

Group Session With Grades 1-5. Last Wednesday grades 1-5 met with Fr. Gary in the Church. He taught them about the parts of the mass and how important the Holy Eucharist is.

REMINDER: NO CLASS Wednesday, January 14. This is a workshop night for the catechists.

CATECHIST Workshop & Dinner: Wednesday, January 14, 5:30 – 8:40 p.m., Holy Cross.

Adult Bible Study, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Library.

Class Dates: January 13, 20, 27
February 3, 17, 24

OCIA Class, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., in Classroom 4.

Class Dates: January 13, 27
February 10, 17, 24

Music Ministry

Choir	Date	Practice/Sing
<u>Joyful Voices</u>	January 11	9:45/10:30 a.m.
	January 11	9:45/10:30 a.m.

No Contemporary Choir in January

Parish Life

2025 Year-End Reports will be provided **BY REQUEST ONLY.** We will email or print a copy to be picked up. Contact Mary Beth in the Parish Office, with your request. **Reports will be ready after January 15.** MaryBeth@bscwf.org or 701-282-3321

Blessing Box – Nonperishable Food Donations Welcome: Please help us keep our blessing box stocked. Thank you for your kindness. *“Give what you can. Take what you need. Above all, be blessed.”*

Can't Attend Sunday Mass?

- **Would you like to receive communion?**
To receive in-home communion, call the Parish Office, 701-282-3321, give your name, address, and phone number.
- **Watch our Mass on YouTube!**
Go to **YouTube** search for
Blessed Sacrament Church West Fargo.
Or copy and paste this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPIK71x77I6WVtNNUQxt5rw>

Catholic Schools Week

January 25-31 marks the celebration of Catholic Education. This is the annual celebration of Catholic School Education throughout the United States.

“United in Faith and Community.”

Trinity Elementary is supported by Blessed Sacrament, St. Benedict, and Holy Cross. Blessed Sacrament has several students that attend JP II Catholic Schools. We will celebrate Catholic Schools week by having a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, January 31, hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Proceeds will go toward our JP II stipend.

Catholic Schools week is a great time to show your support to the JP II school system. Blessed Sacrament stipend is 45% of our envelope giving. To help us reach that percentage, you are invited to donate by using the JP II envelope in your pack of offering envelopes; the JP II envelope attached to the bulletin (also on the bookcases in the Gathering Area). There is also an option on our parish website to give to the JP II Schools.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Daily Readings – January 11-17, 2026

January 11: Is 42:1-4,6-7, Acts 10:34-38,
Mt 3:13-17

January 12: 1 Sm 1:1-8, Mk 1:14-20

January 13: 1 Sm 1:9-10, Mk 1:21-28

January 14: 1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20, Mk 1:29-39

January 15: 1 Sm 4:1-11, Mk 1:40-45

January 16: 1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a, Mk 2:1-12

January 17: 1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19,10-1, Mk 2:13-17

Finance Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Library.

Join Us for BINGO on Sunday! Concession Sales begin at 11:30 a.m. Bingo starts at 12:00 p.m.

January Dates: 11, 25

January Bingo hosts are the Blessed Sacrament LIFT Up & Off students. Bingo and Concession proceeds will go to our Youth Program.



Kitchen Connection. Join us the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month for a themed meal and conversation:

January 22 – Calling All German Food Lovers

February 12 – Happy Valentine's Day

February 22 – Mexican Night Welcomes You

Moving? All parishioners are reminded to please call the Parish Office, or drop a note in the mail, whenever you move either within the parish or out of the parish.

Pastoral Council Meeting, Thursday, January 15, 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Pastoral Council Elections: Election for one new member of the Pastoral Council will be held the weekend of January 24-25, 2026. The people on the ballot are

Emily Huber-Johnson,
Shannon O'Leary and
Mary Pierce.

Their biographies are attached to this week's bulletin.

The elected will serve a three-year term. This person will be replacing Ally Wentz, please thank Ally for her service to our parish.

Who can vote? All registered parishioners ages 18 and older.

Poinsettias for the Taking: Thank you to all that purchased flowers for the Christmas season. The beautiful red, white and pink poinsettias certainly added beauty to our Sanctuary, the baptismal font, and the Gathering Area. The Christmas Season officially ends this weekend (January 10-11). The Poinsettias will be available to take home after 10:30 Mass this weekend. Plastic bags and boxes were saved and will be in the Social Hall for anyone wishing to take a plant or more home.

Prayer Requests: We pray for our parishioners and family members..

*Those who are sick or have medical problems:

*Diane Wells (Step-Mother of Josh Wells),
Reza Maliki (friend of John & Jody Jones),
Leslie Wegner, Wes Weeding, Bradley Gustafson,
Connie Middleton, Clarice Dancer,
Vivian Moss*

*Those who are healing:

*John Anderson, Rodney Loberg, Joann Moody,
Kolby Hunsicker, Gary Lammer*

*Other prayer requests:

The Bosch Family, Drew Birrenkott

Safety Team Meeting, Thursday, January 22, 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Library. Please notify Mary Beth if you are unable to attend.

Safety Team Updates. The Blessed Sacrament Safety Team was formed 3 years ago following a Safe Church/Active Shooter session held with the West Fargo Police Department. The goal of the team is to **Keep Everyone Safe!** The team has implemented some changes to our facility. Many, you might not have noticed. Here is a list of a few:

- Locks have been changed and/or improved upon in the classrooms, social hall, and some exterior doors.
- More signage has gone up.
- The Fire Alarm system has been updated.
- Installation of one-way window film to all entrance doors, indoor office windows, and others.
- All Social Hall doors remain locked unless the hall is in use.
- All Classrooms are locked unless the classroom(s) are in use.
- More first aid kits are available.
- More smaller fire extinguishers are available.
- Window breakers have been purchased.
- A Lock-box has been installed for First Responders.
- Parish Phones are registered with Red River Regional Dispatch to receive safety alerts. Staff have also registered with RRRD.
- A detailed facility map has been developed listing all fire extinguishers, first aid kits and more.
- Usher Training has been conducted introducing new safety measures.
- Catechists have received safety instructions.
- There are plans for further expansion of the fire alarm system.

If you have any 'safety' concerns, please reach out to a Safety Team Member, or contact the Parish Office 701-282-3321.

State of the Parish Address. Fr. Gary Luiten will give his State of the Parish address the weekend of January 17-18, at all Masses.

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Your Council Representatives Are...**

Finance Council

Lori DeKeyser, Cindy Fischer,
Rob Haugen, Steve Willson

Pastoral Council

Kathleen Jalbert, Steve Neva, Robert Norton,
Colter Pratt, Mallary Schiele, and Ally Wentz

Lay Directors

Karen Hanson and Brad Novak

Thank You 2026 Bulletin Advertisers! We appreciate your support and are happy to advertise for you and support your businesses. There is still some available space! If you own a business and would like to advertise in our bulletin, please contact Mary Beth in the Parish Office, 701-282-3321, MaryBeth@bscwf.org

The Word Among Us. The January issue of *The Word Among Us* is available, on the Breaking Bread bookshelves and on the table near the entry.

****THIS IS IMPORTANT** Email Addresses, Phone Numbers and Emergency Contact Information:** Does the Parish Office have your current contact information on file? Call Mary Beth in the Parish Office 701-282-3321 or email MaryBeth@bscwf.org to verify your information.

We Pray In Remembrance of...

January 12: Florence Miller

January 13: Alice Sprecher, Raymond Schaan,
Verna Bashaw

January 14: James Zellars, Martha Ressler

January 15: Frank R. Lenzmeier, Martin Ferber,
Dorothy Laybourn, Ariene Lay,
James Jamieson, Betty Allmaras

January 16: Marvel Kapaun, Margaret Libbrecht

January 17: Anthony Walz

West Funeral Home – Thank You for sponsoring our 2026 calendars!



Volunteerism - Stewardship

Examples of opportunities for volunteering are as follows, but not limited to:

- All Mass ministry positions for weekend Masses; especially Media Ministers, Ushers, and Eucharistic Ministers.
- Kitchen Konnection (Thursday, 2 times a month) – helpers and bakers are needed.
- Environment Committee – looking for people with a creative, decorating knack.
- Fall Dinner Committee.
- Vacation Bible School Committee (VBS is happening in August this year).
- Thanksgiving Dinner.

Reflections by Fr. Gary Luiten

the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 11, 2026

The winter Olympics will begin February 6 in Italy. And if I would ask you to think of an image of the Olympics, you might think of the Olympic torch which is lit at Olympia, Greece - the site of the first Olympics around 2,700 years ago, and travels, relayed from person to person, sometimes for thousands of miles, eventually ending up at the site of the Olympics. This image is a good image of what is happening in the gospel today when Jesus goes to John to be baptized. John, for a time, was in the spotlight of salvation history. He "carried the torch of faith," figuratively speaking. Then, when Jesus comes to John to be baptized, John passes the torch to Jesus. John, whose theme is "He must increase, and I must decrease," defers to Jesus and his plan.

The torch of faith begins with John and is passed on to Jesus and eventually to us, figuratively lit at our baptisms, and eventually to be taken to every corner of the earth. In a sense, the gospel continues to be written in our lives, as we go and live the faith, to bring the Good News and profess the dignity of every human person, as we strive for justice for all, as we strive for right relationships, when we discover our gifts and use them to serve humanity, when we treat others as our own beloved.

We know that it is not easy to carry on the torch by ourselves. We need God's help. And, in the next few weeks as we journey into the new church season of Ordinary Time, the scriptures will tell us more of who Jesus is, and how He can help us also to bring glad tidings to the poor and to be a light for the nations.

Community & Diocesan Events

Real Presence Radio Banquet. Monday, February 2, Social 5:30 p.m., Program/Dinner 6:30 p.m., Delta by Marriot. Speaker Dr. David Anders. Contact Sunshine Diem to reserve your space. 701-960-0453 sunshine@realpresenceradio.com.

Catholic Man Night, Thursday, January 15, 6-8 p.m., St. Anthony, Fargo. Eat, Pary and Socialize with the Guys! 6 p.m.; Adoration & Confession, 7 p.m.; Meal and talk. Guest Speaker Fr. Robert Keller.

January Day of Reflection. You are invited to join us on Saturday, January 17 for a Day of Reflection (**in-person or online**). This month's theme, as we continue our Franciscan Spiritual Pilgrimage, will be " St. Clare's Basilica." The event lasts from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register online at <https://forms.office.com/r/qvVtezHnt9> or contact Sr. Mary Ruth with questions at [srmmaryruth@scretreats.org](mailto:srmaryruth@scretreats.org) / 701-242-7195.

Knights of Columbus Holy Cross Council #9642 Basketball Free Throw Championship Contest Announcement.

Sunday, February 1, Trinity Elementary gym, West Fargo. All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 (as of January 1, 2026) are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. This local level competition will be held. Practice and registration is from **1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Competition starts promptly at **1:30 p.m.** and is completed in about an hour. Basketballs will be furnished but you may bring your own. There is **no charge** to participate in this event. FOR DETAILS SEE THE POSTER ON THE BULLETIN BOARD. Questions can be e-mailed to Chad Engels at chad.engels@mooreengineeringinc.com.



Trinity Elementary Spotlight

We are excited to welcome our students back as we begin the second semester! We hope you all enjoyed a joyful and restful Christmas. As we step into the new year, we wish everyone a Happy New Year filled with blessings, growth, and continued learning. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead!



January 17-18, 2026 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Ministries of Service

Masses	5:15 p.m. Saturday	8:30 a.m. Sunday	10:30 a.m. Sunday
Proclaimers	M. Curfman	S. DeKeyser	C. Fischer
EMHC	*Volunteer, E & M. Pablo, P. Pritchard, Volunteer	*Volunteer, **S. & L. DeKeyser, Volunteer, Volunteer	*Volunteer, B. Opoien, M. Kern, Volunteer, Volunteer
Gift Bearers	E. & M. Pablo	T. & S. Durbin	Volunteer, Volunteer
Servers	Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer	Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer	Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer
Ushers	Volunteer, Volunteer	Volunteer, Volunteer	R. Fischer, D. Richman
Greeters	E. & M. Pablo	Volunteer, Volunteer	D. Richman, Volunteer
Rosary Leader	M. Curfman	S. DeKeyser	M. Kern
Sacristan	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Media Minister	Volunteer	*Eucharist Minister	** (Takes to home bound)

2026 Pastoral Council Candidates

Voting is January 24-25, 2026, at all Masses.

You will choose one of the below candidates to represent you on the Pastoral Council for 3 years.



My name is Emily Huber-Johnson. My husband, Zach, and I are relatively new members of Blessed Sacrament, having joined the parish when we had our son, Julian, baptized 2 weeks after his birth in July 2024. But Blessed Sacrament is the first parish in the Fargo–Moorhead area where I have truly felt welcomed, known, and recognized. That sense of belonging is what has inspired me to seek a role on the Pastoral Council. I care deeply about the future of our parish and would like to help strengthen communication, foster greater inclusion and connection across generations, and support opportunities that help all parishioners—especially newcomers—feel valued, supported, and spiritually at home. My family and

I look forward to continuing to be active members of the parish family.



My name is Shannon O'Leary. I am from West Fargo. I grew up attending Catholic school. Faith has always been a big part of my life. I currently teach Pre-Kindergarten at Holy Spirit Elementary. Blessed Sacrament offers a small faith-filled community, which is something I have always been drawn to. People are very welcoming. I became involved with the music in the parish both singing and playing flute. There were many people that thanked me as well as offer compliments. This exemplifies a community that invests in others, which is an important part of a church community.

At Blessed Sacrament, I want to get to know more parish members. I would love to help get more parish members involved. Finding out from parish members what their interests are is important. There are many different talents that all help to serve. I also want to grow my own involvement in the parish, finding ways to continue to strengthen my own faith. Being a part of parish council would provide an opportunity to do just that.



My name is Mary Pierce. I am a busy mother of four to three daughters and one son whom I have with my husband, Matt. We are often referred to as the “M family” as all our names start with M. I enjoy spending my free time with my family and friends, being outside (except in the winter), and reading or doing art projects. I work as a church administrator at a different church, and I like my job, the people that I work with, and feel it's given me many insights into the behind the scenes at a church.

I am a big believer in the church community. Familiarity, connections, and relationships with other members are such an important aspect of church life. When you feel connected, you feel more invested and want to be more involved. I would love to see more church community bonding. I would also like to see more family activities at Blessed Sacrament to help families, especially those with young children who find it hard to go to or do things with them, be more active in the church.



Presents..

Thursday, January 22, 2026—

German Night (menu TBD)

Thursday, February 12, 2026—

Valentine's Day (menu TBD)

Thursday, February 26, 2026—

Mexican Night Enchilada Casserole

**Serve from 5:30-6:30pm—FREE or Free Will Offering*

***All menus are subject to change*

Directory

Address: 210 5th Ave W, West Fargo ND 58078

Phone: 701-282-3321

PositionName _____ **Email Address** _____

Pastor: Fr. Gary Luiten – Gary@bscwf.org

Deacon: Shawn DeKeyser - Shawn@bscwf.org

Parish Life/Volunteerism/DRE/YM

Julie Yourczek - Julie@bscwf.org

Administrative Secretary

Mary Beth Odegaard - MaryBeth@bscwf.org

Music Coordinator:

Ronda Voss - Ronda@bscwf.org

Media Information

Web Site: www.bscwf.org

YouTube: Blessed Sacrament West Fargo

FaceBook: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church - West Fargo

Feast/Holy Day

the Week of January 11, 2026

January 11: Baptism of the Lord

January 13: St. Hilary

January 17: St. Anthony

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*Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.*

Pope Leo XIV

## Blessed Sacrament 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.



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 of each month at 7:00 p.m.




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