

Catholic Area Parishes

St. Francis, St. Bridget, St. Malachy, Sacred Heart, Visitation Oratory

Fr. Bill Sprigler, Pastor

Fr. Samuel Perez, Parochial Administrator

Christine Pinto, Director of Faith Formation

Address: 508 13th Street North, Benson, MN 56215

Website: www.catholicareaparishes.org

E-mail: stfran@embarqmail.com

Murdock Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursdays 8:00 am – noon, 1-4 pm (Darlene & Fr. Sam)

Wednesdays & Fridays 8:00 am – noon, 1-4 pm (Fr. Sam)

Area Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am - Noon, 1:00-3:30 pm

Friday: 8 am - noon

Area Office: 320-842-4271

Fax Number: 320-843-2264

Murdock Office: 320-875-2451

Home Phone:

Father Bill Sprigler Cell # 320-314-2566

Father Samuel Perez: Office 320-875-2451

Home 320-875-2246

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday, March 8	8:00 am	MURDOCK	+	Etta Schoen
Tuesday, March 9	8:00 am	MURDOCK	+	Gene Clark
	8:30 am	BENSON	++	Branch & Berens Families
	6:00 pm	DANVERS		John & Elaine Carruth
Wednesday, March 10	8:00 am	MURDOCK	+	LuAnn Schlagerl
	8:30 am	DEGRAFF	+	Jim O'Malley
Thursday, March 11	8:00 am	MURDOCK	+	Victor Peplau
	8:30 am	BENSON	++	Leo & Margaret Hilke
	10:30 am	GOLDEN LIVING	+	Ray Schaaf
Friday, March 12	8:00 am	MURDOCK		For our Priests
	8:30 am	CLONTARF		For our Priests
	5:30 pm	BENSON		For our Priests
	6:30 pm	DEGRAFF		For our Priests
Weekend Masses:				
Saturday, March 13	8:30 am	MURDOCK	+	Helen Klang
	4:00 pm	CLONTARF	+	Alice Chamberlain
	5:30 pm	BENSON	+	Nora Motzko
Sunday, March 14	8:00 am	DEGRAFF		For the People
	9:00 am	MURDOCK		For the People
	9:30 am	BENSON	+	Judy Grossman

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, March 13, 3:00 pm in Benson; Sunday, March 14, 8:00 am in Murdock

* **Marriage Preparation:** Please contact Area Office at least six months ahead of time to plan and prepare for your wedding.

* **Baptism:** classes will be offered on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. Location will be flexible. Please call area office for registration at 842-4271. Call area office for location. Parents who have previously baptized children are encouraged to schedule as well.

* **RCIA:** Anyone interested in **joining the Catholic Church** please call Jack Wagner at 842-9693 or the Area Office for fall registration.

* **Registration/Moving:** To register in a parish or if moving, call Area Office at 842-4271 or Murdock office at 875-2451.

* **Spiritual Care for shut-ins:** feel free to call the area office about inquiries about a shut-in you would like to have a priest visit. Benson area call 842-4271 and Murdock area contact 875-2451.

Catholic Charities- offering personal, marriage, family and pregnancy counseling 1-800-670-5163.

A Vocation View

The Lord is kind and merciful, and calls us to proclaim his name. Considering a call to priesthood or religious life? (Psalm 103)

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 7	The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 8:30 am at Sacred Heart Church
Monday, March 8	The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 9 am at St. Francis Church
Tuesday, March 9	7:00 pm Rosary in Benson intention is for God's love and peace in families
Wednesday, March 10	Stations of the Cross following 6 pm Mass in Danvers 3-4 pm Grades 1 & 2 in Murdock 6-7 pm Grades 1,2,5,6 in Benson 7-8 pm Grades 5-11 in Murdock 7-8 pm Grades 7-11 in Benson 6 pm Area 3 rd & 4 th grade Intergenerational Night with parents in Benson
Thursday, March 11	8:30 am – 5 pm Eucharistic Adoration in Murdock
Friday, March 12	Stations of the Cross in Murdock following 8:00 am Mass Stations of the Cross in Clontarf following 8:30 am Mass Stations of the Cross following 5:30 pm Mass in Benson Stations of the Cross following 6:30 pm Mass in DeGraff
Saturday, March 13	The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 5 pm at St. Francis Church
Sunday, March 14	The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 8:30 am at Sacred Heart Church The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 9:00 am at St. Francis Church Alternate 3 rd & 4 th Grade Intergenerational Night in Murdock following Mass Noon – Dinner to honor our 12 th graduates at Sacred Heart Church in Murdock

In the interest of having sacred silence before Mass or if the musicians need to introduce new music that will be coming up, please complete the praying of the Holy Rosary 15 minutes before Mass is scheduled to begin.

Upcoming events and celebrations:

Roman Missal Catechesis – Second Sunday of Lent

The liturgies of Lent are focused on our repentance and God's mercy. Sometimes we pray the Confiteor together, "I confess to almighty God..." Other times the priest gives short invocations such as "Lord we have sinned against you" to which we respond "Lord, have mercy." Before we settle in to hear the Word, it is important that we acknowledge our sins. This is yet another way the liturgy reflects how we should live. We need to ask for and receive God's mercy in order to prepare the soil to bear the fruit of justice, peace and love.

Operation Rice Bowl – Catholic Relief Services – Third Week of Lent – The Burning Bush and the Call of Moses

Today we hear the call of Moses to lead his people from oppression to freedom. God promises to be with them as they journey to a new life. Our participation in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl unites us in prayer, fasting, and giving with the millions of people throughout the world who are oppressed by poverty, injustice, war, disease and lack of education and other opportunities.

Catholic Relief Services

Next week, our parishes will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. This Collection helps to fund six Catholic organizations that improve the quality of life and protect human dignity. Your gift will support agricultural development to strengthen economies and create food sustainability, provide outreach services to survivors of human trafficking, and supply pastoral care and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. By helping the marginalized and impoverished, you give hope to Jesus in disguise. Please be charitable in next week's Catholic Relief Services Collection.

St. Bridget's Parish wishes to thank everyone who helped make our Pork Loin Dinner and TV raffle a great success. The winners of the raffle were:

TV – Linda Byrne Eldred of Falcon Heights, MN

\$100 each to Tim Sullivan, DeGraff; Mick Abner, Benson; Adrian Gordon, Murdock; Lee Meyer, DeGraff; Jim McNellis, DeGraff

\$50 each to Terry Suter, DeGraff; Marvin Zurn, DeGraff

\$25 each to Brian Klassen, Willmar; Terry Sullivan, DeGraff; Dale Klassen, DeGraff; Carol Thompson, DeGraff

MISSION OF LOVE VALENTINE PROJECT

You are invited to participate in the **Mission of Love Valentine Project** which helps many very poor families in San Lucas Toliman, our Diocesan Mission in Guatemala. This gift of love results in some families eating well when otherwise they would have had very little to eat for some days. Please look for Valentines in envelopes in the pews. You are invited to participate by signing the Valentine with your first name and enclosing your \$2 Valentine gift. The Valentines will be given to needy children, handicapped and widowed persons. They will exchange it for corn, rice, beans and school supplies. Many thanks for your support!

The DeGraff Fire Department will be sponsoring a Fish Fry at the DeGraff Liquor Store on Friday, March 12th from 5-8 pm. Menu: Fish, Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Dinner Roll, Beverage and Dessert.

Willmar Area Knights of Columbus will host a Lenten Fish Fry – all you can eat – on Friday, March 19th from 4:30-7:30 pm at St. Mary's Parish Center in Willmar. Advance tickets are \$8, at door \$9. Ages 3-11 are \$4 and \$5. Tickets available at St. Mary's Church and Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing

The Youth at Sacred Heart are preparing a fish fry on Friday, March 26. The administrative council will host a Bingo at 6 pm. Cost of the meal is \$8.00 which includes fish, baked potato, cole slaw, dinner roll, dessert, and a beverage. Take-outs will be available, and proceeds of the meal go to support youth activities at Sacred Heart. Mark your calendars and come join in food, fellowship and fun. Catholic Aid Association will provide matching funds.

Other Fish Fries in the Area: Friday, March 12 at St. Clara's in Clara City

MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE

Remember the hungry during the March Campaign. We will be collecting food and cash donations for the local food shelf throughout March. Grocery carts for your donations will be available in each of the parishes.

Children make up 42% of persons served by the food shelf. 100% of the food and money donated goes directly back to the people in Swift County. Corporate sponsors match our donations at a rate of 15¢ per every dollar or pound donated. The following items are needed: Canned fruit & vegetables, elbow macaroni, personal care products, laundry detergent, peanut butter, hamburger helper, toothbrush & paste, dish soap, mac & cheese, pancake mix & syrup, cereal, soups, spam, tuna, chicken, money. Monetary donations can be made to the Swift County Food Shelf, Hwy 12 East, PO Box 321, Benson, MN 56215.



St. Bridget's Altar & Rosary will be having a brunch and program after Mass on Sunday, March 14th for St. Patrick's Day. Groups A, B & D will serve.

St. Francis Family Groups booklets for 2010 are available in the back of church. A Family Groups meeting will be held on Monday, March 15th at 7:30 pm in the St. Francis School basement. This meeting is for all captains and co-captains and any other interested parishioners. When your captain or co-captain calls, please be willing to help and/or donate. Dues are \$10 and \$5 for social action. You can send dues now to Sandie Nordaune at 620 7th St. No, Benson, MN 56215. Thank you!

The Diocesan Chrism Mass will be held on Thursday, March 18th at 7 pm at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye. Confirmation students are encouraged to attend this event if at all possible. It is a beautiful service and a great learning experience for all.

Daffodil Days in Swift County will be March 16-19th. Volunteers will be selling Daffodils at the following locations: Appleton Meat Center, Do-Mats and Super Value in Benson on afternoon of March 17th and all day on March 18-19. Dollars raised through Daffodil Days provide the American Cancer Society with much-needed funds to save lives through prevention, early detection and research.

A Day of Recollection

Fr. Sam will be conducting a Day of Recollection at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, March 20th. It will begin at 8:30 am with Mass and continue with talks, Rosary, confession and adoration. All are welcome and confirmation students are encouraged to attend as well to explore the day in preparation for Easter.

Knights of Columbus will host a Beef Commercial Dinner on Sunday, March 21st from 10 am – 1 pm at St. Francis School in Benson. Pies will be served by MCCL. Everyone welcome!



AREA CHOIR:

There will be an **Area Choir** practice on Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00 pm at Sacred Heart Church in Murdock. We will practice for the Easter Vigil service first and for the Confirmation service. Everyone is welcome! Any questions, call Marlis Kavanagh at 875-2201 or email tomkav@charter.net. Thank you.

St. Bridget's Parish is in need of more Eucharistic Ministers for Mass. Please call the area office or talk to one of our priests if you are interested in this important ministry.

Our parishes are in need of more Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound. This ministry is very rewarding and very much appreciated by our homebound. Some people need the ministry on a temporary basis such as when recovering from surgery or illness or during the winter months when it is more difficult to get out. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry, please call the Area Office for more information. For those of you that are currently bringing communion to someone at home, please inform the office so that we know who is being taken care of and what your schedule is. This will also help us in planning for these needs. Thank you.

In the back of your church, you will notice a poster with photos and addresses of our parishioners serving in the armed forces. Please pick up an address and send them a note of thanks. It is very much appreciated.

Ministry of Praise

We are looking for new Ministers of Praise during Lent. This is a good ministry for senior citizens or those who are homebound. There are no meetings or dues. This is a prayer ministry. You will receive a letter each month asking for your prayers or praise. If you are interested in the ministry, please contact Pat Walsh (843-2226), Arlene Clemen (843-5358), Joan Gorres (875-2841), Gerta Bouta (843-4549) or the Area Office at 842-4271. There will be a commissioning of new ministers of praise sometime after Easter.

Riverbend TEC (Together Encountering Christ) Retreat Schedule 2009-2010

Riverbend TEC seeks to strengthen the love for Christ among the youth and adults of today. Participants of TEC must be at least 16 years old or a junior in high school. Contact the Area Office if interested. Cost is \$60.

March 20-22, 2010	New Ulm
June 26-28, 2010	Bird Island
July 31-August 2, 2010	Winsted

Saint Luke Productions presents "Vianney" performed by Leonardo DeFilippis. This is a gripping story of the remarkable priest who battled the devil. To be presented Thursday, April 29th at 7:00 pm at Church of St. Mary in New Ulm. Free-will offering. Suitable for ages 9 & up. For more information contact Bryan Reising at 507-233-5324 or breising@dnu.org. Sponsored by: Diocese of New Ulm. www.vianneydrama.com. This would qualify as a "Greater Church Experience" for confirmation students who have yet to meet this requirement.

SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Mollie Swanberg who passed away last week. Mollie's funeral was held on Monday, March 1st at St. Francis Church in Benson.

We offer our sympathy to Larry DeMarce on the death of his wife, Laurie, who died this past Tuesday. Laurie's funeral was held on Saturday, March 6th at St. Francis Church in Benson.

May the Holy Spirit provide healing and consolation to all of their loved ones.

**Reflections for the weekly readings are part of this bulletin. This publication is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #2129.*

OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

St. Francis - Benson

Adult	\$4,189.18
Student	\$35.50
Loose Plate	\$244.00
DUF	\$57.00
Fuel	\$116.00
Danvers Oratory	\$956.42
Black & Indian	\$15.00
Catholic Relief Ser.	\$25.00
Building Fund	\$75.00

Total \$5,713.10

Sacred Heart - Murdock

Adult	\$1,905.00
Student	\$17.00
Loose	\$37.25
Total	\$1,959.25

St. Malachy - Clontarf

Adult	\$875.00
Student	\$3.00
Loose Plate	\$45.00
Total	\$923.00

St. Bridget - DeGraff

Adult	\$561.00
Student	\$1.00
Loose	\$110.00
Ash Wednesday	\$1.00
Total	\$673.00

Thank You for Your Support!!

Where Are We At?

Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

	Year-to-date Collection (Adult, Student, Loose)	Year-to-date Budget for Collection	Annual Budget
St. Malachy	\$34,322.02	\$35,179.55	\$52,267.00
St. Francis	\$120,062.25	\$106,707.30	\$155,539.00
Sacred Heart	\$59,099.06	\$58,338.35	\$86,674.00
St. Bridget	\$38,746.86	\$27,292.65	\$40,549.00