

The Churches of The Guardian Angels and Saint Nicholas

215 Second Street West, Chaska, MN 55318 • www.gachaska.org • (952) 227-4000

412 Fourth Street West, Carver, MN 55315 • www.stnicholascarver.org • (952) 448-2345

Office Hours

Monday: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Guardian Angels Staff

Parish Office Front Desk:

info@gachaska.org

952-227-4000

Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor:

frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org

(952) 679-9415

Deacon John Cleveland:

jcleveland@gachaska.org

Deacon Bob Burns:

bburns@gachaska.org

Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/ Safe Environment Coordinator:

jswanson@gachaska.org

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(952) 227-4001

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Brittany Kaufmann, Director of Music and Liturgy:

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Viviana Sotro, Latino Ministry Coordinator:

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Bulletin: bulletin@gachaska.org

Prayer Chain: prayer@gachaska.org

Saint Nicholas Staff

Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor:

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(952) 679-9415

Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/ Safe Environment Coordinator:

jswanson@gachaska.org

jswanson@gachaska.org

(952) 227-4001

Father Jim Devorak, Retired



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall
be made low.
The winding roads shall be
made straight,
and the rough ways made
smooth,
and all flesh shall see the
salvation of God."
- Lk 3:5-6*

Excerpts from the Lictionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. USA, P.

December 8th, 2024

Weekly Liturgy Schedule / Horario de Misas

Sunday Masses:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. at Saint Nicholas

Sunday: 12:30 p.m. in Spanish

Daily Masses:

Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.

Thursday: 8:00 a.m.

Friday: 6:00 p.m.

bilingual at Saint Nicholas

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 8:00 -8:45 a.m.

Saturday: 3:15 -4:15 p.m.

Or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration:

Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Misas dominicales:

Sábado: 4:30 p.m.

Domingo: 8:00 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.

Domingo: 12:30 p.m. en español

Misas diarias:

Martes: 5:30 p.m.

Miércoles: 8:00 a.m.

Jueves : 8:00 a.m.

Viernes: 6:00 p.m.

bilingüe en San Nicolás

Reconciliación:

Sábado: 8:00-8:45 a.m.

Sábado: 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Adoración Eucarística:

Jueves: 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Grupo de Oración

Jueves: 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Guardian Angels Lay Leadership Positions

Larry Schmid, Trustee: (612) 670-7655
David Pohlen, Trustee: (952) 428-9649
Steve Rasmussen, Facilities Council Chair: (612) 802-6442
Francis Kerber, Cemetery Board Chair: (952) 836-5467
Scott Guillemette, Finance Council Chair: (952) 227-4000
Bill Van Hecke, Pastoral Council Chair: (612) 812-8615

Saint Nicholas Lay Leadership Positions

Elaine Ess, Cemetery: (571) 315-4980
Darlene Mahowald, Prayer Chain/Funeral: (952) 448-4464
John Turek, Trustee, Finance/Property Chair: (952) 448-2345
Dan Svoboda, Trustee: (952) 448-2345
Prayer Garden: (952) 913-4964

BULLETIN SUBMITTALS

Please submit announcements, feature articles, or event summaries for the bulletin for Guardian Angels or St. Nicholas by email at bulletin@gachaska.org by 12 p.m. the Tuesday before. Photographs must be in .jpg format.

ENVÍOS AL BOLETÍN

Si tiene algo que enviar para el boletín de Guardian Angels o St. Nicholas, envíe un correo electrónico a bulletin@gachaska.org antes de las 12:00 p.m. el martes anterior. Fotografía debe estar en formato .jpg.

GET THE BULLETIN EMAILED DIRECTLY TO YOU!

Did you know that you can get this bulletin sent to your email inbox? You can! Call the Parish Office to get signed up.

RECIBE EL BOLETÍN POR CORREO ELECTRÓNICO ¡DIRECTAMENTE A USTED!

¿Sabías que puedes recibir este boletín en tu bandeja de entrada de correo electrónico? ¡Puedes! Llame a la oficina parroquial para registrarse.

ANOINTING

If you wish to receive an anointing please call the Parish Office: (952) 227-4000.

HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, AND HOMEBOUND VISITS

Churches are no longer notified by hospitals or nursing homes when a parishioner is admitted unless the family has requested it. If you or a family member are homebound, hospitalized or in a nursing home and would like a visit from a member of the ministry staff, please call the Parish Office.

Church Calendar

Monday, December 9th

9:00 a.m. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass (English)

10:00 a.m. D of I Potluck, St. Francis Hall

6:00 p.m. Scouts Pack Meeting, Gym

7:00 p.m. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass (Spanish)

Tuesday, December 10th

5:30 p.m. Mass, † Domenica Oprosko

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

Wednesday, December 11th

8:00 a.m. Mass, † Floyd and Bertha Kohman

6:30 p.m. Faith Formation, Campus-wide

Thursday, December 12th

8:00 a.m. Mass

7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass (Spanish)

Friday, December 13th

3:30 p.m. Organ Tuning Appointment, GA Church

6:00 p.m. Mass (SN), † Vincent Jernander and Family

Saturday, December 14th

8:00 a.m. Confessions, GA Church

3:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Cookie Walk, St. Francis Hall

3:15 p.m. Confessions, GA Church

4:30 p.m. Mass, † Steven Guillemette

Sunday, December 15th

7:00 a.m. Annual Christmas Cookie Walk, St. Francis Hall

8:00 a.m. Mass, † Henry & MaryAnn Stacken

9:00 a.m. Coffee and Donuts, St. Francis Hall, Knights of Columbus

9:15 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

10:00 a.m. Mass, † Bob Therres

10:00 a.m. Mass (SN)

11:00 a.m. Coffee and Donuts, St. Francis Hall, Knights of Columbus

12:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish), Para la Gente

Mass Intentions:

Mass intentions may be for the living and/or the departed, with a ☩ designating in the bulletin a deceased person. There is a \$10 suggested donation per Mass intention. Permission from the sick person or his/her family must be granted before a name's inclusion in these prayers. To schedule a Mass intention, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism:

Our Baptism Belonging Class is required for all parents as a first step to Baptism of your child. Please call Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor, at 952-679-9415 to sign up for a class. We encourage Godparents to attend. Baptisms are scheduled once per month after the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Special dates requested for Baptism will be considered and accommodated depending on circumstances.

Matrimony:

Marriage preparation is required. Please call Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor, at 952-679-9415 at least 8 months in advance.

Communion for the Homebound:

When we come together to pray at our Eucharistic liturgy, we do not forget the members of our community who are unable to be with us because of ill health. We remember them in our prayers, and we wish to include them in our Holy Communion. Members of our community bring the Blessed Sacrament to them to comfort them and to unite us in the Eucharist. We are not always aware of those who have this need. Please call the Parish Office to let us know if you or a member of your family would like to have Holy Communion brought to them. Then we can schedule a time for our ministers to visit and bring the Sacrament.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo: Bar 5, 1-9/Sal 125, 1-2. 2-3. 4-5. 6 (3)/Flp 1, 4-6. 8-11/Lc 3, 1-6
Lunes: Gn 3, 9-15. 20/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4/Ef 1, 3-6. 11-12/Lc 1, 26-38
Martes: Is 40, 1-11/Sal 95, 1-2. 3 y 10. 11-12. 13/Mt 18, 12-14
Miércoles: Is 40, 25-31/Sal 102, 1-2. 3-4. 8 y 10/Mt 11, 28-30
Jueves: Zac 2, 14-17 o Ap 11, 19; 12, 1-6. 10/Jdt 13, 18. 19/Lc 1, 26-38 o Lc 1, 39-47
Viernes: Is 48, 17-19/Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4 y 6/Mt 11, 16-19
Sábado: Eclo 48, 1-4. 9-11/Sal 79, 2 y 3. 15-16. 18-19/Mt 17, 9. 10-13
Domingo siguiente: Sof 3, 14-18/Is 12, 2-3. 4. 5-6 (6)/Flp 4, 4-7/Lc 3, 10-18

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship. "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion; the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live—the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

Maintenance Expenses Paid 7/1/24 to Date:

New A/C Compressor
Architectural Fees for School Steps

Year-To-Date 7/1/24—11/18/24

	Guardian Angels	St. Nicholas
Goal, Year-to-Date	\$300,012	\$27,761
Last Sunday's Collection	\$11,545	\$1,245
Total Giving YTD	\$246,845	\$27,281
Percent of Goal Funded	82%	98%

Guardian Angels Maintenance Fund:

Contributions this fiscal year:	\$23,532
Expenses this fiscal year:	\$44,457
Fund Balance:	\$109,433

Please remember the Church of the Guardian Angels or Saint Nicholas in your Will.



COME AND CELEBRATE HOLINESS WITH OUR BLESSED MOTHER

The Immaculate Conception is our Catholic belief that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception. Tradition has always held this belief and yet it was not defined as a dogma until 1854 by Pope Pius IX in the papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. Mary is free of original sin! We celebrate with her all that we are destined to be when we make our purgatorial journey, come to heaven, and are made pure. We are destined to holiness as she is holy. She is a great model of what we will become. When we think about what holiness is like in our human lives, we can think of her. Placing all her hope in the words of the Angel Gabriel, she was a completely faithful handmaid of the Lord who hoped in God's promises even as she watched her Son suffer. Now, she shares in her Son's glory as the Queen of Heaven and Earth and the Mother of the Church.

We might say, "That is great for her, but I am a sinful person." She was not subject to the tinder that ignites the fires of sin. She did not suffer from the effects of sin internally like we do. Yet she underwent suffering in this world on behalf of all humanity. So we celebrate her victory over sin in her own life as she remained faithful. We do so with great hope in what, like her, we shall become. We honor her as one who suffered as the Mother of God for all humanity.

How do we best celebrate her holiness and reflect upon what holiness looks like? How do we best come to hope in our own redemption and, with her, hope for the redemption of all humanity? By coming to Mass on the day of the Immaculate Conception, we bring our love for her and our hope in her intercession for us.

This year, December 8th occurs on the Second Sunday of Advent. In accordance with liturgical and canon law, the liturgical celebration of the Immaculate Conception is, for this year, transferred to Monday, December 9th, 2024. The Holy See has recently clarified that, in contrast to the prevalent understanding in the United States, the usual obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on the Solemnity applies even when the celebration is transferred to December 9th.

Due to many parishes already establishing their Mass schedules and past practice of not anticipating that December 9th would be a Holy Day of obligation, and difficulty in adjusting schedules and finding additional priests at this late date the Archbishop DISPENSES FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS ON DECEMBER 9, 2024. This dispensation applies to those who live in or are physically present in the territory of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on December 9, 2024.

However, those who are able to observe the Solemnity by participation at Mass are strongly encouraged to do so. WE WILL HAVE HOLY MASS AT 9:00 AM IN ENGLISH ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH WITH FULL MUSIC AT GUARDIAN ANGELS. If you cannot easily attend Mass, all who enjoy the benefit of this dispensation are exhorted to commemorate the Immaculate Conception in another fitting manner, such as by reciting the Liturgy of the Hours or reflecting on the readings for the day, or engaging in prayer either individually, with others, or as a family.

As we each honor this special day dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, the Patroness of the United States of America, let us reflect on her perfect holiness, her great love for us, and her unique role in sharing in the saving work of her son, Jesus as we ask for her intercession for this nation. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Father Tony

MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass Intentions Calendar for 2025 is open! To schedule a mass intention, come to the Parish Office, call, email, or write us a letter (including your phone number). Intentions are \$10.

Also, we still have December 2024 intentions Available at both GA and SN.

¿TE GUSTA ESCRIBIR O CREAR? ¡ÚNETE A NUESTRO EQUIPO DE ESCRITURA DE INTERCESIONES!

Estamos buscando voluntaries para ayudar a escribir las intercesiones de nuestra parroquia. Si te gusta escribir o tienes un espíritu creative, esta es una excelente manera de contribuir a nuestras celebraciones litúrgicas. Se ofrecerá capacitación, por lo que no se necesita experiencia previa; solo se requiere disposición para aprender y compartir tus dones.

Para más información o para ofrecerte como voluntario, comunícate con: Fr. Tony, frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org, (952) 227-4000.

DO YOU LOVE TO WRITE OR CREATE? JOIN OUR INTERCESSION WRITING TEAM!

We're seeking volunteers to help write intercessions for our parish. If you enjoy writing or have a creative spirit, this is a wonderful way to contribute to our liturgical celebrations. Father Tony will provide training, so no previous experience is necessary—just a willingness to learn and share your gifts.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact: Meg Garrison, mgarrison@gachaska.org, (952) 227-4000.

D OF I MEETING/POTLUCK

The Daughters of Isabella will meet in St. Francis Hall on Monday, December 9th at 11:30 for a short meeting followed by potluck lunch. The main course and potatoes will be provided—please bring a side or dessert to share.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST FOR GA

This list includes items that are not included in our current budget year. You can provide a part of an item or in its entirety.

\$75 each—UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply)

batteries to replace for:

1. Boiler system computer **PURCHASED**
2. Video the Mass online **PURCHASED**
3. Staff office video equipment **PURCH.**
4. School video equipment **PURCH.**

\$150 each for one new UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply)

\$35 each—2 Burse to hold a Pyx for Holy Communion **PURCHASED!**

\$59 each—2 Pyx for Holy Communion **PURCHASED!**

\$750—Labor to professionally install additional speakers in back of church

\$500—Pascal Candle for 2025 **PURCHASED!**

\$100—Sponsor a GA Faith Formation student **\$400**

\$1,300—TV and Cart for Faith Formation Classes **PURCHASED!**

\$5,000—Sponsor a GA child for area Catholic School

\$1,750—Railings and labor for Sanctuary steps—**PURCHASED!**

\$200,000—NEW School Steps in Spring 2025—For every dollar you donate another dollar will be donated up to \$25,000 until year end.

\$250 each—replate chalices

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL DONATIONS



This Christmas, consider donating money towards the purchase of Christmas flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. You can use your church envelope marked "Christmas Flowers," list the name(s) of your loved ones on the back side, and drop it in the collection basket. Alternatively, you could find Christmas Flower Donation envelopes in the back of church. Thank you!

CHURCH DECORATING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a passion for decorating and a desire to help beautify our church? We're looking for volunteers to assist with decorating throughout the liturgical seasons. Whether you have a creative touch or simply a willing heart, we would love your help! Training is provided.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Brittany Kaufmann at bkaufmann@gachaska.org or (952) 227-4000.

GIVING TREE

Put your gift(s) under the trees at the entrance of the church by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH. All gifts will be organized and delivered that week.



A MESSAGE FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the Christmas tree and nativity scene outside this year, especially Jeremy and Steve Gestach who helped set up the tree, and Bob VanDenBroeke, Dennis Hively, and Brad Gestach who set up the nativity scene.

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING CANS

If you would like to drop off your cans, small bags can go in the bin outside of the can shed behind church. Large bags of cans can go on the ground next to the bin. Thanks.

SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN A LIFETIME

Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

SE NECESITAN VOLUNTARIOS PARA DECORAR LA IGLESIA

¿Tienes una pasión por la decoración un deseo de embellecer nuestra iglesia? Estamos buscando voluntarios para ayudar con la decoración a lo largo de las temporadas litúrgicas. Ya sea que tengas un toque creativo o simplemente un corazón dispuesto, ¡nos encataría contar con tu ayuda! Se ofrece capacitación.

Para más información o para ofrecerte como voluntario, comunícate con: Fr. Tony, frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org, (952) 227-4000.

ST. BENEDICT AND HOSPITALITY

Our history at Guardian Angels started with the Benedictines who lived by the Rules of St. Benedict. One theme in his Rules is Hospitality. He says, "Let all guests that come be received like Christ Himself, for He will say, 'I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in.'"

We enjoy serving our guests and parishioners at Guardian Angels after Masses each Sunday. Our menu includes juice, coffee, tea, donuts, fruit, bagels and cream cheese, and some gluten free treats as well. Please consider joining us and signing up to serve. It is a great way to be hospitable to our neighbor, to meet new people, or catch up with old friends. Individuals, families, and each of our ministry groups are welcome and encouraged to provide hospitality. We will order the supplies and provide easy directions for those who would like to assist. Call or text Laurie Forner at (612) 201-7002 to sign up for Sundays in December.

22ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK BAKE SALE

December 14th & 15th, St. Francis Hall, after the
4:30, 8, and 10 Masses



All parishioners are asked to donate their favorite cookies, bars, breads, or candies. Treats can be dropped off starting at 3:15 p.m. Saturday. This is your opportunity to dazzle us with your baking abilities. Choose from hundreds of cookies and bars to build a custom tray of your favorites. Trays are weighed and priced at \$9/lb. These are the best Christmas goodies in town.

Hosted by Guardian Angels Council 19. This event is eligible for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1,000.

Local Rep.: Gary Hoke (952) 256-1627 or
ghoke@catholicunited.org

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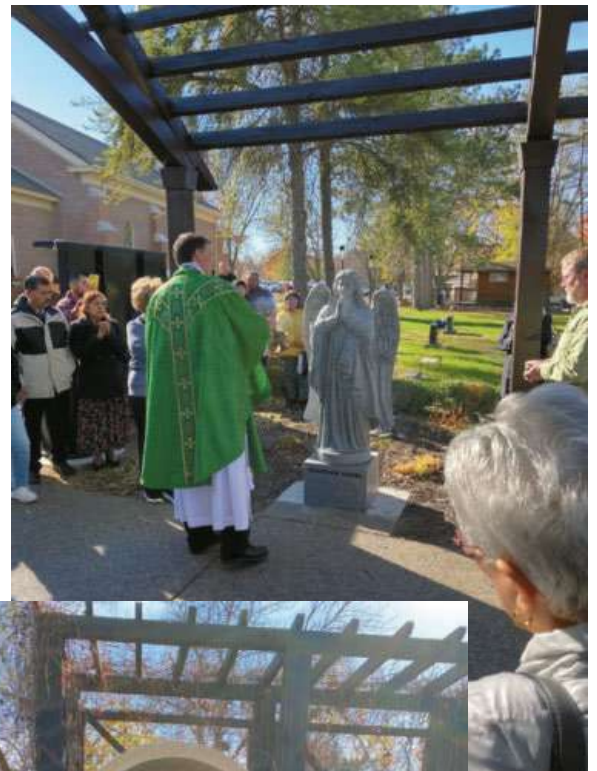
CANTORS FOR MASS

Have you ever thought about becoming a cantor? We are looking for new cantors for both Guardian Angels and Saint Nicholas. You will get trained in on how to lead the congregation in joyful praise to the Lord!

For more information or to sign up, contact Brittany Kaufmann at bkaufmann@gachaska.org.

NEW STATUES AT THE PRAYER GARDEN!

The St. Nicholas Prayer Garden recently installed new granite statues of a Guardian Angel and St. Padre Pio. If you have not had a chance to stop by and check them out, please do. We appreciate Fr. Tony doing the blessing during our installation celebration! We also give thanks to God for the many individuals who give in so many ways to make the St. Nicholas Prayer Garden the beautiful, peaceful place that it is. The Prayer Garden will celebrate 10 years in 2025! Look for more to come during the 10 year Anniversary celebration!



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2 GREAT LOCATIONS!



22nd Annual Christmas Cookie Walk Bake Sale

Dec. 14th and 15th in St Francis Hall after 4:30pm, 8am and 10:30am Mass. All parishioners are asked to donate their favorite cookies, bars, breads, candies. Drop off treats starting at 3:15pm Saturday. This is your opportunity to dazzle us with your baking abilities. Choose from hundreds of cookies and bars to build a custom tray of your favorites. Trays are weighed and priced \$9.00 per pound. These are the best Christmas goodies in town. Hosted by Guardian Angels Council 19

This event is eligible for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1000

Local Rep: Gary Hoke 952-256-1627

ghoke@catholicunited.org



*Twin Cities
Catholic Cursillo*



Cursillo **ENCOUNTER**

Hosted at Sts Peter & Paul Church in Loretto, MN

**FEBRUARY 13-16 MEN'S WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 20-23 WOMEN'S WEEKEND**

Reasons to Consider Cursillo:

- **Expand and enhance your prayer life**
- **Progressively grow in your journey of faith through study of God's Word and your Catholic faith**
- **Build God's Kingdom through bonding friendship with people in the environments in which you live.**

The Cursillo is an encounter with Christ and others. It promotes a spiritual renewal of our world. By living a fully Christian life, we bring Christ to others, including those in our family, school, workplace, etc. Cursillo develops an ongoing consciousness of the call to discipleship.

What to Expect at Cursillo

- **New friendships!**
- **Encounter with Christ**
- **Engaging talks**
- **Lively small groups**
- **Daily Eucharist**
- **Prayer experiences**
- **Joy in Christian Community**
- **Abundant food**

For more information or to register contact:

Ken or Laurie Forner

at 612-201-7449, 612-201-7002

Call or text

