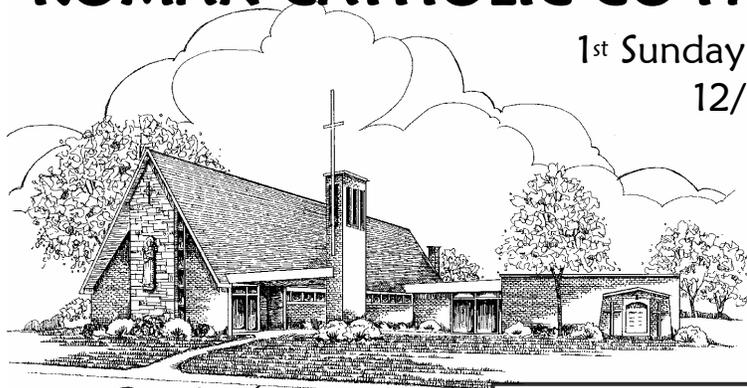
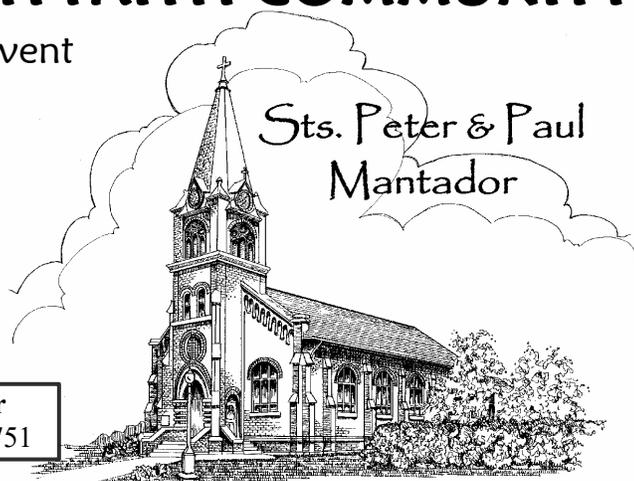


# ROMAN CATHOLIC CO-PARISH FAITH COMMUNITY

1st Sunday of Advent  
12/1/19



St. Anthony  
Mooreton



Sts. Peter & Paul  
Mantador

**Fr. Kurt Gunwall, Pastor**  
701-274-8259 or 701-540-8751

**St Anthony 12/7 5:00 pm**

**Lector** Justin Onchuck  
**EMHC** Justin Onchuck, Brenda Klosterman  
**Usher** Justin Onchuck  
**Servers** B Onchuck, Erbes

**St Anthony 12/8 8:30 am**

**Lector** Renata Fobb  
**EMHC** Dean & Anita Onchuck  
**Usher** Dean Onchuck  
**Servers** Fobbs

**Gifts** Eric & Kelsey Birchem

**Sts Peter & Paul 12/8 10:30 am**

**Lector** Jo Mertes  
**EMHC** Craig Pausch, Ron Pellman  
**Usher** Ron Pellman  
**Servers** Kath's

**Mass Intentions Changes in Bold**

Mon, 2 No Mass  
Tue, 3 StsPP 8:30 am Kenneth & Lorraine Jentz (†) - (M) St Francis Xavier  
Wed, 4 StA 5:45 pm Fr Leo Kinney (†) - (m) St John Damascene  
Thu, 5 StsPP 5:30 pm Marjorie Ahmann (†)  
Fri, 6 StA 9:30 am Clyde Klosterman (†) - (m) St Nicholas  
Sat, 7 St A 5:00 pm Bill Ward (†) - (M) St Ambrose  
Sun, 8 St A 8:30 am All parishioners  
Sun, 9 Sts PP 10:30 am Stanley Baem (†)

**Pray for the Sick/Elderly:** Leo Althoff, Vernon Althoff, Jerome Birchem, Kate Boll, Wayne Foertsch, Sr Ann Marie Friederichs, Jacinta Goerger, Dennis Iverson, Jim Krump, Erwin Lugert, Dennis Mauch, Kathy (Randy's) Mauch, Macy Mauch, Kassie Pauly, Alice Pausch, Alice Pellman, Patrick Sawyer, Greg Stephens, Tim Sundby, Wayne Ward, Frances Zajac, Carol Zietz. - Send prayer requests to Fr Gunwall

**A Penitent's Reflection on Reconciliation (Prepare for the Lord)**

Pride keeps me from asking for help. Fear tells me I might lose what I have and so I scoff at letting anything go. I struggle to be genuinely happy for others who have more than me; and appropriately concerned for those who go without. Disconnected and callous, I must justify myself. I fill my life with avarice, spiritual sloth and self-centeredness. Yet, ironically, all this bounty leaves me feeling incredibly empty.

Through pursuing the illusion of control and flaunting my freedom to choose for myself, I have shackled my own spirit. I long for a peaceful day, a quiet mind and a lighter step; but I neither want to be disciplined nor controlled. It will take a humble heart for me to accept this spiritual truth: God is not about control, He is about liberation and He gives us the sacrament of Reconciliation to set us free.

Life experience has taught me that humility is a great asset; one that was vital in my recognizing the infinite value of the sacrament of Reconciliation in my life. The most applicable definition I have found: Humility amounts to a clear recognition of who and what I really am, followed by a sincere attempt to become what God would have me be.

If God has any anger associated with my sins, it is because they have kept me from becoming all that He created me to be. The love, comfort and peace I sought eluded me until I accepted that I would only experience happiness by aligning my will with His. I found it humbling to be open to guidance, both intellectual and spiritual. This elusive concept eventually evolved into a simple (but not always easy) series of daily choices. Our examination of conscience before receiving Reconciliation matures as our understanding of Catholic teaching and Scripture increases. For me, it has evolved from a quick checklist in the pew to a nightly inventory of the preceding day. Where was I selfish, sharp-tongued, envious or dishonest? Prayerfully, I ask God for guidance to help me right the wrongs and adjust my behavior.

St. Pope John Paul II urges us to form our consciences by "a continuous conversion to what is true and what is good." Through this process, what I bring to the confessional is not what I recall 30 minutes before, but the reoccurring selfish and hurtful actions my conscience has helped me identify in my prayer life. God is calling me to meet Him with these in sacrament — for my benefit, not His.

While it is humbling to voice my failings in the presence of a priest, my spoken words reinforce my need for change and accountability. A loving God instituted a means through  
{continued on backside}

**Advent Reconciliation Services:**

Dec 8 - 7:00 pm - Sts Peter & Paul - Mantador  
Dec 9 - 8:00 pm - St Anthony - Mooreton  
Dec 15 - 4:00 & 6:30 pm - St John - Wapheton  
Dec 15 - 7:00 pm - St John the Baptist - Wyndmere  
Dec 22 - 7:00 pm - St Boniface - Lidgerwood  
TBD - St Phillip - Hankinson

**News of the Week:**

Mon, 2 StA 7pm End of Life seminar  
Thu, 5 StsPP Finance-Pastoral Council  
Fri, 6 StA 6am Men's group  
Mooreton 4pm Bill Ward benefit  
Sun, 8 StA 9:30am Parish Life mtg  
StA 4:30 pm Finance-Pastoral Council  
StsPP 7pm Advent Reconciliation  
Letter to a Suffering Church discussions  
Tue, 10 StA & Thu, 12 Sts PP - both 7pm

email: [mooretonmantadorcatholic@gmail.com](mailto:mooretonmantadorcatholic@gmail.com) / web: [mooretonmantadorcatholic.org](http://mooretonmantadorcatholic.org)

### Questions of the Week

What am I doing that I would not want seen publicly in the light of day, or unexpectedly? What do I need to do to change this practice in my life?

**Verse of the Week:** "He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord." (Luke 1:14)

**Assignment: Celebrate Advent** - You still have time to get an Advent wreath with the four candles, a daily reflection book or a daily email at [dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/](http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/) and prepare your heart and home

for the Lord's coming - both at the first Christmas and again at the Second Coming to judge the living and the dead.

**End of Life Issues from a Catholic Perspective** - You can still attend! Dec 2 at St. Anthony Parish Hall at 7:00 pm, with a light supper at 6:30 pm. Contact Fr. Gunwall for details.

**Finance & Pastoral Council meetings** - Thu, Dec 5 at Sts Peter & Paul. Sun, Dec 8 at St Anthony. Tell me or your representatives of any issues for us to discuss.

**Letter to a Suffering Church** will be discussed 7 pm, Dec 10 in Mooreton & Dec 12 in Mantador. Come either night.

**Stewardship Moment:** "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.

### Quote of the Week

"Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other- things that are of no real consequence- the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Nazi Prison/Concentration Camp

### Community Announcements

**Bill Ward Benefit at Mooreton Community Center Fri, Dec 6** - You can help the family with the expenses of Bill's illness and funeral while visiting and remembering a life well lived. The benefit begins at 4:00 pm.

**Candle Lighting Service of Remembrance**, Sat, Dec 7, 3 pm at Vertin-Monson Funeral Home, 224 6th St N, Wahpeton. Everyone (friends and family) is welcome.

**Knights of Columbus Advent socials/dinners - Sun, Dec 8**, 4 pm social, 6 pm dinner at Geneseo Bar & Grill for Knights & wives for the **Lidgerwood Council**. RSVP to Gerald Oster (538-7415). Also, **Sun, Dec 15**, social and dinner for Knights and wives at St John's for the **Wahpeton Council**. RSVP to Wayne Steiner.

----- continued from front -----

which my honesty can open the door to forgiveness. The grace I receive strengthens me for when my free will must choose once again. Resentment, regrets and a touch of humility are met with acceptance, forgiveness and grace for life's trials. Most importantly, I am reconciled and reconnected with God and those around me. Receiving the sacrament regularly, I became more comfortable with one particular confessor. With a sincere desire to see me move forward he addressed me directly one afternoon. "Cathy, Cathy, Cathy" he said in the most loving but convicting way, "Haven't we been here before?"

It was true. I had come to accept that I would never be free of certain behaviors I confessed repeatedly. Noting my frustration, he shared the following spiritual insight, which changed my approach to Reconciliation from obligation to desire. "Do you not believe that God can take you to a better place? He is offering you the grace and strength to rise above these problem areas you struggle with. You are a woman who has trusted God through serious surgeries, yet you won't believe He wants you to be free from these iniquities that block your daily walk with Him."

As he absolved me of my sins, he challenged me to accept the grace God granted me through the sacrament and believe that it had the power to change me if I sincerely wanted to change. He assured me that genuine effort on my part would be enhanced by God's grace.

This personal experience brought me to a place of victory. Honesty about my struggles, combined with spiritual guidance and sacramental grace, slowly moved me from failure to freedom. Walking through continuous change is difficult, but I no longer believe I am incapable or alone.

There have been intervals in my life when Reconciliation was very difficult. Why, when I needed it most, did I tend to stay away? After finding my way back, I've learned it is easier not to stray. I honestly continue to go because of all it does for me. My burden is lighter; my relationships have improved and my God feels closer.

By Cathy McCleish, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, IN



the Catechism (CCC) helps us read Scripture with the mind of Christ.

**1st Sunday of Advent - Paragraph #s (not pages)**

**668-677, 769:** the final tribulation and Christ's return in glory

**451, 671, 1130, 1403, 2817:** "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**2729-2733:** humble vigilance of heart

### A Prayer for Advent - Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas.

**Dec. Cleaners: Sts PP:** \*Kari Foertsch, Trudy Glynn, JoAnne Jentz, Patty Lingen, Jo Mertes / **St A:** \*Kristin Erbes, Tiffany Carlson, Mary Erbes, Alison Krier, Anita Onchuck, Jeri Pausch



This week's celebrations: Levi Nelson, Hannah Lingen, Pat Klosterman.