

December 22, 2024

**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**



**Parish Priest**

Father Marreddy Pothireddy

**Assisting Priest** - Father Joshua Miller

(For St. Joseph, Sacred Heart  
& Christ the King Parishes )

**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)

**Confession**

Saturday 3:00pm - 3:45pm



# ST. JOSEPH

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

512 South Elm Avenue  
Owatonna, MN 55060

Office Phone (507) 451-4845

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



Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Luke 1:42

## A message from the desk of Father Marreddy

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024-C Cycle

**Readings: Micah 5: 1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45**

Today, while celebrating the last Sunday of Advent prior to the Feast of Christmas Day, we can reflect the story of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and the recognition of the baby Mary was carrying in her womb as the long-awaited Savior. Elizabeth takes this opportunity to call Mary as the blessed one.

Do we recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in our lives? Blessed are we if we see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith". The word "blessed" means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.

To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised His disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do we know the joy of a life given over to God in faith and trust?

What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. What a marvelous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with His Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to His coming and leaped for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born.

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of His kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us.

Blessings!

### ***Christmas Message 2024 – Let Light Shine out of darkness***

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.

How shall we give expression to the multitude of feelings, ideas and thoughts that come together in this most joyful celebration? It is the fulfillment of four weeks of expectation, waiting in hope, and the remembrance of the most intimate mystery of life, the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, showing the way to the paths of love, compassion, freedom, and peace. Christmas is the day in which we well experience not only the beauty of the night with songs of peace but also the joyful celebration of the community in its unity.

Christmas is an occasion for rejoicing, a season of goodwill, a time of joy even for those who unfortunately do not know or realize its true meaning. For us Christians, it is the second of our greatest annual feasts (next after Easter) in which we call to mind God's infinite love for us and His infinite mercy towards us mortals.

The joy of Christmas is not for a day or a season. It is an eternal joy, a joy that no one can take from us because it is the joy of Jesus Christ himself made present in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

I wish you all a meaningful and joyful celebration of Christmas. God bless us all!



May Jesus be reborn in your heart and life during Christmas 2024 and every day of the New Year 2025. May He radiate His presence from within you by sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, humble service, a compassionate heart, and overflowing generosity. May the Holy Babe of Bethlehem bless you with health in body and soul and grant you a peaceful and blessed New Year. I assure you of my special prayers during Christmas Holy Masses and every day in the New Year.

*Fr. Marreddy Pothireddy.*

## Weekly Readings and Mass Intentions

Monday, December 23, 2024 <i>Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66</i>	Late Advent Weekday - St. John of Kanty, Priest 7:15am - Sacred Heart Church
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 <i>Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17,22-25/Lk 2:1-14</i>  <i>Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14</i>	The Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass: 4:00pm - Sheila and Michael Connor† Vigil Mass: 6:00pm - Christ the King - John Hager† Night Mass: 8:00pm - Irene Jaymalin†
Wednesday, December 25, 2024 <i>Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18</i>	The Nativity of the Lord 9:00am - Tom, Patrick, and Alicia Nolan†
Thursday, December 26, 2024 <i>Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22</i>	St. Stephen, The First Martyr 8:00am - Ruth Broumley
Friday, December 27, 2024 <i>1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a,2-8</i>	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist 8:00am - Christ the King - Betty Manderfeld†
Saturday, December 28, 2024 <i>1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18</i>	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 8:00am - Joseph Tupy†
Sunday, December 29, 2024 <i>Sm 1:20-22,24-28</i> <i>1 John 2:12-17</i> <i>Lk 2:41-52</i>	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 12/28/24 4:00pm - Mary Hannum† 12/28/24 5:30pm - Christ the King - Parishioners 12/29/24 8:00am - Leona and Edward Zak & Robert Wayne† 12/29/24 10:00am - Darlene Gathje†

### St. Vincent de Paul Society



#### December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

**Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood. This past week we served 150 meals at Vincent's Table on Tuesday.**

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

**Parish Priest** – Fr. Marreddy Pothireddy  
pastor@stjosephowatonna.org (507) 451-4845

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

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

**Bookkeeping**– Erika Starman

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

**Faith Formation Coordinator** – Brittany Boubin  
shsjyouth@shsjfaithformation.org (507) 686-5184

**Maintenance**– Dave Oman

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



## Church News & Events



“Sing With the Angels” Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 15, 2024  
Thank you to all the people that came and  
enjoyed an hour of Christmas music and  
fellowship at St. Joseph Parish!  
Your support of the St. Joseph Adult and  
Youth choirs is greatly appreciated! Have a  
very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!  
See you again next year!!



Please consider St. Joseph Parish as you prepare for the year end giving. Your generosity will go a long way in the life of the Church upkeep and grounds. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Church News & Events



### Christmas Mass Times

St. Joseph Parish Christmas Vigil - 4:00pm, 8:00pm  
Christ the King, Medford Christmas Vigil - 6:00pm  
Sacred Heart Church Christmas Vigil - 5:00pm, 7:00pm (Español), 10:00pm  
St. Joseph Parish Christmas Day - 9:00am  
Sacred Heart Church Christmas Day - 8:00am, 10:00am



The offices of St. Joseph Parish and Christ the King Church will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24th through Thursday, Dec. 26th and Wednesday, January 1st for Christmas and New Year's Day. There will still be Daily Mass on Thursday, December 26th at 8am.



Mass times at St. Joseph Parish

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Tuesday, December 31 at 4:00pm  
Wednesday, January 1 at 8:00am  
Christ the King, Medford  
Wednesday, January 1 at 9am

### **Owatonna KC Council 945 Benefit Breakfast**

for Steele Co. Purple Ribbon Club & Izaak Walton League

**Sunday, January 5 • 8am - 12pm**

St. Mary's School Cafeteria

**Advance tickets are \$9 or \$10 at the door.**

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**KC Omelet Breakfast: 3 egg omelet selections**  
**KC Country Breakfast: eggs fried or scrambled, ham or sausage.** Served with pancakes or french toast, milk, or coffee.

Advanced sale tickets may be purchased in the parish office.



### **The 2025 Catholic Family Appointment Calendars are available in the Gathering Hall!**

These calendars are generously provided by the following businesses:


***Brick-Meger Funeral Home***  
***Owatonna Bus Company***  
***Community Pathways***

### **Please Contact the Parish Office If...**

- \* A member of your family is in the hospital.
- \* You want communion brought to your home.
- \* Your address, phone, email has changed.
- \* You wish to register your family with the Parish.

**Phone: 451-4845 or**  
**email: [parishoffice@stjosephowatonna.org](mailto:parishoffice@stjosephowatonna.org)**

Scan the QR Code for more information on upcoming events and happenings at Christ the King Church in Medford or visit the website at [www.ctkmedfordmn.org](http://www.ctkmedfordmn.org)



Magnifikid is back! Please take one for your child(ren) to follow along with the Sunday Mass. The Magnifikid includes the Order of Mass and some family activities. They are on the table in the gathering area and by the doors.

**Magnificat** renewals or new subscription orders are due by the end of December. Cost for the year is \$34.95. Checks can be dropped off in the parish office or the collection basket marked "Magnificat." Non payment will be considered a cancellation.. Thank you.





## How can I serve?



**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)

**Communion 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)

### **Ministries Appreciation Dinner** **Saturday, January 11, 2025 • 5:30pm** **Joseph Hall, St. Joseph Parish**

We would like to take this opportunity to “Thank” all of our parish volunteers by celebrating with a dinner.  
**If you plan to attend, call 507-451-4845 to RSVP by Monday, January 6th.**

#### **Not a volunteer yet at St. Joseph? You're invited too!**

Come and learn about our many ministries at St. Joseph Parish. We need volunteers to serve at Mass, singing and playing in the choir, Homebound Ministers, serving at funerals luncheons, decorating, cleaning the church (“Marthas”), maintaining plants, building and grounds, and so much more!

God has given you many talents, consider sharing some of them with the St. Joseph Parish community.

Thank you for your gift of service and we hope to see you at the dinner!

Fill out a *Sharing of Time & Talent form*, located in the Gathering Hall, and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office.

### **Liturgical Ministers Schedule**

#### **Tuesday, December 24 - 4:00pm**

EMs: Matt Thurnau, Julio Letona, Sandie Kubista  
Rose Ann Rypka, Katie Holzerland

Lector: Colleen Possehl

Sacristan: Julio Letona

Ushers: Scott Yentsch, Sue Yentsch  
Marty Possehl, Jerry Atkinson

Altar Servers: Julio Letona, Clara Sennott, Everett Sennott

Greeters: Katherine Rypka, Cynthia Letona

#### **Tuesday, December 24 - 8:00pm**

EMs: Martha Kearin, Diane Kaplan,  
Vickie Skala, Julio Letona

Lector: Cindy Emanuelson

Sacristan: Julio Letona

Ushers: Doug Phillips, Cindy Phillips,  
Mark Kearin, *Usher needed*

Altar Servers: Carson Skala, Julio Letona, *Server needed*

Greeters: *Greeters Needed*

#### **Wednesday, December 25 - 9:00am**

EMs: Lee Jardine, Ellyn Jardine, Dianne Unruh

Lector: Pat Rose

Sacristan: Kevin Kreiner

Ushers: Gary Thurnau, Dina Atkinson  
Brad Fischer, *Usher needed*

Altar Servers: Samantha Kreiner, Ophelia Slacter  
*Server needed*

Greeters: Wayne & Betty Kubicek

#### **Saturday, December 28 - 4:00pm**

EMs: Rose Ann Rypka, Dianne Unruh, Matt Thurnau

Lector: Tim Vogt

Sacristan: Julio Letona

Ushers: Scott Yentsch, Sue Yentsch  
Amador Ramirez, *Usher needed*

Altar Servers: Julio Letona, *2 Servers needed*

Greeter: Cynthia Letona

#### **Sunday, December 29 - 8:00am**

EMs: Diane Kaplan, Martha Kearin, Sue Heller

Lector: Colleen Possehl

Sacristan: Joanne Evans

Ushers: Doug Phillips, Cindy Phillips  
Mark Kearin, Tyler Keller

Altar Servers: Henry Seykora, Stella Seykora, *server needed*

Greeter: *Greeter needed*

#### **Sunday, December 29 - 10:00am**

EMs: Stacey Ginskey, Ellyn Jardine, Katie Holzerland

Lector: Lee Jardine

Sacristan: Ruth Broumley

Ushers: Brad Fischer, Gary Thurnau  
Nolan Ginskey, *Usher needed*

Altar Servers: Lucas Ginskey, Macey Ginskey, Molly Bailey

Greeter: Wayne & Betty Kubicek



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MARCH 22, 2025**

Mark your calendars for our school's biggest community fundraiser



**We are recruiting Altar Servers!**  
Parents, if your son or daughter have received their First Holy Communion, are entering the 4th Grade and would like to be an altar server, call the parish office at 507-451-4845 for more information about Altar Server training at St. Joseph Parish.



**December Funeral Chairpersons**

**Linda Rice**  
**507-451-3606**

**Diane McShane**  
**507-456-0492**

**January Funeral Chairperson**

**Val O'Neill**  
**507-451-8746**

*Contact the parish office if you are interested in serving at funeral luncheons 507-451-4845.*




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