

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Sunday ~

Pastor ~ Fr John Paul Knopik  
johnknopik@gmail.com  
Browns Valley ~ 320-695-2621  
Chokio ~ 320-324-2680  
Wheaton ~ 320-563-4421



St. Mary's ~ Chokio

P.O. Box 187, Chokio, MN 56221

Office 320-324-2680; website: stmaryschokio.org

Sandi Marlow-Weber—secretary / bookkeeper

Parish Email: stmarych@fedtel.net

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE (Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – Jan 25<sup>th</sup>)**

- MON** Funeral – 10:30 am Joan Michaelson (Morris)  
**TUE** Funeral – 11:00 am Connie Grimes (Wheaton)  
**WED** Mass – 8:30 am Wheaton ~  
**THU** Mass – 10:00 am BVCC ~  
**FRI** Mass – 10:00 am TCC ~  
**SAT** Funeral – 10:30 am Lillian Ritter (Chokio)  
**SUN** Mass – 8:00 am Chokio ~John Marlow  
Mass – 9:30 am Wheaton ~  
Mass – 11:00 am Browns Valley ~

**STEWARDSHIP** – for Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

Adult \$1905 Youth \$7 Loose \$115 Votive \$22  
New Years \$5 Christmas \$100 Utilities \$950 Masses \$40

**Confession Schedule:**

5:30 pm on Tuesday in Chokio  
5:30 pm on Wednesday in Wheaton  
5:30 pm on Thursday in Browns Valley

**Pancake Breakfast:** Sun, Jan 18 @ Ave Maria!

Look to column for details 😊

**Mike & Cindy Lewno:** Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!

**Demontreville Retreats:** @ Lake Elmo, MN. 48 weekends a year for men & women. Free will offering. If interested, ask:

Steve Benson (Browns Valley)

Dallas Pillen (Chokio) or Matt Franzese (Wheaton)

**Funerals:**

**Joan Michaelson** is Mon, Jan 19 @ 10:30 am (Morris)

**Connie Grimes** is Tues, Jan 20 @ 11:00 am (Wheaton)

**Lil Ritter** is Sat, Jan 24 @ 10:30 am (Chokio)

Visitation is Fri, Jan 23, 4-7 pm w/prayers at 6:30 pm

**May all three rest in peace.**

**Ministry Schedule, Sunday, January 25, 8:00 a.m.**

**EM's:** Bruce Berlinger & Ginny Heintzelman

**Lector:** Daivd Asfeld

**Ushers:** Brian Marty & Jim Stock

**Servers:** Hannah Marty & Lillian Marty

**Sacristan:** Keith & Maria Marty

**Winter Schedule:**

---**January 23<sup>rd</sup>**, **Bloodmobile in St. Mary's Hall, 8 am-12 pm.** Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appt.

**2025 Contribution Statements are on the north table behind the pews. Your children's statements are included in your envelope.**

**Honoring Marriage Day is May 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Sartell, MN.** Please call the office if you will be celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 or 60 plus years of marriage. Sandi will be compiling a list of couples celebrating these special anniversaries and submitting them to the Diocese. You will receive an invitation to this event!

**Safe Environment Training is due by January 31, 2026 for all Faith Formation Teachers, whether adult or high school. High School girls, please call the office, when you've made an account so I can have the Diocese put the training out there for you.**

**In honor of the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, which is Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a Pro-Life Rosary, at 7:30 a.m., before Mass on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> with special pro-life meditations for each decade of the rosary. The 2026 MCCL March for Life:** will take place Jan. 22 at the state Capitol in St. Paul. There is a bus from Alexandria, call Jim 320-805-0076. Let's make MN a place that values and loves both moms and babies! Join thousands of pro-life Minnesotans at the March for Life and in prayer!

**Our Condolences to the Lillian Ritter Family on her passing, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>** She was a faithful member of this parish and her nickname, "Tiger Lil," was a testament to how she lived her life in work and prayer with a generous amount of fun mixed in. Her funeral is at St. Mary's, Saturday, Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m. (See Father's column.)

**Options for Women thanks St. Mary 's** for their donation of \$929: "I think my God upon every remembrance of you." Phil.1:3. "God has blessed our ministry through the generosity of wonderful friends like you! Precious lives will be saved because of your generosity. . .my prayer is that God will richly bless you"



**St. Anthony ~ Browns Valley**

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Website: [brownsvalleycatholic.org](http://brownsvalleycatholic.org)

Prayer Line: Mary Schwagel 320-695-2994 or Connie Miller 320-695-2137 or 2376 or Edith Foren 320-695-2260

**Liturgical Ministers – January 25 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Lector:** Bernice Piechowski  
**EM:** Bernice Piechowski, Jeanette Pistorius & Michelle Cooley  
**Choir & Congregation:** Brenda Bartz & Marlene Appel  
**Servers:** Addison Jurgens & Natalie Remily  
**Greeters/Gift Bearers:** Faith Formation  
**Ushers:** Faith Formation  
**Home Communion:** Marlene Appel  
**Sacristan:** Brenda Bartz

**Stewardship as a Way of Life:** “Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb...” Isaiah 49:5 God have given each of us different gifts. In order for God’s plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do, and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don’t let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and become the saint that God is calling you to be.

**We are called to bring the love of Christ to the world. We can help you discover how! CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and is designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. The next retreat is scheduled for January 23-25, 2026, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to [www.centralmnkoinonia.org](http://www.centralmnkoinonia.org) for more information and to register for retreats.**

*Annual statements are ready in the back of church. Let me know if you have any questions 605-237-3399*  
**Make sure you pick up January’s issue of the Word Among Us and the new Catholic Reader and a 2026 calendar. Schedules are in the back if you didn’t get one for the next 3 months. Also, lots of free books and other things on the back table.**

**2026 Women’s Guild lists are attached to bulletin. Please let us know if you have questions.**



**Ave Maria ~ Wheaton**

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**Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:30AM**

**Lector:** Marty Lanter  
**EM:** Marty Lanter, Linda Larson, Philip Deal  
**Servers:** Dayne Przymus & Xavier Doschadis  
**Ushers:** Philip Brink & Wolfgang Brink  
**Fellowship:** Paul & Leah Thielen

**Pancake and Sausage Breakfast Today**

**The Ave Maria Men**

invite you to join them.

Serving from **9:30am to Noon**  
Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Juice, and Milk will be served.

Free Will offering

**All are welcome!**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sun., Jan., 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Faith Formation 10:30-11:30**

**Sun., Jan., 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Fellowship after Mass**

**Prayer List**

Curtis Frisch, Barb Tauber, Carole Schmitz, Gene Stueve, Shirley Murray Peyton, Carrie Frisch, Connie Grimes, Kaye LeCuyer, Darlys Forcier, Mary & Willie Rinke, Dale Larson, Shirley Montonye, Wally Hennen, Roger & Kathi Schmitz, Carol Marihart, and all of our military who are deployed

**TOTUS TUUS WILL BE HELD AT AVE MARIA  
JULY 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

For all students grades **K ~ 12**

This will be our Vacation Bible School for the summer and it also meets the retreat requirement for the Confirmation students!!

Stay tuned for more information over the next few months. Please call **Karyn Peterson at 320-808-1129** with questions.

**Please stop and pick up your 2026 Boxes of Offertory Envelopes and Calendar** in the west entry of the church.

**Do you like to sing?** Our choir is looking for people who would like to sing for our **Sunday Mass** or how about joining our **“Funeral Choir”**. If you think this could be you, please give **Cindy** a call at **320-815-6760**. **Thank You!!**

**The February Mass Ministers Schedule** is available at all three entrances.