



**January 3, 2021** **Volume 74, No. 1**

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.		
<b>Monday</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Gladys Melchior
	1:30 PM	St. Stephen	+Greg Schank Funeral
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Lynn Greenshields For the Sick
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Mary Hammerschmidt
<b>Thursday</b>	7 30 AM	Richardton	++Mike & Florentine Boehm
<b>Friday</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	++Bob & Marge Buresh
<b>Saturday,</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Ray Fettig
<b>January 9<sup>th</sup></b>	4:00	Richardton	+Linda Haag
	PM	St. Stephen	PARISHES
	7:00 PM		
<b>Sunday,</b>	8:00 AM	St. Thomas	+Edwin Kadrmars
<b>January</b>	10:00AM	Richardton	+Ronald Frederick
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>			

**Mass Schedule and Ministers: Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 PM	<b>Lector:</b> Ben Bohn
<b>January</b>	Richardton	
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00	<b>Lector:</b> Gary
	PM St.	Friedt
	Stephen	
<b>Sunday,</b>	8:00 AM	<b>Lector:</b> Cliff Weiler
<b>January</b>	St. Thomas	
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM	<b>Lector:</b> Marla Hoff
	Richardton	

<b>Collections for December 27, 2020</b>	<b>St. Mary</b>	<b>St. Stephen</b>	<b>St. Thomas</b>
Adults			
Plate			
Children			
Total			
Christmas Collection	4675.00	521.00	437.00

**WELCOME!**

**Thank you for joining us today in worship. We hope you will return often. If you are new to our faith or community and want to join our parish, please contact the parish office at 701-974-3569.**

**ST. MARY PARISH**

**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.*

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS:** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> beginning with the Rosary at 6:50 PM and meeting to follow. Program: Baby Drive, gifts for baby basket. Game night. Lunch: Kathy Hueske, Marilyn Lacher & Lindsay Taylor.

**ST. STEPHEN PARISH**

**OUR SYMPATHY:** to the family of Greg “Ben” Schank who will be buried from here on Monday afternoon @ 1:30. May he rest in peace and the Good Shepherd comfort his loved ones.

**THANK YOU:** to those who took care of the decorating; it all looks so nice.

**FURNACES:** hopefully by the time you read this, the furnaces will be working again or...the weather has warmed up.

**KC MEETING:** Monday, January 4th. Rosary at 7:30 PM with meeting to follow at 8:00 PM.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** can be removed after Saturday evening Mass, January 9.

**ST. THOMAS PARISH**

**THANK YOU:** to all who helped decorate the church for the Christmas Season. The church looks so nice.

**KC MEETING:** Sunday, January 10 @ 6:30 pm.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** can be removed after Sunday Mass, January 10

**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 Kostecky, 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.

**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](http://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:**

It sure was nice to see so many people at all the Christmas Masses at all 3 parishes. Thanks everyone for coming, inviting others, and joining in the singing and responses. Everything together makes for an engaging worship and honors our God.

Pam will be out of the Office January 7<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. If you need something, you may still call the office and leave a message and I will return your call.

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 remain available and are all in the churches. Please take as many as you need. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

Finally, If you aren't as close to God as you once were, make no mistake about who moved. A good resolution for the New Year: get back with God through prayer and Mass.

Fr. Thomas, OSB

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Jan. 3 SOLEMNITY OF EPIPHANY
- Jan. 4 St. Stephen KC mtg. Rosary @ 7:30PM Meeting @ 8:00 PM
- Jan. 6 Rel. Ed classes resume
- Jan. 10 Baptism of the Lord & end of the Christmas Season  
St. Thomas KC mtg. 6:30 pm
- Jan. 14 St. Mary KC mtg: 6:30 rosary followed by meeting and luncheon  
St. Mary Catholic Daughters mtg: 6:50 rosary followed by meeting and luncheon

**Jan. 24**    **1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation following St. Mary 10:00 Mass**