

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017



## 3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

*Three Sites of Worship, One Community of Faith*

Including St. Wenceslaus &  
The Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica

215 MAIN STREET EAST ■ NEW PRAGUE, MN 56071 ■ 952-758-3225 ■ NPCATHOLIC.ORG

**We welcome you...**

Welcome to the greater New Prague Area Catholic Community which includes the Church of St. Wenceslaus and the Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica. We are happy you are here. Should you be visiting just for today, WELCOME! If you are seeking a church home, we would be honored to have you consider joining our faith community. If you are interested in a membership, please phone the parish office for assistance and registration. If you are over the age of 21, we ask that you register. Please feel free to stop by the parish office during office hours to register or you may do so online. Again, we are happy you are here.

**At the Church of St. Wenceslaus****PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

**MASS SCHEDULE****Weekend Masses**

Saturday..... 4:00 pm  
 Sunday..... 8:30 & 10:30 am

**Morning Word & Communion**

Monday &amp; Tuesday ..... 8:00 am

**Weekday Masses**

Wednesday, Thursday &amp; Friday ..... 8:00 am

**SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION****Anointing of the Sick**

Available to those who are seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call 952-758-3225

**Confirmation**

Preparation required. Call 952-758-0477

**Reconciliation**

Saturdays at 3 pm in the church.

**Baptism**

Preparation required. Call 952-758-3225

**Marriage**

Six months to one year preparation time required.  
 Call 952-758-3225

**Rosary**

Monday – Friday 7:30 am &amp; Saturday 8:00 am in the church.

**Fatima Prayer Cell**

Monday – Wednesday after 8 am service in the chapel.

**Adoration**

Friday 9:00 am to midnight in the chapel

**Early Morning Scripture Study**

Wednesday 6:45 to 7:50 am – Pius X Room in church basement.

**Fr. Kevin's Bible Study**

Saturdays 8:30 to 10 am – Pius X Room in church basement.

**Prayer Chain**

Judy: 952-758-2220 or Arnita: 952-758-4943

**From the Desk of Laura Schoenecker****Jesus Others Yourself**

Today is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. It is also known as Gaudete Sunday, which signifies JOY! You will notice that this is the week we light the pink candle and our priests wear rose colored vestments instead of purple. It is a time to rejoice as we prepare for the coming of Christ!

*Ho-hum...* we've done this so many times before that it can become routine, mundane, and even a hassle! Shopping, wrapping, eating, returning, cleaning, decorating, food preparations... well, you know, the list can be endless....we lose sight of what this season is truly about... Yup, *GUILTY!*

But what if we were to focus on the word **JOY** in the proper order... The reason we celebrate Christmas, (Christ's Mass), in the first place ~ **Jesus**. What if trying to do his will in our lives was our first priority, would that bring us joy? What if we really looked at the great gift of Christ humbling himself from King to lowly baby... all for us. Would that give a greater, truer meaning to our Christmas?

Then next ~ How can we bring joy to **Others**? At our Baptism, we are all called to discipleship. How can we know the love, hope, and joy of Christ and not share it with others in our lives? We can do this by our words, but also by our example. Putting Jesus, and then others, before ourselves will bring us a joy in Him that will remain steadfast throughout sad and unhappy times in our lives.

Finally us! We are the child of a King. We have to treat ourselves (and others) with the dignity and respect that is required of royalty. God loved you into being and put you here for a purpose. Search to find his will for your life and you will find joy for **yourself**.

Jesus became lowly and entered our world to show us the way back to our Father. This is what we celebrate at Christmas, the ultimate gift of love. That small babe in the manger is where we will find hope, love, **JOY**, and peace. Blessings!

**Laura Schoenecker**  
 Faith Formation Director  
 New Prague Area Catholic Community

# Western Catholic Community

## From the Desk of Deacon Bob

### “Rejoice Sunday”

It is Gaudete Sunday, “Rejoice Sunday”! In most Advent seasons, Gaudete Sunday marks the halfway point in Advent. This year with Advent lasting 3 weeks and about 10 hours, we are almost to Christmas Day. This is the time when little children begin to salivate at the thought of all the Christmas cookies, candy, and other Christmas treats they will be eating. And, yes, the presents, the little kids will salivate at the thought of those. While all of the food, the treats, and presents are good reasons to cause one to rejoice, the bottom line is that the food and treats will be eaten and disappear. The toys and other gifts received may break, or be played with and laid aside, or returned. The readings for today, however, give us the true reason to rejoice on this Sunday.

From Isaiah we hear, “The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD.” These words, though spoken thousands of years ago, have never gotten stale or moldy like food, nor have they ever been cast aside due to boredom. These words from the prophet Isaiah still excite us, still give us cause to rejoice, because we know that they have been fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. And, though Jesus has risen and ascended to the Father, we know that these words will be fulfilled again, when Jesus returns at the end of time.

To breathe in the excitement and the wonder of that first coming when the whole world had a cause to rejoice, I invite you to join our students from the Disciples of Christ formation program at our Christmas pageant at 7 pm this coming Wednesday evening, December 20th, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Union Hill. The Christmas pageant will be celebrated within a Word and Communion service, in which we will not only see the words of the Christmas story enacted, but at which we will also receive the risen Lord in Holy Communion. Refreshments will follow the pageant in Koenig Hall on the lower level of St. John’s School.

**Deacon Bob Wagner**

*Pastoral Associate*

**New Prague Area Catholic Community**

### Mass Schedule Volunteers - St. John’s & St. Scholastica

DECEMBER 23 & 24, 2017	Saturday St. John’s 8:15 PM	Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM	Sunday St. John’s 9:00 AM
<b>Lector</b>	MaryCarol Wolf	No Mass	Angela Sticha
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Kevin Giesen		Jonila Weiers, Dave Webb & Lori Wooten
<b>Servers</b>	Samantha & Julia Kubes		Mitchel & Hunter Pomije, Avery & Jordyn Marsh
<b>Gift Bearer Family</b>			Andy Tupy Family

## Important Information

### Weekend Masses

Saturday ..... 8:15 pm St. John’s  
 Sunday ..... 8:00 am St. Scholastica  
 Sunday ..... 10:00 am St. John’s

### Weekday Masses

Wednesday ..... 5:00 pm St. John’s  
 Thursday ..... 5:00 pm St. Scholastica  
 ~ Except 1st Thursday of the month ~  
 Mass at Phillip Square at 4:00 pm

### SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

#### Reconciliation

Wednesday ..... 4:30 pm St. John’s  
 Thursday ..... 5:30 pm St. Scholastica  
 No Confession 1st Thursday of the month at St. Scholastica  
 Saturdays & Sundays by appointment

#### Baptism & Confirmation

Preparation required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett

#### Anointing of the Sick

Call Fr. Dave Barrett

#### Marriage

Prep required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett

#### Adoration

Fridays 9:00 am to midnight at St. Wenceslaus Daily Chapel

### WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OFFICE

20087 Hub Drive, New Prague 56071  
 952-758-4642

#### Rev. Dave Barrett

**Regional Associate Pastor**

952-758-0469 (O) 651-470-0970 (C)  
 Dave.Barrett@npcatholic.org

#### Deacon Bob Wagner

**Pastoral Associate**

952-758-3225 (O) 612-703-0808 (C)  
 Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

#### Hall Rental:

**Patty Giesen** 952-758-3008 or email:  
 kpgiesen@bevcomm.net

#### Prayer Chain WCC:

**Carol Bauer** 952-873-6769  
**Noreen Giesen** 952-758-2608  
**Marlene Dohmen** 952-492-6879

**Bulletin E-mail:** [info@npcatholic.org](mailto:info@npcatholic.org)  
**Website:** <http://www.npcatholic.org>

## PARISH AND AREA NEWS

### Last Weekend to Pick Up Calendar Raffle Packets

This is the last weekend to pick up your Fund Raising calendar raffle packets in back of church. Please pick them up to save on postage!

### BULLETIN NOTICE:

The bulletin for December 24 & December 31 will be combined. Please have all announcements to [info@npcatholic.org](mailto:info@npcatholic.org) by 4 pm on Mon., Dec. 18th.

### Bereavement Support Group

The Bereavement Support group will meet this coming Thursday night, Dec. 21st, at 7 pm in the Parish Office building. All who are grieving the death of someone significant in their lives are welcome to come and receive support. If you have any questions, please call Deacon Bob at (952) 758-0463.

### Adoration Closing

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be closed on Friday 12/22 and 12/29 to allow scheduled adorers time off to travel. Adoration will re-open the 1st Friday in January.

### Greeters Still Needed:

Sat., Dec. 23rd at 4 pm; Sun., Dec. 24th at 10:30 am; and Mon., Dec. 25th at 10:30 am

### IMPORTANT ~ Parish Pictorial Directory

Our parish pictorial directory is going to print soon. We will be publishing a parish roster with registered families' names, addresses, and the phone number we have on record. If your phone number/address has changed since you registered or you do not want that information published, please call or email the parish office. (952) 758-3225 or [lisa.leverson@npcatholic.org](mailto:lisa.leverson@npcatholic.org). Also, any child age 21 and older will not be listed in the directory if you did not have a photo taken with them.

### Christmas Day Schedule

#### Monday, December 25

9:00 am..... Mass ~ SS  
10:30 am..... Mass ~ SW

### Saturday Volunteers are precious!

Meals continue to be served at the *Dorothy Day Center* (DDC) on the second Saturday of each month. Eleven volunteers from *New Prague Area Catholic Community* (NPACC) are able to prepare and serve the meal to guests at the DDC in St. Paul. Desserts provided by NPACC members compliment the efforts of the meal preparers at the DDC. No special cooking skills are required to help with meal preparation. Being able to open your heart to be the hands and feet of Jesus is recommended. Giving up your precious Saturday's will hopefully be a good experience. Thank you for considering this ministry. Questions or comments please call Norb Sticha at 758-3888.



### God Bless the Newly Baptized

Welcome and congratulations to *Lucia Magdalena Arias*, daughter of Cesar Arias Diaz and Sheena Arias, *Drake Lee Janda*, son of Corey & Kelly Janda, *Charlotte Rae Kanis*, daughter of Rob & Lisa Kanis, *Claire Marie Krautkremer*, daughter of Corey & Ann Krautkremer, *Clayton John Schmidley*, son of Will & Molly Schmidley, and *Miles Edward Thorstad*, son of Brian & Maria Thorstad. We rejoice with your families on this joyful occasion!

### Adopt-A-Family ~ Thank You

The Adopt-A-Family for Christmas program in Le Sueur County was successful again this year due to the generosity of so many. There are 734 children from 301 families that will experience a happier holiday because of the help and support from so many benefactors. We are very grateful for this generosity. Thank you!

### Adult Washington, DC, Trip Meeting

There will be a meeting for those interested in traveling to Washington, DC, May 30-June 1, 2018. It will be held in the church basement Mon., Jan. 8th at 6:30 pm. Contact Jamie Schoenbauer ([jamie.schoenbauer@swsaints.org](mailto:jamie.schoenbauer@swsaints.org)) for questions.

**He is the light  
for your path.**

### Discipleship Corner

Why is it so important to have a personal relationship with Jesus?

*I can't imagine my life without Jesus and His gift of salvation at my core. I think I worry less because I know God. I trust God because of His steadfast love, His loving kindness, His power over all things, and His just wisdom. I think I learned most of what I know through reading and studying the scriptures. God never fails. And when all is not well in my life, I know good will come from it. He gives me peace.*

~ MaryLynn

### Religious Give Thanks

A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

*"Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands."* As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekends are Feb. 9-11 and May 4-6 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call

### SUPPORT OUR PATRONS

who make this bulletin possible by their advertising.

This week we thank

**PATTY'S PLACE**

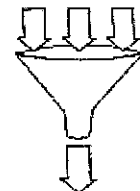
Brent & Tracy Chessen at (612) 756-8720 or visit them at [twincitieswwme.org](http://twincitieswwme.org).

~ SWS! Apply today to attend the classroom substitute training: <http://bit.ly/2jGvjDG>

**"Fill The Funnel" with Endowment Fund Donations**

Please consider a Year-End Tax Deductible Donation to the SWS School Endowment Fund. The school endowment helps provide financial support year after year with contributions earned through the endowment investments with Catholic Community Foundation.

**Donations Today!**



**SWS Kids Benefit Every Year**

Please send donations to:  
SWS School  
227 East Main  
New Prague, MN 56071

Questions:  
(952) 758-3133, Kim Doyle, Principal or  
(612) 384-6170, Tom Chromy, Chairman of SWS Endowment Board of Directors

**WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
St. John's & St. Scholastica**

**Annual Christmas Pageant**

The WCC Annual Christmas Pageant will be on Wed., Dec. 20th at 7 pm at St. John's Church in Union Hill. We are asking parents of Faith Formation students to please bring a pan of bars or cookies for the reception that will be held immediately after the pageant in the school basement.

**Poinsettia Donations**

Anyone wishing to donate a poinsettia in honor of a loved one please bring them to church by Fri., Dec. 22nd. There will be a notebook where you can put the name of your loved one and the name of the person donating the poinsettia.

**Ministry Signup for Christmas Eve Mass**

There will be a signup sheet in the back of St John's for volunteers for the Christmas Eve 11:15 pm Mass. Volunteers can either sign up on the sheet, email [camera\\_addict@yahoo.com](mailto:camera_addict@yahoo.com), or call (952) 250-5194 to sign up.

**Christmas Schedule**

**Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve**  
11:15 pm.....Mass ~ SJ  
Ministry volunteers. *Gift Bearer Family* ~ Tim Lemke Family  
**Monday, December 25**  
9:00 am.....Mass ~ SS  
*Lector* ~ Karen Odenthal, *Eucharistic Ministers* ~ Cindy Jirak, Kevin Odenthal, Rose Rynda; *Servers* ~ Julia & Joe Schoenecker; *Gift Bearer Family* ~ Brad Heimer Family.

**9th Annual "Blankets Because We Care" Drive**

Please help us keep our brothers and sisters warm this winter. Please drop gently used or new blankets, coats, hats, mittens, or hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo etc) in the bin located in the back of church through Jan.19th. Any monetary donations will be used to buy fleece to make additional blankets and/or a cash donation to Sharing and Caring Hands and the Children's Hospital of Minneapolis. We would also be happy to pick up any donations up as well...just call! (952-457-9877). Donations will be accepted through January 19th. Thanks so much for your generosity and God Bless!

**Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance**

The Catholic Single Adults Club of the Twin Cities invites all single Catholics, 21 and older, to join us Sat., Jan. 6th, for our annual Christmas dinner and dance. A social hour and dinner will begin at 5:30 pm and dancing at 7:30 pm. The cost for dinner and dancing is \$25; dance only is \$10. Dinner reservations for a delicious buffet meal at Gulden's Restaurant in Maplewood are required by Wed., Dec. 27th. No reservation is required for the dance only. For dinner reservation information, please call Greg at (651) 636-3508 or Carl at (651) 603-1412.



**FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY**

**New Youth Ministry Event**

Join the decorating team on Sun., Dec. 17th at 2 pm. Decorate for Christmas ~ Fun and Refreshments!

**Calling all Juniors! Party down with Youth Alive!**

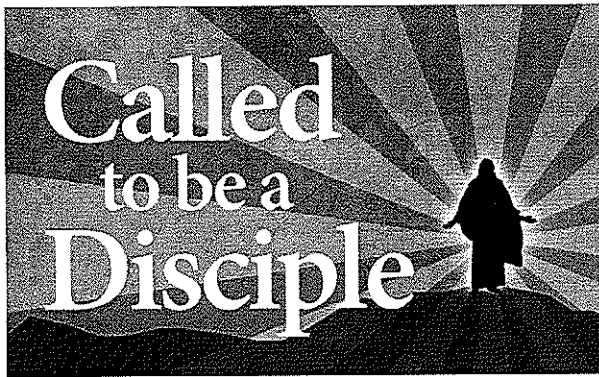
Gingerbread, ornaments, Christmas sweaters! Bring a friend and be entered in a prize drawing! Have a cup of cheer! Dec. 20th, 6:30 pm ~ Parish House ~ Be there! Please RSVP to Pamela Sherlock (so we don't run out of cookies!)



**SCHOOL NEWS from SWS**

**Job Opening**

Love your faith? Like working with children? Want a fulfilling part-time job? Become a classroom substitute at your Catholic school



## A challenge

### Welcoming the Christ in One Another

I was delighted to learn that one of my sons-in-law is participating in the RCIA program and will be joining the Catholic Church at the Easter vigil in March, in their parish in Wisconsin. Kevin and I have worshipped there with him and our daughter and their boys when we have been visiting, and we have been struck by how welcoming the parish community is to visitors. And it was an invitation from a parishioner that nudged my son-in-law to take this big step. This is discipleship in action.

Being a welcoming faith community and building bridges of trust are the first steps in becoming a parish of intentional disciples.

We are making a special effort to enlist greeters during this Advent and Christmas season, and you should have received an email invite to greet at one or more of the liturgies. Please respond if you can.

It would be nice if we could have greeters at each Mass, every weekend. This is a great family activity. It involves getting to church about 20 minutes before Mass begins and sharing a smile and welcome with those who come through the doors.

Let me know if you would like to take a Sunday a month. I'll send out a sub list so you can swap with someone if you can't make it.

You never know when your greeting will make someone's day!

[Mary.higgins@npcatholic.org](mailto:Mary.higgins@npcatholic.org)

952-758-0464

## Discipleship Update

Volume 1, Issue 4 December 2017

*Our New Prague Area Catholic Community parish mission:*

We are a Catholic community forming disciples of Jesus Christ dedicated to loving God through our worship, sharing the Good News, and loving service to others.

growing  
together

### What's Happening?

**October** Pilot group met to use and critique the discipleship group materials

**November** Materials edited; small group leaders and hosts recruited

**December** Session materials finalized; AV equipment tested; small group leaders and meeting locations set

**January** Small group leaders and hosts receive training (Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>); discipleship initiative introduced to the parish; small group sign up

**February** Kick off Feb. 11, (Ash Wednesday Feb. 14); 5 part series of discipleship sessions held Feb. 18-March 24

*Come Holy Spirit*



**LITURGIES & PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS**

INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS  
WEEK OF DECEMBER 18-24, 2017

**Rosary at St. Wenceslaus**  
**MONDAY – FRIDAY at 7:30 am**  
**SATURDAY at 8:00 am**

**Monday, December 18**  
8:00 am ..... Word & Communion – SW

**Tuesday, December 19**  
8:00 am ..... Word & Communion – SW

**Wednesday, December 20**  
8:00 am ..... Michelle Port, Joseph W. Masberg,  
..... Rosella Riesgraf – SWS Mass – SW

**Thursday, December 21**  
8:00 am ..... Word & Communion – SW  
11:00 am ..... Reconciliation – Mala Strana

**Friday, December 22**  
8:00 am ..... Word & Communion – SW

**Saturday, December 23**  
3:00 pm ..... Confession – SW  
4:00 pm ..... Joseph & Margie Soukup,  
..... Joe & Helen Pexa; Ray, Pauline & Tim O'Brien  
..... Mass – SW  
8:15 pm ..... Roger Ruhland – Mass – SJ

**Sunday, December 24**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
9:00 am ..... Rosella Riesgraf, Andre Miller – Mass – SJ  
10:30 am ..... Mass – SW  
*Christmas Eve*  
4:00 pm ..... JoAnn Simon, Ernie Wermerskirchen  
..... Mass – SW  
6:00 pm ..... Evelyn Ambroz – Mass – SW  
9:30 pm ..... Milo & Marian Tuma – Mass – SW  
11:15 pm ..... Mass – SJ

**STAFF DIRECTORY** NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

**Rev. Kevin Clinton**  
*Pastor*  
952-758-3225  
Kevin.Clinton@npcatholic.org

**Rev. Dave Barrett**  
*Regional Associate Pastor*  
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Dave.Barrett@npcatholic.org

**Deacon Bob Wagner**  
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*Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator*  
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Kim.Doyle@swsaints.org

**Jolene Busch**  
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Jolene.Busch@swsaints.org

**Debbie Gregor**  
*Director of Liturgical Music at SW*  
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Debbie.Gregor@npcatholic.org

**Lisa Levenson**  
*Parish Administrative Assistant*  
952-758-3225  
Lisa.Leverson@npcatholic.org

**PARISH BUSINESS OFFICE**

215 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071  
PH 952-758-3225 FAX 952-758-2960

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

On campus in Parish Activity Center

**ST. WENCESLAUS SCHOOL**

227 Main St E, New Prague, MN 56071  
PH 952-758-3133 FAX 952-758-2958

**LITTLE SPIRITS PRESCHOOL**

On campus of SWS ~ 1950's building  
952-758-0480

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

952-758-2327

**MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR**

WEEK OF DECEMBER 18-24, 2017

**Monday, December 18:**  
*No Events*

**Tuesday, December 19:**  
SWS Basketball Game – Gym  
Separated & Divorce Support Group, 6:45 pm  
– Parish Office Bldg, Deacon Bob's Office

**Wednesday, December 20:**  
Early Morning Scripture Study, 7-8 am  
– Parish Office Dining Room  
Teen Choir, 5:15-6:15 pm – Choir Room  
Adult Bells & Choir – Choir Room  
Junior Youth Alive Christmas Party, 6:30-8:30 pm  
– Parish Office Bldg, Upper Parlor  
SJ Christmas Program & Prayer Service, 7-8 pm  
– SJ Church

**Thursday, December 21:**  
SWS Preschool Christmas Program,  
10 am – SW Church  
Kindergarten Nativity Play, 1 pm – SW Church  
NPACC Book Club, 6:30-8 pm  
– Parish Office Dining Room  
Bereavement Support Group, 7 pm  
– Parish Office Bldg, Deacon Bob's Office

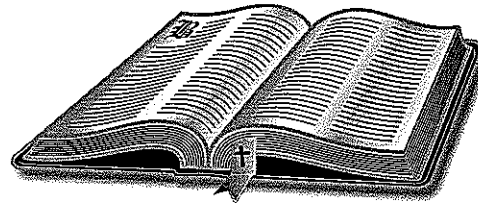
**Friday, December 22:** *No School*  
Adoration, 9 am-midnight – Daily Chapel

**Saturday, December 23:**  
Adult Scripture Reflection, 8:30-10:30 am  
– SW Church Basement

**Sunday, December 24**  
Children's Liturgy of the Word at 8:30 and  
10:30 am Masses – SW Chapel

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

WEEK OF DECEMBER 18-24, 2017



**Monday, December 18:**  
JER 23:5-8 / MT 1:18-25

**Tuesday, December 19:**  
JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A / LK 1:5-25

**Wednesday, December 20:**  
IS 7:10-14 / LK 1:26-38

**Thursday, December 21:**  
SG 2:8-14 / LK 1:39-45

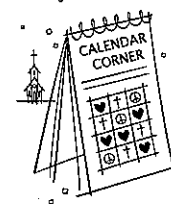
**Friday, December 22:**  
1 SM 1:24-28 / LK 1:46-56

**Saturday, December 23:**  
MAL 3:1-4, 23-24 / LK 1:57-66

**Sunday, December 24:**  
2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 /  
ROM 16:25-27 / LK 1:26-38

**CHURCH OF ST. WENCESLAUS  
CALENDAR CORNER**

Thank you to the Following Sponsors:  
**Strike Force Bowl and ProShop,**  
**Busch Bros. CNC Machining &**  
**Hartmann Well Drilling & Service**



**Date:**  
Dec. 13, 2017

**Number:**  
1811

**Winner:**  
Suzanne Rook



Now is the time to pick  
up your calendars in  
the back of church!

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 scott@sjsmechanicalinc.com

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