

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
725 6<sup>th</sup> STREET N.E.  
FOSSTON, MN 56542**



**Greetings from Fr. John:**

We are in the First Sunday of the Advent. The central theme of today's readings is Jesus' warning to us to be alert, watchful and prepared to welcome Jesus. The Church invites us on this first Sunday of Advent to prepare for Christ's coming 1) by repenting from our sins and renewing our lives, 2) by properly celebrating during this Christmas season the fond memory of Christ's first coming 2000 years ago, 3) by experiencing Christ's daily advent or coming in the Eucharistic celebrations, in the Holy Bible and in the worshipping community, 4) by preparing for Jesus' Second Coming which, for us, will happen at the moment of our deaths or at the end of the world. In today's Gospel, using the short parable of the servants and gate-keeper of an absentee master who could return at any time, Jesus instructs his followers to be alert and watchful while doing their Christian duties with sincerity. The gate-keeper and the household servants are expected to be ever-vigilant because their master is sure to return. The time of his return is uncertain, but the reward or punishment is sure and certain. We should live in the living presence of Jesus every day, waiting for his Second Coming, while preparing for the Christmas celebration. Have a Happy Advent.

**God Bless you. Have a great week.**

**First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2017**

**St. Mary's:** 218-435-6484  
**St. Joseph's:** 218-694-6416  
**E-Mail:** [stmarysfosston@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysfosston@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [stmarysfosston.org](http://stmarysfosston.org)

**PARISH STAFF:**

**Pastor:** Fr. JohnMelkies Suvakeen  
**E-Mail:** [frjohnstmstj@gmail.com](mailto:frjohnstmstj@gmail.com)  
**Secretary:** Lu Newell Cell 218-431-0983  
**Office Hours:** Wed. 5-8 pm & Fri. 8am-1pm  
**Bookkeeper:** Linda Hand Cell 218-280-2271  
**Office Hours:** Mon. & Wed. 3-5 pm  
**R.E. Coordinators:** PreK-6: AmandaWiener  
7-12: Lori Balstad  
**Pastoral Council Chair:** Connie Smeby  
**Trustees:** Jeanne Sanden and Erv Wickham  
**Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:**  
Cindy Hulst 218-281-7895  
24-hour confidential number

**Confession 8AM, before Sunday Mass**

**St. Mary's Mass & Intentions:**

**Wed, Dec 6** Adoration Noon – 8 pm  
3:30 pm Mass First Care NH  
Marcella Agnes+

**Thur, Dec 7** 6:30 pm Mass Immaculate  
Conception of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary (Holy Day of  
Obligation  
Annammal+

**Sun, Dec 10** 8:30 am Mass  
Della Metzger+

**St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions**

**Tues, Dec 5** Adoration Noon – 6 pm  
Reconciliation Noon-12:30 pm

**Wed, Dec 6** 6 pm Youth Mass  
Tom Walton+

**Thurs, Dec 7** 11:30 am Mass  
Herman & Emily Gardner

**Fri, Dec 8** 7 pm Mass Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Jerome Eischens+

**Sun, Dec 10** 10:30 am Mass,

For the parishes of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's

### **Birthdays**

Dec 3 Theresa Walsh

### **Anniversaries**

Dec 4 Cathy & Steve Godtland

### **PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT:**

Carol Aaland 435-6384 (H), 218-686-2710 (C).  
Please notify parish office of names to add or subtract  
and of those who could use a prayer shawl.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR:**

Nash Rosendahl, Hannah Keller, Carly Hemmingsen, Chuck Agnes, Harper Hand, Linda Klinkhammer, Sara Swenson, Brady Jones, William Vener, Alexa Jordan, Betty Bingham, Richard Weiss, Jordyn Werl, Lou Osmundson, Patrick Murphy, Jim McDonald, Dave Ekman, Kevin, Sherilyn Kolstad, Kaylee, Sue Erdmann, Vernon Kleppe, Don Dyrdaahl, Rick Hand, Doug Hoverson, Pam (Larson) Parkin, Johnny Vetter, Sharon Rein, Irma Hemmingsen, Kristi Maruska, Wayne Paulson, Elaine Martz, Eric Kaml, Paul Silver, Eason, Barb Wickham, Mary Griffin, Margaret Rustad, Ardell Redder, Mandy, Virginia Weber, Mike Lynch and Candy Keller.

*"May you touch them and heal them, O Lord!"*

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Please note with your donation whether intention is for a deceased or living person. Suggested donation is still \$5.00.

**Gluten-free hosts available:** Please stop by the sacristy before Mass to let Fr. know your need.

### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

The readings for next Sunday, Dec 10, 2017

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11,

Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

**Eucharistic adoration** will be closing at 7 PM on the Wednesdays that Youth Group meets so that students may have some time in the sanctuary. May God bless them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and a closer walk with Jesus.

### **ST. MARY'S YOUTH**

*If you have not yet joined Religious Education, you're always most welcome!*

**Youth Group will be meeting on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm**

(Penance Service at 6:30)

May God bless them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and a closer walk with Jesus.

### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & SUNDAY**

**YOUTH MASS is on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Mary's Youth will serve a Pancake Breakfast after Mass.**



### **St. Mary's Kids Christmas Pageant**

**Practice is During Sunday School**

**December 10<sup>th</sup> Pageant Practice**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pageant During Mass**

Please plan to attend all practices.

### **Formed**

**We are using a program call "Formed", that was suggested by our diocese, for teaching our youth group and grades 7-9 Theology of the Body. There are many great programs for adults also, as well as movies. FREE.**

**Go to Formed.org. Parish code TGVHW3.**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE):**

**PreK-12 grades RE class after Sunday Mass 9:45-10:45am**

**Friday class for grades K-6 at 8:30-9:25 am.**

**For grades 7-12 please contact**

**Lori Balstad at 218-938-4286**

**For Grades PreK-6 please contact**

**Amanda Wiener 218-563-2703 or at amandawienier@hotmail.com**

### **Advent Giving Project 2017**

This Advent Season, St. Mary's will be participating in the Advent Giving Project. You may select a ticket off of the Giving Tree in the Social Hall for your gift to the Family Crisis Center in Bagley.

Simply return your unwrapped items and place them around the tree.

### **Coat Drive Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Fosston High School National Honor Society is collecting winter clothing that will be donated to the Women's Shelter in Bemidj, Fosston Community's Local Families and the homeless in the Bemidji area. **Please leave your donations in the tote provided in the gathering space.**

Please contact Sierra Gilbertson with questions. 218-435-1909 or at email address [sgilbertson@isd601.org](mailto:sgilbertson@isd601.org).

### **Debbie's Basket Sale is Next Sunday December 10, 2017**

In memory of Debbie Agnes, who loved the Basket Sale held annually by Catholic United Financial (CUF), plan now to fill a basket, cookie tin, plate or whatever you desire for the **silent auction to be held during coffee and rolls Sunday, Dec. 10**. This is the second matching grant fund raiser by our CUF Council this year. Again, it all goes to the parish for the religious education program, along with the match provided by Catholic United Financial. Together we can provide great Catholic education for our youth.

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends**

February 2-4, 2018 in Hermantown, MN

April 13-15, 2018 in Baxter, MN

More Info: [northmnwwme.org](http://northmnwwme.org) or contact Alan & Missy at [applications@northmnwwme.org](mailto:applications@northmnwwme.org) or 888-455-3496.

### **Electronic Giving**

Forgot your checkbook? Short of cash? Get in the habit of giving conveniently. St. Mary's welcomes you to sign up for electronic giving at any time. Regardless of where you bank, you can submit your banking information to the parish office. St. Mary's respects and protects your private information and keeps it locked in the parish safe. Ultima Bank will electronically withdraw from your account and deposit to St. Mary's account any amount you designate at whatever intervals you desire whether it be weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Forms are available in the parish office and by the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Some of our parishioners have been using this method of stewardship since January, 2010.

### **Stewardship Envelopes**

Usually during the month of December, we have your boxes of stewardship envelopes ready for you to pick up at the back of the church. This year the Finance Council has decided to partner with Our Sunday Visitor and have them mailed out every other month. Your first packet should arrive in your mailbox sometime this month. This program allows us to include a letter or card with the envelopes. Please be sure to always examine your packet when it arrives for any communications that may be included.

*"At this Christmas when Christ comes,  
will He find a warm heart?  
Mark the season of Advent by loving  
and serving the others with  
God's own love and concern."  
~ Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY – Dec. 10, 2017**

**Ushers:** Steve Massmann, Richard Parent  
**Gifts:** John Cullen, Dianne Christopherson  
**Lector:** Lori Balstad  
**Commentator:** Casey Holland  
**Eucharist:** \*Erv Wickham, Marion Parent, Doug Hand, Linda Blaser, Kathryn Ziermeier  
**Servers:** Chloe McLean, Emily Chalich, McKinsey Rosendahl  
**Hospitality:** Jeanne & Dennis Sanden, Sue Vennes

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY – Dec. 17, 2017**

**Ushers:** David Holzer, Students  
**Gifts:** Students  
**Lector:** Students  
**Commentator:** Students  
**Eucharist:** \*Jan Hemmingsen, Steve & Lorri Massmann, Valarie Holzer, Gabe Wiener  
**Servers:** Students  
**Hospitality:** Youth Group

**STEWARDSHIP**

Budget Needed Weekly:	\$2320.15
Last Week's Collections:	
38 Adult Envelopes:	\$1849.00
5 Children/Youth:	\$ 4.31
Donations for Rolls:	\$ 58.00
Hymnal Fund:	\$ 520.00
Votive Candles	\$ 48.45
Campaign for Human Development:	\$ 30.00
St. Mary's Mission, Red Lake:	\$ 282.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 50.00
Capital Improvements:	\$ 25.00
<b>Capital Improvement Balance:</b>	<b>\$4947.48</b>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Dec 10, Fund for Retired Religious** (See bulletin insert for more info.)

**Hymnals**

**Donations for "Journeysongs"** is an ongoing fund raiser so you can continue to donate. Special donation envelopes and a donation box are available in the gathering space. For questions call Theresa Zitzow 435-1182 *Our Goal is 200 and we have 190.5 hymnals donated. Thank you!*

**Holy Day of Obligation Mass** for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be held on **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** at St. Mary's.

**Advent Penance Service**

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

This will include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students for their 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation

**Ministries**

Please prayerfully consider the gift of your time and talent and volunteer for one of the ministries here at St. Mary's. We need more parishioners to assist with Mass and would welcome your participation.

A few of the Ministries include:

**Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Cantors, Commentators and Hospitality.**

**A sign-up sheet is available by the bulletin board in the Social Hall.**

You may also contact the office at 218-435-6484 or email [stmarysfosston@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysfosston@gmail.com).

A **"Holiday of Hope" Open House** will be held at the Anderson Family Funeral Home. Please stop by for apple cider, coffee, and treats as we remember and reflect on the loved ones we have lost but will forever be in our hearts. There will be helpful information and practical suggestions to consider for the upcoming holidays. Each person attending will be given an ornament to take home as a symbol of your love and precious memories. All are welcome! For further information, please call 935-9000 or 584-5166. **TWIN VALLEY:** Monday, December 4, 2017 from 2:00 PM—6:00 PM **MAHNOMEN:** Wednesday, December 6, 2017 from 2:00 PM—6:00 PM