

December 15, 2024



Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Priest

Father Marreddy Pothireddy

Assisting Priest - Father Joshua Miller

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

ST. JOSEPH

CATHOLIC CHURCH

512 South Elm Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060

Office Phone (507) 451-4845

Website: www.stjosephowatonna.org



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



A message from the desk of Father Marreddy

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024 – C Cycle

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

Why did thousands come out to hear John the Baptist preach? And what was so unusual about his message? When John the Baptist appeared on the public scene and began to prophesy the whole nation of Israel took notice. It had been many hundreds of years since a prophet had spoken out and performed signs in the land of Israel. John broke the long silence with the sudden announcement that the Messiah (God's Anointed One) was about to appear.

The people recognized that John was an extraordinary man of God and a true prophet who spoke in God's name. They came out to hear the "good news" (Luke 3:18) which he preached to them. And they willingly submitted to his baptism of repentance at the River Jordan where he preached. John's task was to wake people up from spiritual sleep and indifference, and to turn them back to hear God's voice and obey his commandments. John wanted the people to be in a good place to receive the Messiah and follow him.

John's message of renewal and repentance was very practical. He told the people **three things**: **First**, every follower of God must share what they possess (their personal goods and resources) with their neighbors, especially with those who lacked the basic necessities of life. John recognized that this was a key duty for every individual and an outward expression of the great commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself.

Second, John pointed out the sacred duty to give each and every person what is their due and to not take from them what rightfully belongs to them. John told the tax collectors that they must not coerce people to pay more tax money than what was rightfully due. John instructed soldiers to not abuse their authority or power to compel people to give or do things for them beyond what was rightful and their due. John did not tell them to leave their profession, but to be good, honest, and respectful soldiers.

Third, John exhorted his listeners to be content with what they had and to avoid coveting what belonged to others. John basically called the people to turn back to God and to walk in His way of love and righteousness.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks for the generosity from all of our parishioners who made it possible to meet our Annual Diocesan Appeal after many years of falling short. Please pray for one another as we continue our journey of faith.

Advent Blessings!

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

Weekly Readings and Mass Intentions

Monday, December 16, 2024 <i>Nm 24:2-7,15-17a/Mt 21:23-27</i>	Advent Weekday 7:15am - Sacred Heart Church
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 <i>Gn 49:2,8-10/Mt 1:1-17</i>	Late Advent Weekday 8:00am - S. I. Zamboni family living & deceased
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 <i>Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25</i>	Late Advent Weekday 8:00am - Earl Wheeler† 8:10am - Harlan Kern†- SMS Mass - Sacred Heart
Thursday, December 19, 2024 <i>Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a/Lk 1:5-25</i>	Late Advent Weekday 8:00am - Mary Jane Jacobson†
Friday, December 20, 2024 <i>Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38</i>	Late Advent Weekday 8:00am - Christ the King - Julie Spinler†
Saturday, December 21, 2024 <i>Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45</i>	Late Advent Weekday - St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church 8:00am - Jim Killen†
Sunday, December 22, 2024 <i>Mt 5:1-4a</i> <i>Heb 10:5-10</i> <i>Lk 1:39-45</i>	Fourth Sunday of Advent 12/21/24 4:00pm - Parishioners 12/21/24 5:30pm - Christ the King - Kurt Miller† 12/22/24 8:00am - Dylan Lattery† 12/22/24 10:00am - Richard and Mary Ann Haberman†

St. Vincent de Paul Society



December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas. This past week we served 165 meals at Vincent's Table on Tuesday.

We meet the 1st and 3rd 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



You're invited to attend the Installation Mass of Fr. Marreddy Pothireddy as Parish Priest of St. Joseph Parish, Owatonna and Christ the King Church, Medford celebrated by
The Most Reverend Bishop Robert Barron
Diocese of Winona-Rochester
10:00 AM Sunday, December 22, 2024
St. Joseph Parish, Owatonna
Brunch will be served in Joseph Hall after Mass. (Free will offering)
Please **RVSP by Monday, December 16** if you plan to attend the meal at 507-451-4845.



Volunteers needed to decorate the church!

We will begin decorating the Gathering and Joseph Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 18th around 9am. On Sunday, Dec. 22nd after the Installation Mass, volunteers can set up the manger scene and the two 10 foot tall Christmas trees on the altar. Monday, Dec. 23rd we can set out the poinsettia on the altar and finish what is left. If you would like to volunteer again this year, please call the parish office at 507-451-4845. Your help in decorating our church for the Christmas season is greatly appreciated and can be a fun memorable tradition for your family!

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**

Owatonna KC Council 945 Benefit Breakfast for Catholic Daughters & Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival
Sunday, December 15 • 8am - 12pm
St. Mary's School Cafeteria
Advance tickets are \$9 or \$10 at the door.

Two sensational breakfast choices and table service!

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 Gathering Hall after Mass.



**Catholic Community
Communal Penance Service**
Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm
St. Joseph Parish

Court Owatonna Catholic Daughters of the Americas

**Potluck/Meeting Monday,
December 16th at 6:00pm**

Joseph Hall, St. Joseph Parish

Members bring a dish to pass along with your own eating utensils. *Family of CDA members are invited to eat.* **Please bring a wrapped gift no greater than \$8 for the gift swap.** The luncheon committee will provide dessert and beverages. A brief meeting will follow.



Thank you! We did it!

We have met and exceeded our goal of \$50,880 for the 2024

"You are the Light of the World" Catholic Ministries Appeal!

Your generous gift supports men discerning vocations to the priesthood and diaconate, priests serving and retired priests. Your gift helps to sustain Catholic schools, religious education, ministerial formation and initiatives for life, peace and justice!

Thank you for your generosity!



2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal
YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Church News & Events

Greetings and Prayerful wishes from Fr. Marreddy Pothireddy, St. Joseph's Church, Owatonna, MN.



Christmas celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. We Christians understand this as the “incarnation,” which means that God became human in the form of Jesus Christ. As it says in the Gospel of John, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1: 14).

It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Sure, enjoy the season but remember to rejoice as well! After all, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift: the birth of Jesus, the Christ child.

Because of Jesus we have **PEACE** that passes Understanding, we have **JOY** that cannot be taken away. We have **LOVE** that's everlasting. We have nothing to fear and everything to **HOPE** for today, tomorrow, and always.

I hope the delight of Christmas fills every corner of your heart and home with joy now and always. I hope Christmas brings you and your family peace, joy and lifts your spirits up during this season! May this season find you among those you love, sharing in the twin glories of generosity and gratitude.

After two years, I am planning to visit my home country India, to spend time with my Parents, family and friends. I will leave on January 14th, 2025, and will be back on Feb 20, 2025. Kindly keep my family and me in your kind prayers. You will be in my thoughts and prayers always.

Your heart be light, your celebrations be joyful, and your time with loved ones be filled with warmth and laughter. Wishing you a Christmas season full of love, peace, and happiness. May the spirit of Christmas bring you hope and inspiration for the coming year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2025.

Blessings!

Fr. Marreddy Pothireddy.

Young Adult Catholic December Event

Young Adult Catholics ages 20-35 are invited to attend the next Young Adult Catholic Fellowship Night on Thursday, December 19th from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Joseph Hall, St. Joseph Parish.



Singles, couples, and families with young children are invited to a Christmas Social! Plan to come dressed in an ugly sweater or your favorite Christmas attire. The night will also include fellowship, fun, and light refreshment. Feel free to invite friends! If you have any questions please text Lucas and Kristine Arndt at 507-573-3532.

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**

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.”



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@stjosephwatonna.org

Communion Ministers – Linda Huffington
(507)456-5274 (leave message) or
lindamwhuffington@gmail.com

Greeters – Wayne & Betty Kubicek
(507)451-8683, bj-n-me@hotmail.com

Homebound Ministries – Vickie Skala
(507)456-2230, vskala9174@gmail.com

Lectors – Linda Strand (507)363-2596,
strand619@gmail.com

Music Ministry – Carol Hodapp
(507)213-6981, carolhodapp@gmail.com

Sacristans – Ellyn Jardine (507)-444-4088,
leej7@reagan.com

Ushers – Pat Rose (507)456-1146
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 **December 21/22, 2024**

Saturday - 4:00pm

EM: Dianne Unruh, Rose Ann Rypka, Julio Letona
Lector: Linda Strand
Sacristan: Julio Letona
Ushers: Scott Yentsch, Larry Goettl
Sue Yentsch, Amador Ramirez
Altar Servers: Julio Letona, Brianna Harinen
Sophia Harinen
Greeters: Katherine Rypka

Sunday - 8:00am

EM: Lynn Lattery, Diane Kaplan, Courtney Keller
Lector: Cindy Emanuelson
Sacristan: Rita Goodnature
Ushers: Joel Dulas, Pat Rose
Rhynda Dulas, Tyler Keller
Altar Servers: Charlie Dulas, Jacob Dulas
Sam Dulas
Greeters: *Greeters Needed*

Sunday - 10:00am

EM: Lee Jardine, Ellyn Jardine, Ryan Heydon
Lector: Vickie Skala
Sacristan: Kevin Kreiner
Ushers: Chuck Jurgens, Jerry Atkinson
King Jurgens, Dina Atkinson
Altar Servers: Samantha Kreiner, Cole Trom
Westin Trom
Greeters: Wayne & Betty Kubicek

*Volunteers are needed in all the liturgical ministries.
Call 507-451-4845 if you are able serve.*

December Funeral Chairpersons

Linda Rice
507-451-3606

Diane McShane
507-456-0492

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.

St. Mary's School News

St. Mary's Junior High students led our Spirit Groups in making small bags of Hershey's Hugs & Kisses. These little bags with a note on each one will go to the VFW for their annual Christmas dinner. A fun little tradition at St. Mary's to help spread Christmas cheer!

St. Mary's Night of Knights Auction has a new date this year. **SAVE THE DATE:** March 22nd for the 39th Annual Night of Knights Auction!



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