

ST. ANN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

16550 290TH STREET · LONG GROVE, IOWA 52756
 Phone: 563-285-4596 · Fax: 563-285-4897
 St. Ann Web Page: www.stannslonggrove.org
 St. Ann Email: stanlong@netins.net



DECEMBER 4, 2011 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

Mark 1:2b-3

Victim Assistance Coordinator to Report Abuse:
Alicia Owens
Phone: 563/349-5002

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—3:00 PM
 Friday 8:00 AM—12:00 Noon
 Bulletin Deadline Monday, 12:00 Noon

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 PM
 Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Weekday Prayer and Mass Schedule

Tuesdays — Fridays: Mass 8:30 AM

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15 PM to 3:45 PM

Sacraments

8 months in advance preparation is needed for marriage. Please call the office for assistance.

St. Ann Staff

Msgr. Drake Shafer, Pastor
 Sally Schulz, Director of Music Ministries
 Mary Gross, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
 Donna Metcalf, Secretary
 Dwight Gittings, Maintenance Manager

285-4596

shaferd@diodav.org
ssschulz@stannslonggrove.org
mgross@stannslonggrove.org
dmetcalf@stannslonggrove.org

Ministers of Faith Formation

Pre/K/Grades 1-6: Joyce Kloft
 Grades 7-12: Julia Jones
 Adult Education, Arnold Wieser

jkloft@stannslonggrove.org
jjones@stannslonggrove.org
awieser@stannslonggrove.org

Parish Council

Paul Hayungs, President
 Kelly Cole, Vice President
 Matt Wilson, Secretary
 Bryan Arensdorff
 Bill Bolton
 Bill Briggs
 Marc Carlson

Jeremiah Costello
 Katie Lane (student)
 Nancy Lane
 Julie Newell
 Rita Pacha
 Diana Vollbeer
 Drew Wilson (student)

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds

Scott Youngbauer

Church Life/Family Life

Bryan Arensdorff

Liturgy

Jeremiah Costello

Stewardship

Bill Briggs

Altar Server Coordinators

Lynn Kilburg 285-5803

Finance

Joe Ragona

Faith Formation

Kelly Cole

Social Action

Kurt Miller

Guild

Celeste Murphy

Jeni Rochholz 349-3918

Administrative Management Team

Loras Schafer.....285-4663
 Joe Ragona.....349-9272
 Jerry Noel.....285-8162
 Mary Ann Curran.....285-8739

Randy Siemen.....285-4389
 Msgr. Drake Shafer.....285-4596
 Lolita Dierickx.....285-7242
 Julie Newell.....285-6498



MASS INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

12/3 Sat	Donald DeWulf	4:00 PM
12/4 Sun	Rita Jorgensen	8:00 AM
12/4 Sun	People of the Parish	10:30 AM
12/6 Tue	Living & Deceased Guild Members	8:30 AM
12/7 Wed	June Brewer	8:30 AM
12/8 Thu	Elma Costello	8:30 AM
12/9 Fri	Oliver Foley	8:30 AM
12/10 Sat	Claudyne Gies	4:00 PM
12/11 Sun	People of the Parish	8:00 AM
12/11 Sun	John R. Costello	10:30 AM

Readings for this weekend:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

Readings for next weekend:

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Upcoming Meetings at St. Ann

- Guild meeting on Tuesday, December 6 at 9:15 AM
- Building & Grounds meeting on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 PM
- Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 PM
- Admin meeting on Thursday, December 15 at 9:15 AM
- K of C meeting on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM

Christmas Flowers for the Altar

It's time to submit your money for the Christmas flowers memorial. Use the designated envelope. The names of your loved ones will be printed at Christmas. **The deadline is Sunday, December 11.**

The Messiah Concert

The *Messiah* by George F. Handel will be presented in concert by the Handel Oratorio Society on Saturday, December 10, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 11, at 2 :00 p.m. in Centennial Hall, Augustana College. Several members of St. Ann's music ministry will be participating in this oratorio: Dean Brabant, Jim Clasen, Kevin and Lynn Kroeger, Matt Schulz and Sally Schulz. Come and enjoy the timeless wonder of the *Hallelujah Chorus*, *He Shall Feed His Flock*, the *Pastoral Symphony* and many more beautiful songs based on scripture. Tickets can be reserved by phone at 309 794-7306 or purchased at the door.

FINANCES

PARISH INCOME NEEDS:

Budget for fiscal year 2010-2011	\$532,500
Projected income divided by 52 weeks	= \$10,240
Average Weekly Operating Needs	\$ 10,240
Received 11/20	\$10,566
Over budget	\$ 326
Received 11/27	\$ 6,635
Under budget	(\$ 3,605)

Save the Date for the Parish Dinner

St. Ann's is hosting a parish fundraiser dinner on Sunday, December 11 with social hour beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. This parish event will consist of a 5-course dinner (not yet determined) being made by Msgr. Shafer & Joe Ragona. The cost is \$35 per person. Reservations will be required. Tickets will be available after Mass or by calling the church office. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, December 6.



Mass Schedule for Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass times for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) will be Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 8 at 8:30 a.m.



Altar Serving Schedule

December 10 & 11, 2011

- 4:00— Riley & Grace Sindt
- 8:00— Carson & Will Kruse, Karina Zimmer
- 10:30— Kyrnan Liske, Jason Arp, Rachel Costello

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

December 10 & 11, 2011

- 4:00- Dave Curlott, Tom VanDeVelde, Inez Tobin, Bernie Leach, Rita & Carroll Vis, Glenn Leach, Pat Limberg
- 8:00- Darla Zrostlick, Jan Sebastian, Kathy Arensdorf, Mary Lou Byrd, Diana Vollbeer, Kathy Henningsen, Tom Arensdorf, Lois Nagle
- 10:30 - Kelly Cole, Mike Hawley, Joanna Riedel, Bill Briggs, Al Rus, Jayne Dierickx, Angelika Peiffer, Paul Riedel

Bulletin Deadline for Christmas

The deadline for the December 18 bulletin is due by Friday, December 9. We will use a combined bulletin for the weekends of Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1. The deadline for that bulletin is due by Thursday, December 15.

Nativity Pageant

A children's Mass will be held on December 24 at 4:00 p.m. For the Mass, Kindergartners & 1st graders will be dressed as sheep, 2nd graders as angels, 3rd & 4th graders as shepherds and 5th & 6th graders as Magi.

Volunteers Needed

Church decorating for Christmas will take place on Friday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m. Please call the church office and leave your name and phone number if you can help.

Christian Experience Weekend (CEW)

The purpose of the CEW weekend is to strengthen and enrich your relationship with God. The weekend provides a special time and place away from the busy routine of daily living, where a true Christian community can develop in a variety of ways. The women's weekend will be held January 20-22 and the men's will be held February 10-12. If you have any questions, please call Judy Shipman, (women's director) at 285-5391 or Paul Hayungs (men's director) at 260-4136. Brochures are available on the kiosk display in the commons area.

Upcoming Retreat at Our Lady of the Prairie

During the harried preparation for Christmas the real reason for Christmas is often forgotten. Come to the Prairie to step out of the hectic pace and into the stories of scripture which tell of the coming of Jesus. Enjoy the darkest time of the year to await the coming of the Light of the world. Gift yourself or a loved one with a spiritual treasure before Christmas. This retreat will be held on Tuesday, December 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$15 (includes lunch). For more information call 336-8414.

The Adult Corner

Question of the Week

For the Second Sunday of Advent

"...as they acknowledged their sins." How hard is it to admit when you are wrong? When do you consider a wrong also a sin? How do you understand the sense of sin? Are your experiences of the sacrament of Penance moments of reconciliation for you? Having been baptized by water, how do you understand being baptized "by the Holy Spirit"? Are you "preparing the way"?

A Profile of Megachurches in the Last Decade

This profile by Warren Bird and Scott Thumma has some interesting data that might be worth your review. I was amazed how many megachurches had Saturday evening services as well as the percent of adults involved in small group. Ongoing newcomer orientation was apparent and often missing in our churches. In recent months Bird and Thumma surveyed this group of very large churches and made some fascinating discoveries. The following list highlights some of their most important findings. The link at the bottom of this article then takes you to a fuller report and the actual survey frequencies. In the coming months they will also be releasing more findings from this survey.

• These churches are wired

While 88% say their church/pastoral leadership uses Facebook or other social media on a regular basis, nearly three-fourths do podcasts and 56% blog.

• Growth is steady

Despite occasional news reports that large churches are a Boomer phenomenon or are now in decline, a steady growth pattern remains evident, with these churches averaging 8% growth per year for last five years. Thus the stated average attendance for these churches grew from 2,604 in 2005 to 3,597 in 2010.

• The leader at the helm makes all the difference.

Seventy-nine percent say the church's most dramatic growth occurred during tenure of current senior pastor.

• Worship options extend beyond Sunday morning

While virtually all have multiple Sunday morning services, 48% have one or more Saturday night services, and 41% have one or more Sunday night services.

• They are both big and small

Eighty-two percent say small groups are "central to our strategy of Christian nurture and spiritual formation," and 72% put a "lot of emphasis" on "Scripture studies other than Sunday school." They report that 46% of their attenders are involved in small groups.

• They have a high view of their own spiritual vitality

An overwhelming 98% agree that their congregations are "spiritually alive and vital." In addition, 98% say they have strong beliefs and values, 95% say they have a clear mission, and 93% say they are willing to change to meet new challenges.

• Newcomer orientation is constant

Forty percent of regular participants age 18 and older are new to the congregation in the last five years. And 70% of participants are under the age of 50.

• The dominant identity is "evangelical"

Of eight options offered, the majority chose the word evangelical to identify their theological outlook. Interestingly, barely 1% chose labels at the two theological extremes - either fundamentalist or liberal.

• The vast majority do not have serious financial struggles

Only 6% say church's financial health is in some or serious difficulty (and only 7% said that for five years previously). However, half adversely felt the effects of the economic crisis and 5% fewer report their financial health as "excellent" compared to five years ago.

• They are not independent

Seventy percent say their church is part of a denomination, network, fellowship, or association of churches. For those who are currently non-denominational, 33% say they were once part of a denomination.

For full survey results [download the full report](http://tiny.cc/1qjoji) » (<http://tiny.cc/1qjoji>).

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Ann's Youth Ministry is on facebook! Add Stannslonggrove as your friend to be updated on all the latest Youth Ministry news!

Christmas Tree Gifts

Thanks to all of you who took a name tag from the Christmas tree. Please note that those gifts were due by this Sunday, December 4, however if you forgot your gift you can drop them off at church no later than Wednesday, December 7. Please make sure you have the name tag on the outside of the gift. Again thanks to all of you who have given generously this holiday season.

Newly Baptized

Alexander Frank Kresowik, son of Timothy & Jessica Kresowik was baptized on Saturday, November 26. Baptized on Sunday, November 27 was Charles David Klinkner, son of Jon & Jamie Klinkner and Akora Olive Woods, daughter of Richard & Chantel Woods. We welcome Alexander, Charles & Akora into our spiritual family.



Cut-off for Yearly Contributions

To comply with IRS regulations, the cut-off date for contributions for 2011 will be December 31, 2011. All contributions must be received in the office by this date. In the past, we had been more lenient with a cut-off date, but with the tightening of accounting guidelines, we are forced to cut-off all contributions on the last day of 2011. Anything that is received after December 31, 2011 will be credited to 2012. Again, the contribution must be received in the office no later than December 31. Checks or envelopes postdated December 31 but not received until January 1 or later will be posted to 2012. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

North Scott Food Drive and Holiday Fair

There will be a holiday fair at the Quality Inn & Suites in Eldridge on Saturday, December 10 from 9 to 1:00 p.m. This is a free event but would like you to bring a non-perishable food donation for the North Scott Food Pantry. The food pantry is in need of soup plus canned meals such as spaghetti, ravioli, etc. There will be free painting for kids.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation, Grades Pre-K - 6

Check your linen closet for any old comforters that we can use at dismissal time on Sunday Mornings.

Blest Art - Holy Land Handicrafts

A representative from Blest Art will be here the weekend of December 10 & 11 to sell a variety of statues that are hand-crafted out of olive wood. All proceeds will go towards Christian families in the Holy Land. Please consider purchasing a rosary, cross, angel or a nativity set.



North Scott Food Pantry Needs

December needs for the Food Pantry are simply to give thanks. We thank all for your continuous and generous giving in support of the Food Pantry and the families in need. The Pantry will be closed Friday, December 16th because of Christmas basket and angel tree gift pickup at Faith Lutheran Church which is scheduled for that day. Holiday Pantry closings are Friday, December 23rd and Tuesday, December 27th. Please remember that if the North Scott schools are closed on Tuesday or Friday due to weather conditions, the Pantry is closed.



W e l c o m e

DON'T GET LOST! If you're new in our area or just have not taken the time to register, please fill in the form, drop it in the mail or the collection basket or bring it to the church office. **GOOD FEELING TO BELONG!**

If you are moving out of our parish or have a change of address, please fill in the form also, so we can keep our census listings accurate. Many thanks...

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ PHONE: _____
 NEW _____ MOVING _____
 CHANGE OF ADDRESS: _____
 WELCOMING INFORMATION: _____
 PREFERRED CONTACT HOURS: _____
 MASS PREFERENCE TIME: _____