

Church of St. Catherine

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Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

From: Fr. Tony Hesse

As I was thinking of what to write about, I was also thinking about all the things I needed to do. I don't know about you, but this time of year can seem very busy and even stressful. I came across this 2016 article "How to Prevent Busyness from Destroying Your Christmas" from Dr. Garland Vance. I thought I would include excerpts for you to enjoy and remember to relax!

Do you remember the intense feelings of expectation surrounding Christmas when you were a child? You could not wait to dump out your Christmas stocking and rip open your presents. In the days leading up to Christmas, you had more energy, more excitement, more anticipation, more expectation, and a greater sense of urgency.

But now, as an adult, that greater sense of urgency is less about anticipated delight and more about anticipated stress. The days leading up to Christmas build less eager expectation and more depleting exhaustion. You can exhaust yourself with all the parties, shopping, and family events. In your attempt to create a perfect Christmas experience, it's easy to miss out on the experience of Christmas. You miss out on experiencing Jesus. You forget that you are with Immanuel, God with us.

These days leading up to Christmas should help you live with a greater sense of awareness of God's presence, voice, and will. But you often make yourself so busy with all the demands, that you forget that God has made Himself available to you through Jesus Christ. Busyness will destroy your ability to enjoy Christmas. Busyness will stop you from experiencing God's presence during these days leading up to Christmas. You can become so consumed with all the things you are supposed to do this season that you miss out on the celebration of God's presence with you.

As you head into the last week before Christmas, here are a few ways to stop busyness and experience Immanuel.

1. Accept the reality of a busy season. *You need to accept the fact that this is a busy season in the year. You're going to have extra parties and events. But you can have a busy season without becoming a slave to busyness. If you refuse to accept this reality, you will fight against it or resent it.*

2. Say no. *Even in the Christmas season, you need to practice saying no. If certain family activities or holiday parties fill your heart with dread, don't do them. People may not understand. It may even upset them. Busyness comes from saying yes to too many good opportunities. In this season, you may need to say no to some good things in order to preserve expectation and not exhaustion and to maintain the best thing — an awareness of Immanuel.*

3. Adjust your normal routines and activities. *In a busy season, you may need to postpone your normal responsibilities. Give yourself grace to not do all of your normal routines in addition to all of the season's extra items. If there's ever a season when we should experience grace, it's Christmas.*

4. Invite Jesus into the holiday chaos. *Mary gave birth to Jesus in the midst of a chaotic season of life — pregnant, traveling for a census, and unable to find a comfortable place to stay. Jesus, in fact, spent His whole life in the chaos of political unrest and persecution. Yet He remained perfectly peaceful in the midst of it all. Jesus experienced chaos yet brought peace into it. Invite Him to bring peace into all of your holiday chaos. Say it out loud: "Jesus, I invite you into the chaos of this season." Practice this several times through the day. You'll be amazed at how you experience His presence.*

5. Reflect on the coming of Jesus each day. *Spend a few minutes each day centering your mind's attention on the expectation of Jesus' arrival. These last days of urgency leading to Christmas can be exhausting. Or they can be filled with expectation. I pray that these suggestions will help you experience Immanuel, God with us.*

May you have a restful and joy-filled Advent season!

Deanery 1 Reconciliation Services

Sunday-December 15
4 PM - Sleepy Eye

Confessions AFC

Sunday-December 15
7 AM - OLV

8:30 AM - St. Catherine
4 PM - St. Catherine

Tuesday-December 17
4:15 PM - St. Catherine

5 PM - St. Mary
6:30 PM - St. Mathias

Wednesday-December 18

7 AM - St. Catherine & OLV
12:30 PM & 5:30 PM - St. Anne

Thursday-December 19

7:30 AM - St. Anne

Friday-December 20

7 AM - St. Catherine & St. Mathias

Saturday-December 21

8:30 AM - St. Anne

9 AM - St. Catherine

12 PM - St. Mathias

3 PM - St. Mary

4 PM - St. Catherine

Sunday-December 22

7 AM - OLV

8:30 AM - St. Catherine

11 AM - St. Anne

Parish phone #: 507-644-2278

(In case of an EMERGENCY and you need to reach Fr. Tony Hesse, call 507-616-1337)

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RECEPTIONIST/SEC.

Rita Curry

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Light of the World website: www.LOWAFC.org

BAPTISM

Contact your parish office to set an appointment for class and baptism.

MARRIAGE

Contact the parish office at least nine months before intended marriage.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING

1-866-670-5163

PRAYER NETWORK

Contact Bev Passe
637-5967
bpasse60@yahoo.com

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY - December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 (7a), Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

8 AM Mass - *Our Lady of Victory - Lucan*
d. Joe & Mary Hoffmann

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Sunday School - PRE-K

9:30 AM Mass - *St. Catherine*
d. Angie Kinney

10 AM Mass - *St. Anne*

Anniversary Blessings for Chuck & Marilyn Daub

4-5 PM Holy Hour - SC

5-7PM Dinner & Movie-"The Star"- SC

MONDAY - December 16

Nm 24:2-7,15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

No Mass

TUESDAY - December 17

Gn 49:2,8-10; Mt 1:1-17

5:15 PM Mass - *St. Catherine*

l & d members of Tom Ochs family

6 PM Mass - *St. Mary - Seaforth*
Forgotten Souls

WEDNESDAY - December 18

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

8 AM Mass - *St. Catherine*

d. Annabelle Turbes & Kenneth Schmidt

8 AM Mass - *Our Lady of Victory - Lucan*
d. Marcella & Lawrence Plaetz

10 AM Mass - *Belview*
Special Intention

5:30-6:30 PM RE GR 1-6

7-8 PM RE-GR 7-12

7-8 PM Adoration - SC & SA

8-8:45 PM Youth Group-SC & SA

THURSDAY - December 19

Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

8:30 AM Mass - *St. Anne*

d. Vicky Jenniges

9 AM-6 PM Adoration/12 Rosary-SC

10 AM Mass - *Sunwood*

Residents of Sunwood

6:30 PM Bells- SC

7 PM Choir-SC

FRIDAY - December 20

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

8 AM Mass - *St. Catherine*

l & d members of Frank & Iva

Schweinfurter family

8 AM Mass - *St. Mathias - Wanda*

d. Elaine Rohlik

10 AM Mass - *Serenity Suites-Wabasso*

d. Willie Linsmeier

SATURDAY - December 21

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of Church

Sng 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

8:30-9:30 AM - Confession & Adoration-SA

9-10 AM Confessions-SC

4 PM Mass - *St. Mary - Seaforth*
d. Floyd Kramer

5 PM Mass - *St. Catherine*

Florence Dunlevy for her 100th birthday

6 PM Mass - *St. Mathias - Wanda*

People of our Parishes

SUNDAY - December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14 (10A), Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

8 AM Mass - *Our Lady of Victory - Lucan*
d. Louise Honetschlager

No Sunday School - PRE-K

9:30 AM Mass - *St. Catherine*
d. Richard Irlbeck

10 AM Mass - *St. Anne*

d. Herb Bernardy

4-5 PM Holy Hour - SC

MASS SERVERS: DECEMBER 21/22, 2019

5:00 PM Saturday

Brad Balko

John Balko

Cayden Johnson-Mariner

9:30 AM Sunday

Ella Stoneberg

Landon Stoneberg

Gavin Stoneberg

Our Gifts to God and to His Church

Adult Contribution	2,630.00	Adult for Week	2,630.00
Students	26.00	Adult Budget	4,808.00
Maintenance	175.00		
Loose Plate	444.85		
Immaculate Concept	1,622.00		
Thanksgiving	40.00		
Cemetery	25.00		
Military	30.00		
Retired Religious	554.00		
Christmas	45.00	YTD Actual	90,783.11
Total	5,591.85	YTD Budget	110,584.00

St. Catherine - Diocesan Ministry Appeal

86 Donated as of December 10

Goal	Total Received & Pledged	Amount Due	Parish 20%
\$23,261.63	\$27,986.80	(\$4,725.17)	\$4,617.36

Thank you!

The family of Jim Schweinfurter would like to thank everyone for visits, memorials, and cards. Special thanks to Fr. Tony and CCW for the awesome service & lunch. Also, to the musicians, servers, lectors and anyone else that helped with the service and lunch.

~ Diane Schweinfurter & family

CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

Our sympathy and prayers go to the families and friends of Don Borneke, brother of Mary Ann Gray. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Blue Advent /Christmas Books

There are blue Advent/Christmas books in the gathering space that you can take and use for this Advent and Christmas Seasons. This book gives information on Advent and Christmas.

Sunwood/River Valley Health & Rehabilitation Center Mass

Join us for 10 AM Mass on Thursday, Dec. 19th at Sunwood. Mass intention will be for the residents of Sunwood & a Christmas reception will follow with a light snack.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes December, 2019

Sunday, December 15

- 8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School
- 5-7 PM Movie Night for all families
"The Star"- SC



Wednesday, December 18

- 5:30-6:30 PM GR 1-6
- 7-8 PM GR 7-12 with Adoration & youth group

Sunday, December 22 & 29

- No Sunday School (*Christmas & New Years*)

Wednesday, December 25 & January 1, 2020

- No Religion classes (*Christmas & New Years*)

"Religious Education Prayer Ministry Opportunity:

Join us on Wednesday's at St. Catherine and St. Anne Churches from 7-8pm for Adoration in the Church.

Family Dinner & Movie Night "The Star"

All families are invited to join us for dinner and a movie, *The Star*, on Dec. 15th at St. Catherine Church. We will begin the movie at 5pm, and have activities and pizza to follow. Join us for fellowship and to focus on the Advent and Christmas season with the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Catholic Hearth Work Camp in 2020

Are you interested in attending the Catholic Heart Work Camp in Fremont, Nebraska on June 21-27, 2020? Please contact Katie or David at 644-2278 or email katie@mystcatherines.org or wickdav9413@gmail.com.

Youth in 9th grade and up to adults are welcome to attend camp.

Easy Christmas Shopping

Check out the scrip cards in the Parish Office. These gift cards are purchased at face value and a percentage goes to help support St. Anne's Catholic School in Wabasso. Some cards we have are Tersteegs, Walmart, Target, Kohls, Burger King, McDonalds, Subway, Pizza Ranch.

St. Mary's School-Bird Island-Winter Raffle

Only 600 tickets will be sold at \$50 each for a chance to win: 2017 Gas Powered EZ-Go Cart, 2020 Ice Castle fish house, \$500 cash, 2-\$250 cash prizes. Drawing will be held on 1/22/2020 at 7 PM at the Island Ballroom in Bird Island. If you would like a ticket please contact Matt Buckley @ 430-2893.

Thank you to: Share the Spirit, Angel Tree donations!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Share the Spirit families. This year we sponsored four families, three families of 4, a family of 6, along with numerous other needs. Thanks to your generous donations these families will have a Christmas meal along with some gifts to enjoy. God Bless you all!



KC Pancake Breakfast thank you!

The Knights of Columbus want to thank all the workers and all the people who attended our pancake breakfast. The money will go to Religious Education.

~ Larry Kohout & Gary Meyers

Save the date: Pro-Life Prayer Service at Capitol

Wednesday, January 22nd, a bus will be leaving Marshall at 6:30 AM and stopping in Redwood to attend the Pro-Life Service & MCCL life rally at the Capitol in St. Paul, MN. The bus is sponsored by area KC's & CCW groups. More information to follow or call Annette Rohlik at 507-747-2181 or Lori Timmerman at 507-476-0070.

Farm Crisis Meeting

There is a Farm Crisis Mtg on Thurs., Dec. 19th at St. Mary's Catholic Church (417 So. Minnesota St., New Ulm) with a sandwich supper & snacks beginning at 5:45 PM. Meeting will be from 6:20PM-8:30PM. For more information about meeting or to RSVP email Paul Sobocinski of the Land Stewardship Project sobopaul@landstewardshipproject.org or call Paul at 507-430-1509.

Bake Sale for San Lucas Mission-Thank you!

I want to thank each and everyone that brought and/or purchased baked items, baked for confirmation hours or made a donation to our CCW Bake Sale last weekend. I would also like to thank Rosy Brau, Pat Reitter, Beth Thoreson, Lynnette Zilka & Joyce Johnson for helping me sell the baked goods. I appreciated all your help. We collected \$702.76 which will be used to help support our mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala.

~ Bonnie Guetter, CCW Service Commission

Christmas Flower Donation

If you would like to donate toward the Christmas flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one, leave your donation in the envelope marked Christmas Flowers.



Be sure to list the name (s) you want remembered. A Christmas Flower memorial Mass will be said on Jan. 25th. Please drop off donations by **December 18th**.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers!



Thank you to all who took some time out of their busy day to ring the bell at Tersteeg's & Running's for the Salvation Army. God Bless you!

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD SHELF!



Hunger takes some of the joy out of the holidays. Our local food shelf is in need!! Please place your donation in the shopping cart in the Gathering Space. You can drop your cash donations in the offertory in an envelope marked "food shelf", or drop off at the Parish office. God bless you!

Raffle Tickets for 2020

Next years raffle tickets have been mailed out and you can purchase tickets until February 13, 2020. If you need more tickets stop in the parish office for them.

This weeks Calendar Raffle drawing winners:

Dec 9 \$25 Alyssa Toft	Dec 12 \$25 Phyllis Baune
Dec 9 \$25 Julie Serbus	Dec 13 \$25 Darlyne Larsen
Dec 10 \$25 John Goblisch	Dec 14 \$25 Pat Henjum
Dec 11 \$25 Karla Rothmeier	Dec 15 \$50 Paul/Marvel Pryor

Checks will be mailed out to the address on ticket stub.
Thank you for buying a raffle ticket.



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Strength and New Thoughts"
~ Eleanor Roosevelt

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Jeremiah 29:11

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