



Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church

Hill City, South Dakota

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Keystone, South Dakota

Fr. Mark Horn • P.O. Box 236 • Hill City, SD 57745 • (605) 574-2479



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd, 2024

Pastor

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St-Rose Lima

Reconciliation

Hill City, Saint Rose of Lima:
Saturday 3:30- 4:30 p.m.
Keystone, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,
30 minutes prior to Masses

Mass Schedule & Intentions

(†) indicates deceased
Monday, December 23rd.
(No Mass)
Tuesday, December 24th.
(Hill City) 6:30 Christmas Eve Mass—Bilingual
Wednesday, December 25th.
(Hill City) 12:00 Midnight Christmas Mass
(Keystone) 8:00 a.m.: Christmas Day Mass
Thursday, December 26th.
(No Mass) - Fr. Mark Out of town
Friday, December 27th.
(No Mass) Fr. Mark Out of Town
Saturday December 28st.
(Hill City) 6:00 pm Spanish Mass: (†) Alton Bertschinger
Sunday December 29th,
(Keystone) 8 am: Pro Popolo
(Hill City) 10 am:

Mass Intention Envelopes can be found at the back of the church. Mass is a great gift for those we love, it is our most powerful prayer.



Readings:

Micah 5:1-4
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer:

He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler . . . whose origin is from . . . ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king (see Ruth 4:11-17; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:1; Matthew 2:6).

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever (see 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11-12).

Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom (see Isaiah 9:5-6; Ezekiel 34:23-25, 30; 37:35). He is "the shepherd of Israel" sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us."

Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh" (see also Psalm 2:7). He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Psalm 110:4; Genesis 14:18-20).

All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle (see Psalm 2:7). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading—"she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord. A Scott Hahn Reflection

Eucharistic Adoration

No Adoration this week

Adoracion Eucaristica

No hay Adoración esta semana.



“He “ prays without ceasing “ who unites prayer to works and good works to prayer. Only in this way can we consider as realizable the principle of praying without ceasing.” Origen

Mass Schedule/ Community Events

Regular CCD: Wednesdays: Elementary 3:00—5:00 p.m.,
Mass for Elementary students @ 3:15 p.m. parishioners and Parents welcome, Middle and High School 5:30—7:30 p.m. (Dinner and Lesson) (Volunteers to provide meals needed!)

December 22nd: After 10:00 a.m. Mass, Decorate Churches for Christmas. (Both St. Rose & OLMC)

December 24th: 6:30 p.m. Bilingual Christmas Eve Mass (St. Rose)

December 25th: Christmas Mass at Midnight (St. Rose)
Christmas Day Mass 8:00 a.m. (OLMC)

December 26th: Thursday, No Mass Reconciliation or Adoration—Fr. Mark Out of town

December 27th: Friday, No Mass. Fr. Mark out of town.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: (Tuesday December 31st) @ 6:30 p.m.—Keystone

(Wednesday January 1st) @ 6:30 p.m.—Hill City

Bishop Scott Bullock visit to OLMC & St. Rose of Lima Church on Sunday January 19th, 2025 for Sunday Masses.

Christian Hope is Marked by Patience and Love

Where the Red Fern Grows, one of my favorite childhood books, is about a boy named Billy. Billy lives in the Ozarks, a coon-hunting mecca. After seeing an advertisement for two Redbone Coonhounds in a magazine, Billy starts saving every penny to get them. He sells crawfish to local fishermen and huckleberries to his grandfather, a grocer who promises to help Billy place the order for the pups once he’s earned the fifty dollars to buy them. Day after day, week after week, month after month, Billy deposits whatever coins he’s earned into an old tin can he keeps hidden in the barn. Finally, *two years later*, he proudly walks into his grandfather’s store and dumps the money on the counter.

“I was saving my money so I could buy two hound pups, and I did,” Billy proudly announces to Grandpa, who obviously has forgotten about Billy’s plan. Wilson Rawls, the book’s author, describes the scene beautifully through the narrating voice of Billy, now a grown man: *Grandpa stared at me over his glasses, and then back at the money. “How long have you been saving this?” he asked. “A long time, Grandpa,” I said. “How long?” he asked. I told him, “Two years.” His mouth flew open and in a loud voice he said, “Two years!” I nodded my head. In vain, Grandpa tries to change the topic of conversation. After several minutes, Billy the narrator remembers that it was too much for my grandfather. He turned and walked away. I saw the glasses come off, and the old red handkerchief come out. I heard the good excuse of blowing his nose. He stood for several seconds with his back toward me. When he turned around, I noticed his eyes were moist. In a quavering voice, he said, “Well, Son, it’s your money. You worked for it, and you worked hard. You got it honestly, and you want some dogs. We’re going to get those dogs.”*

Reading those lines as a twelve-year-old boy, I couldn’t help but feel both Billy’s optimism and Grandpa’s sympathy. Rawls describes Billy’s determinism and patience so masterfully in chapter three that I couldn’t put the book down for the next seventeen. If those pups were so important to Billy, what lengths would he go to train them? Years later, I was equally moved by a [scene](#) in *Cinema Paradiso* where Salvatore waits night after night under the window of his beloved Elena until finally, *after nine months*, he wins her heart. “Hope,” writes Saint Paul, “does not disappoint.” Why? “Because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 5:5). As *Where the Red Fern Grows* and *Cinema Paradiso* show, hope never exists apart from love, and love always exists with hope. Billy saved his money in the hope of buying a pair of dogs that would become the love of his life, while Salvatore waited under the window of the love of his life in the hope that she would love him back. “Hope,” writes Pope Francis, “is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross” (*Spes non confundit*, 3). When one is in love, no wait is too long. Two years was nothing to Billy for a pair of hounds. Nine months is nothing to Salvatore for Elena. To Christians, no wait is too long for the return of the Bridegroom. “We live our lives in expectation of his return and in the hope of living forever in him,” Francis writes (*Spes non confundit*, 19). This Jubilee of Hope is a wonderful time to rediscover the joy of waiting. Patience is the very mark of Christian hope. The Holy Father writes: *In our fast-paced world, we are used to wanting everything now. We no longer have time simply to be with others; even families find it hard to get together and enjoy one another’s company. Patience has been put to flight by frenetic haste, and this has proved detrimental, since it leads to impatience, anxiety and even gratuitous violence, resulting in more unhappiness and self-centeredness.* (*Spes non confundit*, 4) Francis laments that the internet has sapped our ability “to appreciate the changes of the seasons and their harvests” and “observe the life of animals and their cycles of growth” (4). The good news is that we can restore our patience through the simplest things. Reading that second book to the youngest, playing that extra inning with the oldest, walking with the middle kids to places we usually drive, or just going out in the night to catch a meteor. Holy Scripture also gives us a deeper, spiritual way of restoring patience: by remembering *God’s* patience. The “God of all patience” (Rom. 15:5) for whom “one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day” (2 Peter 3:8), the God who “is waiting to be gracious” (Is. 30:18), patiently waits for us to return to Him (cf. Rom. 2:4), “not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). “Patience,” writes Francis, “one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, sustains our hope and strengthens it as a virtue and a way of life” (*Spes non confundit*, 4). No one knew this better than Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who for a long time was terribly annoyed by a fidgety sister whose incessant noise-making tortured her meditation. With God’s help, Thérèse turned that irritation into a wellspring of grace simply because she consciously offered that time to the Lord as a “prayer of suffering.” If we expect too much of ourselves this Jubilee, Pope Francis invites us to turn to saints like Thérèse and Paul who are “realists.” The latter “knows that life has its joys and sorrows, that love is tested amid trials, and that hope can falter in the face of suffering” (*Spes non confundit*, 4), which is precisely why the Apostle asks nothing more of us than to “rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer” (Rom. 12:12). Daniel Gallagher

Confessions at St. Rose this week: Saturday 3:30- 4:30 p.m.



Heartfelt thanks to all that assisted in any way for the successful Seminarian Fundraiser held Dec. 8th. The committees for pre-planning, decorating, wrapping donated baskets, accepting bids, providing baked goods and craft items, set up and clean up - All of you made this a fun-filled event. Thank you for your donations and for your purchases. We can't possibly thank everyone personally, but be assured You made a difference!

On Thursday December 26th, and Friday December 27

Fr. Mark will be out of town so Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration will be cancelled for those days. The church will still be open if you wish to visit Jesus in the Tabernacle. The office will be closed next week for the Holidays.

Love INC. The Linen Ministry has a BIG need for comforters, quilts, blankets for queen, full and twin size beds . Kitchen: new toasters, can openers, peelers, dishracks, coffee pots, cake pans, cookie sheets and muffin tins. Furniture Ministry is seeking additional volunteers to assist with pick up and/or delivery of furniture. RISE furniture & home decor is looking for Christmas decorations. Did you know.....Love INC. Hill City-Keystone has office hours in Hill City on Monday's from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 605-574-1023 for an appointment and/or to confidentially speak with someone.

Donations for Kitchen Ministry and Linen Ministry may be dropped off 24-hours a day in the weather-proof tote located at Light-house Assembly of God Church in Hill City. Thank you for your heartfelt donations!



**St Rose of Lima
Prayer Ministry**

Please consider joining one of our St. Rose of Lima Prayer Ministry teams of faithful praying members. You can **contact** Marie Askew at **605-872-1519** and choose how you would like to receive the requests for prayer: text, email, or direct calls. UPDATES on your prayer requests are greatly appreciated. Thanks friends... what a team! Please contact Marie.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- ♥Fr. Andrzej
- ♥Marsha Hoff
- ♥Tina Schiefer
- ♥Don Cates
- ♥Gloria Shippy
- ♥Cyndi Winfield
- (†)Alton Bertschinger
- (†)Fr. Dan Juelfs
- (†)Bishop Peter Muhich



All the sick and shut-ins of our parish and community

For the revival of peoples' devotion to the Eucharist in our country and the world.

(†)indicates deceased

Confessions at Our Lady of Mt Carmel: 30 minutes prior to Mass

**HILL CITY PARISH SUPPORT
For December 15th, 2024**

**KEYSTONE WEEKLY PARISH SUPPORT
For December 15th, 2024**

Envelopes:	\$978.00
Plate:	\$519.00
Religious Retirement	\$100.00
Building Fund:	\$20.00
TOTAL:	\$1,617.00

Envelopes:	\$252.00
Plate:	\$22.00
TOTAL:	\$287.00

To place an event in the Event Calendar, please email Bradley Zettl with all the pertinent details: Time, Date, Place. Office email: bulletin.k.hc@gmail.com



Retirement Fund for Religious

Support those who have given a life-time. 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 essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

Jennifer Zettl CNP
Family Medicine

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1369 Montgomery St.
Custer, SD 57730



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Would you like to give an E-gift to support St. Rose of Lima Church? **Just scan the QR code** (open the camera app on your phone, place it over the QR Code, tap the link on your phone screen) and follow the link to give a donation **safe and secure** through our Flocknote Parish App.



Thank you!!!