday	8:00 AM † Andrew Lee
12/23/23	Saturday	4:00 PM † Susanne Pedretti Cleghorn
12/24/23	Sunday	9:30 AM People of St. Charles
	Sunday Christmas Eve	4:00 PM † Linda Jeffers

Ministry Volunteers

Lectors

Sat. Dec. 23: 4:00 PM: Stephanie Nicklay

Sun. Dec. 24: 9:30 AM: Chris Magnuson

Sun. Dec. 24: 4:00 PM: Tim Gillespie

Servers

Sat. Dec. 23: 4:00 PM: Grady & Reid Nicklay

Sun. Dec. 24: 9:30 AM: Easton Eckes, Salvatori &
Lorenzo Trussoni

Sun. Dec. 24: 4:00 PM: Grady & Reid Nicklay;
Henry & Oscar Levendoski

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Dec. 24: 9:30 AM: Priscilla Martin

Sun. Dec. 24: 4:00 PM: 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. 23: 4:00 PM: Volunteer

Sun. Dec. 24: 9:30 AM: Volunteer

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Mon. Dec. 18: Conrad & Nancy Kirby; Keith
Magnuson

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

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: December 9 & 10, 2023

<u>Estimated Weekly Need</u>	<u>\$7,032.69</u>
Adult Envelopes	\$7,197.00
Plate Offering	\$ 113.00
Flowers	\$ 84.00
Votives	\$ 31.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 55.00
Total:	\$7,480.00

From the Pastor's Desk Happy Gaudete Sunday!

Peace to you! Happy Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday! First, a note from our Journey seminarian, Isaac Fischer. "Thank you, parishioners of St. Charles parish for helping contribute to being able to attend the SEEK2024 conference in St Louis! Because of your generosity, I exceeded my fundraising goal, without mentioning it at my Home Parish (St. James in Eau Claire, WI). I appreciate all the support you have shown me already over the last few months, considering the limited time in which I'm in Genoa. I look forward to sharing the experiences with you when I return. I will be praying for each of you during my time in St Louis. Thank you!"

How are you doing on your "1% Challenge"? 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.

Ask the Pastor

Q: How many times can I receive Holy Communion each day?

A: The current *Code of Canon Law* gives permission was given to receive Holy Communion more than once per day. Canon 917 states: "A person who has received the Most Holy Eucharist may receive it again (Latin: *iterum*) on the same day only during the celebration of the Eucharist in which the person participates, with due regard for the prescription of can. 921, part 2."

This means that if one attends a Mass after receiving Holy Communion previously that day (whether that first Communion was at Mass or not), one may receive Communion again at that Mass. However, since the Church encourages the full participation of the laity in the Masses they attend, including Holy Communion (if they are worthy), the question arose whether this canon might not permit Holy Communion in *any* Mass, regardless of the number of times one attended per day (for example, if one attending a Saturday morning daily Mass, then a funeral Mass, then a Saturday evening anticipatory Mass). After numerous bishops asked this question of the Holy See, the Pontifical Commission for the Authentic Interpretation of Legislative texts gave the following authentic interpretation, approved by Pope John Paul II in 1984:

"Doubt: Whether, according to canon 917, one who has already received the Most Holy Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only a second time, or as often as one participates in the celebration of the Eucharist. Response: Affirmative to the first; negative to the second. [AAS 76, (1984) 746]"

In the accompanying commentary of this answer, it was explained that the meaning of *again* (*iterum*) was to allow a second time, but not a third, fourth, etc... The exception to this is the one given in the law itself in canon 921, 2. Even if one has received Communion in the same day, presumably even if one has already received twice, those who are in danger of death are strongly urged to receive again. Thus, Communion given as *Viaticum* ("food for the journey") may be received at any time.

I think it is important to note that of perhaps more important than how often one receives Holy Communion is the disposition of one *when* they receive Holy Communion. Before approaching Holy Communion there are some requirements given by the Church: Being Catholic, not being conscious of grave/mortal sin on your soul, observing the 1 hour Eucharistic fast from food and drink (except water and medicine), and with a proper disposition (approaching Communion with faith, devotion, and reverence).

Communion is not only a sign of God's communion is us, but of our communion with the Church. Non-Catholics ought not to receive Communion because it would be an incongruity of beliefs with actions. The action of receiving Communion states: "I am Catholic. I believe what the Catholic Church believes and I put myself under the authority that Christ gave to the Church." But if one is not Catholic and does not believe what the Catholic Church teaches, then it would be a case of saying one thing and doing another. This is not a matter of "Catholics are better" or of being exclusive, it is a matter of encouraging authenticity and not confusing the true meaning and gift of the Holy Eucharist.

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 Education gathering.

Before each weekend Mass (normal times). Saturdays from 3:15-3:45 PM and Sundays 8:45-9:15 AM.

Christmas Eve Carols

All elementary St. Charles School and St. Charles CCD students are invited to lead the carols before the Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday, Dec. 24th. Please gather by the piano and all will begin singing at 3:45 PM.

Mass Intentions

There are many spots available for Mass intentions in 2024, even in January. If you would like to have some Masses offered for a loved one (living or deceased) you can get those to Carrol in the parish office. A typical stipend/gift for one Mass intention is \$10.

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 frijoesquild.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 meetings: Dec 17, Jan 14.

Diocese of La Crosse Guidelines for Reporting Instances of Child Abuse

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or

intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. **Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities.** Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local Parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org.

St. Charles School News

Thank You!

Many thanks to all the parishioners who came to the St. Charles School Christmas concert on Tues. Dec. 12th. It was a glorious night of celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

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

In the St. Charles School gym from 11 am – 2 pm. Seats are limited! Event is for both adults and kids. \$30 for Adults, \$20 for Kids. Food and Drinks available. Reserve and pay by calling/texting Jessie Cina at (608) 780-1148.

Scrip Gift Card Orders

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. If you missed the deadline for ordering physical gift cards, you can still purchase cards on the RaiseRight app. Contact Megan Olson with questions: Mjrussoni@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!

Other News from the Diocese and our Community

“the ANSWER” Eucharistic Rally | June 7

“the Answer” Eucharistic Rally will be held on June 7, 2024 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI. This event kicks off the first day that the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be in the Diocese of La Crosse. “the Answer” Eucharistic Rally will begin with a Eucharistic Procession across the Cameron Street Bridge in La Crosse. It will end at the La Crosse Center where the rest of the rally will take place. The day will include Mass, Adoration, Confession, powerful speakers such as Chris Stefanick, Immaculee Ilibagiza, and Josh Rosa, music from Luke Spehar, and plenty of vendors. The cost for this event is only \$15 per person. This rally is for middle and high school youth, young adults, adults, families, etc. Tickets will go on sale December 15, 2023. You can find more information about the event by visiting [https://diolc.org/the-](https://diolc.org/the-answer)

[answer](#) or by using your smartphone’s camera to scan the QR code to the right. St. Charles Parish is hoping to bring a bus load of parishioners, so please let Fr. Sedlacek know if you are interested.

“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.diolc.org/respect-life

Parish Events Calendar

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

Mon. Jan. 01: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Mass at 9:30 AM