



# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

210 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue W, West Fargo, ND 58078  
701-282-3321  
[www.bscwf.org](http://www.bscwf.org) email: [info@bscwf.org](mailto:info@bscwf.org)



## December 23-24, 2023 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

### Daily Mass & Intentions



#### Sunday, December 24

**9:30 a.m.** – the Parishioners

Christmas Vigil:

3:30 p.m. – Carols

**4:00 p.m.** – +Carter & +Easton Supler

**Monday, December 25** *Christmas Day*

**9:30 a.m.** – the Parishioners

*Parish Office Closed*

**Tuesday, December 26** *at Sheyenne Crossings*

1:00 p.m. – Shannon Eidenschink

**Wednesday, December 27**

**9:00 a.m.** – +Cecelia Kirchoffner

**Thursday, December 28**

**9:00 a.m.** – +Donald & +Yvonne Pick

**Friday, December 29**

**9:00 a.m.** – The Joe Wentz Family

**Saturday, December 30**

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

**5:15 p.m.** – +Ray Hoffman

**Sunday, December 31** *Holy Family*

8:30 a.m. – +Betty Allmaras

10:30 a.m. – the Parishioners

### Offertory Gifts



**December 16-17, 2023**

Adult: \$15,392.81

Children: \$32

Improvements: \$10,813

Poor Fund: \$767

#### Collected to Date

\$372,043.23	Adult	\$408,000.00
\$1,222.00	Children	\$1,530.00
\$51,489.09	Improvements	\$51,000.00
\$70,011.50	God's Gift	\$71,561.00

#### Goal to Date



**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:** No Coffee

**Parish Office Closed,** Monday, December 25

**Churches United,** Thursday, December 28

**Soup 'N More,** Thursday, December 28, 5:30 p.m.

### Advent

#### The Fourth Week of Advent

Candle Name: the Angel's Candle

The Fourth Week of Advent Represents: **Love**

Candle Color: Purple

During this final week of Advent, we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

#### An Advent Prayer for the Family

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, Lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

## What are the 12 Days of Christmas?

For Catholics the Christmas Season doesn't begin until Christmas Eve. The time of preparation before Christmas is called Advent. Catholics celebrate the Christmas season from Jesus' birth, December 25, until the day before the Epiphany (January 6). The Epiphany is the celebration of when the three wise men visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Since the Church is still celebrating it's a great opportunity to leave your Christmas decorations up a little longer? *What is the meaning behind the song "the 12 Days of Christmas"? We hope you enjoy the attached description.*



## 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).

Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**FORMED – What to Watch.** This week on Formed, there are many wonderful Advent videos available to you by clicking on the purple Advent box at the top of the platform page. Another suggestion is Metanoia: A Journey with Christ into Conversion. Metanoia means to repent, to change, to be converted. There are 10 short episodes filmed in the Holy Land, with each episode exploring areas in our life where conversion is often necessary. You can find the series by clicking on the tab "Formed's Favorites".

## Music Ministry



### Combined Choir

- December 24

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

### Joyful Voices

	Practice/Sing
	No Choir
December 31	9:45/10:30 a.m.
January 7	9:45/10:30 a.m.
January 14	4:30/5:15 p.m.
January 20	9:45/10:30 a.m.
January 28	

## Contemporary Choir

- January 14
- January 28

## Practice/Sing

7:45/8:30 a.m.  
7:45/8:30 a.m.

## Parish Life



**Becoming Catholic:** If you or someone you know are interested in becoming Catholic, please contact Fr. Gary Luiten about RCIA classes, 701-282-3321 or [Gary@bscwf.org](mailto:Gary@bscwf.org).

## Daily Readings – December 24-30, 2023

December 24: Is 7:1—14, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24

December 25: Is 62:11-12, Ti 3:4-7, Lk 2:15-20

December 26: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Mt 10:17-22:

December 27: 1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20: 1a, 2-8

December 28: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2, Mt 2:13-18

December 29: 1 Jn 2:3-11, Lk 2:22-35

December 30: 1 Jn 2:12-17, Lk 2:36-40

**Happy Anniversary!** We pray for those who will be celebrating a wedding anniversary this week:

- August & Irene Keller, Dec. 27, 72 yrs.!
- LeRoy & Mary Kay Hagen, Dec. 28, 55 yrs.!

**New Year's Mass Schedule:** Mary, Mother of God, January 1, is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year. However, we will be having Mass at 9:00 a.m.

## Our Sympathy to

- Heather Madson on the death of her Great Uncle, Jerry Madson.
- Brenda Krogen on the death of her Aunt, Shirley Allmaras.

May Jerry and Shirley rest in peace in the arms of our Lord.

## Receive Notifications of our Streaming Masses.

Subscribe to the Blessed Sacrament YouTube channel!

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCPIK7lx7716WWtNNUQxt5rw>. Subscribe and click the bell, you will get notified of live broadcasts and newly uploaded videos.

**Sick List:** We pray for our ill parishioners and family members.

Jenifer Taylor (daughter of Kathy Yanish),  
Craig Fairbanks (son-in-law of Alice Cumber),  
Diane Heilman, Darlene Berube, Donnie Moore,  
Shirley Olson, Phyllis Pritchard, Frank Metzger,  
Dwight Keller, Joan Anderson, Clarice Dancer,  
Kolby Hunsicker, Aaron Dahl, Gary Lammer

### **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 p.m.

### **We Pray In Remembrance of...**

December 24: Mary Hlebechk

December 27: Mark Kuhn, Gladys Scholz

December 30: Joseph Kastenbauer, Janice Gehrke

### **Volunteerism - Stewardship**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR BEAUTIFUL PARISHIONERS. May the upcoming Christmas season bring you peace, health, hope, happiness, and love.**

**A special thank you to those that participated or tried to participate in the Blood Drive on Monday, December 18, 2023.** I am sure those who will receive your blood product(s) will be forever grateful. God Bless You All! Next drive will be in March. Watch for exact date/time.

**Celebrate New Year's early this Thursday, December 28th.** Enjoy appetizer type foods (boneless chicken wings, meatballs, meat/cheese, etc.), good cheer and company. Serving from 5:30-6:30pm

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

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

Thursday, January 22, 2024: Theme/Menu – TBD

**Thank you to all who took time to help fill the manger. We did a great job and baby Jesus should stay warm!**

**New Years is literally around the corner. Do you have any resolutions planned out??** How about getting more involved in your Blessed Sacrament Parish. There are plenty of opportunities for individuals, couples, and families. Your parish needs you.

**Mass Ministry Schedules** for January & February are available for pickup. They are on the table by the Parish Office. Please remember to check and to take your schedule. Thank you.

### **Reflections by Fr. Gary Luiten**



### **The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023**

The gospel this Fourth Sunday of Advent is about the annunciation of the birth of Jesus to Mary by the angel Gabriel, a fitting reading for the Sunday before Christmas. Without this announcement, there would be no Christmas. And without a "yes" that Mary said, there would be no Christmas and no salvation. It seemed impossible. But the angel said that with God, nothing is impossible. We could also say that with God, all things are possible.

Do we believe that with God, all things are possible? Do we believe that God will take care of us in the good times, as well as the bad times? Do we believe that God will heal out spiritual illnesses, even when we seem to be in the deepest spiritual ruts? Do we believe God can heal us in the Sacrament of reconciliation? Do we believe that God will see to it that our needs are met this winter, even when it seems there may be no light at the end of the tunnel? If God can cause a virgin to have a child, if God can cause a barren woman to have a child, if God can make the deaf hear and the blind see, then God can help us, too, if we have the faith and trust. So, to make the impossible possible, to root out those stumbling blocks in our lives, we need simply to say, "Yes, Lord, Your will be done."

Many hardened hearts can be softened through God's will. The upcoming season of Christmas can be a truly grace-filled time. Barriers can be broken which separate us from God and one another. This is a time in which many people, feeling the presence of God, can come back to the Church and to the state of grace. One might say, "Not much happens in the wintertime." But much truly can happen in our hearts, as we prepare for Jesus' coming. Why? Because with God, all things are possible.

May God grant you all a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a Joyful and Happy New Year. May the Christ child born so many years ago in Bethlehem be your source of strength and peace now and forever.

### **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.



## 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 Western Route, **St. Junipero Serra Route**. From our Pacific coast, the western arm of the Pilgrimage will cross the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains on foot. The Junipero Serra Route will be the longest and most challenging branch of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage—covering over 2,200 miles! This dynamic journey will provide countless opportunities for pilgrims to walk closely with our Eucharistic Lord, following him just as the first apostles did throughout his earthly ministry. We will travel across deserts in Nevada, mountains in Colorado, and the great plains of the Midwest. Join us as we carry the Blessed Sacrament across America!

This route is named after the “Apostle of California,” **St. Junipero Serra**, a missionary priest who dedicated his life to administering the sacraments to indigenous people and Spanish settlers across the west coast of our continent. He traveled approximately 24,000 miles throughout his ministry, mostly on foot. Join us in asking for his intercession as we respond to the Holy Spirit's invitation to revival!

*St. Junipero Serra, 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

### Job Openings:

Minot Air Force Base in Minot ND is seeking a part-time Catholic Religious Education Coordinator, 15 hours per week. Primary duties include providing a quality religious education program nursery through grade 12, prepare annual budget, plan and order curriculum and ensure teachers and substitutes are properly trained. Must have broad knowledge of the Catholic teachings and basic computer skills. Send your resume to [info@sawyerglobal.com](mailto:info@sawyerglobal.com)

### Teaching Positions

St. John Paul II Catholic Schools is looking to hire the following positions to start as soon as possible:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher – Nativity Elementary School
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher – Trinity Elementary School
- Math Long-term Substitute Teacher – Sacred Heart Middle School

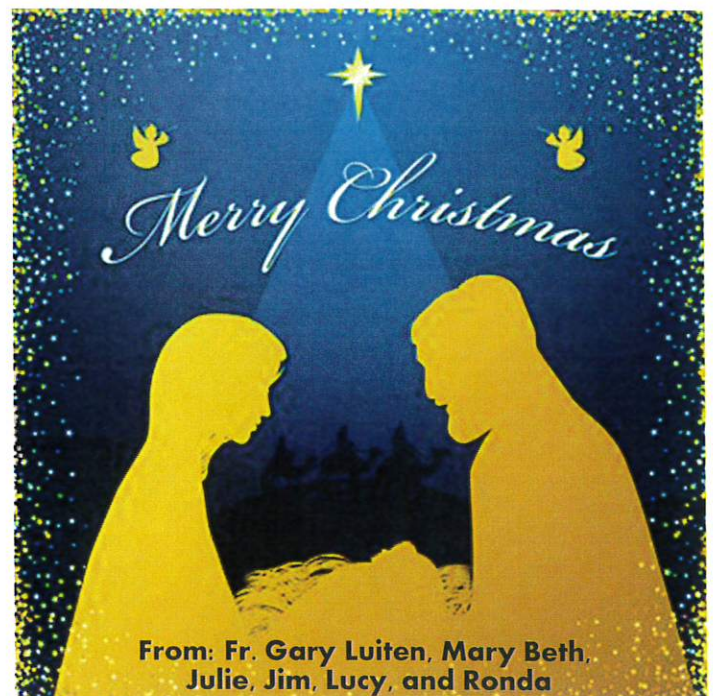
To apply visit <https://www.jp2schools.org/careers/> or call 701-893-3231 for more information.

### Other Positions

St. John Paul II Catholic Schools is looking to hire the following positions:

- Head Girls Volleyball Coach (Fall 2024) – Shanley High School
- Head Boys Soccer Coach (Fall 2024) – Shanley High School
- After School Program Worker – Multiple locations

To apply visit <https://www.jp2schools.org/careers/> or call 701-893-3231 for more information.







### **What are the 12 Days of Christmas?**

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**Day 1:** *A Partridge in a pear tree*, symbolizes Jesus Christ, with the partridge representing Christ's willingness to sacrifice himself and the pear tree symbolizing the cross.

**Day 2:** *Two turtle doves* represent the Old and New Testaments, highlighting the harmony and connection between the two.

**Day 3:** *Three French hens* signifies the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love (or charity).

**Day 4:** *Four calling birds* symbolizes the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which spread the good news of Christ's life and teachings.

**Day 5:** *Five golden rings* represent the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch or the Torah, emphasizing God's covenant with His people.

**Day 6:** *Six geese a-laying* symbolizes the six days of creation, emphasizing God's power as the creator of the world.

**Day 7:** *Seven swans a-swimming* represents the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

**Day 8:** *Eight maids a-milking* symbolizes the eight Beatitudes preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, highlighting the virtues and blessings of a righteous life.

#### The Eight Beatitudes:

1. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
2. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
3. *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*
4. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
5. *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*
6. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
7. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.*
8. *Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Day 9:** Nine ladies dancing represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**Day 10:** *Ten lords a-leaping* signifies the Ten Commandments, which provide guidance for a moral and righteous life.

The Ten Commandments:

1. *I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange gods before me.*
2. *You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain.*
3. *Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.*
4. *Honor your father and your mother.*
5. *You shall not kill.*
6. *You shall not commit adultery.*
7. *You shall not steal.*
8. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
9. *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.*

**Day 11:** *Eleven Pipers Piping* represents the Eleven Faithful Apostles: Peter, Andrew, James the Elder, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Younger, Simon, and Judy.

**Day 12:** *Twelve Drummers Drumming* represents the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the core beliefs of Christianity.

The Apostles' Creed:

1. *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*
2. *I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.*
3. *He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.*
4. *He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.*
5. *On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*
6. *He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*
7. *I believe in the Holy Spirit,*
8. *the holy catholic Church,*
9. *the communion of saints,*
10. *the forgiveness of sins,*
11. *the resurrection of the body,*
12. *and life everlasting. Amen.*







# Christmas Flowers ~ 2023

## In Memory of

J. R., and Ted & Regina Breker  
Eugene Christl  
Robert & Angela Cossette  
Jason DeGeldere  
Lawrence & Virginia Deutsch  
Rueben & Rosella Elshaug  
Thomas Feist  
Jim Hill  
Gregory Hilzendeger  
Milton Horner  
Kent Johnson  
William & Cecelia Kiefer  
Dale Klinger  
Marion Kostelecky  
Clemins, Cristine, Joyce, and Lois Kuklok  
Connie LeMay  
Debby McCann  
Jack McClure  
Edwin, Geniva, and Richard Plummer  
Stanley M. & Tena Sample  
Don & Audrey Sando  
Betty Schmidt  
Orval & Elinor Speich  
Samson Uy  
Bob Yanish

## In Honor of

Mary Breker  
The Hill Family  
Pauline Klinger  
Jeanne Speich

## Given By

Gary & Jane Speich  
Brian, Donna & Emma Christl  
Marg Cossette  
Sharon Gustafson  
Stanley & Linda Sample  
Lucy Elshaug  
Tim & Linda Feist  
Joan Hill  
Tina Tweeter  
Irene, Cindy & Jackie Horner  
Yvonne Johnson  
Gary & Jane Speich  
David & Marlene Yanish  
Annette Roth  
Robert Kuklok  
Sharon Gustafson  
Francis McCann  
Mary McClure, and Tim & Linda Feist  
Gail & Kevin Plummer  
Stanley & Linda Sample  
Brian, Donna, & Emma Christl  
Fred Schmidt  
Gary & Jane Speich  
Kerry & Lilibeth Stroik  
Kathy Yanish & Family

## Given By

Gary & Jane Speich  
Joan Hill  
David & Marlene Yanish  
Gary & Jane Speich

Join us for an early celebration to bring in  
the **2024 New Year**

Soup 'N More

**Happy New Year**

**Thursday, December 28, 2023**

**BSCC Social Hall**

210 5th Ave W—West Fargo, ND 58078 701.282.3321

**5:30—6:30 p.m.**



***Featuring:***

Finger Type Foods/Appetizers

Fruit/Veggies

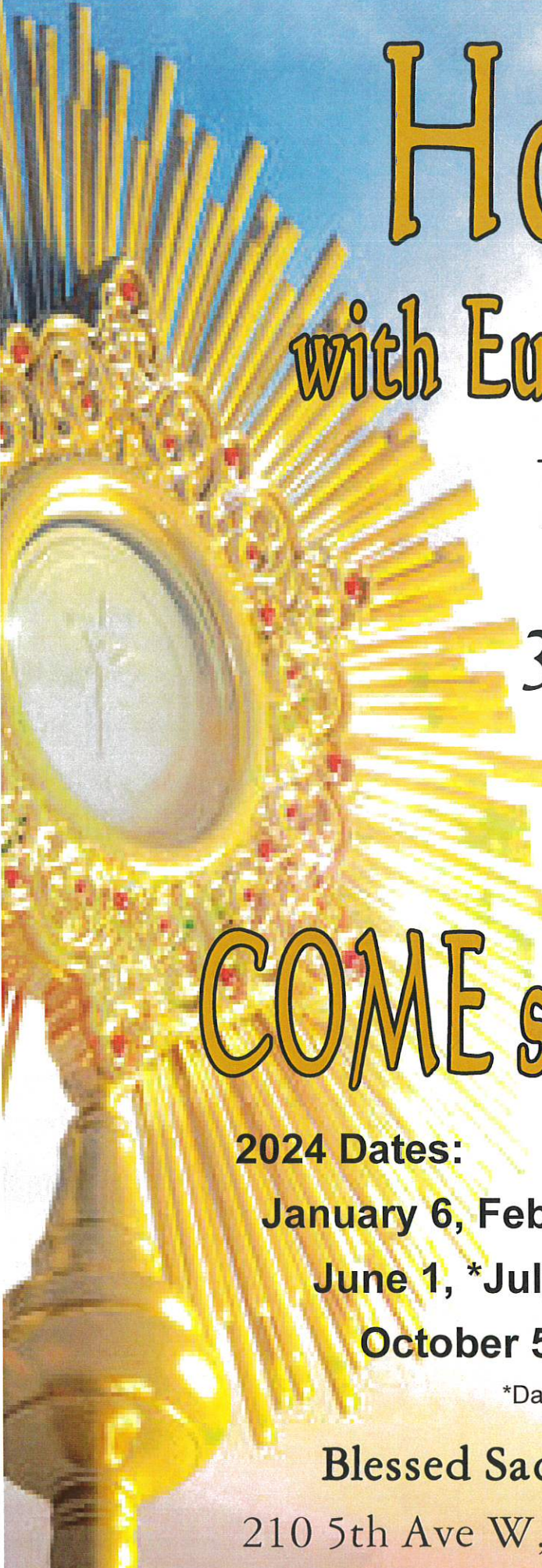
Chips/Dip

**DESSERTS**

Bubbly (don't worry you can  
still drive after this kind)







# Holy Hour

## with Eucharistic Adoration

First Saturday

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

You are also invited to stay for  
the Rosary at 4:45 p.m.  
and Mass at 5:15 p.m.

# COME soak up the SON

**2024 Dates:**

**January 6, February 3, March 2, April 6, May 4,  
June 1, \*July 13, August 3, September 7,  
October 5, November 2, December 7**

\*Date changed because of the holiday.

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

210 5th Ave W, West Fargo ~ 701-282-3321



## December 30-31, 2023 – The Holy Family Ministries of Service

Masses	5:15 p.m. Saturday	8:30 a.m. Sunday	10:30 a.m. Sunday
Proclaimers	J. Jones	J. Wells	M. Hoff
EMHC	*J. & J.W. Jones, S. & J. Neva, K. Jalbert	*J. Aberle, S. Perreault, M.A. Schuster, D. Chapek, H. Madson, **M. Doster	*G. Larson, M. Jamieson, S. Richman, <b>M. Regner</b> , B. Opoien, M. Kern
Gift Bearers	J. & K. Walter	L. & L. Juve	Norton Family
Servers	E. Rohrich, <b>Volunteer</b>	E. Esposito, <b>Volunteer</b>	E. Buettner, J. Norton
Ushers	D. & B. Krogen	A. Larson, G. Yourczek	C. & R. Fischer, <b>R. &amp; J. Regner</b>
Greeters	J. & J. Walter	L. & L. Juve	Norton Family
Rosary Leader	S. Bosch	A. Pritchard	M. Kern
Sacristan	J. Jones	J. Aberle	S. Richman, <b>M. Regner</b>
Media Minister	M. Berntson	*Eucharist Minister **Takes to home-bound	

### Feast/Holy Day the Week of December 24, 2023

December 25: Nativity of the Lord    December 26: St. Stephen

December 27: Apostle John    December 28: Holy Innocents    December 29: St. Thomas Becket

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