

—St. Joseph Parish 2024 Advent Newsletter—

Visit our website www.MenomonieCatholic.org

ADVENT

hope
peace

A time of waiting and watching, a season where we focus on the light that will enter the darkness.



joy
love

Let's prepare alongside each other, by becoming present to the here and now.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24: 4:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25: 12:00 AM (Midnight), 9:30 AM

Parish Center Holiday Hours

The Parish Center will be CLOSED

December 24th and 25th

December 31st and January 1st

We Appreciate Your Generous Giving!

Please Note: ALL Year End Contributions must be received by 2:00 PM on Monday, December 30th in order to be deposited and counted toward 2024 giving.

Christmas Flowers

Call the Parish Center *before noon on Thursday, December 12* if you would like to donate money towards Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one.

MESSAGE FROM FR. MANO

What is the most unforgettable Christmas for you? We celebrate it every year. Does it increase our Joy every year or is it just another festivity? Christmas is a time of joy, celebration, and reflection. Does the birth of Jesus bring more joy or some other things (gift, family, dinner....) that make you happy in this season? It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season, but the true meaning of Christmas lies in the humble birth of Jesus Christ. This season invites us to slow down, open our hearts, and embrace the spirit of love, peace, and generosity.

Humility: The story of Christmas is one of divine humility. God chose to become man in the humblest of circumstances, a stable in Bethlehem. This teaches us the value of humility in our own lives. Christmas reminds us of God's incredible humility. Jesus, the King of Kings, was born in a humble stable. This humility can inspire us to live modestly, appreciate the simple joys in life, and treat everyone with respect and kindness.

What does humility mean to you? Can you recall a moment when you were humbled? How did it change you? In what areas of your life do you find it difficult to be humble? In what ways can you seek to embody the humility of Christ in your actions and attitudes? Do you regularly ask God for help in becoming humbler? How can you incorporate this into your prayer life?

Generosity: The gifts of the Magi to the newborn Jesus symbolize the importance of giving. This season is an opportunity to share our blessings with others, whether through acts of kindness, donations, or spending time with loved ones. Generosity isn't just about material gifts; it's about giving your time, attention, and love. Consider how you can give back to God, whether through charitable donations, volunteering at our parish, or simply offering a helping hand to those in need.

Can you recall a time when someone was generous to you? How did it make you feel? In what ways do you currently practice generosity? What barriers, if any, prevent you from being more generous? How can you incorporate generosity into your daily life, even in small ways? Do you see generosity as a form of worship or gratitude to God? How so? How can you deepen your spiritual practice through acts of generosity? Lord, help us remember the true meaning of Christmas. May we open our hearts to love, peace, generosity and humility and may we reflect your light to the world.

CHRISTMAS: MASSES, HOURS, AND FLOWERS

Christmas Flowers

Please call the Parish Center by Thursday, December 12

if you would like to donate money towards Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one.



Donations can be mailed, placed in the collection basket or bins at the Church. A list of names will be in the bulletin Christmas weekend. Please let us know how you would like the names listed, and who the flowers are from.



Parish Center Holiday Hours

The Parish Center and the Church will be closed on Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25, Tuesday December 31, and Wednesday, January 1.

St. Joe's School Christmas Break

St. Joe's School will be on Christmas break beginning December 23, resuming January 2.

Holy Days & Christmas Masses

Monday, December 9 | Immaculate Conception
8:00 AM Mass (will be livestreamed)

Tuesday, December 24 | The Nativity of the Lord
4:00 PM Children's Mass (will be livestreamed),
8:00 PM Mass

Wednesday, December 25 | The Nativity of the Lord
12:00 AM Midnight Mass, 9:30 AM Mass

Wednesday, January 1 | Solemnity of Mary
9:00 AM Mass (will be livestreamed)

January Schedule Changes for Masses

We wish Fr. Mano safe travels and a joyful visit in India. **He will be gone from December 26 through January 28.**

While Fr. Mano is gone, weekend Masses will be at the usual times. The 4:00 Saturday Mass will be streamed on YouTube ([YouTube.com/@sjmenomonie](https://www.youtube.com/@sjmenomonie)).

There will be no daily Masses December 26-January 28; however, there will be a Prayer Service Wednesdays at 8:00AM.

We will have **Friday Masses** at 10:15 AM with Fr. Jojo.

There will be no 6:00 PM Mass on Sunday, December 1, or from December 22 through January 26. The 6:00 PM Mass will resume on Sunday, February 2.



HAPPY ADVENT TO ALL OF YOU!

Advent is a time of preparation before Christmas, of waiting with expectant, joyful hearts for the arrival of Jesus, The Light of the World. In the midst of this busy but fruitful season, our school community embraces these sacred weeks with purpose and prayer, knowing that each day brings us closer to the light of Christ. Throughout Advent, we are engaging in all-school prayer services where our students and staff come together in reflection and thanksgiving. These moments of shared prayer bring a special peace, reminding us that there is profound joy and stillness to be found in God's presence. It is a privilege to see the light of Christ shine in our students, as they learn not only academics, but the values of love, service, kindness, and faith.

First Reconciliation for our second-grade class is on December 5th. Please keep these students in your prayers.

On Friday, December 6th, we are having a family service night at school, St. Joe's Night of Giving. School families will join in stuffing Christmas stockings to be donated to project SAM, tie blessing blankets for local organizations, create Christmas cards for Meals on Wheels, and decorate gingerbread houses. In addition, there will be photo props, snacks and drinks, and a lot of holiday spirit! It will be a great night!

Our Christmas program, "Mission: Archangel", will be held on Friday, December 13th in the school gym. We will have performances at 1:30 PM and 5:30 PM. All are invited to attend! I believe with all my heart that no one conveys the story of Jesus' birth better than children! Come and see for yourself!

Read on to discover the wonderful things happening at St. Joe's! We are grateful for the support of St. Joseph Parish and ask for your continued prayers for us, and know that we are praying for you, too.

May God bless each of you with peace, joy, and the warmth of His love during this Advent season.

With blessings and gratitude,

Mrs. Mary Kiefer, Principal

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Art, Mrs. Moriarty:

In the Art room, we started out the year by opening the Clay Studio. Clay projects being one of their favorites, students were very excited to dig in and get to work. Fifth grade artists each created a functional and aesthetic mug. Fourth grade artists learned about the tradition of storytelling in the Pueblo culture and created their own Storyteller sculptures. Third grade artists sculpted beautiful crosses and created texture by pressing various found objects into the clay. Second grade artists learned how to roll out a clay slab and form it into a Great Horned owl. First grade artists created a pinch pot and Kindergarten artists will be making a clay Christmas ornament.

Music, Mrs. Wacek:

Our year is off to a great start in the music room! Students in K-2 have been learning how to keep a steady beat and move their bodies to show what they hear (soft or loud, high or low, fast or slow). Grades 3-5 are learning more and more about reading music from a staff and exploring Italian music terms. The 4K friends love singing, playing instruments, and bouncing their stuffed animal "beat buddies" while listening to music. Preparing music for our Friday Masses is a big part of all our music classes. Students get to cantor at the lectern, lead from the choir, and play instruments like recorders, hand chimes, and classroom percussion instruments to beautify our worship. Save the date for our Christmas program, "Mission: Archangel" on Friday, December 13th in the school gym. We hope to see you there!

Technology and Library, Mr. Parker:

It has been great having the students back this year! Kindergarten students are in the process of learning the locations of the keys on the keyboard and what finger to use to type those keys. They all have made it about halfway through the alphabet so far and are doing excellent! 1st and 2nd grade students are working on improving their typing skills as well. Their main areas of focus are proper posture and proper hand placement on the keyboard. These students are also doing projects where they collect their thoughts and type them out onto a document. The 3rd-5th graders are also continually working on their typing skills. The higher they progress in our typing program, the harder the levels get, so they are constantly being challenged. They have also been working on various research projects, where they gather facts about topics through safe internet searches and develop documents or presentations using their information.

It is also great seeing the students in the library again! All students have been challenged to focus on checking out books that are either at their reading level or a little above it. The students have been great at finding books they can read and working on stretching their reading levels. The 3rd through 5th grade students are also learning how to find books in the library with little or no assistance. There is a digital card catalog in the library that the students can use. So far, many students are using that resource and are doing a great job with it! The younger students are also learning their way around the library and are doing a great job finding books that interest them and that can help them develop lifelong reading skills.

Phy-Ed, Mrs. Hildebrandt:

In our Physical Education program, we believe all students are special and possess a wide variety of talents and skills. Our phy-ed classes provide activities that encourage students to discover and enhance these skills. It is the perfect place to maximize the self-esteem and self-confidence of our students.

Educational Resource Specialist, Mrs. Brogan:

We have been busy in the resource room since the start of school! Students are receiving personalized academic support to meet their individual needs. This is done through one-on-one instruction, small group activities and targeted interventions to meet the needs of each child. The resource room offers a space for all children to strengthen specific skills, build confidence and succeed academically. I am so lucky to be able to work with so many students.

Pre-K, Mrs. Hildebrandt:

3K- Our preschool classroom is the first stop to begin faith formation with our 3-year-old students. As a staff we feel honored to begin the children's journey into their faith. They have learned the story of creation and God's love for us. The children are learning through cooperative play. Our days are filled with fun and learning. The children are working to count to 10, recognize their names, as well as shapes and patterns.

4K- We have a wonderful class with 18 students! Our theme has been pets and service or working dogs. The children have enjoyed pretending to be veterinarians and groomers. We have many promising future animal care givers. The children are working to recognize and write their first name as well as counting to 20 and recognizing numerals 1-10. We are learning the letters of the alphabet, and each Thursday is the letter of the week show and tell. It is the highlight of the week!

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Combined, Mrs. Scharlau:

This year our classroom has been busy with both Kindergarten and First Grade. We have been learning about plants and animals and how they grow and change. We experimented with growing our own celery plant and used pumpkins to explore the life cycle of a plant. We have been learning about different types of literature including poetry, informational texts, Fables, Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. We have been using these texts to learn, practice and build our reading and writing skills. In kindergarten we have been practicing counting to 100 and learning to recognize and write numbers to 20. In first grade we have been practicing adding and subtracting and fact families to 10. Although we have been working hard on the academics, we have also had the opportunity to build some amazing friendships.

2nd Grade, Mrs. Heike:

Second grade is off to a terrific start! Our class loves to explore with our hands and learn through projects. Students created an imaginary island using a variety of landforms and bodies of water. Using knowledge of habitats around the world they created islands where animals and plants would not only survive but thrive. If you ask our class, the highlights so far have been all about giving and bringing joy to others. They loved creating personalized water bottles in appreciation for Father Mano and decorating Mr. Koepke and Ms. Traynor's office door in thanks for all they do for our school. Kids truly are the best and have the biggest hearts! Above all, excitement is in the air in our classroom as we prepare for the special Sacrament of Reconciliation. Students are reverently learning about God's gift of forgiveness and are eager for their special day on December 5th to experience God's love in a new way.

3rd Grade, Miss Kempen:

This year the third graders learned about plant lifecycles in science class. They created a poster showing two different plant lifecycles. They then compared and contrasted their two lifecycles. The students also got to plant some seeds and watch their plants grow. For reading the third graders learned about animal adaptations. They had to create a made-up environment for a made-up animal. They needed to give their made-up animal special adaptations in order to live in their made-up environment. For social studies students created a timeline about their lives. They used pictures and events from when they were younger to show the class a timeline of their lives so far!

4th Grade, Mrs. Sobota:

The 4th grade class was eager to learn how to make rosaries! They picked it up quickly and have been enjoying making them in any spare time they can find. They are looking forward to their Rosary-A-Thon taking place on Friday November 22! They are sharpening their multiplication skills as they get into multiplying larger numbers, and really enjoyed their book study on "The One and Only Ivan" they read this fall. Many of them have gone on to read "The One and Only Bob". The students would highly recommend both books!

5th Grade, Mrs. Wyss:

The 5th grade students have been learning how to use our new Bibles. We started the year off by looking at the books of the Bible and then moved on to practicing how to look up Bible verses.

They also learned about the steps of the scientific method by creating a usable prosthetic leg out of household materials. The students were able to work together and conduct many trials to make their prosthetic leg. They were also able to touch and explore some real prosthetic limbs that we were able to borrow from Hanger Clinic: Prosthetics & Orthotics in Eau Claire.

The students have pen pals who are senior members of our parish. They exchange letters and get to know each other throughout the year. It's a great way to get to know someone from a different generation! The students learned how to address envelopes, which is also a great life lesson!



STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish Stewardship How to Donate

Thank you for supporting our parish with your financial contributions. Below are ways to make contributions to the parish. Contact Karen Adams, (715) 232-4922, with questions or to set up any of the following donation options.

Cash or check: Please make sure to note what the donation is for example: offertory, building fund, etc.

Stewardship envelopes through Our Sunday Visitor: Choose to have monthly or weekly envelopes mailed to your home. Envelopes for offertory, building fund, holy days, and special collections are included.

Direct payment & credit card payments: Set up direct payment from your account on either the 1st or 15th of the month. Or make credit card payments on our website. Visit MenomonieCatholic.org and click **Donate** button on the upper right of the Homepage click "Download Authorization Form" (or use QR Code to your right).

Payments through your Bank: These are mailed to the Parish Center. Please be sure to have the checks indicate how you'd like the money to be used.

The parish does not incur fees when you make your contributions with cash or by check. **We appreciate your payments using whatever method is most convenient for your household.**

Please Note that ALL Year End Contributions must be received by 2:00 PM on Monday, December 30 in order to be deposited and counted toward 2024 giving.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Please consider **Income Tax Giving Options** to help support our parish. *IRA RMD (Required Minimum Distribution), IRA QCD (Qualified Charitable Donation), Appreciated stock and other investments, corporate Gift Match, Estate Bequests, Life insurance beneficiary designation* are some of the ways to donate. To set up Income Tax Giving Options please contact your plan advisor/representative for advice and processing.

Scan QR Code with your Phone
for Ways to Give

Direct Contribution
Form



Donate to
St. Joseph Parish/School
PayPal or Debit/Credit Card



CHOIR

PLEASE SHARE YOUR TALENT!

**ACCOMPANIST AND CANTORS NEEDED FOR
ALL MASSES!**

CONTACT : BETH.WACEK@MENOMONIECATHOLIC.ORG



**UPCOMING CHOIR
REHERSALS:**

Traditional Choir
December 11th, 18th & 22nd

Guitar Choir
December 17th, January 15th

SCRIP

Scrip is now RaiseRight



RaiseRight gift cards make the perfect Christmas gift AND you fundraise for our parish and school while doing your own everyday shopping for gas, groceries and more.

We keep many cards in stock, and others can be ordered to arrive in a week. Access order form from the bottom of our website under **QuickLinks (>SCRIP Form)**, or visit RaiseRight.com/shop to see a full list of retailers.

- Get your order in soon to ensure the cards arrive before Christmas.

—Get the App—

(scan the QR code with your smartphone camera)

Raise Right - Scrip
St. Joseph Enrollment
code: 7CC434C99546



Thank you for supporting St. Joe's Parish & School with RaiseRight gift cards for your everyday (and not so everyday) purchases!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION | DECEMBER 16 | 6:00 PM



Join us Monday, December 16 at 6:00 PM in the Church for a Parish Advent Reconciliation Service.

ADVENT ADORATION

Let Every Heart
Prepare Him Room



ADVENT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION WITH
MUSIC, SCRIPTURE, REFLECTION,
AND BENEDICTION

DECEMBER 19TH
6 PM - 7 PM

PARISH COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (PCCW)



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH 31ST ANNUAL PCCW

Christmas COOKIE WALK

 **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**
1:00-3:00 PM
CHARLES HALL 

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH LOWER LEVEL
921 WILSON AVE, MENOMONIE
ELEVATOR ACCESSIBLE

Homemade Christmas cookies and candies for sale by the pound.

ST. JOE'S QUILTERS WILL ALSO HAVE CRAFTS FOR SALE

*PLAN TO ATTEND THIS FESTIVE OCCASION,
AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!*



Calling all St. Joe's Women!



It's time for our Christmas Cookie Walk!

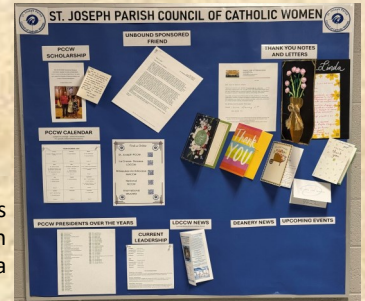
- * Donations of 3-4 dozen Christmas cookies and/or candies are appreciated.
- * Monthly chair callers will be contacting you soon.
- * Donations may be dropped off at the church on Friday, December 13th from 7 AM-6:30 PM or Saturday, December 14th from 7-9:30 AM.
*** Curbside drop off available on Friday, December 13th from 4:30-6:30 PM.
- * Volunteers are needed to help sort and plate up the cookies on Saturday beginning at 9 AM and then with clean-up when the walk ends at 3:00 PM. Please contact Linda if you are interested at 715-505-3777 or linda.lu.young@gmail.com

If you want to contribute but don't remember getting a call—bring your cookies/candies to the church basement. We would appreciate receiving them for this wonderful event!!

Your 2025 PCCW leaders are:

President—Marianne Canon
Vice-President—Colleen Berg
Secretary—Wendy Maves
Treasurer—Linda Kostuch

Don't forget to stop down at Charles Hall and check out our new Bulletin Board on the east end AND pick up a copy of our updated brochure!



*Thank you all for a wonderful year!
Christmas Blessings to you all—
Linda Young, 2024 PCCW President.*

~Women of Faith transforming the world through prayer & action.~

PARISH EVENTS



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
AFTER THE 10:15 MASS

MANY HELPING HANDS ARE NEEDED! ALL AGES WELCOME!

CHURCH DECORATING EVENT!
Join us as we assist the decorating team in transforming our church into a beautiful space for the Christmas season.



BIBLE STUDY NEW SESSION



Peter

The character of St. Peter is both inspiring and confounding to many of us. How could a stubborn and impulsive fisherman become the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church? Bringing together biblical accounts, historical evidence, Church teaching, classical art, and personal insights, Dr. Tim Gray gives a fresh perspective on Simon Peter that is immediately informative and relevant to our lives. After all, if Jesus could bring out the very best in someone like Peter, then there is hope for the rest of us.

BEGINS JANUARY 13TH
MONDAYS 6 PM OR TUESDAYS 10 AM

Sign up today:

nicki.welsch@menomonicatholic.org

PARISH EVENTS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Please Note: The FRIENDSHIP HOUSE is located at 903 Wilson Ave., on the corner of Wilson Ave. and 9th St. E.

Brothers & Brew

Est. 4.28.2022

9am @The Friendship House

Meeting Dates:

Dec 19
Jan 30
Feb 27
Mar 27
Apr 24
May 29

Inviting
All Men for
Coffee,
Camaraderie
&
Conversation



COFFEE & COMMUNITY

9 AM @ THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

*fueled by happy thoughts
and friends*

ALL WOMEN OF
THE PARISH ARE
WELCOME



Meeting Dates:

Dec 5
Jan 2
Feb 6
Mar 6
Apr 3
May 1

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME
"CONNECTIONS, COMMUNITY AND CONVERSATION"

Meeting Dates:

Dec 17
Jan 14
Feb 18
Mar 18
Apr 22
May 13

-BRING A SNACK OR YOUR APPETITE
-DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED

9am @ The Friendship House



KC'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

With St. Nick

Cost: Free will donations to help local seminarians.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH | 9:30-11:45 AM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH | CHARLES HALL



Christmas MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
AFTER THE 4 PM MASS

NOW SHOWING: FR. MANO'S FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MOVIE

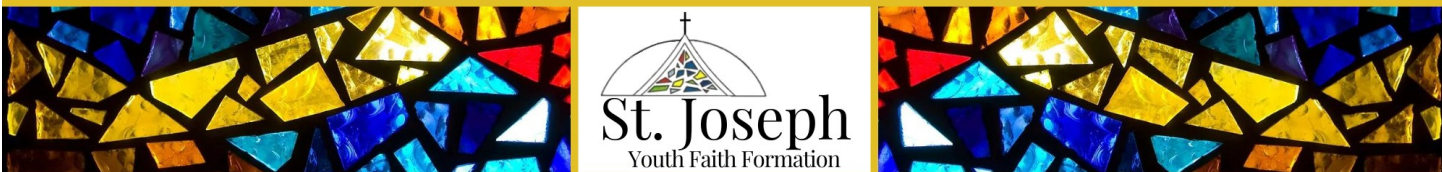
APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES

Gather your loved ones, cozy up, and join us for a heartwarming Christmas Movie Night. Enjoy the magic of the season on the big screen, complete with festive treats and holiday cheer.

LOCATION: PARISH CENTER
SCHOOL GYM

FEEL FREE TO BRING A CHAIR OR
BLANKET. CONFERENCE ROOM
CHAIRS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR
YOUR USE.

CONTACT NICKI.WELSCH@MENOMONIECATHOLIC.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS



The 2024-2025 Faith Formation year is off to a great start! Thank you all for your support of building up the youth within our parish community!

We have 233 children in grades 1-10 registered in the parish. 115 of these children, from 74 families, are participating in Faith Formation programming.

Elementary

Elementary aged children (grades 1 through 5) meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month. We have 10 catechists leading 45 Elementary children.

Middle School

Middle School (grades 6 through 8) children meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. 37 children are lead by a team of 10 catechists.

Confirmation

Once a month, on the first Sunday, 33 High Schoolers (grades 9 and 10) come together, with 14 catechists, to prepare themselves for the sacrament of Confirmation.



Congratulations

Along with 4 students from Elmwood, 17 students from St. Joseph Parish received the sacrament of Confirmation during the October 19, 2024 Mass with Bishop Battersby!

Continue to keep these students in your prayers as they embrace the fullness of their Catholic faith. May they continue to deepen their connection to God and the Church that was established at Baptism. May their faith continue to guide them as they prepare for graduation and college!



Back: Owen Pritchard, Jackson Pfeilsticker, Davin Ellis, Max Branch, Jake Anderson, Luke Pember
Middle: Isaac Williams, Will Engel, Rachel Riepl, Riley Johnson, Caitlin Dunbar
Front: Tammy Christianson, Aiden Christianson, Annmary Gray, Aubrey Johnson, Bishop Battersby, Veronica Luoma, Dylan Watkins, Isabelle Baier, Father Mano



ADVENTURE CAMP

Students in grades 6-12 have the opportunity to sign up for Adventure Camp—a week-long summer camp sponsored by the Diocese of La Crosse and hosted at CrossWoods Adventure Camp in Mason, WI. There are 3 date options being offered this year:

Option 1: June 22-27, 2025

Option 2: July 6-11, 2025

Option 3: July 27-August 1, 2025

If this is something your child would be interested in please let me know! More information can also be found on the Diocese website (<https://diolc.org/yva/youth-opportunities/adventure-camp/>).

OUR FALL SEMESTER

The first half of our fall semester has certainly been grace-filled. We have seen increased attendance at our events and an enthusiasm for StoutCatholic among incoming students. Our student leaders have done a great job at being intentional about this and making StoutCatholic an inviting community. Some highlights from the semester include:

- New friends at our weekly Thursday dinners! We have had between 24-30 students in attendance each week.
- Three student-led fall Bible studies. We are diving into salvation history this semester with "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible."
- Our eighth annual Koinonia retreat co-hosted with UW-River Falls. Students grew in friendship, shared their faith, prayed for each other, and had a chance to meet Bishop Battersby.

As we continue the school year, please keep myself and the students in your prayers that we may continue to be attentive to the ways that God is at work in our lives and on our campus.

Becca Sheahan
Director of Catholic Campus Ministry | stoutcatholic.org



THANKFUL TO BE A PART OF ST. JOSEPH'S

We recently celebrated our second annual Friendsgiving with the parish. Students and parishioners gathered in Charles Hall for a potluck meal and time of fellowship. This continues to be a lively evening and a fun way for our communities to get to know each other! If you haven't been able to make it, we encourage you to keep an eye out for next year's event.

As always, we are so thankful for St. Joseph's continued support of campus ministry and are grateful to be a part of the parish. God bless!

DECEMBER DATES OF ADVENT

1 Set up your Advent Wreath.



2 Choose an ornament or two from the Giving Tree.



3 Watch a video on Formed.org



4 Make art and deliver it to a nursing home.



5 Choose your favorite charity, donate and make a difference in the world!



6 St. Nicholas Day: Learn about the St. Nicholas.



7 Do a secret act of kindness for someone today.



8 Attend the St. Nick Pancake breakfast and help sponsor a local seminar.



9 Attend Mass celebrating the Immaculate Conception Feast Day.



10 Send a thank you card to someone who has blessed you.



11 Find a name and address in the parish directory and send a Christmas card.



12 Compliment 5 people today



13 Spread cheer by gifting your homemade Christmas cookies to a neighbor or the cookie walk.



14 Visit the cookie walk and participate in Movie Night in the school gym.



15 Volunteer to help the poor or feed the hungry



16 Attend Advent Reconciliation



17 Leave a thank-you note for your mail carrier.



18 Spend some quiet time in church.



19 Attend Advent Adoration. Spend time with Jesus, the reason for the season!



20 Perform a random act of kindness!



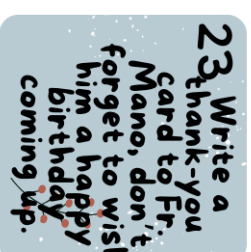
21 Go out and look at Christmas lights.



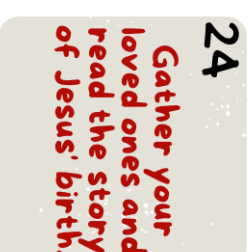
22 Help decorate the church after the 10:15 Mass.



23 Write a thank-you card to Fr. Mano, don't forget to wish him a happy birthday coming up.



24 Gather your loved ones and read the story of Jesus' birth.



ADVENT 2024

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Center Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM (Closed: December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st)

Phone: 715.232.4922 | Fax: 715.232.4923 | Website: MenomonieCatholic.org

January Mass Schedule: Sat 4:00 PM; Sun 8:30 & 10:15 AM

Private Confession (Church): Sat 3:00 PM | Adoration (Church): Tuesdays 7:00 AM-3:00 PM

Pastor: Fr. Mano, fr.mano@menomoniecatholic.org

Principal: Mary Kiefer, mary.kiefer@menomoniecatholic.org

Business Manager: Karen Adams, karen.adams@menomoniecatholic.org

School Administrative Assistant:

Parish Administrative Assistant: Linda Young, linda.young@menomoniecatholic.org

Music & Liturgy: Beth Wacek, beth.wacek@menomoniecatholic.org

Parish Life Ministries: Nicki Welsch, nicki.welsch@menomoniecatholic.org

Religious Education: Tammy Christianson, tammy.christianson@menomoniecatholic.org

Director of StoutCatholic: Becca Sheahan, director@stoutcatholic.org

Choice Program: Maribeth Hartung, maribeth.hartung@menomoniecatholic.org

Join Our Parish Community:

Contact Nicki Welsch, or click on "Join Our Parish" at : MenomonieCatholic.org.

St. Joseph Grade School:

Serving children 3 years old through 5th grade. We are a 4K program site and a Wisconsin Parental Choice Program school. Registration for the school year is ongoing. Contact Principal Mary Kiefer with questions or to set up a tour.

Baptisms:

Contact Nicki Welsch for information and to schedule a baptism.

Weddings:

Contact the Parish Center at least 6 months before your wedding to set up a meeting with Fr. Mano and begin preparation.

The **Parish Finance Council** consists of appointed members who work with the pastor and act justly and prudently in formation and administration of the parish's financial policies, budget and long range planning.

Finance Council Members

Fr. Mano
Karen Adams
Larry Feiler
Priscilla Fuhrman
John Heike
Jeff Krumenauer *Chairperson*
Shirley Riedmann

The **Parish Pastoral Council** is a consultative body to the pastor with elected and appointed members to help define, plan, prioritize, and carry out the mission of our parish.

Pastoral Council Members

Katie Baier
Anna Beckman
Debra Berends
Karen Brunner
John Heike
Jason Horzewski *Chairperson*
Laura Knudsen
Katie Mrdutt
Dan Wengel
Duane Zweber

Knights of Columbus:

Catholic men age 17 ½ and older are invited to join the Knights. Scan this QR code with a smartphone/tablet. Enter your info and you will be contacted by a local member. Or contact Bob Brahmstadt
Grand Knight at
KC2055GK@gmail.com.



Snow Days/Inclement Weather Policy for the Parish & School

St. Joseph Parish Center will close, and School and Faith Formation will be cancelled if the Menomonie School District declares a snow day, or early release day. (School closings are posted on a variety of local TV and radio stations).

Scheduled Masses will be held as usual—the church will be locked until an hour before Mass.

If a declared snow day is a **Tuesday**, **Tuesday's Table WILL NOT** serve a meal that night.

Leaders for other parish & school ministries/activities: It is suggested that all meetings/activities be cancelled.

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