



December 10, 2023

## Second Sunday of Advent

**Pastor** - Fr. James Starasinich  
**Parochial Vicar** - Fr. Gregory Parrott  
(For St. Joseph Parish, Sacred Heart Church and  
Christ the King Church)

# ST. JOSEPH

## P A R I S H

512 South Elm Avenue  
Owatonna, MN 55060

Office Phone (507) 451-4845

Website: [www.stjosephowatonna.org](http://www.stjosephowatonna.org)



### Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:30am-4:30pm

Friday 8:30am-3:00pm

### Mass Schedule: Weekends

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am

### Weekdays and Holy Days

(See schedule in the bulletin)

### Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45pm

# Peace



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I find the readings for this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent truly a blessing, filled with biblical clarity about our role as Christians always on continual conversion through the Liturgy. I read an article from *The Pillar*, entitled “‘Sacrosanctum Concilium’ at 60: 6 notable quotes” by Luke Coppen, which deals with the liturgical renewal implemented by the Second Vatican Council. I liked the comment by the Norwegian Trappist monk Bishop Erik Varden, in response to number 83 of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (“Christ Jesus, high priest of the new and eternal covenant, taking human nature, introduced into this earthly exile that hymn which is sung throughout all ages in the halls of heaven. He joins the entire community of mankind to Himself, associating it with His own singing of this canticle of divine praise.”), at the beginning of the chapter about the Liturgy of the Hours (or Divine Office), the prayer of the Church: “It is a wonderful, endlessly fascinating statement. By means of it the Second Vatican Council reminded us that liturgical worship is essentially mystic incorporation — through Christ, with him, and in him — into the ineffable communion of the Blessed Trinity. This theological dimension must ever remain a criterion for liturgical practice, even more for liturgical change. It reminds us that the liturgy is not a human project; it is a work of divine transformation, a novitiate for eternity.”

“... novitiate for eternity.” Novitiate is the formative period of religious or monastic life. In this sense, we can also call it ongoing formation in the faith. Just as the Church has the catechumenate to form Christians, so religious life has the novitiate. Different stages of formation in both. His view is excellent, because if we are honest, our spiritual journey in faith is an openness to growth, never saying, “We have arrived” or “We are now full-fledged Christians” upon completion of a novitiate, a catechumenate, or the end of Faith Formation with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Translated another way, formation in the faith for eternity, i.e., a continual preparation until the day we are called from this life by God. This is living the liturgy at its finest.

Conversion is the constant theme of liturgy, as St. Peter remarks about God being “patient ... not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” This corresponds to Bishop Robert Barron’s comments on his return from the Synod on Synodality (Word on Fire, “My Experience of the Synod”, 21 November 2023): “Another principal theme of the synod discussions was the play or perceived tension between love and truth. On the one hand, we must welcome everyone, but lest this welcoming devolve into a form of cheap grace (to use Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s term), we at the same time must summon those we include to conversion, to live according to the truth.”

We are desiring to meet Jesus when He “comes again to judge the living and the dead” at the Second Coming. This is what the first part of Advent is preparing us for and, as we receive the Word of God proclaimed by John the Baptist today as well, we make room for the Holy Spirit. Repentance empties us of our idolatries, those sins that get in the way of God. Let us not be obstacles to God’s grace but like the Blessed Virgin Mary, submit ourselves to doing God’s will: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

God Love You!!!

Fr. Jim Staranich



## Weekly Readings and Mass Intentions

Monday, December 11, 2023: <i>Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26</i>	Advent Weekday - St. Damasus I, Pope 9:00am - Christ the King - Irene Jaymalin†
Tuesday, December 12, 2023: <i>Zec 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a;12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47</i>	Our Lady of Guadalupe 8:00am - Dorry Kenney†
Wednesday, December 13, 2023: <i>Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30</i>	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr 8:00am - Harlan Kern†
Thursday, December 14, 2023 <i>Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15</i>	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church 8:00am - Jerry Fix†
Friday, December 15, 2023 <i>Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19</i>	Advent Weekday 8:00am - Edward Miller†
Saturday, December 16, 2023 <i>Sir 48:1-4,9-11/Mt 17:9a,10-13</i>	Advent Weekday 8:00am - Lorraine Grass†
Sunday, December 17, 2023 <i>Is 61:1-2a,10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8,19-28</i>	Third Sunday of Advent 12/16/23 4:00pm - Ray Pirkl† 12/17/23 8:00am - Parishioners 12/17/23 10:00am - Lage family



### December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord.". We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please give them our phone number (507-676-5508) so they may call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for support. Together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas! Vincent's Table provided meals to 160 individuals on Tuesday evening.

**Membership** - We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at **6:30 p.m., at St. Joseph's Church.** If you would like further information on growing your spiritual life and serving those in need in our community, please join us at a meeting or contact Ed Wacek at edwacek46@gmail.com.

**Our phone is 507-676-5508.**

### Parish Staff

**Pastor**– Fr. James Starasinich (507) 451-4845  
pastor@stjosephowatonna.org

**Administrator**– Al Christenson (507) 451-4845  
apchristenson@stjosephowatonna.org

**Parish Office**– Linda Strand (507) 451-4845  
parishoffice@stjosephowatonna.org

**Bookkeeping**-Teresa Klecker  
TeresaK@stjosephowatonna.org

**Liturgical Music Director** – Carol Hodapp  
carolhodapp@gmail.com

**Faith Formation Director** – Brittany Boubin  
shsjyouth@shsjfaithformation.org  
(507) 413-6544

**Maintenance**– Dave Oman

**Parish Website**– [www.stjosephowatonna.org](http://www.stjosephowatonna.org)

**Facebook**– <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephParishOwatonna/>

**Liturgical Ministers Schedule  
December 16/17, 2023**

**Saturday - 4:00pm**

EMs: Rose Ann Rypka, 2 Volunteers  
Lector: Tim Vogt  
Sacristan: Matt Thurnau  
Ushers: Larry Goettl, Gary Hawkins  
Volunteer, Volunteer  
Altar Servers: Volunteers  
Greeters: Volunteers

**Sunday - 8:00am**

EMs: Linda Huffington, 2 Volunteers  
Lector: Annika Slacter  
Sacristan: Joanne Evans  
Ushers: Pat Rose, Joel Dulas  
Volunteer, Volunteer  
Altar Servers: Henry & Stella Seykora  
Greeters: Volunteer

**Sunday - 10:00am**

EMs: Vickie Skala, Lee Jardine, Volunteer  
Lector: John Connor  
Sacristan: Ruth Broumley  
Ushers: Brad Fischer, Walt Spindler  
Volunteer, Volunteer  
Altar Servers: Volunteers  
Greeters: Volunteers

**Help is needed in all the ministries.**

Consider sharing your God given talents at the Mass. You can sign up on the parish website at [stjosephwatonna.org](http://stjosephwatonna.org). (click on Liturgical Protocol & Schedules) or contact the Parish office at 451-4845.

**Marriage Banns**

*John Michael Schweisthal Jr.*  
wishes to contract Holy Matrimony with  
*Brenda Caroline De Oliveira Mendes Penha*



**Cayce Lynn Craig &  
Michael Richard Bell**

United in Marriage  
December 2, 2023

*May God bless your new life together!*

**Patriotic Rosary Novena  
Mondays - 6:30pm - 7:30pm  
Sacred Heart Church**



Please join us as we pray for peace and unity in our nation and in the world. Especially for the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine/Russia.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

\*\*\*\*\*

We will begin decorating St. Joseph Church Monday, Dec. 18th for the Christmas season. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call the parish office at 451-4845.

We will begin around 9am with a break for lunch around noon, (food will be provided).

Come enjoy a day of fellowship & service! All ages are welcome!

***In Loving Memory***

Jane Jacobson

November 28, 2023

*May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*



**Keeping Christ in Christmas!  
Parish Christmas Cards are back!**

**A pack of 25 cards for \$25**

St. Joseph Parish Card  
featuring the beautiful mosaic of  
St. Joseph and the Holy Family  
\*\*\*\*\*

Sacred Heart Church Card  
featuring the beautiful renovation of  
Sacred Heart Church

**Both cards can be purchased in the  
parish office.**

Proceeds from the sales of these cards assist the Knights of Columbus with their charitable work.

## ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

We have 41 amazing 4th graders at SMS. We have had a busy year so far. In language arts, we have read some great novels. They loved the Tales of the 4th Grade Nothing and Stone Fox. We are currently reading Beryl which they are loving so far. The students have learned many skills along the way. In math, we are currently in the world of angles. We have also covered place value, basic multiplication, and next we will move on to long multiplication. In religion, we have studied the Ten Commandments and the Sacraments. We are looking forward to Advent. In science, the students have been working on hands-on engineering projects. They loved learning about the Design process and building cars, balloon floats, and now working with the littleBits. In social studies we are learning about the beginning of the USA, our government, and we are currently learning about the Free Enterprise System. There is never a dull moment in 4th grade!

Thinking of contributing to the annual Night of Knights Auction?  
There is no better time than now.  
Check out our Amazon wish list for great items at fantastic prices!  
Thank you for supporting St. Mary's School.



### Renewal Reminder!

Don't miss an issue of the Magnificat!  
Your current subscription will end with the December issue.

*The cost is still \$29.95! Checks can be made payable to: St. Joseph*

*Parish (please note "Magnificat" on the envelope or memo line of the check.)*

Checks can be dropped in the collection basket at Mass or mailed to St. Joseph Parish Office.

New subscribers are welcome!

*If you plan to order a subscription for family members out of town through St. Joseph Parish, there is an additional fee of \$3.92 per issue to cover the media mailing cost.*



Communal Penance Service  
Thursday, December 21st at 6:30pm  
St. Joseph Parish  
512 S Elm Ave. Owatonna

**Reminder! Father Jim will be in the confessional every Sunday 20 - 30 minutes before each Mass!**

### Additional Times for Confession

St. Joseph Parish, Owatonna

Saturday Dec. 23rd 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Christ the King, Medford

Saturday, Dec. 23rd 4:30pm—5:30pm



### Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Service

**Sunday December 10, 2023**

**6:30 PM at St. Joseph's Parish**

Council 945 will hold a prayer service honoring the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at St. Joseph Parish. The Feast Day is Tuesday December 12 and this prayer service is a great preparation for the Feast Day Mass at Sacred Heart. Please bring your family to raise your voices in prayers of thanksgiving and for the intercession of Our Holy and Ever Virgin Mother for life and for the world.

The Spanish Mass Team at Sacred Heart will be sponsoring the Tuesday December 12 Feast Day mass. Check the Sacred Heart Bulletin for more information. Join us for this important prayer service. We need Our Lady's help now more than ever!!



**Please consider becoming a Liturgical Minister at St. Joseph Church. There's something for everyone! See contact info. below:**

**Altar Servers** – Parish Office (507)451-4845, [parishoffice@stjosephowatonna.org](mailto:parishoffice@stjosephowatonna.org)

**Eucharistic Ministers** – Linda Huffington (507)456-5274 (leave message) or [lindamwhuffington@gmail.com](mailto:lindamwhuffington@gmail.com)

**Greeters** – Wayne & Betty Kubicek (507)451-8683, [bj-n-me@hotmail.com](mailto:bj-n-me@hotmail.com)

**Homebound Ministries** – Vickie Skala (507)456-2230, [vskala9174@gmail.com](mailto:vskala9174@gmail.com)

**Lectors** – Linda Strand (507)363-2596, [strand619@gmail.com](mailto:strand619@gmail.com)

**Music Ministry** – Carol Hodapp (507)213-6981, [carolhodapp@gmail.com](mailto:carolhodapp@gmail.com)

**Sacristans** – Ellyn Jardine (507)-444-4088, [leej7@reagan.com](mailto:leej7@reagan.com)

**Ushers** – Pat Rose (507)456-1146 [rosepatp@gmail.com](mailto:rosepatp@gmail.com)



**Toys for Tots & Family to Family of Steele County** work together

to provide a Christmas for needy children, age 15 & younger and families in Steele County. You can help this year by taking an Angel tag from the tree and return it with an unwrapped gift to the Toys for Tots drop box in the Gathering Hall or Parish Office.

**The final day for toy donations is Thursday, Dec. 14th!**

**If you would prefer to donate money, please send a gift card or check to:**

Toys for Tots PO Box 199  
Owatonna, MN 55060

**Thank you for your generous donations!**



### December Funeral Chairpersons

**Linda Rice 451-3606**  
**Diane McShane 456-0492**

*Contact the parish office if you would like to help with funeral luncheons. 451-4845*



*Just breathe, pray, love*

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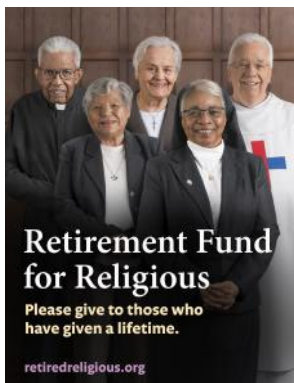
\$150/ couple (with overnight accommodation)

*Includes Friday evening refreshments, Saturday breakfast and lunch*



Register @ [www.dowr.org](http://www.dowr.org)

Or scan this QR code!



**Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious Dec. 10, 2023**  
**Support a lifetime of service.** Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need - usually for little or no pay. Today,

their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious.

You may also give online at [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)



**The Nativity of Our Lord Mass Schedule**  
**Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24:**  
 4pm & 9pm - St. Joseph Parish  
 5:30pm - Christ the King, Medford  
 5pm, 7pm (Spanish), 10pm - Sacred Heart  
**Christmas Day - Monday, December 25:**  
 8am, 10am - St. Joseph Parish  
 9am - Christ the King, Medford  
 9am - Sacred Heart Church

**The OHS Carolers will be performing at 11am, after the Sunday 10am Mass December 17th!**



**“Sing With the Angels”**

A musical program will be sung before all the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at St. Joseph Parish. “Sing With the Angels” features original music as well as familiar carols and re-tells the Christmas story from the vantage point of angels. The singing will start 30 minutes before the Masses.




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*Prepare the Way*

**CDA December Meeting & Potluck!**  
**Monday December 18, 2023 • 6pm**



Court Owatonna Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Monday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for a potluck and brief meeting in Joseph Hall, St. Joseph Parish. Please bring a dish to pass along with your own eating utensils. Family members are welcomed. Back by popular demand is “White Elephant BINGO”. Please bring a prize for the game. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the Luncheon committee.

**The 2024 Catholic Family Appointment Calendars are available in the Gathering Hall.** These calendars are provided by the following businesses:

- Haberman’s Picture Framing*
- Brick-Meger Funeral Home*
- Curly Girlz Candy*
- Owatonna Bus Company*



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 Appeal

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**Current Balance: \$31,609.23**  
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