

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sun, December 24, 9 a.m. St. Andrew's († Shawna Deschamp)
 Sun, 4:30 pm St. Andrew's Christmas Eve Mass
 Sun, 11 a.m. St. Mark's (Parishioners)
 Sun, 7:30 pm St. Mark's Christmas Eve Mass
 Mon, December 25, 11 a.m. St. Mark's († Duane Sebelius)
 Tue, December 26, 12 p.m. St. Mark's (Pete & Gigi Artz & family)
 Wed, December 27, 7:30 a.m. St. Mark's († Aimee Vandal)
 Thur, December 28, 9 a.m. St. Andrew's (Romeo & Mary Ann Cote)
 Fri, December 29, 11 a.m. Good Sam († Lloyd & Elsie Pease)
 Sat, December 30, 5:30 p.m. St. Mark's († Albert & Mary Pugh)
 Sun, December 31, 9 a.m. St. Andrew's († Todd Streich)
 Sun, 11 a.m. St. Mark's (Parishioners)
 Mon, January 1, 9 a.m. St. Andrew's
 Mon, 11 a.m. St. Mark's († Duane Sebelius)

Home Communion

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

Frazer, Harvey Soland, Jodee Blaze, Dave Woeste, Fred Salinsky, Todd Pigeon, Duane Indridson, Carol Carbonneau, Ann O'Connell, David Schultz, Donna Jones; Jerry Volk, Cindy Haman, Sandy Janzen, Charles Carbonneau, Bonnie Clark; Janet Kraft; Noah Signalness; Joe Schmaltz; LaVonne Jenzen; a special private intention.

St. Andrew's Health Center: Marion Honer

Trinity Homes, Minot: Eva Bauer

Good Sam: Helen Hoffert, Regan Benning, Frances Boice, Maria Barballa, Pete Anderson, Ronnie Houle, Ernie Houle, Jane Kuntz.

Edgewood Vista: Eileen Lahr

The Wellington: Ray & Donna Sharkey

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Andrew's

Dec 24—Christmas Program begins at 4:30 pm, immediately followed by Christmas Eve Mass.



St. Mark's

Jan 9—Parish Council, 5:30 pm

Jan 11

—ADULT ED., *Catholicism* series - Chap 6, Thurs, 7pm in Rectory Basement
 —Widows & Widowers Social 3pm

Stewardship Moment

December 24, 2017 – 4th Sunday of Advent

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

—LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

Life in the Spirit Seminar Weekend



Fri-Sun, Jan 5-7.
 Little Flower Parish, Rugby. "The Spirit Will Guide You to All Truth" Jn 16:13



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

PARISH OFFICE: (701) 228-3164 RECTORY: (701) 228-5164 stsmanda@utma.com

322 Sinclair St. • Bottineau, ND • 58318 - www.stmark-standrew.org



PARISH STAFF

Fr Michael Hickin, Pastor

Ursula Palmer, Secretary

Cathy Miller, Custodian

Ambre Gillstrap, 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



Christmas Blessings

For a Child is born to us,
 a son is given us;
 Upon his shoulder dominion rests.
 They name him WonderCounselor,
 God Hero, FatherForever,
 Prince of Peace.

~Isaiah 9:5



Report for December 17, 2017

St Andrew's: Ad env \$ 793 Pl \$ 70 Ch \$ 23

St Mark's: Ad env \$ 2621 Plate \$ 77 Ch \$ 24

December 23-24, 2017 4th Sunday of Advent

CONFESIONS

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

From the Pastor's Pen

EXTENDED FAMILY. In the first reading, David has a bright idea, to build the Lord a house. The prophet Nathan informs David that God has something else in mind. Instead of David building a house for the Lord, the Lord is going to establish a house for David.

There is a play on words. David is thinking of building a temple; God is planning a dynasty. We may wish to substitute 'family' for 'house'.

The promises made to this *house* will all come true in unexpected fashion. Our Gospel declares the preliminary culmination. God chooses a virgin betrothed to a man of the House of David. He chooses her to be His incomparable temple. God's Son, brought to Mary's womb by the Spirit, will make his home in her. Her entire existence, body-soul-spirit, will be used to develop him into a complete man.

To confirm in Mary's heart that such will be the case, the angel Gabriel sends her to Elizabeth, her cousin already six months with child, "for nothing is impossible with God." In other words, God sends the girl to her extended family.

This is how God works. He starts with each of us as individuals, but works through each of us to touch our natural family, our parish family, our national family, our world family—just to name a few tiers of our 'extended family'.

As we listen to this ancient text and its fulfillment in the Gospel reading, we're reminded, as we stand on the threshold of Christmas, that God's Plan of Salvation is a family affair. God works with the family and through the network of families to accomplish this Plan.

We are never alone in our relationship with God. This is no private, privileged race of peoples or nations. God wishes to save us as a family. This means His Work is to shape us into a family, the *House of God*.

I said that the Gospel of the Annunciation is but a 'preliminary culmination' of God's Plan. Do you see why?

God's dealings with young King David to turn his idea of a house into something far more lasting became through Mary the beginning of the Church, the *Family/House of God*.

Whether inside or outside the Church, we still see a world torn apart. But beneath all those divisions, God is molding something glorious. This is our Christmas Hope. What Mary was, the Earth is meant to be: the dwelling place of God, the place of fulfillment, the sacred space where the Body of Christ comes to full stature. The connecting link between Mary & Earth is the Church.

To believe in Christmas, in the Incarnation, is to believe in our vocation to become Family, a single House. Emmanuel, God-with-us, has laid hold of our existence, body-soul-spirit, to develop the Church, so Christ, Head and members, can come to full maturity.

If Paul is in labor pains (Gal 4:19) and feels the groaning going on through all of creation (Rm 8:22), it's only right that we too labor to bring to birth the Plan of God. The 2nd Reading from St. Paul is a single 70-word sentence. It boils down to this: *To God be the Glory!* This is the song of the Angels in Bethlehem. It's our song too as we embrace one another as brother and sister at Christmas, dedicated to extending this Family to the ends of the Earth.

THE ADVENT WREATH's circular shape symbolizes eternity. Its candles say in words of light that we're in a period of waiting and of darkness. The 4th candle of Advent is the Candle of Love. Standing at the door with Mary and Gabriel, we are at a liturgy, gathered into one Body to encounter the real presence of Christ in our midst. Like Mary, we are called to say "yes" to this moment and offer ourselves to await his arrival.

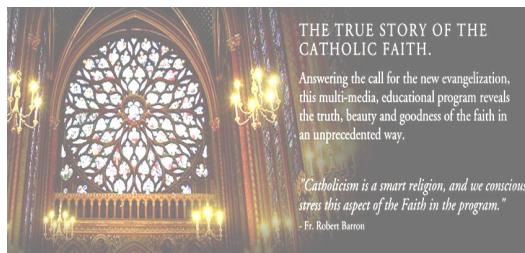


Prayer for lighting the fourth candle.

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ~AMEN.



CATHOLICISM— the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith in an epic media experience. Next meeting, Lesson 6: **A Body Both Suffering & Glorious-The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church.** What is the Church? Come and learn what it means to belong to the "one, holy, catholic & apostolic" community that covers the face of the Earth. St Mk's Rectory basement, **Thursday, Jan 11, 7 pm.**



Jan 31—Bible Study

Homemade Lefse

miss the opportunity!

Christmas DECORATING

Thank you to the K-6th grade students, St. Mark's Parish and Knights of Columbus in their donations to the Children's "Christmas Giving Project". Also thank you to the Knights of Columbus for putting up the Christmas Tree.



K-6 CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT. St. Mark's Religious Education children are dedicating the weekly Children's Collection to purchasing rice, beans and a goat for children in Haiti, as well as make a contribution to a local family in need. See the bulletin board display in the social hall.



SUN, DEC 24, 4:30 PM,
ST. ANDREW'S, WESTHOPE

SUN, DEC 24, 7:30 PM, ST. MARK'S, BOTTINEAU

MON, DEC 25, 11:00 AM, ST. MK'S, BOTTINEAU

SUN, DEC 30-31, HOLY FAMILY,

MASSES AS USUAL

MON, JAN 1, MASSES 9 AM WESTHOPE & 11 AM BOTTINEAU

(NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS YEAR)

FROM OUR PARISH
FAMILY TO EACH OF

YOURS prayers and
best wishes for a very
MERRY CHRISTMAS.

JESUS IS LORD. What is
little colors all that's
large. In this we rest.



St. Andrew's Ministries for December 31-January 1

DATE	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	READER	GIFT BEARERS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS	COUNTERS
Sun.	Paul & Lenny	Ursula	Erickson family	Calma & Saul	Tom & Wayne	Roger & Tom
Mon.	Roberta	Sandee	TBD	TBD	Crystal & Don	TBD

St. Mark's Ministries for December 30-31 / January 1

DATE	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	READER	GIFT BEARERS	USHERS	GREETERS	COUNTERS
Satr.	Bread: Carla Eisenzimmer Bobbi Aus / Julie Hoffman	Vickie Gangl	Patty Graber	Merle Allard & Dennis Lagasse	Ramona Johnson/ Joyce Bursinger	
Sun.	Bread: Warren Emmer Wayne Barbot / Leanna Emmer	Pete Artz	Steve & Diane Lorenz	Mike Haberman Mike Nero	Fedje family	
New Year's Day	Bread: Warren Emmer Wayne Barbot/Leanna Emmer	Pete Artz	Steve & Diane Lorenz	Mike Haberman Mike Nero	Fedje family	Carla Eisenzimmer/ Marie Meloni-Beach