

Welcome to The Church of St. Dominic



Parish Office: 507-645-8816 216 Spring St. N.
Sunday Masses: 5:00 PM, 9:00 AM, and 2:00 PM (Misa)
Confessions: 5:00-5:25 PM Tues, 3:30-4:30 PM Sat
Parish Email: secretary@churchofstdominic.org

www.churchofstdominic.org

December 13, 2020

“He is the Light”

St. Dominic School inspires children to excel as confident leaders, critical thinkers, and responsible citizens in a Catholic, values-based community. Hello, it's me again, Kati Reak Sletten from the School. I'm getting used to writing these bulletin covers once a month, and I have had some questions from parishioners about why the interest now, not in a bad way, rather a surprising way.

Honestly, if you may remember, last winter I did a survey to determine our “net promoter score.” Which is a fancy term that tells us how well our school relates and is viewed amongst our Parish community. In all, our score was above average, compared to other schools in our Archdiocese. But, I take those survey responses very seriously as I am a strong believer that perception is reality. I read all comments and feedback that you give, and I greatly appreciate your honesty. The good, the bad, and the ugly, which is what I like to call it. There were a couple comments that really struck a chord with me, consider them eye-opening experiences. Those comments were along the lines of how SDS only reaches out to our Parishioners when we need money. Ouch. For these last 11 months, I have thought about this very regularly. **First, I want to express my heartfelt apologies if our school has ever made you feel that way, that is most definitely not our intention. Second, I want to fix that perception, and by doing so, I want to show our community how much you matter to our school.**

This year, I decided to put on my writing gloves and I have been working to show you the good things our school is doing and what we are about. It's like a one-sided meet and greet, but I can promise you that once COVID-19 is under wraps, we'll turn that into a 2-sided adventure. I hope you know that you are always welcome to call the school with any questions you may have or if you'd like just a good ole fashioned tour. **Thank you for being such an amazing community, one that is supportive and some of our school's best cheerleaders!**

Today's Gospel is about an interaction that St. John the Baptist had with community members who were concerned about who he was, what his message was, and what he was doing. John was always very up-front and open to these people. He states in the first part of the Gospel that “He is not the light, but came to testify to the light.” The light, meaning God, and to testify on behalf of God. John goes on to have an interesting confrontation, but the meaning of it shows that our purpose is not to draw attention to ourselves, but to point our attention to God, even in potentially dangerous situations. In relating this part of the Gospel to our school, I think it's pretty obvious. Throughout all Archdioceses, the purpose and mission of Catholic Schools, in general, is to bring more children to Christ. I think we are all in agreement, that adding Christian teachings to their everyday in-school life reinforces and solidifies what is taught at home about morals, values, and being a good Christian.



At St. Dominic School, we have the ability to work with each child in a personal manner and teach important life skills about being of quality and in Godly character. Admittedly though, we are all human and we all make mistakes and therefore sin. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, on Christmas Day, our School has been working with our students during the Advent season and in the weeks prior to Advent. Recently, students in grades 2-8 had the opportunity to complete the act of Reconciliation. A few weeks ago, Father Gregory's homily at school Mass addressed reconciliation and the students were able to learn a bit more about why it is important to repent and ask for forgiveness. The demographic of non-Catholic students at St. Dominic School is over 30%. Father opened up the opportunity for all students, even those who are not Catholic, to talk with him and ask him questions about reconciliation.

Hands down, one of my top ten, most heart-warming moments of this school year happened during reconciliation. We had multiple non-Catholic students feel comfortable and request to talk with Father. While those conversations are not discussed due to privacy (unless a child was in danger, Father Gregory may speak up from conversations with non-catholic children), I think it speaks volumes to what our teachers are working so hard to instill in our students. We have the ability to instill good morals and quality values, and our students can discuss God in their everyday lives at school. That's pretty impactful in and of itself.

For those of you have not heard, enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is open to the public. If you would like to learn more about our school and how it may be a good fit for your family, do not hesitate to contact me at katireak@schoolofstdominic.org or 507-645-8136.

-Written by Kati Reak Sletten, Advancement Director at St. Dominic School

PARISH NEWS

Advent Rosary

You are invited to pray the live online family rosary with a parish family and Fr. Gregory each Sunday of Advent at 6pm. The URL link is: <https://vimeo.com/event/463632>

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

We will have additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday and Wednesday, December 21st and 23rd from 6-7pm in the church social hall.

Luminaries for Loved Ones December 12-13 and December 19-20

We will be selling luminaries this weekend, December 12-13 and next weekend, December 19-20. Purchase a luminary for \$5 in memory of or to honor a loved one. Help us light the pathway into church for the Christmas Eve Vigil. Proceeds go to support the June Mission Trip to the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana.

Retirement Fund for Religious

This weekend we honor our many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests serving with little or no pay. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Baskets are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support!

Wreath Fundraising Thanks!

A big thank you to everyone who purchased wreaths to help support our high school mission trip. Through your generosity, we sold almost 300 wreaths. Thanks much!

YEAR END REMINDER

The Parish Office will be closing the Sacrificial Giving accounting records for 2020 on Thursday, December 31. All intentions/contributions to the Parish intended for credit on you "2020 Statement of Contributions" should be at the Parish Office no later than 4pm on December 31st. Please contact Shari at the Parish Office with any questions.

St. Dominic School Corner



Mrs. Karen Lyons is the Aide in our PreK classroom. She and her husband Doug are the parents to four children who have all attended St. Dominic School; their youngest is in 7th grade this year. Karen grew up in Lansing, IA along the Mississippi River where her family owned a bakery. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, walking, and attending her children's activities.

She graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught at St. Patrick's in Waukon, IA in 1st and 2nd grades. This is her 4th year working in our PreK classroom, and she finds it such a joy to be working at such a wonderful school!

Bethlehem Academy HS Opportunities

Come be a Cardinal and experience a Catholic, Dominican prep high school dedicated to your personal, spiritual and academic excellence! Bethlehem Academy in Faribault is now accepting applications for 2021-2022. Personalized family tours offered daily from 3-6pm and limited in-person shadow opportunities are also available to all future Cardinals. Find our application and visit registration forms under the Enrollment tab at www.bacards.org. We can't wait to meet you!



Coffee Sales – December 12-13 and December 19-20

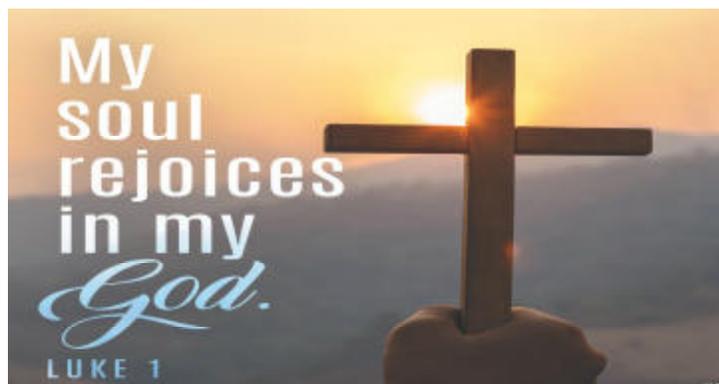
We will be selling True Stone coffee from the Hideaway this weekend, December 12-13 and next weekend, December 19-20. True Stone believes in Fair Trade and partners with small coffee producers, helping them reach commercial and ecological sustainability and improve the standard of living throughout an entire community.

Try the Mission Blend for a smooth, delightful coffee. The coffee sells for \$13.50 a bag and makes wonderful Christmas gifts. Proceeds go to support the June Mission Trip to the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana.

COVID 19 Precautions

Parish Office: Given the surge in Covid 19 cases we ask your assistance in limiting traffic into the parish office. The parish office staff continues to be available for you. It is preferred that you communicate with staff members by calling/emailing. Some staff will be working from home. For office deliveries/pick-ups we ask that you place them/pick them up in the basket immediately inside the office door rather than coming into the office itself. Envelope deliveries can also be placed in the mailbox in the church entryway. Beginning Dec. 7th the parish office hours will be 8 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1Pp.m-4 p.m. Thank you for your extra efforts in keeping us all healthy!

Mass et al: We will be taking the following steps to keep everyone safe due to the recent increase in Covid 19 cases. We will not have cantors at mass until January 15 or later. We will suspend public funeral visitations and funeral lunches until after January 15. Funeral masses and Weddings will follow the same protocol as weekend masses. We will suspend in-person meetings until January 15, replacing them with Google Meets or Zoom. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with wearing masks at mass and ask for your continued vigilance. Together, we will keep everyone safe.



A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

A Reading from the First Book of Thessalonians

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

A Reading from the Gospel According to John

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing."



NEXT WEEK IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." (Luke 1:31)

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970

CHILDREN'S CORNER



GOSPEL

John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He shouted in the desert, "Get your soul ready. The Lord is coming." Today John still warns you to get your soul ready for Jesus. Ask God to forgive you. Then forgive yourself and others. Shout to the world. Be a witness by your actions. Show that you believe in God. Then you will be ready when Jesus comes to take you to heaven with him.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for all those on the prayer list, especially Judy. If you wish to add a name, please contact the Parish Office.

Welcome!

This past week we welcomed Tricia Anderson to the Parish Office as the new Church of St. Dominic Secretary! Tricia became a member of St. Dominic's in 2000 after moving to Northfield. You may have seen her occasionally playing her violin at Mass.

Aside from volunteering for various organizations and playing "taxi" with her kids, she has a passion for gardening and the outdoors. Tricia, her husband, Jon, and their 3 children (Matthew, Ben and Ella) live in rural Northfield with their beloved 2 year old chocolate lab, Milo.

She truly looks forward to serving the parishioners and the community-at-large through this role.

Mass Intentions

Sat. Dec 12	5:00 PM	† Melvin Malecha
Sun. Dec 13	9:00 AM	† John and Dolores Blazina
	2:00 PM	For the Parish (Misa)
Mon. Dec. 14	5:30 PM	† Greg Reuvers
Tues. Dec 15	8:20 AM	† Rev. William K. Gamber
	5:30 PM	† Aurora Rosas Conde(Misa)
Wed. Dec 16	8:20 AM	† Timothy Burns
Thurs. Dec 17	5:30 PM	† Rev. Peter C. Wittman
Fri. Dec 18	7:00 AM	† Paul, Ethel and Richard Gaff
Sat. Dec 19	5:00 PM	† Gary Malecha
Sun. Dec 20	9:00 AM	† Charles and Barbara Anderson
	2:00 PM	For the Parish(Misa)

There is only one Sunday mass regularly scheduled and no Care Center Masses. Mass intentions will be adjusted to the closest possible date.

LITURGICAL + ROLES**Dec 19 — 5 PM Mass**

Lector	Dale Fredrickson
Pianist	Matthew Anderson
EMHC	Dorothee Ischler, Andre Simonet
Ushers	Lynn Ziegler, Pat Mahowald, Lavergne Adelmann
Mass Coordinator	Dorothee Ischler

Dec 20 — 9 AM Mass

Lector	Dusty Budd
Pianist	Shawn Dudley
EMHC	Kevin Bauer, Chris Barth
Ushers	Lisa Theus, Rick Nelson, Dylan & Brady Dietz
Mass Coordinator	Brian Goerd

Reminder: You are required to find a replacement if unable to serve as a minister on your scheduled weekend.

Upcoming Mass Times/Dates**Christmas**

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
2:00 p.m.—Children's Mass
5:00 p.m. Misa
8:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil
December 25 ~ Christmas Day
8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

December 31 ~ 5p.m. and 8:00p.m. (Misa)
January 1 ~ 9:00 a.m.

Ministers Needed

If you are comfortable returning to Mass and are interested in serving in one of the church ministries, please call the Parish Office at 645-8816. Thank you!



Sign Up for Updates Today!

Our parish uses Flocknote—a communication tool that can keep everyone informed. Receive parish updates and faith-filled videos right to your email or smartphone! Public groups include weekly scripture preview, Fr. Denny's updates, and weekly Word on Fire content from Bishop Barron.

No need to wait—*add yourself today* and start receiving news. If you already were on any mailing lists but seem to be missing an update, check your “spam” folder. All mail comes from mail@flocknote.com.

Text Dominic1 to **84576** to sign up for Flocknote (*En Español: 202-765-3441*) or look for the sign-up link on our website. You will provide your contact info and then be able to join any of the public groups.

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of Flocknote: it allows you to see who has read the message, it is VIRTUS compliant, and members can update their contact information as needed. Come by the Parish Office for help setting up a Flocknote group for your ministry!

Masses

Bulletins are printed Wednesday morning, so scheduled events may be out of date.

Masses will be archived here:
<https://vimeo.com/channels/stdominic>
 It is free to view Vimeo videos.

Outdoor Masses / Carside Communion at St. Dominic

Do you wish to attend mass in your car or outside? Check the Archdiocesan Page (<https://www.archspm.org/locations/>) for a list of outdoor masses in the area, including the Annunciation Mass at 10 AM every Sunday.

Communion will be offered to people in cars after mass on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Dominic by Fr. Tim.

3 EASY STEPS TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!



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YOUR FACE**



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