

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



Greetings from Fr. John:

We are in the Second Sunday of Advent. This Sunday invites us to prepare a way in our hearts for Jesus so that we may receive Him as our saving God during Christmas. All three readings focus on the absolute necessity of getting ready for Christ's coming into our hearts & lives by true repentance, reparation, prayer. We should also be prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible and in the praying community. John the Baptist, in today's Gospel, challenges us to prepare our lives for receiving Messiah. We have to prepare a way in our hearts for our Messiah by levelling the mountains of pride and valleys of impurity & injustice and by straightening our crooked ways. We need to get ready by repenting of our sins, renewing our lives by sacrament of reconciliation. We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls, formed from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist way of living our Faith, graces. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we've been walking.

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8th, 2019

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: frjohnstnstj@gmail.com
Secretary: Marge Donnell 218-930-0520
Office Hours: Wed. & Fri. 9am -1 pm
Bookkeeper: Linda Hand Cell 218-280-2271
Office Hours: Wed. 1-5 PM
R.E. Coordinators: PreK-6: Amanda Wiener
7-12: Lori Balstad
Pastoral Council Chair: Dennis Sanden
Trustees: Jeanne Sanden and Erv Wickham
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:
Cindy Hulst 218-281-7895
24-hour confidential number

Confession 8 AM, before Sunday Mass

St. Mary's Mass & Intentions

Wednesday: Adoration Noon – 8 pm
The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Mary,
Mon., Dec. 9 8:30 AM Mass,
Herman Burggraf+
Wed., Dec. 11 1 pm Mass, McIntosh NH
Bill Aaland+
Fri., Dec. 13 8am Mass,
Jarvis Zitzow+
Sun., Dec. 15 8:30 am Mass,
For the Parishes

St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions

Tuesdays Adoration Noon – 6 pm
The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Mary,
Mon., Dec. 9 10:30 AM Mass,
Margie Galli+
Tues., Dec. 10 6pm Mass,
David Unilt+
Thurs., Dec. 12 11:30am Mass,
Larry Kliner Jr.+
Sun., Dec. 15 10:30am Mass,
Allen Theis+

Birthdays

Dec. 14 Edna Kaupang
Anniversaries
Dec. 14 Charles & Ardell Redder

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, Brady Jones,
Kristi Maruska, Wayne Paulson, Sarah Ryan
Walcker, Josh Martinson, Roger Scharendroich,
Nora Ann Lentz, Loni Jirik, Debbie Martin, Kristin
Litzinger, Allie St. Pierre, Richard Parent, Dennis
Omang, Tracy Kozitka, Bev Drellack, Lynne
Cullen, Bernie Brennan, Paul Silver, Joyce
Klinkhammer, Bob Clayton, Ray Larson, Ben
Hougen, Marge Messer, Dave Blazek, Char
Langen, Christine Johnson, Chad Blaser, Rod
Nielsen, Kerry Redder, Ethan Asher, Shirley
Kowalski, Tom Sedler, Ava Lamb-Lopez, Florence
Nesvold, Bruce Donnell, Ruth Calarese, Sam
Christopherson, Dorothy Killian

"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. 15, 2019
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10, Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10,
James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

"Unplanned," the movie is available from
MCCL by contacting Linda Blaser at 435-6628.

NEEDED: 1) Youth Group Coordinator for
St. Mary's (paid position) 2) Bazaar Leader
3) Funeral Coordinator with Deb Wille
Please Contact Fr. John at 435-6484.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE):

For PreK-10th grades Class after Mass
9:45-10:45 AM. Dec. 15th.

Youth group, grades 7-12 meet Wednesday,
Dec. 18th, 6-8 PM. Supper provided.

Friday class for grades K-6, 8:30-9:30 AM.

No Friday School Dec. 27th.

7-10 grades contact Lori Balstad at 218-938-4286

For grades K-6th please contact Amanda Wiener
218-280-2187 or at amandawienier@hotmail.com

If you did not register your children for RE yet, you
are welcome to do so any time.

Teens Encounter Christ. The TEC retreat
weekends this year are: February 15-17, 2020 at
St. Joseph's, Moorhead and March 21-23, 2020 at
Sandhill Lake Bible Camp by Fosston. Terry
Steen at sjchurchlady@yahoo.com is contact.

Explore formed.org: The Days of Advent by
Brother Francis and much, much more.

Trouble getting into formed.org? Just go to
formed.org/signup. For "Find Your Parish," type
in Fosston's zip code of 56542. (Code not
needed.) Click on St. Mary's, Fosston, MN. Then
click on Next and add your name and email
address. No passwords needed. Enjoy! Learn!
Grow in Faith and Knowledge!

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good
fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."
(Matthew 3:10)*

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you
spend your time, talent, and treasure constantly
acquiring more toys, clutter, and junk. Our time,
our talent, and our treasure are gifts that God has
given us. What we do with them is our gift back
to God. What gifts are you planning to give to
the Lord during this upcoming Christmas
season?

GIVE AWAY: Used ceiling fans. Ask Fr. John.

Thank you to all who have done their certification for SE. If you are working at the church or with the children, please certify for Safe Environment each year. Go to www.crookston.org. Component B. Call the Church office 435-6484 if you have questions.

What's the Difference Between a Good Advent and a Great Advent? Just 4 Minutes!
Sign up at dynamiccatholic.com for this totally free and totally awesome daily video program (sent straight to your email) that will help you prepare for Christmas like never before!

Grief Support/ Celebration of Life, Tuesday, December 10th, 7 PM at the Kingo Lutheran Church. This is open to the public. Offered through Essentia Hospice. The holiday season can intensify feelings of loss. Come be supported and learn self-care strategies and ways to manage the holidays. Our time will end with a celebration of lives of our loved ones who have died.

Essentia Health Hospice Tree Walk TODAY, Sunday, December 8, 10am- 2 pm. Magelssen Elementary School. Pancake Breakfast by the Fosston Lengby Lions. Many activities. Check out the bulletin board for more information.

Advent Reading & Reflecting: During Advent the bulletin will contain inserts for you to use during this season of preparing the way of the Lord. Also, "the WORD among us" has sent us free of charge 50 copies of their Mass and Daily Meditations for the month of December. Please make use of these materials to prepare the way.

11th Annual Immigration Sunday, January 5,
"When families are torn apart and people are forced to live in fear it is an attack on their human dignity and a wound to all of us – the body of Christ. As the lack of resolution lingers into yet another decade, the severity of these wounds continues to grow. We must begin to heal our corner of the vineyard from the wounds of division," said Jason Adkins, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference.

Christmas Flowers & Decorations
Help make our Christmas special by donating toward Church Flowers and Decorations in Honor/Memory of a loved one:

Your Name: _____
In Memory/Honor of : _____

St. Mary's Youth Group will be Caroling for their Service Family Homes Wednesday, Dec. 18th. May God bless them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and a closer walk with Jesus.

A Grotto Committee is being formed to explore possibilities to honor our Blessed Mother Mary, patroness of our parish. If you would like to help, please let Fr. John know. Also, please share any ideas you may have with Father, a Trustee or Council member. The Committee will be responsible for presenting options to the parish for consideration. Donations and memorials are welcome.

Brunch after Mass Dec. 15:
In deciding what to bring for the potluck, please keep in mind that we will be serving over 60 pieces of pumpkin pie.

Christmas Eve Mass in Fosston this year is at 8:00 p.m. to allow St. Joseph's to have the 5:00 p.m. Mass time. Next year St. Mary's will have the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Please spread the word.

NEEDED: RIDE TO SUNDAY MASS
James Gregory lives at a Group Home on South Omland Ave. and is unable to get to Mass. If you could give him a ride, please talk to Fr. John. Holly from the DAC says you need not provide any assistance or sit with him, just provide transportation.

**St. Mary's Kids Present "The Nativity"
Christmas Pageant during Mass with Brunch
afterwards. Please come join us December 15.
LITURGICAL MINISTRY Dec. 15, 2019**

Ushers: John Blaser, 2 Youth

Gifts: Youth

Lector: Youth

Commentator: Youth

Eucharist: *Michele & Doug Schoenborn,
John Keller, Mark Bingham

Servers: Youth

Hospitality: **Pot Luck** served by Group 2

LITURGICAL MINISTRY Dec. 22, 2019

Ushers: Mark & Harlee Bingham

Gifts: Jesse & Augusta Maruska Family

Lector: Lori Balstad

Commentator: Jan Hemmingsen

Eucharist: *Jeanne Sanden, Erv Wickham,
Gabe Wiener, Clyde Kringlen

Servers: Sofia Rue, Olivia Rosendahl, Ben Keller

Hospitality: Jesse & Augusta Maruska Family,
Lynn
Jackson

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed Weekly:	\$ 2429.00
Last Week's Collections:	
28 Adult Envelopes:	\$ 2345.00
4 Children/Student Donations	\$ 4.00
Loose	\$.00
Total Sunday Collection	\$ 2349.00
Coffee & Rolls (cost \$43.46)	\$ 31.55
RE Donation	\$ 100.00
Food Shelf	\$ 97.00
St. Mary's Mission Red Lake Building	\$ 465.00 \$ 315.00
Capital Improvement Balance	\$ 4952.12

**Collection TODAY: Retirement Fund for
Religious. Please give generously to those who
gave a lifetime.**

Dec. 11: Pastoral Council Meeting 6 PM

Dec. 17: Catholic United Financial 4 PM

**Plan to attend the Penance Service at 5:30pm on
Sunday, December 15.**

Advent Giving Project: As part of your Advent
alms giving, please select a tag off the Giving Tree
in the church foyer and place item under tree by
Dec. 15. Tags are for folks in our parish we want to
bless and for the Family Safety Network in
Bagley. Suggestions for individuals include lotion,
shower/bath gel, tea towels, all occasion cards,
small decorations, fleece throws, socks, scarves,
small quilts, pictures, picture frames, ornaments,
mini tree, wreath for door & welcome sign for
door. Network tags are for laundry detergent,
postage stamps, gas & grocery cards, copy paper,
garbage bags, toothpaste, shampoo, paper towels,
kleenex, deodorant & toilet paper.

DEBBIE'S BASKET SALE after Mass today.
Due to the bad weather the basket sale was changed
to today. **The silent auction will be held during
coffee & rolls.** This is the second matching grant
fund raiser by our CUF Council this year. It all goes
to the parish for the religious education program.

Please return the form or invitation to help
with the many "Lay Ministry" positions here at
St. Mary's. Please offer your talent in service to our
Lord. If you did not get a form offered in the bulletin
last week there is more by the bulletin board. The
form can help you decide by checking out the back
of the form where there is an explanation of each
ministry. Please add when or how much you can
serve. If you are already doing something, please fill
out what it is also.

Our Northland Diocese, official publication of
the Diocese of Crookston since 1946, is now
available via *eOND*, an electronic newsletter. In
addition to monthly print issues delivered to
household mailboxes, *eOND* arrives to email
inboxes twice monthly. Parishes pay an annual
subscription rate of \$15.36 per household for all
services **but opt-in is required for eOND.**
Subscribe by providing your name and email
address. **Opt-in is required for eOND.**
Visit www.crookston.org/subscribe
There are cards in your bulletin that explain
how to sign up so you can begin receiving
eOND. Please make use of this opportunity.