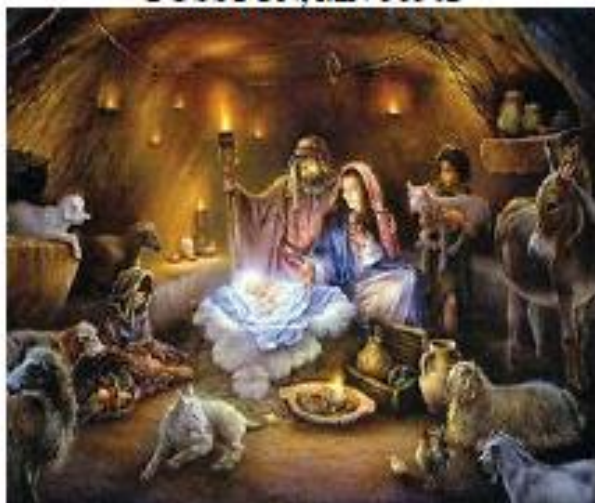


ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
725 6th STREET N.E.
FOSSTON, MN 56542



Greetings from Fr. John:

We are in the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Loving, responsive obedience to God as modeled for us by St. Joseph is the central theme of today's readings. Today's Gospel, from Matthew, focuses on the role of Joseph. For Jesus to fulfill the Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. Today's gospel gives us a great lesson, although we may face financial problems, job insecurity, tensions in the family and health concerns, let us try to be like St. Joseph, trusting and faithful. Instead of relying on our ownself to get us through life, let us trust in God and be strengthened by talking to Him in fervent prayer and by listening to Him speaking through the Bible. We need to experience *Emmanuel* in our lives and change the world. Let us be a Christmas gift to others.

Merry Christmas

And a

Happy New Year

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22nd, 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: Call 435-6484 during Holiday
Bookkeeper: Linda Hand Cell 218-280-2271
Office Hours: Call during Holiday
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: No Adoration
Tues., Dec 24 8 pm Christmas Eve Mass
Deceased Family Members of
Rose Brinkman+
Wed., Dec. 25 8:30 am Christmas Day Mass,
Suvakeen+
Sun., Dec. 29 8:30 am Mass,
For the Parishes

St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions

Tuesdays Adoration Noon – 6 pm
Tues., Dec. 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass,
George & Mae Bary+
Wed., Dec. 25 10:30am Christmas Day Mass
Dax Derby+
Sun., Dec. 29 10:30am Mass,
Lillian Haider+

Wednesday, January 1st, 8:30 AM Mass.
New Year's Day, Holy Day of Obligation

Birthdays

Dec. 24 Jerad Agnes

Dec. 28 Troy Palmer

Anniversaries

Dec. 29 Connie & Chet Smeby

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 Jurik, 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, 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. 29, 2019
Sirach 3:2-6,12-14, Ps 128:1-5, Colossians 3:12-
21, Matthew 2:13-15,19-23,

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

The **NEW Living Faith Daily Catholic**
Devotions for January-March (The little books),
for adults and children, are located by each
church entrance. Take one home.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE):

For PreK-10th grades Class after Mass

9:45-10:45 AM. Jan. 12th & Jan. 26th

Youth group, grades 7-12 meet Wednesday,
Jan. 15th & Jan. 29th, 6-8 PM. Supper provided.

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

All Fridays in January.

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

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

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

**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.

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!

**"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of
the Lord had commanded him and took his
wife into his home." (Matthew 1:24)**
Putting our complete trust in the Lord without
expecting anything in return. Striving to put God
first in all things and follow Him wherever He
may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our
Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a
model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

Bishop Hoepfner and the Office of
Stewardship and Development would like to
extend a huge thank you to the parishes that
have made their 2019 DAA goal. That includes
St. Mary's. Our goal was \$9383. The Diocese
has received \$9739. Another \$100 pledge is
outstanding as of 12/18/19. A huge Thank
You to the 50 generous donors!

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.

Our Northland Diocese 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. **But opt-in is required for *eOND*.** Subscribe by providing your name and email address. Visit www.crookston.org/subscribe

When you are not sure if you are on the schedule for **LITURGICAL MINISTRY** go to <https://stmarysfosston.org/>. The bulletin is also available there. Check it out.

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.

Have you read Bishop Robert Barron's "Letter to a Suffering Church"? The Diocese of Crookston Chancery Staffers have! For Catholics questioning their faith, searching desperately for encouragement and hope, even during the Christmas Season, this book will offer reasons to stay and fight for the Body of Christ. You can learn more about it on the Diocese web site.

Please make any donations you want included in your 2019 stewardship report by December 31. Consider making a year-end gift to the building fund for improving our facilities or to the Grotto fund.

Note to those over 70 1/2 who are required to withdraw from 401k retirement funds: Please consider having your RMD (required minimum distribution), or part of it, go directly to St. Mary's and avoid paying income tax on the amount donated. It is a very sweet way to lower your tax burden and bless St. Mary's. Ask your 401k administrator for details.

Lutheran Social Services and Essentia Health Invite Caregivers to the Caregiver Discussion Group every 3rd Monday of the month 10-11 AM located in the Essentia Hospital education room. Contact Julie Praska-Moser 218-686-6228 or Julie.praska-moser@lssmn.org or Carrie Danielson LSW 435-7661

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 : _____

Moonless darkness stands between.
Past, the Past, no more be seen!
But the Bethlehem star may lead me
To the sight of Him Who freed me
From the self that I have been.
Make me pure, Lord: Thou art Holy;
Make me meek, Lord: Thou wert lowly;
Now beginning, and always,
Now begin, on Christmas day.
(By Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844-1889.)

Christmas Eve, 8 PM Mass

LITURGICAL MINISTRY Dec. 24, 2019

Ushers: David Holzer, Dennis Sanden
Gifts: Craig & Kristen Hemmingsen Family
Lector: Michele Schoenborn
Commentator: Clyde Kringlen
Eucharist: *Jeanne Sanden, Valarie Holzer,
Doug Schoenborn, Linda Blaser
Servers: Dane Schoenborn, Darien Holzer

Christmas Day, 8:30 AM Mass

LITURGICAL MINISTRY Dec. 25, 2019

Ushers: Mark & Harlee Bingham
Gifts: Carol Broadwell, Gabe Schouviller
Lector: Margarete Rue
Commentator: Nina Bingham
Eucharist: *Erv Wickham, Eileen Hegg,
Jan Hemmingsen, 1 Volunteer

Servers: Sofia & Genevive Rue

LITURGICAL MINISTRY Dec. 29, 2019

Ushers: David Holzer, Doug Schoenborn
Gifts: Tony & Patty Maruska
Lector: Michele Schoenborn
Commentator: Clyde Kringlen
Eucharist: *Mark Bingham, Linda Blaser,
Eileen Hegg, Jan Hemmingsen
Servers: Dane Schoenborn, Anna & Ronald
Jackson

Hospitality: Tony & Patty Maruska,
Dorothy Paulson

LITURGICAL MINISTRY Jan. 5, 2020

Ushers: Erv Wickham, Doug Hand
Gifts: Paulette & Clyde Kiringlen
Lector: Jan Hemmingsen
Commentator: Margarete Rue
Eucharist: *Valarie Holzer, Carol Aaland,
Michele Schoenborn, John Keller
Servers: Darien Holzer, Sofia & Genevieve Rue
Hospitality: Doug & Michele Schoenborn Family,
LuAnn Dufault

***Please return the invitation form to help with
"Lay Ministry" positions.***

**Thank you to all who have done their
certification for Safe Environment. The Diocese
did the annual audit this past week and we passed.**

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed Weekly:	\$ 2429.00
Last Week's Collections:	
43 Adult Envelopes:	\$ 1965.00
18 Children/Student Donations	\$ 20.00
Loose	\$ 116.00
Total Sunday Collection	\$ 2101.00
Retired Religious	\$ 70.00
Capital Improvement Balance	\$ 4579.76

**Huge THANK YOU TO St. Mary's Kids
for their hard work and practice in
performing the CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
last Sunday & to all the YOUTH who helped
with the MASS. Also thank you to the teachers
for all your hard work to make this happen.**

**May Ruth Calarese, and all the faithful
departed rest in peace.**

**Our sincere sympathy to the Clara Manecke
Family in the loss of her sister, Louise Mulvaney.
May Louise and all the faithful departed rest in
peace. Her funeral is on Thursday in Elk River**

**During the Holiday Parish office hours
Dec. 24, 27 & 30 will be 9am to Noon.
Please call 218-280-2271 for info.
Regular hours resume Jan. 3, 2020.**

**Bemidji is hosting March for Life on Saturday,
January 18th, beginning at 12 Noon. This is an
annual event that gathers people from various
denominations in support of the pro-life cause.
There will be a prayer outside the courthouse in
Bemidji (right across the street from St. Philip's),
the March, a free soup lunch back at St. Philip's,
and a presentation. This year presenters are a
group called Grandparents for Life. They are a
group of men from various denominations in
Kelliher who have come together for the common
cause of saving lives through the pro-life
movement.**