

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;

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parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-of-mercy; parishesonline.com/find/st-martin-church-57332; parishesonline.com/find/st-stephen-church-57319

December 2-8, 2019

First 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. 2	Mon.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	+Dylan Mentele
Dec. 3	Tues.	7:30 am	Carmelite Monastery	+John Leitheiser
Dec. 4	Wed.	7:30 am	Carmelite Monastery	Margie & Virgil Schulte
Dec. 5	Thurs.	8:30 am	Carmelite Monastery	Larry Weber
Dec. 6	Fri.	7:30 am	Carmelite Monastery	Archbishop Robert J Carlson Int.
Dec. 7	Sat.	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	Bishop Paul J Swain Int.
		4:15 pm	St. Martin's, Emery	Confessions
		5:00 pm	St. Martin's, Emery	+Nick Schleich
Dec. 8	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 – Praised be Jesus Christ! Today we begin the season of Advent. It is a time when we do penance, increase our prayer, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. It's a time to focus on what we need to do to prepare to meet the Lord. We, as modern Americans who have become accustomed to comfort, don't often think of our end, or if we do, we think of it in an idealistic or sanitized way. Advent is a time to get real. It's a time to acknowledge that we have work to do to prepare to meet our God, and then to get busy doing those things. For most, there are a few things we probably need to do to prepare to meet God. First, make a good, thorough, and

brutally honest confession. Second, commit or re-commit to a habit of daily prayer, especially the daily Rosary. Third, make reparation for our past sins by voluntarily taking on some penances like fasting. Finally, put all our trust in God and His plan for our life even if that plan is not what we imagined it might be. Advent is a perfect time to do these things. So, let's get to it!

	St. Martin, Emery	St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria
	Saturday, December 7, 5:00 pm	Sunday, December 8, 10:00 am
Lector	Kelly Glanzer	Kenny Kayser
EMHC	---	Marlene Warnke
Altar Servers	Corbin & Carter Glanzer Sutton Arend & Chase Arend	Jacy Waldera, Isabella & Paige Kayser Gage Mentele
Gifts	John & Bernice Schallenkamp	Donnie Kayser family
Ushers	Ken Glanzer Ryan Budahl	Chris Ruden Alex Kayser
Musician	Rosalie Weber	Sandy Kayser
Rosary Leader	Volunteer	Dave Kayser
Sacristan	Volunteer	Joe Jarding
Money Counters		Peggy Weber Emily Ruden

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.

St. Stephen's Christian Mother's meeting is Tues., Dec. 3rd at 9:00.

St. Stephen's Bake Sale is Fri. Dec. 6th at the bank in Bridgewater. Bring baked goods to the bank or drop off at the church by 9:00 am. We prefer baked goods, but if unable please donate \$15 to the Christian Mother's treasurer, Sherril Vondra.

St. Stephen's is in charge of the DCC Devotions on Sunday, Dec. 8th at 2:30. The committee is Ken & Kelly Glanzer, chairpersons, Bernice & John Schallenkamp, Eileen Heemstra, Jerry Paweltzki, Keith Heiberger, Don Schwans, Phil & Danielle Heiberger, Marie Weber, Stuart Rinehart, & Janie Golder.

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.

All Parishes: I am looking for a current list of people that are willing to give your time to Lector, Usher, Eucharistic Minister, Alter Servers, Gifts, Rosary Leader, Sacristan, Money Counters. Please email me at maryofmercy@sfcatholic.org, call me in the office, or call or text 605-212-4479. Thank you, Janice Kayser. God gave us all talents, please consider any of the above!! God Bless!!

Our parishes have a new email address to communicate with the parish office. Please use **maryofmercy@sfcatholic.org** for bulletin announcements and any other communication with the parish secretary. Fr. Christensen's email remains the same.

Janice will be in the office on Thursdays all day unless otherwise posted, trying for Wednesday and Friday as well but not full days. Thank you for your understanding.