

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



**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 pink candle. The common theme of today's Scripture readings is joy and encouragement. 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 the Baptizer, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. We need to bear witness to Christ the Light to dispel the darkness of this pandemic. It is especially more important this year that we reflect Christ's sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness. 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 Good Week.**

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 13, 2020**

St. Mary's: 218-435-6484  
St. Joseph's: 218-694-6416  
E-Mail: [stmarysfosston@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysfosston@gmail.com)  
Website: [stmarysfosston.org](http://stmarysfosston.org)

**PARISH STAFF:**

**Pastor:** Fr. John Melkies Suvakeen  
**E-Mail:** [fjohnstnstj@gmail.com](mailto:fjohnstnstj@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 & 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  
**Wed., Dec. 16** 11:30 AM Mass  
Debbie & Orlean Agnes+  
**Fri., Dec. 18** 8:30 AM Mass  
Paula Erdmann+  
**Sun., Dec. 20** 8:30 AM Mass  
For the Parishes

**St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions**

**Tuesdays** Adoration Noon – 5 pm  
**Tues., Dec. 15** 5 PM Mass  
Franklyn Renner+  
**Thur., Dec. 17** 11:30 AM Mass  
Allen Theis+  
**Sun., Dec. 20** 10:30 AM Mass  
Katherine Scheuer+

**Dec. 15, 4pm Catholic United Financial meeting.**

Birthdays

Dec. 14 Edna Kaupang  
Dec. 16 Jennifer Zitzow  
Dec. 17 Linda Klinkhammer  
Dec. 18 Lu Newell  
Dec. 20 Marge Siedschlag

Anniversaries

Dec. 14 Charles & Ardell Redder  
Dec. 17 Mark & Nina 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.

*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)  
Fran O'Donnell (12/13)

*"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. 20, 2020  
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

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](mailto:mkrejci@crookston.org).

**FAITH FORMATION** will not be held at  
the church until further notice.

St. Mary's Kids are hoping to have a  
virtual **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** for  
sharing on **Dec. 20**. Watch for more details  
as they become available.

*"Youth News"*

St. Mary's Youth Group is making 20 tie-knot  
blankets for the local nursing home residents  
for Christmas. The Youth Group has devised  
a plan to get it done safely. Catholic United  
Financial, St. Mary's Council, last week  
donated \$100 to the project.

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in  
all circumstances; for this is the will of God in  
Christ Jesus for you. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18*  
This scripture reading sums up  
Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your  
trust in God; He will provide all that you  
need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be  
a running conversation with God throughout the  
whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all  
circumstances" means even in bad situations,  
thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build  
empathy for others in similar situations and  
shows our dependence on God.

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](http://stmarysfosston.org) or  
[www.crookston.org/statments](http://www.crookston.org/statments). Stay Safe.

**JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**On formed.org: Mary of Nazareth** This film captures the essence of Mary's profound faith and trust in God, amidst the great mysteries that she lived with as the Mother of the Messiah. Prepare for Christ's coming by reflecting on his mother's profound faith and trust. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://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](http://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.

"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."

Brighten your Christmas Season!  
Enjoy a free virtual concert with John Michael Talbot and other Catholic musical artists.  
To register go to [SCRC.org/Christmas](http://SCRC.org/Christmas)  
It's free and available now!

**LET YOUR SOUL SHINE** with Matthew Kelly by going to [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com) and signing up for free daily Advent video reflections to help you prepare for Christmas like never before.

Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi is known for making the very first Nativity scene? He created a manger, even bringing an ox and a donkey along. Remember: Christ really has come to dwell among us!

**Parents of Faith Formation Students:** The at-home Circle of Grace lessons were mailed to parents. The verification form included with the lessons needs to be signed and returned to St. Mary's church as soon as possible. The St. Mary's Safe Environment compliance report is due to the Diocese of Crookston before December 31. 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.

**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.

**STUDENTS Grade 7-12:** National Right to Life's 2021 Pro-Life Essay Contest Dec. 20 - Jan. 21. Enter your 300-500 essay on "Why you are pro-life" Prizes: \$100-\$200. More info at [nrlc.org/students/essaycontest](http://nrlc.org/students/essaycontest). Also, MCCL invites your video for their pro-life oratory contest. Go to [MCCL.org/youthcontests](http://MCCL.org/youthcontests)

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed Weekly:	\$ 2218.04
<b>Last Week's Collections:</b>	
Adults	\$ 2455.00
Loose	\$ 20.00
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>\$ 2475.00</b>
St. Mary's Mission, Red Lake	\$ 70.00
CCHD	\$ 20.00
Youth Group from CUF	\$ 100.00
Retired Religious	\$ 10.00
Christmas	\$ 20.00
Capital Improvement Donations	\$ 145.00
<b>Capital Improvement Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3335.95</b>

Collection for the Retired Religious Fund today, Dec. 13. Bring next week if you forgot.

Thank you to all who donated to the St. Mary's, Mission Appeal (SMMA), Red Lake. You are helping many children learn about Jesus. Donations are still welcome. 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>

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

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

Thurs., Dec 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass  
Fri., Dec 25 8:30 am Christmas Day Mass

**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.)

**No Debbie's Basket Sale this year due to Covid-19 restrictions so St. Mary's Catholic United Financial Council sent information to all parishioners asking that donations be turned in to St. Mary's or sent to Jan Hemmingsen, 39022 335<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Fosston MN 56542 by December 20. The goal of this matching grant fundraiser for St. Mary's Religious Education Program is to earn the maximum match of \$1000.00.**

### Lectors:

December 13: Kathryn Ziermeier  
December 20: Margarette Rue  
December 24: Jan Hemmingsen  
December 25: Margarette Rue  
December 27: Lori Balstad  
January 1: Michele Schoenborn

**(Pick up 2021 Workbooks in Sacristy)**