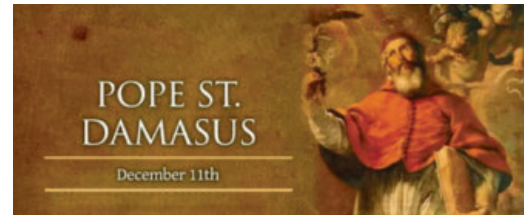
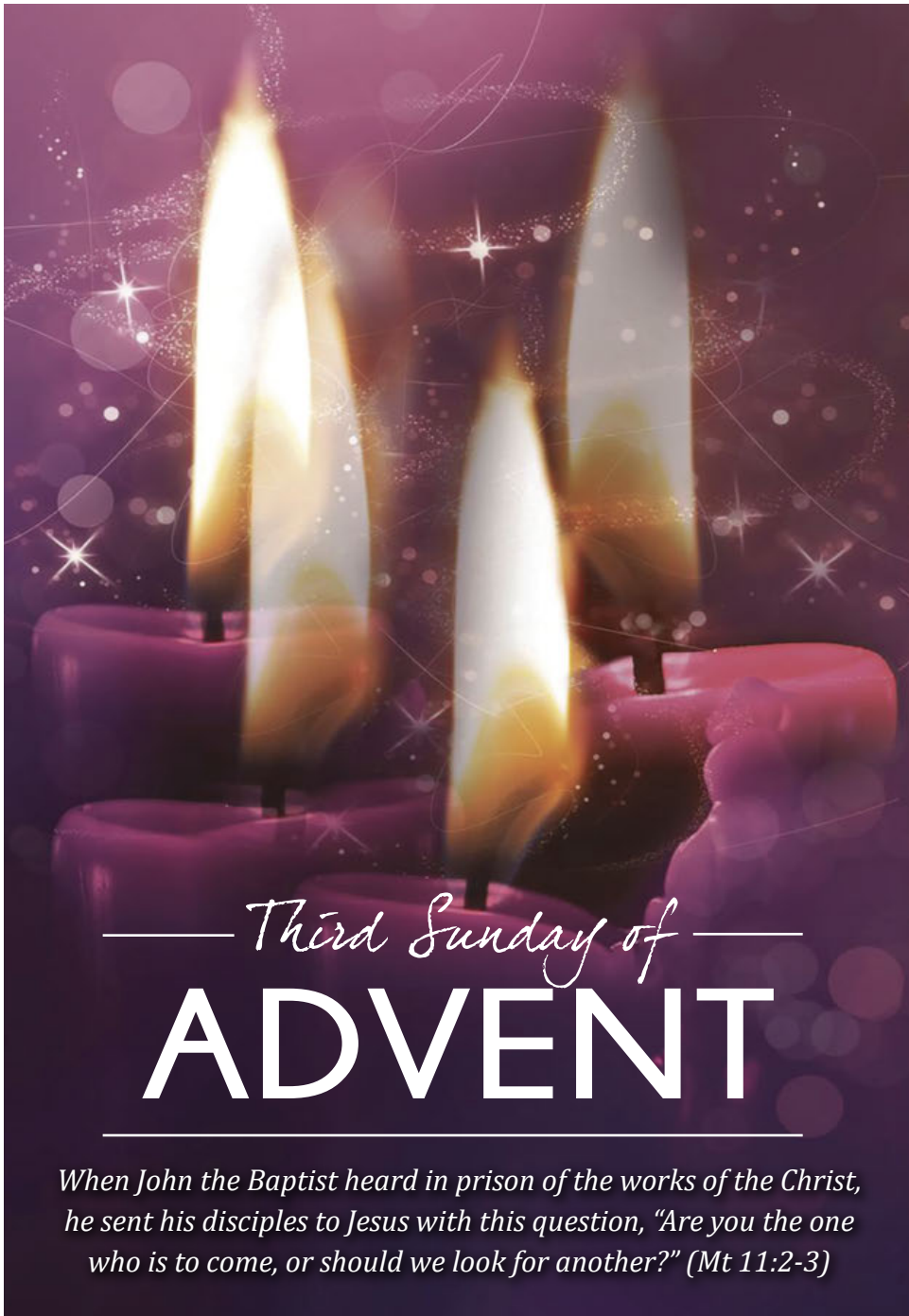




At St. Charles, all are invited to meet Christ, know Christ, love Christ and serve Christ.

December 11, 2022  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Saint Damasus served as bishop of Rome for 18 years as Pope Damasus I (366-384). He had to endure significant controversy early in his pontifical reign when a factional group of bishops insisted that their chosen claimant, Ursinus, was the true pope. Both sides resorted to violence before the issue was decided in favor of Damasus. He went on to make the unification of the Church a central focus of his papacy and fervently fought to counter any division caused by the many heretical teachings of his time.

While he was pope, Christianity was declared the official religion of the Roman Empire, and Rome's authority in the Church was decided by a synod that Damasus called in 382. This synod established Rome as the direct descendant of the Church founded by the apostle Saint Peter, the apostolic see, and put an end to confusion stemming from Constantinople, which some were already calling 'The New Rome.'

To further unify the Church, Damasus introduced Latin as the principle liturgical language and commissioned his secretary, Saint Jerome, to compile and revise the various translations of the Bible into one official translation to be used by the entire Church: The Latin Vulgate. This successfully preserved the original Scriptures by making them more accessible to the average Christian.

A writer and poet himself, Saint Damasus lives on in history through his many epigrams and verse inscriptions that can be found on the Roman catacombs that he restored during his papacy. ©LPi

St. Charles Parish & School | 313 Circle Drive, Hartland, WI 53029  
262-367-0800 | www.stcharleshartland.com | email: parish@stcharleshartland.org



# WELCOME TO ST. CHARLES - WE ARE HERE FOR YOU



PASTOR  
Fr. Ken Omernick



ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
Fr. Ariel Orozco

## ST. CHARLES STAFF TEAMS

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Ariel Orozco,  
[aorozco@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:aorozco@stcharleshartland.org)

TEACHING PARISH SEMINARIANS:  
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David Sweeney, [dsweeney@sfs.edu](mailto:dsweeney@sfs.edu)

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Advancement Officer: Allison Caswell, Ext. 227,  
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School Administrative: Lisa Moehrke, Ext. 206,  
[school@stcharleshartland.com](mailto:school@stcharleshartland.com)  
School Administrative: Karen Dejewski, Ext. 206,  
[school@stcharleshartland.com](mailto:school@stcharleshartland.com)

WORSHIP TEAM  
Worship Lead: Peg Kasun, Ext. 225,  
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Music Director: Dr. Aaron Mathews, Ext. 225,  
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Wedding Coordinator: Dee Anne Hamer, Ext. 215,  
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Becoming Fully Catholic: Fr. Ariel Orozco,  
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Children's Discipleship Co-Lead: Alicia Van Hecke, Ext. 205,  
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Baptism Coordinator: Mary Jo Romportl, Ext. 202,  
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### OPERATIONS TEAM

Operations Manager/Team Lead: TBD (interim call the  
Parish Office or email [parish@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:parish@stcharleshartland.org))  
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Maintenance Manager: Tim Orzechowski, Ext. 217,  
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Bookkeeping Specialist: Dee Anne Hamer, Ext. 215,  
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Cornerstone/Safeguarding: Karen Dejewski,  
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Administrative: Mary Jo Romportl, Ext. 200,  
[mjromportl@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:mjromportl@stcharleshartland.org)

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

EMAIL US: [parish@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:parish@stcharleshartland.org)

PARISH SCHOOL: 262-367-2040,  
[school@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:school@stcharleshartland.org)



WEBSITE & LIVESTREAM: [www.stcharleshartland.com](http://www.stcharleshartland.com)  
or scan QR code with phone camera

# WELCOME TO ST. CHARLES - WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

SATURDAY MASS OF ANTICIPATION: 5:00pm

SUNDAY MASS TIMES: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am & 6:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday - Friday: 8:30am & Saturday: 8:30am  
Monday - Friday: 6:30am (during Advent)

TUESDAY TRADITIONAL MASS

Monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 5:30 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Mondays: 5:00-7:00pm with closing prayer (includes music)

Tuesdays: 6:30-8:00pm with 7:30pm Rosary and closing prayer

Wednesday & Thursday: 7:00am - 8:20am (during Advent)

Fridays: 9:00am-3:00pm with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm followed by Benediction

RECONCILIATION

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

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

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

ANOINTING MASSES: 2nd & 4th Fridays every month at 8:30 am

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU WITH:

- JOINING OUR PARISH
- PLANNING A WEDDING
- PLANNING A FUNERAL
- PLANNING A BAPTISM
- BECOMING FULLY CATHOLIC
- JOINING A SMALL GROUP
- CHILD FORMATION

For help with any of these areas please contact the Parish Office at 262-367-0800 or parish@stcharleshartland.org.

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

Printed weekly prayer sheets are available on the information wall.

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

NEED HOME COMMUNION:

For information call 262-367-0800 (Parish Office)

**Bulletin Advertisers of the Week**  
Please support our advertisers!



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ButterBurgers &  
Frozen Custard  
701 Industrial Ct., Hartland  
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## Mass Intentions for the Week of December 11



### Sunday, December 11 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

7:00 am † Dorothy Ott  
9:00 am † Louis Enderlin  
11:00 am † Jim McLoone  
6:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of St. Charles

### Monday, December 12

6:30 am Special Intention  
8:30 am Special Intention

### Tuesday, December 13

6:30 am † Jim Klauser  
8:30 am † Drew Wallace

### Wednesday, December 14

6:30 am † Robert & Katherine Seibel  
8:30 am † Krystina Finn

### Thursday, December 15

6:30 am † Jim Tousignant  
8:30 am † Bob Eberhardy

### Friday, December 16

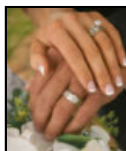
6:30 am † Donna Hamilton  
8:30 am † Claude Fantozzi

### Saturday, December 17

8:30 am † Kate Majewski  
5:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of St. Charles

### Sunday, December 18 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 am Living and Deceased Members of the Ahner Family  
9:00 am † Ervin & Esther Wunsch and Anton & Marie Hallada  
11:00 am † Bud & Alys Hemmy  
6:00 pm † Agatha Ulrich



## WEDDING BANNES

2nd Bann ~ Meghan Woodson & Curry Perkins

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

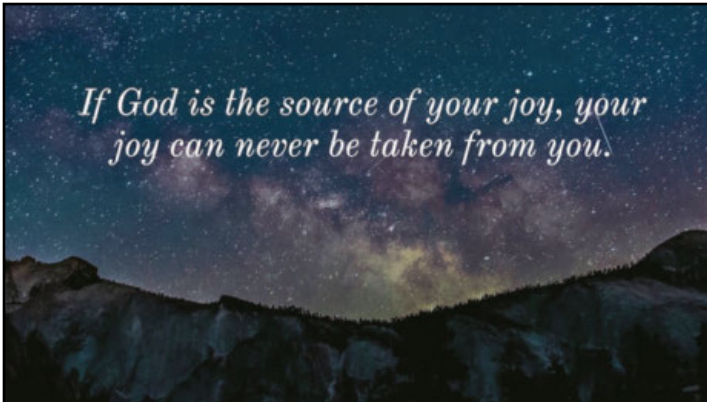
**Gloria White**

May her soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed  
REST IN CHRIST'S PEACE.

## BULLETIN DUE DATES!

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

- Dec. 25th Bulletin information is due Monday, Dec. 12th
- Jan. 1st Bulletin information is due Monday, Dec. 19th
- Jan. 8th Bulletin information is due Wednesday, Dec. 21st



## THIS WEEKEND'S GOSPEL MEDITATION

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob died leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God, and God transforms the darkness into light.

“Be strong, fear not!” Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life’s roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life’s unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God’s merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God’s child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist’s message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life’s distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this? ©LPI

## PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE

### Lectio Divina

15 minutes each day spent in God’s presence – reading, reflecting, responding and resting with his Word – adds up to 90 hours in one year. That is time well spent and a testimony to how a little at a time turns into something remarkable!

### Sunday, December 18th Readings

**Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24**

To find readings for the weekdays and/or Feast Days, please visit  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings>.

### Reflection questions for Sunday, December 18th

- *Isiah prophesizes to King Ahaz of Judah the coming birth of Emmanuel, meaning “with us is God.” When do you feel God’s presence in your life?*
- *Written about twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Paul’s opening words in his Letter to the Romans provides one of the earliest testimonies to the divinity of Jesus Christ. And now as believers, Paul tells us we are “called to be holy.” How has this season of Advent helped you develop holiness?*
- *In recounting the birth of Jesus, Matthew focuses on how Joseph came to terms with this miraculous event. Can you name a time when you had to discern how God is working in your life?*


**READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REST.**



*Cut out and keep in your Bible for reference!*

## LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We can often feel parched, desolate, lifeless, and dark. Even though we still engage in the business and demands of life, we find ourselves somewhat detached, disengaged, and removed. We lack joy, wonder, awe, and zest. Rather than being an experience of freedom and excitement, life holds us captive. We are tethered to systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, and expectations that go against the grain of what it means to be God’s child. We find ourselves in a desert. Jesus came to release us from all of this negativity and desolation. John the Baptist announced the arrival of the One who embodies healing, reconciliation, freedom, and life. Stop complaining about what you don’t have. Prepare for the arrival of the remedy to life’s despair. Be strong, fear not! Christ will save us from life’s distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Be patient. With proper time and care, all will be well. © LPI


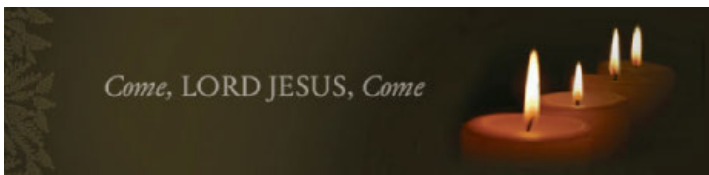


## ADULT FORMATION

### LEADER HUDDLE (CONTINUAL ADULT FORMATION)

We believe all of us are hungry for formation and support from fellow Church members seeking to grow in Discipleship. **EVERYONE is invited to attend our Leader Huddle on Thursday, December 15th.** The same session is offered at 11:30 am-12:30 pm in the chapel and again that night from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm in the Life Teen Cafe. Our hope is that this time feeds you to receive discipleship training so as to be sent as disciples into your personal apostolates (services) to the Church, your family, your community, the world.

For more information or questions, please contact Marianne Giovingo at [mgiovingo@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:mgiovingo@stcharleshartland.org).



## REACH MORE™

LAY TRAINING SMALL GROUPS EVANGELIZATION

### INTO THE DEEP OF FAITH REACH MORE DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

You are invited to dive into your relationship with Christ this Winter by receiving tools on how to more effectively serve as Jesus' disciples with those whom you impact most in your life.

**We will meet for 12 consecutive weeks on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8pm (updated dates: January 10th - March 28th).** Each week we will pray, dive deep into scripture, watch videos that will teach us how to speak about/for our Faith, and discern how the Lord is calling us to serve with Him today. John witnesses how this process has been an incredibly powerful journey for his Faith story. We truly hope you'll join us! Please contact Marianne Giovingo with any questions and/or to **sign up by January 3rd** for the Winter session at [mgiovingo@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:mgiovingo@stcharleshartland.org).




### ADVENT SERVICE PROJECT FOR ST. CHARLES

Thank you to all who have donated items toward our Elizabeth Ministry Advent Service Project.

The items collected will be used to fill baskets/bags offered to support families who are celebrating the life or mourning the loss of a child. Please bring your items to the box in the Borromeo Room no later than December 16th. For a list of items, please see the NEWS Story on our website.

For all questions, please contact Nancy Neuser at [nneuser1@gmail.com](mailto:nneuser1@gmail.com).



### 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, held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. The next Mass is on December 27th.

### NOTICE OF NOMINATION/ELECTION PASTORAL COUNCIL TRUSTEE-SECRETARY

Nominations for the Pastoral Council Trustee-Secretary position are now being accepted. Michael Berendes' term as Pastoral Council Trustee-Secretary has ended, and he is nominated for re-election by Fr. Ken Omernick. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for nomination to this position, you are required to be at least 25 years of age, a practicing Catholic, and a current registered parish member. Nomination forms and information are available in the Parish Office. All nomination forms must include 10 parishioner endorsement signatures and must be returned to the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Voting for the Pastoral Council Trustee-Secretary position will take place on January 15 & 16, 2023 after the Saturday evening Mass and all Sunday Masses in the Borromeo Room. If no additional nominations are received, Michael Berendes will be reinstated as Parish Council Trustee-Secretary for another two-year term.

**CIRCLE OF LOVE  
THANKS YOU!**



We hope you had an opportunity to see the Borromeo Room last Sunday! What a wonderful sign of your generosity and love! We had 664 tags on the tree this year. Circle of Love wishes to **THANK each and every person who took a tag off our "Miracle Tree"** and made Christmas brighter and happier for someone less fortunate. **THANK YOU to the wonderful people who offered financial support.** Your generosity helped provide food cards for each family.

**THANK YOU to all the Volunteers** who helped out by getting the tags ready for the "Miracle Tree," setting up tables, transporting gifts from the Narthex to the Borromeo Room, sorting and boxing all the gifts and helping Sponsors load the gifts in their cars. It was an awesome sight to see all the gifts wrapped so beautifully under the tree! Even more heartwarming is the thankfulness of the recipients who are overwhelmed by your love and caring.

*Please look for the Thank You cards and notes from the recipients the weekend of February 12 & 13, 2023 in the Narthex. God bless you in 2023!*



**ST. CHARLES DINING OUT!**

**Endter's Sports Grill in Hartland  
Sunday, December 18th - 4 pm to 10 pm**

Mention St. Charles and Endter's will donate \$5 for each large pizza or \$3 for each small pizza to St. Charles School. Offer good for dine in or carry out. For carry out call 262-369-0079. Remember to buy SCRIP for Endter's in the Parish Office and then spend it on Dec. 18th.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**



**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Flavored Instant Oatmeal, Mayo, Cooking Oil (not Canola)**

On this Third Sunday of Advent, in today's Gospel Jesus tell us that the good news can be seen, touched, felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it our actions must speak for us. In the past weeks there has been an increase in the number of people coming to our St. Charles SVDP Food Pantry. Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus' ministry by giving a gift to the St. Charles Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are in need can know the good news of Jesus. Envelopes for financial help are located at the SVDP collection boxes in the narthex and next to the sign-up shelf.

The St. Charles SVDP Food Pantry is located at 229 Lawn Street, Hartland. It is open Tuesday mornings between 10am and noon. It is also open on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the evening between 5:30pm and 7pm. If you are in need of assistance, or know of someone that is in need please contact St. Charles SVDP at 262-367-0800.

**LAKE COUNTRY BREAD OF LIFE  
COMMUNITY MEAL AT ST. CHARLES**

**Thursday, Dec. 15th  
Doors open at 4:30 pm  
Dinner is served at 5:30 pm**

This month the Modern Woodmen organization will provide and serve the food for the meal. The meal will be Marty's pizza, salad, breadsticks and Christmas cookies.

St. Charles Outreach Services Team will oversee the event. Please park in the north east parking lot due to school's Advent concert. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact the Parish Office or [humanconcerns@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:humanconcerns@stcharleshartland.org).

One of the easiest ways to support St. Charles Parish and School is through the secured online e-giving system.



**PARISH SUPPORT  
FOR THE WEEKEND OF  
OCTOBER 30TH**

FISCAL YEAR  
JULY 1 THRU JUNE 30

**2022 - 2023**

Envelopes.....	\$21,737.00
Offertory.....	\$3,342.33
Weekend Total .....	\$25,079.33
E-Giving .....	\$23,726.25
YTD .....	\$672,354.15

**2021-2022**

Envelopes.....	\$24,791.50
Offertory.....	\$2,344.01
Weekend Total .....	\$27,135.51
E-Giving .....	\$12,676.25
YTD .....	\$604,157.83

# OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

## OPEN PAID POSITIONS AT ST. CHARLES



Due to schedules changing and upcoming maternity leaves, St. Charles Parish School is hiring for the below positions:

- After-school Care Assistant (part-time, Tuesdays-Thursdays from 3:15-5:45 p.m.)
- 4K Teaching Aide (full-time)
- Long-term Substitutes for Spanish and Library

If you are interested, please contact the School Office at 262-367-2040! We would love to have you join our staff!

**2022 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR USHERS**

**Wednesday, Dec. 14th at 6:30pm in the Borromeo Room**

Everyone who helps to usher at church including full-time, part-time and sometimes.

Come for food, refreshments & camaraderie.

**THE PERFECT GIFT!**

Purchasing a cookbook is a great way to support the St. Charles Outreach Services Team ministry and is the perfect gift for all the chefs in your life. They are \$10 and can be purchased in the Parish Office. For more information please contact Terri at 262-367-7608.

*Year End*  
**GIVING**

**YOUR SUPPORT MEANS EVERYTHING!**

We thank you for keeping St. Charles at the forefront in this season of giving and for your generous financial support to help St. Charles be the light of Christ in our community! **Please drop off year-end donations to the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, December 28 to allow adequate time to record contributions for 2022.** For information or questions about contributing an end-of-year donation to St. Charles Parish and School, please contact parish@stcharleshartland.org or 262-367-0800.

## FESTIVAL OF THE LORD OFFERING

The beautiful decorations in our Church during the Christmas season lift our spirits closer to the Lord Jesus as we celebrate His birth. They help us to pray more deeply and feel closer to one another. We invite you to donate toward our decorations by making an offering in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life, for a special intention or simply as a free-will offering. We will list the names of the people remembered, the blessings recalled or the intentions held in your hearts in the bulletin on January 1st, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, we will not print the donor's name nor the amount given.

**If you wish to make this offering, please fill out this form and return it with your donation to the Parish Office by Wednesday, Dec. 14th. Offerings received after this date will not show in the bulletin (one-time list in the January 1st bulletin - earlier date due to the holiday publication schedule).**

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of those Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Blessing Recalled \_\_\_\_\_

Special Intention \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT -THANK YOU



# YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these.

Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the usually penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus' return in three ways.

### When is Gaudete?

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The date usually falls between December 11 to 17 each year. This year it falls on Dec. 11.

### Where Does the Name Come From?

The Introit for Gaudete Sunday, in both the Traditional Latin Mass and the Novus Ordo, is taken from Philippians 4:4-5: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always").

### Priest Clothing

Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation – especially prayer and fasting – for Christmas.

### Decor

For this same reason of lightening the mood, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored.



*by Scott P. Richert, who has a master's degree in political theory from Catholic University. He is the author of two books and has written and edited Catholic publications for over two decades.*



## 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. 28 - Dec. 23)
- 8:30 am, Monday through Saturday (Nov. 28 - Dec. 23; resumes on Dec. 26)

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (a Holy Day of Obligation)

- Wednesday, Dec. 7 - 6:00 pm (Vigil Mass with Incense)
- Thursday, Dec. 8 - 6:30 am, 8:30 am & noon

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- Every Thursday, from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm & Every Saturday, from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm (No Reconciliation on Christmas Eve)
- Communal Penance Service: Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 pm
- Communal Penance Service: Saturday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 am
- By appointment with either Father Ken or Father Ariel (262-367-0800)

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Every Monday, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (except Dec. 26 & Jan. 2)
- Every Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (except Dec. 6 due to the Penance Service)
- Wednesday & Thursday mornings, 7:00 am to 8:20 am
- Every Friday, 9:15 am to 3:00 pm ; Adoration on Friday, Dec. 2 will begin at 12:30 pm due to the School Reconciliation Service

### MORNING PRAYER

- Monday through Friday, 7:30 am
- Saturdays, 8:00 am (Except Dec. 24)

### ROSARY

- Monday through Friday, 8:00 am
- Tuesday, 7:30 pm
- First Saturday of the month (Dec. 3) after 8:30 am Mass

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### Saturday, Dec. 24

- 3:00 pm Children's Mass
- 5:00 pm
- 9:00 pm
- 11:00 pm (Incense used)

#### Sunday, Dec. 25

- 7:00 am
- 9:00 am (Incense used)
- No 11:00 am or 6:00 pm Mass

### THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS SCHEDULE

(One weekend Mass fulfills the Sunday and Holy Day Obligation)

#### Saturday, Dec. 31

- 5:00 pm (Vigil Mass)

#### Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023

- 7:00 am
- 9:00 am
- 11:00 am (Incense used)
- No 6:00 pm Mass



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**CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP**

e-Bulletin • December 2022

## Advent – A Season of Hope



**A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER**  
*for December*

Come, Lord Jesus!  
Make us good stewards  
of Advent.  
Strengthen our faith;  
calm our fears.

Come, Lord Jesus!  
We hear John the Baptist's cry.  
Open our hearts.  
Give us humility to repent.

Come, Lord Jesus!  
Let us walk in your light!  
Show us how we prepare your way  
and make straight your paths.

Come, Lord Jesus!  
We give you thanks and praise,  
for the shining star and angelic host,  
for Mary and Joseph,  
good stewards, both.

Come, Lord Jesus!  
We rejoice and are glad!  
For the Good News you bring  
And God's glory you revealed.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Amen

Advent is a time of waiting and expectation; a season of quiet anticipation and preparation. We are waiting for our Lord to come into the world as the baby Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. We are also preparing for His return, His second coming as the shepherd-king, to restore harmony and right relationship to all creation. Advent is a season yearning for God to come and set the world right with perfect justice, truth and peace. It is a season of hope.

Advent is a time to emphasize preparation through prayer. While Lent emphasizes a spirit of repentance through prayer and fasting, Advent's prayers are prayers of humble devotion and commitment, prayers for deliverance, prayers of gladness and joyful expectation, prayers that await the light of Christ coming into the world.



We do not shrink from those Advent scripture readings that reveal a strong prophetic tone of accountability and judgment. Christ's disciples expect the Lord to hold them accountable for what has been entrusted to them just as a spouse, parent, teacher or supervisor holds us accountable. And just as the steward was found faithful in small matters by the master, we too are confident that we will be found faithful and will enter the joy of the Master. We have absolute trust in the Lord's countenance.

Assuredly, during Advent we anticipate the Lord's coming with hope. It is that hope, however faint at times, that keeps us from despair and the darkness of sin and its destructiveness. It is a hope that urges us to be kind, loving and compassionate toward one another. It is a hope that encourages our faith in a merciful God who continues to pour His grace upon us.

We don't know when Christ will come again to bring human history to its completion. But we celebrate with gladness the great promise of Advent and we rekindle that positive, joyful spirit within us because we know, as Zechariah prophesied, that the light of Christ will shine on all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and He will guide our feet into the way of peace.



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