

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20 & 21, 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

Email: treither@diolclergy.org

Mass Schedule & Intentions for December 22 – 28, 2025

12/22/25	Monday	NO MASS
12/23/25	Tuesday	8:00 AM † Francis Thayer
12/24/25	Wednesday (Christmas Eve)	4:00 PM † Linda Jeffers
12/25/25	Thursday (Midnight Mass)	12:00 AM † Francis Thayer
	Thursday (Christmas Day)	9:30 AM † People of St. Charles
12/26/25	Friday	NO MASS
12/27/25	Saturday	4:00 PM People of St. Charles
12/28/25	Sunday	9:30 AM † Bill & Judy Pedretti

Ministry Volunteers Lector

Wed. Dec. 24: 4:00 PM: Tim Gillespie
Thu. Dec. 25: 12:00 AM: Travis Klinkner
Fri. Dec. 26: 9:30 AM: Jayne Ballwahn
Sat. Dec. 27: 4:00 PM: Tom Jeffers
Sun. Dec. 28: 9:30 AM: Chris Magnuson

Servers

Wed. Dec. 24: 4:00 PM: Grady & Reid Nicklay; Henry & Oscar Levendoski
Thu. Dec. 25: 12:00 AM: Arianna, Lorenzo & Giovanni Trussoni
Fri. Dec. 26: 9:30 AM: Emma Kendhammer, Kanoa, Nalini & Keilana Rodgers
Sat. Dec. 27: 4:00 PM: Volunteers
Sun. Dec. 28: 9:30 AM: Ezio Olson, Giovanni Trussoni & Liam Klinkner

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Wed. Dec. 24: 4:00 PM: Marj Gillespie
Sun. Dec. 28: 9:30 AM: Priscilla Martin

Sacrificial Giving Tabulation

Mon. Dec. 22: Arnie & Diane Pedretti; Dorothy Stokke
Mon. Dec. 29: Priscilla Martin; Marian Naegle; Linda Pedretti

Ushers (January 2026)

Saturday: Larry Kelsey & _____
Sunday: Keith Magnuson, Arnie Trussoni & Tim Gianoli

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 13 & 14, 2025

Estimated Weekly Need	\$7,032.69
Adult Envelopes	\$1,385.00
Plate	\$ 224.25
Immaculate Conception	\$ 20.00
Total	\$1,629.25

From the Desk of Father Reither

How good is our God who gives us the joy of celebrating Christmas year after year? So much time and effort goes into preparing for this celebration.

We have been journeying through these four weeks of spiritual preparation throughout the Advent season along with all of those other things that go into the making of a proper celebration: buying gifts, preparing food, sending cards etc. Perhaps even for some of us there is still more preparation to come, but now as we come to the end of our time of preparation, we must remember to take a deep breath and refocus ourselves to the fact that it is God who comes to us, who gives us His own gift: The birth of our God made man, who came to redeem us from our sins.

Yes, the world was given a great gift that Christmas night over two thousand years ago and it has never been the same since. The Gift of the Child of Bethlehem endures to our own day. Perhaps more and more though, it seems like this gift has been forgotten or ignored by many in our world. And some are even advocating that perhaps the world no longer needs the Christ Child or that His message is no longer relevant these two thousand years later.

But when gratitude is lost or forgotten, so also is the gift in danger of being lost with it. We must recall these things to our minds. Why did our God become man and what was the gift that he gave to the world?

You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come. Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head. For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become the son of God?... Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.

— St. Augustine

All of these great gifts we have received from God by his being born in a stable at Bethlehem. What a cold world it would be without Love, without Forgiveness, without Salvation. And what could possibly be our response to such a gift? Only Joy, pure joy. That was the message of the angel to the shepherds: “Behold I bring you tidings of Great joy”.

If it has been hard to feel joy this year for you, remember that the Kingdom of God can only be entered by becoming like a little child. As Charles Dickens put it in a *Christmas Choir*: “it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.” Look to children because they know how to celebrate Christmas with Joy. The great anticipation of receiving presents is but a reflection of the great present God has given us: his Love, his Mercy, and his own life within us.

Perhaps there is no better way to remind ourselves of all of this than by looking into the manger with our own eyes. Since we have received so great a gift freely and without merit, let us also seek to share his love and joy with others as we enter into another Christmas season.

May God bless you all,
Fr. Reither

ST. CHARLES PARISH NEWS

CCD: 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!

There will be no CDD class on **December 28th!**

Thank You: A heart-felt thank you from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and our Diocesan Mission Office to St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Genoa for answering our Holy Father's call to be "Missionaries of Hope Among the People" with your generous responses of prayer and sacrifices for World Mission Sunday. We will forward your financial contribution of \$775.00 to our national office. They can in turn support Catholic institutions most in need.

ST. CHARLES SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

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.

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-known 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@quinasschools.org)

Mary, Mother of the Church (2006 Weston S., La Crosse) is hosting a small discussion format and viewing the series *The Search*

Parish Events Calendar

Wed. CCD: Christmas Eve 4 P
Sun. OCIA: January 4, 2026 10:45 – Noon
Sun. Fellowship: 10:30