

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 13 & 14, 2025**

St. Charles Borromeo Parish

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

Website: www.stcharlesgenoa.org

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

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Timothy Reither
treither@diolclergy.org

Mass Schedule & Intentions for December 15 – 21, 2025

12/15/25	Monday	NO MASS
12/16/25	Tuesday	8:30 AM † Francis Thayer
12/17/25	Wednesday	NO MASS
12/18/25	Thursday	NO MASS
12/19/25	Friday	8:00 AM † Francis Thayer
12/20/25	Saturday	4:00 PM People of St. Charles
12/21/25	Sunday	9:30 AM † Paul & June Magnuson

Ministry Volunteers Lector

Sat. Dec. 20: 4:00 PM: Stephanie Nicklay

Sun. Dec. 21: 9:30 AM: Chris Magnuson

Servers

Sat. Dec. 20: 4:00 PM: Grady & Reid Nicklay

Sun. Dec. 21: 9:30 AM: Lorenzo Trussoni; Oscar

Levendoski; Henry Klinkner

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Sun. Dec. 21: 9:30 AM: Dorothy Stokke

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Mon. Dec. 15: Conrad & Nancy Kirby; Keith
Magnuson

Mon. Dec. 22: Arnie & Diane Pedretti; Dorothy Stokke

Ushers (December 2025))

Saturday: John Nicklay & Tim Woodhouse

Sunday: Conrad Kirby, Tom Urbanek & Chris Stokke

Prayer Requests

Call 608-689-2642 - requests will be passed to
Father Reither & over 20 "prayer warriors" on the prayer
chain.

Sacraments and Prayer

Church Hours

The church is open every day from 7 AM - 7 PM.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:15 PM: 3:45 PM

Sundays: 8:45 AM: 9:15 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

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 meeting 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.

Sacrificial Giving; December 6 & 7, 2025

Estimated Weekly Need	\$ 7,032.69
Adult Envelopes	\$ 4,737.00
Plate	\$ 167.32
Votive Lights	\$ 25.00
"Special" Donation	\$10,000.00
Total	\$14,929.32

From the Desk of Father Reither

Today, please see this Advent letter Bishop Battersby has written to his people and let us keep him in prayer as we continue to seek the Lord and His will in our lives and in the life of the Church. – Fr.

Reither

The One thing necessary...

My dear people,

In the Office of Readings, part of the Liturgy of the Hours in the Breviary of the Church, in the readings assigned for the day, I came across a line from St. Anselm that has captured my heart. St. Anselm writes: *I seek your face; your face, Lord, I desire*. One can hear the echo of Jesus' words to anxious Martha in St. Anselm's prayer: Mary has chosen the better part (cf. Luke 10:42); she chose to sit at the Master's feet and gaze upon his face. Truly, this is the one thing necessary, to gaze on him who lies in a manger, to behold him who is lifted up and is revealed truly the Son of God. (cf. Matthew 27:54) to gaze on him who was pierced to contemplate the one thing necessary and in this to be changed. St. Paul expresses this beautifully when he writes to the Church of Corinth: *All of us, gazing on the Lord's glory with unveiled faces, are being transformed from glory to glory into his very image by the Lord who is Spirit*. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

The one thing necessary is the Lord and we so often limit our transformation in Christ because our gaze is too often on ourselves or on the fiercesome waves which lapped St. Peter as he left the boat. (cf. Matthew 14:28). These are roiled times and the enemy of Christ would have us distrustful and suspicious of one another, of the pope, our bishops and priests, our neighbors. We fail to submit to the gaze of the Lord allowing him to make us holy, obedient and wise, because we fear losing control, fear allowing God to be Our Savior, allowing and trusting that with him all things are possible and without him we can do nothing of lasting value. (cf. John 15:5) If we truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, that he is Lord, then we will have little difficulty in trusting him and his Church, confident that his words truly are words of everlasting life. (cf. John 6:68)

The one thing necessary for this Diocese of La Crosse, for her bishop and priests, her clergy and religious, her people, is to make time on a daily basis, a weekly basis, to spend time with the Master and gaze on him, allowing him to gaze upon us that we, you and I, may become transformed in his Holy Spirit. We must cultivate in our hearts an ache for Jesus, fearing not our weaknesses or sinfulness but running to him in confidence born of intimacy knowing that we will receive timely aid. (cf. James 1:56) I hear much advice given to the pope on the blogosphere, I receive much counsel as well, the advice I treasure is the advice offered as the fruit of prayer, of the change of heart which comes from being conformed to Christ, of the humility of those who choose the better part. We are each myopic in our own way, we must imitate the humility of St. Joseph and Our Lady, who knew as St. Anselm did, that each of us knows but a part and *was made in order to see him and have not yet done that for which I was made*.

Peace,

+Bishop Battersby

ST. CHARLES PARISH NEWS

CCD: CCD Family Night- This week on Wednesday **December 17th** we will have our second CCD family night! The kids will be making Christmas cards for nursing home residents while parents meet for small group discussion and prayer.

Then we will all get together for a game of Catholic Jeopardy with questions covering what the kids have been learning as well as some fun Christmas questions! We will meet from 6:30-8 PM! Please bring a non-perishable food item donation so we can bless those in need. All St. Charles families are welcome to attend. We can't wait to see you!

Christmas Eve- all CCD and St. Charles kids are invited to sing at the **4 PM Christmas Eve** service. Please meet in the church at 3:30 PM on Christmas Eve wearing your Christmas best! We will be singing traditional Christmas hymns before Mass as well as the closing song. We hope you can join us!

ST. CHARLES SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

Christmas Concert and Art Show: Do you see what I see? Do you hear what I hear? The St. Charles School children will sing from their hearts as they imagine what happened on that first blessed Christmas morn. How did Joseph feel? Did Mary know just how special her little baby would grow up to be? What did the shepherds think as their peaceful night was interrupted by choirs of angels?! And that star - wow!

Please come and see and hear for yourselves. Join us on Tuesday, **December 16,**

at 7:00 PM in our school gym. Come early and enjoy seeing their beautiful and creative art work in the halls too! If you can't make it, it will also be livestreamed and can be found on our facebook page!

Scrip Gift Cards: Earn money back for St. Charles Parish by purchasing gift cards. You can purchase cards on the RaiseRight app. There is a handout with instructions in the vestibule OR for questions, contact Megan Olson at: Mjtrussoni@gmail.com or 608-385-7815.

3K (3-year old Kindergarten): St. Charles School is excited to announce the reopening of a 3K (3-year-old Kindergarten) program for the coming school year! Potential students must be 3 years old by **September 1st** to start at the beginning of the school year, or turn 3 by **January 23** to begin at the start of the second semester. There will be 3-day or 5-day options. Please call the school office (608-689-2642) to let us know of your interest, or pass the information along to someone who may be interested. Come join our school family!

The Second-Hand Shack: The Second-Hand Shack is located in the log cabin building at the intersection of South Avenue and 13th Street, La Crosse. They donate a portion of her profits to local non-profits, including St. Charles PTO. Parishioners can drop off clean, gently used items. The PTO benefits through your purchases, volunteer hours and donations. Please contact Sarah for donation times, acceptance and exclusions at (608) 615-1005.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE & OUR COMMUNITY

All Day Confessions at the Cathedral:

There will be all day confessions at the Cathedral on Monday, **December 22nd** from 9 AM to 6 PM. There will be four to five priests available to hear confessions at any given time.

La Crosse Jail Ministry (Chris Magnuson):

the La Crosse Jail Ministry. When you give, you are giving a second chance to someone who has made some poor choices. When people are down, they need to find hope again. The Jail Ministry helps residents find hope again, by teaching them to pray, to study the bible and to connect them with a Christian Community that can support them and lead them to a better tomorrow. Give or provide other support through our website

at: <https://lacrossejailministry.org/support-us/>
Thank you! Chris Magnuson

La Crosse SEEK January 29 – February 1,

2026: SEEK is a national conference for an encounter with God, personal transformation and growth in community! This year it will be locally at UW-La Crosse Student Union. Experience the transforming love of Jesus through inspiring speakers, worship, and community! SEEK is for everyone to attend: college students, families, and adults (under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult). The 4-day conference is adapted to fit most work and school schedules: **Thursday and Friday evenings, Saturday all day and**

Sunday morning. The price is \$50 for the entire event. There will be an optional free childwatch on Saturday, **January 31st**. Please register on the Roncalli Newman or Blessed Sacrament website.

Mary, Mother of the Church (2006 Weston S., La Crosse)

is hosting a small discussion format and viewing the series *The Search* from Formed.org, a seven-part video-based spiritual experience. *The Search* proclaims the Gospel in words that modern ears are ready to hear and images that modern eyes can't help but see and remember. It is hosted by the well-know Catholic evangelist Chris Stefanick and also features scientists, artists, philosophers, and other people from all walks of life proclaiming how their searches for meaning led them to Jesus and the Gospel. *The Search* is not just meant to be watched – and it certainly not meant to watch alone. That is why we will be meeting on Mondays from 6-7:30 PM beginning **January 5th** to watch, discuss, and truly benefit and grow from experiencing *The Search*. No matter where someone is in their faith, all are welcome. There is no cost!

Aquinas Catholic Schools: Coaches Needed

Middle School: Track & Field Head Coach

Middle School: Softball Head Coach

Interested? Contact AHD Athletic Director,
(pam.donarsk@aquinasschools.org)

Parish Events Calendar

Sun. December 14: OCIA 10:45 - Noon

Tue. December 16: Christmas Concert/Art Show at 7 PM (Cafeteria)

Wed. December 17: CCD Family Night (Kindergarten-Middle School/High School)

Fri. December 19: Penance Service 7-8 PM