

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
725 6th STREET N.E.
FOSSTON, MN 56542



Greetings from Fr. John:

We are in fourth Sunday of Advent. This Sunday readings focus on the circumstances leading up to the coming of Jesus into our life. The Gospel stresses the key role of Mary in the work of our salvation by saying "YES" to the plan of God. We need to say a courageous and generous "yes" to God with true obedience. It is by saying a wholehearted and unconditional "Yes" to Jesus that he will be re-born in us. By our saying "Yes," Jesus will be born or re-born in others too. Let us show our gratitude to God by living as true followers of Christ: "Behold, here I am Lord! I come to do Your will." **In this joyful season of Christmas,**

*I wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year.*

May this Christmas bring great Joy & Peace. God Bless you. Have a great celebration of Christmas.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017**

St. Mary's: 218-435-6484
St. Joseph's: 218-694-6416
E-Mail: stmarysfosston@gmail.com
Website: stmarysfosston.org

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor: Fr. JohnMelkies Suvakeen
E-Mail: frjohnstmstj@gmail.com
Secretary: Lu Newell Cell 218-431-0983
Office Hours: Wed. 5-8 pm & Fri. 8am-1pm
Bookkeeper: Linda Hand Cell 218-280-2271
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 3-5 pm
R.E. Coordinators: PreK-6:AmandaWiener
7-12: Lori Balstad
Pastoral Council Chair: Connie Smeby
Trustees: Jeanne Sanden and Erv Wickham
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:
Cindy Hulst 218-281-7895
24-hour confidential number

Confession 8AM, before Sunday Mass

St. Mary's Mass & Intentions

Wed, Dec 27 Adoration Noon – 8 pm
11:30 am Mass

Joyce McNelly+

Fri, Dec 29 8:30 am Mass
Fr. Joe Kieselbach+

Sun, Dec 31 8:30 am Mass

For the Parishes of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's, Bagley, Mass & Intentions

Tues, Dec 26 Adoration Noon – 6 pm

Thurs, Dec 28 11:30 am Mass

Genevive Berry

Sun, Dec 31 10:30 am Mass

Theresa O'Neil

Jan 1, 2018 New Year's Day
Holy Day of Obligation Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God

8:30 am Holy Day Mass Fosston

10:30 am Holy Day Mass Bagley

Birthdays
 Dec 24 Jered Agnes
 Dec 28 Troy Palmer

Anniversaries
 Dec 23 Charles & Barb Casey
 Dec 29 Connie & Chet Smeby

PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT:

Carol Aaland 435-6384 (H), 218-686-2710 (C).
 Please notify parish office of names to add or subtract
 and of those who could use a prayer shawl.

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR:

Nash Rosendahl, Hannah Keller, Carly Hemmingsen, Chuck Agnes, Harper Hand, Linda Klinkhammer, Sara Swenson, Brady Jones, William Vener, Alexa Jordan, Betty Bingham, Richard Weiss, Jordyn Werl, Lou Osmundson, Patrick Murphy, Jim McDonald, Dave Ekman, Kevin, Sherilyn Kolstad, Kaylee, Sue Erdmann, Vernon Kleppe, Don Dyrdaahl, Rick Hand, Doug Hoverson, Pam (Larson) Parkin, Johnny Vetter, Sharon Rein, Irma Hemmingsen, Kristi Maruska, Wayne Paulson, Elaine Martz, Eric Kaml, Paul Silver, Eason, Barb Wickham, Mary Griffin, Margaret Rustad, Ardell Redder, Mandy, Virginia Weber, Mike Lynch, Candy Keller, Jerry Erdmann, Ben Hand and Sarah Ryan Walcker.
"May you touch them and heal them, O Lord!"

MASS INTENTIONS: Please note with your donation whether intention is for a deceased or living person. Suggested donation is still \$5.00.

Gluten-free hosts available: Please stop by the sacristy before Mass to let Fr. know your need.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The readings for next Sunday, Dec 31, 2017
 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
 Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
 Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:22-40

Hymnals

Donations for "Journeysongs" is an ongoing fund raiser so you can continue to donate. For questions call Theresa Zitzow 435-1182

ST. MARY'S YOUTH

Together Encountering Christ

Agassiz Valley TEC Rally

March 10-12, 2018 at Sandhill Lake Bible Camp by Fosston MN

What is TEC?

A three day retreat experience that focuses on the Paschal Mystery (the dying and rising of Christ). It is a time to personally explore what a life lived in Christ is all about. Each retreat is led by a team of adults and young adults who have encountered Christ through TEC already.

Who can go to TEC?

Anyone at least 16 years of age and a sophomore in high school. College students, young adults and older adults are welcome.

I am not Catholic can I still attend TEC?

Absolutely!

Check out the Bulletin Board

We've added another picture of our Youth Group as they went out Caroling last week.

Religious Education

Friday School – Jan 5, 2018
 Sunday School – Jan 7, 2018
 Youth Group – Jan 3, 2018 6-8 pm Wed.

Formed

We are using a program call "Formed", that was suggested by our diocese, for teaching our youth group and grades 7-9 Theology of the Body. There are many great programs for adults also, as well as movies. **FREE.**

Go to: Formed.org. Parish code: TGVHW3.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE):

PreK-12 grades RE class after Sunday Mass 9:45-10:45am
 Friday class for grades K-6 at 8:30-9:25 am.
 For grades 7-12 please contact
 Lori Balstad at 218-938-4286
 For Grades PreK-6 please contact
 Amanda Wiener 218-563-2703 or at
amandawiener@hotmail.com

REBOOT LIVE with Chris Stefanick

April 18, 2018 7-9:30 pm St. Bernard's in Thief River Falls, MN. Tickets \$22

For more information contact St. Bernard's at 218-681-3571 or purchase online by visiting www.RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot

REBOOT! Is a fun, inspiring and practical experience for All Ages (12 and up), of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life, from prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health and more! **God didn't create us to just get by, he created us to Live Life to the Full!**

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"-

LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends

This is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Attend a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn the tools needed to keep your marriage strong.

February 2-4, 2018 in Hermantown, MN

April 13-15, 2018 in Baxter, MN

More Info: northmnwwme.org or contact Alan & Missy at applications@northmnwwme.org or 888-455-3496.

In the Spirit of Giving

Thank you to all who brought such nice gifts for our Giving Tree.

"For it is in giving that we receive" St. Francis of Assisi

Fr. John leaves for India on January 4th. Please pray for him as it will be different for him to be home without his mother, Annammal. Let us also pray for his safe travel and return back to us February 9, 2018.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of **HOPE**, **PEACE** and **JOY**.

Now we light the fourth candle of Advent.

This is the candle of **LOVE**.

Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

NOW HIRING! Our Northland

Diocese newspaper is seeking freelance journalists! Freelancers will attend diocesan and parish events, conduct research, and write articles as assigned. High resolution photos will be expected to accompany written articles. Work will be submitted to *Our Northland Diocese* via e-mail by pre-established deadlines. Freelancers will work for the newspaper as independent contractors. Possession of a valid driver's license and the ability to travel independently in the diocese is a must.

Visit www.crookston.org/employment for full details or contact Janelle Gergen with inquiries at jgergen@crookston.org or 218-281-4533.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY – Dec 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Mass Sunday at 5 pm

Ushers: Phil Schouviller, David Brinkman

Gifts: OPEN

Lector: Jan Hemmingsen

Commentator: Amanda Schultz

Eucharist: * Jeanne Sanden, Kathryn Ziermeier,
Michelle Schoenborn, John Keller, Gabe Wiener

Servers: Isaac Chalich, Dane Shoenborn, Emily
Chalich

Hospitality: No Coffee & Rolls

LITURGICAL MINISTRY – Dec 25, 2017

Christmas Day Mass Monday at 8:30 am

Ushers: John Blaser, Dennis Sanden

Gifts: Doug & Linda Hand

Lector: Margarete Rue

Commentator: OPEN

Eucharist: * Doug Hand, Linda Blaser, Marion
Parent, Carol Aaland, Eileen Hegg

Servers: Grace Rue, Genevive Rue, OPEN

Hospitality: No Coffee & Rolls

LITURGICAL MINISTRY – Dec 31, 2017

Ushers: Doug Hand, Jerry Erdmann

Gifts: Clara & Eugene Manecke

Lector: Nina Bingham

Commentator: Lori Balstad

Eucharist: * Jan Hemmingsen, Mark Bingham,
Valarie Holzer, Erv Wickham, John Keller

Servers: Harlee Bingham, Grant & Logan
Hemberger

Hospitality: Steve & Sarah Chalich, Dorothy
Paulson

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed Weekly: \$2320.15

Last Week's Collections:

40 Adult Envelopes: \$1945.00

11 Children/Youth: \$ 6.00

Loose \$ 154.00

Mass Request \$ 5.00

Christmas Flowers \$ 55.00

Capital Improvements: \$ 55.00

Capital Improvement Balance: \$6690.48



Sun, Dec 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Mon, Dec 25 8:30 am Christmas Day Mass

Holy Day of Obligation for

The Nativity of the Lord

Liturgical Ministries

Please consider volunteering for Liturgical Ministry, especially Lectors, Commentators or Eucharistic Ministers. Parishioner's contributions help our liturgies to be truly life-giving celebrations. Please let Father John or the office know which ministries you would like to volunteer for.

**2018 Calendars are provided for you by
Carlin Hojalmen Funeral Home.
Take one home today.**

Electronic Giving

St. Mary's welcomes you to sign up for electronic giving at any time. Forms are available in the parish office and by the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Please contact Linda Hand for further information.

Stewardship Envelopes

This year the Finance Council has decided to partner with Our Sunday Visitor and have them mailed out every other month. Your first packet should arrive in your mailbox sometime this month.

**If you wish to make a year-end gift, please do so by January 1st to have it credited to 2017.
Thank you for your generosity.**