



St. Theodore Catholic Church

Inviting people to actively participate in the Life of Christ!
¡Invitando a las personas a participar activamente en la Vida de Cristo!

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

www.sttheo.org

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CEMETERY: St. Theodore & St. James

Josh Fossum.....651-788-2058

OUTREACH to HOMEBOUND

Annie Schleck.....507-373-2940

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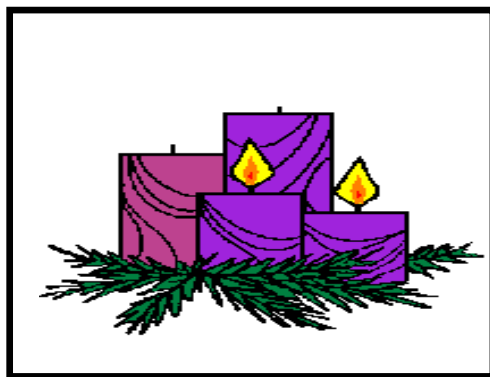
PRAYER CHAIN

Norma Kane
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The proclamation of today's first reading requires a combination of oratory styles:

first, the sadness of a people who have lost everything and now live in exile; and, on the other hand, hope springing from the message that God will come to rescue them. For lectors, this combination of styles is a true challenge that requires careful preparation. The proclamation of today's Gospel demands that all understand the announcement and arrival of Saint John the Baptist, both in the liturgy of Advent and in the life of a people who await the Messiah. Maybe our lectors can meet with the priests and deacons to go over these readings during Advent. Out of such gatherings, new ideas may surface that can enhance the preaching of those entrusted with this ministry.



El anuncio de la primera lectura de hoy exige una combinación de estilos oratorios:

primero, la tristeza de un pueblo que lo ha perdido todo y ahora vive en el exilio; y, por otro lado, la esperanza que brota del mensaje de que Dios vendrá a rescatarlos. Para los lectores, esta combinación de estilos es un verdadero desafío que requiere una preparación cuidadosa. El anuncio del Evangelio de hoy exige que todos comprendan el anuncio y la llegada de san Juan Bautista, tanto en la liturgia del Adviento como en la vida de un pueblo que espera al Mesías. Quizás nuestros lectores puedan reunirse con los sacerdotes y diáconos para repasar estas lecturas durante el Adviento. De tales reuniones pueden surgir nuevas ideas que puedan mejorar la predicación de quienes tienen a su cargo este ministerio.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24
4:00 PM
7:30 PM (Español)
9:30pm Christmas Carols

Christmas Masses



Christmas Day

Monday, December 25
9:00 AM
(Broadcast)

MASS TIMES

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

Nursing Home Masses - 2:00 pm

1st Thursday - All St. Johns Locations
2nd Thursday - Good Samaritan
3rd Thursday - Thorne Crest

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 pm ♦ **Sunday:** 1/2 hour before Mass

PRIVATE PRAYER IN CHAPEL

Open all hours

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:00 am-4:00 pm

Closed Friday

Offices Close Daily

- 9:00-9:45 am for Mass (except Monday)
- 12:00-1:00 pm for lunch

The Catholic Shoppe ♦ Parish Office

- 1:00-4:00 pm
- Monday-Thursday

FROM THE DESK OF FR. KURT



"Comfort, give comfort to my people says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins."

In the first reading today from the prophet Isaiah, we hear the prophecy of the Messiah. When He comes He was to bring with Him glad tidings to the lowly, He was to heal the brokenhearted, He was to proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners. He was to comfort all those who mourn and give them oil of gladness in place of them mourning. Jesus is the Messiah who brings fulfillment to this prophecy but He expects to use our hands and feet to do it. I often listen to the cries of the poor and those who suffer, and I am surprised that such poverty could exist in a country so abundant in wealth.

I think sometimes the social problems in our country; such as illegal immigration, often times cloud our obligation to help the cry of the poor. As Christians, we are not to ask for identification of legal residency before we feed a hungry child or console a crying mother. Our obligation to the poor and suffering transcends boundaries and borders. Jesus is still in our midst fulfilling the prophecy of old and He is using his disciples to carry out his mission. The question is, are we part of His mission or part of the problem?

Love of Christ

Father Kurt Farrell

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues Dec 12	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary Mass † Ryan Laco by a friend of the family	Church Church
Wed Dec 13	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary Mass † Ryan Laco by a friend of the family	Church Church
Thurs Dec 14	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary Mass † Ryan Laco by a friend of the family	Church Church
Fri Dec 15	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary Mass † Ryan Laco by a friend of the family	Church Church
Sat Dec 16	4-4:30pm 4:45 pm 5:15 pm	Confession Rosary Mass: Baptism † Ryan Laco by a friend of the family	Church Church Church
Sun Dec 17	8:30 am 9:00 am 11:00am	Rosary Mass † Rodger Broskoff by family Spanish Mass For all Parishioners and those listed in our book of intentions	Church Church Church

2023 CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL

Goal	\$54,208.00
Amount received (12/1/23)	\$48,383.00

Catholic Ministry Appeal (CMA)

We have only a few weeks left to reach our goal of \$5,825 before January 1, 2024. Thank you to those you generosity given.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

November 27– December 4, 2023

Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Improvement Fund
\$9,715.00	\$1,369.15	\$0.00
October-November Salvation Army Food Donation		115 lbs

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon: 12/11	Is 35:1-10	Lk 5:17-26
Tues: 12/12	Zec 2:14-17	Lk 1:26-38
Wed: 12/13	Is 40:25-31	Mt 11:28-30
Thu: 12/14	Is 41:13-20	Mt 11:11-15
Fri: 12/15	Is 48:17-19	Mt 11:16-19
Sat: 12/16	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun: 12/17	Is 61:1-2A, 10-11, Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54	1 Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

SUNDAY BROADCAST SPONSORS

Date	Intention
Dec 24	† Jack Bloomquist by Rosemary Bloomquist † Dave Mullenbach by Sandy & family Need Additional Sponsors
Dec 31	For the living & deceased family members of Judy Popp-Anderson

St. Theodore's Altar Server Training

December 16, 2023 ♦ 10-11:30 AM ♦ In the Church

Third grade students through adults interested in serving at Mass are welcome to learn what it is to be a Knight of the Altar.



Welcome: We welcome the following into the church family through the Sacrament of Baptism.

- **Jareli, Luis & Enrique Lopez** children of Dante Lopez & Irene Hernandez

We celebrate the blessing of their beautiful eternal souls and may we help them grow to be the saints the Lord has called them to be.



Poinsettias for Christmas!

Contact Addie's Floral directly at 377-2081 by 12/18/23.

6 1/2" pot single plant - \$13.00 or 8" pot two plants - \$25.00
Donors may take their plant home after the 1/7/23 weekend Masses.



Help Stop Minnesota's Assisted Suicide Bill

The proposed assisted suicide bill (HF1930 & SF1813) would legalize physician-assisted suicide in Minnesota. It is vitally important for legislators to hear that that Minnesotans do not support this deadly legislation!

The Truth Behind This Bill:

- Endangers people who are disable, the poor, the elderly and vulnerable adults through its lack of appropriate safeguards
- Allows non-physicians to prescribe death-inducing drugs
- Does not require a mental health evaluation for a life-ending prescription.
- Distorts the role of healthcare professionals as healers who seek to "do no harm," and undermines the trust between doctor and patient, by requiring ALL doctors who assist those with terminal conditions to advise them that assisted suicide is a treatment option
- No doctor or nurse must be present when the patient takes the lethal dose.

Tell your legislators that assisted suicide is WRONG for Minnesota!

Go to <https://ethicalcaremn.salsalabs.org/minnesotaassistedsuicidebill2023/index.html>. You can also go to our parish website (sttheo.org) and click on the link provided for direct access to ways you can contact your legislators.



Red Cross Blood Drive

December 27, 2023 ♦ 12 noon-6pm in Marian Hall.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES & REMINDERS

Mon Dec 11	Loaves & Fishes 4:45-5:30pm Hispanic Bible Study 5-6pm Life in the Spirit Prayer Group 6-7pm	Marian Hall Church Church Basement
Tues Dec 12	Las Mañanitas 12-1am Coffee, Cocoa & Mexican Bread 1-2am Hispanic Holy Spirit Group 6-8pm	Church Church Basement Church
Wed Dec 13	Morning Prayer Group 6-7am Hand Bell Practice 5:30-6:30pm Faith Formation Class grade 5-11 6:30-8pm Faith Formation Adoration 7-8pm	Parish Meeting Room Church Basement School/Gym/ Church Church
Thurs Dec 14	Father teaches 2nd-3rd grade 8:25-8:45am Hispanic Choir Practice 6:30-8pm Knights of Columbus Meeting 6:30-8pm	School Church Church Basement
Fri Dec 15	Adoration 9:30am-6:30pm Hispanic Adoration 5-6:30pm	Chapel Church
Sat Dec 16	Baptism 3-4pm	Church
Sun Dec 17	Faith Formation Class-PreK-4th 10-10:55am	School

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	Saturday, Dec 16, 2023	Sunday, Dec 17, 2023
	5:15 pm	9:00 am
Accompanist	Ada Theusch	Ada Theusch
Cantor	Jodi Blong	Betsy Schultz
Lectors	Irene Nelson	Carol Thompson
Servers	Lauren & Lily Raleigh	Emilie & Sophia Troster

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Christmas Pageant Practices!

All parish youth are welcome to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant! **We need children ages PreK-12th grade to help fill the role of Bethlehem's "townspeople."** Please attend the next practice if interested! Our next practices are as follows:

- ◆ Sunday, December 10th, 2-4pm
- ◆ Saturday, December 16th, 1-3pm
- ◆ Saturday, December 23rd, time: TBD!



All Faith Formation Students & Youth Group!



You're invited to Father Kurt's Las Posadas celebration on Friday, December 22nd! Please arrive at 6:00pm to Marian Hall and the Gym. The evening's festivities will begin with prayer followed by games, a piñata, delicious food & beverages, & gift bags full of candy!



Family Advent Day Was Huge Success!

Thank you to all the students and families that attended Family Advent Day! Everyone enjoyed learning about Advent through various activities. Students especially loved decorating over 180 cookies to be served at Loaves & Fishes this week!

Irene Nelson, Faith Formation Director - ian@sttheo.org 507-373-5254

We are Changing our Emergency Contact Format!



Starting the new year, we are moving to Flocknote as our email and texting format to get information out to our parishioners when there are updates or cancelations, especially due to weather or funerals. If you would like to receive email or text updates and/or cancellation notices please fill out a card located at the back and chapel accesses of the church and drop them off in the collection basket or call the parish office at 373-0603. Thank you!

Need Help With Your Energy Bills?

Semcac's Energy Assistance Program provides financial assistance to help with household winter heating bills. Eligibility is Based on household income and is available to homeowners and renters. Call 800.944.3281 or go to www.semcac.org. Funds available until gone so sign up right away!



The Knight of Columbus Monthly Meeting

Church Basement ♦ December 14, 2023.

6:30 pm 4th degree meeting

7:00 pm general council meeting

Contact Russ Nemeck at 373-4165 for more information.



Church Decorating Helpers Still Needed

Christmas (12/23/23 9-10AM)

Taking down (1/10/24 5:30-6:30 PM)

Go to sttheo.org to sign up or contact the parish office!



ST. THEODORE SCHOOL NEWS

We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to all of our students who collected 750 items (576 pounds) of non-perishable food items for our November Food Drive. These items were donated to the Salvation Army Food Bank. This was a wonderful way for our students to help our community members and to learn about giving during the holiday season. Our 4th and 5th grade students collected the most non-perishable food items (250 items) and will get to sit in the balcony during our Dec. 13th Mass.

Have a blessed weekend,
St. Theodore Catholic School

Seventh Annual Bake Sale results. Gross Donations & Sales \$1,907.00

"Thank You" to those who donated homemade goodies, treats, baking goods, gift cards and all those wonderful volunteers who helped. We are also grateful for all those who came and made purchases. Thank You!



Winter Weather Cancellations: In the event that school is canceled, all parish activities are also canceled and the parish office is also closed. If school starts late or closes early, the parish will follow the same practice. We will also advertise closings through KATE Radio 1450 am, KAAL TV, Flocknote Texts & emails, and Church Door Signage.

CPA Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau, P.A. Certified Public Accountants 507-377-1333 <u>Accounting Services</u> Bookkeeping, Payroll, & Tax Preparation Heather Benda-Parishioner Lance Skov Andrew Bernau Skyline Plaza ♦ 1655 West Main St. Albert Lea, MN 56007	 507-373-9194 www.plazamorenarestaurant.com Northbridge Mall 2588 Bridge Ave. Albert Lea, MN 2588 Northbridge Rafael Herrera General Manager Parishioner	LEA TAXI 507-318-6323 Albert Lea, MN	 Ben J. Bartelt Agent/Parishioner 507-377-0227 www.albertleasf.com 505 Bridge Ave. ♦ Albert Lea, MN
DOUG'S PAINTING & SANDBLASTING 377-1508 Interior/Exterior Painting of Commercial Buildings, In-Shop Painting and Staining Doug, Jason & Dan Evans	Raleigh's ACE Hardware  2525 Bridge Ave. 507-377-8636 Peggy Raleigh, Matt & Ellen Raleigh Parishioners	 JONES HAUGH SMITH Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors 373-4876 ♦ Brian J. Johnson	 1410 Olsen Dr. Albert Lea, MN 56007 (507)-373-6650 www.albertleaelectric.com
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Bisek Gardens Sweet Corn Linda Bisek Sweet Bicolors 425 W. 11th St. In Season Albert Lea Open daily noon-6pm 373-4566	 24/7 Emergency Service 724 W. Clark St. 373-6161	 The Cleaning Experts 373-9850 WE SPECIALIZE IN WATER, SMOKE, SOOT, DAMAGE CLEAN-UP COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL	 2210 E. Main St., Albert Lea Phone: 373-2461 • 1-800-204-2461
 JOSH FOSSUM Director/Manager Email: info@bayviewfuneral.com 1415 Hwy. 13 N Albert Lea, MN 56007 Phone: (507) 373-4330	 Knights of Columbus Council 1590 Albert Lea, MN A Catholic Fraternal Organization 373-5678	 Knights of Columbus 1590 Women's Auxiliary Open to all Catholic Women 18 & over	SAVELKOUL LAW OFFICE Donald W. Savelkoul Parishioner 2302 E. Main St. 507.552.5291 dsavelkoul@savelkoullaw.com

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<p>The Catholic Shoppe</p> <p>Located in St. Theodore Parish Office Open Monday-Thursday ♦ 8:00AM-4:00 PM</p> <p>Come and check out our selection of religious books, gift and so much more!</p>		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consignment Auction • Estate Sale Auction • Charity Auction <p>Online Auction</p> <p>Contact No. 507-552-3911 • Mobile No. 507-318-0783</p> <p>Website: www.amonlineauction.hibid.com</p> <p>Email: amonlineauction@yahoo.com</p> <p>Lance & Mimey Anspach 525 Prospect Ave. Albert Lea, MN 56007</p>	
<p>St. Theodore Parish VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</p> <p>Money Counters Ushers Altar Servers Quilting Group Members Church dusting team members</p> <p><i>Please contact the parish office at 507-373-0603</i></p>	<p>ST. THEODORE PRAYER CHAIN</p> <p>Norma Kane 507-279-9828 Jkane_1981@yahoo.co... Can also take requests in Spanish</p>   <p> 2202 Stevens St Albert Lea, MN 373-1329</p>		