



December 13, 2020 **Volume 73, No. 47**

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	++Bob & Marge Buresh
Tuesday	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Elaine Reis For the Sick
Wednesday	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Zeno Erdle
Thursday	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Phillip Messer
Friday	7:30 AM	Richardton	++Joe & Frieda Klein
Saturday,	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Lynn Rixen
December	4:00 PM	Richardton	Special Intention
19th	7:00 PM	St. Thomas	PARISHES
Sunday,	8:00 AM	St. Stephen	+Gaithe Gebhardt
December	10:00AM	Richardton	+Ronald Frederick
20th			

Mass Schedule and Ministers: Saturday, December 19th & Sunday, December 20th

Saturday,	4:00 PM	Lector: Adam Bohn
December 19th	Richardton	
	7:00 PM St. Thomas	Lector: Jeff Morel
Sunday,	8:00 AM	Lector: Mike Greff
December 20th	St. Stephen	
	10:00 AM Richardton	Lector: Genie Kelley

Collections for December 6, 2020	St. Mary	St. Stephen	St. Thomas
Adults	1461.00	300.00	347.00
Plate	135.00	83.00	5.00
Children	3.00		
Total	1599.00	383.00	352.00

Welcome!
 Thank you for joining us today in worship; we hope you will return often. If you are new to the faith or community and want to join our parish, please contact the parish office at 974-3569.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: will be at 10:00 pm and Christmas Day @ 10:00 am. It sure would be nice to have a fuller attendance at these Masses to help make our Christmas more joyful. Perhaps more than ever we need to ome together to celebrate and give thanks and praise to God. J

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.

K OF C MEETING: Family of the Month: Josh/Bridget Greff; Knight of the Month: Ron Hauck; Family of the Year: Josh/DelRae Reisenauer; Knight of the Year: Jerry Aluise. Not present for \$50 drawing: Ronald J Rebel.

ST. STEPHEN PARISH

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: for your planning Christmas Eve Mass will be at 7:00 pm this year...no program this year but feel free to still invite people to join us on Christmas Eve.

ST. THOMAS PARISH

KC MEETING: Sunday night @ 6:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: of the church will follow the Mass on Saturday evening, Dec. 19.

CHRISTMAS MASS: will be at 8:00 am on Christmas Day...spread the word and invite people back to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

ALL THREE PARISHES

PLEASE PRAY: for those who are *seriously ill, terminally ill or in immediate concern:* Jim Gallagher, Ted Goelzer, Tillie Hauck, Susan Cook, Margaret Wiegler, Chuck Hoff, Katie Thomas Kautzman, Leo Stein, Troy Hoff, Larry Kostelecky, Judy Hecker, Ray Stein, Gary Goetz, Brian Miller, Dennise Miller 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. They are free for those of you who had your picture taken. We have a few extras available for \$20. We also have available the "History in Records" book (\$20) and Sympathy and Christmas cards.

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 a few extra Parish Directories for \$20 and 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:

You may have received a letter from me (through the Diocese) regarding donating to your parish endowment. This is an initiative promoted by the Diocese to build up our individual parish endowments. This is a very good idea. Each parish in the Diocese has its own endowment (and some have their school, CCD or cemetery endowments as well) and at this time we are encouraged to make donations to help build the parish endowments. The endowments for each of our 3 parishes are quite small so what interest that does accumulate is reinvested. The endowments belong to the parish, not the Diocese and are really an investment in our future. Obviously, we do not know the future but we do know we will always have need for funds especially as our buildings and populations age. Just as our ancestors formed our parishes 120-125 years ago and our built our current churches in 1906, 1952 and 1973 and invested in the future of our parishes we too need to do the same for those who follow after us. Estate planning is also a good way to benefit our parish endowments. Thank you and God Bless you for your generous support of our future!

The annual parish calendars are available and extras will be left in the churches. Please take as many as you need, we have plenty. If you think of it say thanks to Jim Ladbury who has provided these calendars free of charge to us for many years...or offer a prayer or two for him and his family! The calendars are very nice and this year focus on Mary. Every household should have this Catholic calendar to reference and use. Enjoy!

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. 13 3rd Sunday of Advent
10:00 Children's Mass @ St. Mary
- Dec. 14 Confessions @ St. Mary 6-7 PM
- Dec. 20 4th 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: Dec. 31 6:00 pm @ St. Stephen
Jan. 1 8:00 am @ St. Thomas
Jan. 1 10:00 am @ St. Mary

Jan. 3 **EPIPHANY**
Jan. 10 **Baptism of the Lord & end of the Christmas Season**