



**HOLY TRINITY**

317 West Fifth Street, Haugen  
715-234-2508

**Masses**

Wednesday 8:15AM  
Sunday 8:30AM



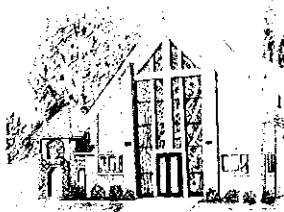
**OUR LADY OF LOURDES-Dobie**

2411 23rd Street, Rice Lake  
715-234-2917

Parish Center: 715-234-6268

**Masses**

Friday 8:15AM  
Saturday 4:00PM  
Sunday 10:00AM

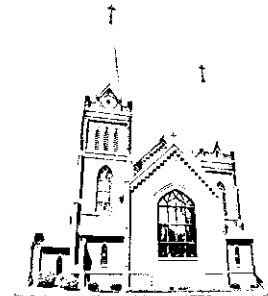


**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

408 South Main Street, Birchwood  
715-354-3704

**Masses**

Thursday 8:30AM  
Sunday 11:30AM



**ST. JOSEPH**

111 West Marshall Street, Rice Lake  
715-234-2032

**Masses**

Tuesday 5:30PM  
Wednesday 8:30AM  
Thursday & Friday 7:00AM  
Saturday 4:30PM  
Sunday 8:30AM, 10:30AM,  
& 5:30PM

# Holy Trinity Our Lady of Lourdes St. John the Evangelist St. Joseph

Reverend Ed Anderson, Pastor ext. 1  
Reverend Samuel Schneider, Associate Pastor ext. 8  
Deacon: Dennis Geisler

**Cluster Contact Information:**

111 West Marshall Street, Rice Lake, WI 54868  
715-234-2032 Fax: 715-234-7757

Website: [www.stjosephricelake.org](http://www.stjosephricelake.org) Email: [stjoseph@chibardun.net](mailto:stjoseph@chibardun.net)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

**Business Manager:** Aaron Hendricks, ext. 6

**Cluster Office Staff:** Shannon Wahl, ext. 0

Sandi Sirianni, ext. 2

**Religious Education Office:** Cluster Catechetical Leader: Rose Schullo, ext. 5

CRE/Youth Minister: Laura Schissel, ext.5

CRE: Kristine Deering, Office: 715-234-2508

Home: 715-234-2348

Youth Minister: Jessica Romportl, ext. 5

Office Assistant: Rachael Hartman, ext. 5

**Parish Nurse Office:** Mondays 10:00 AM – Noon

Mary Jo Bednarek, R.N. and Karen Novotny, R.N.

**St. Joseph School:** Principal: Jerry Van Dyke, ext. 4

Office Administrator: Julie Mazourek, ext. 3

**Baptism:** Parents/God-Parents must arrange to attend a preparation class.  
Contact the cluster office.

**Reconciliation:** Individual Reconciliation is available by appointment or as  
scheduled in the bulletin.

**Matrimony:** Arrangements must be made at least six months before a tentative  
date is set. Contact the cluster office.

**Rite of Christian Initiation:** This is a process of faith sharing and liturgical  
celebrations to become Catholic. Contact the cluster office.

**Perpetual Adoration:** You are invited to be an adorer at Our Lady of Lourdes  
715-296-4279 and/or St. Joseph 715-736-3266.

Adorers pray 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Call for more information.

**New "Parishioners"** are welcome to register in our parish communities.

Registration packets available at the cluster office or at each church.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Announcements and information for the bulletin must be  
in the cluster office by 4:00 PM Monday.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2017

MASSES AND INTENTIONS DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>-DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

Monday	7:00 AM	St. Joseph	Communion Service
Tuesday	5:30 PM	St. Joseph	Michael Baribeau ✦
Wednesday	8:15 AM	Holy Trinity	Alice Kaczmarek ✦
	8:30 AM	St. Joseph	Greg Huset ✦
Thursday	7:00 AM	St. Joseph	Frances Prock ✦
	8:30 AM	St. John the Evangelist	Brian Knapmiller ✦
	9:45 AM	Dove Healthcare	All Souls ✦
Friday	7:00 AM	St. Joseph	Shari Scribner ✦
	8:15 AM	Our Lady of Lourdes	Christine DeFoe ✦
Saturday	4:00 PM	Our Lady of Lourdes	Bernard Taylor ✦
	4:30 PM	St. Joseph	Ole Svacina ✦
Sunday	8:30 AM	St. Joseph	Laura Schneider ✦
	8:30 AM	Holy Trinity	For the People of Our Cluster Parishes
	10:00 AM	Our Lady of Lourdes	Grace Oberts ✦
	10:30 AM	St. Joseph	Sister Bonnie Alho ✦
	11:30 AM	St. John the Evangelist	Dan Schmidt ✦
	4:00 PM	Holy Trinity	For All the Children of the World
	4:30 PM	St. Joseph	For All the Children of the World
	6:00 PM	St. John the Evangelist	For All People Traveling This Holiday
	8:30 PM	Our Lady of Lourdes	May All People Experience Peace & Joy This Season
	10:00 PM	St. Joseph	May All People Receive the Christ Child Into Their Hearts

PLEASE NOTE THAT ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, THERE WILL NOT BE A 5:30 PM MASS.

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>-DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

<u>Holy Trinity</u>	<u>St. Joseph</u>
<p><b>8:30 AM Sunday</b>—                      Altar Servers: Kyrstin Hanson and Anna Drost                      Reader: Cindy Westphal                      Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Walt &amp; Bev Organ, Jane Rousar, Pat Kennedy, Jan Slayton                      Ushers: Jerry Kaczmarek, Nicole Stodola, Louis &amp; Kathy Willger  <i>*Please refer to your schedule for liturgical ministries for Christmas Eve Mass.*</i></p>	<p><b>4:30 PM Saturday</b>—                      Altar Servers: Brian &amp; Matthew Schoenfuss (any server present)                      Reader: Sue Peterson                      Gift Bearers: Diane Malinovsky and Marge Mueller                      Greeters: Marge Willkom, Dorothy I. Anderson                      Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Joannie Rado, Diane Wallock, Duane &amp; Ann Barker, Loretta Brunclik, Brenda Hanson, Donna Klossner                      Fellowship Bakers: Janet Bartels, Dorothy Berg, Lynda Stoeberl                      Fellowship Servers: Sue Peterson                      Scrip Sales: Lynda Wyse</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Our Lady of Lourdes</u></b></p> <p><b>4:00 PM Saturday</b>—                      Altar Servers: Sydney &amp; Kendel Staut                      Reader: JulieAnne Johnson                      Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Marilyn Ward, Ron Derousseau, Deb Neuheisel                      Hospitality: Tom Gerber, Lloyd &amp; Donna Meinen, Jacob Tomesh                      Scrip: Patty Dykstra</p>	<p><b>8:30 AM Sunday</b>—                      Altar Servers: Kendra Richter (any servers present)                      Reader: Gene Sirianni                      Gift Bearers: Pat &amp; Evie Rohlik                      Greeters: Gary &amp; Sue Schieffer                      Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Jack &amp; Joyce Nelson, Randy &amp; Jayne Stewart, Greg &amp; Sandy Swanson, Jane Ullrich                      Fellowship Bakers: Carmen Boortz, Sue Pelto, Sandra Robarge, Bev Stoeklen                      Fellowship Servers: Larry &amp; Ruth Sinclair                      Scrip Sales: Jeff/Sue Haughian</p>
<p><b>10:00 AM Sunday</b>—                      Altar Servers: Riley Tomesh and Mitchell Klatt                      Reader: Clyde Drost                      Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Bill Rademaker, Mary Schnacky, Bob Lapacinski, Theresa Hesebeck, Mary Alice Larson                      Children's Liturgy of the Word: None                      Hospitality: Kayla Derousseau, Rod &amp; Carol Olson, Scott &amp; Colleen Johnson Family                      Scrip: Aleesha Drost  <i>*Sign-up sheets are available in the Sacristy for anyone wishing to sign up for the Christmas Eve/Day Masses.*</i></p>	<p><b>10:30 AM Sunday</b>—                      Altar Servers: Faith, Lily &amp; Luke Peters                      Reader: Bob Rogalla                      Gift Bearers: Brent &amp; Barb Burns                      Greeters: Angela Beranek Family                      Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: David &amp; Yvonne Swanson, Phyllis Checkalski, Bob Fox, Leah Goettl, Sue Johnston, Sarah Klonowski                      Children's Liturgy of the Word: Mary Kay Handorf                      Fellowship Bakers: Cindy Broker, Patricia Heino, Jean Swanson                      Fellowship Servers: Sue Peterson                      Scrip Sales: Charron/Paternina  <i>Sign-up sheets are available in the back of the Church for anyone wishing to sign up for the Christmas Eve/Day Masses.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>St. John the Evangelist</u></b></p> <p><b>11:30 AM Sunday</b>—                      Server: Abby Greisen                      Reader: Shelley Jilek                      Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Russell Kemp, Linda Herscher, Donna Bothun                      Sacristan: Bob Herscher  <i>*Please refer to your schedules for liturgical ministries on Christmas Eve.*</i></p>	

## PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS, DEACONS, SEMINARIANS AND PARISHIONERS

This week we pray for Very Rev. James Tobolski; Deacon Arthur Gil de Lamadrid; Daniel Tracy; and for the Christopher & Char Mlejnek Family from Holy Trinity, Rodney & Averleen Ressie Family from Our Lady of Lourdes, Douglas & Barbara Fischer Family from St. John the Evangelist, and Jose De La O & Erika Ramirez Family from St. Joseph.

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS?**—St. Joseph Prayer Network: Contact Shannon Wahl at 715-234-2032 (Daytime) or 715-458-1648 (Evening). Holy Trinity, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John the Evangelist Prayer Chain: Contact Donna Meinen at 715-234-6542. Holy Trinity, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John the Evangelist Email Prayer Network: Contact: [aydaigle@gmail.com](mailto:aydaigle@gmail.com).

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**—If you or someone you know becomes sick or hospitalized and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the cluster parish office at 715-234-2032. Also, let us know if you or someone else would like to be added to our prayer list. Please pray for the following people: Mary Bilodeau, Marcus Uchytel, Samuel Uchytel, Renee Watrud, Linda Stodola, Ardyth Opsdahl, Corinne Lewis, Joannie Denison, Jeffrey James Lewis, Mary Malinovsky, Josephine Zahurance, Robert Stoker, Sr. Claudine Balio, Rita Angell, Rhoda Schnacky, Tom Birhanzel, Stella Blake, Gerhardt Groehler, Theresa Weinert, Tristian Vobornik, Gil Daniel, Beverly Norelius, Nicole Stodola, Mike Johnston, Lanor Relford, Jim Richie, Tena Cunningham, Gary & Carol Fifarek, John Hanley, Melissa Howard, Kevin Mikyska, Mary Jo Krovoza, Fr. Eugene Hornung, Gary Bauer, Jerry Felten, Joe Malinovsky, Mike Cich, Pat Weseli, Laverne & Elizabeth Fossum, Jan Nichols, Chris Davis, Pat Finnegan, Taylor Willger, Arlene Harris, Joe Sirianni, Karen Ferguson, Carol Richter, Gorman Hayes, Rod Olson, Gloria O'Flanagan, Donald Skopec, Jr., Josie Romanowski, Barbara Mancl, Lanny Quinn, Noah Isham, Nancy Emerson, Kathleen Roux, Joshua Anderson-West, Steven Krause, Katie Rogalla, Ty Herrman, Molly Fee, Kate Heffner, Jean Robarge, Don Schleiss, Brittney Wellvang, Omar O'Connell, Lloyd & Adeline Meier, Jason Gabriel, Melissa Dollaway, Richard Dostal, Laura, Ava & Gabe Sierra, Louise Jilek, Dolores Miller, Vern Brust, Gerry Grant, Candy Hayes, Lorraine Richter, Marge Long, Charlotte Grilley, Paul Blaeser, Richard Hokanson, Irene Dodge, Joy Ranallo, Bob McGarvey and Eugene Effertz.

**REST IN PEACE**—Kathy Arneberg died on Saturday, December 9. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on Friday, December 15, with burial in the Church cemetery. Please pray for Kathy and her family.



### WEDDING BANNS—

*I. Adam Schwab and Kristie Sommerfeld – Our Lady of Lourdes*

### VOCATION VIEW

Rejoice; never cease praying. Let us never cease praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

## Adoration Chapel

At Our Lady of Lourdes  
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

JESUS invites you to come and  
Spend 1 Hour with Him each week.  
*“Come to Me, all you who are weary  
and find life burdensome,  
and I will refresh you.”* Matthew 11:28



The available open hours are:

**SUNDAY** - 7AM, 8AM, 2:00pm

**MONDAY** - 2:00 pm

**TUESDAY** – 11:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY** – 8AM (Until April) Midnight

**THURSDAY** - 2AM, 11:00pm

**FRIDAY** – 3AM, 11AM (Every other week),  
7:00pm (Every other week)

**SATURDAY** - Midnight, 11AM (Every other week)  
Noon, 1:00pm (2X each month) 7:00pm, 8:00pm,  
10:00pm, 11:00pm

Adoration Phone: 715-296-4279

You are invited to take an hour for 4 weeks.  
Call to talk to someone today! God Bless You!

## PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ST. JOSEPH – COME SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS!

*“Make reparation for the ingratitude of men. Spend an hour in prayer to appease divine justice, to implore mercy for sinners, to honor me, to console me for my bitter suffering when abandoned by my apostles, when they did not watch one hour with me.”*

Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

You are invited to spend an hour adoring Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Adorers pray **24 hours** a day in our chapel and **ALL** are welcomed. The following hours are still in need of a scheduled Adorer. If this hour does not work for you, please prayerfully consider any hour during the week to visit the chapel. Please call Kelly Orr (715-736-3266) with any questions.



Hourly Adorer	7:00-8:00 am Sundays
Hourly Adorer	8:00-8:30 am Sundays (before Mass)
Hourly Adorer	5:00-5:30 pm on Sundays (before Mass)
Hourly Adorer	2:00-3:00 am Mondays
Hourly Adorer	2:00-3:00 am Tuesdays
Hourly Adorer	1:00-2:00 am Wednesdays
Hourly Adorer	1:00-2:00 am Thursdays
Hourly Adorer	12:00 pm-1:00 pm Fridays
Hourly Adorer	4:00-5:00 pm Fridays
Hourly Adorer	12:00-1:00 pm Saturdays
Hourly Adorer	1:00-2:00 pm Saturdays
Hourly Adorer	7:00-8:00 pm Saturdays
Hourly Adorer	8:00-9:00 pm Saturdays

## EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

<b>18 Monday</b> 6:00 AM @ KC Hall <i>The Bible and the Sacraments</i> 6:00 PM @ OLOL Adoration Holy Hour For Vocations 7:00 PM Confessions @ St. Joseph	<b>19 Tuesday</b> 6:00 PM @ St. Joseph School Christmas Choir/Band/Strings 7:00 PM @ KC Hall Knights of Columbus Meeting	<b>20 Wednesday</b> Religious Education Masses 4:00 PM @ St. Joseph 6:30 PM @ St. OLOL 7:10 PM @ St. Joseph	
<b>21 Thursday</b> 6:30 PM @ St. Joseph School Christmas Pageant	<b>22 Friday</b> 6:15 PM @ St. Joseph Christmas Mass Rehearsal	<b>23 Saturday</b>	<b>24 Sunday</b> (Regular Sunday Morning Mass schedule remains the same) Christmas Eve Masses 4:00 PM @ Holy Trinity 4:30 PM @ St. Joseph 6:00 PM @ St. John's 8:30 PM @ OLOL 10:00 PM @ St. Joseph

### A LOOK AHEAD

<b>25 Monday</b> The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day Masses 9:00 AM @ St. Joseph 10:00 AM @ OLOL All Offices & Buildings are closed (Adoration Chapels remain open)	<b>26 Tuesday</b> NO SCHOOL All Offices & Buildings are closed (Adoration Chapels remain open)	<b>27 Wednesday</b> NO SCHOOL	
<b>28 Thursday</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>29 Friday</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>30 Saturday</b> 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM Confessions @ St. Joseph	<b>31 Sunday</b> Regular Mass schedule (See bulletin for details regarding January 1 <sup>ST</sup> Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)

### STEWARDSHIP

Week of December 10, 2017	Holy Trinity	Our Lady of Lourdes	St. John the Evangelist	St. Joseph
Adult Envelopes	1336.00	3345.00	2261.00	5156.00
ACH Contributions				
Loose Collection	98.00	356.35	96.80	694.47
* Miscellaneous Envelopes	115.00	528.01	110.00	1695.00
**Miscellaneous	6.00	1848.33		731.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>1555.00</b>	<b>6077.69</b>	<b>2467.80</b>	<b>8276.52</b>
Building/Maintenance Fund	15.00	25.00		30.00
* This is Energy, Insurance, Holy Day, and other envelopes in your contribution packets. ** This is fellowship, candles, etc.				

#### ***STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT***

*All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?*

## PARISH OPPORTUNITIES

### THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS FALL ON CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN 2017

When a Sunday and another holy day of obligation occur on two successive days, assistance at a single evening Mass on the first of the days does not fulfill the dual obligation. Two distinct Masses must be attended within the two respective 24 hour periods, or separately anticipated.

In 2017, Dec. 25 (Christmas) falls on a Monday and is a holy day of obligation. Unlike Jan. 1 (The Solemnity of Mary), Aug. 15 (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) and Nov. 1 (All Saints) where our obligation to attend Mass is lifted if they occur on a Saturday or Monday - this allowance for convenience is not true for Christmas. Catholics also have the obligation to attend Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent (either on that day or anticipated the evening before, as usual). One Mass cannot fulfill both obligations.

### 2017 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

*December 18: St. Joseph at 7:00 pm until finished*

#### DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

*We will have our regularly scheduled Sunday morning Masses (See bulletin for more information regarding the Fourth Sunday of Advent)*

#### DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

*4:00 pm Mass at Holy Trinity  
4:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph  
6:00 pm Mass at St. John the Evangelist  
8:30 pm Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes  
10:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph*

#### DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

#### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

*9:00 am Mass at St. Joseph  
10:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes*

#### JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> NEW YEAR'S DAY

#### THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD,

**Is NOT a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION this year;**

**however, there will be two Masses in the  
cluster on that day for anyone wishing to attend**

*9:00 am at St. Joseph  
10:00 am at Our Lady of Lourdes*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:16-38
Thursday	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45
Friday	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**“THE COOKING PRIEST” TO VISIT RICE LAKE**  
You’ve seen him on TV—now **Father Leo Patalinghug**, “the Cooking Priest”, is coming to Rice Lake for a fun-filled evening of cooking, faith, and a bit of karate. Adults & ages 11+ are invited to this “Grace Before Meals” special event on **Wed., Jan. 17th, starting at 6:15p at St. Joseph’s School Gymnasium**. You’ll be inspired by Fr. Leo’s dynamic messages and handy cooking tips, delivered while he prepares a favorite dessert recipe for the audience to try. There’s a place for YOU at this table!

**REGISTER** by January 8th at: [www.bit.ly/FrLeo18](http://www.bit.ly/FrLeo18)

**Cost:** Free-will offering **Contact:** Laura Schissel, 715-234-2032 ext. 5

### **Cluster Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites all knitters and crocheters from the cluster parishes to join us in the St. Joseph Church Hall. We meet the second Monday of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm or the fourth Monday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm. Bring your needles. Yarn will be provided. Come and join us on Monday, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

### **Coming Soon: Brand New Church Bulletin!!**

Starting the weekend of February 11<sup>th</sup>, The Four Parishes will have a BRAND NEW Church Bulletin. It will save the Parish a lot of time and money and have a professional look with vibrant FULL COLOR. During the weeks of December 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, Gina Shaughnessy, our parish representative from the new printer, Liturgical Publications, Inc., will be in our parish office working on setting up the advertising for our new bulletin. Please consider advertising in the bulletin, since the revenue from the ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to the parishes. It’s a terrific way to get your name in front of the parish families, business owners, and visitors at the church.

Advertisements can be purchased for a business, for a family, or a sponsorship ad for a non-profit organization. This is a great way for businesses to promote what they do, while at the same time connecting with the community, and benefitting the church at the same time.

Please do give these ideas some thought. We need and appreciate your help!

If you are interested in participating, or just curious as to prices and want more information, please call Gina Shaughnessy at (952) 356-6488, or call her at the parish office during these two weeks at (715) 234-2032. You can also email Gina anytime at: [gshaughnessy@4LPi.com](mailto:gshaughnessy@4LPi.com)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
OPPORTUNITIES  
(GR. PK – ADULT)**

**Our Cluster Religious Education Welcomes You**

You are invited and welcome to bring your child/family to our cluster religious education classes at any time throughout the year. Please call Rachael at 715.234.5062 ext. 5 or email her at [rhartman@chibardun.net](mailto:rhartman@chibardun.net) and we will get you registered. We and the Lord want you ☺

**Second Semester Cluster Religious Education**

Our second semester of cluster religious education will begin on Wednesday, January 10, at the regular times. We look forward to starting the New Year with our children.

**Cluster New Adult Bible Study Beginning in January**

We will begin a DVD study on "The Prophets: Messengers of God's Grace", at OLOL on Sunday, January 7, 6:30-8:00 pm, in the Parish Center. Vern Pottinger will be our facilitator for this study. You are welcome to call him @ 715.236.3165 with any questions or to let him know you plan to attend. There is no cost and everyone is welcome to come and join the discussion and learning on January 7.

**St. Joseph Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is Seeking a Few Volunteers**

On Sunday's at the 10:30 Mass we offer CLOW during the Liturgy of the Word. The children ages 4 & up are invited to go downstairs to hear the Sunday readings and a reflection at their own level. If you volunteer to serve our Lord and our cluster families in this way we will give you training and excellent materials to use. You would be placed on a rotating schedule not more than once a month. You prepare at home and it only takes 15 to 20 minutes on the Sunday you are scheduled to be the leader. For more information or if you might be interested in serving in this capacity please call Rose @ the cluster religious education office, 715.234.5062 ext. 5.

**WARRIORS FOR CHRIST  
YOUTH GROUP OPPORTUNITIES  
(GR. 8 – 12)**

**W4C in Service to Other Youth**

This Christmas season our W4C teens are sending gifts to youth in Third World Countries. Their goal is to share the abundance that they have been blessed with and also try to make life a little easier for those less fortunate. As representatives of our cluster youth, our CORE team of W4C teens have chosen to donate \$150.00 from their fundraising efforts. With this small sum of money they were able to purchase: 1 live goat, 4 soccer balls, 2 Bibles (in the teen's native language) and \$200.00 worth of medicine. World Vision, is the organization they are donating to. 85% of their \$150.00, and the items they are sending, will go toward children and families in need.

*Faith Family Academics Service*  
**St Joseph School**  
RICE LAKE

We recently received the following letter of thanks...

*Dear St. Joes,*

*I received an excellent education at the old building. Monsignor Meyer marched into our classroom and taught Church History, Moral Guidance and Catechism along with Sister Rosalita. She taught us English and we were well-prepared as we entered RLHS as sophomores. Sister Rose Catherine was an excellent Science teacher. I am thankful.*

*Roberta Wampole Leonard*

*1951 – 9<sup>th</sup> grade graduate – St. Joseph Grade School*

**Athletic Program Sponsorship Opportunity**

St. Joseph School Athletic program offers a wide range of athletic opportunities to our 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. In an effort to eliminate numerous small fundraisers, we are looking for annual sponsors that might consider purchasing a sign next to the scoreboard with your company logo (\$300-\$450). Once you purchase your custom made sign, there is nothing else you need to do! You will be billed for your annual sponsorship in August that will run from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> of a year. If this interests you, please contact Christie Nielsen, Athletic Director at (715) 234-7721 ext. 3 or [c.nielsen@sjsricelake.org](mailto:c.nielsen@sjsricelake.org) (preferable). Thank you for your consideration of being a sponsor of our athletic program and your generosity to our community as a whole.

**COMMUNITY AND AREA  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**Fr. Andrew Ricci offers "Catholic Inspiration"**

Receive a free, daily scripture reflection delivered to your door. Fr. Andrew Ricci, Rector of the Cathedral in Superior, offers "Catholic Inspiration" to help us draw near to the Lord and one another. Go to [www.studyprayserve.com](http://www.studyprayserve.com) and click on "Follow this blog via email." Type in your email address, click "Follow" and every day you will receive an email...just click on the link and listen to a 5-8 minute message!

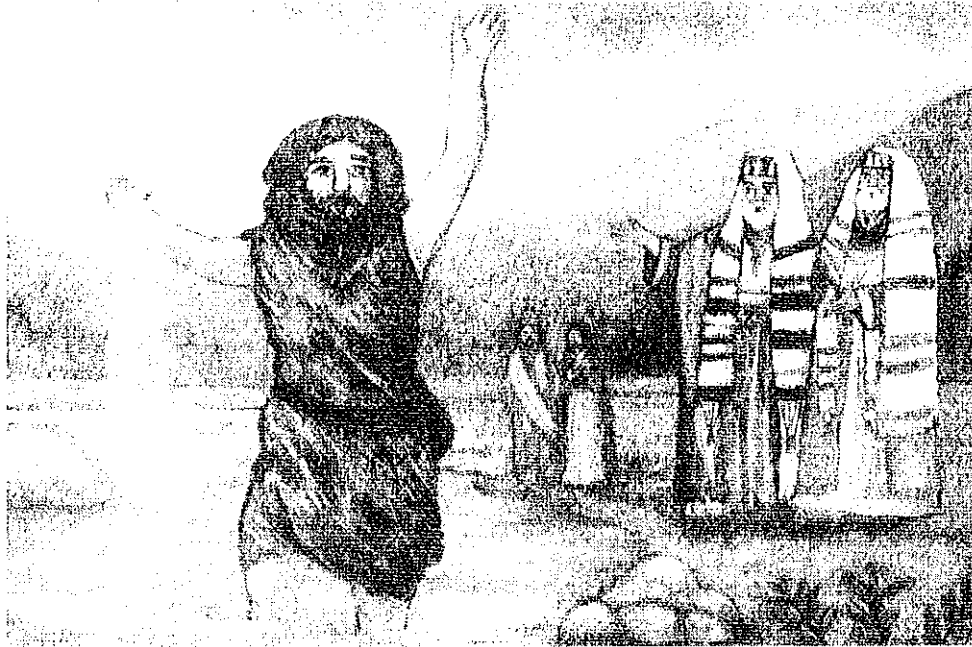
**We Share Food Pantry**

There have been some major changes at the We Share Food Pantry in Rice Lake that we would like to share with you. Due to the loss of our largest benefactor, we are facing a long-term shortage of funds. In the past we've served between 70-90 families each month and now we are serving 100-140 families each month. The need is greater than ever. We are distributing approximately 4300 pounds of food every month. Our organization is totally volunteer so all donations go to purchasing food from area resources. This is where we would like YOUR help. Please consider a monetary donation to the We Share Food Pantry.

Thank you for helping the needy in our community.

Renee and Dave Swanson  
Directors

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Herald of Light

O God of Justice,  
you called the prophet John the Baptist,  
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.  
John's message of repentance led others to  
embrace you.  
Grant your servants ears to hear his cry in  
the desert of their hearts  
so that, transformed by love,  
we, too, may turn and embrace you.

Fill us, O God, with the Spirit of courage  
and strengthen our will to be heralds  
of the Light.

Make us fervent in our prayer  
and direct us to bring glad tidings to the poor  
so that, on that final day,  
we may be found holy and blameless  
in your sight  
as we rejoice in the gift of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

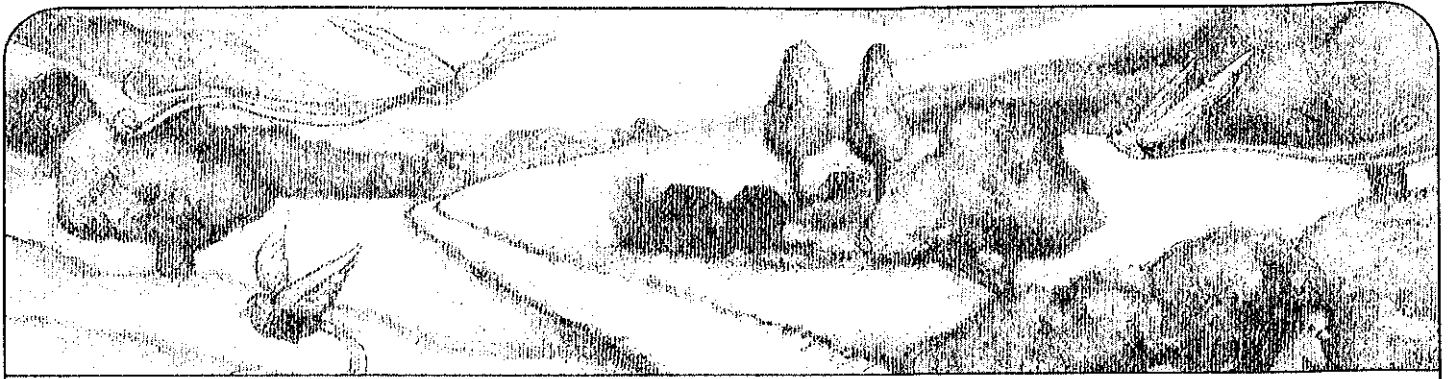
Glad Tidings

*Today's Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (antiphon: Isaiah 61:10b); 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.* Today is Gaudete Sunday, the turning point in the season of Advent. After two weeks of contemplating the end-time and Christ's Second Coming, the Church invites us to rejoice in Christ our Savior. We are filled with joy because we know that the coming of Christ is the coming of our salvation. Like Mary, we rejoice because God's love overflows into the world and takes root in our hearts.

Today's response, taken from the Magnificat, is Mary's great song of praise and puts her words of praise on our lips. Imagine the joy she must have experienced. When has Christ filled you with joy? When we ponder the Incarnation,

how can we not be filled with joy? Jesus is the Anointed One who brings Good News to the poor and frees the enslaved. Everything that God has promised to his people is revealed in Jesus and continues today to be revealed in his Church.

Even though this Sunday is joy filled, we cannot forget that many have lost hope and that they find themselves on the margins. Jesus calls us to carry the cross and be heralds of the Good News to the poor and brokenhearted. It is not always easy, but this is the work of all the baptized. This week, gather a group from your family or parish and using these readings for prayer, begin discerning how your community can bring glad tidings to the poor and release to prisoners.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 18

#### O Lord

In this third week of Advent, the readings begin to focus more directly on the birth of Christ. In today's Gospel, Joseph learns how Mary conceived Jesus. Although Scripture does not provide a lot of insight on Jesus' foster father, the glimpse we get here shows an obedient, loving, and generous man. This passage helps us know that God, through the Incarnation, is truly with us. The praying of the "O" Antiphons begins this week. Consider using them with your meal prayer this week. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25.*

### Tuesday, December 19

#### O Root of Jesse

The two readings today present God's awesome power to overcome any trial. First, we hear the story of the wife of Manoah who learns from an angel that she will bear a son. Second, the angel Gabriel tells Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, will conceive a son. Imagine how these two women, once barren, rejoiced at the news of conception. Upon their lips were songs of praise. Light candles and pray today for all the unborn and for those who are unable to conceive. *Today's Readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25.*

### Wednesday, December 20

#### O Key of David

The Gospel Acclamation tells of the Key of David setting prisoners free. As we draw closer to Christmas, it is good to reflect on Christ, the Key who unlocks the gates of heaven. It is Christ, the descendant of David, who ransoms us from sin and darkness so we can walk in the light of his countenance. Take your keys today and use them in your prayer as you do *lectio divina* with today's psalm. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1:26-38.*

### Thursday, December 21

#### O Dayspring

This is the second time during Advent that we have heard this portion of the Gospel reading from Luke. Because John leapt in Elizabeth's womb, she seems to know that Mary is carrying the Christ. Her prayer, which we say in the Hail Mary explains it all. Mary's womb is blessed. Imagine if you were Elizabeth. How might you react to this news? Song of Songs provides images to ponder when we think of the bridegroom coming to be with us. How can we not leap for joy and sing a new song! *Today's Readings: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45.*

### Friday, December 22

#### O King of Nations

Today we encounter Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Mary. These two women sing the praises of God at the birth of their children. Listen carefully to the psalm response today and notice its connection to the Magnificat in the Gospel proclamation. Both texts praise God's power to cast the rich aside and raise up the poor. Jesus, the King of the Nations, has conquered the enemy—so let us rejoice. Today read a commentary on the Gospel and meditate on its rich imagery. *Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56.*

### Saturday, December 23

#### O Emmanuel

In the First Reading, the prophet Malachi announces a messenger who will prepare the way for God's coming. The Gospel tells of the birth of John the Baptist, the one whose call to repent and prepare a way for the Lord began our Advent season. Have you listened to John's plea? Review your Advent journey tonight, and be attentive to the rough ways in your life that still need straightening. Praise God for the good works already accomplished. *Today's Readings: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57-66.*







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