



December 27, 2020 **Volume 73, No. 49**

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	+Gladys Melchior
Tuesday	9:30 AM	Richardton	+Eva Rettig Funeral
Wednesday	7:30 AM	Richardton	Sierra Kelley
Thursday,	7 30 AM	Richardton	+Joe Haag Family
December 31st	6:00 PM	St. Stephen	+Harry Kostelecky Family
Friday,	8:00 AM	St. Thomas	+Keith Wolf
January 1st	10:00 AM	Richardton	++Gordon, Gladys & Darel Lacher
Saturday,	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Phillip Messer
January 2nd	4:00 PM	Richardton	PARISHES
	7:00 PM	St. Thomas	+Richard Rohr
Sunday,	8:00 AM	St. Stephen	+Living & Deceased Christian Mothers & K of C
January	10:00AM	Richardton	+Harry Kearnes
3rd			

Mass Schedule and Ministers: Thurs. Dec. 31st, Fri., Dec. Jan. 1st, Sat. Jan. 2nd & Sun. Jan. 3rd

Thursday,	6:00 PM	St. Stephen	Lector: John Haas	
December 31st				
Friday	8:00 AM	St. Thomas	Lector: Kali Kubas	
January 1st	10:00 AM	Richardton	Lector: Scott Bohn	
Saturday	4:00 PM	Richardton	Adam Bohn	Lector:
January 2nd	7:00 PM	St. Thomas	Ken Haag, Rodney Rebel, Delores Baer	January Usher:
			Lector: Jerry Haich	January
			Ushers: Justin Sickler & Cliff Weiler	
Sunday,	8:00 AM	St. Stephen	Lector: Bridget Greff	January
January 3rd			Ushers: Josh Greff & Wes Messer	
	10:00 AM	Richardton	Lector: Jody Hoff	January
			Ushers: Tim & Kathy Meyer, Tom Roll & Reid Vaagen	

Collections for December 20, 2020	St. Mary	St. Stephen	St. Thomas
Adults	2082.00	540.00	280.00
Plate	130.00	161.00	5.00
Children	2.00		
Total	2214.00	701.00	285.00

ST. MARY PARISH

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: will be on Friday, Jan. 1 at 10:00 am.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: many thanks to the crew who shared their time and talent to decorate the church so beautifully on Tuesday and to all who generously helped purchase flowers. You really help make the celebrations inspiring and beautiful for all of us and our many visitors who attend our services or who just stop by to see the church during this Holy Season. The church is truly beautiful and the poinsettias especially full and colorful this year. *I encourage you to visit the church outside of Mass, walk around and just enjoy the beauty, quiet and peace and to offer a prayer for our parishes, our families, our country and the Church.*

THANK YOU: to the musicians and lectors and servers who stepped forward to help make our Christmas Masses beautiful and celebratory. Your sharing of the talents God gave you is appreciated.

FUNERAL MASS: for Eva Rettig will be Tuesday @ 9:30 a.m.

A BIG THANK YOU: to everyone who generously donated to the Caring Hearts Project sponsored by our Rel. Ed Confirmation students. Lots of families benefited from your charity. God Bless You!

ELDER CARE MEAL DELIVERY: Elder Care in Richardton is looking for a volunteer to deliver meals two days a month to homebound senior citizens. Please contact Maria Harasty @ 974-6592 for more information.

ST. STEPHEN PARISH

THANK YOU: to those who cleaned the church and took care of the decorating; it all looks so nice. **NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS:** will be at 6:00 pm. on Thursday, Dec. 31.

ST. THOMAS PARISH

THANK YOU: to all who helped decorate the church after Mass and to get things ready for the Christmas Season. It was nice to see everyone working together, young and older.

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: will be at 8:00 am on Friday, Jan. 1.

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,

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.

PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES: We have a few extra directories available for \$20. We also have available the "History in Records" book, 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. We also have Sympathy and Christmas cards (with pics from St. Mary) available.

THANKS: to those who took advantage of the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation during the Advent Season. I pray it makes your celebration of Christmas more holy and sincere.

THANK YOU: to Bremer Bank who gave each of the parishes a donation this past week; we are grateful for Bremer's presence in our community and for the ways it supports our community life.

REMINDER: As the year draws to a close, you are reminded that year end donations **MUST BE RECEIVED BY DEC. 31.** *Even if you date your check before Dec. 31 and give it to us Jan. 1, we are LEGALLY REQUIRED TO RECORD IT FOR THE YEAR WE RECEIVE IT.* Thanks for your cooperation and generosity and...helping us to be honest. J

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:

From the bottom of my heart I wish you all the greatest Blessings of this Holy Season! After these last 9-10 months we need the Blessings, Joy, Hope and Peace which only our Savior can give. Perhaps the pandemic still has deeper lessons and blessings for us. Remember how easily we saw those blessings/lessons early on? Many spoke of better family time and bonding, deeper prayer, gratitude for the Mass, quieter and simpler time with less distractions and hectic busyness, a general attitude of gratitude, etc. How have we changed or slipped back into the old habits? May the simplicity of Jesus' birth help remind us of the continued need for prayer, quiet, simplicity and gratitude in our lives.

Thank you for your cards, gifts, goodies, prayers and remembrances; they do mean a lot to me and I do read each card. Know you are remembered in my prayers, at Masses, and in thought. God bless each of you as you let our Savior into your heart and guide your life in his ways.

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & BLESSED NEW YEAR EVERYONE, AND GOD BLESS YOU!

Fr. Thomas, OSB

Dec. 27 Feast of the Holy Family

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 SOLEMNITY OF EPIPHANY

Jan. 4 St. Stephen KC mtg.

Jan. 6 Rel. Ed classes resume

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

St. Thomas KC mtg.

Jan. 14 St. Mary KC mtg.

St. Mary Catholic Daughters mtg.

Jan. 24 1st Reconciliation following St. Mary 10:00 Mass