

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

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017

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



Greetings from Fr. John:

The third Sunday of Advent is called "*Gaudete Sunday*" or Rejoicing Sunday. It is to remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, so we light the rose candle. The common theme of today's Scripture readings is joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. The Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector. Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. He wants the people to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. We have an additional reason to rejoice because, like John, we too are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of our brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness and humble service.

God Bless you. Have a great week.

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 20 Adoration Noon – 7 pm
11:30 am Mass
Rose Maruska+
Fri, Dec 22 8:30 am Mass
Allan T Johnson+
Sat, Dec 23 5 pm Mass (Sunday Obligation)
Annammal+
Sun, Dec 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass
Susan Agnes+
Mon, Dec 25 8:30 am Christmas Day Mass
Lucille Zimmel+

St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions

Tues, Dec 19 Adoration Noon – 6 pm
3:30 PM Mass Cornerstone NH
Franklyn Renner+
Wed, Dec 20 6:30 pm Advent Penance Mass
Thurs, Dec 21 11:30 am Mass
Deacon Aaron & Darcie Kaiser
Sun, Dec 24 10:30 am Mass (Sunday Obligation)
For the Parishes of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's
Sun, Dec 24 8 pm Christmas Eve Mass
Grace Berg+
Mon, Dec 25 10:30 am Christmas Day Mass
Frank & Minnie Shereck+

Birthdays

Dec 17 Linda Klinkhammer
Dec 18 Lu Newell
Dec 20 Marge Siedschlag
Dec 22 Larry Scott

Anniversaries

Dec 17 Nina & Mark Bingham
Dec 23 Charles & Barb Casey

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, 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 Saturday, Dec 23, 2017

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 29
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

The readings for Dec 24 & 25, 2017

Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

ST. MARY'S YOUTH

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart.

Thank You

St. Mary's youth would like to thank Fr. John for providing the opportunity to hold our youth Masses and our Christmas Pageant during Mass.

Thank you to our Youth Group for serving a wonderful Pancake Breakfast after Mass!

Thank You

To our wonderful Religious Education teachers and coordinators for volunteering your time and talent to teach and lead St. Mary's youth. You are greatly appreciated for all that you do.

Youth Group will be meeting on Wednesday, December 20th from 6-8 pm

St. Mary's Youth Group will be Caroling for their Service Family Homes.

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

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

REBOOT LIVE with Chris Stefanick

April 18, 2018 7-9:30 pm St. Bernard's in Thief River Falls, MN. Tickets \$22

For more information contact St. Bernard's at 218-681-3571 or purchase online by visiting www.RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot

REBOOT! Is a fun, inspiring and practical experience for All Ages (12 and up), of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life, from prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health and more! **God didn't create us to just get by, he created us to Live Life to the Full!**

2018 Calendars

Please help yourself to the 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.

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 _____

Christmas: A Gift of Life

"The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture. At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). The source of this "great joy" is the Birth of the Saviour; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfilment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21)" (Pope John Paul II, "The Gospel of Life," n.1).

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

JOY is the 3rd Sunday of Advent

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! Philippians 4:4

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRY – Dec. 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Mass Sunday at 5 pm

Ushers: Phil Schouviller, David Brinkman
Gifts: OPEN
Lector: Jan Hemmingsen
Commentator: Amanda Schultz
Eucharist: * Jeanne Sanden, Kathryn Ziermeier, Michelle Shoenborn, John Keller, Gave Wiener
Servers: Isaac Chalich, Dane Shoenborn, Emily Chalich
Hospitality: No Coffee & Rolls

LITURGICAL MINISTRY – Dec. 25, 2017

Christmas Day Mass Monday at 8:30 am

Ushers: John Blaser, Dennis Sanden
Gifts: Doug & Linda Hand
Lector: Margarette Rue
Commentator: OPEN
Eucharist: * Doug Hand, Linda Blaser, Marion Parent, Carol Aaland, Eileen Hegg
Servers: Grace Rue, Genevive Rue, OPEN
Hospitality: No Coffee & Rolls

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed Weekly:	\$2320.15
Last Week's Collections:	
40 Adult Envelopes:	\$1515.00
11 Children/Youth:	\$ 13.09
Loose	\$ 190.00
Donations for Rolls: (Cost: \$48.99)	\$ 63.88
Dec 8 th Holy Day	\$ 130.00
Retired Religious	\$ 289.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 10.00
Capital Improvements:	\$1525.00
Capital Improvement Balance:	\$6635.48



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

Holy Day of Obligation
8:30 am Jan 1, 2018 New Year's Day Mass

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.

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

Fr. Joe Kieselbach's Funeral

For those not able to attend Fr. Joe Kieselbach's funeral, please note there is a video of the Mass posted to the Dobmeier Funeral Home website. Visit <http://www.dobmeierfuneralhome.com> and scroll to the bottom of Fr. Joe's obituary page to view it.

Safe Environment

St. Mary's has completed the Safe Environment audit. Thank you to all who took the time to complete this training and to the RE teachers for providing this information to our youth.