

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH, MOBRIDGE, SD**

Pastor: Fr. Bill Hamak - phone 845-5212

stjoe@westriv.com

Secretary: Andrée Marshall 845-2100

**Meditation for the First Sunday of Advent**

Happy new Church year! Happy Advent! Today, we begin to prepare for Christ's Christmas coming. We believe that Christmas is not just a memory but a reality. We believe that Jesus comes to us and is born in our lives in a real way each Christmas. Since Christmas is a spiritual birth, Advent is a spiritual pregnancy. Since Christmas is realizing not any birth, but Christ's birth, Advent is not just a spiritual pregnancy, but a Marian pregnancy.

We know only three things about Mary's pregnancy. At its beginning, Mary traveled to visit her relative Elizabeth. This was a difficult visit because of her physical suffering as a newly pregnant woman hastening on foot into the hill country and also because of the risk she took. If Elizabeth would have considered Mary an adulteress, Mary could have been killed. Nevertheless, Mary went on this difficult visit, and Elizabeth and her baby, John, were filled with the Holy Spirit.

At the end of her pregnancy, Mary endured another difficult journey. In submission to the Roman government, she went to Bethlehem with Joseph to register in the census. Mary again underwent what her Son would later call the "cross." Finally, just before Mary gave birth, she was refused a place to stay and had to give birth in a stable.

To have a real Christmas and not a spiritual miscarriage, we must take up at least the three crosses which Mary bore — the crosses of self-sacrifice, submission, and forgiveness. "Mary" Christmas is for those who have a "Mary" Advent.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Mon. Dec. 2, 8:00 am Special Intention (IH) [Rdr: Theresa]

**Tues Dec 3, 10:30 am** Funeral Mass †Maria Spilos

**NO** 5:30 pm Mass Tuesday this week.

Wed. Dec. 4, 8:00 am †James Holzer [Rdr:Theresa]

No Mass Thurs. *Fr. Bill's day away*

**Fri. Dec. 6, 8:00 am** †Dick Leonard [Rdr: Loretta]

Sat. Dec. 7, 5:30 pm Special Intention

Sun. Dec. 8, 8:00 am *People of the Parish*

Sun. Dec. 8, 10:00am †Tom Knudson

Mon Dec. 9, 5:30 pm

**Choir** this Wednesday 6:30 pm

**Food Pantry Dec:** Peanut Butter

**Sunday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Offering = \$3,548**

**Advent Confession Times**

**Fridays 4:15 – 5:00 pm**

**Saturdays 4:15 – 5:00 pm**

**Sunday, December 15 - 4:00 pm [ 2 priests]**

**Sunday, December 22 - 4:00 pm [ 4 priests]**

**Christmas Eve Mass:**

**Tuesday, December 24 - 4:30 pm**

**Christmas Day Mass**

**Wednesday, December 25 - 9:00 am**

**Volunteers Needed for Holy Day Masses:**

Please sign up to help with Christmas Masses and the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, Sign up on the sheets in the main entrance. Thank you.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Jim Hand, Bill Zacher, Marchell Phillips, Jim Volk, Kenny Holzer, Lolis Linde, Pat Laintz, Jack Perman, Jan Scherr, LaVonne Dietrich, Jim Krause, Colleen Froseth, Terry Lundberg, Ron Leibel, Maria Van Vliet, Sharon Neuharth, Dr. Mike Holland, Rachel Hoisington, Marilyn Bohlander, John Tillman, Nehemiah Bauer, Laura Goldade, Alyssa Keller, Mark Nordstrom, James Parisien, Doug Orth, Bobby Zerr, Lisa Anderson.

**The Advent Season:** As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus' coming. If you find that you are not as prepared for His return in glory as you'd like to be, make this Advent a time when you get your heart ready. Commit to prayer & repentance.

**Prayers and Sympathy:** We extend our sincere sympathy to Kim (Jason) Voegelé, whose aunt Dorothy Bishop has passed away, to Riley (Nicole) Goetz, in the loss of his grandmother Esther Goetz and to Maria Spilos' family. Funeral Mass for Maria will be Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 10:30 am and Liturgical Wake Service at 7 PM Monday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Black Hills National Cemetery on Wednesday. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

➔ **A Day of Eucharistic Adoration this Friday-** All are invited to participate. Please come and spend time with Jesus in Adoration praying for the needs of members of the parish. Mass will be at 8:00 am followed by Exposition. Adoration will close with Benediction at 8:15 pm. Please sign up for an hour at the entrance to church. Confessions will be heard on the hour of 7:00 pm – will continue as long as people keep coming.

**Immaculate Conception of Mary is Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>:** Mary was conceived in the state of perfect justice, free from Original Sin and its consequences, in virtue of the redemption achieved by Christ on the cross. In this sense, the privilege of the Immaculate Conception was the anticipated fruit of Christ's saving passion, death, and resurrection. It was only fitting that she who was to bear the Savior of the world should herself be preserved by Him from sin and its consequences and so be the first to benefit from what He would obtain for the whole human race. Mass will be at **5:30 pm**. *Not a Holyday of obligation this year.*

**CRE Teacher's Meeting Wednesday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** - NO CRE Classes.

**Christmas Goodies Bake Sale:** Help transform the Hall into a Christmas bake shop this Sat., December 7, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Please make 3 dozen goodies and package one dozen per plate. Drop off at the Hall on Fri., Dec. 6 or early Saturday morning. This is an annual fundraiser for the Altar Society. Plan to pick up some treats, and bring a friend for coffee too. Thank you!

**Childcare Helper Needed:** St. Joseph Alpha Team is looking for a person who could help with children for the Alpha Team and their guests for 11 Wednesday evenings starting January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please see Jason Weisbeck or Fr. Bill if interested.

**Your help is needed after a snow event to help clean the church, school and rectory sidewalks.**

**Parish Potluck and Christmas Decorating:** Sunday, December 16 following the 10:00 am Mass. Please bring a dish to pass. Pitch in to help decorate the church or serve the meal.  
**Child care** will be provided **if** we can find volunteers to watch the children to allow parents help decorate. Call the office at 845-5212 if you can help with childcare.

**First Reconciliation** for our Second graders will be Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Please be on time.

**Memorials for Christmas Wreaths** may be given for loved ones. A limited number of 36" inside wreaths are available. You **must** call the parish office at 845-2100 prior to paying.

**Flower Envelope Offering:** This year, there will be envelopes in the pews to use for making an offering for Christmas flowers. If you would like to donate towards flowers as a memorial for deceased loved ones or in honor of someone living, please note the name/s clearly on the flap side of the envelope. Thank you.

**Advent Baby Shower:** You are invited to participate in the Annual Advent Baby Shower beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 1. Please bring NEW gifts, including clothing sizes newborn to 12 months, and place them in the cradle set up in church. See posters at church entrances for further information.

**Leader Training Conference: The Horizon Conference.**  
This conference is a great opportunity to train anyone who volunteers in parish ministry, such as: Youth Ministers, DREs, Catechists, Music Ministers, anyone who wants to be a better leader, no matter what their position entails! This conference has been designed with your entire parish staff and volunteer team in mind, to provide professional development that will enhance your ministry efforts. See side list of topics covered. JANUARY 10-12, 2020 MELBOURNE BEACH, FLORIDA  
See Fr. Bill if interested.

- Topics That will be Covered:**
- Casting a Compelling Vision
  - Leading When You’re Not in Charge
  - Managing Conflict and Tension
  - Creating a Healthy Culture
  - Handling Negativity and Criticism
  - Identifying Toxic Leaders and Rising Leaders
  - Humility as the Foundation of Leadership
  - Empowering and Equipping Those You Lead
  - Standards of Leadership
  - Establishing Efficient Systems for Your Team
  - Giving Guidance and Feedback
  - Hiring the Right People for Your Vision
  - The Necessity of Mentorship
  - Evaluation Methods and Strategies
  - Presenting and Launching New Initiatives
  - And More!

- STEPS WITHIN THE CONFESSION:**
1. Make the sign of the Cross.
  2. Tell the priest how long it has been since your last confession.
  3. Tell your sins to the priest. When you are finished say:  
“I’m sorry for these sins and any I may have forgotten.” Mortal sins need to be mentioned in number and in kind.
  4. Receive the penance the priest will give you.
  5. Make an Act of Contrition, saying it out loud.
  6. Listen to the words of absolution the priest will pray over you as he extends his hands towards you.
  7. Thank the priest.

- EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:**
- Have I put God first in my life by saying my prayers and going to Mass?
  - Have I misused God’s name?
  - Have I lied, not being honest in what I say?
  - Have I stolen anything, taking and keeping what does not belong to me?
  - Have I cheated in any way?
  - Have I gossiped, saying bad things about others?
  - Have I gotten angry at others, refusing to forgive them?
  - Have I been slothful, not striving to grow in my faith?
  - Have I been greedy, wanting to get more for myself than others?
  - Have I been prideful, thinking I’m better than others?
  - Have I been selfish, not sharing with God, the Church, and others?
  - Have I failed to love by not being kind and doing good things when I can?
  - Have I been jealous, sad because someone has more or is better than myself?

misuse of God’s name	ingratitude	giving scandal	rash judgments
having false gods	being lukewarm	fornication	envy
anger	murder	adultery	jealousy
unforgiveness	mediocrity	lust	greed
greed	spiritual sloth	masturbation	materialism
pride	vanity	abortion	gluttony
selfishness	prejudice	immodesty	hatred
indifference	missing Mass	lying	cheating
	harboring a grudge	gossiping	artificial birth control

**An Act of Contrition**  
Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more, to amend my life, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

**Please prepare before confession.**  
We should not simply just go to confession, but rather make the best confession possible. One of the essential pieces in the Rite of Penance is the examination of conscience. Here, we recall our sins and faults committed since our last confession. It helps to bring to light sins that keep us from a more intimate relationship with Christ. Look upon this sacrament as an opportunity to make full reparation for your sins, and restore your soul’s relationship with God. If you are reluctant to go to confession remember: Christ came into the world to save sinners.