

Service

We recognize and empower each person to use their God-given gifts in service of the Body of Christ with solidarity, companionship and defense of the vulnerable.

From Monsignor's Desk ... Today we begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. Once again we will celebrate the great mysteries of our faith as we strive to conform our lives ever more closely to Christ. I especially appreciate these days of Advent. Amidst the flurry of the many preparations and activities for the great feast of Christmas it challenges us to make sure we are always prepared, ready, and open to encounter the Lord as He gifts Himself to us — each and every day. Don't overlook Advent! Congratulations to the 37 young people who will be confirmed by Bishop Kagan Sunday afternoon. They have worked hard during their years of preparation. I thank their parents, sponsors, teachers and formation leaders, and so many others who have helped bring them to this day. Most especially I thank them for their desire and willingness to grow in their faith and to be open to the Holy Spirit as they, like all of us, strive to be close followers of the Lord. Let us continue to pray for them!

XLT (Praise & Adoration) Join us Thursday, December 7, 7 pm. **XLT (eXaLT)**, an evening of praise and adoration! XLT will begin in the church with contemporary praise and worship music leading into 45 minutes of adoration with music and time for confession, followed by fellowship in the Multipurpose Room. XLT is open to anyone of any age to attend.



Charity and Justice Committee is seeking donations of non-perishable food items, personal care items and paper products for the upcoming Ministry to the Needy Christmas Baskets. Place items in

the boxes in the Gathering Space November 25-December 11. Monetary donations to purchase turkeys for the baskets are greatly needed. If you are able to assist in assembly (December 15) and/or delivery (December 16) sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Space. If you know of someone who may benefit from receiving a basket this Christmas season, contact Mary, 223-5562. Name and household information is required. **Deadline to submit names is December 6.**

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 3

9 am Breakfast, Msgr. Feehan Hall
2 pm Confirmation

Monday, December 4

7 pm Charity & Justice Meeting, Rectory

Tuesday, December 5

6 pm Beyond Baptism, Rectory
7 pm Mass
7:30 pm Advent Series, MPR

Wednesday, December 6

5 pm Faith Formation Sessions
6:30 pm Faith Formation Sessions
6:30 pm 7th Grade Mass Practice

Thursday, December 7

Fellowship after Mass
5:30 pm Parish Council, MultiPurpose Room
7 pm XLT Praise & Adoration

Friday, December 8

Parish Office Closed
9 am Mass for the Immaculate Conception
7 pm Mass for the Immaculate Conception

Adult Education Opportunity Tuesdays during Advent, 7:30 pm (following 7 pm Mass) MultiPurpose Room. Opening the Word, a program offering prayer and insights for the Sunday Readings. Featuring a variety of presenters: Dr. Tim Gray, Jules Miles, Dr. Scott and Annie Powell. These videos are designed to facilitate thought and discussion for personal faith formation.

Time & Talent Cards

Prayer Hours	3
Electronic Giving	2
Community Service	1
Parish Service	0

1221 Households

Adult Envelopes (189)	\$ 7,703
Electronic Contributions	\$ 4,340
Youth Envelopes (60)	\$ 55
Plate Collection	\$ 1,347
Received November 19	\$ 12,540

Thanksgiving (for the needy) \$ 1,312

Youth Envelope Winner: Thomas Goehring



Prayer

We are a prayerful community that worships and celebrates together, especially the Eucharist, out of a deep sense of our oneness with God. Our prayer lives, guided by the Holy Spirit, purify and focus our intentions to be disciples of the Lord.

Liturgies for the Week

Mon. 12/4	9:00 AM	Communion Service
Tues. 12/5	7:00 PM	† Elizabeth Ann Gilbertson
Wed. 12/6	9:00 AM	† Al & Esther Vecchia
Thurs. 12/7	9:00 AM	† Edith Schweitzer
Fri. 12/8	9:00 AM	† Leo Senger
	7:00 PM	St. Mary's Parishioner's
Sat. 12/9	4:30 PM	† Tina & Mike Krank
Sun. 12/10	9:00 AM	Altar Society Members
	11:00 AM	† Marie Granrud
	6:30 PM	St. Mary's Parishioners



Youth group
for
7th-12th graders

- December 7** 7 pm, XLT (eXaLT) Praise & Worship, Church
- December 10** Discussion on St. Joseph
- December 17** Dodgeball Tournament

Bring a friend, even if they aren't Catholic. For questions contact Austin, 223-5562 or austin@stmarysparishfamily.net.



With Sympathy

Gale Gibson, mother of Darcy Roberts; **Angela Jangula**, sister of Martha Kuntz and **Pius Nagel**, father of Mike Nagel and brother of Johnny (Luella) Nagel. We pray for family and friends who grieve her loss. May the fullness of life be hers.



Keep watch ... you do not know when the owner of the house will come back - whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

Mark 13:35

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 4

Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 5

Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 6

Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7

Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 8

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 10

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Dec. 9/10	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers	Servers	Ushers	Gift Bearers	Musicians	CLOW
Saturday 4:30 PM	B1 CRESSY ABERLE B2 CINDY GABEL C1 PAUL BELISLE C2 ART/LAURA ARCHULETA C3 JENNIFER BELISLE C4 KATHY ECKERT	7TH GRADE	BEN ARCHULETA MAYA ARCHULETA	7TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	CHUCK GARY MARY CAY	SARA G 7TH GRADE
Sunday 9:00 AM	B1 GARY TERNES B2 MEREDITH GROSS C1 STEFFANIE FIX C2 LENORA KENNER C3 TRICIA MILLER C4 ANGIE TERNES	7TH GRADE	LAUREN MILLER SAVANNAH HERTZ-BARNETT	7TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	KEYLEE CHRIS BARB	TARA H 7TH GRADE
Sunday 11:00 AM	B1 NANCY KELLER B2 CHAD PORSBORG C1 VONDA HORNER C2 LOREN GRAD C3 TERRY HULM C4 BOB SCHMIDT	7TH GRADE	BRODY PORSBORG DANIELLE WHITE	7TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	BLETH FAMILY	SHEILA G 7TH GRADE
Sunday 6:30 PM	C1 SUZANNE WINDSOR C2 MIKE NEUTZ	KEN SCHWARTZ	JACOB WINDSOR STEVEN/NICK WINDSOR	GROUP 14		BRENDA MIKE	



Formation

We nurture the life-long Faith Formation journey of conversion from selfishness to selflessness—to loving as God loves. Our formation encompasses education of the mind and conversion of the heart that deepens knowledge and understanding which both flow from and lead to, a life of holiness.



Listen Assist in now available. Please stop by the Sacristy to checkout a receiver before Mass.

Parenting Pointers Advent begins December 3. Although too often considered as the Christmas shopping season our Church reminds us that it is a time to "Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mark 13:33) During this Advent each day watch your child and note one kind, joyful or positive act.

Marriage Moments Advent has begun. Each day try to notice one act of helpfulness or kindness that your beloved does. Don't take each other for granted.

Community

Holiday Baking Extravaganza, Home Products and Craft Show Saturday, December 9 (10-4 pm) and Sunday, December 10 (9-noon), St. Joseph School Cafeteria, 410 Collins Ave, Mandan. Caramels, fudge, divinity, cut-out cookies, spritz cookies and popcorn cakes just to name a few. We have over 20 area business vendors. St. Joseph School PTO will be serving breakfast Sunday morning, 9-noon.

Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus presents a North Dakota Christmas Saturday, December 9, 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 10, 4 pm at the Cathedral. Free and open to the public.

Advent Retreat "Who is Mary?", December 10, 10 am-3 pm, Annunciation Monastery. A day of reflection and sharing on the mystery of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Oblates are Christian women and men of varied faiths who associate themselves with a monastery and live according to the Rule of St. Benedict. No charge & all are welcome. Join the sisters for Eucharistic liturgy at 11 a.m., followed by a light lunch. For more information, contact Sr. Patricia or Sr. Rosemary, 255-1520.

Light of Christ Catholic Schools

Band and Choir Concerts Join us December 4, 7:30 pm for the Beginner Band debut, SMCHS. Also featuring the Wind Orchestra and the Steel Drum Band Please join us for the Academy Advent Choir concert on December 6, 7pm at SMCHS

SMCHS Silent Auction Committee is looking for NEW items to be donated for the silent and live auctions for SMCHS Carnival. We are also looking for new members; if you can help in anyway with new items or assistance with the auction, contact Dick, 220-8181 or Dave, 400-5037.

Part-Time Custodian at SMCHS & Academy The position's hours are approximately from 5-9 pm, M-F during the school year. Duties include cleaning, and light maintenance and seasonal outdoor assignments. The ability to lift 50 pounds is required. A successful candidate will be subject to background checks. Must be self-motivated and enjoy working around young people.

Staff Positions

After-School Program Aides will assist elementary-aged students with homework, supervise physical activities, play and art projects and provide a safe environment for students after school from 2:45-5:30, M-F. Must be 18 years of age or older, as position requires supervision of minors.

Full-time Childcare Provider at LaMere Learning Center to work with toddlers. Monday-Friday, day-time hours no later than 5:45 p.m. Must be 18 years of age or older, as position requires supervision of minors. Contact Kate Bleth, 425-0793 or kbleth@lightofchristschools.org for more information or complete an online application go to www.lightofchristschools.org/employment.



Hospitality

We build a community that is empowered by the Spirit based on hospitality, mutuality, trust, forgiveness, acceptance and love, thus revealing Christ's presence in our lives, our community and our world. We strive to create an environment in which parishioners and guests feel they belong and are appreciated.

Diocesan Life

Catholic Daughters Christmas potluck Tuesday, December 5, 6 pm, Cathedral meeting will follow. Guests are welcome. For more information call Delores, 221-2818 or check our website: bismarckcda.org.

Mother/Daughter Retreat December 8-10, Assumption Abbey, Richardton. For mothers and daughters in 7th grade and above. The retreat will help mothers shepherd the young women in their lives on the path of purity, sexuality and chastity. Mothers, especially, yearn for effective strategies and answers. Based on the book "Woman in Love" by Katie Hartfiel with videos and discussion leading mothers and daughters on a journey that weaves engaging talks with powerful prayer and extraordinary fun to create an experience of a lifetime! Cost: \$175/mother/daughter couple and \$75 for each additional daughter. For more information and to register, visit bismarckdiocese.com/womaninlove or contact Tara or Carrie at the Diocese, 222-3035.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass & Celebration Tuesday, December 12, 5:30 pm, Corpus Christi, 1919 N 2nd St. After Mass, authentic Mexican food will be served in the cafeteria. Serving pozole, tamales, rice, beans, buñuelos, and ponche Navideño and piñatas for the kids. Call 255-4600 to RSVP.

Bake Sale by Creative Creations from Catholic Daughters kitchens Saturday December 16, 8:30 am-2 pm, St. Anne's Church, 1321 Braman, use the SW church door. Kuchen, baked goods and candy. For more information call Delores, 221-2818.

March for Life Youth Trip for youth in grades 9-12, January 16-21, 2018 in Washington, D.C. Cost of the trip is only \$400 all inclusive, Registration deadline: Friday, November 17. For more information and to get registered visit bismarckdiocese.com/march or contact Carrie, 204-7208 or cdavis@bismarckdiocese.com. Sponsored by the Diocese of Bismarck Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries.

Stress in Your Marriage? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. To register for the January 19-21, 2018 weekend in the Diocese of Bismarck go to www.retrouvaille.org or call 701-204-7209 for more information.

Natural Family Planning The Diocese of Bismarck has 5 different methods tailored to the individual couple to help avoid or achieve a pregnancy, by helping pinpoint the natural window of fertility. To learn more or sign up for a class, visit bismarckdiocese.com/nfp or call 864-354-5046.

Director of Faith Formation Full Time for the Church of the Ascension, Bismarck. Responsibilities: Development, coordination and promotion of a comprehensive plan for the spiritual growth and faith development of 1st grade through adult. Must have a passion and creative energy to enable others to live out their baptismal call personally, within the family, parish and greater community. Qualifications: Individual must be an active Catholic who is organized, committed, creative and has a degree with classes in theology, education and/or pastoral ministry. Experience teaching within a parish faith formation program is preferred. Good communication skills and an ability to work collaboratively with pastor, parish staff, catechists, parents and students is vital. A complete background check is required by the Diocese of Bismarck. Submit a cover letter and resume to Beth Kathol, Parish Business Manager, Church of the Ascension, 1905 South 3rd Street, Bismarck, ND 58504 or bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org.