

Holy Trinity Parish

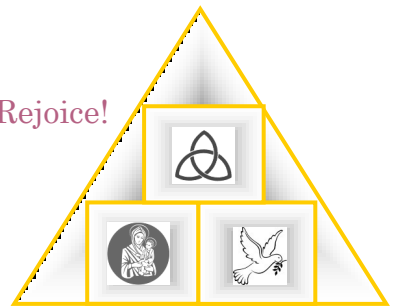
Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025 *Gaudete! Rejoice!*

Fr. Thomas McCabe, Pastor frmccabe@bevcomm.net

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Website: www.holytrinitygoodhue.org

Office Hours: Mondays 10am-2pm at HT.

Building use request: Call the office.

Confession: Sat. 4:45-5:20pm at Holy Trinity, Sun. 8:20am at St. Mary, or by appointment.

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

First Penance/Eucharist: Register for 1st grade catechism classes in preparation.

Confirmation: Register as soon as possible in the fall since there are requirements including weekly attendance at Mass.

Marriage: Please call Father McCabe at least nine months prior to tentative date.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the office especially if in serious illness, near death or upcoming major surgery.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: If you move to a nursing home/care facility, would like a priest to visit, or are unable to attend Mass and would like Communion at home, contact the office.

Funerals: Contact the office.

Mass Intentions: Mail to the office or place in collection. (\$10/Mass suggested.)

Bulletin Items: Email to holytrinitygoodhue@gmail.com by Wednesday noon. The business office reserves the right to edit.

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When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?..." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist: yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Cf. Matthew 11:1-11

HOLY MASS SCHEDULE					READINGS
Sat.	5:30PM	HT	Dec. 13	+Trudy Zorn	(Daily Mass) Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-19; Mt 17:9-13
3rd Sun. Advent	8:45AM	SM	Dec. 14	+Cy & Mary Ellen Reding	(Sat. Vigil/Sunday Mass) Nm 24:2-7,15-17a; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
	10:30AM	SC		Parishioners	
Mon.	8:00AM	SM	Dec. 15	Ray and LaWanda Keller	Num 24:2-7, 15-17a / Ps 25 / Matt 21:23-27
Tue.	8:00AM	HT	Dec. 16	+Fr. Dennis C. Kampa	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23; Mt 21:28-32
Wed.	8:00AM	HT	Dec. 17	+Adam Harmon	Gn 49:2,8-10; Ps 72:1-8,17; Mt 1:1-17
Thu.	9:00AM	SC	Dec. 18	+Fr. Bruce Peterson	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2,12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Fri.			Dec. 19		Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Ps 71:3-6,16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Sat.	5:30PM	HT	Dec. 20	Nassaralla Family	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
4th Sun. Advent	8:45AM	SM	Dec. 21	+Fr. Dennis C Kampa	(Sat. Vigil/Sunday Mass) Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
	10:30AM	SC		Parishioners	

Mission: *We grow together in Christ.*

Welcome to our Parish Churches!



Holy Trinity Church (HT)
211 4th Street North
Goodhue, MN 55027



St. Columbkil Church (SC)
36483 County 47 Boulevard
Goodhue, MN 55027



St. Mary Church (SM)
221 Chester Avenue
Bellechester, MN 55027

From Father McCabe

Have you ever had your expectations fall short in front of your eyes?

I was watching America's Funniest Videos with some parishioners. These videos were capturing children as they received their Christmas gifts.

In one video, a boy of about five years of age received a t-shirt that read, something like, "Wear this to Disney World this Winter". His parents read it for him, and he looked at them with wonderment in his eyes. The parents read the shirt to him again and he asked, "Are we going to Disney Land?" And they said, "We are going to Disney World. We are going to fly on an airplane to Disney World."

At that point, the boy looked at his other gifts, picked up a bag of Goldfish crackers and said, "I really like these Goldfish treats!" I wish I could have seen the look on the faces of his parents. I do not think his response to the gift is what they expected.

In today's Gospel we see that St. John the Baptist (the greatest man born of woman up to the time of Jesus *Mt. 11:11*) was unsure about Jesus' messianic mission and what to expect.

St. John asked, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (*Mt 11:2*) He is probably wondering, "If Jesus is the Messiah, then why am I in prison? Why has Jesus not set me free and placed me in his Kingdom as to be expected?"

In last Sunday's Gospel we heard how John the Baptist called everyone to confess their sins and show that they had truly repented by doing good works for the glory of God. He called everyone to prepare for the Messiah who was greater than he, and that the Messiah would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

But now his expectations are being tested, for he is languishing in prison. He sends two of his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus reminds John the Baptist and all of us that he truly is the Messiah since he is curing the blind, healing the lame, raising the dead and having the good news proclaimed to the poor.

Jesus also reminds us that, as great as John is, the "least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he (*Mt 11:11*)."

What this means is that those who are "least in the kingdom of heaven are greater" than John the Baptist because they cannot sin in heaven. Since they have passed through the fire of purification, they are now perfect in every way.

When Jesus refers to the "least in the kingdom of heaven" that means that there are some saints who are "greater" in the kingdom of heaven. These are the prophets like Moses and Elijah and others who gave their lives for the truth of God's holiness. In our day, we can compare these to Saints like St. Thomas Aquinas, St. John Henry Newman and St. Mother Theresa, who worked among the poorest of the poor.

Of course, the greatest of all Saints is the blessed Virgin Mary who God made to be, as the angel Gabriel addressed her, "full of grace" (Lk 1:28, the Greek word for this phrase is *kecharitomene*: kay-caree-toe-may-nay). If God calls you

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

"full of grace" then there is no room in your soul for any sin, even venial sin. For this beautiful Greek word applied only to Mary means that she was full of grace from the beginning, is full of grace at the Annunciation, and will always be full of grace.



When St. Mary was conceived, God protected her from the stain of Original Sin, and that is what we call the Immaculate Conception. God gave this singular gift to Mary so that she could bear God's divine Son in the pure chamber of her heart, mind, soul and womb. She had perfect faith, hope and love that kept on growing.

God made our first parents, Adam and Eve, without the stain of Original Sin too, but they eventually sinned against God by not helping one another follow God's way of holiness. They stopped growing spiritually.

In the case of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she always said "Yes" to the Holy Spirit, and "No" to sin. The Blessed Virgin Mary and her divine Son, Jesus Christ, always helped each other accomplish God's plan out of perfect love for God and his disciples. It was not always easy, for the Blessed Virgin Mary suffered with her Son at his crucifixion, which completed her perfect surrender to the fiery love of God.

Now we know that the Blessed Virgin Mary is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven, in which Jesus Christ is the God King.

We also know that John the Baptist was a martyr for Jesus, despite his being wrong in what he expected the Kingdom of Jesus would look like here on earth.

Have you ever had your expectations fall short in front of your eyes, like St. John the Baptist? Yet, in hindsight you get a glimpse of God's plan for you which was beyond anything you could have imagined?

I believe we get a glimpse of that at every Holy Mass. For unlike John the Baptist, we have received the opportunity to confess our sins and further receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion, the closest we can get to God on earth!

John is the greatest prophet, yes, because he did not have the sacraments to strengthen him, rather only God's mission written on his heart. Yet, he died for Jesus Christ and Christ died for him and us, and we get to celebrate that at every Mass and thereby grow in God's divine life while we persevere in his Kingdom.

Thus, on this earthly journey, we are drawn more intimately to the Heart of Jesus than St. John the Baptist could during his earthly life, as we are united to Christ and his Church through our baptism and our participation in the other sacraments.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Thomas McCabe

Catholic Young Adults: Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 21. Potluck 6:30-7:30PM at Holy Trinity and caroling until 9:00PM with hot drinks afterwards.



News/Events

Retired Religious Collection: There will be a second collection this weekend, December 13/14, to support religious elderly Sisters, Brothers, and religious order Priests who have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. The annual Retirement Fund for Religious helps enable many religious communities to meet their pressing retirement needs for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious.

Early Bulletin Deadline: Please note that due to the Christmas holiday, the deadline for bulletin articles is Tuesday, December 22, for the Dec. 28 bulletin.

2026 Calendars are available in the church entries. Please plan to spend some quality time with Our Lord in prayer in the new year, 2026!

Christmas Program at St. Columbkille: All parishioners' children, including those who don't attend faith formation at Holy Trinity, are invited to partake in the program. The Christmas Pageant is December 21 after the 10:30AM Mass, surprise treat afterward. Contact Shannon Dicke for more information.

All preschool or kindergartener children are invited to join in a song before the Christmas Pageant at St. Columbkille after Mass on Sunday, December 21. Please meet with Shannon Dicke in the back of church after that Mass.

Diaper Drive: Catholic Daughters is hosting a diaper drive benefiting First Choice Clinic in Red Wing. Donations will be collected from Dec. 1 to Jan. 6 at the back/entry of each church. Diaper sizes 3-7 are in the greatest need. Thank you!

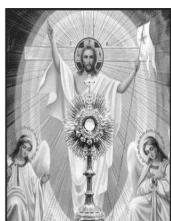
Gift Card Project: Annual Holy Trinity/St. Columbkille CCW Gift Card Project from Dec. 6 thru Jan. 10. It will help clients of Goodhue County Social Services who may slip through the cracks throughout the year. You can donate cash or checks made out to Deb O'Connor or Diane Opsahl and we will purchase the gift cards. Amounts of \$10, \$15, \$20, or \$25 are suggested. Businesses are: Target, Walmart, grocery stores in the Goodhue County area, Kwik Trip, Casey's, and gift certificates from local vet clinics, as some clients have companion animals. Drop boxes are at both churches or you can mail cards or donations to: Holy Trinity Parish, Attn: Christmas Gift Card Project, Box 275. Thank you! - Diane Opsahl and Deb O'Connor.

Holy Trinity Church (HT) Donations:
12/8: \$345.00

St. Columbkille Church (SC) Donations:
12/8: \$30.00

St. Mary Church (SM) Donations:
12/8: \$96.79

"The only time our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night He went into agony. Not for activity did He plead but for an Hour of companionship" – Venerable Fulton Sheen
perpetualeucharisticadoration.com



Thank you for your generosity! Cemetery Collections from the month of November: \$1,313 collected for St. Mary Cemetery and \$1,306 collected for St. Columbkille Cemetery.

Please pray for: Bob Eppen, Margaret Wagner, Ann Merry, Ed Heppelmann, Ray & Gloria Poncelet, Dave Buck, Scott Cyert, Jerry Joe Majerus, Louise Heppelmann, Brent Hokanson, Anne Skalicky, Neil Stehr, Jen Berg, Marge Majerus, Shawn Frederixson, Gabe Ryan, Ryan Zorn, Beth Carlson, Chuck Havrilla, Randy Nardinger, Amy Feely, Alan Gadient, Roy Goranson, Susan Brown, Jocelyn O'Reilly, Marci Dillworth, and Bjorn Otterness.

Holy Trinity is dedicated to protecting children and vulnerable adults. Volunteers serving with minors and vulnerable adults must complete requirements before engaging in ministry. Contact Sara McNamara, parish Safe Environment Coordinator, at: holytrinitygoodhue@gmail.com.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December 2025:

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Calendar/Events

Sat., Dec. 13	HT	4:45-5:20 PM	Sacrament of Confession
St/Sun., Dec. 13/14	HT/SM/SC	Mass times	Retired Religious Collection
Sun., Dec. 14	SM	8:20-8:40 AM	Sacrament of Confession
Mon., Dec. 15	SM	6:30-9:00PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wed., Dec. 17	HT	9:00-2:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration
Wed., Dec. 17	HT	2:15-3:30 PM	Grades 1-6 Faith Formation
Wed., Dec. 17	HT	7:25-8:35 PM	Grades 7-9 Faith Formation
Thurs., Dec. 18	SC	8:00-8:45 AM	Eucharistic Adoration/Confession (9 AM Mass)
Sat., Dec. 20	HT	4:45-5:20 PM	Sacrament of Confession
Sun., Dec. 21	SM	8:20-8:40 AM	Sacrament of Confession
Sun., Dec. 21	SC	After Mass	Christmas Pageant followed by refreshments
Sun., Dec. 21	HT	6:30-9:00 PM	Catholic Young Adult Gathering

Holy Trinity Church (HT) Collection:
12/6: \$ 1,172.00

St. Columbkille Church (SC) Collection:
12/7: \$ 980.00

St. Mary Church (SM) Collection:
12/7: \$ 885.05



Behold the Lamb of God!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays at St. Mary from 6:30-9:00PM, Wednesdays at Holy Trinity from 9:00AM-2:00PM, and Thursdays at St. Columbkille from 8:00AM-9:00AM (unless otherwise noted). Come and spend some time with Jesus!

Weekend Ministry Schedule

Church	Role	Dec. 13/14	Dec. 20/21
HT: Saturday 5:30PM Dec. 13 & 20	Musician	Cindy Eppen	Wanda Schafer
	Cantor	Michelle Matthees	Katie Ludwig
	Lector	Karen Albers	Leeta O'Reilly
	Servers	Corbin Jaeger	Aubriel, Oleana, and Stuart O'Reilly
SM: Sunday 8:45am Dec. 14 & 21	Musician	Wanda Schafer	Wanda Schafer
	Cantor	Cathy O'Reilly	
	Lector	Mary Majerus	Patricia Mensink
	Servers	Derek Stehr, Isaac Ryan	Henry Keller, Isaac Ryan
SC: Sunday 10:30am Dec. 14 & 21	Musician	Cindy Eppen	Cindy Eppen
	Cantor	Eleanor O'Reilly	Joel Hernke
	Lector	Becky Diercks	
	Servers	AJ Aunan, Brady and Liahna McNamara	Jay Roschen

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join us!

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*Pray to
end abortion*



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(Holy Trinity Parish 211 N 4th St. Goodhue MN 55027)

**ARCHDIOCESE VICTIM
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(651)
291-4475



*Congratulations to Liam Allen Frazier, son of
Dominic and Grace Frazier, who was baptized on
August 30 at the Church of St. Mary!*





*Congratulations to Wesley Dallas Jacobson, son of
Dallas and Allison Jacobson, who was baptized on
December 7 at the Church of St. Columbkille!*



Communal Penance Service: All are encouraged to attend this Penance Service with multiple priests, **Tuesday, December 23, 7:30-8:30PM at Holy Trinity.** The service begins at 7:30PM and after a short reflection the penitents go to one of the confession areas where one of the priests will hear individual confessions. People can stay for the final prayer as a community if they wish, or leave quietly after they complete their penance. Jesus' first words in the Gospel of Mark, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudete



Plan to attend the 2025 Christmas Pageant after Mass on Sunday, December 21, at St. Columbkille.

The children have a special program ready to help us prepare the way of the Lord!
And enjoy a surprise treat after the Pageant!
Hope to see you there!