

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



Greetings from Fr. John:

We are celebrating the Second Sunday of Advent. All three readings focus on the absolute necessity of our getting ready for Christ's "Coming" into our hearts by true repentance, reparation, prayer and the renewal of our lives. The Gospel tells us through John the Baptist how we should prepare to receive Jesus into our lives during the Advent season by repentance and the renewal of life. He invites the people 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. John recommends a baptism of repentance in the river Jordan. 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 season into a real spiritual "homecoming" by making necessary preparations for the fresh arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus into our hearts and lives. God Bless You! Have a Good Week.

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 6th, 2020**

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: 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: PraK-6: Amanda Wiener & Valarie Holzer

Youth Group Leader: Savannah Conger
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, by appointment & Advent Wednesdays 12-1pm

St. Mary's Mass with Intentions

Wednesday: Adoration Noon – 8 PM
Tues., Dec. 8 7 PM Mass, Holy Day
Bill Aaland+
Wed., Dec. 9 11:30 AM Mass
Linda Bingham+
Fri., Dec. 11 8:30 AM Mass
Betty Worshek+
Sun., Dec. 13 8:30 AM Mass
For the Parishes

St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions

Tuesdays Adoration Noon – 5 pm
Tues., Dec. 8 5 PM Mass, Holy Day
Mary Muckala+
Thur., Dec. 10 11:30 AM Mass
Harry Kortan+
Sun., Dec. 13 10:30 AM Mass
Jim Vorderbruggen+

Anniversaries

Nov. 21 Dennis & Jan Hemmingsen
Dec 7 Craig & Kristen Hemmingsen

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.

Prayer List Policy: Names from outside our Parish will be removed from the list after one month. Additional months may be requested as needed or desired.

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR:

Nash Rosendahl, Kristi Maruska, Wayne Paulson, Richard Parent, Bruce Donnell, Lucille Dufault, Mark Randall, Peggy Desizlets,(10/28) Zach Plante, Susan Becker, Tennis Balstad, Lynn Vennes (12/6)
"May you touch them and heal them, O Lord!"

Blessed Prayer Shawls are available.
Please contact Dorothy Paulson at 435-6836

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

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The readings for next Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020
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

For Men who are interested in becoming a Deacon: Formation begins in January of 2022. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Deacon Mark at mkrejci@crookston.org.

Project Rachel: Confidential Care for Post-Abortive Women and Men offered from the Diocese of Crookston is staffed by a female counselor trained in Project Rachel ministry - a ministry of the Catholic Church - showing that there is hope after abortion. Calls are answered Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The confidential phoneline is 218-470-0112.

No FAITH FORMATION held at the church until further notice.

This includes YOUTH GROUP, Grades PreK-6th grade Sunday School Class, Confirmation & Theology of the Body.

St. Mary's CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & SUNDAY YOUTH MASS is being planned for Dec. 20. Due to COVID this may be canceled.

"Youth News"

We have a new pay-it-forward project! St. Mary's youth needs your help to make 20 tie-knot blankets for the local nursing home residents for Christmas. They plan to make the blankets on Dec. 2 and Dec. 16. Monetary donations of any size or fleece fabric in one-yard pieces would be appreciated. Please mark your monetary donations for the youth fund and place in the offertory basket.

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

Guidelines for activities and events, protecting ourselves from COVID-19 while indoors. Changes announced by Gov. Walz starting Nov. 27th affect only receptions, celebrations, parties or gatherings held at the church and not the capacity of religious services.

The Diocese of Crookston Covid-19 protocols in compliance with Minnesota may be found at stmarysfosston.org or www.crookston.org/statments. Stay Safe.

Thank You to Ann Perrault for the two office chairs donated to St. Mary's Church.

On formed.org for ADVENT: The Road to Bethlehem includes daily Advent reflections by Dr. Tim Gray, weekly videos, audio talks and book excerpts on FORMED Go to formed.org/signup. "Find Your Parish," type in Fosston's zip code of 56542 No password. Be sure to share this link formed.org/faithathome with friends and family not yet on FORMED to get them started with a complimentary subscription.

For ADVENT: The Word Among Us Please make use of the Mass and Daily Meditation books available by the missalettes. Feel free to give to someone who might use for daily reflection. It includes several good articles in addition to Mass prayers and readings.

Our Northland Diocese is available via eOND, an electronic newsletter full of the latest and biggest news of our local Church! In addition to monthly print issues delivered to household mailboxes, eOND arrives to email inboxes twice monthly. Parishes pay an annual subscription rate of \$15.67 per household for all services but opt-in is required for eOND. Subscribing is as simple as providing your name and email address. Visit www.crookston.org/subscribe.

LET YOUR SOUL SHINE with Matthew Kelly, the author of several books the parish has given you, by going to dynamiccatholic.com and signing up for free daily Advent video reflections to help you prepare for Christmas like never before. Matthew Kelly is the author of several books the parish has given you.

Prayer: Too often we complicate prayer or fill the time with too many words. My advice is to keep it simple in silence! Pope Saint John XXIII said: "Prayer is the raising of the mind to God. ... The actual words matter less."

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 _____

Are you going to miss the Real Presence Radio fundraising banquet this year? We've got great news!!! Presence Radio is hosting a virtual fundraising event on Thursday, December 10th! The event will feature Dr. Ray Guarendi as keynote. Host of "The Dr. Is In," Dr. Ray is a Catholic father of ten adopted children, a clinical psychologist, author and comic! If you are interested in attending as a guest or hosting a watch party from your home, please call 877-795-0122 or register online at RealPresenceRadio.com/banquet Sponsorship packages are available at the \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 or higher levels. For more information or to sponsor, email Jessica at jessica@realpresenceraudio.com!

Parents of Faith Formation Students: The at-home Circle of Grace lessons were mailed to the parents last week. The verification form included with the lessons needs to be signed and returned to St. Mary's church. The St. Mary's Safe Environment compliance report is due to the Diocese of Crookston before December 31st. If you have any questions call St. Mary's Church 435-6484 and leave a message. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed Weekly:	\$ 2218.04
Last Week's Collections:	
Adults	\$ 760.00
Loose	\$ 25.00
Total Collections	\$ 785.00
St. Mary's Mission, Red Lake	\$ 150.00
Flowers	\$ 10.00
Retired Religious	\$ 10.00
Christmas	\$ 10.00
Youth Group	\$ 45.00
Capital Improvement Balance	\$ 4019.08

Thank you to everyone that donated to the St. Mary's, Mission Appeal (SMMA), Red Lake. You are helping many children learn about Jesus. You are still invited to give anytime. The need is always there.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf during the month of November. Monetary donations may be mailed directly to Loaves and Fishes at PO Box 152, Fosston, MN 56542

Masses at St. Mary's are held in the church sanctuary with overflow seating in the social hall. We have plenty of space for all to worship while being spaced apart from other households. Please come, wear masks (if over 5 and not medically challenged), use touch-free hand sanitizer located by each door and keep yourself socially distanced.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains indefinitely suspended in our Diocese and the rest of the MN dioceses. If you cannot be with us for Sunday Mass, please find a way to keep Sundays holy. You can join Mass on TV or at <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass>

Holy Day Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be held on December 8th at 7pm at St. Mary's and 5pm at St. Joseph's, Bagley.

Thurs., Dec 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Fri., Dec 25 8:30 am Christmas Day Mass

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered from Noon to 1pm each Wednesday during Advent, December 2 – 23.

ADVENT GIVING TREE: Besides giving gifts for the shut-in parishioners, we invite you to donate gifts for the Family Safety Network in Bagley. It is not necessary that you get the tag off the tree, just include note with gift, drop off or send to parish office. Items suggested are: Target or Family Dollar gift cards, \$20 gas or grocery cards, postage stamps, laundry detergent, ream of photo-copy paper, kitchen garbage bags, Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper.

Suggestions for our shut-ins: Diabetic socks, slippers, lotions, bath gel, window clings, mugs, cookies or sweets, fruit, small poinsettia or decorative small towels. Please have these gifts at church by Sunday, December 20. (Call the office for a name if you wish.)

Debbie's Basket Sale cannot be held in the gathering space as it has in past years. Catholic United Financial (CUF) will match up to \$1000.00. The proceeds will be donated to St. Mary's Religious Education Program. CUF mailed information to all parishioners asking for donations through December 20th.

Dec. 15, 4pm Catholic United Financial meeting.

Lectors:

December 6: Lori Balstad

December 13: Kathryn Ziermeier

December 20: Margarett Rue

December 24: Jan Hemmingsen

December 25: Margarett Rue

December 27: Lori Balstad

January 1: Michele Schoenborn

(Pick up 2021 Workbooks in Sacristy)

Collection for the Retired Religious Fund
Dec. 13th.