

St. Mary of Mercy, St. Martin of Tours & St. Stephen Parishes

PO Box 158 Alexandria, SD 57311 The Very Rev. Dana Christensen, Pastor Rectory: 239-4833;

Office: 239-4578; Parish E-mail: maryofmercy@sfcatholic.org Fr. Christensen's email: padredana@gmail.com
parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-of-mercy; parishesonline.com/find/st-martin-church-57332; parishesonline.com/find/st-stephen-church-57319

December 16-22, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Masses:

Saturday (Vigil): 5:00 p.m. (St. Martin, Emery)
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. (Carmelite Monastery)
10:00 a.m. (St. Mary, Alexandria)

Rosary & Benediction of the Bl. Sacrament...Sunday: 3:15 p.m. (Carmelite Monastery)

Sacrament of Reconciliation see schedule below for weekday confessions, or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism - Call Father to set up a date, preferably before the birth of the child.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony - Call to set up an appointment *at least* 6 months ahead of the proposed date for the Celebration of the Sacrament. A date will not be set until the first meeting with Father.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Dec. 16	Mon.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	+George & Margaret Smith
Dec. 17	Tues.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	+John Leitheiser
Dec. 18	Wed.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	+John Kayser
Dec. 19	Thurs.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	+Larry Weber
Dec. 20	Fri.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	Alicia Corban Int.
Dec. 21	Sat.	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	+Dylan Mentele
		4:15 pm	St. Martin's, Emery	Confessions
		5:00 pm	St. Martin's, Emery	+Ron Aulner
Dec. 22	Sunday	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention (Carmel)
		10:00 am	St. Mary, Alexandria	People of the Parish
		3:15 pm	Carmelite Monastery	NO Rosary and Benediction



From the Desk of Fr. Christensen – Bulletin Column: Dear friends, today I write to beg your prayers. I have been, for a while, been having some health issues. I know some of you have noticed this, and have kindly asked me how I have been doing. Honestly, I usually pretended everything was fine, mostly to shield my mother who is quite the worry wart. My health issues have certainly had an effect on my ministry – I know you have noticed that too. After being dissatisfied with specialists locally and not feeling better, I asked for a referral to Mayo Clinic. This coming week I will be there for tests. The hope is that I will get a definitive answer as to what ails me. I will leave shortly after Mass on Sunday. Frs. Ken and Barry will be covering for me. Please pray for me, for the doctors and nurses, and for my family as they struggle like me with questions of “what if.” This

has been a trying and frightening time for me. No matter what the outcome I am convinced it is a gift and a grace from Our Lady of Fatima – a call to holiness and conversion. My prayer has been and will continue to be that I can surrender everything to Jesus and trust Him to take care of everything. Last week I wrote about the Novena of Surrender. I have been greatly helped by it and repeat these words of Jesus as expressed in that novena: “Do not worry. Close your eyes and say to me with faith: “Thy will be done. You take care of it”. I say to you that I will take care of it, and that I will intervene as does a doctor and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed. Do you see that the sick person is getting worse? Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say, “You take care of it.” I say to you that I will take care of it, and that there is no medicine more powerful than my loving intervention. By my love, I promise this to you.” So, please pray for me. Pray the Rosary for me! There is no greater prayer given us by Our Lady than that.

Pope Francis appointed Rev. Donald DeGrood as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Until now Bishop-elect DeGrood has been a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, most recently serving as pastor of St. John the Baptist, Savage, MN. He will succeed Bishop Paul Swain, whose resignation the Holy Father accepted today with the appointment of a new bishop. Bishop Swain had submitted his resignation, per canon law, upon reaching the age of 75 in September of 2018. He will be the apostolic administrator of the diocese until Bishop-elect DeGrood is ordained and installed. Bishop-elect DeGrood will be ordained a bishop and installed on February 13. Please pray for the Bishop Elect!

	St. Martin, Emery	St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria
	Saturday, December 21, 5:00 pm	Sunday, December 22, 10:00 am
Lector	Dan Clarke	Peggy Weber
EMHC	---	Ray Slaba
Altar Servers	Quinton & Landon Berg Sam & Katie Robocker	Reggie & Jayce Slaba, Carter Henglefeld, Jackson Jarding
Gifts	Jack & Theresa Catron	Don & Pam Wenande
Ushers	Terry Miller Darin Kayser	Chris Ruden Alex Kayser
Musician	Bonnie Arend	Sandy Kayser
Rosary Leader	Volunteer	Barbara Lloyd
Sacristan	Volunteer	Dave & Cindy Beyer
Money Counters	Darin Kayser Volunteers Please!!	Jenelle Erickson Amanda Mentele

After many attempts of finding an extra priest to help with the Christmas Schedule it was to no avail. The Christmas schedule will be Christmas Eve: St Martin's-Emery 5pm; Carmel-Alex 8pm and Christmas morning: St Mary's-Alex 10am.

Dead Theologians Society will meet on December 18th at 7pm at the Parish Hall in Alexandria. We have had a few people volunteer to help provide food for our meetings, but we are getting to the end of that list. Anyone else who would like to help should contact Amanda Mentele.

Christmas at the Cathedral is looking for Christmas Cookie donations for the Wednesday evening, December 18th. special performance for the homeless and other special guests. If you are able to donate some Holiday goodies, please call 605-988-3769.

St Mary's- Anyone interested in hosting the "Our Lady of Fatima" statue, please let Jan K. know. She is in the process of creating a new schedule. Email, leave message or you can text her at 605-212-4479.

St. Martin's- There will be choir practice on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 pm for anyone interested in helping provide music at Christmas this year. We welcome long-time members and encourage new members—young and old—to join us. Call Dan Clarke at 449-4336 if you have any questions.

St. Stephen's sign-up sheet is in the Vestibule at St. Stephen's for anyone who wants to buy a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$8.00. Write a check or attach your name to the money and put in the container or pay Sherril Vondra.

SHOWER CHRIST'S LITTLE ONES. As Mary clothed the child Jesus, so we are invited to clothe the littlest in our midst. Little ones across the Diocese are in need of your help. Join us in the 27th annual Advent Baby Shower through Christmas. Please bring New baby items: sizes newborn to 12mth, diapers/wipes, blankets, toys, etc. and place them in the designated area of church. Thank you God! Bless you for your generosity!!

St Martin's Sacred Heart League is looking for a volunteer to be Vice President in 2020 and will be President in 2021. Please prayerfully consider giving of your time for a good cause. If interested, please contact Lisa Schleich or Mary Ernster.

St Martin's- Parents of college/technical students please submit the name and address of the student to Susan Berg 999-2529 by Dec 15 as the Sacred Heart League would like send them a Christmas card and gift.

Better late than never! Congratulations to the BEE Football team for winning the State B Championship!!

High school students (and parents of these students): Are you looking for an adventure that would show you how Christ wishes to build you into the person you are called to be? Consider taking part in the Steubenville conference in Rochester, MN this summer. The conference, typically attended by 1500-2000 fellow high school students, will take place on July 10th-12th. Meet new friends energized by our Faith, listen to nationally-renown speakers, attend Mass and Adoration in a powerful setting. The cost will be \$375 per student, but fundraising activities

are available. If you are interested, contact Father Christensen or Jake Geis (402-360-2265). Also, take a minute to view the website and promo video for the conference at <https://steubenvilleconferences.com/youth/>