



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

210 5th Avenue W, West Fargo, ND 58078

701-282-3321

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



December 16-17, 2023 ~ 3rd Sunday in Advent

Daily Mass & Intentions

Sunday, December 17

8:30 a.m. – the Parishioners

10:30 a.m. - +Joshua P. Allen & Family

Monday, December 18 - NO MASS

Tuesday, December 19 at Sheyenne Crossings

1:00 p.m. – Darin Nagel

Wednesday, December 20

9:00 a.m. – +Val Tareski

Thursday, December 21

9:00 a.m. - +Bob Yanish

Friday, December 22

9:00 a.m.- +Jake Kirchoffner

Saturday, December 23

Reconciliation 4:00-4:30 p.m.

5:15 p.m. – +Jim Hill

Sunday, December 24

9:30 a.m. – the Parishioners

Christmas Vigil:

3:30 p.m. - Carols

4:00 p.m. - +Carter & +Easten Supler



Offertory Gifts

Immaculate Conception, December 8

Adult: \$478

December 10-11, 2023

Adult: \$5,235.51

Children: \$35

Improvements: \$179.49

Poor Fund: \$274

Collected to Date

\$356,650.42

Adult

Goal to Date

\$400,000.00

\$1,190.00

Children

\$1,500.00

\$40,676.09

Improvements

\$50,000.00

\$67,456.50

God's Gift

\$71,561.00



Welcome! Fr. Gary Luiten and the faithful of Blessed Sacrament welcome you. We hope your time with us may be blessed. May it also be an opportunity to join in fellowship of our faith and joy in Jesus Christ.

This Week



Sunday: Coffee

Blood Drive, Monday, December 18, 3-6 p.m.

RCIA: Tuesday, December 19, 7 p.m.

Advent

The Third Week of Advent

Candle Name: the Shepherd's Candle

The Third Week of Advent Represents: Joy

Candle Color: Pink

This third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

Who is St. Nicholas?

St. Nicholas was a bishop of an ancient Greek town called Myra, in present-day Turkey. He was born around March 15, 270 and died on December 6, 343.

St. Nicholas always had a love for the poor and would work for their benefit. The story goes that there was a poor man in town with no money for a dowry for his daughters. No dowry meant no marriage, which would have left his daughters to be sold into a life of servitude. Later one night, St. Nicholas dropped a bag of money down the chimney of the family home, thus allowing the daughters a dowry.

Most famously, he is the real-life historical figure from whom we get Santa Claus. His generosity inspired the "chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf" – *Santa* meaning *Saint* and *Claus* is short for *Nicholas*.

The story of St. Nicholas is fun to know and a great way to remind us, and our children that Christmas is about more than just presents.



Christmas Mass Schedule.

Sunday, December 24 – Carols 3:30 p.m.
 – Mass 4:00 p.m.
 Monday, December 25 – Mass 9:30 a.m.

Help Fill the Manger For Jesus! Put a piece of straw in the manger for every good deed you did last week. We want EVERYONE to put straw in the manger. Jesus will be warm and comfy nestled in our good deeds!

****Mass Time on December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent**** Please note that Sunday Mass is at 9:30 a.m. on December 24. This will fulfill your Sunday Obligation but does not fulfill your Christmas obligation.

MinisTREE for Churches United!". All items must be under the MinisTREE by Monday, December 18.

Area Advent Reconciliation Services

Services at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

St. Benedict, Wild Rice	December 17-4pm
St. Leo, Casselton	December 18
Holy Cross	December 19
St. Anthony	December 21

Faith Formation



Class:

Grs. 1-5	December 20 5:30 p.m.
WOW	December 20 7:00 p.m.
NO CLASS	December 27

RCIA (Right of Christian Initiation of Adults).

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Dates: December: 19
 January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

First Reconciliation Preparation for both students and parents, Wednesday, December 20, 5:30 p.m.

FORMED – What to Watch. For this week, there are many things to view and learn about the season of Advent. As we are closer to Christmas and are now celebrating the 3rd Sunday of Advent, from the ADVENT section. Click on the purple rectangle at the top of the platform and once open, for kids and families, O Holy Night, The King is Born with Brother Francis is a very good choice to view; for adults and older youth, there are short messages from Dr. Michael Barber that you can find by clicking on The True Meaning of Christmas; Dr. Tim Gray presents episode 2 of Lectio: Prayer/Guigo's Ladder: A Way of Ascent. Lastly, by scrolling to and clicking on the Bible Study section, there is a very informative presentation by Dr. Brant Pitre called The Birth of the Messiah: Mary and the Mystery of Christmas. There are many other choices to view as well that will enhance your Advent experience.

Music Ministry



Joyful Voices

- 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



Bulletin Deadline: Articles are due to Mary Beth in the Parish Office, Tuesdays by Noon, for the following Sunday. Drop them off in the office or email MaryBeth@bscwf.org.

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

- August Keller, December 19
- Richard Murack, December 21
- Sharon Burckhard, December 21.

Soup 'N More – Happy New Year (Early)

Everyone is welcome to join us for supper on December 28, we will be serving appetizer (finger) foods. Free-will offering, we serve from 5:30-6:30

Daily Readings – December 17-23, 2023

December 17: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11, 1 Thes 5:16-24,
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18: Jer 23:5-8, Mt 1:18-25

December 19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a, Lk 1:5-15

December 20: Is 7:10-14, Lk 1:26-38

December 21: Sg 2:8-14, Lk 1:39-45

December 22: 1 Sm 1:24-28, Lk 1:46-56

December 23: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24, Lk 1:57-66

Sick List: We pray for our ill parishioners and family members.. Darlene Berube, Donnie Moore, Shirley Olson (sister of Marilyn Jamieson), Phyllis Pritchard, Frank Metzger, Dwight Keller, Joan Anderson, Clarice Dancer, Kolby Hunsicker, Aaron Dahl, Gary Lammer

Thank You! The St. Jude Circle would like to thank all the bakers and shoppers. With all your help we were able to raise \$1,000 for the Poor Fund.

-Alice Pritchard, President

We Pray In Remembrance of.

December 17: Joseph Schultz, Henry Thies

December 18: Daniel Hager, Mary Rustad,
Erick Sjue, Peter Geffre, James Parsons

December 19: Julie Volk

December 20: Agnes Henry

December 21: Paul Lisburg

December 22: Ronald Webb, Daniel Cossette,
John Gehrke

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.

Volunteerism - Stewardship



BLOOD DRIVE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 3-6:30 p.m. PLEASE GIVE IF YOU ARE ABLE

Celebrate New Year's early and mildly at our December 28 Soup 'N More. Enjoy appetizer type foods, good cheer and company. Serving from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Continuing 2 Soup 'N Mores in January and beyond....

Thursday, January 8, 2024: Theme/Menus - TBD

Thursday, January 22, 2024: Theme/Menus - TBD

Please note that Joseph and Mary are now making their journey to Bethlehem. By the time they reach their destination the manger should be full! Thank you to all that are participating! Remember this is for everyone and anyone that does good deeds. 1 good deed = 1 piece of straw. Keep up the great work and good deeds!!

JANUARY 1 MASS MINISTERS PLEASE TAKE

NOTE: Mass is at 9am NOT 9:30. I apologize for the confusion. Julie

Not interested in getting involved with current church happenings. Have some ideas?? Reach out to Julie to discuss. Final decisions need to be approved by Fr. Gary. You can email at julie@bscwf.org or call the parish office 701.282.3321 and ask for Julie.

DO YOU HAVE A LOVE FOR MARY? WE ARE IN NEED OF ROSARY LEADERS!! Contact Julie at 701.282.3321 or julie@bscwf.org. You can lead the rosary on your own, as a couple, as a family, with a friend, etc.

Reflections by Fr. Gary Luiten



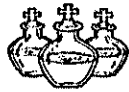
The Third Sunday in Advent-December 17, 2023

You may notice a lot of lights this time of year, in the midst of the darkness. People have Christmas lights up in their yards. They have decorated their trees and homes. John the Baptist talks about light, too, in the gospel, which give us cause to rejoice. This light is Jesus Christ, who eventually came to John to be baptized. And so, all these lights we see at this dark time of year give us cause to think about the one, true light, from which the light of truth and justice has come, which is Jesus.

Jesus also calls you and me to be the light. In Matthew, chapter 5, Jesus calls us to be the light of the world. To be the light of the world means that we can do what Isaiah did in the first reading, we can proclaim liberty to the captives. The captives today include those who are held captive because of grudges or sins that they carry. We can be God's instruments of healing. We can direct them to Jesus and even to sacramental forgiveness. We can be the light of the world by announcing a year of favor through the joy in our hearts, even in the midst of present trials and sufferings, as we look forward to the reward which awaits us.

And so, as we go forth and make the preparations for Christmas, let us remember that God has called us to be lights in a world of darkness, to be beacons of hope by our words and example in a world that in many ways has lost sight of God. Even in the midst of the darkness and storms in the world around us, we can be instruments of God's light to those around us by keeping the love and light of Christ in our hearts.

Sacraments



- **Baptism:** Parents must attend a preparatory class before the baptism can take place. Please contact the Parish Office and speak with Fr. Gary Luiten.
- **Marriage:** To be married at Blessed Sacrament, one or both persons of the engaged couple must be practicing Catholics. Contact Fr. Gary Luiten at least six months prior to the wedding.
- **Reconciliation:** Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and upon appointment.
- **For the Sick:** You are encouraged to seek the Sacrament of the Sick if you are suffering from a serious illness or are going to be admitted to the hospital for surgery. Please contact Fr. Gary Luiten if you would like to be anointed.

Fr. Gary Luiten - Gary@bscwf.org. 701-282-3321

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 Eastern Route, **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route** is leaving from New Haven, Connecticut, the eastern arm of the Pilgrimage will begin near the Atlantic coast, journey through our nation's oldest diocese, and cross the Appalachian Mountains. The Seton Route will be punctuated by many meaningful stops. Pilgrims will visit holy sites, embrace the sacraments daily, and publicly proclaim Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist as they accompany him on his way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. Make your plans now to meet up with this historic Pilgrimage!

This Route is named for **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**, the first American-born saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church. A lifelong protestant, the young mother was drawn to the Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. St. Elizabeth Ann opened the first free Catholic school for girls in America in 1810. Her work laid the foundation for what is now the parochial school system.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 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

Nativity Church Christmas Eve Dinner. Sunday, December 24, 2023, 6-8 p.m. Nativity Catholic Church or at Olivet Lutheran Church, Fargo. Dinner, Fellowship, gifts and Music. For more information call 232-2414.

Do you need a Christmas present for that young person in your life (or for yourself)? **SEARCH for Christian Maturity** is a peer-to-peer ministry, allowing youth (ages 16 and 17) along with young adults (ages 18 and older) to minister to youth and young adults. SEARCH is a way to help you on your journey to discover God, yourself, and a Christian community. This is a time to experience a loving, supportive community of young people who want to learn and experience a closer relationship with God and with others. We have a peer-lead retreat coming up **January 12-14, 2024** at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City. More details and the application are at www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm or call Dori at 952-210-2219 with questions. Applications are due no later than Tuesday, December 26th.

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

210 5 Ave W., West Fargo

Holiday Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Vigil Sunday, December 24

3:30 p.m. Carols

4:00 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day Monday, December 25

9:30 a.m. Mass

New Year's Day Monday, January 1, 2024

9:00 a.m. Mass



December 23-24, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Advent
Ministries of Service

Masses	5:15 p.m. Saturday	9:30 a.m. Sunday
Proclaimers	C. Paintner	M. Doster
EMHC	*K. Jalbert, C. Paintner, M. Schiele, S. & J. Neva	*W. Suchla, F. Lenzmeier, J. Klaers, F. McCann, M. Doster
Gift Bearers	K. & A. Jalbert	W. & J. Suchla
Servers	H. Schiele, Volunteer	Volunteers
Ushers	J. & J. W. Jones	P, Boyles, L. Sample
Greeters	J. & S. Neva	W. & J. Suchla
Rosary Leader	S. Bosch	J. Klaers
Sacristan	K. Jalbert	M. Doster
Media Minister	R. Cwikla	
	*Bread Minister **takes communion to the Homebound.	

Feast/Holy Day the Week of December 17, 2023
December 21: St. Peter Canisius December 23: St. John of Kanty

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

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<p>Knights of Columbus Council #6465</p> <p>Meet first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Classroom #4 Blessed Sacrament Church</p>	<p>Darren Rohrich 701-367-8676 darrenrohrich@gmail.com</p> <p>DAKOTA PLAINS REALTY DakotaPlainsRealty.com</p>	<p>TRS INDUSTRIES FARGO, ND</p> <p>Custom Covers for Anything 1-701-277-1749—Fargo, ND</p>	<p>Advertise Here! for \$3 per week Contact the Parish Office 701-282-3321</p>
<p>FOR \$3 PER WEEK THIS SPOT COULD BE YOURS! CALL THE PARISH OFFICE 701-282-3321</p>	<p>St. Francis Thrift Store 1425 1st Avenue South Fargo, ND 58103 Ph: 701-235-5944</p> <p>Needed: Saleable items, cash donations (tax deductible), and volunteers Purpose: To help the needy in our community</p>	<p>BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH Father Gary Luiten 701-282-3321 ~ www.bscwf.org</p>	<p>firstchoice CLINIC "Putting You First"</p> <p>free confidential services 701.237.6530</p> <p>pregnancy Tests -Limited Ultrasounds -Resources & Referrals -STI Testing</p>