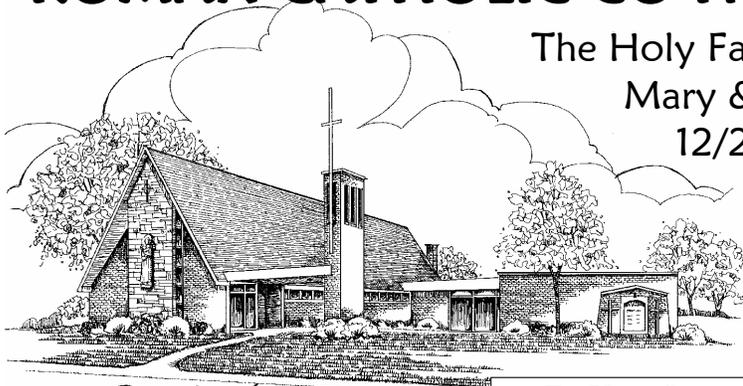
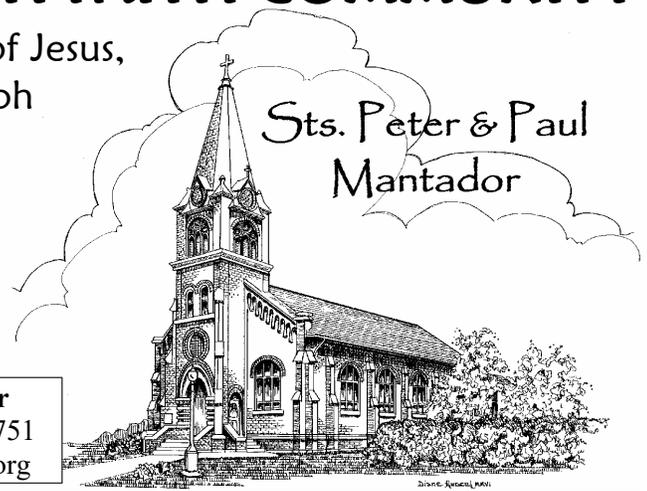


ROMAN CATHOLIC CO-PARISH FAITH COMMUNITY

The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph
12/27/20



St. Anthony
Mooreton



Sts. Peter & Paul
Mantador

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

St Anthony 1/2 5:00 pm

Lector Adam Mauch

Usher Adam Mauch

Servers Kriers/Erbes

Sts Peter & Paul 1/3 8:30 am

Lector Barb Severson

Usher Wayne Mauch

Servers Mauchs

St Anthony 1/3 10:30 am

Lector Arnel Onchuck

Usher Arnel Onchuck

Servers Onchucks

Mass Intentions *Changes in Bold*

Mon, 28 No Mass - (F) Holy Innocents

Tue, 29 StsPP 8:30 am Joe Vogel (†) - (m) St Thomas Becket

Wed, 30 StA 5:45 pm Leo Althoff (†)

Thu, 31 StA 7:00 pm Martha Marazka - (m) St Sylvester I

Fri, 1 StsPP 10:00 am All parishioners - (S) Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Sat, 2 StA 5:00 pm All parishioners - (M) Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

Sun, 3 StsPP 8:30 am Christian Mothers

Sun, 3 StA 10:30 am Christian Mothers

Pray for the Sick/Elderly: Family & friends w/COVID, Loretta Althoff, Arnie Foertsch, Broden Frolek, Bill Giesen, Jacinta Goerger, Larry Goerger, Nargis Golwalla, Tony Heitkamp, Christal Hutchison, Erwin Lugert, Dennis Mauch, Diane (Jim) Mauch, Jim Mitchell, Alice Pausch, Alice Pellman, Elizabeth Thom, Wayne Ward, Aron Waxweiler, Frances Zajac. **Send names of loved ones** needing prayer to Fr Gunwall.

God's Power & Love

God is near! Maranatha! (Come Lord!) God is with us! Jesus was

born, died, rose, and remains with us in the Eucharist, the Church, the Sacraments and his Holy Spirit.

This week, I want to share this Christmas reflection with you from the book "Joy to the World" by Chris Stefanik.

It's a bit hard to believe. Shouldn't the divine be something more . . . well . . . profound? Shouldn't truly spiritual things be sublime? Dizzying to the intellect? Blinding to the eye? Ever beyond our grasp?

Some people presume that Christianity is shallow because we "put God in a box," so to speak. They reject Jesus because he's too ordinary. Too small. Too definable. "Cute," almost. As if a God who is vague and hidden behind the clouds is more "profound" than the God who loved us enough to reveal himself to us! (Or maybe some people prefer a vague God because that doesn't demand much from us?)

But nothing is more profound than love.

My friend Ryan had been exploring Christianity over many late nights at the pub with my (then) girlfriend (now wife) and me for almost two years. He'd grown up a "devout" agnostic. In a beautiful "aha!" moment, he summed up the Faith better than I ever could for him: "If there's a God, he's Catholic." He said, "I just can't imagine him being anything less than the love that you guys say he is." Ryan was baptized the following Easter.

And if God is Love, the absurdity of the manger is the only thing that makes any sense.

Sure, he could have stayed hidden behind the veil of space and time—an undefinable force—but love wanted intimacy with us. He could have come riding on the clouds, lightning bolts and all, one of the Zeus-like gods we'd always dreamt up. But he didn't come to wow us. He came to woo us. He didn't come looking for our submission. He came looking for our hearts. He came to us as a servant. He comes as plain as bread. We didn't put God "in a box." He put himself in one for us.

In Bethlehem there is a massive Basilica. The door to enter it is very small. You have to bow down to get in. It's called "the door of humility." Love humbled himself to meet us where we were at. We need humility to see it. He became poor for us. We need to become poor in spirit to receive it.

Love has driven God to become so plain. So approachable. So mind-blowingly ordinary that it's hard to accept. And I can't imagine God being anything less vast, profound, beautiful, and radical than that. Can you?

That's the kind of "radical" he's inviting us to be for one another.

----- Have a blessed and joyul Christmas season by receiving the Love God offers through his son, Jesus! - Fr. Kurtis Gunwall

You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. —Luke 2:12

Upcoming Events

Wed, 30 StA 7pm Youth Christmas drama practice

Mary, Mother of God Masses:

Thu, 31 StA 7pm / Fri, 1 StsPP 10am

Sun, 3 StA 11:40am Christmas drama

Questions of the Week

How can I bring the light of Christ to the world? How can I better see Christ in my family members? How can I better see neighbors and strangers as my sisters and brothers?

Verse of the Week: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit;" (*Matthew 1:18*)

Assignment of the week: Spend time playing together, listening to each other, and thank God that you have family near or far.

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life - As I mention on the front side, we have an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus together. Reserve Thursday evenings on your calendar and join in person or online. Study book and a paper or digital accompaniment book available. Contact Fr. Gunwall if you are interested.

Christmas Season - As a Church, we celebrate Christmas through a season. In much of life, we hold onto, and stretch every minute at the important and significant moments in our life. We are given this gift of the Christmas season by the Church. Unwrap the gift of God each day.

Communion visits - Contact Fr Gunwall and we will arrange a time to visit with the greatest gift of Jesus' Body & Blood, Soul & Divinity if you or a loved one are currently homebound.

Poinsettias donated in honor/memory of:



Bill Ward (Yvonne), Gerald Simdorn & Douglas Simdorn (Carol), Gerald & Edna Onchuck (Dean & Anita), Harold Althoff (Jane), James & Madelyn Haberman, George & Agnes Erbes, Madelyn Agnes Erbes, Adolph & Bridget Haberman, Polycarp & Norma Mousloff, Michael Schnepf (Alyson Krier), Gabrielle Mauch (Kenny & Memory), Jim Lingen (Marilyn)

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."
- St Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa)

Stewardship Moment: "...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." (Colossians 3:13)

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, give the gift of forgiveness with someone - a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

In the Community

Older teens & young adults (ages 16-25) - would you like another Christmas gift? Do you need a "retreat" from the world around you? Experience God in a personal and real way. SEARCH for Christian Maturity is young adults sharing their joy and struggles in faith, life, and family with you. The next retreat Jan. 15-17 at Maryvale Convent in Valley City. You are invited to attend and our parishes will pay part of the retreat. Details and application at fargodiocese.net/searchcm or call/text Dori 952-210-2219 with questions. Applications due Mon., Dec 28. Space is limited.



Gifts that support Christians in the Holy Land - The coronavirus pandemic forced thousands of pilgrims to leave the Holy Land. The streets of Bethlehem and Jerusalem have been empty for quite some time. The cancellation of pilgrimages have serious repercussions for many Christian families. In the past, when the Holy Land experienced wartime conditions, some people managed to find a temporary economic niche outside tourism. However, the pandemic measures have affected all business sectors, including olive wood industry and everything to shut down. Even we as Holy Land Crafts & Pilgrimage group are unable to lend them a hand during this difficult time because of the closures here in the U.S. Because our visits to parishes this year is unpredictable, we humbly ask you to visit www.HolyLandCrafts.net and browse through the beautiful hand carved religious items. We value your support through these unprecedented times. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Do you work in health care? Join Fr. Gunwall, Jack Kennelly, from SMP Health System, and Dr. Chris DeCock, from Essentia Hospital, for a **workshop on ethical standards and moral guidance in health care**. We will reference the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services: "first to reaffirm the ethical standards of behavior in health care that flow from the Church's teaching about the dignity of the human person; second, to provide authoritative guidance on certain moral issues that face Catholic health care today." The Catholic Church has centuries of experience and understanding of the human person and society to guide how we relate, serve, and care for those in need. See the PDF before we meet from mooretonmantadorcatholic.org/faith. Join us Mon., Jan. 11, at 7:00 pm using the link on our parish calendar page. Contact Fr. Gunwall with questions or specific items that you would like us to address.



Keeping the House of God beautiful!

Dec - Sts PP: *Jo Mertes, Kari Foertsch, Trudy Glynn, Patty Lingen / **St A:** *DeeAnn Mauch, Cindy Braun, Rhonda Erbes, Renee Griffith, Bethany Mauch, Kassie Pauly, Celeste Whitebear



This week's celebrations: Hanna Storbakken, Alice Pausch, Thomas & Terrie Breuer.

