

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. This Sunday the readings focus on the circumstances leading up to the first coming of Jesus, the event which sets the pattern for his coming to us now. The Gospel stresses the key role of Mary in the work of our salvation and tells us that this final King would be born to an ordinary virgin through the power of the Holy Spirit, and that this Son of God, Jesus, would become a descendant of David. Mother Mary said yes to the plan of God. Like Mother Mary we also need to say a courageous and generous "yes" to God. True obedience comes from a free choice made in the light of what is true and good. It is by saying, with Jesus and Mary, a wholehearted and totally unconditional "Yes" to Jesus that he will be re-born in us. By our saying "Yes," Jesus will be born or re-born in others too. Let us show our gratitude to God by living as true followers of Christ: "Behold, here I am Lord! I come to do Your will."

I wish you to have a Merry Christmas!
God Bless You! Have a Good Week.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 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: 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 &
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. 23 11:30 AM Mass
Annammal+ & Suvakeen+

Thur., Dec. 24 5 PM Christmas Eve Mass
Dave Holzer+

Fri., Dec. 25 8:30 AM Christmas Day Mass
Jim & Rose Mireault+

Sun., Dec. 27 8:30 AM Mass
Joyce McNelly+

St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions

Tuesdays Adoration Noon – 5 pm

Tues., Dec. 22 5 PM Mass
Patricia Quandt

Thur., Dec. 24 8 PM Mass
Margie Galli+

Fri., Dec. 25 10:30 AM Mass
Earl & Perl Madre+ & Perry Levet+

Sun., Dec. 27 10:30 AM Mass
For the Parishes

Dec. 24 Birthdays
Jered Agnes

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) Lynn Vennes
"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. 27, 2020
Genesis 15:1-6; 1-6; 21:1-3, Psalm 105:1-2,3-4,5-
6, 8-9, Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Luke 2:22-40

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.

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
stmarysfoosston.org or
www.crookston.org/statments. Stay Safe.

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

St. Mary's Kids are having a virtual
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT for sharing on
Dec. 20. Watch it on St. Mary's Facebook
page.

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. Also, MCCL
invites your video for their pro-life oratory
contest. Go to MCCL.org/youthcontests

"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. Thank you to all
who donated to this pay-it-forward project!

Together in Spirit – January 6, 7 PM is a HIGH
SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENT
that Father Rob Galea facilitates. Below is the
invite link. Password is "together".
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86498383731?pwd=cGhvcmFrZVRQVnJ5dTVtYis1dz09>

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" –
Luke 1:28 After Jesus, we look to Mary as an
ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in
obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live
with joy for all we have been given. Just as the
moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects
the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to
reflect Christ's light to the world through our
gratitude and generosity.

Confidential Care for Post-Abortive Women
and Men "Project Rachel" is offered from the
Diocese of Crookston. The confidential
phoneline is 218-470-0112.

On formed.org: Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession. This episode provides insights into all the details of Confession as we heed this call for repentance! 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.

U.S. Bishop Chairmen for Pro-Life and Doctrine on Covid-19 Vaccine: "In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer & Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines. Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good." Bishops warned Catholics "**must be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research.**" *Public Affairs Office, Dec. 14, 2020*

As we have seen throughout the pandemic and it's not unsurprising this time of year, many people receive emails impersonating clergy or others. Please remember that messages with vague requests for money or other gifts/favors are often a scam. You might be able to tell right away because the generic email address it is being sent from does not match the real person's email address. Do not reply or forward these messages. Delete the email immediately and also go in to your "deleted" folder and delete the message there too.

Take time this week to ponder what great love the Father has for us that He would send his beloved son to be born in a stable and live among us.

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 _____

Catholics at the Capitol – "On Mission for Life and Dignity" April 15, 2021. Speak out in defense of life and dignity at the State Capitol! Even just a handful of people can influence the laws passed by our elected officials. "CatCap" will fortify your faith, provide you with the hope needed to heal the cynicism and division in politics, and equip you to speak with your lawmakers. For information visit <https://www.catholicsatthecapitol.org>

First Link Suicide Prevention is a free, confidential service available to anyone 24/7/365 for listening and support, referrals to resources/help, and crisis intervention. FirstLink answers the 211 helpline, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and communicates via the text line 898-211. Dial 2-1-1 or text your zipcode to 898-211 from anywhere in our service area for confidential help and support. <https://myfirstlink.org/> National Suicide Prevention Lifeline <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Have a most Blessed Christmas!

STEWARDSHIP

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Needed Weekly: | \$ 2218.04 |
| Last Week's Collections: | |
| 26 Adults | \$ 1195.00 |
| Loose | \$ 30.00 |
| Total Collections | \$ 1195.00 |
| Immaculate Conception | \$ 30.00 |
| Flowers | \$ 45.00 |
| Youth Group Project | \$ 5.00 |
| Retired Religious | \$ 150.00 |
| Christmas | \$ 300.00 |
| Capital Improvement Donations | \$ 800.00 |
| Capital Improvement Balance | \$ 4135.95 |

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf. Monetary donations may be mailed anytime 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>

Parents of Faith Formation Students: The at-home Circle of Grace lessons and verification form that were mailed to you need to be returned asap. 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.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered from Noon to 1pm Wednesday, December 23.

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

ADVENT GIVING TREE: It's not too late to donate gifts for the Family Safety Network in Bagley. It is not necessary that you get the tag off the tree, just include a note with the 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.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PROVIDED GIFTS FOR OUR ELDERLY/SHUTTERED PARISHIONERS. May you be richly blessed!

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to Debbie's Basket Sale sponsored by St. Mary's Catholic United Financial Council.

Lectors:

December 24: Jan Hemmingsen

December 25: Margarete Rue

December 27: Lori Balstad

January 1: Michele Schoenborn

January 3: Margarete Rue

Pick up 2021 Workbooks in Sacristy)

Jan 1, 2021, New Year's Day
Holy Day, Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God
8:30 am Holy Day Mass Fosston
10:30 am Holy Day Mass Bagley

Our deepest sympathy to the Doug & Michele Schoenborn family on the loss of Michele's mother, Fran O'Donnell. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace with Jesus.