



At St. Charles, all are invited to
meet Christ, know Christ,
love Christ and serve Christ.

December 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High.” (Lk 1:31-32a)



313 Circle Drive, Hartland, WI 53029 • 262-367-0800
www.stcharleshartland.com • email: parish@stcharleshartland.com



WELCOME TO ST. CHARLES - WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PASTOR: Fr. Ken Omernick

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Nick Baumgardner
nbaumgardner@stcharleshartland.org

PERMANENT DEACON: Rob Mitchell
rmitchell@stcharleshartland.org

TRANSITIONAL DEACON: Tim Schumaker
tschumaker@stcharleshartland.org

TEACHING PARISH SEMINARIANS:
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David Sweeney, dsweeney@sfs.edu

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LEAD: Dan Garvey, Ext. 208, dgarvey@stcharleshartland.org
Allison Caswell, Ext. 227, acaswell@stcharleshartland.org
Lisa Moehrke, Ext. 206, school@stcharleshartland.com
Karen Dejewski, Ext. 206, school@stcharleshartland.com

COMMUNICATION & STEWARDSHIP TEAM

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Debra Hertel, Ext. 226, dhertel@stcharleshartland.org
Nancy Neuser, nneuser@stcharleshartland.org

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

LEAD: Fr. Nick Baumgardner, nbaumgardner@stcharleshartland.org
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Kathy Gillstrom, Ext. 200, kgillstrom@stcharleshartland.org
Karen Dejewski, cornerstoneproject@stcharleshartland.org

WORSHIP TEAM

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Kathleen Latzke-Daley, kldaley@stcharleshartland.org
Dee Anne Hamer, Ext. 200, dhamer@stcharleshartland.org

PARISH OFFICE: 262-367-0800, Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 4 pm

EMAIL US: parish@stcharleshartland.org

WEBSITE & LIVESTREAM: www.stcharleshartland.com

FOYER HOURS FOR DONATIONS: Mon. - Fri., 7 am - 3:30 pm

PARISH SCHOOL: 262-367-2040, school@stcharleshartland.com

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

By appointment with Fr. Ken or Fr. Nick (schedule by calling the Parish Office).

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:30pm & Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:00pm or by appointment (schedule by calling the Parish Office).

TUESDAY TRADITIONAL MASS

The following Tuesdays at 5:30 pm: Dec. 22, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 23, April 27 & May 25.

JOIN OUR PARISH

Contact the Parish Office during office hours at 262-367-0800 or parish@stcharleshartland.org.

PLANNING TO BE MARRIED?

Congratulations! Please notify St. Charles at least six months in advance. Weddings may be celebrated on Friday evenings and Saturdays at 11:00am and 2:00pm. Exceptions are made only with the permission of the Pastor. Please contact Dee Anne Hamer at 262-367-0800 Ext. 222.

ARE YOU EXPECTING OR ADOPTING A CHILD?

St. Charles is honored to serve parents seeking Baptism for their child(ren). To find out more information about our preparation process and to schedule infant/child Baptisms, please contact Jess Panlener at 262-367-0800 Ext. 214.

BECOMING FULLY CATHOLIC

Are you unbaptized or baptized in a different Christian faith and considering becoming Catholic? Are you a baptized Catholic who did not receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and/or Confirmation? St. Charles provides an adult formation process that will help you discover Jesus and His Holy Catholic Church. Please contact Jess Panlener at 262-367-0800 Ext. 214.

SMALL GROUPS

The Small Group movement at St. Charles offers you a way to authentically seek Jesus in small faith sharing communities. Small Groups gather in members' homes throughout Lake Country during Fall and Lent. For more information, please contact Maria Notch at 262-367-0800 Ext. 220.

OUTREACH SERVICES TEAM: Terri Blazek: 262-367-7608,
jtblazek@wi.rr.com

TO ASK FOR PRAYERS or to be added to the email list, please email:
prayernetwork@stcharleshartland.org

FOR EMERGENCY PRAYERS, please email:
emergencyprayers@stcharleshartland.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: if you need food, shelter or assistance call
262-367-0800 (Parish Office)

NEED HOME COMMUNION (temporarily suspended):
For information call 262-367-0800 (Parish Office)

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF REORGANIZATION



This year, St. Charles leadership and staff continued to think creatively, act courageously and apply best practices to live our mission, deepen our faith, bring home the lost, and educate and evangelize our youth. During these unprecedented times, we remain focused - streamlining staff while continuing to serve our amazing faith community. Moving into 2021, as we seek school and parish accreditations to be mission driven and data informed, we strive to be effective and efficient stewards of all parish resources. With approval of our Pastoral Council, we are excited to share the staff realignment into ministry teams (see graphic). This equips teams to leverage strengths to serve all in our community as we live out our mission to meet Christ, Know Christ, Love Christ and Serve Christ. To accommodate both social distancing and teams, some staff have moved offices. We all continue to be #stcharlesstrong!

**Mass Intentions for
the Week of December 20th**



Sunday, December 20

- 7:00 am † Brian Gillstrom
- 9:00 am † Ervin & Esther Wunsch and Anton & Marie Hallada
- 11:00 am † Pete Schneider
- 6:00 pm † Hank & Evelyn Kovalaske

Monday, December 21

- 6:30 am † Ann Shannon
- 8:30 am † Caroline Kamrath

Tuesday, December 22

- 6:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Heyrman Family
- 8:30 am † Claude Fantozzi
- 5:00 pm † Bud & Alys Hemmy

Wednesday, December 23

- 6:30 am Special Intention
- 8:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Daniel Fitzgerald & Joseph Conolly Sr. Families

Thursday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- 3:00 pm (CH) † Arnold Berg
- 3:00 pm (GYM) † Brian Gillstrom
- 5:00 pm † John Conolly
- 9:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of the Carew & Rex Families
- 11:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of St. Charles

Friday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

- 7:00 am † Louis & Beverly Enderlin
- 9:00 am † Bob Eberhardy
- 11:00 am Living and Deceased Members of the Ahner Family

Saturday, December 26

- 8:30 am † Gerald Tarnowski
- 5:00 pm † Edward & Johannette Millot

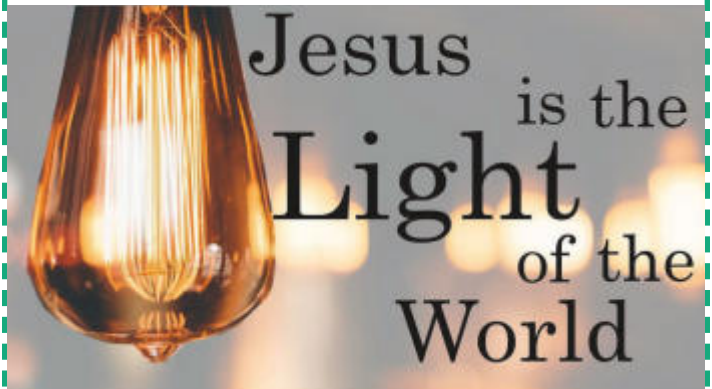
Sunday, December 27

- 7:00 am Living and Deceased Members of St. Charles
- 9:00 am † Ken Mautz
- 11:00 am † Amy (Lamerand) Zott
- 6:00 pm † Jack Henkel



**Get to know JESUS by spending
15 minutes every day in prayer with Scripture!**

— Reflection questions for Sunday, December 27th —



- The story of Abram and Sarah and their struggle to have a family centers on Abram's faith in the Lord. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?
- The author of Hebrews holds up Abraham as a model for the faith. When have you had to unconditionally trust in the Lord?
- Only Luke records the presentation in the Temple of the baby Jesus. Simeon reveals to Mary and Joseph insights into Jesus and his destiny. How do you imagine Mary and Joseph understood Simeon's words?

Readings for the Week of December 20th

- Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
- Monday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- Thursday: Morning:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- Friday: Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. **Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
- Saturday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REST.



Cut out and keep in your Bible for reference!

Bulletin Advertisers of the Week

Please support our advertisers!

KLINK'S KARPET
Hartland's Floor Covering Center
Reasonable- Reliable
Carpet, Vinyl, Ceramic, Wood
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**Oconomowoc Landscape Supply
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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more but



not really sure what that “more” needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?

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THIS WEEKEND'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: “What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself.”

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment

and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

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ADVENT PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES



In the spirit of spreading joy throughout our community, we will be posting **Advent video testimonials and tradition stories** from some of our parishioners and staff throughout the season! Each week there will be three new videos posted. We hope you keep returning to the page to watch the newest video because it is a wonderful way to stay connected to each other and learn more about how people celebrate Advent. **Also you don't want to miss the last video with Fr. Ken and Fr. Nick's Christmas message! To view the videos, please visit our website www.stcharleshartland.com and click on the Advent banner!**

PARISH SCHOOL AND OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The St. Charles School Office will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

The Parish Office will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 24th and all day Friday, Dec. 25th. The Parish Office will also be closed on Friday, Jan. 1st.

BULLETIN DUE DATES!

If you have an event(s) you would like to publicize in a December and January bulletin, please submit your information by the due dates listed below. This earlier deadline is due to the printer's holiday schedule. Please submit all articles by 8:00 am on the due date. Thank you!

- Jan. 3rd Bulletin information is due Dec. 21st



ADVENT PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

During the Season of Advent, St. Charles Parish provides many opportunities for parishioners to pray. Please come and join us.

DAILY MASS

- 6:30 am Monday through Friday (Nov. 30 - Dec. 23)
- 8:30 am Monday through Saturday (Nov. 30 - Dec. 23; resumes on Dec. 26)
- (NOTE: Due to Covid restrictions, the 8:30 am All School Mass on Dec. 23 will be for St. Charles students and their teachers only; please consider attending the 6:30 am Mass that day)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- Thursdays, from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
(No 5:00 pm Reconciliation on Dec. 17, 24, & 31)
- Saturdays, from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- Communal Penance Services
 - Saturday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 am
 - Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 pm
- And by appointment with either Fr. Omernick or Fr. Baumgardner (262-367-0800)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Monday evenings, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Tuesday evenings, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- Fridays, 9:15 am to 3:00 pm (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1); Adoration on Friday, Dec. 4 will begin at 12:30 pm due to the School Reconciliation Service

MORNING PRAYER

- Monday through Friday, 7:30 am (Except Dec. 24 & 25 and Jan. 1)
- Saturdays, 8:00 am

ROSARY

- Monday through Friday, 8:00 am (Except Dec. 24 & 25 and Jan. 1)
- Tuesday evenings, 7:30 pm
- First Saturday of the month (Dec. 5) after the 8:30 am Mass
- Sundays at 1:00 pm outdoors by Marian Statue

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE (BY RESERVATION ONLY)

Thursday, Dec. 24

- 3:00 pm (Church & Gym)
- 5:00 pm
- 11:00 pm (Incense used)

Friday, Dec. 25

- 7:00 am
- 9:00 am (Incense used)
- 11:00 am (Incense used)

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (a Holy Day of Obligation)

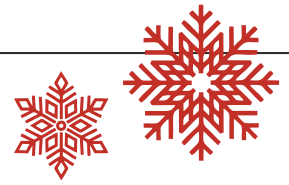
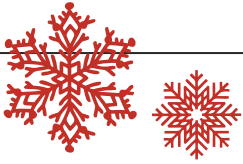
Thursday, Dec. 31

- 5:00 pm (Vigil Mass)

Friday, Jan. 1, 2021

- 9:00 am (Incense used)
- 11:00 am (Incense used)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES



12 Days of Christmas Scripture

(Saturday, December 26th through Wednesday, January 6th)

1. Faith - Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.

2. Hope - Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. Love - 1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

4. Forgiveness - 1 John 1:9

If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.

5. Mercy - Luke 6:36

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

6. Kindness - Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

7. Generosity - Corinthians 9:11

You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.

8. Compassion - 1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.

9. Joy - Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

10. Salvation - John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

11. Obedience - James 1:22-25

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like. But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does.

12. Life - John 10:10

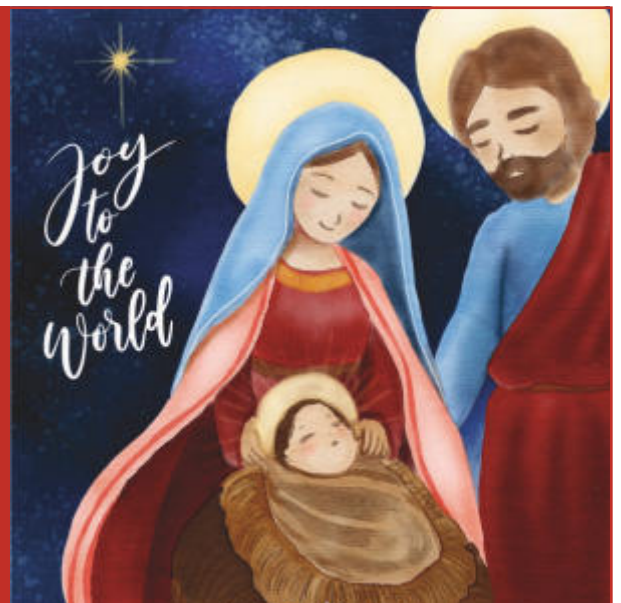
A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

Traditional Catholic Christmas Prayer

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen. Help us to rise bigger than we are.

Amen.





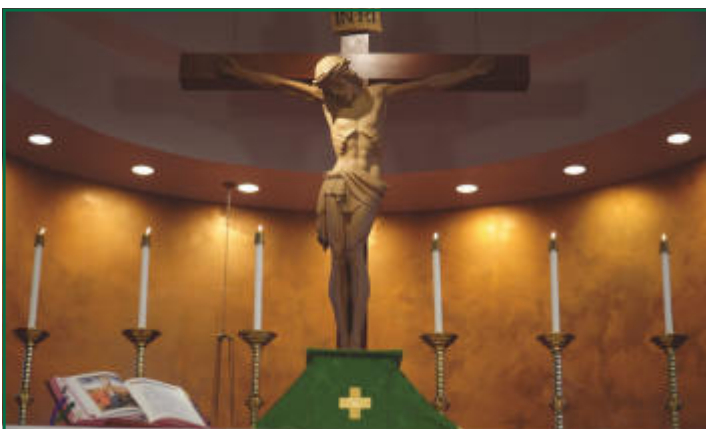
*2020 Christmas
at St. Charles Parish*

LIVESTREAM CHRISTMAS MASS!

We are blessed to have so many of our parishioners register for our upcoming Christmas Masses! If you were unable to register or if you continue to pray with us from home, please join us through our livestream on our website. Here is the Christmas Mass schedule.

Christmas Eve:	Christmas Day:
3pm	7am
5pm	9am
9pm	11am
11pm	

Parishioners who registered for Christmas Masses - please visit the parish website at www.stcharleshartland.com to read Mass information and guidelines. Thank you!



CELEBRATE THE TRADITIONAL MASS

Do you desire to be drawn more deeply into the mystery of the Mass? Do you want to encounter some of the ancient treasures of the Church? Then join us for our monthly Traditional Mass here at St. Charles. The Mass will take place on the following Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.: **December 22**, January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, and May 25.



**Events & News at
St. Charles Parish School**

St. Charles Math Club: Congratulations to the St. Charles Math Club for achieving Silver Level Status in the National Math Club! Participants will receive certificates for their participation. The Math Club will be eligible to apply for Gold Level Status after participants complete the Gold Level Project. Our Math Club members have started brainstorming ideas for this project. It will be a math-based service project and/or a math scavenger hunt. They look forward to beginning this collaborative project in January. Our Math Club is open to middle school students and is led by Mrs. Mullen, our middle-school Math teacher.



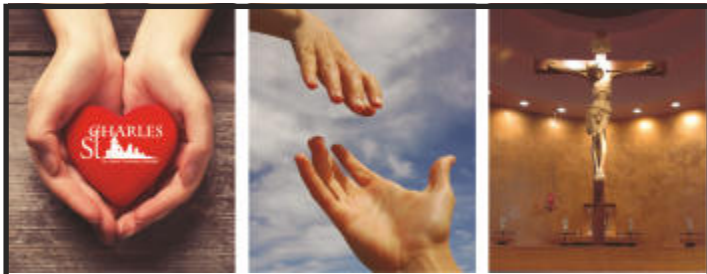
**OPEN HOUSE
WEEK**
Sunday, Jan. 10th -
Friday, Jan. 15th
Come check out our campus!



- Visit and Learn About:
- Our vibrant Catholic school in Lake Country with space available in every grade
 - Small class sizes, state-of-the-art technology, dedicated STEM Lab, specialized instructional resources including a reading specialist and guidance counselor
 - Specialized classes in Spanish, STEM, Art and music offerings in band and choir
 - Award-winning athletic programs

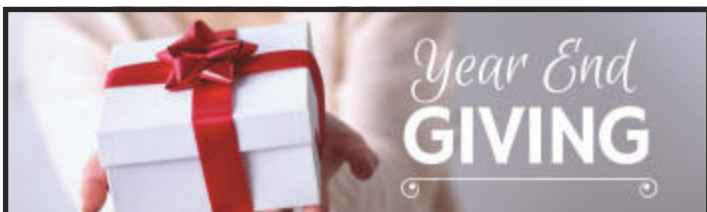
To learn more about St. Charles School and schedule a tour, please call 262-367-2040 or visit www.stcharleshartland.com.

THE GIFT OF GIVING



HELP SUPPORT ST. CHARLES PARISH

You recently received a letter from Fr. Ken with a pledge card for your 2021 giving. We would like to thank everyone who has already returned their pledge cards — we sincerely appreciate your support and generosity! As you may know, we are a full 5% lower in revenue than where we were this time last year. We are in need of your help, no matter the size of your gift, and hope to hear back from 100% of our households. **If you haven't had a chance to return your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible.** Please pray for us, as well, as we continue our mission to deepen our faith, bring home the lost, and educate and evangelize our youth.



THERE IS STILL TIME!

In this season of giving, we wish to thank you for your generous financial support of St. Charles Parish and School and the Cornerstone Capital Campaign during the 2019-2020 year.

There is still time to get your year-end donations into the Parish. Donations must be received in the Parish Office no later than Monday, Dec. 28 at noon. This allows for adequate time to record contributions for 2020. For information about contributing an end-of-year donation to St. Charles Parish and School, please contact Marge Beck, Operations Manager, at 262-367-0800 or mbeck@stcharleshartland.org.

God Bless you for supporting St. Charles and Christ's work in Lake Country.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY



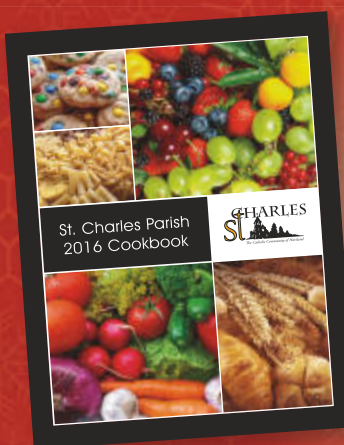
FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: chili, small canned hams, cleaning supplies, shampoo

The members and patrons of St. Charles' Society of St. Vincent de Paul wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas. Due to your kindness, some who experience the burden of poverty will have a joy-filled Christmas through your donations to the SVdP food pantry and assistance to our general fund. Donations to SVdP have helped many Hartland families avoid hunger. Other families will be able to remain in their homes, have heat and electricity, remain employed because of assistance with vehicle repairs, or purchase Christmas gifts for their children. God bless all of you for blessing others.

The food pantry is located at 229 Lawn Street, Hartland, and is open Tuesday mornings between 10 AM and noon. It is open evenings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month between 5:30 PM and 7 PM. Protective face masks are required in the pantry. If you need other assistance or are interested in joining our ministry of service to the poor and needy, please contact SVdP at 262-367-0800.

**The food pantry will be closed when Arrowhead Schools close for inclement weather.*

The Parish Cookbook Makes for a Great Gift!



The cookbooks are a great Christmas gift idea. They are a culinary steal for \$10 each. Proceeds benefit St. Charles Outreach Ministry. To purchase a cookbook or for more information contact Terri at 262-367-7608 or jtblazek@wi.rr.com.



PARISH SUPPORT FOR THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 8TH
FISCAL YEAR BEGAN JULY 1ST

2020-2021	
Envelopes.....	\$20,103.13
Offertory.....	\$516.00
Weekend Total.....	\$20,619.13
E-Giving.....	\$10,436.20
YTD.....	\$604,985.30

2019-2020	
Envelopes.....	\$18,984.04
Offertory.....	\$1,959.48
Weekend Total.....	\$20,943.52
E-Giving.....	\$8,792.12
YTD.....	\$626,499.16

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



CHRISTMAS 2020

What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we pray the Nicene Creed we profess, “I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.”

These familiar words echo the prologue of John’s Gospel, which is read at Christmas. John proclaims, “What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:4-5) I draw your attention to the Creed and John’s Gospel to emphasize the profundity of describing God as Light and Life. Out of the infinite ways to describe Christ, light and life are given to us as preeminent and essential descriptions.

The key to understanding this is the celebration of the Incarnation. The Son of God did not become man to prove a point, become rich, powerful and popular, or punish the wicked. It is all too easy to look at the life of Christ in these terms because of our human tendencies to want to be rich, famous or powerful. In doing so, the Gospels become a biography among many other great people who did great things.

However, that is not why God became man; He became man to save us from the darkness of sin and the punishment of death. When we profess this truth, we allow Christ to reorient our lives. No longer is He just another great person to listen to or admire; He becomes the Light and Life of our lives.

Whatever you have faced this year, from the joyous occasions to suffering and sadness, I pray that you will entrust them to Christ at Christmas. May the Light and Life you receive be the gifts you share with your family and loved ones this year. I trust in God. I trust in His Word. Merry Christmas!

With a heart full of gratitude for your faithfulness, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee



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