

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 ... As I mentioned last week at our Masses, this weekend is the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection is taken in parishes throughout our country. From the very beginning our parish was blessed with the tremendous faith, dedication and service of Benedictine priests and sisters. Our first pastor was a Benedictine priest from St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. Of course, the Benedictine Sisters, now of Annunciation Monastery, opened the school and staffed it for many, many years, as well as doing so much in the parish. Very often they worked for little to no pay, leaving their religious communities now with inadequate retirement savings to care for their elderly. And we all know the continued rising costs of care! With grateful hearts, I hope we can generously support this effort to assist them.



Searching for Volunteers to assemble our Christmas food baskets Friday, December 15, 10 am and deliver Saturday, December 16, 8:30 am sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards in the Gathering Space. Thank you from the Charity and Justice Committee.



A Children's Choir grades 3 and up, will sing Christmas Eve at the 4:30 liturgy. Contact Diane Grotewold, 220-9907 by December 12 if your child is interested.

Retirement Fund for Religious "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious helps provide medications, nursing care and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 10

10 am Fellowship, MultiPurpose Rooms

Tuesday, December 12

7 pm Mass

7:30 pm Advent Series, MPR

7:30 pm KC Meeting, SMGS

Wednesday, December 13

5 pm Faith Formation Sessions

6:30 pm 1st Reconciliation Retreat for 2nd grade, Msgr. Feehan Hall

6:30 pm Faith Formation Sessions

Thursday, December 14

Fellowship after Mass

Saturday, December 16

9 am Church Cleaning Team

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.



Would you like to advertise your business? We have space available on the back of our weekly bulletin. For more information contact Mary, 223-5562.

Time & Talent Cards

Prayer Hours	4
Electronic Giving	3
Community Service	2
Parish Service	2

1221 Households

Adult Envelopes (211)	\$ 12,765
Electronic Contributions	\$ 4,616
Youth Envelopes (65)	\$ 88
Plate Collection	\$ 2,259
Received December 3	\$ 19,728

Youth Envelope Winner: Piper Schmidt



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. 12/11	9:00 AM	Communion Service
Tues. 12/12	7:00 PM	† Emma Jablonski
Wed. 12/13	9:00 AM	† Jamie Muñoz
Thurs. 12/14	9:00 AM	St. Jude's Members
Fri. 12/15	9:00 AM	† Magdaline Balkowitsch
Sat. 12/16	4:30 PM	† Adam & † Lucy Fischer
Sun. 12/17	9:00 AM	† Ed Getz
	11:00 AM	† Paul Small
	6:30 PM	St. Mary's Parishioners



Youth group
for
7th-12th graders

- December 10** Discussion on St. Joseph
- December 17** Dodgeball Tournament
- December 24** No Youth Group
- December 31** No Youth Group

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



With Sympathy

Nancy Fischer, mother of Steve (Kristen) Renner and grandmother of Cody (Abby) Renner; **Barbara Getz**, mother of Richard (Cindi) Getz and Dave (Candy) Getz and **Janice Klein**, wife of Pius and sister of

Diane Fischer and Cindy Bosworth. We pray for family and friends who grieve their loss. May the fullness of life be theirs.

Stewardship Thought We are all stewards—managers of the many gifts God has bestowed upon us. Our challenge as Christians is to make good use of those gifts.

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 11

Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12

Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 13

Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14

Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15

Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 17

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec. 16/17	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers	Servers	Ushers	Gift Bearers	Musicians	CLOW
Saturday 4:30 PM	B1 TOM NAGEL B2 CLAUDIA NAGEL C1 PAUL BELISLE C2 DEBBY MARBACK C3 JIM KOCH C4 JASON/KELLY BARTSCH	DEBBY MARBACK DARLENE FABER	PAITYN ABERLE MCKEON HONEYMAN	GROUP 7		MARY CAY BARB ANTHONY	STEPH M MADISON SAMANTHA ISABELLA
Sunday 9:00 AM	B1 BOB ABERLE B2 TERESA GROSS C1 JED STEINER C2 LUCAS/SARAH MICHELS C3 KENNEN/DIANE HUCK C4 MANDY SLAG	TONY FLADELAND BOB ABERLE	LANDON HUCK MATTHEW HUCK	GROUP 8	TERESA GROSS BONNIE & MIKE HAUPT	MASON FULLER MEN'S GROUP	SUSAN S VERONICA
Sunday 11:00 AM	B1 JULIE WALD B2 BEV TYRAKOSKI C1 GREG/STEPH ZENKER C2 COLLEEN OLUFSON C3 MARGARET ELKIN C4 BRIAN VERDOUW	CAROLYN HESFORD BRIAN VERDOUW	BEN ZENKER DARIUS MARZAI	GROUP 9	GARY & ROSE VETTER FAMILY	BLETH FAMILY	CARMEN K JESSICA Z EMILY K
Sunday 6:30 PM	C1 CONNIE RENZ C2 PAT RENZ	KEN SCHWARTZ	OLIVER BENDER SYRIANA BENDER	GROUP 15	MARY NESPER	BRENDA & MICHAEL	

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 is now available. Please stop by the Sacristy to checkout a receiver before Mass.

Msgr. Feehan Service Award St. Mary's Pastoral Council initiated the annual Msgr. Feehan Faithful Servant award to recognize St. Mary's Parishioners who are dedicated to the common good of St. Mary's in terms of hospitality, service, spiritual and faith growth. The Pastoral Council will receive nominations for this prestigious award until January 1, 2018. Further details can be found on the handout and nomination form in the back of the church or at www.stmarysbismarck.org.

Parenting Pointers What does it mean to conceive a child? Whether you are the mother or father, it means your life is forever changed. It is the start of enduring love and sacrifice for another being put in your care. Pause today and ponder your creative role.

Marriage Moments Are you ready? It's a common question as Christmas approaches, but these are sobering times with natural disasters multiplying and the threat of nuclear war present. Being ready depends on how you live today. Make today a day worthy of your life. Talk this over with your beloved.

Community

Holiday Open House Tuesday, December 12, 4:30 pm, Bismarck Senior Center, 315 N 20th St. Enjoy festive beverages & hors d' oeuvres and entertainment by Darrel Brackel.

A Magical Medora Christmas Thursday, December 21, Belle Mehus Auditorium, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$25 are available at Medora.com and Dan's Super Markets.



Recycle your *Word Among Us* books. If you don't already recycle them place them in the box in the Gathering Space.

Light of Christ Catholic Schools

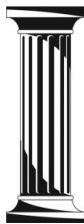
SMCHS Silent Auction Committee is looking for NEW items to be donated for the silent and live auctions for SMCHS Carnival. We are also looking for new members; if you can help in anyway with new items or assistance with the auction, contact Dick, 220-8181 or Dave, 400-5037.

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

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.

Lessons and Carols December 15, 7 pm, Christ the King Church, 505 10th Ave NW, Mandan. Come listen to the song of the O Antiphons, listen to readings from Scripture and join in singing classic Advent hymns. Refreshments will follow!

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.

REFOCCUS your marriage! The Diocese of Bismarck will host a marriage enrichment series entitled REFOCCUS. This series is for anyone who wants to learn more about the strength areas, as well as growth areas of their marriage. We will use a inventory tool to take a deeper look at our marriages. The series will start January 8, 7 pm at the Pastoral Center. Cost for the series is \$15/ couple to go towards the scoring of your inventory. If you have any questions, call Tara, 204-7209. Register at <https://bismarckdiocese.com/refoccus>.

Search for Christian Maturity is a weekend retreat experience sponsored by the Diocese of Bismarck. The weekends are for anyone of high school or college age (at least 15 years old). Search weekends are held at the Badlands Ministries Camp just south of Medora. Upcoming weekends for 2018: January 19-21; March 2-4; and April 20-22. For more information go to www.bismarckdiocese.com/search1.

Vocation Views John the Baptist stands as a sign of contradiction, calling his contemporaries back to a relationship with the Living God. Perhaps you are being called to follow in John's footsteps today. (Mark 1:1-8)

4 Stages of Marriage – The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i). 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.

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.