



# St. Theodore Catholic Church

Inviting people to actively participate in the Life of Christ!

BIENVENIDOS

315 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007-2456

www.sttheo.org

## PARISH PASTOR

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## ST. JAMES TRUSTEES

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Janice Stensrude.....373-4024

## ST. THEODORE TRUSTEES

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## CEMETERY: St. Theodore & St. James

Steve Merfeld.....507-402-4343

## OUTREACH to HOMEBOUND

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## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Joye Wolf - Counselor.....507-377-3664  
www.ccwinona.org

## PARISH COUNCIL

Betsy Schultz - Chair  
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**This Sunday's** first reading introduces us to the Servant, anointed and commissioned by God with special signs, who becomes the messenger of the good news of salvation to all people. In a way, the mission of John the Baptist narrated by Saint John in the Gospel reflects the Servant of Isaiah. John, however, clarifies for us that he is only a witness and not the Messiah announced since ancient times.

This Third Sunday of Advent invites us to celebrate with joy the near arrival of salvation. The Christian community is nourished by this announcement of good news and is challenged to do what is proclaimed and to reflect the message of the Gospel in their lives. Traditionally, this Sunday is known as "Gaudete" Sunday and, although it anticipates the birth of Jesus, liturgical coordinators should neither display Christmas decorations nor use Christmas carols.

**La primera** lectura de este domingo nos introduce al Siervo, ungido y comisionado por Dios con signos especiales, que se convierte en el mensajero de la buena nueva de la salvación a todas las personas. En cierto modo, la misión de Juan el Bautista narrada por San Juan en el Evangelio refleja al Siervo de Isaías. Juan, sin embargo, nos aclara que él es sólo un testigo y no el Mesías anunciado desde tiempos antiguos.

Este tercer domingo de Adviento nos invita a celebrar con alegría la casi llegada de la salvación. La comunidad cristiana se nutre de este anuncio de buenas noticias y se ve desafiada a hacer lo que se proclama y a reflejar el mensaje del Evangelio en sus vidas. Tradicionalmente, este domingo se conoce como "Gaudete" el domingo y, aunque anticipa el nacimiento de Jesús, los coordinadores litúrgicos no deben exhibir decoraciones navideñas ni utilizar villancicos.



## Christmas Eve

Thursday  
December 24  
4:00 PM  
7:30 PM (Español)  
9:30pm Christmas Carols (Live Stream)  
10:00 PM (Live Stream)

## Christmas Masses



## Christmas Day

Friday  
December 25  
9:00 AM  
(Broadcast & Parking Lot Mass)

## MASS TIMES

**Saturday:** 5:15 pm  
**Sunday:** 9:00 am (Broadcast on KATE 1450 AM)  
11:00 am (Español)

## RECONCILIATION

**Saturday:** 4:00 pm  
**Sunday:** 1/2 hour before 9 & 11 am Masses

## PRIVATE PRAYER IN CHURCH

**Tuesday - Friday:** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Prayer Chapel open all hours

## Parish Office Hours

**Monday-Thursday**  
8:00 am-4:00 pm

## Closed Friday

Office closes from 9:00-9:45 am on Wednesday so staff can attend Mass and

## PRAYER CHAIN

Deanna Ille  
373 - 6285 ♦ deille@charter.net

## From the Desk of Father Kurt

When someone who has suffered from an illness for a long time finds out the cause they are relieved, even though the prognosis might not be all that good. We want to know the truth even when it is hard to swallow, because the truth sets us free. John the Baptist spoke the hard truth about the consequences of sin and people still came to listen to him.

People are willing to listen to fraternal correction if it is spoken in love. However, too often we bring up the faults of others in conversations as a way for us to justify ourselves or make ourselves feel important. We would much rather think poorly of the other and spread the gossip, than to confront the person of their sin.

If we really love that person, we will not allow their sinful behavior to go unchallenged. However, before correcting the faults of others it is always a good idea to ask ourselves if we are guilty of the very same thing, and if we are, we should make removing our own imperfections our top priority. This advent season let us prepare the way for Christ by speaking the truth, but never forgetting that the truth must be spoken in love.

Love in Christ,  
Father Kurt Farrell

## 2020 Catholic Ministry Appeal (12/7/2020)

| Goal        | Amount Received | % Goal Received |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| \$61,725.00 | 38,712.00       | 62.72%          |

## Sacrificial Giving

November 30-December 6, 2020

| Adult Envelopes | Offertory | Imp Fund | St. James |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| \$13,563.00     | \$723.00  | \$255.00 | \$0.00    |

## Sunday Broadcast Sponsors

| Date   | Intention(s)  |
|--------|---|
| Dec 27 | † Betty Cashin by Don Cashin, family & friends<br>† Edi Siglowski by Evie<br>† Gar Petersen by Cheri<br>† Don Vandersnick by Dorothy & family |
| Jan 3  | † Ralph Drees Jr. by Joanne Tibodeau<br><b>Additional Sponsors Needed</b>   |
| Jan 10 | For all health workers, first responders, care givers and all who have suffered loss or hardship during the past year.                        |
| Jan 17 | For the living & deceased family members of Judy Popp-Anderson  |
| Jan 24 | <b>Sponsors Needed</b>  |

**Free concert** event for you to stream from Wartburg College. Friday, Dec. 18 at 7:00pm  
"Hope Awakens • Love's New Dawn"

stream it at any time starting at 7 pm on this day by going to: <https://www.wartburg.edu/christmas>. This website allows you to download the program, stream the video, and more!




## Mass Intentions & Schedule

The dispensation from the obligation to attend and participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains in effect until further notice for all who may be hesitant at this time to be in larger gatherings. St. Theodore will continue to provide the opportunity to listen to Mass on 1450 AM, KATE radio.

|                 |                                      |  |                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Tues<br>Dec 15  | 8:30 am<br>9:00 am                   | Rosary<br><b>Mass</b><br>† Theodore Sipple<br>by Bob Whelsan family  | Church<br>Church           |
| Wed<br>Dec 16   | 8:30 am<br>9:00 am                   | Rosary<br><b>Mass</b><br>† Irene Enstad by Diane Schlosser   | Church<br>Church           |
| Thurs<br>Dec 17 | 8:30 am<br>9:00 am                   | Rosary<br><b>Mass</b><br>† Angie Taft, sister of Mary Jemming  | Church<br>Church           |
| Fri<br>Dec 18   | 8:30 am<br>9:00 am<br>9:30am-6:30 pm | Rosary<br><b>Mass</b><br>† Angie Taft, sister of Mary Jemming<br><b>Adoration</b>  | Church<br>Church<br>Church |
| Sat<br>Dec 19   | 4:00 pm<br>4:45 pm<br>5:15 pm        | Reconciliation<br>Rosary<br><b>Mass</b><br>† David Utzka by Mom, Dad, & family   | Church<br>Church<br>Church |
| Sun<br>Dec 20   | 8:30 am<br>9:00 am<br>11:00 am       | Reconciliation & Rosary<br><b>Mass</b><br>† Jeanne Johnson by Lloyd Johnson,<br><b>Hispanic Mass</b><br>† Thomsa Serrano by Ray Luna & Mary Larson | Church<br>Church<br>Church |


## Daily Scripture Readings

|              |                            |                        |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Mon: 12/14   | NM 24:2-7, 15-17A          | MT 21:23-27            |
| Tues: 12/15  | ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13            | MT 21:28-32            |
| Wed: 12/16   | IS 45:6C-8, 18, 21C-25     | LK 7:18B-23            |
| Thurs: 12/17 | GN 49:2, 8-10              | MT 1:1-17              |
| Fri: 12/18   | JER 23:5-8                 | MT 1:18-25             |
| Sat: 12/19   | JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A         | LK 1:5-25              |
| Sun: 12/20   | 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 | PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 |
|              | ROM 16:25-27               | LK 1:26-38             |



**Fifth Annual Bake Sale results.**  
**Total Sales \$1,532.00**

Special **"Thank You"** to Deanne Zogg & Cindy Bodensteiner for their time preparing the fresh homemade donuts, Pegi Axtman and Mary Nelson for helping out on Saturday, to the KC club for doing fresh Kettle Korn and to all our parishioners and community members who came and purchased the baked goods. This couldn't happen without our St. Theodore Family.



**Those willing** to ring the bells during the Eucharistic prayer please utilize the first pew on the far right side. Please leave this pew available for those ringing the bells during Mass. Thank You!

## This Week's Activities & Reminders

**Due to recent changes with COVID, all parish board & committee meetings and prayer groups have been postponed for the month of December 2020. Please check parish media sources for future updates and changes.**

|                 |  |                                  |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Mon<br>Dec 14   | Loaves & Fishes<br>5-6:30 pm                 | Marian Hall                      |
| Tues<br>Dec 15  | Online School Board Meeting                  | Online                           |
| Wed<br>Dec 16   | Faith Formation Classes: Online              | Online                           |
| Thurs<br>Dec 17 | Online Finance Council Meeting               | Online                           |
| Fri<br>Dec 18   | No Additional Parish Events                  |                                  |
| Sat<br>Dec 19   | RCIA<br>9:30 -11:00 am<br>Baptism<br>3:00 pm | Parish Meeting<br>Room<br>Church |
| Sun<br>Dec 20   | First Communion Faith Formation              | Online                           |

### Poinsettias for Christmas!

Addie's Floral & Gifts are filling orders for poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas until December 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Addie's Floral directly at 377-2081. You may order memorials or in honor of plants for the following costs:



**6½" pot single plant - \$13.00 or 8" pot two plants - \$25.00**

You will be able to take your plant home after the Christmas Season!



**United Way  
of Freeborn County**

### POP UP PANTRY & MASK DISTRIBUTION DAY


United Way of Freeborn County (UWFC) is hosting a drive through Pop Up Pantry and mask distribution on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Freeborn County Fairgrounds in the Show Arena Building. The entrance will be at the north gates off Richway Drive. Distribution will be 9:00-11:00 am or when supplies run out.

To ensure the safety of volunteers and residents, those picking up food and masks will need to follow social distancing protocols at the drive-thru event.

- Vehicles can pull up to the designated drive through location
- Drivers MUST remain in their vehicle
- Drivers will open their trunk remotely and the box will be placed in the trunk. If placing the box in the trunk is not an option, then the box will be placed in the back seat of the vehicle.
- Everyone is asked to wear masks, including those inside the vehicle. If needed, masks will be provided for you.

Masks & food boxes are available to any local family in need. There are no questions asked. Persons unable to pick up food or masks themselves are welcome to send someone to pick up for them, or if significant barriers exist please call 507-373-8670.

## Liturgical Ministers

|  | Saturday<br>Dec 19, 2020 | Sunday<br>December 20, 2020 |                        |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
|   | 5:15 pm                  | 9:00 am                     | 11:00 am               |
| Accompanist   | AdaTheusch               | Grace Chalmers              |                        |
| Cantor  | Brian Zogg               | Jodi Blong                  |                        |
| Lectors   | Grzybowski               | Catherine Buboltz           | Picked by Carmon       |
| Eucharistic Ministers   | 3 from December schedule | 5 from December schedule    | 3 needed from schedule |

**Ministers are needed for our Christmas Masses.  
Please contact the parish office at 373-0603.**

### December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lectors               | One needed for Dec 24 at 4pm Mass. |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Three needed for each Mass         |
| Cantor                | One needed for Dec 24 at 4pm Mass  |

### St. Theodore School News

Special thank you to our teachers and students for being so positive. All have done an amazing job during this challenging time. Thank you to our maintenance staff for keeping our school and church clean and sanitized, keeping us all safe. Keep up the great work!

Have a blessed weekend!

**St. Theodore Catholic School**

## Faith Formation News

### THE SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

Angels still remain on our Angel Tree located in the church access area. Just return the unwrapped, \$10-\$20 age appropriate gift.

**All Faith Formation classes will be online during December.**

**Kristy Minear ♦ St. Theodore Faith Formation**

Whatever you did for one of the least of these  
brothers and sisters of mine,

*you did for me.*

With COVID restrictions, many will be shut in and alone during the holidays. As a church family, we have the hands and feet

that can bring Christ to others. Please remember to reach out to those shut in their homes, Senior Care Facilities or nursing homes. Just making a call or sending out a few extra Christmas cards to a neighbor or a parishioner you haven't seen in church for a while, are just a couple of ways we can be hands and feet of Christ. Together families can make caring cards, phone calls, and other creative ways to help bring cheer to those alone during the holidays. We may never know how much a simple act of kindness can lift the spirits of others! Give generously!



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE LOCATED ON FRONT PAGE OF BULLETIN!**



|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Hill, Benda, Skov &amp; Bernau, P.A.<br/><b>CPA</b><br/>Certified Public Accountants</p> <p>Accounting Services:<br/>Bookkeeping, Payroll,<br/>&amp; Tax Preparation<br/>Heather Benda-Parishioner<br/>Lance Skov<br/>Andrew Bernau</p> <p>Skyline Plaza<br/>1655 West Main St.<br/>Albert Lea, MN 56007<br/>507-377-1333</p> | <p><b>PLAZA MORENA</b><br/>MEXICAN RESTAURANT</p> <p>www.plazamorenarestaurant.com<br/>507-373-9194</p> <p>Northbridge Mall    Rafael Herrera<br/>General Manager<br/>Parishioner</p>                      | <p><b>State Farm</b><sup>TM</sup></p> <p>Ben J. Bartelt,<br/>Agent/Parishioner<br/>505 Bridge Ave. Albert Lea<br/>507-377-0227<br/>www.albertleasf.com</p> | <p>NICE PEOPLE    NICE STORE</p> <p><b>Brick Furniture</b><br/>507-373-2514</p> <p>225 SO. BROADWAY<br/>ALBERT LEA, MN 56007</p>   |
| <p><b>DOUG'S PAINTING &amp; SANDBLASTING</b></p> <p>377-1508</p> <p>Interior/Exterior Painting of Commercial Buildings, In-Shop Painting<br/>Doug, Jason &amp; Dan Evans</p>   | <p>George R. Lundstrom D.D.S.<br/>Family and Cosmetic Dentistry</p> <p>209 North 9th Avenue<br/>Albert Lea, MN 56007<br/>507-377-1659</p> <p>"Excellence is our chosen path."</p>                          | <p><b>JONES HAUGH SMITH</b><br/>Professional Engineers &amp; Land Surveyors<br/>373-4876<br/>Brian J. Johnson</p>  | <p>ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING<br/><b>ALBERT LEA ELECTRIC CO.</b><br/>SINCE 1918<br/>CAL JOHNSON</p> <p>1410 Olsen Dr. Albert Lea, MN 56007<br/>(507)-373-6650<br/>www.albertleaelectric.com</p>  |
| <p><b>Senior Resources</b><br/>of Freeborn County<br/>Call us at 377-7433</p> <p>Serving Seniors in programs of<br/>Ride Services    Advocacy    Chore<br/>Guardianship    RSVP</p>  | <p><b>Abortion stops a beating heart</b></p>   | <p><b>Knights of Columbus</b><br/>1590 Women's Auxiliary<br/>Open to all Catholic Women 18 &amp; over</p>  | <p><b>Pregnant? Breastfeeding? Kids under 5?</b></p> <p>YOU may be eligible for the <b>WIC Program!</b><br/>WIC provides Nutritious Food &amp; Nutrition Information<br/>Call 507-377-5289</p>   |
| <p><b>Bisek Gardens</b><br/>Sweet Corn    Linda Bisek<br/>Sweet Bicolors    425 W. 11th St.<br/>In Season    Albert Lea<br/>Open daily noon-6pm    373-4566</p>  | <p><b>CHURCH</b><br/>OFFSET PRINTING, INC.</p> <p>Parishioners    1731 Margaretha Avenue<br/>Mike &amp; Susan Kruse    Albert Lea, MN 56007<br/>(507) 373-6485</p>   | <p><b>AM</b><br/><b>Online Auction</b><br/>507-552-3911<br/>amonlineauction.com<br/>120 Elizabeth Ave. ♦ Albert Lea</p>                                    | <p><b>COLDWELL BANKER</b><br/>HOME CONNECTION</p> <p>204 S. Washington<br/><b>TERRY FOX</b><br/>REALTOR®<br/>(507) 373-8963 BUSINESS<br/>1-888-373-8963 TOLL FREE<br/>(507) 373-0115 CELL<br/>tmfox@me.com</p> <p>Each Office is independently Owned and Operated.</p> |
| <p><b>JIM &amp; DUDES</b><br/>PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING<br/>Since 1973<br/>Home to the Experts</p> <p>24/7<br/>Emergency Service<br/>724 W. Clark St.<br/>373-6161</p>  | <p><b>Charlene's BEAUTY SALON</b><br/>Phone: 373-1731<br/>2306 Milo Ave.<br/>Albert Lea, MN 56007<br/>Charlene Kukuzke - Owner<br/>Stan &amp; Charlene - Parishioners<br/>Your Family Hair Care Center</p> |  |  |

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| <p><b>ST. THEODORE PRAYER CHAIN</b><br/>Deanna Ille<br/>373-6285<br/>deille@charter.net</p> <p><b>St Theodore Catholic School</b><br/>Accepting Registrations for Pre-K - Grade 5<br/>Stop in or call us at 373-9657.</p>                                       | <p><b>HOPE</b><br/>AFTER ABORTION<br/><b>project rachel</b><br/>Peace starts here</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:respectlife@archspm.org">respectlife@archspm.org</a><br/>Website: <a href="http://www.archspm.org">www.archspm.org</a></p> | <p><b>Knights of Columbus</b><br/>Council 1590</p> <p>1002 S. Broadway, Albert Lea<br/>A Catholic Fraternal Organization<br/>373-5678</p> <p><b>Raleigh's ACE Hardware</b></p> <p>2525 Bridge Ave.<br/>507-377-8636<br/>Peggy Raleigh<br/>Parishioner</p>   | <p>2202 Stevens St<br/>Albert Lea, MN</p> <p><b>Semcac</b><br/>People Are Our Business</p> <p>373-1329</p> <p><b>BONNERUP</b><br/>FUNERAL &amp; CREMATION SERVICES<br/>2210 E. Main St., Albert Lea<br/>Phone: 373-2461 • 1-800-204-2461<br/>Steve Merfeld, Parishioner</p>   |