When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.” MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may led us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. [John 1:14]

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! On behalf of the priests and lay staff who serve our Skagit Valley parishes I thank you for your presence, support, and partnership in ministry.

May this Christmastide be a time of joy, hope, and peace for you and your families, and may the light of the Christ-child shine brightly in our hearts and in our world.

With prayers and every good wish for the New Year,

Fr. Tom

P.S. This photo is from our 2019 SVCC clergy and staff Christmas party hosted by Fr. Ben at the St. Charles rectory. Thank you, Fr. Ben!
"Cuando José despertó, hizo lo que el ángel del Señor le había mandado y llevó a su esposa a su casa". MATEO 1:24

Pongamos completamente nuestra confianza en el Señor sin esperar nada a cambio. Esforcémonos por poner a Dios primero en todas las cosas y seguirlo a donde sea que nos guíe. Mientras nos vamos preparando para el nacimiento de nuestro Señor, recemos por fuerza y coraje para ser un discípulo modelo, tal como lo fue José.

Y el Verbo se hizo carne y habitó entre nosotros, lleno de gracia y verdad; hemos visto su gloria, gloria como del único Hijo del Padre. [Juan 1:14]

Queridos amigos,

Feliz Navidad y un bendito año nuevo! En nombre de los sacerdotes y el personal laico que sirven a nuestras parroquias de Skagit Valley, les agradezco su presencia, apoyo y colaboración en el ministerio.

Que esta marea de navidad sea un tiempo de alegría, esperanza y paz para usted y sus familias, y que la luz del niño Jesucristo ilumine brillantemente en nuestros corazones y en nuestro mundo.

Mis oraciones y todos mis buenos deseos para el Año Nuevo,

Padre Tom

PD Esta foto (en la primera pagina) es de nuestra fiesta de Navidad del clero y personal de SVCC 2019 organizada por el Padre Ben en la rectoría de San Carlos. Gracias Padre Ben!
**SKAGIT VALLEY MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

**Vigil, The Nativity of the Lord, Tuesday, December 24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immaculate Conception, Mount Vernon</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**The Nativity of the Lord, Wednesday, December 25**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immaculate Conception, Mount Vernon</td>
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<td>St. Charles, Burlington</td>
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</table>

**Vigil, Solemnity of Mary, Tuesday, December 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles, Burlington</td>
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**Solemnity of Mary, Wednesday, January 1**

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**HUMAN LIFE OF SKAGIT VALLEY**

This is an early reminder of the Annual March for Life in Olympia for all of you Pro-Lifers. We have once again reserved a bus that will pick us up at the Immaculate Conception parking lot and will leave prompt at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21st. We are requesting a voluntary donation of $20.00 to help defray the cost of the bus. There are 54 seats available on the bus - to reserve your seat, please contact Barbara Huff at 360-854-2961. Thank you, God Bless, have a merry and blessed Christmas, and we hope to see you there.

---

**VIDA HUMANA DEL VALLE DE SKAGIT**

Este es un recordatorio temprano de la Marcha Anual por la Vida en Olympia para todos ustedes Pró-vidas. Una vez más, hemos reservado un autobús que nos recogerá en el estacionamiento de la Inmaculada Concepción y partirá a las 8:30 a.m. del martes 21 de enero. Estamos solicitando una donación voluntaria de $ 20.00 para ayudar a cubrir el costo del autobús. Hay 54 asientos disponibles en el autobús; para reservar su asiento, comuníquese con Barbara Huff al 360-854-2961. Gracias, Dios los bendiga, que tengan una feliz y bendecida Navidad, y esperamos verlos allí.

---

**WORD OF LIFE**

“God's love is generous, sacrificial, life-giving, and forever. As humans made in God's image, we are called to imitate the eternal giving and receiving of love that is the Holy Trinity.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“Another Look at Contraception”

---

**PALABRA DE VIDA**

“El amor de Dios es generoso, sacrificado, vivificante y para siempre. Como seres humanos hechos a la imagen de Dios, estamos llamados a imitar el dar y recibir eterno del amor que es la Santísima Trinidad.”

Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB

“Otra mirada a la anticoncepción”

---

**USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities**

**Another Look at Contraception**

---

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A NOTE FROM KARLIE LODJIC, WA/AK/HI Regional Coordinator

REGARDING I-1004:
Currently, WA state is one of the least restrictive states regarding abortion laws in the United States. The respect and protection of life, and the support for pregnant mothers in need, runs very low in the pacific northwest.

Initiative 1004 is our first step in changing the culture and promoting life in our state. This bill would require an abortion doctor to notify a minor’s parent, legal guardian or in some cases obtain an exemption from a court before he or she would perform an abortion procedure on a minor.

This bill, having received enough signatures from WA state voters, would go before the legislature and then likely end up on the 2020 ballot.

We need 300,000 signatures before the end of December for this initiative to be on the ballot for the November 2020 election.

Our new archbishop as well as our other bishops in the Archdiocese of Seattle have expressed their full support and backing of this bill, and I ask all of you, as the Catholic laity, to join in the effort to increase the protection of life in our state. We are in great need of your help.

If you have any questions or want to become involved, you can email karlielodjic@aol.com.

Please remember the Church and School in your will.
The FULCRUM tuition assistance application is available online now at: [www.fulcrumfoundation.org](http://www.fulcrumfoundation.org).

ICRS would recommend any family who is interested in attending ICRS next year to apply. The Deadline to apply is January 8, 2020. Need help filling out the application, call the school office to set up a free appointment. 360-428-3912

Immaculate Conception Regional School is now accepting online applications for next year. School admittance is done on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please call the office 360-428-3912 or go to the website for more information. [www.ICRSWEB.org](http://www.ICRSWEB.org)

ICRS is looking for a long-term sub for the pre-school classroom. If you are interested or would like more information please call Principal Rodrigues (360-428-3912) or visit our website ([www.ICRSWEB.org](http://www.ICRSWEB.org).)

Immaculate Conception Regional School is now offering tours of the school twice monthly to parishioners and perspective families. The tours will be offered on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The next tour will be given this Wednesday December 18th. Tours will start at the front office at 12:30pm and last 45 minutes. Feel free to RSVP ahead of time by calling 360-428-3912 x16.

---

**Homeless Men’s Clothing Drive**

A friendly reminder to clean out your closets and donate clothing and other items for the St. Martin De Porres Homeless Shelter for Men in Seattle. If you have the means, please consider purchasing underwear, socks, gloves and warm knitted caps to donate. Toiletry items, especially travel size, are most welcomed. Collection boxes are at the entrance to the church. Please, no women’s or children’s clothing. Questions: Steve Miller, 360-708-2722, [ftdock1@comcast.net](mailto:ftdock1@comcast.net)

**Colecta de Ropa para Hombres sin Hogar**

Un recordatorio para limpiar sus armarios y donar ropa y otros artículos para el Shelter de San Martin de Porres para hombres sin hogar en Seattle. Si usted tiene los medios, por favor considere comprar ropa interior, calcetines, guantes y gorras de punto calientes para donar. Los artículos de aseo, especialmente el tamaño del viaje, son los más Bienvenida. Las cajas de recogida están en la entrada de la iglesia. Por favor, no ropa de mujie o ninños. Preguntas: Steve Miller, 360-708-2722, [ftdock1@comcast.net](mailto:ftdock1@comcast.net)

**Confirmation**

It’s not too late to register your teen for Confirmation classes for Immaculate Conception or Immaculate Heart of Mary parishes. Our first class is January 26th. Please spread the word. You can get registration materials from the ICC parish office. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Rutherford at [rutherford@icrsweb.org](mailto:rutherford@icrsweb.org)

**SVCC Holy Land Pilgrims!**

A friendly reminder to all those pilgrims planning to take the chartered Bellair Airporter bus to and from SeaTac for our upcoming pilgrimage: Payment for the bus is due. Please, if you have not already done so, send payment ($66.16 r/t or $33.08 one way) to the Immaculate Conception office as soon as possible. Thank you.

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Please remember the Church and school in your will.
Immaculate Conception Church
Vision Statement: A Christ Centered Church of Faith-Filled Disciples

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 22
9 a.m. Mass, Church
10:20 a.m. English Faith Formation, Church & Parish Center
11 a.m. Mass, Spanish, Church
1 p.m. Mass, Spanish, Church
7:00 p.m. Vespers and compline, Church

Monday, December 23
9-10 a.m. Organ Lessons, Church
12:15 p.m. Mass, Church
7:00 p.m. Spanish Youth Choir, Church

Tuesday, December 24, Office closed
10 a.m. Scripture Group, Conference Room
5:00 p.m. Mass, Church
7:30 p.m. Spanish Choir "Armonia en Oración", Church
8:30 p.m. Misa, Church
11:00 p.m. Mass, Church

Wednesday, December 25, Office closed
8:30 a.m. Rosary, Church
9:00 a.m. Mass, Church
6 p.m. Spanish Youth Group, Conference Room
6:30 p.m. Legion of Mary, Basement Classroom
7:00 p.m. English Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, December 26, Office closed
8:15 a.m. Sacramentors, Library
6 p.m. Confessions, Church
7 p.m. Spanish Mass, Church

Friday, December 27
11:00 a.m. Leadership Meeting Priest, Conference Room
12:15 p.m. Mass, Church
1:00 p.m. Wedding, Church
6:00 p.m. Hispanic Charismatic Group, Church

Saturday, December 28
10:00 a.m. Spanish Baptism Class, Conference Room
4:45 p.m. Confessions, Church
5 p.m. Mass, Church
5:6:30 p.m. Spanish Choir, Living Room

Christmas Eve Mass with Angels
Calling children who would like to be part of the procession during our Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00 p.m.
We welcome children ages 3-9 to participate (halos provided) to proceed to the altar and place a bundle of hay in the manger. The children will then return to their families for the remainder of the Mass. Please have your child in the Narthex at 4:45 p.m. on Christmas Eve.
Any questions, please contact Trisha Van Selus at trisha@skagitcatholic.org

Baptismal Baby Blanket Ministry
Ever wonder where all those beautiful baptismal baby blankets come from that we give to children being baptized here at Immaculate Conception? We have a wonderful and committed group of ladies who gather each Wednesday morning to knit/crochet each blanket by hand. Thank you all for your dedication to this important ministry.

Our Parish Goal is: $504,000
Pledges to date: $106,416 (3% participation)

Thank you for your pledge to this worthy campaign

Status of Parish Finances

July-October Income $ 220,140
July-October Expenses $ 234,530
Difference $ (14,390)
Weekly Sunday Goal* $ 11,730
Sunday Collection* 12/14, 12/15 $ 6,529

Thank You For Your Continued Support!
*Does not apply to special collections or designated gifts.
The weekly budgeted goal takes into account the $3,000 per week needed to make our loan payment.

Please remember the Church and school in your will.
Iglesia Inmaculada Concepción
Declaración de la Visión: Una Iglesia Centrada en Cristo, Discípulos llenos de Fe

Novena con las tradicionales Posadas, del 16 hasta el 23 de Diciembre.
**Domingo 22:** 7:00pm en el centro San José
**Lunes 23:** 6:30pm Rezo del Santo rosario seguido de la pastorela, piñatas y convivencia, en el centro San José.
¡LOS ESPERAMOS!

La Adoración al Santísimo, es reconocer que Dios Trinidad, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo, es el único Dios, es reconocerle como Ser Supremo, Creador, Salvador y Señor de todo.

Lo invitamos todos los jueves de 5:00—7:00pm cerrando con la Santa Misa en Español.

DECEMBER MINISTRY:
**Extraordinary Minister:** (cup) Nancy Glass  
**Lector:** Yvonne Eagleburger/Jan Brovan  
**Church Housekeeping:** Nancy Glass  
**CHRISTMAS MASS:** Will be celebrated on Dec 25th at 9:30 a.m.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Today in the CCD Center Members of the KOC will be distributing coats to kids in the area from 10:00 a.m. till noon. There is no charge for this gesture.

**DECORATING:** After Mass this morning members will decorate the Church. We can always use helpers.

**MEN’S CLOTHING DRIVE:** Please don’t forget over the holidays to sort out usage warm wear for men at the St. Martin de Porres Homeless Shelter in Seattle. Refer to the bulletin insert last week. You may drop off your wrapped clothes and toiletries at the CCD Center anytime.

Thank you.

Status of Parish Finances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July - October Income</td>
<td>$9,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>July - October Expenses</td>
<td>$12,370</td>
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<td>Difference</td>
<td>$(2,940)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Sunday Goal*</td>
<td>$607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Sunday Collection 12/7</td>
<td>$526</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank You For Your Continued Support!
*Does not apply to special collections or designated gifts.

Please remember the Church and School in your will.
Sunday December 22nd Fourth Sunday of Advent- Year A

What child is this who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him laud, The Babe, The Son of Mary. Wishing a Blessed Christmas to all...

Domingo 22 de diciembre Cuarto domingo de Adviento - Año A

¿Quién es este niño que duerme en el regazo de María? A quien los ángeles saludan con himnos dulces mientras los pastores observan. Este, este es Cristo Rey, a quien los pastores custodian y los ángeles cantan. Traen prisa, mucha prisa por traerle elogios, al bebe, el Hijo de María. Les deseamos a todos una bendita Navidad ...

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/22/19 Faith Formation Classes - Rehearsal for Nativity
   Spanish Mass at 9:30 am
   English Mass at 11:15 am
   Coffee Social following 11:15 am Mass
   Hosted by Ric & Cindy Ristow & Son

12/24/19 OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS -
   12/24 THRU 12/26
   Nativity of the Lord Vigil - English 7:00 pm
   Spanish 9:00 pm

12/25/19 Christmas Day Mass – 10:00 am
12/27/19 Daily Mass at 9:00 am followed by Rosary
12/28/19 Confessions at 4:00 pm
   English Mass at 5:00 pm

12/29/19 Spanish Mass at 9:30 am
   English Mass at 11:15 am
   Knights of Columbus Breakfast following Masses
   Faith Formation-Nativity Program following
   11:15 am Mass

Pastoral Council News

During the December 5th Pastoral Council meeting, Officers were elected: Dave Strachila, President - Dale Wardell, Vice President and Caniece Perez, Secretary. Thanks to them for their willingness to serve.

Noticias del Consejo Pastoral

Durante la reunión del Consejo Pastoral del 5 de diciembre, se eligieron Oficiales: Dave Strachila, Presidente- Dale Wardell, Vicepresidente y Caniece Pérez, Secretario. Gracias a ellos por su disposición a servir.

Mass Intentions

Dec. 27th: Repose of the Souls of Michael Mahaffie & Margo Mahaffie
Dec. 28th: Repose of the Soul of Bonay Brinkman
Sanctuary candle in memory of Marian Kiljan Offered by Anna Swierkowski

Status of Parish Finance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tr>
<td>July– October</td>
<td>$ 76,038</td>
<td>$ 77,928</td>
<td>($1,890)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Sunday Goal*</td>
<td>$ 3,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Sunday Collection 12/7 &amp; 12/8</td>
<td>$ 2,881</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>November Online Giving</td>
<td>$ 1,335</td>
<td></td>
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Thank You For Your Continued Support!

*Does not apply to special collections or designated gifts.

Recent Improvement

Have you noticed our new north side steps and sidewalk? It is a huge improvement and was truly needed!

Mejora reciente

¿Has notado nuestros nuevos escalones y aceras del lado norte? ¡Es una gran mejora y era realmente necesaria!

HOMELESS MEN’S CLOTHING DRIVE

Homeless Men’s Clothing Drive- A reminder to clean out your closets and donate clothing and other items for the St. Martin De Porres Homeless Shelter for Men in Seattle. If you have means, please consider purchasing underwear, socks, gloves and warm knitted caps to donate. Tolley items, especially travel size, are most welcomed. Collection boxes are at the entrance to the church. Please, no women’s or children’s clothing. Questions: Steve Miller, 360-708-2722, ftdock1@comcast.net.

RECOLECTA PARA HOMBRES SIN HOGAR

Colecta de ropa para hombres sin hogar: un recordatorio para limpiar sus armarios y donar ropa y otros artículos para la casa hogar para hombres mayores San Martin De Porres en Seattle. Si tienes medios, por favor considere comprar ropa interior, calcetines, guantes y gorros tejidos para donar. Los artículos de tocador, especialmente de tamaño de viaje, son bienvenidos. Las cajas de recolección están a la entrada de la iglesia. Por favor, no ropa para mujeres o niños. Preguntas: Steve Miller, 360-708-2722, ftdock1@comcast.net.
St. Charles Church - Iglesia San Carlos

Church Calendar
Mon./Lun. 12/23/2019
8:30 am Administrative Meeting, Mother Teresa Room
10:30 am Mass
7:00 pm Posada

Tue./Mar. 12/24/2019
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
7:00 pm Misa Vigilia
Office Closed

Wed./Mié. 12/25/2019
The Nativity of the Lord
10:30 am Mass
Office Closed

Thu./Jue. 12/26/2019
10:30 am Mass
Office Closed

Fri./Vie. 12/27/2019
3-10pm Silent Adoration

Sat./Sáb. 12/28/2019
4:00 pm Confessions
5 pm English Mass
7 pm Spanish Mass

Sun./Dom. 12/29/2019
7:45 am Spanish Mass,
8:30-9:30am SP Coffee Hour
11:15am English Mass
12:15-Coffee Hr
4:30 pm Byzantine Mass

December 24th
Vigil, The Nativity of the Lord
5:00 pm
7:00 pm Español

December 25th
The Nativity of the Lord
10:30 am

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A reminder to clean out your closets and donate clothing and other items for the St. Martin De Porres Homeless Shelter for Men in Seattle. Please consider purchasing underwear, socks, gloves and warm knitted caps to donate. Toiletry items, especially travel size, are most welcomed.
Collection boxes are at the entrance to the church.
Please, no women’s or children’s clothing.
Questions: Steve Miller, 360-708-2722, ftdock1@comcast.net.

December 24th
Vigil, The Nativity of the Lord
5:00 pm
7:00 pm Español

December 25th
The Nativity of the Lord
10:30 am

Called To Serve As Christ Campaign Status
We are at 54% of our goal. Total Pledged amounts are $171,539.00. Our goal is $314,842.00.

Status of Parish Finances
July - October Income $111,598
July - October Expenses $117,213
Difference $(5,614)
Weekly Sunday Goal $5,660
Weekly Collection Dec.14 – 15 $6,564
Online Giving November $2,333

We are grateful for your generous support of the needs of our Parish... Thank You.

St. Charles Rectory We are still seeking volunteers willing to put up a privacy fence and gate around the St. Charles Rectory property. This fence will provide additional privacy on behalf of the priests who reside there. If you are able to volunteer for this project, please contact Denise Rhone at 360-757-0128.
Thank you!

Rectoría de San Carlos Todavía estamos buscando voluntarios dispuestos a poner una cerca de privacidad y un porton alrededor de la propiedad de la rectoría de San Carlos. Esta cerca proporcionará privacidad adicional en nombre de los sacerdotes que residen allí. Si puede ser voluntario para este proyecto, comuníquese con Denise Rhone al 360-757-0128.
¡Gracias!

Please remember the Church and school in your will.
Dec. 22nd, 2019 - 4th Sunday of Advent
“Let the clouds rain down the Just One. Let the earth bring forth a Savior.” With hearts brimming with expectation for the Lord’s coming, we gather.

Church Calendar:
Dec. 22nd: 4th Sunday of Advent, Mass at 9:30 a.m. No Faith Formation or High School classes. Bishop Barron Advent Program after Mass in the library meeting room.
Dec 24-26th Church office closed.
Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Mass at 5p.m. (4:30p.m. for our special Christmas music before the start of the Mass)
Dec. 25th: Christmas Morning Mass at 9a.m.
Dec. 26th: Church office closed.
Dec. 27th: Friday Mass in the Church at 9a.m.
Dec. 29th: Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m, No Faith Formation classes or High School Youth Group.

January 1st, 2020 Happy New Year! Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God at 9a.m. in the Church.
Jan. 1st: Office Closed.

Holidays make for restless tots! Please feel free to give the tots a break in the cry room at Mass. (Off the side of the foyer in the Church.)

Sacred Heart Status of Parish Finances
July—October Income $85,377
July—October Expenses $69,039
Difference $16,338
Weekly Sunday Goal* $3,947
Weekly Sunday Collection for Dec. 8th: $2,537
Nov. On-line giving total: $3,539

Thanks to the Fishers and Comptons for hosting the coffee hour! Thanks to the Bruffys for cleaning the Church this week!
Please sign up to clean the Church or host a coffee hour, thank you!

Ministry Schedule - Dec. 29th
Lectors: # Denny Doneen ## Cathie Ball
Eucharistic Ministers: # Monica Franssen (hosts), Claudia Doneen, Chrissy Lemrick, Mike Ball, & Margaret Bruffy (cups)
Ushers: Mike Elde, Rob Rieger, Mike Fohn, & Zach Hansen
Altar Servers: # Casey, Lucy, & Jack Lemrick, & Eve Cowan

Church Christmas Trees and Wreaths
Thank you to John Roozen and Crew for helping put up the big Christmas trees. The crew who muscled in the big trees, helped put on the lights, and ready the Church were: Rich Eitner, Andrew Roozen, Ryan and Kelly Cook, Zach Hansen, Mike Price, John Engels, Jim Barborinas, and Mike & Reesa Compton. Thanks to Steve Bruffy and Mike Elde for hanging all the beautiful wreaths in the Church and decorating the outside!. You all help make our Church look so beautiful for the Christmas Season! Thank you for taking your time and labor to do this!

Happy Birthday!
Dec. 22nd: Elizabeth Turner
Dec. 23rd: Eric Fohn
Dec. 24th: Joseph Brennan - Sean Cowan - Kalin Fohn
Dec. 25th: Merry Maricich
Dec. 26th: Jeffery Hauenstein
Dec. 27th: Harvey West