

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



ST. MARK'S BOTTINEAU & ST. ANDREW'S WESTHOPE

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Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat, December 3, 5:30 p.m. St. Mark's
(† Tom & Priscilla Fischer)
Sun, December 4, 9 a.m. St. Andrew's
(† Jack Sandy)
Sun, 11 a.m. St. Mark's
(Parishioners)
Tue, December 6, 12 p.m. St. Mark's
(Ron Kujawa)
Wed, December 7, 12 p.m. St. Mark's
(† Duane Sebelius)
Thurs, Dec 8, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
5:30 pm St. Mark's
7:30 p.m. St. Andrew's
(Joe Mitzel family)
Fri, December 9, 11:00 a.m. Good Samaritan
(† Karl Prüss)
Sat, December 10, 5:30 p.m. St. Mark's
(† Duane Sebelius)
Sun, December 11, 9 a.m. St. Andrew's
(Parishioners)
Sun, 11:00 a.m. St. Mark's

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Andrew's—
K-6 Religious Ed.— Dec 4, 11
Dec 4– 7-12 kids gift exchange and movie
Dec 8—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Mass 7:30pm
Dec 10 G 8-12 will ring Salvation Army bells in Minot
Dec 11—NET retreat @ St. Mark's 11am-6pm Gr 7-12

St. Mark's—
Religious Ed Classes K-6- Dec. 7, 14
Dec 3-18—Quilters' Silent Auction
Dec 8—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Mass 5:30pm
Church Workshop Session, Dec 9 5:45-9pm
NET Retreat—Dec. 11, 11am-6pm Grades 7-12
Bishop Folda visit, Dec 17-18



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR QUILTERS ST. MARK'S PARISH

Our quilters will hold their annual silent auction from December 3rd through the 18th. You can start making your bids at the Parish Hall. Good luck to all!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
DECEMBER 8
Holy Day of Obligation
Patronal Feast of the United States
Mass times:
St. Mark 5:30 pm & St. Andrew's 7:30 pm

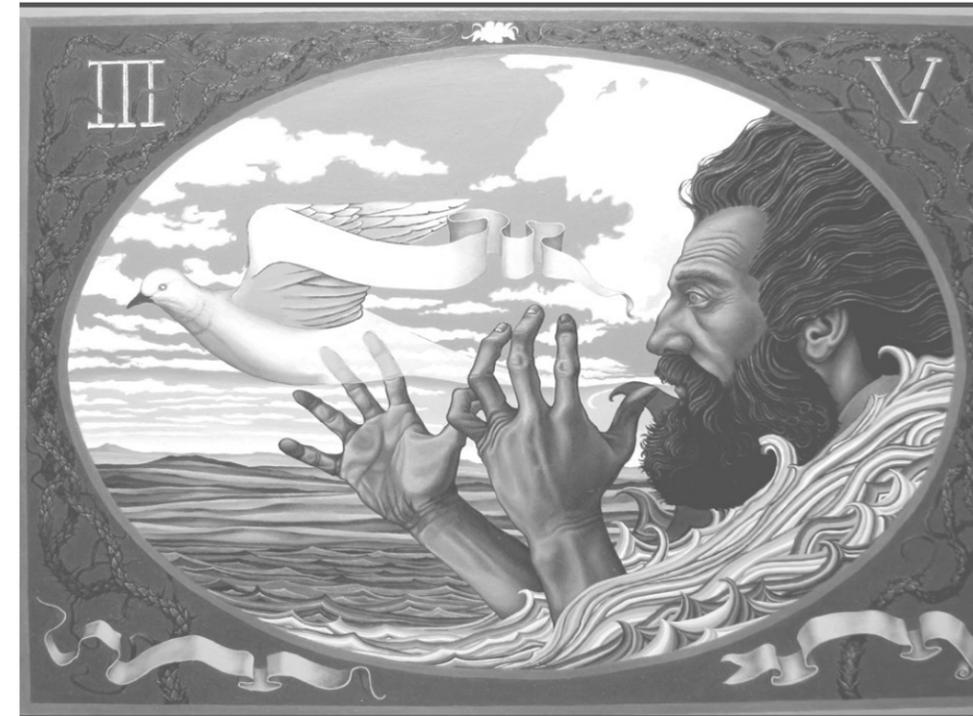
STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS
"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." – Matthew 3:10
Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk? Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?



Report For November 27, 2016

St Andrew's: Ad env \$ 641 PI \$ 109 and Ch \$ 12

St Mark's: Ad env \$ 1831 PI \$ 163 and Ch \$ 18



A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

*Jesus, you came among us
With an irresistible power of a baby,
Requiring both our hands
And captivating our whole hearts.
Help us to cast aside the sin and
Brokenness that we cling to,
So we might be ready to hold you
When you come again.
Amen*



PARISH STAFF

Fr Michael Hickin, Pastor
Ursula Palmer, Secretary
Cathy Miller, Custodian
Gloria Giglio, Custodian

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Valerie Heth, DRE
St. Andrew's Parish
Ursula Palmer, DRE
St. Mark's Parish

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30 pm, Bottineau
Sunday 9:00 am, Westhope
And 11:00 am, Bottineau

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 4:30 pm, Bottineau
Sunday, 8:30 am, Westhope
Or by Appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Tue 12:30pm-5:00pm
Wed 9:00am-3:30pm
Thurs 12:30pm-5:00pm
Fri 9:00am-5:00pm

Home Communion

Any St. Mark parishioners desiring Holy Communion at home, call Claudia Trebas (228-2339) by Monday eve to be put on the list.



PrayerLine



To add or remove a name, please contact Deb Wyman at 245-6538 or the parish office.

PARISHIONERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS: Military personnel & their families, Cindy Volk, Donna Stratton, Wayne Barbot; Renee Wondrasek, Arlene Duval, Tanya Buzzerd, the Thomas family, Michael Doise, Patricia Anderson, Jaxon Barbot; Kenadi Zappone, Bridget Herpel, Jerry Burns, Chris Vattel, Glen Brandjord, Eloise Halvorson, a special private intention.

December 3-4 Second Sunday of Advent

From the Pastor's Pen



THE BAPTIST. John is a fascinating figure. He stuck out like a sore thumb. While he was in the desert, he could stick out and nobody noticed. Then came his mission to the people. He came among them remaining in his desert garb. He came with a radical, unyielding message: "Repent!"

John was quite different from Jesus. Jesus did not stand out for most of his life. He was tucked away in the hidden life of Nazareth, the stay-at-home son next to Mary and Joseph.

Yet Jesus loved John very much. John's ministry was totally at the service of Christ, "He must increase, I must decrease."

We Christians who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire must echo Jesus' love for John. This means loving John's message of repentance. We are still **very much** preparing the way of the Lord.

May this Advent-Christmas season be a time to 'produce good fruit as evidence of our repentance.'

Last week, I proposed a plan to 'zoom out' so we can 'zoom in'. It will happen many times over the next year or so.

As one, like you, baptized "with the Holy Spirit and Fire," let me tell you this, we are in for a **Great Surprise**. I have truly given my life to make that known. I'm not speaking in generalities. I'm talking about Westhope and Bottineau, and beyond.

Will it come while I'm your pastor? No guarantee. Will it come before I die? Before you die? Can't say. But that ignorance shouldn't cause us to keep quiet or lower our expectations.

It's coming. Question is, today, how will I-you-we hasten it?

When I became a priest, I was a broken man. Thing is, I didn't see it. It's taken me 20 years to appreciate how critical, even beautiful, it is to acknowledge and work out of that brokenness.

When I say broken, I mean grossly limited, ineffective, plagued in my thriving by my own ignorance, lack of experience, and character flaws, to include sinfulness. This shouldn't be news to anyone.

Don't get me wrong. I think priests are vital. It is an honor to be your pastor and I love the priesthood. Jesus knew what he was doing.

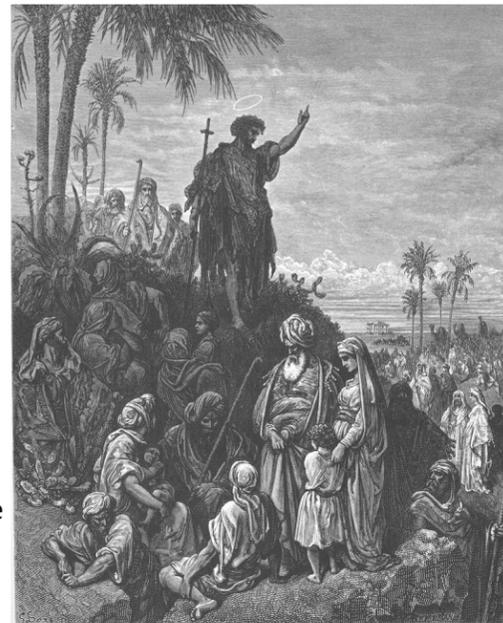
What I'm realizing is how very little I can do without you, even if what I do is important.

The **Great Surprise** that is coming, is not of our making. It will be God's doing. But will we see it? Are we disposing ourselves to *His Coming*?

Jesus Christ is our Savior. My relationship with him is personal. But it's not a private affair. He came to establish a *Kingdom*, not a privatized paradise for each believer. My happiness is tied to your happiness. This is why we must work together.

As John gathered people at the Jordan, I wish to gather you. Without you, I'm nothing but a voice in a dark and empty closet. If our parishes are going to be launch pads of Good News, that can only happen when we gather together.

In case it's not clear, *I need you*. Sound a bit pathetic? Maybe it's just my way of putting on camel-skin and eating locusts.



JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING IN THE WILDERNESS

THURSDAY, DEC 8, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Holy Day of obligation. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States.

In the Immaculate Conception, we celebrate the Power behind Mary's **Yes**: God's choice & God's grace. We celebrate in Mary what God's current offer is to us. **5:30 pm, St. M ; 7:30 pm, St A.**

MINISTRIES APPEAL, earlier in the year, the sign-up sheet for the month ahead worked well. At St Mark's we're struggling. As December begins, only one lector signed up; no gift bearers; no ushers; only 2 greeters. This means the secretary has to assign people. It becomes a guessing game. Often, the folks assigned aren't available or no one shows. A simple, clear solution has not been easy to find. We



will work on this. Our procedures for fostering people's participation in these ministries is one among many things we could improve. We'll get there. For now, imperfect as it is, we'll keep guessing and assigning. But, it helps **very much** when people sign up. We all understand that ours is a society on the move. People are *on the Go a lot*. As we try to adapt our community life to this (and other realities), a little patience is great medicine and goes a long way.



BOTTINEAU FOOD PANTRY. Dec 21-Jan 18, St. Mark's parishioners are scheduled to help at our local food pantry. There are two ways you can help:

1.) Loading the boxes for some of the clients and other random tasks. This work begins around 10 a.m. and usually lasts until 1 p.m. or so. Any amount of time spent helps.

2.) Provide a small meal for the volunteers – soup, salad, a sandwich, some chips, usually enough for 6-8 people.

If you're willing to do this, please contact the parish office so Ursula can schedule the meal.

REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM— The group is meeting on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Next meeting will be on Thursday Dec 8th at St Mark's church basement after Mass, exceptionally.



ST. MARK'S — Right to Life is making Lefse on December 16th at 9am and will sell them after Mass on Dec 17-18 at St. Mark's Social Hall.

ND PIPELINE. *Stars and Stripes*, a U.S. Military news agency, reports on the arrival of perhaps as many as 2,000 veterans to assist the Native Americans at their camp near Standing Rock.

"The group of veterans is coming prepared. Besides medical supplies, body armor, masks and hearing protection, they're bringing along lawyers and health care professionals." <https://www.stripes.com/news/veterans-travel-to-standing-rock-to-join-protesters-lend-aid-1.441582>

Many people are decided on this situation. Such events do not just materialize out of nowhere. It's important to keep learning and listening, trying to understand where each side is coming from.

The situation is heated. The outcome quite uncertain. Good people stand on either side. Prayers are requested. They are the #1 weapon of peace. Pray we will.

"All my strength lies in prayer and sacrifice. They are my invincible weapons, and I know, by experience, that they can soften the heart much better than words"—St. Therese of Lisieux.

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The beautiful poinsettias surrounding the Altar on Christmas represent memorial gifts of parishioners in remembrance of loved ones. To purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please complete this form. Place it in the collection basket or drop it at the Office during the Christmas season with your donation of \$10.00

Memorial names will be appear in the bulletin At Christmas Time.

Given by _____

In Memory of _____

St. Andrew's Ministries

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	READER	GIFT BEARERS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS	COUNTERS
Sun. Dec 4	Paul Klokstad/ Nancy Erickson	Linda Ellingson	Ellsworth family	Katie Wagner / Andrea Garcia-Chavez	McCabe and Mark Radzwill	Roger Heth/ Mark Radzwill

St. Mark's Ministries for December 10-11

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	READER	GIFT BEARERS	USHERS	GREETERS	COUNTERS
Satr.	Bread: Carla Eisenzimmer Phyllis Brunelle / Julie Hoffman	Vickie Gangl	Dennis & Cindy Lagasse	Matt Brandjord/ Paul Amsbaugh	Eileen Lahr	
Sun.	Bread: Morris Holen, Jr. Mary Ann Saville / Leanna Emmer	Jared Nelson	Bryan Schweitzer family	Steve Lorenz / Jeff Beyer	Lavonne Janzen	Carla Eisenzimmer / Karen Sollin