

Isn't It Grand! Advent 2016



Fr. Walsh's Article... **NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR ON CREMATION AND THE BURIAL OF ASHES:**

Pope Francis issued a new directive recently on how the cremains or ashes of a person were to be properly and reverently treated. His statement has caused a huge debate – much of it negative. People, and especially non-Catholics, believed he was meddling in an area that should be of concern only to the deceased's family.

Cremation has become more and more common, especially in countries where land for cemeteries is scarce. Pope Francis has no problem with cremation. It has been permitted in the Catholic Church since 1963. But because of the Christian's belief that the body and soul will be reunited in the resurrection of the body at the end of time, the ashes should be treated with reverence, and therefore not be scattered or divided. "*Professing belief in the resurrection of the dead and affirming that the human body is an essential part of a person's identity, the Catholic Church insists that the bodies of the deceased be treated with respect and laid to rest in a consecrated place, and forbidding the growing practice of keeping cremated remains at home.*" (Catholic News Service.)

Cardinal Mueller said on this occasion: "*Caring for the bodies of the deceased, the church confirms its faith in the resurrection and separates itself from attitudes and rites that see in death the definitive obliteration of the person, a stage in the process of reincarnation or the fusion of one's soul with the universe.*"

And so the scattering of ashes, putting them into jewelry, separating them to spread in different locations, is not permitted. The ideal is to bury the cremains in the ground, or the urn with the person's ashes is to be placed in a columbarium or tomb, the final resting place to be marked with the person's name, the same name with which the person was baptized and by which the person is called by God.

I invite you to read more details on the Pope's directive in the most recent issue of *The Northern Cross*.

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL

I want to thank all of our parishioners of St. John's and Holy Rosary who have made a contribution to this year's *United Catholic Appeal*. As you see in the bulletin, our people at Holy Rosary have almost reached their goal – helped immensely by a very generous parishioner there who made a gift to be matched by other parishioners. At St. John's we still have a long way to go. We need \$12,813 to meet our UCA goal of \$25,476 – and we have to meet that goal by December 31st. To date, 40 households out of 159 in St. John's have made a contribution. Your gift and mine permits many hugely important programs and agencies to work for the good of our diocese. For example: we are blessed to have thirteen seminarians studying for the priesthood for our diocese. Three of them will be ordained next June. But the cost of their education and the running of the Office for Vocations this school year will be \$379,452. And at the other end of the spectrum we have 24 retired/disabled priests that costs \$268,341. A wonderful service for our housebound and infirm is the Sunday TV Mass, and that costs \$25,000 a year. We have two priest chaplains to our Duluth hospitals, and that ministry will cost \$137,796 this year. A ministry that your UCA gift supports has a special place in my heart – Campus Ministry at UMD where I was the Newman Chaplain years ago. That ministry is worth every penny of the \$114,728 that has been allocated to it. If you haven't contributed to United Catholic Appeal this year, I hope you will still do so. For more information I invite you to read the detailed income and expenses of our diocese, and all the programs and salaries that UCA supports in the last issue of *The Northern Cross*.

A New Staff Member – We feel very badly the loss of Lori Hommerding in our parish office. She has been our parish secretary for the past 12 years and now with her husband Mark's transfer to Little Fall, MN she will be joining him there by mid December. Her replacement will be Bridget Sobieck. Bridget is no stranger to the parish office as she was parish secretary from 1993-2003. Bridget will come on board on December 5th.

Going Away Brunch—Please join us to say good-bye to Mark & Lori Hommerding and Nevaeh on Sunday December 4th following Mass. Please call Patty Robinson at 387-1346 or Laurie Dorr at 387-2346 if you would like to add a dish or bring some baked goods.

December



December 2	Skip Joynes Marti Marchino
December 3	Lynn Spry
December 4	Nate Carlson
December 6	Bernie Gestel
December 8	Sophia Christianson
December 9	Brianna Baumann Greg Miron Margie Quello
December 11	Sandy Rude Larry Scully
December 12	Janelle Tyson
December 15	Bill Parish Kari Peterson
December 17	Lori Hommerding
December 18	Mary Mills
December 19	Joy Carlson Bea Mueller
December 24	Del Rosenquist Carol Pratt
December 27	Mary Mueller
December 29	Dave Wieben
December 31	Richard Furlong III



January



January 2	Michelle Lewis
January 3	Jean Roberts
January 4	Barb Gervais Charlie LaBoda
January 5	Jerrold Peterson Rachel Wieben
January 6	Rick Crawford Fred Cain
January 8	Janet Healy
January 13	Sue Brandon-Cadwell
January 14	Mike LaVigne
January 15	Jean Bullock Joe Carlson Carolyn Seglem Cameron Sjoberg
January 17	William Heitzman
January 18	Rolland LaBoda Tom Nalezny
January 21	Betty Speck
January 23	Mara MacDonell Pam Taylor
January 25	Tim MacDonell Debbie Deschampe
January 26	John Franz Susan Roy
January 27	Lori Dorr Patty Ratelle
January 29	Jim Zunker Nevaeh Hall

Would You Like—to know Jesus, the Bible, what it means to be Catholic and other topics? We are meeting at lunch time at 12:15-1:15 pm every Wednesday in the church library. All are welcome, just bring your bible.

Contribution Envelopes & Calendars—Will be available after the first week of December in the vestibule of church. Please pick up your envelopes, and if you don't have envelopes and would like them, please contact Bridget in the office.

Religious Education Teacher Needed: I am looking for someone to teach the 6th/7th grade Religious Education class from January 4th - April 26th. Class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. If interested, please contact Sharon Dorr at 387-1438 or DRE@stjohns-holyrosary.org.

EXTENDING OUR CEMETERY: Because the east side of St. John’s Cemetery and some graves have become overgrown and we are in need of new burial spaces, we have decided to clear that ground of its trees and undergrowth, and so expand our cemetery. As you see, this tree removal and landscaping is changing the appearance of the cemetery in a big way.

Holy Hour & Benediction –We are delighted that so many parishioners at Holy Rosary in Grand Portage have signed up for a Holy Hour & Benediction on the first Sunday of each month after the noon Mass – The next date will be December 4th. Our deepest thanks to Deacon Peter and Hans Stockstead for helping make this happen.

OUR CHURCH ELEVATOR AND HANDICAPPED BATHROOM

Hopefully, by the time you read this the elevator joining the church to the Father Mark Hollenhorst Hall, as well as the handicapped bathroom off the parish hall, will be just about ready for use. I am very grateful to Rick Crawford and his crew of *Crawford Excavating* for the great job they’ve done on these two projects. And a special thank you to Bill Parish for overseeing everything. Shortly we will need a few volunteers who are handy with a paint brush to paint both places. If you can help, please call the office and we’ll set up a schedule.

The architect’s estimate of costs for both projects was \$131,000. However, until all the bills come in, we won’t know for sure. To date, parishioners and visitors have contributed \$113,496.58. This has been a wonderful show of generosity, and because of that generosity, we didn’t have to launch a capital campaign to pay for these two projects. If you can help with the final costs, we would be most grateful.

Save a Marriage. Are you or someone you know, living in the pain of a marriage in trouble? Retrouvaille can help. The next program starts Jan. 27, 2017. Call 320-255-5314 or check the website www.helpourmarriage.org for more information. Preregistration is required. Space is limited.

Giving Tree—The First Sunday in Advent! Watch for our *Giving Tree*. Advent is a time of preparation, is a time of giving. Select a tag from our tree and purchase a gift card for fuel or food from our local merchants: return the gift cards to the boxes by the tree, by December 20, 2016. We will distribute these to those in need throughout all of 2017.



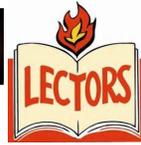
UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL:
Our obligation to this year’s UCA drive must be met by December 31st. Our UCA obligation this year was \$25,476.49 for our 159 households in St. John’s. To date, 40 families from St. John’s have contributed \$12,663.00 but we haven’t heard from some 119 households. To date, 9 families from Holy Rosary have contributed \$2,185 of their goal of \$2,854.38. If you haven’t made your United Catholic Appeal gift this year, I encourage you to do so before the end of December.
Holy Rosary UCA Dollar for Dollar Match—A generous parishioner has again come forward to match dollar for dollar toward Holy Rosary’s UCA goal. This is a great opportunity to contribute if you already have not or want to donate an additional gift.

**2016
United Catholic
Appeal
Saint John’s
50% collected
\$12,663.00 of \$25,476.49
Holy Rosary
77% collected
\$2,185.00 of \$2,854.38**



Eucharistic Ministers

ALTAR SERVERS



LECTORS

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors & Usher Help-It is that time of the year when our snowbirds leave and we are in need of extra ministry help. If you can help out with one or all the areas of need, please call the office at 387-1409.

THANKSGIVING: Our tradition at St. John's has been to confine it to our own parishes with Mass on Thanksgiving Day. How about expanding that to include the other churches in town and county? In fact, our Ministerium decided on doing just that at a recent meeting. So, in addition to our usual 9:00 a.m. Mass on Thanksgiving Day, we'll also have an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the Congregational Church at 6:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 23rd. We'll gather for fellowship at 5:30, and the service itself will have the traditional Thanksgiving hymns, prayers and readings. I hope you can join us at the Congregational Church .



All are invited to the 42nd Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at 1:00 p.m., Thanksgiving Day, at the First Congregational Church. The church is located at the corner of Third Avenue West and Second Street in Grand Marais. There is no charge for this traditional meal, served family style in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Information about home-delivery, take-out meals and rides to the dinner is available by calling the church office at 387-2113. Happy Thanksgiving!

Youth Mass, Pancake Breakfast & Church Decorating: All youth in grades 6-11 are encouraged to participate in the youth Mass on Sunday, December 18th at 9:00am. We need youth to serve as lectors, ushers, gift bearers, altar servers and choir members. More information coming soon to the parents of students in grades 6-11. All youth in grades PK-12 can help decorate the church for Christmas after the pancake breakfast.

A Christmas Prayer

Gracious God, we turn to you in wonder and praise as we celebrate Christmas.

Remind us during this sacred season of our collective story. May our roots extend deep into the soil of faith and spread outwards to share the Good News of Christ's coming.

Focus our attention so that we remain attuned to the sights, sounds, and sensations of the season. May the presence of Christ be at the forefront of our thoughts and actions as we enact each holiday ritual.

Fill us with hope in the continuous birthing of Christ in our world. May we never lose sight of the promise of the Kingdom of peace and compassion that is both present and yet to be.

With gratitude in our hearts, we pray.

Amen



Merry Christmas to all!

**St. John's Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
October 27, 2016 – 5:30 pm**

Present: Father Seamus Walsh, Kathy LaVigne, Mike Tibodeau, Francine Martin, and guest Mike McEnelly

Absent: Deacon Peter Mueller, Julie Rannetsberger, Susan Roy, Bridget Sobieck, Maggie Waldrop, Justin Mueller, and Randy Schnobrich

Father called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and opened with a prayer.

Minutes of the Parish council meeting of September 28, 2016 were reviewed. Kathy L. made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Mike T. seconded the motion. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

New Business:

Mike McEnelly attended to present an estimated bid for cleanup of the Parish cemetery. There is a concern regarding tree overgrowth on to graves, and encroachment onto the cemetery property. One-third of the cemetery is currently covered in trees.

Mike McEnelly presented an estimate of \$6500 to remove the trees, with the work to be done by Gary Nesgoda. Stump removal, grading and fill to be completed by Thoresons for an estimated \$3000. In addition, an estimate for a cyclone fence to separate the cemetery from the neighbor came in at \$1500.

Mike informed the council that a decision on the tree work needed to be made as soon as possible because of the time of year and the immediate availability of fill dirt. Mike stated that the tree removal could begin as early as next week.

The council decided that an immediate vote needed to be made on the subject of tree removal, but that the fence acquisition could wait for another time with discussion to include type of fence and payment sources. Father asked for a vote to accept the bid of \$6500 to remove the tree overgrowth and a bid of \$3000 to cover stump removal, grading and fill.

Mike Tibodeau made a motion to accept the bid

Seconded by Francine Martin

All were in favor. Bid was accepted and work will commence as soon as possible.

Finances: Father presented a 3 month/3 year financial statement. The statement shows that income has remained flat over the past three years. Income is still ahead of expenses.

Father pointed out that the elevator cost is not in the current budget report because the Diocese auditor requires special projects to be kept separate.

To date, the \$131,000 elevator and bathroom project has received gifts totaling \$104,961.58 with expenses paid to date of \$36,162.95. It is estimated that the project will be completed by Thanksgiving.

A new roof for the Church will need to be considered in the future.

Updates: A new Parish secretary has been hired, but she is currently transitioning from her previous job.

More information will be available at a later date.

Dick Dorr has agreed to stay on as the Parish janitor.

Future Business:

In addition to discussing fencing options for the cemetery, Father suggests the council discuss creating a written policy for burial in the cemetery, to include items such as cost and the number of burials per grave. Father states that the Diocese will be discussing topics related to Catholic burial which may influence our policies.

Other: Father asked the council will continue its tradition of a Pancake Breakfast the Sunday before Christmas with Church decorating to follow. Mike T. and Kathy L. assured Father that was still the plan.

It was decided that the previously scheduled **November 30th** Council Meeting will be cancelled. No future council meeting date was set at this time.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

WHAT'S WORSE THAN TERRORISM?

We are terrified as we read or see another terrorist attack at an airport, train station, night club (gay or straight), a concert. We have a right to be worried. But we're worrying about the wrong things. A glance at the data from neutral, reliable sources should calm us down. According to the U.S. State Dept., terrorism events in 2015 were down 13 from the prior year. While more than 28,000 lost their lives in these attacks, that number is miniscule in terms of the world's total population. According to 2011 data, the probability of being killed in a terrorist attack is around one in 20 million.

What then should we be afraid of? We could start with hunger and malnutrition, which kill 3.1 million children under the age of five every year. Then there are the diseases that can be prevented with vaccination, which claim the lives of 2.5 million children under five every year. Or how about climate change? Climate-related disasters since 2000 are up 44 percent from the previous decade. As crops fail because of drought or flooding, mass migration has become routine. The refugee crisis currently being felt throughout Europe is directly related to climate change. People can't continue to live where they can't grow food, find clean water, or build safe homes. Scarce resources automatically escalate to violence and armed conflict. These are all issues we can do something about.

We will remember 2013 more for the five people who were killed and 264 injured in the Boston Marathon than for the landslides in Uttarakhand that killed over *six thousand* people, left thousands more homeless and unemployed, and about which we have probably heard nothing. These landslides were directly related to the building of a hydroelectric power plant along Uttarakhand's rivers and are just one example of what over-development has in store for the world if allowed to continue unchecked.

Yes, terrorism is horrifying and terrifying, and we must not think otherwise. But we must not let those fears paralyze us from seeing and dealing with the far more urgent and serious problems that exist and can be dealt with. (Adapted from an article in *Commonweal*, 9/9/'16 by Jo McGowan.)

A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Thursday, December 8th, will be the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*, and a holyday of obligation. Mass on Thursday will be at 8:15 a.m. In addition, we will have a Vigil Mass on Wednesday, December 7th at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's. Mass at Holy Rosary will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday.



Musicians Always Welcome!

It's that time of year –some of our choir members head south for the winter and we need your help! Both choirs practice the hour before Mass so just show up at 4:00 pm on Saturday or 8:00 am on Sunday and join us-whether you sing or play an instrument we would love to have your help.

TREE OF LIGHT STARS



Beginning on December 20th, stars will decorate the Christmas tree at St. John's to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Deadline for stars is December 22nd.

During the Christmas Season each of these stars will remind us to pray for an individual, a family, or a prayer intention. A label with this intention will be attached in the center of each star.

In exchange for your payment of \$5.00 per star, we will attach the name or prayer intention you wish to include in our Christmas prayer.

Write the name or prayer intention to attach to each star in the spaces below.

Return this form with \$5.00 for each star.

Checks should be addressed to "St. John's Church".

You may mail this form to the parish at P.O. Box 549, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Please write legibly because we can only type what we can read!!

If you have a question regarding this star adoption – call 387-1409.

Star #1	Star #4
Star #2	Star #5
Star #3	Star #6

Breakfast With Santa - Families with young children from St. John's and Holy Rosary are invited to breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 10 at 10AM in the social hall. Feel free to invite any grandparents, and bring your camera. There will be stories and special treats. Reservations can be made with Lori or Bridget at 387-1409. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. This event is sponsored by the *Sharing and Caring* women's group. Bring a canned good for the Food Shelf.



Penance Services Schedule For Christmas

Private Confessions at St. John's

Saturday, December 17th, 3:00 – 4:45 p.m.
 Monday, December 19th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, December 20th, 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
 Tuesday, December 20th, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 Thursday, December 22nd 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 Saturday, December 24th 3:00-4:30 p.m.



Private Confessions at Holy Rosary on Sunday, December 18th, 12:45 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast & Decoration Of The Church

—Join us on Sunday, December 18th for a youth liturgy at 9:00 am followed by a pancake breakfast in the hall hosted by the Parish Council and youth. After breakfast we will prepare the church for Christmas –this has become an annual tradition that the whole family can enjoy, don't miss it!

Christmas Mass Schedule

12/24, Saturday 5:00 p.m. in Grand Marais
 12/25, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. in Grand Marais
 12/25, Sunday, 12:00 p.m. in Grand Portage

New Year Schedule

New Year's Eve, Mass at St. John's, 5:00 p.m.
 New Year's Day Mass at St. John's, 9:00 a.m.

Isn't It Grand

is published by

St. John's Catholic Church of Grand Marais
 and Holy Rosary Church of Grand Portage

Pastor: Father Seamus Walsh

Deacon: Peter Mueller

Secretary: Bridget Sobieck

Our office hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 - 3:30pm

(subject to change)

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Address: P.O. Box 549

10 East 5th Street

Grand Marais, MN 55604

E-mail us at:

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swalsh@boreal.org

Parish Webpage: www.stjohns-holyrosary.org

**A GREAT CAUSE –
 CAN YOU HELP?**

The Salvation Army does a huge amount of good in our Cook County for the poor and needy. But they can only do so with our help. On Saturday, December 3rd, I'll be ringing that bell outside Johnson Foods, starting at 9:00 a.m. It would be great if we had bell-ringer coverage from 9:00 to 4:30 p.m. Can you help? If you can, would you call the parish office and let me know the time that would work best for you, and we'll set up a schedule.



More At: www.stjohns-holyrosary.org—On the parish website you will find more resources for Advent. Check us out!

Parish Council Members:

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