

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 20, 2020

Covid, Christmas & Christ

Merry Christmas Parishioners and guests,

A friend just informed me that his elderly father's health is declining due to a long list of medical issues including Covid. I could hear the pain in his voice as he grappled with this. He and his family are grateful that the facility allowed a priest to come and offer their father the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing and Communion. My friend expressed his pain of being physically separated from his father due to Covid. Currently, his family is only allowed to visit virtually or to come outside the facility to "visit" with their father through the window of his room.

Among the long list of suffering we all experience due to Covid is the pain of physical separation from loved ones/friends/parishioners. We long to be with others, especially loved ones, especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

As Covid has dragged on and on we can wonder where God is in all this. It can be helpful to ask God questions about this. In the case of my friend he might say "God, do you know the pain Covid physical separation is causing me/my family as dad declines?" "God, how can you let this happen? I don't want my father to die alone." These are good questions to bring to God anytime and especially in prayer. God can handle them!

God gives an answer. His answer doesn't take away our pain but enters into it so we are not alone in it. God's answer is what we celebrate at Christmas. We are God's loved ones. God does not want to be separated from us. God comes close to us: *"And the virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, a name which means God is with us."*

God does not stay physically separated from us and our pain. In the Person of Christ divinity and humanity meet, and more than that, they are united. The Baby lying in the manger is God entering into our painful world to be with us in our pain, and ultimately to transform that pain into the gift of salvation.

In Emmanuel, God with us,

Fr. Gregory



Luminaries for Loved Ones

Last call.....We will be selling luminaries this 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.

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.

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> All are welcome.

Mary, Mother of God—January 1

The Solemnity of Mother Mary of God is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be December 31st at 5pm and 8pm(Misa), and January 1st at 9am.

On-line Service of Comfort and Healing

The purpose of a "Longest Night" service is to acknowledge that this is not a joyous season for everyone - those who are bereaved or experiencing other sorrows. Traditionally, it is held on "the longest night", or the winter solstice and consists of readings, music, and scripture. We have scheduled our Facebook Live service to coincide with the sundown on December 21st at 4:30 p.m. Facebook users can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/northfieldstp>. After the service, it will also

Marriage Encounter Weekend

These last months have been incredibly difficult on all of us and marriages have suffered! Please let us help you to find enrichment, joy, and hope in your relationship! Register for the January 9-10 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for additional information or call 651.454.3238.



Merry Christmas!

This Christmas may you receive the blessing of Hope, the beauty of Peace, the spirit of Love, and the comfort of Faith.

~The St. Dominic Parish Staff

St. Dominic School Corner



Mrs. Kayla Paro is in her second year as our Administrative Assistant in the school office. Kayla grew up in central Minnesota and attended St. Boniface elementary school as a child. She moved to the Northfield area 17 years ago and fell in love with the community. She and her husband Chris have one son, Oliver and live near Faribault. In her free time, she loves to spend time with her family, read and bake.

Before starting at St. Dominic School, Mrs. Paro spent 12 years working at St. Olaf with Bon Appetit, most of that time as the Catering Manager. It was an unpredictable schedule, long days and nights and she needed a change and some calmness. She heard about the open position at the school and knew it would be perfect. She feels the last year has been amazing; and that it is wonderful to be a part of the SDS community.

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.

Last Chance.....December 19-20

We will be selling True Stone coffee from the Hideaway this 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.

Coffee is also available for purchase at the Parish Office.

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!

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!



A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

A Reading from the Book of Romans

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

PUZZLE

Find the matching shadow.



Prayer Requests

Please pray for Judy and Betty and all those on the St. Dominic Prayer List.

The prayer list will be reset in January. If you wish to keep a name or add a name, please contact the Parish Office.

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.

NEXT WEEK IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

*When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him.*

— Lk 2:19-40

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

Readings for the week of December 27, 2020

Sunday: 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

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.

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

— Lk 1:35

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ISBN: 198, 199-023

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!

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.

Message of Gratitude from Ruth's House

For some this season is met with grief and struggle. Ruth's House is both humbled and blessed by the generosity of our community! You have helped us keep our doors open for sixteen years to provide safe shelter, hope, healing, and new beginnings for women and children experiencing homelessness due to a variety of reason. **THANK YOU!** For in your Spirit of Giving, you make a beautiful impact in the lives of countless many, for generations to come!

Mass Schedule & Intentions

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)
Mon. Dec. 21	5:30 PM	† Alice and Don Langer
Tues. Dec 22	5:30 PM	† Aurora Rosas Conde(Misa)
Wed. Dec 23	8:20 AM	† William K. Gamber
Thurs. Dec 24	2:00 PM	† Lila Winter
	5:00 PM	For the Parish (Misa)
	8:00 PM	† Mark T. Malecha
Fri. Dec 25	8:00 AM	† John and Patricia Dudley
	10:30 AM	For the Parish
Sat. Dec 26	5:00 PM	† Bill Oates and Molly O'Reilly
Sun. Dec 27	9:00 AM	† Marcy Pritchard
	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.

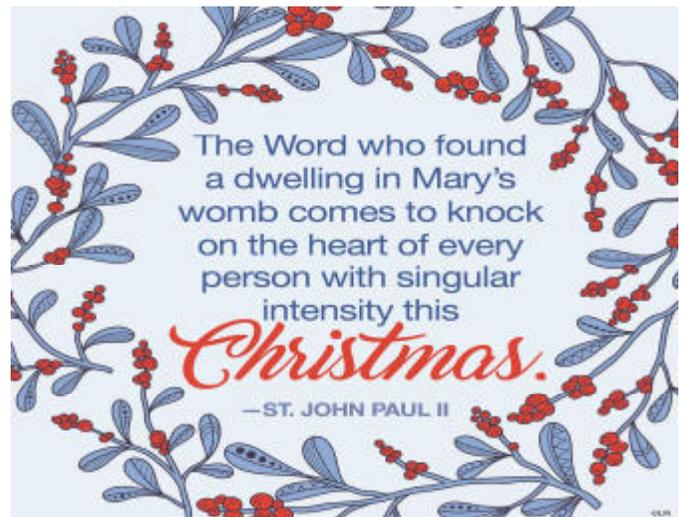
LITURGICAL + ROLES**Dec 26 — 5 PM Mass**

Lector TBD
Pianist Caroline Priore
EMHC George and Denise Budd
Ushers Kathleen Homa, Lisa Theus, Lynn Ziegler
Mass Coordinator Chris Barth

Dec 27 — 9 AM Mass

Lector TBD
Pianist Emily Deutch
EMHC Lavergne Adelman, Brian Goerd
Ushers Joe Hollinger, Matt Bernstorf, John Noack
Mass Coordinator Brian Rodriguez

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



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