



FEBRUARY 7, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NATIVITY CHURCH OF FARGO

1825 11th St S, Fargo, ND 58103 Located at the Corner of University Drive and 18th Ave S.

NATIVITY CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FROM
7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
FOR PRIVATE PRAYER SUNDAY TO SATURDAY.

PARISH OFFICE: 701-232-2414
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK:
www.nativitycatholicchurch.net
'Like' us on Facebook:
Nativity Church of Fargo
EMAIL: *office@nativitycatholicchurch.net*

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES:
SATURDAY: 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM
SUNDAY: 7:45, 9:15, & 11:00 AM
MONDAY: 8:00 AM
TUESDAY: 8:30 AM*
WEDNESDAY: 8:30 AM*
THURSDAY: 8:30 AM*
FRIDAY: 8:00 AM
(*PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL YEAR TIMES)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
SATURDAY: 3:30-4:30 P.M.
OR CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:
Infant baptism preparation:
Contact Chris Steffan 232-2414 (ext. 127)
to register for sessions.

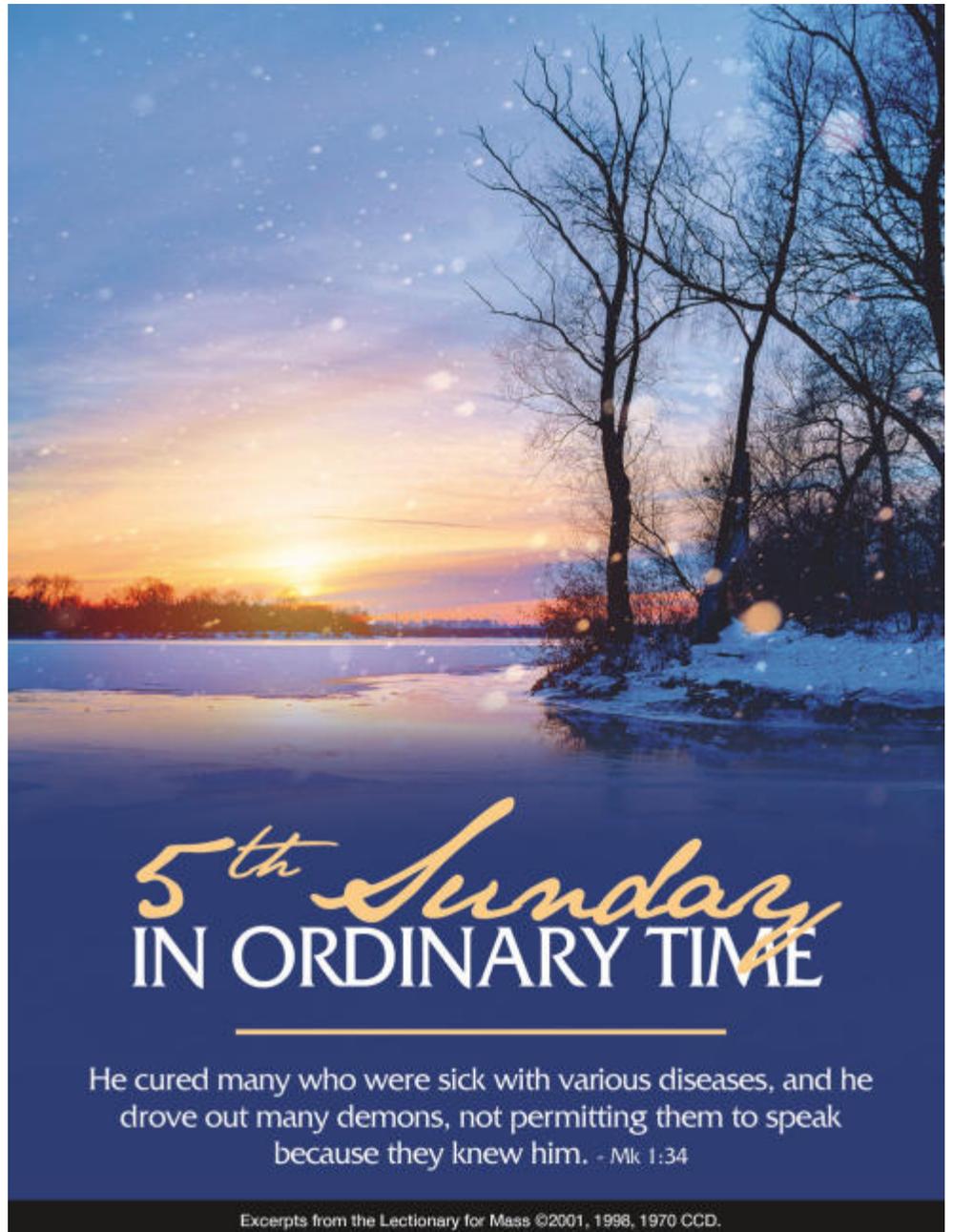
For information regarding the adult
process, please contact Chris Steffan
232-2414 (ext. 127)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:
Contact the parish office (232-2414) at least
6 months in advance of the wedding date.

PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS:
EUCCHARISTIC COMMUNAL ADORATION:
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

EUCCHARISTIC CHAPEL IS OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
SUNDAY-SATURDAY

PRAYER CHAIN
SANDI GRUHOT, 235-6408



*"Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted."
~ cf. Psalms 147:3a*

PARISH NEWS

BRING IN YOUR OLD PALMS

Please drop off your old Palms in the box on the counter in Mercy Hall to be burned for Ash Wednesday.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday is February 17. Mass times are: 8:30 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SIGN-UP

You can access the Ash Wednesday Mass sign-up on our website: www.nativitycatholicchurch.net/liturgy/liturgy-ministry-schedules or on your MSP mobile app. Click on the *February 17-May 23 Schedule* to find it.

PARISH DIRECTORY

If you had your picture taken for the Parish Directory, you are entitled to a directory. Please stop by the parish office between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm Monday through Friday before March 1st to pick it up.

In regards to purchasing a directory, we will begin selling them on March 1st for \$10 while supplies last.

If you have specific questions please contact, Margaret at 701-232-2414 (Mon & Tue) or margaretz@nativitycatholicchurch.net

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JANUARY 2021

Offertory Income	\$	49,862.47
Endowment Earnings	\$	—
Savings Withdrawal	\$	—
Other Income	\$	16,334.47
Total Income		\$66,196.94
JPII Subsidy Expense	\$(26,216.80)
Care & Share	\$(2,493.12)
Other Expenses	\$(65,148.09)
Total Expenses		\$(93,858.01)
Income-Expense		(\$27,661.07)

BULLETIN ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Our Advertiser of the Week is *Ethos Care Home and Hospice*. Thank you for your support.

See back of bulletin for all advertisers. Remember to patronize all the advertisers whenever possible.



BULLETIN DEADLINE

Articles are due to Bev in the parish office Tuesdays by Noon for the following Sunday. Drop them off in the office or email: bevn@nativitycatholicchurch.net



Nativity Knights of Columbus 8th Annual Pajama Drive

Items Needed

New two-piece pajamas for sizes 2-18 years of age.

New one-piece pajamas for infant - 24 months.

Please leave tags attached. Thank You.

Dates

A collection box will be in Mercy Hall from
January 17th through February 21st.

P R O J E C T IGNITE★LIGHT

Project Ignite Light is an organization, based out of North Dakota, through which children are provided important items needed when they are examined by their Local Advocacy Center or Hospital for Abuse or Neglect. In 2008, over 4000 children were seen around the state of North Dakota for Abuse or Neglect. It is the goal of Project Ignite Light to equip each child seen for these reasons with a "Bag of Hope."

Often, children in these situations are left feeling insecure and unsure of themselves and the people around them. Through Project Ignite Light, they are given a small piece of security and a bit of hope.

Because so many of the hurting children feel used, only new items are placed in the bags.

Each "Bag of Hope" includes:

- Fleece Tie Blanket
- Pajamas/Socks/Underwear
- 2-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Fruit Snacks/Water Bottle
- Flashlight
- Book: "You are Special" by Max Lucado
- Zippered backpack to hold all their New special items.



Thank you for your willingness to contribute to *Bags of Hope* for children in need!

PARISH AND AREA NEWS

PASTOR'S NOTES

In this weekend's first reading, from the Book of Job, we encounter the image of weaving as we hear Job say: "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope." The prophet Isaiah records King Hezekiah also using this image, in chapter 38, praying to God: "You have folded up my life, like a weaver who severs me from the last thread." As with many biblical images, technology and our modern money economy mean that few of us have experience with weaving or even familiarity with the terminology of weaving. In our day and age, few people in our country rely on weaving for their clothing! As many of you may be aware, before I went to the seminary, I was a librarian for ten years at NDSU and two years before that at Alma College in Michigan. A neighbor friend of mine there, a biology professor who came to Alma College the same year I did, bought a loom in the first months we were both there, which took up the better part of her living room. I had seen demonstrations of weaving, but that was the first time I had physically placed my hands on a loom and tried it myself. The process requires a detailed and time-consuming set up of the threads that go perpendicular to the weaver, which are called the warp: these determine the design of the cloth; only then can one begin weaving, placing the threads, called the weft, through the warp. This image, I find, speaks well to our relationship with God. God is the warp, who has a design for each of us from the beginning of time. Our lives are to be the weft, interwoven with God, according to his design. The shuttle referred to in the Book of Job holds the thread of the weft, a bit like an open-faced reel holds fishing line. This allows the weft thread to be passed swiftly and cleanly through the threads of the warp. But after the shuttle is passed through, the warp thread needs to be pulled tight to the rest of the woven fabric in a process called battening. Then the shuttle is passed through again, in the opposite direction. However, the large loom I used had treadle pedals, pressed by the foot to alter the alignment of the warp threads, allowing for a variation of pattern in the woven fabric. Depending on the pattern, this may have to be done each time, after battening, before the shuttle is passed through the warp. As I reflect on this image, it is a reminder of the importance of pausing, tightening things up in my life, and readjusting as needed along the way. Through this all, though, God, the warp, remains constant. What may vary is I, the weft. Perhaps I am not taking time to batten, and so line myself up too loosely with God's design for my life. Maybe I move too quickly so that I do not press the treadle pedals, responding to how God may be directing a change of pattern for my life. The reference in the Book of Isaiah refers to what happens when one has finished weaving the piece of cloth. There is a specific process to remove the cloth from the loom and tying up the loose ends. That is what is referred to by King Hezekiah, as his life is severed from the last thread of the warp. For each of



us, one day the weaving of our earthly lives will end, and the cloth of our lives will be complete. Only then will we fully understand how our lives were interwoven with the divine life, seeing both the flaws and the beauty.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. Bill

PREPARING FOR LITURGY AT NATIVITY: A REMINDER FROM FR. BILL

* Governor Burgum has issued yet another Executive Order, which includes no mask mandate, and this Order contains no guidance regarding churches and coronavirus protections. The Fargo City Commission, at their January 11th meeting, approved the following measure: contingent upon the Governor's office not extending the Statewide Mask Mandate, that the City of Fargo Mask Mandate be reinstated through February 18, 2021.

*I appreciate the efforts of our Nativity community to wear masks, as this is a sign of charity: the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stated: "a cloth face covering may not protect the wearer, but it may keep the wearer from spreading the virus to others." Knowledge that all are wearing masks may help some to overcome their fears and return to Mass.

*Please wash your hands before leaving home, or here at Nativity after you arrive, or both.

*Bring along your own hand sanitizer to use before and after communion..

updated: 1/26/2021

LITURGY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

The Liturgy Ministry Schedule for February 17-May 23 was emailed (or mailed if you do not have internet access) on February 11. If you have any questions or if you did not receive a schedule by email or mail, please feel free to contact Bev in the parish office at 701-232-2414 or bevn@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Don't forget that if you have an [iOS](#) or [Android](#) device, you can use the MSP mobile app! You can also access the 'Real Time' schedule on our website www.nativitycatholicchurch.net/liturgy/liturgy-ministry-schedules

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On Monday, February 8, 2021, please join in prayer a series of events honoring the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy is proud to cooperate with Campus Ministry, the Catholic Identity Committee of the Law School Faculty at St. Thomas University, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration and Refugee Services, Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking, and Catholic Health Association of the United States.

"WE CANNOT REST UNTIL TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN PERSONS IS ELIMINATED FROM THE GLOBE."

– Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski, Archdiocese of Miami

PARISH AND AREA NEWS

FAITH COMMUNITY

Vine and branches ~ Sister Sharon Houle

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already pruned by the word which I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him will bear much fruit, for without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me, will be thrown out like a branch and wither. The branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and become my disciples." John 15:1-8.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser." The vine is Jesus; the vinedresser is the Father. The branches are the Lord's disciples; the fruit are good deeds. The image of the vine was a beautiful image for the Israelite people: it illustrates God's protection against their enemies. "You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out nations and planted it." Psalms 80:9. Jesus says, "I am the TRUE vine." St. Paul stresses the pre-eminence of Christ. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible." Colossians 1:15-20.

"Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." John 15:2. There are two basic teachings here. If the branch does not bear fruit, if it does not remain in Jesus, it will be thrown into the fire and burned: the outcome, eternal punishment. If the branch bears fruit it will be pruned so it will bear more fruit. Pruning refers to the discipline of the Lord. The Father out of love disciplines his people with trials, painful experiences, hardships so that it will bear more fruit. We need to be made clean; we are made clean through baptism. "Remain in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, neither can you, unless you remain in me." John 15:4. We are to make our home in Christ just as He makes his home in us. The way we make our home in Christ is through purity of body and purity of speech. Therefore, gird up your minds, live soberly, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming ... be obedient children. ... He called you to be holy ... be holy in all your conduct; be holy as He is holy. 1 Peter 1:13-16.

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples." John 15:8. We are pleasing to Christ Jesus by presenting to him our good fruit. Giving praise and glory to God should be a priority in our life. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16.

(Resource: Sal Ciresi essay on the parable of the "Vine and the Branches")



Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

On February 11th, be counted as a Giving Heart for charity.

Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour fundraising event for charities in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

Each year, thousands of people rally around hundreds of nonprofits in our community saying, "count me" as a Giving Heart for charity.

Giving Hearts Day is hosted by: Dakota Medical Foundation, Impact Foundation & Alex Stern Family Foundation

To make a contribution to any of these organizations or for a complete list go to **www.givingheartsday.org**

- Birthright FM, Inc
- Catholic Charities North Dakota
- CHI Friendship
- Churches United (including Dorothy Day House, Micah's Mission Shelter, and Dorothy Day Food Pantries)
- Emergency Food Pantry
- Firstlink
- Fraser, Ltd.
- GiGi's Playhouse Fargo
- Hospice of the Red River Valley
- Jeremiah Program Fargo Moorhead
- Lend A Hand Up
- Presentation Partners in Housing
- St. Gianna's Maternity Home
- St. John Paul II Catholic Schools
- St. Paul's Newman Center (BisonCatholic)
- St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center (undCatholic)
- The Salvation Army
- Women's Care Center
- Youthworks
- YWCA Cass Clay

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose, have I come.'" - Mark 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.

PRAY FOR THE SICK...



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Jerry Mehlisch | Irene Miller |
| Roger Schwinghammer | Jean Kelso |
| Danuta Krasniewska | Jim Kappel |
| Christopher Durenky, Jr | Peggy Welle |
| Greg Lacroix | Betty Barnacle |
| Shari Stoa | Mary Kelly |
| Joe Swiontek | Gloria Bougie |
| Dave Barnick | Roland Luken |
| Joanne Adamski | Diane Genoch |
| Jim Graalum | Kevin Wolf |
| Lillian Meyer | Sheila Duebbert |
| Daniel Schlicht | Audra Norton |

If you or a loved one are hospitalized or homebound or would like to have a family member included in the prayers for the sick, call the parish office at 701-232-2414.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday, February 8**
8:00 AM - Barbara Gerlach †
- Tuesday, February 9**
8:30 AM - Theresa Lothspeich
No Mass until further notice at The Meadows
- Wednesday, February 10**
8:30 AM - Mary Boechler †
No Mass until further notice at Villa Maria
- Thursday, February 11**
8:30 AM - Tony Renner
- Friday, February 12**
8:00 AM - John Joseph Michael †
- Saturday, February 13**
8:00 AM - George Stribrny †
5:00 PM - Lewis Cagley †
- Sunday, February 14**
7:45 AM - Walt Seeba †
9:15 AM - Intention of Parish
11:00 AM - Millie Laxdal

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56
- Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Mk 7:1-13
- Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23
- Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/Mk 7:24-30
- Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 /Mk 7:31-37
- Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/Mk 8:1-10
- Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

**OUR GIVING OF THANKSGIVING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021**

Adult Envelopes (82 envelopes)	\$6,884.00
Plate	\$233.00
Auto Deposit (Weekly Average).....	\$4,531.17
Total.....	\$11,648.17

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES

With COVID and Mass not obligatory at this time, the children's envelopes will not be handed out this year. We have them available in the office or you may pick them up in Mercy Hall on the information center.

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 13/14, 2021

	5:00 PM	7:45 AM	9:15 AM	11:00 AM
Altar Server	At this time No Altar Servers will be scheduled			
Greeter	Rick Callens	Greeter Needed	Jon Strand Family	Mike DiAllesandro Family
Usher	Bonnie Fritz Jeff Krabbenhoft Willy Lies Usher Needed	Carol Hanson David Hanson Sr. Sharon Houle Margaret Zeren	Jeff Bartholomay Casinda Langseth Michael Langseth Leonard Rath	Katherine Appel Lori Fritel Duane Moos Usher Needed
EMHC	At this time No Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be scheduled			
Proclaimer	Steve Conrad - 1 Dana Leopold - 2	Brenda Lang - 1 Ed Tupa - 2	Jennifer Schwind - 1 Nancy Kochmann - 2	Patricia Greenshields - 1 Agnes Harrington - 2
Sacristan	Cheryl Hager	Shannon Mehlisch	Mike O'Leary	Mike O'Leary
Musicians	Bruckbauers Brent Hermans	Audra Kutz LaVonne Rustad	Elizabeth Wilhelmi Brent Hermans	Mike Vosburg Elizabeth Wilhelmi/ Brent
Coffee & Rolls	At this time No Socializing after Masses-this includes no coffee and rolls.			

BISHOP FOLDA ON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF FARGO

5201 Bishops Blvd. S., Suite A, Fargo, North Dakota 58104-7605 (701) 356-7944 Fax: (701) 356-7999

This weekend we conclude our annual week-long observance of Catholic Schools Week, celebrating with you the important place of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fargo. We have fourteen Catholic schools in our diocese, located in Belcourt, Devils Lake, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Langdon, Rugby, Valley City, Wahpeton, and West Fargo. From the very beginning of our diocese, Catholic schools have played a key role in educating and forming our young people, and that mission continues today.

The national theme for Catholic Schools Week this year distills the reasons for that mission: *"Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."*

Most importantly, our Catholic schools hand on the gift of faith to our young people, and they integrate the faith into every aspect of a child's education. Every day, our students are invited into a deeper and more loving relationship with God, and they have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ and his Gospel. Our schools strive for excellence in academics, the arts, athletics, and all activities. Our students consistently exceed state and national averages in academic achievement, and they are challenged and encouraged to grow in a spirit of virtue and service to others. Since the onset of the pandemic, our Catholic Schools have continued their mission with dedication and perseverance. I commend our school communities for that accomplishment.

Without the support of our parishes, families, benefactors, and dedicated educators, it would be impossible to maintain this essential apostolate of the Church. I invite you to continue your generous support with your time, talent, and treasure, so that future generations of young people will continue to benefit from the fine work of our Catholic schools.

I also invite every family to consider Catholic schools for your own children. I know that this entails a sacrifice, but we will work with any family to make sure you can afford Catholic education for your sons and daughters. I was blessed to experience Catholic education in my youth, and I want to extend that same blessing to all the children of our diocese.

Finally, please pray for the ongoing success of our Catholic schools, and know that I am praying for each one of you and your families. January 31 is ordinarily the Memorial of St. John Bosco, who upon his canonization in 1934 was named "Father and Teacher of Youth." We can invoke his prayers for our Catholic Schools and for the inspiration of his example of charity toward all our young people. St. John Bosco: "Pray for us."

God bless you!



Here is the link for our Catholic Schools Week video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sLIQnH3Cmo&feature=youtu.be>

Nativity Church of Fargo - 1825 11th St S - Fargo, ND 58103

Parish Staff: 701-232-2414

Pastoral Care Team

Priest:

Fr. Bill Gerlach, Pastor (ext. 123)
billg@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Fr. David Michael, Parochial Vicar (ext. 137)
David.Maria.Michael@fargodiocese.org

Deacon:

Deacon Bruce Dahl (ext. 132)
bruce.dahl@fargodiocese.org

Pastoral Minister/ Parish Nurse Coordinator:

Sr. Sharon Houle (ext. 126)
sharonh@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Liturgy Team

Liturgy & Music Coordinator: Brent Hermans (ext. 125)
brenth@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Faith Formation Team

Director of Faith Formation (Grades 1-8): Kathy Bourdon (ext. 124)
kathyb@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Adult Faith Life Coordinator: Chris Steffan (ext. 127)
chriss@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Youth Ministry (LinC) & Young Adult Coordinator: Brent Hermans (ext. 125)
brenth@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Christian Service Team

Social Justice Coordinator: Cathy Schwinden (ext. 136)
cathys@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Administration Team

Accounting/Payroll Manager: Margaret Zeren (ext. 135)
margaretz@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Office Manager: Frank LaLonde (ext. 120)
frankl@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Parish Secretary: Bev Nesler (ext. 129)
bevn@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Nativity Parish Support Team

Kitchen Coordinator: Dorothy Thiessen

Cleaning Service: Spaeth Cleaners

Nativity School Team

701-232-7461

Principal: Kimbra Amerman
Kimbra.Amerman@jp2schools.org

Administrative Assistant: Nicole Hofer

Emergencies

In the case of an after hours emergency, you may contact a priest by calling the parish office, and pressing one (1) when the answering machine picks up.

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY

BeFriender ministry is a lay volunteer ministry. BeFrienders offer a confidential compassionate listening presence to people in difficult transitional situations. If you are in need of a BeFriender or would like to become a BeFriender, contact Sister Sharon Houle.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

If you are gluten intolerant or allergic to wheat, oats, barley or rye, our parish has low gluten hosts. Please arrive at mass early and speak with the sacristan if you wish to receive communion in this form.

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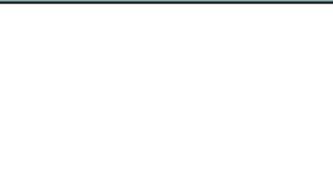
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