

Blessed Sacrament Parish

130 Losey Boulevard S. La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Father David Olson, Pastor

Father Edmund Donkor-Baine, Associate Pastor

November 30, 2008

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH OFFICE 782-2953

Fax 785-1064

Eileen Francksen, *Secretary*

Pauline Connell, *Director of Music and Coordinator of Religious Education*

BL. SAC. SCHOOL 782-5564

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COULEE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE 784-8585

Parish email address: BLESSEDSACRAMENT@centurytel.net

Parish website: BLESSEDSACRAMENTLACROSSE.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 am

Monday – Saturday 7:30 am

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday after 7:30 am Mass & 3:30-4:00

Confessions heard in church; other times by appointment

EVENING PRAYER DAILY WITH BENEDICTION ON WEDNESDAYS

5:15 *in the Adoration Chapel*

Contact the Parish Office to join the parish, to arrange for a wedding (6 months in advance), and for Baptism class information.

Anointing of the Sick: Those who are seriously sick or have been ill for a long period of time should receive the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion. Call the parish office to make arrangements.

If you are home-bound because of illness and would like to be visited, please call.

November 30, 2008
First Sunday of Advent
EENIE FRANCKSEN

OUR THANKS AND BEST WISHES TO SUSAN FUKUDA WHO HAS BEEN OUR PARISH OFFICE MANAGER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WE HAVE AN ORGANIZED AND SMOOTH-RUNNING OPERATION THANKS TO HER TALENTS AND EFFORTS. BEGINNING MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, EILEEN "EENIE" FRANCKSEN WILL BEGIN AS OUR NEW PARISH SECRETARY. EENIE IS THE DAUGHTER OF BOB AND FRAN SKEMP AND IS MARRIED TO CARL. IT IS WONDERFUL TO FIND SOMEONE FROM WITHIN THE PARISH TO FILL THIS POSITION. FOR PARISH BUSINESS YOU CAN REACH EENIE AT 782-2953, EXTENSION 2.

WE HAVE FRIDAY CHURCH CLEANERS WHO SWEEP, MOP, AND DUST THE CHURCH. WE HAVE VACUUM VOLUNTEERS WHO VACUUM THE PARISH CENTER, HALLWAYS, CHURCH ENTRANCES, AND OFFICES, AND KEEP THINGS TIDY. WE NEED "THE MONDAY KITCHEN CREW." AFTER THE KITCHEN IS USED FOR EVENTS IT NEEDS WHAT EVERY KITCHEN NEEDS – A GOOD GOING OVER WITH MOP AND CLEANSER. IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP TO HAVE A CONSISTENT GROUP OF CONSCIENTIOUS CLEANERS. LET'S KEEP THAT BLESSED SACRAMENT VOLUNTEER SPIRIT ALIVE. CALL EENIE AT THE ABOVE NUMBER TO VOLUNTEER YOUR ELBOW GREASE.

TAPING TELEVISED MASSES FOR SHUT-INS
Our parish has been asked to help with taping 2 Masses on Thurs, Dec 11, 5:00-6:45, at the Diocesan Center. The Masses will be televised on Sundays, Dec 28 (Feast of the Holy Family) and Jan 4 (Epiphany). If you would like to be part of this ministry by acting as a reader, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, gift-bearer, choir member, or server, please call Pauline at 782-2953, ext. 3. You may be part of either Mass or both. The taping takes only ½ hour with a practice beforehand.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
December 1 - 7, 2008

This week's reader: Gaylord Perry
Communion Minister: Karen Perry

Mon, Dec 1 Advent Weekday

7:30 **+Dave, Mary & John Boland**
Servers: Pete Fiorini

Tues, Dec 2 Advent Weekday

7:30 **+Debra Schlegel**
Servers: Pete Fiorini

Wed, Dec 3 Francis Xavier

7:30 **+Irene Sweeney**
Servers: Jason Hutzler
9:00 **Special Intention**
5:15 Evening Prayer & Benediction
Server: Pat Campbell

Thurs, Dec 4 Advent Weekday, John of Damascus

7:30 **+Robert Volz**
Servers: Joe Cambio, Maria Franke

Fri, Dec 5 Advent Weekday

7:30 **+Phil Knothe**
Servers: Riley Campbell, Tyler Ebner

Sat, Dec 6 Advent Weekday, Nicholas

7:30 **+Fred Hegenbarth**
Servers: Kellan Doberstein, Emilie Steingraeber

Second Sunday of Advent

Sat, Dec 6

4:30 **+Dorothy Gazeley**
MC: Pete Fiorini
Servers: Cassondra Steele, Hannah Nelson, Monica Kachel
Readers: Dave & Mary Jo Reinders
Petitions: Eric Roop
Eucharist: Cheryl & Tom Horvath, Ann & Tom Gees, Dave Allen
Ushers: Allan Fukuda, Tony Flottmeyer, Harlan Wills, Dave Sweeney
Offering family: Joe & Natalie Bennet family

Sun, Dec 7

8:00 **+Bruce Staples**
MC: Mike Vanderploeg
Servers: Tim, John & Matt Brennan, Sam Scheidt
Readers: Joe Durst & Lu Ann Kratt
Petitions: Grace Riley
Eucharist: Helen Flynn, Pat Lyga, Jean Kachel, Kathleen Hanson, Lance Olson
Ushers: Adolph Szymkowiak, Bill Chamberlain, Bob Kachel, Thomas Keil
Offering family: Denis Kuennen & Bernice Lansing

10:00 For the People of the Parish

MC: Scott Doberstein
Servers: Luke Riley, Luke Schuttenhelm, Mark Steingraeber, Eric Clements
Readers: Dave Weinberger & Kris Gerke
Petitions: Bob Steingraeber
Eucharist: Jim Kroner, Gene Kolaczkowski, Kathy Hancock, Craig Sallander, Nick Nicks
Ushers: Tom Oney, Terry Felt, Al Klein, John Honeck
Offering family: Kenneth & Janine Merkitch

AROUND THE PARISH

PARISH ROSARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, AFTER 10:00 MASS. BRING A BRUNCH-TYPE DISH TO PASS FOR A POTLUCK AT 11:15. THE ROSARY WILL BE PRAYER AT ABOUT 11:45. SOCIALIZATION AND GAMES FOLLOWING. THE PARISH ROSARY IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO MEET NEW FOLKS – FAMILIES, SINGLES, YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG. QUESTIONS? CALL BARB CLEMENTS AT 782-5777.

Christmas and New Years Day Masses

If you and/or your family would like to be involved in the Masses on these Holy Days, please call Pauline at 782-2953, ext. 3, to sign up. We will need, servers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, ushers, readers, and offering families.

Christmas Masses Dec. 24: 4:30 & 10:00 pm

Dec. 25: 8:00 and 10:00 am

Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1) Masses

Dec 31: 5:15 pm

Jan 1: 8:00 & 10:00 am

GIVING TREE

There are still a few names on the Giving Tree in the church narthex. Take one or some and make somebody happy.

All gifts - wrapped and tagged - are to be brought to church on the weekend of Dec 13 and 14. They will be taken to Catholic Charities on Monday to be distributed.

REST IN PEACE

**Robert Weiske
Husband of Mary**

**Dolores Jensen
Mother of Jill**

*Boxtops, Moo-la milk caps, soup labels, grocery receipts
Drop them all in the box in the narthex. They are
redeemed by our school and the proceeds used to fund
special outings and activities. Thanks!*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-10

Wed, Dec 3, 6:30-7:45

PARISH SUPPORT

COLLECTIONS UPDATE: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Needed each week: \$17,400.00

Received 11/23: \$ 9,487.00

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You can't leave footprints in the sands of time by sitting down

COMING UP

Dec 5 Fr. Olson's 50th birthday

Dec 7 Parish Rosary, 11:00-1:00, school cafeteria

Dec 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception – holy day

Masses: 7:30, 10:30 am, 5:15 pm

Dec 11 Taping of televised Masses at Diocesan Center,
5:00-6:45

Dec 14 Parish Breakfast after both Masses

Dec 17 Parish Penance Service with individual
Confessions, 6:30 pm

Dec 20 Children's Choir sings at Village on Cass,
10:30-11:00

Dec 22-28 Our week for Mobile Meals

MUSIC NOTES

ADULT CHOIR, (High school age and older) will practice Thursday, 7-8:00, in the choir loft. Consider joining us for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

TEEN CHOIR will sing at the 10:00 Mass on Dec. 7. Practice will be 9-10:00 before Mass on the 7th.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (grade school age) will practice on the Saturdays during December, 9:30-10:15. The choir will sing at the 4:30 Mass on Christmas Eve. We have room for more singers. Call Pauline at 782-2953.

\$crip News

Business owners and managers, in planning for Christmas gifts for employees consider using \$scrip gift cards. What a welcome gift, and what a great way to support our Parish's education fund!

NEEDED: Volunteers to sell \$scrip in the Office; 3-hr shifts or less; call or stop in to sign up. Thanks a bunch!

Blankets for the Homeless needed by the Salvation Army. Drop off in the Narthex.

STOP ABORTION & SUPPORT FAMILY LIFE

MASS INTENTION FOR A NOVENA OF MASSES ON FIRST SATURDAYS FROM OCT TO JUNE. THE DEC. MASS WILL BE SAT, DEC 6, 8:00, AT THE CATHEDRAL. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AND PRAY FOR THESE INTENTIONS. SPONSORED BY THE LA CROSSE DEANERY DCCW.

VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE WEEK

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CATECHISTS

JIM VACH

DEB GILKES

IRM DRIER

TOM NIGON

MARILYN PETERSON

ANDY BRANNON

JENNIFER KULZER

PAULINE CONNELL, CRE

CHRISTMAS FAIR NEWS

It was a fabulous day! A report will appear when details are finalized. Thanks to everyone who helped and everyone who came.

Karen Perry, Chairman

Raffle Winners:

Chocolate Basket – Pauline Herda
Java Basket – Vicki Hogden
Garden Basket – Barb McGovern
Kids Nature Basket – Ciarra Litlke
Pleasuring Seasoning – Sandra Stingl
Dining Out Basket – Pat Peterson
Beauty Basket – Paula Jensen
Framed Print – Kellen Doberstein
Girly Girl – Bev Hanifel

Gingerbread Raffle:

Barbara Rush won the Quillins house
Angela Brown won the house from Consumers
Nikki Horihan won the Packer house from Festival
Mary Ann Roesler won the sleigh from Linda's Bakery
Barbara Smith won the house from Waterfront Restaurant
Peg Schneider won the house from Baker's Hearth
Betty Roth won church from Kristi's Pasteries & Cakes
Joan Anderson won Gift Certificate from Nell's City Grill
Helen MacKay, Ginger Horth & Therese Dobson won the three dimensional cookies

WORLD AIDS DAY, Dec 1, reminds us that there is much work to be done in education and awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic around the world, and to pray for those who died showing compassion for those affected. You may wish to wear a red ribbon without a bow as your symbol of support and hope.

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS Mon, Dec 1, 7-8:00 pm, Crypt Chapel at the Diocesan Center. All are invited to join us and pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and happy married life.

ST. NICHOLAS DAY Mass and party, sponsored by the Luxembourg/American Descendent' Society of La Crosse will be held at Holy Trinity Parish Dec 6, 5:30 Mass, party afterward. Bring a snack item or dessert.

*Holiday Gift & Craft Show Sat, Dec 6, St. Joseph Ridge School Hall, 9:00-2:00. Sponsored by the Youth Group.

*Craft Show at St. Mary's, Coon Valley, Dec 6, 7:30-2:00, with lunch served.

*"Generation After Generation" Holiday Home Tour Sun, Dec 7, noon-5:00. Tickets: \$15 advance; \$18 day of tour. Holy Trinity St. Anne's Christmas Bazaar same day all day with Cookie Walk beginning at 11:30 in Leo Hall. Winter Raffle, also.

*Christmas in Holmen Sun, Dec 7, 11:30-3:30, Holmen Lutheran church, 228 Morris St. Home Tour, noon-4:00, sponsored by St. Elizabeth's Parish & Holmen Lutheran. Advance tickets only, \$10.00.

*Holiday Harp Concert Tues, Dec 2, Southside Neighborhood Center, 1300 South 6th St, 7-8:00 pm. Free. Sister Malinda Gerke, Harpist. Also performing: A Note Above, a women's barbershop quartet.

*Benefit Concert to support Place of Grace Thurs, Dec 4, 7 pm, in the San Damiano Chapel at Viterbo University. Bring non-perishable food items and free will offering for Place of Grace.

Steak Fry, sponsored by St. Charles Parish, Genoa, Sat, Dec 6, 5-8 pm, Sportsman Club, Retreat, WI. Cost: \$12. Music until midnight. Live and silent auctions. \$100 cash prize.

PARISH STAFF OPENING

CUSTODIAL MAINTENANCE POSITION

*approximately 20 hours per week

*cares for church buildings

*works with parish volunteers to provide maintenance and cleaning

If you or someone you know might be suited for this position please call Fr. Olson for more information.

Thanks to everyone who participated in 40 Days for Life in any way! Amazing things happened in our country: 583 babies saved (confirmed); some people left their jobs in the abortion industry; a number of abortion centers closed on days they normally perform abortions. The people who did witnessing in La Crosse report the blessing of receiving many more positive reactions than negative. Across the country tens of thousands of people in over 160 cities took part in 40 Days for Life. It was a first time experience for many.

Marianne Pittman

THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL BULLETIN

St. Paul's conversion caused him to become a great advocate for the Gospel of Christ and the growth of the Church, for which he worked so tirelessly. This year the Holy Father and the Church remembers and celebrates St. Paul's gifts in a special way.

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT ST. PAUL

Paul was born in Tarsus (modern Turkey) in approximately the year 8 AD to successful wealthy merchant parents who were tent makers. He was by birth a Roman citizen. His parents provided him the best classical education. At about 12 years of age he went to Jerusalem to study with one of the greatest Pharisee teachers of his day, and, as a Pharisee, he was well educated in all the exactness of the Law of Moses. Saul was a Jew and a Pharisee.

As a young man, Saul surpassed all his equals in zeal for the Jewish law and their traditions, which he thought was the true cause of God. As a result, he became a blasphemer, a persecutor, and the most outrageous enemy of Christ and His followers. He was one of those who participated in the murder of St. Stephen, one of the first deacons. After the martyrdom of Stephen, the priests and magistrates of the Jews raised a violent persecution against the Church at Jerusalem, in which Saul took a leading role and distinguished himself above all others. By virtue of the power he had received from the high priest, he dragged the Christians out of their houses, loaded them with chains, and thrust them into prison.

About 36 AD, however, Saul met the Lord on his way to Damascus. The Lord called out, "Saul, Saul, why does thou persecute me?" "Who art thou, Lord?" Saul asked. Christ said, "Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute." At that moment, Paul was blinded and taken into Damascus where the Lord told Ananias, a Christian disciple, to go to Paul and heal him. Ananias was initially afraid to go to Saul because he knew of his reputation as a tormenter of Christians, but he did as the Lord commanded and went to lay his hands on Saul. When Ananias touched him, something like scales fell from Paul's eyes, and he was healed. Saul, now called Paul, was baptized, started preaching about Jesus in the synagogues and public places.

Paul's sudden switch confused the Jews, who subsequently grew angry with him and tried to kill him. Paul nevertheless continued preaching to them as well as to the Gentiles, trying to spread the Gospels to everyone at any cost. His conversion, dangerous though it may have been for St. Paul, had a hugely positive effect on the life of the Church. He became one of the Church's great evangelizers, helping to bring many people into the Church.

While most saints have feast days based on their date of death, St. Paul is the only saint who has a feast day commemorating his conversion. (January 25th) His conversion shows that anyone can be forgiven and brought to a new life with Christ, even those who previously were completely opposed to Christianity.

Prepared by Dave Allen

To ponder: In this Advent Season reflect on the coming of the infant Jesus by asking ourselves the question of Paul, "Who are You, Lord?"

<p>All are invited to a presentation by Fr. John Chagnon</p> <p>Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church</p> <p>Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Christ Episcopal Church, 111 N 9th St, La Crosse</p> <p>His topic: IN THE YEAR OF SAINT PAUL, CONTINUING THE JOURNEY</p>	<p>from St.</p>
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