



**February 7, 2021**

**Volume 74, No. 6**

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	+Mary Ann Hoff
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Linda Haag For the Sick
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Gaite Gebhardt
<b>Thursday</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Frieda Klein
<b>Friday</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	++Joe & Mary Hammerschmidt
<b>Saturday,</b>	7:30 AM	Richardton	+Gloria Schmidt
<b>February 13<sup>th</sup></b>	4:00 PM	Richardton	++Bob & Marge Buresh
	7:00 PM	St. Stephen	PARISHES
<b>Sunday,</b>	8:00 AM	St. Thomas	+Keith Wolf
<b>February</b>	10:00AM	Richardton	+Ron Frederick
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>			

**Mass Schedule and Ministers: Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Saturday,</b>	4:00 PM	<b>Lector:</b> Susan Cook
<b>February</b>	Richardton	
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00 PM St	<b>Lector:</b> Bridget Greff
	Stephen	
<b>Sunday,</b>	8:00 AM	<b>Lector:</b> Jerry Haich
<b>February 14<sup>th</sup></b>	St. Thomas	
	10:00 AM	<b>Lector:</b> Jack Wyckoff
	Richardton	

<b>Collections for January 24, 2021</b>	<b>St. Mary</b>	<b>St. Stephen</b>	<b>St. Thomas</b>
Adults	1800.00	400.00	162.00
Plate	144.00	143.00	
Children	2.00		
Total	1946.00	543.00	162.00

**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**

**OUR SYMPATHY:** to the family of Jim Gallagher who died Friday morning. Funeral is pending as of this writing. May the angels lead him to paradise and the Good Shepherd comfort his loved ones!

**FIRST RECONCILIATIONS & BAPTISMS:** We welcomed into our faith and parish last Sunday night: JR Newt Hoff (Jeremy) and Kooper and Paisley Strowbridge (Judd/Jamie) who were baptized in preparation for making their 1<sup>st</sup> Confession and 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion. It was a nice ceremony and it was a joy to be part of their enthusiasm. Welcome them when you see them or introduce yourself to them. They are great kids! I began to hear the 1<sup>st</sup> Confessions last Wednesday afternoon and will continue this Wednesday. Thank you to Marilyn Lacher, Audrey Kuntz, Abby and Jaxon Lacher for helping prepare them all.

**WELCOME TO THE FAITH:** Bruin John Erdle (Mitch/Cassidy) who was baptized at the 4:00 Mass on Saturday. Let us all be aware of living our faith and set a good example to parents and child.

**THANKS K OF C:** for leading us in the rosary after the 10:00 Mass in praying for the spiritual health and welfare of family life in our parishes and country. May Mary intercede for our cause!

**ST. STEPHEN PARISH**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** this morning for our kids. Thanks Missy and helpers for doing this ministry.

**LENT:** I hope it is alright with you if we switch our Lenten evening Stations/Mass from Friday to Thursday this year. It gives you a chance to hear different readings. We've been doing the same for the last 5 years. So, Stations/Mass will be on Thursdays @ 6:30.

**ST. THOMAS PARISH**

**GIFT:** I mentioned a few weeks ago that we received a generous Christmas gift and I thought it might be good to use part of it for new chairs for our Coffee and Rolls gatherings. Everyone who spoke to me thought it a good idea so I will pursue that. I also had the opportunity when returning from Nebr. to stop in Fargo and inquire after a St. Thomas statue. There's been discussion about this on and off. It seems timely to honor our patron with a statue. I took the liberty (because a decision had to be made on the spot) of ordering a 3' white marble statue. The order had to be placed so we would get it this summer yet.

**LENT:** I hope it is alright with you if we switch our Lenten evening Stations/Mass from Thursday to Friday this year. It gives you a chance to

hear different readings. We've been doing the same for the last 5 years. **So, Stations/Mass will be on Fridays @ 6:30.**

### **ALL THREE PARISHES**

**PLEASE PRAY:** for those who are *seriously ill, terminally ill or in immediate concern*: Ted Goelzer, Susan Cook, Margaret Wiegler, Chuck Hoff, Katie Thomas Kautzman, Leo Stein, Troy Hoff, Larry & Cindy Kostelecky, Judy Hecker, Ray Stein, Gary Goetz, Luke Olson 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.

**CHANGES! CHANGES! CHANGES!:** We received a letter from Bishop Kagan on Wednesday morning stating, **"The obligation to attend Sunday/Holy Day Mass is reestablished beginning February 20-21, 2021."** Also, *"if your parish or parish group wants to have an event or dinner, I leave to your (the pastor's) best pastoral discretion how to manage that keeping in mind precautions for hand cleansing, and the cooking and serving of food and the capabilities of your parish facilities."*

**OTHER CHANGES beginning Feb. 20-21:** spacing in Church is eliminated; Funeral Vigils and Visitations before Mass may be in the Church at the Pastor's discretion; EME's may resume at the Pastor's discretion for Parish Masses only; Mass Servers at the discretion of the Pastor and with the permission of parents may resume; choirs for parish Masses may resume participation with the usual numbers; Holy Water may be put into the fonts of the Church; Penance Services are allowed but only with the use of screens.

**NO CHANGES:** Holy Communion under one species of the Consecrated Host; the Sign of Peace remains suspended; no Offertory procession with the gifts; no face-to-face Confessions.

Soooo...**I will assume the permission of parents for their children to serve Mass unless you tell me otherwise.** I will assume the same children and adults will continue to serve and distribute Holy Communion, unless you tell me otherwise. I'll make a new schedule for servers and EMEs in a few weeks. If you want to resume the monthly Coffee/Rolls event I am OK with that, and look forward to it. We will not have a Penance Service but I will make myself more available to hear your confessions each Monday night during Lent. Offertory collection will remain as is. We'll remove the pew barriers after Feb. 14 Mass. *I leave the decision to the organizations whether they will do the fish fries, cajun turkey and other Lenten social gatherings, just let me know. We will resume the important ministry of providing funeral luncheons, at the request of families.*

The Bishop will post a brief video explaining of all this on the Diocesan website on Monday. *I would urge us to remain cautious and mindful of others whose health may be compromised in any way.*

**THANK YOU:** so much for your cards, thoughts and prayers, flowers, Masses and memorials upon the death of mom. As my brother Dennis said, "It was time," and it really was. She was ready, died peacefully, all 4 brothers got to see her the day she died, and she did not die alone. Despite COVID, many people came to the visitation, Rosary and Funeral Mass. We all took comfort from the kindnesses of so many people and their memories of mom; she truly touched a lot of lives. God Bless You All and thanks for "comforting those who mourn."

**OFFICE HOURS:** remain flexible, 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.

### **FROM THE PASTOR:**

Attached to the Bulletin this weekend is the envelope for the annual Black/Indian Collection. A brochure explains some of the details of this worthy cause. Thank you for your generosity. Return the envelope in the collection next weekend, please.

LENT is upon us with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Don't be caught off guard; start thinking now about what you will undertake for this Holy Season. Try to choose something concrete that will help you curb a particular sin or sinful inclination. It is also wise to choose something from each of the 3 categories: prayer, fasting and almsgiving/good works. Pray to the Holy Spirit to guide your choosing what you need.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** You will notice the Mass schedule for Ash Wednesday below. Bishop Kagan sent a letter regarding distribution of ashes this year. *The Directives come from the Vatican and there can be no deviation from them. The ashes are blessed and the formula is addressed only once to the entire congregation ("Remember that you are dust..." or the alternate form.) The priest/deacon takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one who comes forward without saying anything. In other words, there is no contact, no ashes crossed on the forehead. As with ashes on the forehead tradition, this is an individual choice, not a requirement.*

I will plan to be in the St. Mary confessional from 6-7 pm for Confession on the Mondays of Lent. Or feel free to make an appointment. Confession of our sins is one of the common Lenten practices.

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.

Finally, Aging Realities: I had my patience tested...I'm negative. I finally got 8 hrs. of sleep...It took me 3 days, but whatever. Blessings on your week and all your undertakings; stay warm!

Fr. Thomas, OSB

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Febr. 10 1<sup>st</sup> Confessions continue
- Febr. 6/7 Annual Collection for Black/Indian Mission
- Febr. 17 ASH WEDNESDAY
  - 7:30 am Mass @ St. Mary
  - 4:00 pm Mass for Rel. Ed students at Social Center
  - 7:00 pm Mass @ St. Mary
- Febr. 18 6:30 pm Stations/Mass @ St. Stephen
- Febr. 19 6:30 pm Stations/Mass @ St. Thomas
- Febr. 22 6-7 pm Confessions @ St. Mary
- Febr. 25 6:30 pm Stations/Mass @ St. Stephen
- Febr. 26 6:30 pm Stations/Mass @ St. Thomas
- Mar. 28 PALM SUNDAY
- April 1 HOLY THURSDAY
  - 4:00 St. Thomas
  - 7:00 St. Mary
- April 2 GOOD FRIDAY
  - 1:00 St. Stephen

**3:00 St. Mary**

**April 3 EASTER VIGIL 8:00 pm @ St. Mary**

**April 4 EASTER SUNDAY**

**8:00 am St. Stephen**

**8:00 am St. Thomas**

**10:00 am St. Mary**