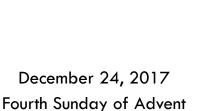


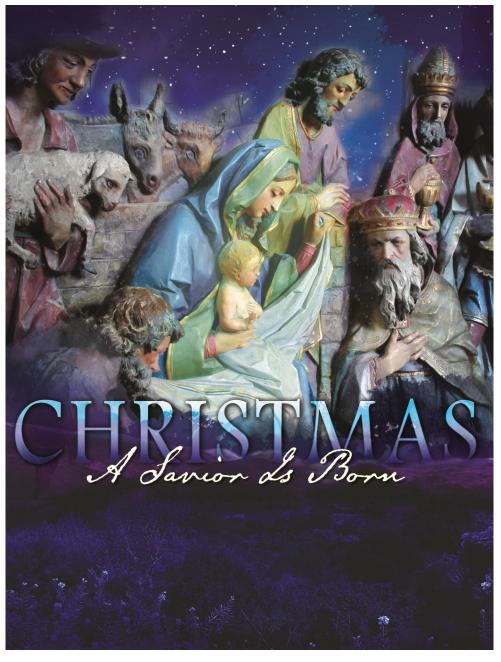
CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

509 WEST 54TH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419

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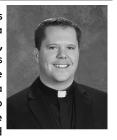


December 25, 2017 Christmas: Nativity of the Lord



Believing all people need a Savior, we are called to PROCLAIM the Good News, and to offer a life-changing ENCOUNTER with Jesus. As a community of His disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit and loved by our Heavenly Father, we seek to BE CHRIST in all we do.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Every other person who ever came into this world came into it to live. He came into it to die. Death was a stumbling block to Socrates—it interrupted his teaching. But to Christ, death was the goal and fulfillment of His life, the gold that He was seeking. Few of His words or actions are intelligible without reference to His Cross. He presented Himself as a Savior rather than merely as a Teacher. It meant nothing to teach men to be good unless He also gave them the power to be good, after rescuing them from the frustration of guilt. The story of every human life begins with birth and



ends with death. In the Person of Christ, however, it was His death that was first and His life that was last." —Archbishop Fulton Sheen

ST. AUGUSTINE ON WHY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS: Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

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 joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time.

He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: Let him who glories glory in the Lord.

Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, I am the Truth, was born of the Virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God.

Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.

Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: for Truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory" but of God's glory: for justice has not come out of us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord.

For this reason, when our Lord was born of the Virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men of good will.

For how could there be peace on earth unless Truth has arisen from the earth, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And he is our peace who made the two into one: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

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 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.

This Christmas, I pray that we all open our hearts to this tremendous grace that Jesus longs to give us. Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas, and may you always know the joy of our newborn King! —Father Brian Park



Merry Christmas to everyone from the entire Annunciation staff! We are delighted that you've joined us for worship on this great feast, and we hope that you'll return to pray with us often. As a church community, we offer lots of services to our members in addition to our weekly worship. If you are new or returned to the area, we invite you to become a member. Call Fr. Park for a registration appointment if you would like to join, or have questions about our parish. May Christ be born in your heart anew this day, and may his Spirit grow in you throughout the New Year!

Your written bulletin announcement is needed before noon. Please email: ppeterson@annunciationmsp.org, on the church side; or icassidy@annunciationmsp.org, on the school side.

The bulletin article submitted will be previewed by the Pastoral Parish Staff Member who heads the committee or ministry. Deadline, before 11:30am:

Thursday, January 4:

for Sunday, January 14 & for Sunday, January 21 Thursday, January 18: for Sunday, January 28 Thursday, January 25: for Sunday, February 4 Thursday, February 1: for Sunday, February 11

We appreciate our Advertisers—Thank you for your support!

Please contact Fr. Brian J. Park, Pastor, for further information by telephone: 612.824.9993 ext. 228 or email: frpark@annunciationmsp.org.

Have You Moved? All parishioners are reminded to contact the parish office to let us know your new address and phone number, or if you are registering with another parish.

Ministers of the Week

2017 Advent Liturgical Season Chairpersons, Committees, Schedulers, Volunteers, Donors, and Participants

Pray for the repose of the soul of Colleen Healy, wife of Bob Healy

Please keep in your prayers the following individuals of the parish community who are ill:

Karin Alaniz Dorothy Audette Jocelyn Broitman Stewart Christie Lisa Adams Craig Deacon Sean Curtan Michele Davis Ann Durr Gary Hackenmueller Doug Hassman John Jones Brad Marshall Ryan Palattao Steve Peterson Dorothy Pixley Timothy Pixley Michael Richardson Charles Rose Leslie Smith Donald Tadich Dan Weides Jackie Williams Evalyn Wilson Joey Young

Bulletin Prayer List: If you would like prayers said for you or for a family member who is ill or in need of prayer, please contact Ashleigh Varley at 6 1 2 . 8 2 4 . 9 9 9 3 X 2 5 6 or avarley@annunciationmsp.org. In order to encourage more constant and fervent prayer for those who are in need of our spiritual support, please also contact Ashleigh if you know of a person who no longer needs to be on the list.

As we approach the end of the 2017 calendar year, we thank you for your continued generous financial support of Annunciation and remind you that all contributions that you would like to have included on your 2017 year-end contribution statement need to be received or postmarked no later than December 30, 2017. Any checks or mail with a date of 2018, or received in the office in 2018, unfortunately cannot be included in your 2017 statement. Please contact Jim Weiland with any questions at 612.824.9993 X241.

ANNUNCIATION AWAKENING RETREAT: For those who have not been before, I invite you to join us on our biannual retreat called the "Annunciation Awakening Retreat" on the weekend of March 16—18. The retreat will be held at Dunrovin Retreat Center, which is located on 50 secluded acres of national park in Marine on St. Croix, MN. At the retreat you will learn more about God the Father's tremendous love for you and have the opportunity to establish and deepen your personal relationship with Christ.

The Retreat will include: Mass, Confession opportunities, Eucharistic Adoration, Communal Prayer Times, Music, Talks by Father Park, Small Groups/Fellowship, and time for silence and rest. You can sign up for the Awakening Retreat through our parish website: www.annunciationmsp.org/church/

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: A year from now, I am teaming up with Fr. Kevin Finnegan, the pastor of Our Lady of Grace in Edina, to lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The dates for the trip are from Monday, December 31, 2018 to Friday, January 11, 2019. We will have more details in the next month or so (like the exact cost), but if you are interested in going send me an email at frpark@annunciationmsp.org and I can give you an estimated cost per person and answer any initial questions you may have. I spent three weeks in the Holy Land when I was in seminary, and to be in the places where Jesus was born, lived, worked, prayed, ministered, suffered, died, and rose from the dead was one of the greatest blessings of my life. I invite you to come and experience this for yourself!

Upcoming Wedding at Annunciation

Sunday, December 31 Jared Brown & Allison Bolgrean

We want to thank you for your prayers and concern for our daughter-in-law, Jocelyn. She was hit by a car in July and suffered a traumatic brain injury. When people asked what they could do we said, pray, pray as hard as you can. And you did. And her healing journey began. She is now five months into what doctors estimate will be a year or more recovery process. She is doing remarkably well, everyday able to do more and more. We are so grateful for the prayers and support we have received and continue to receive from our Annunciation community. Many, many thanks. The Pigozzi family, Bob and Laura Pigozzi, Steve and Jocelyn; Michael; Jack and Leslie; Rob

Heavenly Father, help us remember those who give of themselves to keep us safe and secure. Enkindle in our consciences a desire to serve those who serve their country selflessly. Give us the grace to aid those who have given aid and protection to us and others both here and overseas. Let us never forget the causes for which they fought or the bravery they showed on the battlefield. May we always be mindful of those who paid the price for our freedom. Amen.

Pray for those serving our country, especially: CDR Brad Alaniz, son of Karin Alaniz **Zach Arms,** grandson of Judy Arms LT Kevin Frederick, son of Dan & Jan Frederick Sgt Justin Garrett, son-in-law of Gayle & Judith Fleming Spc4 Benjamin Hite, grandson of Gayle & Judith Fleming Maj Jason Hite, son-in-law of Gayle & Judith Fleming Michael James, Jr, friend of Barb Marquardt Pvt Jack McMillin, grandson of Gayle & Judith Fleming Sgt Joshua McMillin, grandson of Gayle & Judith Fleming Ssg Sara Jane McMillin, daughter of Gayle & Judith Fleming **Sgt Mitchell Mishler,** grandson-in-law of Margaret Rude Jared Odendahl, nephew of Fred Krantz Lt Neil Pfau, relative of Fritzen Family Lt Peter Pfau, relative of Fritzen Family John W Quinlan, grandson of Betty Quinlan

Dear Lord, We pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests, and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry. We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5). May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse. May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross. May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love, seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls. Amen.



Countdown to Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Beginning Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Reflection Focus: The Eucharist

In the coming months we hope to open a Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapel here at Annunciation. In preparation, there will be a weekly series to help our parish community engage in this process.

This week we will start our discussion with the topic of the Eucharist. Is the Eucharist just merely bread and wine like we might have on our tables for Thanksgiving or other family/social gatherings? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life." What meaning does this have for us?

The Eucharist is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation², which "lay the foundation of every Christian life." It is also one of the great mysteries⁴ of our Catholic faith. During the Eucharistic prayers of the Mass there is a moment, called the *epiclesis*, in which "the Church asks the Father to send his Holy Spirit (or the power of his blessing) on the bread and wine, so that by His power they may become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ." We, as Catholics, believe that the simple bread and wine have truly been transubstantiated—a change of the entire substance—into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, while they still hold the appearance of simple bread and wine. This transformation "is something that 'cannot be apprehended by the senses,' says St. Thomas Aquinas, 'but only by faith, which relies on divine authority." Thus, when Father raises the chalice and host we come face to face with Jesus himself.

Let us ask the Lord to increase our faith to trust in what our eyes cannot see and that He grant us knowledge and understanding of the Eucharist, from which "the Church draws her life."

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, please grant Annunciation Church the grace of perpetual adoration.

- ¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1324
- ² Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist
- 3 CCC 1212
- ⁴ Something which is revealed by God for our understanding.
- 5 CCC 1353
- 6 CCC 1381
- 7 Ecclesia de Eucharistia(Encyclical): John Paul II, para. 1

Respect Life: For couples longing for a child: may God strengthen and comfort them as they strive to follow his plan. We pray to the Lord.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities: "An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time, and it's important that your friend knows you are thinking of her and supporting her . . . Your support might be the only support she receives. Even if we never know how, the smallest things we do can change someone's life." (10 ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting.)

Pray for Life: May every expectant mother encounter loving support as she awaits the birth of her child. usccb.org/prayforlife

The People you have helped This Past **Year:** There are many people who would like to say thanks to you if only they had the opportunity to do so. One of the things that happens frequently at Annunciation is that people who have fallen on hard times come to the parish door seeking various kinds of help. Each year we see a number of people who are truly poor. They are almost always in need of food and sometimes they are even homeless. Somehow they know that if they turn to Annunciation they will find some help that can give them some respite from their suffering. Because of your generosity in donating to our special collections at both Christmas and Easter each year, we have the funds to provide some much-needed help in the form of food and gas gift cards as well as bus tokens. Thank you!

"God is God with us, God who loves us, God who walks with us."

—Pope Francis, January 5, 2014 In speaking of the mystery of the Incarnation, Pope Francis goes on to say, "Jesus' birth, then, shows us that God wanted to unite himself to every man and woman, to each one of us, to communicate his life and his joy." During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we are invited in a special way, to focus our appreciation on the wonderful mystery of the Incarnation. We are also invited to find Jesus Incarnate especially among the poor and all whose human dignity has been compromised in any way. As their needs become clear to us, we are called to respond in whatever way we can. This winter as the Super Bowl comes to town, we will likely see rise in the number of children and adults exploited in sex trafficking. At Annunciation, we have the opportunity to join with other churches and Women's Religious Communities in support of Breaking Free's street outreach efforts at the time of the Super Bowl. Donations of food and gas gift cards, as well as monetary donations are needed to support those who will be rescued from "the life" during this time. Donations can be placed in the Mass collection or brought to our business office. Be sure to write "Breaking Free" on your envelope. Checks can be made payable to Annunciation with "Breaking Free" noted on the memo like.

Christmas Flower Offering In Memory / Honor of

Family of, Karin Alaniz R Elaine Swanson, Sandy Anderson Family of, Mr & Mrs Bill Bienemann Carole P Busch; & Mark J Busch, Mr Joseph Busch Family of, Mrs Curtis Carlson Darlene M Carroll, Mr Robert R Carroll Family of, Mr John Charles & Mrs Janet Chalberg Joan & Ken Fixmer: & Gene & Helen Farrell: & **Dolores & Howard Champley; &** John Sullivan, Mr Richard Champley & Mrs Sharon Farrell David Elliot Compton, J Michael Compton six little Angels, Mrs Helen Corkran Leo Dombeck, Mrs Antoinette Dombeck **Special Intention of, BT & Jane Duffy** Vi Frana, Georgina Frana Robert Rvan: & Bruce & Norma Frank, Mr & Mrs Mick Frank Frederick Family; & Oberg Family, Mr & Mrs Daniel Frederick Schwebach Family; & Fritzen Family, Miss Doris A Fritzen Gertrude Griebel, Miss Violet Griebel Jeanne Halloran, Gordon Halloran Kristie Grose; & Ceil & Sam Misencik, Mr & Mrs Jack Hasper Joseph, Katheryn, & Renee Heenan, Ms Ruthanne Heenan Arnold Hoecherl; & Chris Hoecherl, Mrs Margaret Hoecherl Bruce Howes, Joyce M Howes

Jim Jacques; &
Steve & Katherine Lazor; &
Bob & Ethel Jacques, Mrs Joan Jacques
Irene G Jones; &

Gerald J Jones, John Jones Denissen Family; &

Denissen Family; &

Kern Family, Mr & Mrs Thomas Kern Sr **David LaFontaine**, Mary LaFontaine

John, Sheila, Susie & Shawn Lawrow, Lawrow Family

Family of, Mr & Mrs David LePage

Linnihan Family; &

McIntosh Family, Mr & Mrs Thomas Linnihan

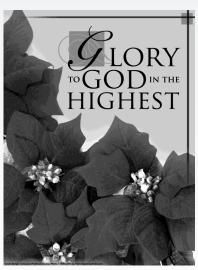
David Lunneborg; &

Emily Taylor, Don & Donna Lunneborg

Bob Michaels, Jane Michaels
Family of, Mr Robert C Nehotte
Gea Neuville, Mr Darrell Neuville

Christmas Flower Offering In Memory / Honor of

Gene F Olive, Arla B Olive John, Michael, & Paul Bowen; & Donald Olson, Anne Bowen Olson Bob O'Rourke, Mr & Mrs Daniel O'Rourke Vonnie Peppersack, Robert Peppersack **Budde Family; &** Weides Family; & Pospisil Family; & Peck Family, Mr & Mrs Mark Pospisil Roger M Rude; & Steve & Katherine Lazor; & Steve Lazor Jr; & James Lazor; Mrs Margaret Rude Harold & Lovina Scherber, D M Scherber Tom & Alice Smith, Mr & Mrs Richard H Segan Carmen & Sam Jensen, Sennentz Family Maxine Olson, Jaime, Amy, Ben & Andrew Smith Barbara Sovell; & Stanley & Joanna Sovell; & Raymond & Barbara Sovell; & Roseann Hart; & Patty Martin; Mr Donald Sovell Fr Francis Pouliot; & Beha Family; & Andy Undem, Mrs Mary Beth Undem Rev. Joseph Safrauiec; & Tony & Florence Urbaniak; & Bernard Strzyzewski; & Grazyna Strzyzewski, Mr & Mrs Jerome Urbaniak John Wickham, Mrs Suzanne Wickham Sam & Mary Ann Bracchi, Anita Witta Family of, Mr & Mrs David M Youngdale **Zydowicz Family; &** Dean Family, Dr & Mrs Daniel Zydowicz



Dear Lord, bless all families this Christmas. On this Christmas day, may we always remember amid the joys, family and presents, the reason we have this season: that you, the Eternal Son of God came to live among us as one of us and as a member of our human family. Amen.

Readings for the Week of Sunday, December 24

Today's Scripture, Gather Hymnal, #1001

Monday, December 25

Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday. December 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/ Mt 10:17-22

Entrance Antiphon:

The gates of heaven were opened for blessed Stephen, who was found to be first among the number of the Martyrs and therefore is crowned triumphant in heaven.

Responsorial Psalm:

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Communion Antiphon:

As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Wednesday, December 27

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2. 5-6. 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a. 2-8

Entrance Antiphon:

This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper, the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed and who spread the words of life through all the world.

Responsorial Psalm:

Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

Communion Antiphon:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and from his fullness we have all received.

Thursday, December 28

1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Entrance Antiphon:

The innocents were slaughtered as infants for Christ; spotless, they follow the Lamb and sing for ever: Glory to you, O Lord. Responsorial Psalm:

Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare. Communion Antiphon:

Behold those redeemed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb, and who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

Friday, December 29

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Entrance Antiphon:

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Responsorial Psalm:

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

Communion Antiphon:

Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.

Saturday. December 30

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31

Gn 15:1-6: 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6. 12-14/Ps 105:1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9. [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

LIVE THE LITURGY—INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK: Mary said: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." A simple trust in God's word allowed the Mother of God to do incredible things. As a humble servant and listener, she embraced her mission and invested herself wholeheartedly in doing what God had asked. Do we know and trust that we are being led? Often, we can feel very much alone and without a source of inspiration, guidance, and love to enlighten our path. God is with us. This is the essential message of Advent and the truth revealed to us at Christmas. We are never alone. There is no need to fear. We too, with God's help, can do incredible things.

Observances for the Week of December 24:

Sunday:

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Monday:

Christmas (holy day of obligation)

Tuesday:

St Stephen, the First Martyr

Wednesday:

St John, Apostle & Evangelist

Thursday:

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Friday:

St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

Saturday:

Next Sunday:

The Holy Family New Year's Eve



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PLAN TO JOIN US:

Saturday, January 13 Sinfonia Concert 1:00pm

Friday, January 26

AYM Coffee House

Saturday, January 27

Dancing with Annunciation Stars

Sunday, January 28

Catholic Schools Week ~ Waffle Breakfast



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Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm; Friday 8:30am-12:00 noon Fax 612.824.8232 or 612.824.9915 Email info@annunciationmsp.org

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smarple@annunciationmsp.org

Mass Schedule

Weekend

Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 9:30am & 5:30pm

Weekdays

Tuesday-5:30pm

Wednesday through Friday 8:15am

Adoration

Thursdays 8:45am-7:00pm [resumes 01/11] Please use parking lot doors.

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Tuesday 4:45pm to 5:15pm [01/02 resumes] Friday 8:45am to 9:15am [01/05 resumes] Saturday 9:30am to 10:30am

Baptisms

Please contact Fr. Park to discuss baptism prep and to schedule a date. The next baptism class will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 6:30pm to 7:30pm, Visitation Room.

Weddings

Please contact Fr. Park to discuss wedding prep and to schedule a date.

Pastoral Visitation

If anyone desires a personal visitation at home or at the hospital, call Ashleigh Varley.

Parish Registration

Please contact Fr. Park for a registration appointment.

Annunciation Parish Library Hours: Sundays before and after morning Mass. Please visit us near the main entrance of the church. Questions? Call Therese Moriarty at 612.545.8881.

Please remember Annunciation Church, Minneapolis in your will. Your bequest ensures the success of our ministry.

Mass Intentions this Weekend

Saturday, December 23

5:00pm Mass

† Fr Fintan Bromenshenkel OSB

Sunday, December 24

9:30am Mass Annunciation Parishioners 4:00pm Mass Gibbons Family 10:00pm Mass † David LaFontaine

Calendar of Events

10:00am

No School ~ Winter Break [classes resume Monday, January 8, 2018] Offices closed Monday, December 25 ~ Christmas

Tuesday, December 26 ~ Offices closed

5:30pm Mass † Doreen Chamberlin C

Mass Annunciation Parishioners C

Wednesday, December 27

8:15am Mass † Jane Halland C followed by Wednesday morning coffee CR

Thursday, December 28

8:15am Mass Seminarians

Friday, December 29 ~ Offices closed

8:15am Mass † Myra Frenz

Saturday, December 30

9:30am to	10:30am Reconciliation	C
5:00pm	Mass Annunciation Parishioners	C
6:15pm	Rehearsal	C

Sunday, December 31 ~

New Year's Eve

9:30am	Mass † Phyllis Sheehan	C
4:00pm	Wedding	C
5.30pm	Mass Helen Corkran	C

Monday, January 1~ Mary the Holy Mother of God (not a holy day of obligation in 2018) Offices closed

10:00am Mass Annunciation Parishioners C

A-Angelus Room • C-Church • CK-Church Kitchen
CR-Community Room • FS-Fireside Room
MD-Marian Dining Room • MR-Music Room
L-Parish Library • PD-Parish Center Dining Room
S-School • SA-School Auditorium • SC-Spirit Center
SL-School Library • V-Visitation Room Y-Youth Room
†-Deceased