

Since this resurrection was for Christ the prelude to His glorious reign, for us it is the pledge of our own glorification and resurrection at the end of time; thus, to-day's liturgy prepares us for the second Coming of our Lord. "To-day", the Introit and the Gradual say, "you shall know that the Lord will come and save us: and in the morning you shall see His glory." "Sanctify yourselves and be ye ready," says the first response at Matins, "for to-morrow, you shall see the Son of God in your midst."

"By these two days, to-day and to-morrow," explains St. Bernard, "are meant that of the present life which is short and gloomy, and that of of eternity amidst the splendors of the saints. Our learning here below consists of remembering that the Lord is coming; and it is the first Coming of the Son of God which enlightens us about His second Coming. It calls to forth contrition, blazes forth in correction, shines through our zeal and renews us within and without."



Meditate on the marvels of the Lord's mercy vouchsafed in His Incarnation, that when the last morning dawns, we may contemplate those of His glory.

"To-morrow" says the Alleluia, "shall the iniquity of the earth be abolished; and the Savior of the world shall reign over us." Almighty God, the Creator of all things," adds the psalmist, "is indeed the King of glory, having snatched man from the power of Satan, receives him into His heavenly Jerusalem. Then shall the glory of the Lord be manifested. Let us, therefore, prepare ourselves "with holy joy, Redeemer at Christmas, in order that we may be able to contemplate Him with assurance, when He shall come as Judge at the end of the world." (Collect)

December 24, 2023



*Saint Joseph's
Traditional Roman Catholic Chapel
Traditional Latin Mass*

*29968 County 22
Harmony, Minnesota 55939*

Sunday, December 24

Vigil of the Nativity

(4th Sunday of Advent; St. Delphinus)

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

Monday, December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord

(St. Anastasia)

Confessions/ Caroling 11:30 pm
Holy Mass 12:00 am

Sunday, December 31

Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity

(St. Sylvester, PC)

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

Monday January 1

Circumcision of Our Lord

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

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MASS INTENTIONS may be submitted to Father for a stipend of \$25.00. If you wish a specific date, please submit well in advance. Mass Intention envelopes are available in the vestibule.

MEAL VOLUNTEERS: There is a new sign up sheet in the vestibule for the month of January to help provide Father with a meal-to-go after Mass. *Thank You* to all those who have been assisting with this Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry; and supporting your parish priest.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND for May of 2024 is being coordinated by Fr. Benedict Hughes. Please see flyer in the vestibule and contact Fr. Benedict if interested.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all the parishioners on behalf of Father and the Sisters.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE! - The CMD Sisters have baked some goodies for you to enjoy this Christmas!

THANK YOU to all who came out to help with the decorating the Church for Christmas!

BREAKFAST POTLUCK: Following our Christmas Midnight Mass there will be a Breakfast Potluck downstairs to celebrate!

CONGRATULATIONS to our upcoming First Holy Communicants, who will be receiving their First Holy Communion on Christmas!

St. Joseph's Church Financial Statement

Average Weekly Operating Costs: \$590

Average Weekly Collection (year-to-date): \$740

Last Four Collections: 11/26 \$657 12/3 \$651 12/10 \$1,229 12/17 \$769

The Vigil of The Nativity

The Vigil of Christmas is impregnated with holy cheerfulness, and if it were not for the vestments of penance and fasting one would imagine that the feast has begun.

The Church joyfully awaits the twofold coming of her Redeemer, (Collect) who "saves His people from their sins" (Gospel) and who is the Shepherd of Israel (Gradual) that is the Church, of whom all are members who have faith in Jesus Christ. Thus Isaias foretells that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God" and St. Paul adds that he has been chosen to be the Apostle of the Gospel, "for obedience to the faith in all nations for His name."

With the help of to-day's Mass, we may prepare to celebrate the anniversary of the "adorable birthday" of the only-begotten Son of God (Secret and Postcommunion), the Son of David, whom the spouse of Joseph brought into the world (Gospel) and who, "born as man" according to the seed of David, has by His Resurrection proved, beyond all question, that He was God (Epistle).