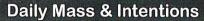
# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

210 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue W, West Fargo, ND 58078 701-282-3321

www.bscwf.org email: info@bscwf.org





Sunday, December 3

8:30 a.m. - the Parishioners

10:30 a.m. – +Elsie Sadowsky

Monday, December 4 - NO MASS

Tuesday, December 5 at Sheyenne Crossings

1:00 p.m. - Janett Aberle Wanner

Wednesday, December 6

9:00 a.m. - +John Gorman

Thursday, December 7

9:00 a.m. - +Marvin Klimek

Friday, December 8 Immaculate Conception

9:00 a.m. - the Parishioners

7:00 p.m. - +Debbie McCann

Saturday, December 9

4-4:30 p.m. Reconciliation

**5:15 p.m.** – +Boyd Garman

Sunday, December 10

8:30 a.m. – the Parishioners 10:30 a.m. – +Andrew Hecker

# **Weekly Offering**

Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023

Adult: \$160

November 25-26, 2022

Adult: \$6,129.17 Children: \$12

Improvements: \$138 Poor Fund: \$122

Thanksgiving Dinner: \$4,423

Collected to L	<u>ate</u>	Goal to Date
\$342,852.07	Adult	\$384,000.00
\$1,141.00	Children	\$1,440.00
\$39,889.60	Improvements	\$48,000.00
\$66,247.50	God's Gift	\$71,561.00



**Welcome!** Fr. Gary Luiten and the faithful of Blessed Sacrament welcome you. We hope your time at Blessed Sacrament may be an opportunity to join in fellowship of our faith and joy in Jesus Christ.

## This Week

Sunday:

No Coffee Nativity Showcase – 8:30a-2p PK – 10:30 a.m.

St. Jude Circle Meeting:

Tuesday, December 5, 3 p.m.

RCIA: Tuesday, December 5, 7 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Meeting:

Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation, Friday, December 8. Masses 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Staff Meeting, Friday, December 8, 1 p.m.

Holiday Bake Sale, Next Weekend!

#### **Advent**

#### Advent Wreath.

Traditionally, the Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches. It is often decorated with berries and pinecones. Both the evergreen branches and the circular shape symbolize the passing of time and eternal life. The shape of the wreath, with no beginning or end, reflects the complete and endless love that Jesus has for us. During the Advent season, we eagerly anticipate his coming and the promise of eternal life in heaven with him.

#### The Four Advent Candles.

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the "Christ candle."

Each of the candles lit before Christmas represents an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent.

#### The First Week of Advent

Candle Name: the Prophecy Candle

The First Week of Advent Represents: Hope

Candle Color: Purple

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation.



Advent Informational Pamphlets we have some Advent informational pamphlets and a booklet with Advent Mass Readings and Daily Meditations. These are in the magazine rack in the Gathering Area.

Blessed Sacrament's Advent Reconciliation Service. Thursday December 14, 7 p.m. Multiple priests will be hearing confessions that evening. Please make your Advent reconciliation on this day.

## **Area Advent Reconciliation Services**

Services at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

St. Paul Newman Center	December 6
St. Maurice, Kindred	December 6
Holy Spirit	December 10-4pm
Sts. Anne & Joachim	December 12
Nativity	December 14
Blessed Sacrament	December 14
St. Benedict, Wild Rice	December 17-4pm
St. Leo, Casselton	December 18
Holy Cross	December 19
St. Anthony	December 21

Fill the Manger With Straw. To the right of the Altar there is a display, currently with Mary and an empty manger (crib). The manger sits without any bedding. However, there is a bale of straw close by. We encourage you to place a piece of straw in the crib for every good deed you have done throughout the week. Good deed, act of kindness, patience, understanding, forgiveness... This can be done before or after Mass on the weekend or stop by the church during open hours on weekdays. Do this as a family or on your own. As the weeks of Advent pass, the manger will have more and more straw. We will make the best bed ever for baby Jesus on Christmas Eve and show that our parish is full of GOOD DEEDS!

## **Christmas Flowers**

Please use this form to make donations for the Christmas environment.

Donations are due by Monday, Dec.18.

Please print clearly.

In memory of:	
	(Name of deceased)
In honor of:	(Name of living person)
Requested by	

# Suggested donations: \$25, \$35, \$50 per name

(Your name)

Make check payable to Blessed Sacrament. Drop this form and donation in the collection basket, take to the Parish Office or mail it to 210 5<sup>th</sup> Ave W, West Fargo ND 58078

Please	publish	my	gift	in	the	bulletin
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**Donations for Christmas Flowers** are due Monday, December 18 to the Parish Office.

#### **Christmas Mass Schedule.**

Sunday, <u>December 24</u> – Carols 3:30 p.m.

- Mass 4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25 - Mass 9:30 a.m.

Parish Advent Project- MinisTREE for Churches United!". Help make Christmas special for those in need. Please take an ornament or two, purchase the item, listed on the back. Place the un-wrapped item under the MinisTREE. All ornaments have items from a wish list given to us by Churches United for the Homeless. They will take the items and place them in a 'gift room' for their guests to choose gifts for their family. All items must be unwrapped and under the MinisTREE by December 18.

Please Note: Gift card amounts should be \$10.

# **Faith Formation**



#### Class:

Grs 1-5 December 6 5:30 p.m.
WOW December 6 7:00 p.m.
Grs 1-5 December 13 5:30 p.m.
B4WOW December 13 7:00 p.m.

**Reconciliation Preparation**: Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20, 5:30 p.m.

RCIA (Right of Christian Initiation of Adults). Beginning in December RCIA class will be on Tuesdays.

Dates: December: 5, 19

FORMED-What to Watch: Formed offers a series for each week of Advent. Scroll toward the bottom of the platform page. The video called Adventus is very good. Another suggestion to view is Preparing for Advent, which you can find by scrolling to The Augustine Institute Show with Dr. Tim Gray. He and Dr. Ben Akers share many ideas about how you can prepare for and celebrate Advent traditions with your family. On December 8, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A great historical video to view is Blessed Duns Scotus who was a defender of the Immaculate Conception. Find this video by scrolling to Men and Women of Faith.

Formed has introduced a new series called Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family. It is a 5- part series created by the Knights of Columbus that explores God's incredible design for marriage and the family. Each episode is less than 14 minutes and worth the time to view.

Let's prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Advent, to not only celebrate the nativity of Jesus but also prepare for His second coming.

# Music Ministry



#### **Joyful Voices**

December 10

Practice 9:30 a.m.| Sing 10:30 a.m.

December 16 (Saturday)

Practice 4:15 p.m. | Sing 5:15 p.m.

December 24 9:30 a.m. (No Choir)

December 31 No Choir

#### **Combined Choir**

December 24

Practice 2:45 p.m. | Carols 3:30 p.m. | Mass 4p.m.

#### No Contemporary Choir in December

**Contact Ronda** (Ronda@bscwf.org) if you are interested in assisting at Weekend Masses:

- Instrumentalists
- Song Leaders
- Substitute Accompanists

# Parish Life



Welcome Back Fr. Gary! You began your sabbatical on August 27. Three months later, we are welcoming you home. We pray your sabbatical was everything you hoped it would be. We are sure you are coming back to us filled with exuberance and energy that we'll have trouble keeping up with you! May God Bless You!

**2024 Bulletin Advertising:** Please consider advertising in our weekly bulletin. Contact Mary Beth in the Parish Office 701-282-3321. The bulletin advertising money is used to off-set the cost of printing and distributing the bulletin.

**2024 Wall Calendars Are Available.** They are on the table by the Parish Office.

**Becoming Catholic:** If you or someone you know are interested in becoming Catholic, please contact Fr. Gary Luiten, 701-282-3321 or <a href="mailto:Gary@bscwf.org">Gary@bscwf.org</a>.

Busy-Bag for Children. Do you need something to occupy your child(ren) during Mass? Have them take a <u>Busy-Bag!</u> The bags are on the red 'tree' near the coat rack. You may take home the activity and coloring pages. The crayons and books remain in the bag. Please return the Busy-Bag to the 'tree' when Mass is over.

#### Daily Readings - December 3-9, 2023

<u>December 3</u>: Is 63:16b-18,19b,64:2-7, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37

December 4: Is 2:1-5, Mt 8:5-11

December 5: Is 11:1-10, Lk 10:21-24

December 6: Is 25:6-10a, Mt 15:29-37

<u>December 7</u>: Is 26:1-6, Mt 7:21,24-27

<u>December 8</u>: Gn 3:9-15,20, Eph 1:3-6,11-12,

Lk 1:26-38

December 9: Is 30:19-21,23-26,

Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

**Finance Council Meeting**, Tuesday, December 12, 7 p.m. in the Library.

Flowers for Mary: Parishioners are invited to bring flowers to honor Mary for the feast of her Immaculate Conception, December 8. Place them by the Mary statue in the Gathering Area.

God's Gift Appeal 2023. Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2023 God's Gift Appeal. Blessed Sacrament has reached 93% of its goal of \$71,561.07.

**Happy Birthday!** We pray for those celebrating a birthday this week.

• Laurie Erickson, December 8

Holiday Bake Sale Sponsored by St. Jude Circle, December 9-10, before and after Mass. If you would like to donate baked goods, bring them to the church prior to Mass.

Holy Day of Obligation: Immaculate Conception. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrates that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception, will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament on Friday, <a href="December 8">December 8</a>, <a href="Mass times are 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.</a>. The feast day is a holy day of obligation on which Catholics are required to attend Mass.

Join Us in December for Soup 'N More. Served from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Free will offering.

Thursday, December 14: Baked Potato Bar
Thank you to Fr. Tom | Welcome Back Fr. Gary.

Thursday, December 28: Appetizer (finger) foods.

Happy New Year (early)

Mass at Sheyenne Crossings: Fr. Gary celebrates Mass at Sheyenne Crossings every Tuesday at 1 p.m. There is no Daily Mass at Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays.

Let us Pray for You! Contact the Parish Office with your prayer needs 701-282-3321. Your request will be forwarded on to our Prayer Warriors and/or placed in the bulletin. You may also request prayers on our website:

https://www.bscwf.org/prayer-wall/

Mass at Trinity Elementary School: Fr. Gary celebrates Mass at Trinity once a month. There is no Daily Mass at Blessed Sacrament on those days. Please watch the bulletin for the date.

Next Blood Drive is Monday, December 18. Please sign up to help save a life. If you have questions or would like to sign up, reach out to Julie in the parish office 701.282.3321 or julie@bscwf.org.

**Pastoral Council Meeting**, Monday, December 11, 7 p.m. in the Library.

Please Check Lost and Found. Items not picked up by December 31 will be donated. We collect items that have been left behind and place them in the tote above the coat rack.

Prayer Warriors. The Blessed Sacrament Prayer Warriors are a group of individuals who pray for those who have requested prayer. If you are interested in joining our Warriors of Prayer or if you have questions, contact Mary Beth in the Parish Office. 701-282-3321.

**Sick List:** We pray for our ill parishioners and family members. If you would like your Blessed Sacrament family to pray for you or a loved one, please call the Parish Office. <u>Names will be listed, in the bulletin, for 1 month</u> unless the office is contacted for an extension.

Joan Anderson, Clarice Dancer, Bruce Pulkrabek, Annette Roth, Larry & Marlys Mattson, Kolby Hunsicker, Aaron Dahl, Gary Lammer

Thank you, Fr. Tom! You were so kind (and brave) to step up and cover for Fr. Gary while he was on sabbatical! Thank you! We appreciate your time; giving up 'days off'; and putting up with — well — you know... We will miss you, but glad you will still celebrate an occasional Mass with us in the future.

#### <u>Vital Statistics – November 2023</u>

Newcomers: Michael & Hannah Hanowski, Steve & Karna Rosenau, Jerome Baumgartner

#### We Pray in Remembrance of...

December 5: Margaret Olson

December 8: James Hill, Emma Arzt

December 9: Angeline Heinz

Winter Storm Policy The Blessed Sacrament Parish Office follows the same winter storm policy as West Fargo Public Schools. If the WF Public Schools are closed because of bad weather, the Parish Office will be closed and there will be no evening activities. Fr. Gary WILL say daily Mass if it is scheduled.

# Volunteerism - Stewardship

#### WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN THE BULLETIN??

Every week Mary Beth sets a copy of the bulletin on the desk and we each take time to proof it and then update our areas. With the birth of our Savior in the near future, I think about what a joyous occasion we are about to re-experience. I am reminded that Jesus Christ was put on this earth to save all of us, and He asks that we trust and believe in Him. More importantly receive His Holy Body and Precious Blood weekly.

As I think about Jesus' coming and then His ultimate suffering for us, I wonder, how is it that I can't even get my fellow parishioners, my parish family to volunteer? I know God put me in this position for a reason and yet after 1-1/2 years I feel like a let-down to Him. I rack my brain weekly on what to include in the bulletin to grab attention. All as I wonder silently: who is actually reading this, what will entice fellow parishioners more? What am I doing wrong that only the same people volunteer to help be it for liturgies, soup 'n more, churches united, fall dinner, thanksgiving, blood drives, etc.

We have had our largest two happenings at Blessed Sacrament in the last 2 months: The Annual Fall Dinner and our 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The same people (approximately 29% of our families) are spending countless hours to help make each event and weekly Liturgies successful. I am so very grateful for all of them but they, too, need a break.

So, with the birth of Jesus Christ Our Savior coming at the end of this month, I pray that we all take time to reflect on what we can do better or more to honor Jesus. God Bless You All!! Julie

#### Churches United for the Homeless (CUH):

Blessed Sacrament takes supper to CUH the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. We cook the meal here and deliver it to CUH. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Julie in the Parish Office 701-282-3321.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Coffee 'N Goodies: Most Sundays

• Soup 'N More: December 14 & 28

• Churches United: December 28

To volunteer, see the Sign-up Sheets in the Gathering Area or contact Julie 701-282-3321 or Julie@bscwf.org.

## **National Eucharistic Pilgrimage**

# Walking Coast to Coast With Our Eucharistic Lord!

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage (procession) is a truly unique initiative. This is a beautiful fusion of the journey **TO** Jesus and the journey **WITH** Jesus. What's more, it is an adventure that all Catholics can do together, either by interior disposition or physical accompaniment.

This is the birth of something remarkable. Join us as we accompany Jesus in the Eucharist from the north, south, east, and west edges of our country, stopping at many holy sites and churches along the way. Each route is scheduled to arrive in Indianapolis IN, on July 21 to join the National Eucharistic Congress, where Jesus comes to encounter His people anew.

The four routes will come from the North (Minnesota), South (Texas), East (Connecticut), and West (California).

The Northern Route, **Marian Route**, is the journey most North Dakotans would take. This route begins on May 19 (Pentecost) at the headwaters of the Mississippi. There will be Pentecost Mass at Lake Itasca Park, followed by a solemn Eucharistic procession. The pilgrimage will descend through the midwestern United States, pass through Wisconsin and Illinois, and meet up with the other three Pilgrimage routes in Indianapolis at the National Eucharistic Congress.

This route is the shortest in distance, but it has no shortage of opportunities for encounter with Christ! Pilgrims will attend Mass every day of their journey, along with regular evenings of reflection and adoration. As they travel, pilgrims will grow closer to Our Lord through service to local communities, inviting the most marginalized among us to be revived by the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. Will you join this historic journey?

The Marian Route is named for its visit to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion - formerly Our Lady of Good Help - the first and only approved Marian Apparition site in the United States. This is fitting, because the very first Eucharistic Pilgrimage was made by our Blessed Mother who traveled with the Body of Christ growing in her womb. Just as Mary followed Jesus perfectly throughout his earthly life, pilgrims will journey closely with Our Lord from May 2024 to July 2024.

Mother of the Incarnation, pray for us!

# For More Information on the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage:

https://www.fargodiocese.org/ scroll down until you see the "National Eucharistic Pilgrimage" box.

# Community & Diocesan Events

Catholic Man Night, Tuesday, December 5, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., St. Benedict's, Horace. Pray and socialize with the guys. 6 p.m. Adoration & Confessions; 7 p.m. Meal & Talk. Guest Speaker, Fr. Eric Seitz. All area churches are invited – Grab a friend!

Cupcakes for Life Trivia Night! Tuesday, December 5, 7 p.m., Sts. Anne & Joachim Social Hall. Desserts and Refreshments will be provided. Hosted by Shanley Deacons for Life.

Sunday Breakfast at St. Benedicts, December 10, 9 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. a St. Benedict's in Horace. Free will offering. All are welcome!

#### **Catholic Married Couples Retreat**

December 8-10, 2023, Maryvale, Valley City. During this retreat you will explore both the Cardinal and Theological Virtues. Registration is \$400 per couple. <a href="https://www.sixstonejars.org/virtues-retreat">www.sixstonejars.org/virtues-retreat</a>.

Catholic Daughters to Meet. Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, December 12 at St. Anthony's beginning with the Mass at 5:15 p.m., meal to follow, and meeting at 6:30 p.m. Members are invited to bring non-perishable food items and/or auction baskets. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to recentctstann@gmail.com.

6th Annual Family Christmas Ball! - Friday, December 29 6:30pm-10pm, St. Mary's Cathedral Basement. Come join us for a fun, FREE night of Waltzes, Foxtrots, Swing and a few Ballroom Line Dances-that are easy to learn! Bring a snack to share. All ages are welcome, attire is formal. If you want a few lessons to brush up on your skills, Free lessons in the Cathedral Basement will be offered: Sun. Dec. 10, 11:15am – East Coast Swing; Sunday, Dec. 17, 11:15am – Ballroom Line Dances. If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Goering: goeringtiffany@gmail.com, 701-388-6362

#### **Job Openings**

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Fargo, is currently looking for a Business Manager. This person will be familiar with Catholic teaching, structure and procedures with the ability to manage multiple projects and priorities. This position is responsible for the effective organization and operation of Holy Spirit parish's financial, building and office affairs. This is a full-time salaried position offering a competitive salary and benefits. Previous accounting experience is preferred, advancement experience would be a bonus. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Fr. Ross Laframboise at pastor@holyspiritfargo.com

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Fargo, is looking to hire an Administrative Assistant/Communications team member. This position would help engage parishioners through effective communication and lived hospitality. This part-time or full-time role would include managing communication and marketing, answering phones and greeting guests, clerical work, and providing general office assistance. Candidates must have a love for their Catholic faith, computer skills, and a positive personality to make Holy Spirit parish an even better place. Please send a cover letter and resume to: pastor@holyspiritfargo.com.

#### Mission Statement:

As loving disciples, we the faith community of Blessed Sacrament, strive for full and active participation in joyfully serving Christ while recognizing the gifts and dignity of all.



# December 9-10, 2023 - Second Sunday in Advent Ministries of Service

Masses	5:15 p.m. Saturday	8:30 a.m. Sunday	10:30 a.m. Sunday
Proclaimers	S. Neva	S. DeKeyser	K. Hanson
ЕМНС	*S. & J. Neva, J. & J.W. Jones, M. Schiele	*L & S DeKeyser, F. McCann, S. Perreault, D. Nechiporenko, **S DeKeyser	*G. Larson, K & E. Hanson, M. Jamieson, M. Kern
Gift Bearers	Glandt Family	A. & K. Kottsick	B. & K. Novak
Servers	H. Schiele, E. Rohrich	Wells Crew	E. Buettner, Volunteer
Ushers	D. & J. Rohrich	P. Boyles, C. Pratt	R. Haugen, E. Hanson
Greeters	Glandt Family	A. & K. Kottsick	B. & K. Novak
Rosary Leader	S. Bosch	S. Durbin	K. Hanson
Sacristan	S. Schiele	D. Nechiporenko	M. Kern
Media Minister	N. Althoff	*Eucharist Minister **Tal	kes to home-bound

## Feast/Holy Day the Week of December 3, 2023

December 4: St. John Damascene December 6: St. Nicholas December 7: St. Ambrose December 7: Pearl Harbor Day December 9: St. Juan Diego December 8: Immaculate Conception

## **Blessed Sacrament Directory**

701-282-3321 | www.bscwf.org

#### Fr. Gary Luiten, Pastor - Gary@bscwf.org

Julie Yourczek - Parish Life / Volunteerism - Julie@bscwf.org Lucy Elshaug - DRE/Youth Ministry - Lucy@bscwf.org Mary Beth Odegaard - Support Staff - MaryBeth@bscwf.org

Ronda Voss - Music Coordinator - Ronda@bscwf.org

Facebook:

Blessed Sacrament Church - West Fargo

Web: bscwf.org

YouTube: Blessed Sacrament West Fargo

# Please Support Our Bulletin Advertisers!



Knights of Columbus Council #6465

Meet first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Classroom #4

**Blessed Sacrament Church** 

St. Francis Thrift Store FOR \$3 PER WEEK THIS SPOT COULD BE YOURS! Needed: Saleable items, cash donations CALL THE PARISH OFFICE 701-282-3321

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To help the needy in our community

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**Father Gary Luiten** 

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