

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday – December 17

3:30-4:00 pm Confessions
4:30 pm People of Corpus Christi

Sunday – December 18

7:30 am Walter Nault
10:30 am Bob Pomerville
5:00 pm Chuck Schommer

Monday – December 19

*5:05 pm Kathleen Kerscher

Tuesday – December 20

*5:05 pm Dan Viste

Wednesday – December 21

*8:20 am Jovita DeWitt

Thursday – December 22

*5:05 pm People of Corpus Christi

Friday – December 23

*8:20 am Dennis Ewaskowitz

Saturday – December 24

4:30 pm People of Corpus Christi
10:00 pm Emil & Mary Fisher

Sunday – December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

10:30 am Wallace & Marie LeCloux
*The Rosary is prayed 20 minutes before Mass.

Scripture Readings: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Isaiah 7:10-14 Ps.24:1-2,3-4,5-6,Romans 1:1-7, Matt.1:18-24
Monday Judges 13:2-7,24-25A, Ps. 71:3-4A,5-6AB,16-17, Luke 1:5-25
Tuesday Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 24:1-2,3-4AB,5-6, Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday Song of Songs 2:8-14, Ps.33:2-3,11-12,20-21, Luke 1:39-45
Thursday 1Samuel 1:24-28, 1Samuel 2:1,4-5,6-7,8ABCD, Luke 1:46-56
Friday Malachi 3:1-4,23-24, Psalm 25:4-5AB,8-9,10 & 14, Luke 1:57-66
Saturday 2Samuel7:1-5,8B-12,14A,16, Ps. 89:2-3,4-5,27&29,Lk.1:67-79

-Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's *Online Ministries* web site: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html> - Used with permission.

PARISH NEWS

Singers and Musicians

If you would love to share your gifts with us on Dec. 24th for the prelude for the 4:30pm Mass please contact Brian Fogarty at bffogarty@gmail.com.



St. John Bosco School

Christmas Concert

Join the children from St. John Bosco School for their Christmas Concert on **Monday Dec. 19th at 6:30pm at St. Joe's**. What a great way to get in the holiday spirit!!



Update Our Records

Don't forget to contact the office with any address changes or phone number changes. Thank you!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday – December 18

7:30-11:30 am SB Lions Brunch w/Santa in Social Hall
5:00 pm Mass (No Life Night!)

Tuesday – December 20

3:00-4:30 pm Boys Basketball Practice
5:30-6:30 pm Holy Hour

Wednesday – December 21

Noon Ministerial Luncheon/Parish Center
3:00-4:00 pm Boys Basketball Practice
5:45-7:00 pm Genesis @ St. Joe's
6:00-7:15 pm Edge at Corpus Christi

Friday – December 23 Parish Office Closed

Sunday – December 25 Christmas Day

5:00 pm NO MASS & NO LIFE NIGHT

Monday – December 26 Parish Office Closed

PARISH REPORT

Deposited this week	Dec. 5-Dec. 11(24)
Parish Support	\$7,118.00
Offertory Collection	\$613.96
Votive Candles	\$41.09
Technology & Capital	\$220.00
Donations	\$825.00
Perpet. Care/Garden	\$80.00
TOTAL DEPOSIT.....	\$8,898.05
Budgeted Expenses for the Week.....	\$9,181.37
Weekly Shortage.....	(\$283.32)
Retirement Collection.....	\$2,529.48

\$CRIP REPORT

Sales for Week of:Dec.5-11 Sales \$7,605.00 Profit\$485.35
Scrip can be purchased before and after all weekend Masses and on Thurs. 11:30-1pm in the parish center.
***Scrip will be sold on Tues. Dec. 20 & Wed. Dec. 21st in the parish office 11:30-1pm in addition to Thurs. 22nd.**

PARISH NEWS

Mass Time for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Sat. Dec. 24th	4pm	Holy Name of Mary
	4pm	St. Joseph
	4:30pm	Corpus Christi
	6pm	SS Peter & Paul
	9pm	St. Joseph
Sun. Dec. 25th	10pm	Corpus Christi
	8am	SS Peter & Paul
	9am	Holy Name of Mary
	10am	St. Joseph
	10:30am	Corpus Christi

Retirement Collection Dec. 10 & 11

Thank you to all who gave generously last weekend through the Retirement Collection. If you still wish to donate, you may use the envelopes in the brochure rack in the main entrance of church.

NOTES FROM FR. CARL.....

Christmas is approaching fast as we hustle around doing our Christmas shopping. Of course, being deadline driven, I will be out on Christmas Eve buying my gifts.

This weekend our fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear how Joseph while asleep heard the angel's command and being the great follower of our Lord, he awoke and did what he was commanded. Let us be good followers of God's Word too. Spread His love to all during this Christmas season.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Carl

PARISH NEWS**Advent and Christmas Greetings!**

Advent is upon us and Christmas will be here soon. Firstly, thank you for your prayers and support. This will be my last Christmas season before ordination to the priesthood so it will be bittersweet. The generosity of the people of God has been humbling and has been the best gift I've ever received. After Advent and Christmas the year 2017 will be here! 2017 is a year I have had my eyes on for the past 6 years of seminary formation. God willing on the 1st of July I will be ordained a priest by Bishop David Ricken.

So what does a transitional deacon have to do until he becomes a priest? Two main things: Firstly, I have to finish my education at Mundelein Seminary. Secondly, I have to take a 5 day retreat to go over the Rite of Ordination. Other than that, I have to stay committed to my life as a transitional deacon.

It's hard to believe that the time of seminary formation is coming to an end, but formation as a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ will never end for all of us. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope that you all take time to contemplate the mystery of the incarnation.

In Christ Through Mary, Deacon Zach Weber

Hand Needed

Looking for volunteers to help decorate God's house for Christmas on Sun. Dec. 18th following the 10:30am Mass. Your help would be much appreciated!

**End of Year Donations**

When planning for your 2016 end of the year donations, (must be received by Sunday Dec. 25th; mail received Mon. Dec. 26th & after will be for 2017 year) please keep in mind the Fr. Birdsall Prayer and Reflection Garden! A great way to remember loved ones during this Advent Season with a memorial gift. Call Bill Sauve at 920-746-7656 with any questions you may have.

Edge and Life Teen**Middle & High School Religious Education**

Life Teen this weekend (Sunday, December 18th)

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is to sing loud for all to hear!" We (middle and high schoolers along with the Core Team) are Christmas caroling around Sturgeon Bay on Sunday afternoon. Please be at Corpus Christi no later than 2pm to hop on the bus. We will be back at Corpus Christi in time for the 5pm Life Teen Mass. There will be NO regular Life Night on the 18th, instead, please come Christmas carol!

NO Life Teen Mass or Life Night on the 25th or Jan.1st!

Edge this week (Wednesday, December 21st)

6-7:15pm at Corpus Christi

Preview: Christmas party! We invite all middle school students to wear their ugliest Christmas sweater or anything Christmasy! We will eat, play games, and spend time in prayer. This is such a fun night for our Edge family! All families are asked to bring a dish to pass: fruit, veggies, dessert, or appetizers.

No Edge on December 28th.

Confirmation: no class this week. Parents, see Sarah's e-mails for more updates with when the final "assignments" are due (service hours, name form, etc).

We are only a few weeks away from the big day! January 7th at 4:30pm at Corpus Christi. We hope all of you can attend!

GENESIS NEWS

Genesis: Elementary Faith Formation @ St. Joe's

Classes: Dec. 21st 5:45-7pm

OTHER NEWS**St. Bay Lions Brunch with Santa**

Join them on Sun. Dec. 18th, 7:30-11:30 in the Corpus Christi Social Hall for an "All You Can Eat" pancake, egg, porkie, and sweet roll breakfast along with beverages. Visit with Santa 9-11am and get your picture taken free. Advance adult tickets \$8 (at door \$9) and children 3-10 \$4.00.

Loaves & Fishes

For the month of December, the Wild Tomato in Fish Creek and Sister Bay will be donating a portion of the proceeds from a specialty pizza that they have created in order to raise support for Loaves & Fishes. Loaves & Fishes offers free community meals 3 times a month here at NWTC in Sturgeon Bay on the 1st, 3rd & 4th Friday's of the month at 5:30pm. The meal has a cost per person; however, there is no expectation that a guest share in that cost. No governmental agencies support them. Volunteers help manage and serve. So please consider visiting Wild Tomato to help support this program!





What is the Original Meaning of Christmas?

Christmas is the feast of the Incarnation, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, true God and true man, as a little baby in Bethlehem.

While many Christians recognize Christmas as a celebration of Jesus' birth, the solemnity is also a festival of his Incarnation, that is, God becoming human in the person of Jesus. The term itself is an abbreviation of the phrase "Christ Mass," which reflects the primary understanding of Christmas as a feast day within the Church year, connected to the Eucharist.

One of the great opportunities we have these days is to savor the Christmas season. **Christmas is not a single day; it's a season** in which to enter more deeply into the mystery of the One who came to become one of us - to save us from our sins.



Christmas

Behold the Light of the World
How do you bring your light and the light of Christ into the world?

The question put to us simply by the Infant's presence is: Do I allow God to love me?

Christmas is a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Let us look to the crib and pray, asking the Blessed Mother: "O Mary, show us Jesus!"

Major Feasts Celebrated during the Christmas season

- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Holy Mother of God
- The Epiphany of the Lord
- The Baptism of the Lord



CHRIST

Christmas Symbols

Gifts

Giving gifts is a ritual directly from the Bible. We give each other gifts because God set out to give us the gifts of creation, His Son and Himself. When we see Christmas presents they remind us of the most precious gift God granted us – the way to Heaven through Jesus. And like the 3 Wise Men who brought Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh we, too, give gifts to each other.

Christmas Tree

The tree is an evergreen – it does not die or fade away or lose its needles in winter. In this sense they have come to represent the immortality of the Resurrected Christ.

Lights

Originally lights were candles – meant to symbolize Christ, his self-giving love and gift of life to us. The candle provides light and warmth as it consumes its own substance, the wax. So, too, Jesus gave his own substance – his life – so that we might find Divine Light. And when we have found Divine Light for ourselves, we, too, are enabled through the power of the Holy Spirit to give ourselves to others. Christmas is the feast of Love, where we share gifts with each other as Christ shared the gift of life with us.

Compiled by M Hilbert
Saint John Bosco School

Christmas Wreath

Like the Christmas tree, the wreath is made from an evergreen, symbolizing our everlasting life in Christ. In addition, it is round, a circle with no beginning and no end, reminding us of God, who is eternal, never beginning or ending.

Christmas Carols

Carols are said to have begun back in the 13th century. Some believe that songs have been sung at the darkest time of the year – the Winter Solstice for thousands of years in order to bring light to the season and celebrate the turn towards longer days. Some originated as stories, prayers, poems and chants. They symbolize everything that Christmas stands for.

Angels

In Greek, the word 'angel' means messenger. Angels are the messengers of God, who played a prominent part in the birth of Jesus. They are personified as Heavenly creatures with wings that symbolize immortality, virtue, peace, love, and innocence, while the halo is the symbol of their native to Heaven. Angels are believed to be immortal, who live in Heaven, and act as intermediaries between God and humankind.

Bells

Bells act as a medium between Heaven and Earth, and their clappers represent communication between humans and God. The sound of the bells announces the birth of Christ on Earth.

Stars

The Christmas Star represents the Star of Bethlehem which was the beacon of light for the Wise Men to find Jesus.

WE NEED TO INVEST OURSELVES IN CHRISTMAS

Time:

Christmas is the season that begins on Christmas Day and lasts for 12 days – until the eve of the Epiphany.

Themes:

The Nativity – Jesus Is Born

Rituals:

Blessing of the Christmas trees
Blessing of the Christmas Nativity Scene
Lightening of the Christ Candle

Color:

White or Gold

Symbols

Star
Manger
Bells
Candles
Mother and Child
Holy Family
Angels
Three Wise Men
Christmas tree
Christmas Roses
Cardinals
Holly and Ivy
Poinsettias