

SAINT WENCESLAUS PARISH

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

Father Victor Feltes, Pastor
P.O. Box 109, Eastman, WI. 54626
Rectory ☎ (608) 874 – 4151
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Saturday Evening Mass 4PM - Sunday Mass 10AM
Confession Available Before Every Mass

Contributions from November 26-27:

Adult Envelopes	\$876.00
Collection Plate	\$572.75
Youth Envelopes	\$1.00

Mass Schedule:

Mon, Dec. 5 – 8am (Weekday) for:
Dale Duha by Ron & Ann Martin

Tue, Dec. 6 – 8am (St. Nicholas) for:
Joseph & Elizabeth Jelinik by their Family

Wed, Dec. 7 – 8am (St. Ambrose) for:
Norma Welsch by Lonnie & Jane Achenbach

Thr, Dec. 8 – 8am (Immaculate Conception) for:
Lyle & Rita Lester by their Family

Thr, Dec. 8 – 7pm (Immaculate Conception) for:
**The Living & Deceased Members
of St. Wenceslaus & Sacred Heart**

Fri, Dec. 9 – 8am (St. Juan Diego) for:
Jack & Norma Slama

Sat, Dec. 10 – 4pm (3rd Sunday of Advent) for:
Larry Pelock by Bob & Beth Trautsch

Sun, Dec. 11 – 10am (3rd Sunday of Advent) for:
**The Living & Deceased Members
of St. Wenceslaus & Sacred Heart**

Upcoming Liturgical Roles:

Thursday, December 8th : 7pm

Lector: Donnie Fisher
Servers: Any Available Servers

Saturday, December 10th : 4pm

Lector: Gloria Wall
Ushers: Art Wall & Derek Wall
Servers: Any Available Servers

Sunday, December 11th : 10am

Lector: Greg Fisher
Ushers: Tim Sprosty & T.J. Sprosty
Servers: Group E: Samuel Kramer, Lucas
Kramer, Jonah & Ethan Klema

Sunday, December 11th Rosary Leaders:

The Tom & Sharon Martin Family

Parish Announcements:

Advent Penance Service

This Sunday, December 4th several priests will
hear confessions at 4pm at St. John's in PdC.

Altar Server Training

This Sunday, December 4th at 11am we will
have our annual server training session for veteran
servers and any young men interested in giving
Mass serving a try. If you would like to serve in
2017 but cannot attend, please make other
arrangements with Father.

Immaculate Conception Masses

These are the Mass times for this week's Holy
Day of Obligation:

Wednesday, 6pm @ Sacred Heart
Thursday, 8am @ St. Wenceslaus
Thursday, 7pm @ St. Wenceslaus

Collection for Retired Religious

We will have a second Mass collection next
weekend, December 10-11 to support the care of our
country's retired Catholic religious sisters and
brothers.

Requesting Envelope Boxes

If your household has not previously had
contribution envelopes and would like a box of your
own for 2017, please notify the parish.

Christmas Baskets

Please bring food items to the far end of Msgr.
Baer Hall for Christmas baskets. Our Mercy
Workers group will use them to make baskets for
shut-ins and other households on Sunday,
December 18th.

Christmas Potluck

Join us Sunday, December 18th for our annual
Christmas Potluck in Msgr. Baer Hall after 10am
Mass. All PCCW ladies groups are asked to prepare
dishes. Our CCD children will be presenting
Lessons and Carols.

December Hospitality Activities:

Church & Hall Cleaning	Group #3
Christmas Potluck (Dec. 18th)	All Groups

Thy Kingdom Come

While recently visiting the Sea of Galilee in
Israel I saw something in the skies I had never
seen before. There were miles-wide concentric
cloud rings with the occasional sound of long,
rolling, man-made thunder. Though these
things were interesting to behold, I hated the
reason behind why they needed to be there.
Northwestern Israel borders Syria and these
high-altitude contrails and jet-engine sounds
were from the Israeli Air Force's U.S.-made F-
15's or F-16's on defensive air patrols to ensure
their neighbor's civil war did not spill over into

their own country.

The coastline of the Sea of Galilee is... beautiful, peaceful, and prosperous. We were able to celebrate a Mass in an outside chapel near the site where Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection and had breakfast with his disciples (as recorded in John 21.) But while we were free to tour and worship without threat or fear, the people of Aleppo, Syria were under siege just 250 miles north. There the Russian bear and the Syrian wolf are allied against the ISIS serpent in a battle for the right to rule over the suffering lambs and little children caught in the middle. The prophet Isaiah’s poetic vision of the radical peace the Messiah (or Christ) would someday establish has not yet fully come:

*“Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the young lion shall browse
together, with a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,
together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra’s den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder’s lair.
There shall be no harm or ruin on all my
holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled
with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers
the sea.”* (Isaiah 11:4-9)

On one occasion, turning to the disciples in private, Jesus said, *“Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”* (Luke 10:23-24) Many great Old Testament figures longed for the promised Messiah but died before his coming. We are blessed to live in an age which has seen his arrival and blessed to have heard his message. Yet further blessed are we if we pray and prepare the path for the New Creation Christ promises to bring.

Along the sea of Galilee, it is possible to give no thought to the suffering and death happening not so far away. Likewise, in our beautiful, peaceful, prosperous country it is possible to ignore that there are grave evils in our midst, happening just out of sight. But blessed are we if we choose to long and labor for the life of the New Heavens and New Earth.

*“Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
...Blessed are they who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
...Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
...Blessed are they who are persecuted for
the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 5)

**What Still Remains of
Capernaum Today**

Capernaum was a home base for Jesus Christ during his ministry in Galilee. Josephus, the 1st century A.D. Roman-Jewish historian, wrote that 30,000 people lived in Capernaum. Josephus has a bad reputation for exaggerating his figures, but even if the true number were one-third that, Capernaum would still be a major city on the ancient trade route. But today, if you visit Capernaum (or Kfar Nahum “Nahum’s village” in Hebrew), you will find very little standing there. There are the ancient ruins St. Peter the Apostle’s home and of a fourth-century synagogue, a couple of Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches and monasteries, but not much else. The nearby surroundings are dry orchard fields and rocky barrenness.

Capernaum is no longer a great, impressive city. Jesus had once foretold of its desolation: *“And as for you, Capernaum:
‘Will you be exalted to heaven?
You will go down to the netherworld.’
For if the mighty deeds done in your midst
had been done in Sodom, it would have
remained until this day.”* (Matthew 11:23)

One thing remaining from Capernaum the account of this encounter between Jesus and a centurion. Once, when Jesus entered the city, the centurion approached and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” Jesus told him, *“I will come and cure him.”* The centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, *“Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith....”* And Jesus said to the centurion, *“You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.”* And at that very hour his servant was healed. (Matthew 8)

The centurion does not do very much in this episode. According to Luke 7’s telling, he actually communicated with Jesus through intermediaries. So what about him impressed Jesus so much? The centurion’s few words reveal his reverent humility and confident trust before Jesus, and his loving concern for his suffering servant. Jesus is not impressed by world wealth and power, by great cities or empires, but by acts of faith and love, which remain before him always.
