

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
725 6th STREET N.E.
FOSSTON, MN 56542

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017



St. Mary's: 218-435-6484
St. Joseph's: 218-694-6416
E-Mail: stmarysfosston@gmail.com
Website: stmarysfosston.org

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor: Fr. John Melkies Suvakeen
E-Mail: 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: Amanda Wiener
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 13 Adoration Noon – 6 pm
1 pm Mass McIntosh NH
Laura Blaser+
6:30 pm Advent Penance Mass

Fri, Dec 15 8:30 am Mass
Paula Erdmann+

Sun, Dec 17 8:30 am Mass

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

St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions

Tues, Dec 12 Adoration Noon – 6 pm

Thurs, Dec 14 11:30 am Mass
Bena Bougeois

Sun, Dec 17 10:30 am Mass,
Allen Theis+

Greetings from Fr. John:

Homecoming is the central theme of the readings today. All three readings focus on the absolute necessity of our getting ready for Christ's "Homecoming" into our hearts by true repentance, reparation, prayer and the renewal of our lives. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah tells us about the Israelites coming home to their native country, Judah, and their holy city, Jerusalem from Babylonian exile. Isaiah assures his people that the Lord will lead them in a grand procession to their homeland and take care of them as a shepherd cares for his sheep. In the Gospel John the Baptist tells us how we should prepare to receive Jesus our Savior's "coming home" into our lives during this Advent by repentance and the renewal of life. He invites us to prepare their lives for the Messiah by filling in the valleys of prejudice, leveling the mountains of pride and straightening out their crooked paths of injustice and immorality. We need to allow Jesus to be reborn in our lives. People around us should recognize Jesus' rebirth in our lives by our sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, compassionate and merciful heart and spirit of humble and committed service. We need to accept the challenge of John the Baptist to turn this Advent into a real spiritual "homecoming" by making the necessary preparations for the fresh arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus into our hearts and lives.

God Bless you. Have a great week.

Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30 pm

This will include the 2nd Grade students for their 1st Reconciliation

Birthdays

Dec 14 Edna Kaupang
Dec 16 Jennifer Zitzow
Dec 17 Linda Klinkhammer

Anniversaries

Dec 17 Nina & Mark Bingham

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, Sheryl 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, Candy Keller and Jerry Erdmann..

"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 17, 2017
Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11,
Psalm: Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

ST. MARY'S YOUTH

Youth Group will be meeting on **Wednesday, December 13th** 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.



St. Mary's Kids Christmas Pageant & Sunday Youth Mass is on Dec. 17th

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

Caroling

St. Mary's Youth Group will be caroling on December 20th. More information to come.

Religious Education

Friday School - Jan 5, 2018

Sunday School - Jan 7, 2018

Youth Group - Wed. Jan 3, 2018 6-8 pm

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 amandawiener@hotmail.com

2018 Calendars

Please help yourself to 2018 calendars featuring Saints and Feasts. Carlin-Hoialmen Funeral Home has been providing these calendars for us for many years. Please let them know of our appreciation by signing the Christmas card in the social hall.

Electronic Giving

St. Mary's welcomes you to sign up for electronic giving at any time. Forms are available in the parish office and by the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Please contact Linda Hand for further information.

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.

NOW HIRING! Our Northland

Diocese newspaper is seeking freelance journalists! Freelancers will attend diocesan and parish events, conduct research, and write articles as assigned. High resolution photos will be expected to accompany written articles. Work will be submitted to *Our Northland Diocese* via e-mail by pre-established deadlines. Freelancers will work for the newspaper as independent contractors. Possession of a valid driver's license and the ability to travel independently in the diocese is a must.

Visit www.crookston.org/employment for full details or contact Janelle Gergen with inquiries at jgergen@crookston.org or [218-281-4533](tel:218-281-4533).

Christmas Season Decorations

Please make our Christmas season special by donating toward the decorations (trees, wreaths, poinsettias) in honor/memory of a loved one. Please fill out below & put it in a special envelope marked "Christmas flowers" & put in the offertory basket. Thank you.

Your Name _____

In Memory of _____

Amount _____

Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, the four weeks of Advent before Christmas. The sights and sounds of Advent signal our hearts that Christ is coming. This season sharpens our sense of the world's need for a savior, and of the great mystery of God's becoming human for us, the incarnation.

Advent is a Latin word meaning *the coming*. We celebrate during this time the three comings of Christ: His birth in the past, his mysterious coming through his Church and the sacraments, and his promised return as our Judge at the end of time.

Advent is an opportunity to shed the temporary world around us and prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of Christ. This is the time to wrestle with the mystery of God coming to earth so we can live with him forever. This season reminds us that we are playing the long game, not living for this world, but getting ready for the next.

During this season, the Church adorns itself with the color the purple symbolizing repentance and joyful expectation. The Church decoration is more simple, representing the austerity of our time of waiting. The four candles in the Advent wreath are symbols of Christ as the Light of the World who overcomes the darkness.

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRY – Dec. 23, 2017

Saturday at 5 pm

Ushers: Mark & Harlee Bingham

Gifts: Tennis & Lori Balstad Family

Lector: Michelle Shoenborn

Commentator: Nina Bingham

Eucharist: *Jan Hemmingsen, Eileen Hegg, Doug Shoenborn, John Keller

Servers: Lance Balstad, Ben Keller, Jesse Worshek

Hospitality: No Coffee & Rolls

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed Weekly: \$2320.15

Last Week's Collections:

42 Adult Envelopes: \$2215.00

13 Children/Youth: \$ 11.51

Loose \$ 51.58

Donations for Rolls: (Cost: \$48.99) \$ 45.00

St. Mary's Mission, Red Lake: \$ 10.00

Capital Improvements: \$ 163.00

Capital Improvement Balance: \$5110.48

Liturgical Ministries

Would you like to become involved in liturgical ministries at St. Mary's? Call/Text/Email Lu Newell stmarysfosston@gmail.com or 218-431-0983

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 or to shut-ins. Simply return your unwrapped items and place them around the tree.



Sat, Dec 23 5 pm Mass (Sunday Obligation)

Sun, Dec 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Mon, Dec 25 8:30 am Christmas Day Mass

Holy Day of Obligation for The Nativity of the Lord

The Best Advent Ever

It's not too late! Go to dynamiccatholic.com and sign up for The Best Advent Ever to receive daily emails that will help you prepare for the coming of Jesus. It's free and it's inspiring!

Coat Drive Nov. 14th – Dec. 15th

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.

Debbie's Basket Sale

Please stay for Debbie's Basket Sale Today! Bidding ends after Sunday School. Catholic United Financial will match up to \$1000.00. The proceeds will be donated to St. Mary's Religious Education Program.