



December 6, 2020 **Volume 73, No. 46**

Mass Schedule	Please note: Reconciliation Saturday 7:00 – 7:15 AM, Saturday 3:30 – 3:45 PM, Missions, 20 minutes before Mass, or call the office for appointment.		
Monday	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Zeno Erdle
	7:00 PM	St. Stephen	++Mr. & Mrs. Simon Greff
	7:00 PM	St. Thomas	Greg Meyer Family
Tuesday	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Ray Fettig
	7:00 PM	Richardton	PARISHES
Wednesday	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Lynn Greenshields
Thursday	9:30 AM	Richardton	+Ralph Boespflug
Friday	7:30AM	Richardton	++Mike & Regina Feller
Saturday, December 12th	7:30 AM	Richardton	++Mike & Tillie Hauck & Family
	4:00 PM	Richardton	+Gladys Lacher
	7:00 PM	St. Stephen	+Gaitte Gebhardt
Sunday, December 13th	8:00 AM	St. Thomas	Dave Sickler Family
	10:00AM	Richardton	PARISHES

Mass Schedule and Ministers: Mon. Dec. 7th, Tues., Dec. 8th, Sat., Dec. 12th & Sun. Dec. 13th

Monday, December 7th	7:00 PM	St. Stephen	Lector: Volunteer
	7:00 PM	St. Thomas	Lector: Jerry Haich
Tuesday, December 8th	7:30 AM	St. Mary	Lector: Deacon Bohn
	7:00 PM	St. Mary	Lector: Joy Kitzan
Saturday, December 12th	4:00 PM	St. Mary	Lector: Scott Bohn
	7:00 PM	St. Stephen	Lector: Gary Friedt
Sunday, December 13th	8:00 AM	St. Thomas	Lector: Cliff Weiler
	10:00 AM	Richardton	Lector: Mark Rummel

Collections for November 29, 2020	St. Mary	St. Stephen	St. Thomas
Adults	2182.00	388.00	255.00
Plate	167.00	340.00	1.00
Children			
Total	2349.00	728.00	256.00

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today in worship; we hope you will return often.

ST. MARY PARISH

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Donations toward the Christmas flowers can be put into a marked envelope and dropped in the collection or at the Office. Thank you for your help to make our church beautiful for Christmas.

CHURCH CLEANING: volunteers needed to help clean the church on Saturday, Dec. 12 following the 7:30 Mass. All materials will be supplied. All help is appreciated! Thanks very much.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: will be at 10:00 pm. Please consider helping to keep this a beautiful Mass by joining the choir. You just need to be present for the rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6:15-6:45 @ the church.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS: The Christmas Party scheduled for December 6th has been cancelled.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12th. Rosary will begin at 6:50 PM with the meeting to follow: Program: Christmas Crafts. Agenda: Gifts for Health Center. Discussion about the Festival of Tables. Lunch: Frank Hauck, Diane Hauck, & Ruth Haas.

K of C MEETING: Next meeting is Thursday; 6:35pm Rosary and 7:00pm Meeting & Luncheon.

CARING HEARTS FOOD DRIVE: Please consider using one of the reusable bags found in the entrance of the church to donate non-perishable goods to the less fortunate. The donated goods can be placed in the boxes in the entrance of St. Mary Church or contact Josh @ 290-8061 or Michelle @ 290-6995 to schedule a pick up for your donation. The deadline for donations is December 14th.

ST. STEPHEN PARISH

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: for your planning Christmas Eve Mass will be at 7:00 pm this year.

ST. THOMAS PARISH

CHRISTMAS MASS: will be at 8:00 am on Christmas Day.

ALL THREE PARISHES

PLEASE PRAY: for those who are *seriously ill, terminally ill or in immediate concern:* Ted Goelzer, Tillie Hauck, Susan Cook, Margaret Wiegler, Chuck Hoff, Katie Thomas Kautzman, Leo Stein, Troy Hoff, Larry Kostecky, Judy Hecker, Ray Stein, Gary Goetz and all those living with various cancers, those dealing with CO-VID19 in any way and those responding to the needs in our communities brought about by the

virus.

AT LONG LAST: our Parish Pictorial Directories are available at the Office and after the weekend Masses at the churches. They are free for those of you who had your picture taken and \$10 if you submitted a picture. We will also have available the "History in Records" book (\$20) and Sympathy and Christmas cards.

THIS WEEKEND: you will find attached to the Bulletin the envelope for the Retirement for Religious Collection. This annual collection benefits the U.S. Religious Orders including the Benedictines who have served all 3 parishes since their founding and the Benedictine Sisters who taught in our schools and/or summer "catechism classes." Thank you for your generosity!

DON'T FORGET: we are not able to have communal reconciliation services because of COVID. So I will be in the St. Mary confessional Monday nights Dec. 14 & 21 from 6-7 pm. I am also willing to accommodate you outside of those times. Call the office.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS: We have our "History in Records" books available as unique Christmas gifts. \$20 each. We also have St. Mary Christmas cards and Sympathy cards available at the Parish Office.

"A HISTORY IN RECORDS": is available for purchase. It's a history of the Baptismal, Marriage and Death registers of Sts. Mary, Stephen, Thomas and Philipp parishes from their founding. It is over 100 pages in length and available for \$20 at the office or after weekend Masses. Books are available by mail for \$23.00; make checks payable to: St. Mary Parish.

PLEASE BE ADVISED: the office hours remain reduced these days, so be sure to call ahead if you need to see Pam or Fr. Thomas.

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmaryrichardton.com. The weekly bulletin is included on the website and is normally posted on Mondays.

MASSES: *"the dispensation from the obligation to attend and participate at Mass on Sunday and Holy Days remains in effect until further notice for all who may be hesitant or afraid at this time to be in larger gatherings.... If you or anyone in your household is sick in any way or is one of the more vulnerable groups of persons at a higher risk of contracting the COVID-19, please stay at home until such time as you or that person is able to return to Church for Mass."* Further, "what we understand as 'social distancing' must be strictly kept by all priests, deacons and lay faithful at all times in all liturgical and sacramental settings."

Family households may sit together in 1 pew and all other persons must maintain social distancing; from front to back, in every Church every other pew is to be left empty.

Only the Precious Body will be distributed and may be received either in the hand or on the tongue.

Only ordained clergy are to distribute Holy Communion; no Eucharistic Ministers. Social distancing is to be maintained as you come forward to receive Holy Communion.

Lectors are to be used. Only 1 server is allowed and servers under 18 yrs of age must have written permission from parents to serve.

No Sign of Peace.

No Offertory procession but a collection is taken where long handle baskets are available. Baskets will be used for people who prefer to drop their offerings when they come or leave Mass.

Weddings and Funerals are permitted but maintaining social distancing. Vigil Services and Visitation are allowed in the funeral homes only; no funeral luncheons in parish facilities.

FROM THE PASTOR:

Tuesday, Dec. 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation (Immaculate Conception of Mary). See below for Mass times and locations. The Immaculate Conception is also the patroness of St. Mary Parish, whose official name is "Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, Mary." We need, and pray, for her continued intercession for all of us to grow in holiness, to sincerely amend our lives and avoid sins, to make Christ present in our lives and to protect us in good health.

I encourage all of you to make this Advent 2020 special by taking on an extra spiritual practice. Some ideas: make it a point to read and ponder on a daily reflection, attend morning weekday Mass 1 day a week, go to confession, pray a decade or whole Rosary a day; spend a few minutes a week with the Blessed Sacrament; fast from social media, or food or some entertainment; dedicate some silence to God each day, listen to RPR (Real Presence Radio). All these things can help prepare our hearts and let Our Lord enter. Blessings on whatever you undertake.

A letter came from Bishop Kagan recently regarding masks at Mass. He will not issue a mandatory mask requirement for Mass but leaves the decision to wear a mask or not, to individuals and pastors. So...if anyone feels they want to, or should, wear a mask to Mass, they are welcome to do so. We need to continue to be vigilant about protecting others, along with ourselves.

If you are uncertain about what to do with your church envelope you can put it in another envelope and put it in the mail (332 2nd St. North Richardton, ND 58652), or drop it by the office. "Thanks so much" to those of you who are already doing this; it helps us a lot.

Finally...there seems to be much fear, discontent and uncertainty these Advent days...but opportunities also for us to place our hope in God who has been, is and will be present in all our circumstances. God was present since before time, entered human time in the birth of his Son 2000 years ago and promised to be with us "until the end of time." "Jesus I trust in you!" might be a good phrase to repeat throughout the day as a simple reminder that we are not alone. Emmanuel ("God with us") is real. Let us share that news with others...invite family and friends to celebrate Christmas at our parishes; let's make our Christmas Masses times and places of joy, peace and hope! All of our churches have plenty of room to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Despite the above, we still need to exercise caution for the sake of our neighbors as well as ourselves. Consider wearing a mask to Mass even if it isn't required.

Fr. Thomas, OSB

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Dec. 6 2nd Sunday of Advent
Dec. 7 Immaculate Conception Masses: 7:00 PM @ St. Stephen
7:00 PM @ St. Thomas
Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception Masses: 7:30 AM @ St. Mary
7:00 PM @ St. Mary
Dec. 13 10:00 Children's Mass @ St. Mary
Dec. 14 Confessions @ St. Mary 6-7 PM
Dec. 20 3rd Sunday of Advent
Children's Liturgy of the Word @ St. Stephen
Dec. 21 Confessions @ St. Mary 6-7 PM
Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE Masses: 7:00 PM @ St. Stephen
10:00 PM @ St. Mary
Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY Masses: 8:00 am @ St. Thomas

10:00 @ St. Mary

Dec. 27 Holy Family Sunday

Jan. 1, 2021 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Masses: TBA

Jan. 3 EPIPHANY

Jan. 10 Baptism of the Lord & end of the Christmas Season