



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22nd, 2024

St Mary of Czestochowa
CATHOLIC CHURCH

1867 95th Street SE • Delano, MN 55328
(952) 955-1139

Growing together in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, leading others to Him; striving to become saints.

Father Paul Kubista, Pastor
Email: frkubista@stmarydelano.org

Mary Kay Swartzter, Admin. Asst.
Email: mkswartzter@stmarydelano.org

Phone: 952-955-1139

Website: www.stmarydelano.org

Facebook: St Mary of Czestochowa

Welcome! If interested in becoming a member or becoming a Catholic, contact Fr. Kubista.

Baptism: Contact Fr. Kubista at least 3 months before the birth to attend a class and set a date.

Faith Formation for grades K-Confirmation Wednesday evenings from Sept 11th-April

First Confession & Holy Eucharist: Register for 2nd grade Faith Formation classes.

Confirmation: Register for 9th & 10th grade Faith Formation classes.

Marriage: Contact Fr. Kubista at least

six months before the planned wedding date.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: If you move to a nursing home or care facility and would like a priest to visit, or if unable to attend mass and would like communion at home, contact Fr. Kubista.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Fr. Kubista when seriously ill or near death.

Funerals: Contact Fr. Kubista

Eucharistic Adoration - First Friday of every month 9-10am (including Confessions, Benediction) and Wednesdays 9am-6pm.

First Saturday devotions start 35 minutes prior to 4pm Mass.

Mass Intention Requests may be placed in the collection plate. Please enclose them in an envelope along with instructions (i.e., desired dates, number of masses, etc). Or contact Sue Roskowiak at 612-414-4705.

Bulletin Items by Thurs noon: kmotzko@stmarydelano.org

Hall Rental: Contact Mary Kay Swartzter.

Safe Environment Coordinator: Kathleen Motzko
kmotzko@stmarydelano.org

MASS SCHEDULE / Intentions		
Sat 21st	4pm	Ed & Mary Schumacher+
Sun 22nd	8:30am	St Mary's Living & Deceased
Tues 24th	4pm	Walter Swartzter+
Wed 25th	8:30am	St Mary's Living & Deceased
Thur 26th	8:30am	NO MASS
Fri 27th	8:30am	NO MASS
Sat 28th	4pm	St Mary's Living & Deceased
Sun 29th	8:30am	Alex & Gladys Socher+

Reconciliation Times: One-half hour before each Mass or by appointment.

Rosary Times: starts 16 min before each weekday Mass and 20 min before Sat & Sun Masses

Divine Mercy Chaplet after each weekday Mass

Lector and Sacristan Schedule	
Dec 21st	Depas (L/S), Don G & volunteer (U)
Dec 22nd	Theisens (L/S), Jim O' & Gene G (U)
Dec 24th	George & Sue (L/S), Jim & George (U)
Dec 25th	Theisens (L/S), Jim O' & Deave L (U)
Dec 28th	Huns V (L), Tracey A (S), Jim & George (U)
Dec 29th	Deb D (L/S), Jim Otto & Joe N (U)

A Message from Fr. Kubista:

We are so grateful that Jesus has come to save us from death (the devil) so that we can inherit eternal life with the help of God. St Peter tells us: *“Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith,”*(1 Peter 5:8-9) The devil is the primary foe of a Christian.

A group called Minnesota Satanists has sponsored a devilish display in the Minnesota State Capitol. Their website says: *“We champion the symbol of Lucifer as one of revolt against arbitrary authority and advocacy for the pursuit of knowledge.”* It sounds a lot like how the devil tricked Adam and Eve: follow me, go against the authority of God, and pursue the knowledge of good and evil. The display is of the mythical phoenix freshly emerging from its ashes, over its head is an upside down five sided star inside a circle (the symbol of Satanism), and in front of it is a card which reads: *“You Are Your Own God”*.

The phoenix looks like it has horns (the devil is often depicted with horns) and it is orange, red, and yellow which are the colors of fire (the unquenchable fire of Hell). A phoenix can be viewed as an image of the Resurrection as accounted by St. Clement. *“Let us consider that wonderful sign [of the resurrection] which takes place in Eastern lands, that is, in Arabia and the countries round about. There is a certain bird which is called a phoenix. This is the only one of its kind, and lives five hundred years. And when the time of its dissolution draws near that it must die, it builds itself a nest of frankincense, and myrrh, and other spices, into which, when the time is fulfilled, it enters and dies. But as the flesh decays a certain kind of worm is produced, which, being nourished by the juices of the dead bird, brings forth feathers.”* Job says mentions the longevity of the phoenix. So the symbol of the phoenix is flipped, rather than symbolizing Christ who brings eternal life, it symbolizes the devil who brings eternal death.

The upside down star inside the circle can be viewed as turning a Christian symbol on its head. *“A circle is a symbol of God’s eternity.”* *“Among Christians [a five pointed star] has symbolized the five wounds of Christ—his hands and feet punctured by the Crucifixion and his side pierced by a soldier’s spear—as well as the Star of Bethlehem and Christ himself.”* The inverted star (pentagram) is associated with negative or “black” magic and devil worship.

Regarding the card, when Adam and Eve sinned, the devil indicated that they would become their own gods: *“you will be like gods.”*(Genesis 3:5) Making ourselves (or anyone including Lucifer) god violates the First Commandment: I am the Lord thy God: thou shall not have strange (other) gods before me.

There is debate on whether this sort of display is protected under the First Amendment of the US Constitution. The Constitution states that Congress cannot make a law that prohibits exercising a religion including talking about that religion but it does not say that one is obligated to put up in public spaces displays for a religion especially if the display demeans another religion during one of its sacred times (Advent/Christmas). One could view the display as blasphemy as it takes things of God and turns them upside down, and it honors Satan (who mocks God) therefore the display mocks God. There is some legal precedent that blasphemy laws would apply. In an article, *“Blasphemy and the Original Meaning of the First Amendment”* by Harvard Law Review (Dec 2021), the conclusion is that blasphemy can be considered along with obscenity and defamation, as not protected by the First Amendment. There are states today that have blasphemy laws: Massachusetts, Michigan, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and South Carolina.

As Christians, we are to protect others from the spiritual deadly influences of the devil. We can pray (certainly for people to turn away from the devil) and ask our government leaders to remove the devilish display from our State Capitol. God bless you.

Thank you to Rachel and Ashlie for coordinating the Faith Formation Christmas program and party, and also to the families who brought cookies and treats to share afterward.

A fun time was had by all!



Also thank you to all those who helped decorate for Advent.

Condolences to the family of Jean Baldy, whose funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 21st.

Class on God by Fr. Kubista will resume on Tuesday, Jan 7th, at 7:15pm. Even if you have not attended a previous class you are welcome to come and join.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Reflection

Sometimes the signs God gives are unmistakable. Sometimes the signs are not so obvious. What signs do we see when we look around us? Sometimes it is hard to see God's signs because the signs of our world are so ever present and large. How many times this month have you seen this sign: "ONLY 20 (or 18, or 10, or 6 or...) MORE SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS." Do we ever stop to think, "How many praying days left until Christmas?"

Prayer for the Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.
He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.
He is the Savior of us all.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light all candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

Advent Action

Look around you for a sign of God's presence. When you find it, share it with someone.

Prayer

O come, O Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Our Sacrificial Giving	
<i>We offer unto you, O Lord, our sacrificial giving. Thank you.</i>	
Average weekly collection income need	\$3,315.00
12/15/24 Weekly Envelopes/Autobanking	\$2,815.00
Weekly Plate collection	\$611.52
Christmas flowers	\$35.00
Christmas env	\$200.00
Immaculate Conception	\$147.00
Stained glass windows	\$400.00
Utilities	\$200.00
Wright-Henn Coop credit	\$178.56
Collection Total for 12/15/24:	\$4,587.08
Stole fee *	\$500.00
Budgeted Collection Income YTD**	\$79,560.00
YTD Weekly Collection (as of 12/15/24)	\$92,814.88

• Not included in Collection Total

** Does not include festival income

Parish Events

- Dec 24th at 4pm—Christmas Eve Mass
- Dec 25th at 8:30am—Christmas Day Mass
- Dec 31st at 6:30pm and Jan 1st at 8:30am—Mass for Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
- Jan 4th—Epiphany party 6:30-8:30pm
- Jan 7th at 7:15pm—Class on God resumes
- Jan 14th—Festival meeting 7:15pm
- Jan 19th 9-11am—Waffle/French Toast Breakfast
- Jan 21st at 7:10pm—Parish councils meet

No Faith Formation classes or Eucharistic Adoration on Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st. We will resume on Jan. 8th.

The Epiphany party will be on Saturday, Jan 4th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Come to enjoy playing Bunco (dice game even for kids) and Euchre (card game). Instruction will be given as to how to play the games. These games will be tournament style and partners will be changed so it will be a good way to get to meet others. There will be drinks and snacks and for the winners, prizes. There will be no charge. Come and have some fun and celebrate the New Year and Epiphany.

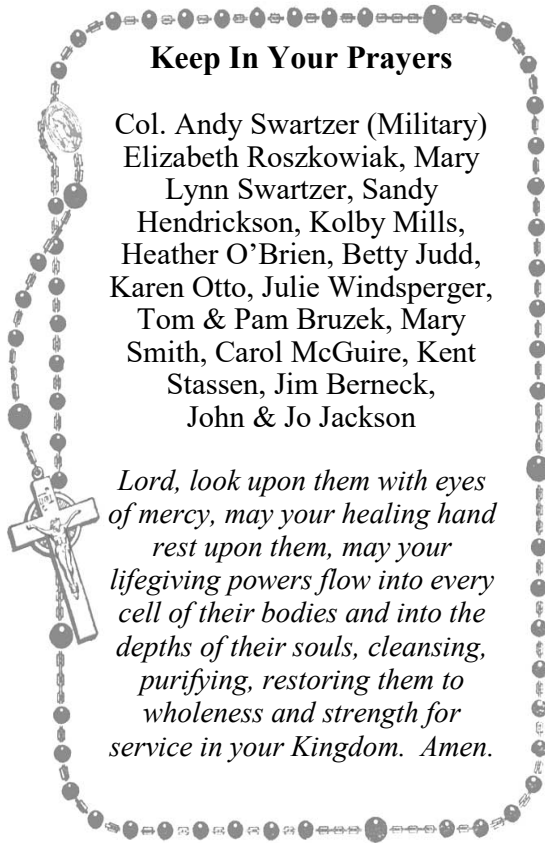
Need Rosary leaders—we are in need of Rosary leaders (or occasional subs) especially for Saturday evening Masses. If you are interested, please contact Darlene at 763-972-3564.

Thank you sponsors! If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact Kathleen at kmotzko@stmarydelano.org

Keep In Your Prayers

Col. Andy Swartzter (Military)
Elizabeth Roszkowiak, Mary
Lynn Swartzter, Sandy
Hendrickson, Kolby Mills,
Heather O'Brien, Betty Judd,
Karen Otto, Julie Windsperger,
Tom & Pam Bruzek, Mary
Smith, Carol McGuire, Kent
Stassen, Jim Berneck,
John & Jo Jackson

Lord, look upon them with eyes of mercy, may your healing hand rest upon them, may your lifegiving powers flow into every cell of their bodies and into the depths of their souls, cleansing, purifying, restoring them to wholeness and strength for service in your Kingdom. Amen.



Radio Rosary
11:00 am Sundays

KRWC - 1360 AM Buffalo

Dec 22nd—for the President and political leaders—St Timothy's CCW, Maple Lake, MN

Dec 29th—for the end of the Middle East conflict—St Michael's CCW, St. Michael

**DRIVEN
DRILLING**

WELLS-GEOTHERMAL-HDD

Jason Motzko 612-209-2929

VANDERLINDE GROUP
—EDGE REALTY—

Call us for all your *real estate* needs!
JUDY VANDERLINDE 612.759.5054

SUE ROSKOWIAK - Realtor
Cell: 612-414-4705
Fulfilling the Dream of Home



**COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY**