



# St. Theodore Catholic Church

Inviting people to actively participate in the Life of Christ!  
iInvitando 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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John Forman.....373-0498

## CEMETERY: St. Theodore & St. James

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

## OUTREACH to HOMEBOUND

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

## PARISH COUNCIL

Gina Montero - Chair Lois Ahern  
Jeff Jimenez - Vice Sue VanVooren  
Deanne Zogg - Sec Lucy Villagomez  
Don Day

## PRAYER CHAIN

Norma Kane  
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Jkane\_1981@yahoo.com

Can also take  
requests in  
Spanish!



Diocese of Winona-Rochester  
55 West Sanborn Street | P.O. Box 588 | Winona, Minnesota 55987  
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## Office of the Bishop

Most Reverend Robert Barron

December 20, 2023

## STATEMENT FROM BISHOP BARRON

On Monday, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith, with the approval of Pope Francis, published a declaration entitled *Fiducia Supplicans*, which has given rise to a good deal of commentary and controversy. The document allows for the possibility of blessing those in irregular or same-sex relationships. Despite some misleading reporting in the media, *Fiducia Supplicans* in no way sanctions irregular bonds or changes the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality. It further specifies that no liturgical blessing can be offered to those in such unions, but rather an informal pastoral blessing. This latter benediction is a calling forth of the divine grace to help those who receive it to live more fully in accord with God's will and to enhance whatever is good, true, and beautiful in their lives.

I believe that the declaration is very much congruent with the pastoral instincts of Pope Francis, who always wants to remind those who are living the Christian life in a less than perfect way that they are, nevertheless, loved and cherished by God. To all of Jesus' brothers and sisters, the Church should never fail to be a source of welcome, compassion, and blessing.

## Christmas Masses

### Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24  
4:00 PM  
7:30 PM (Español)  
9:30pm Christmas Carols  
10:00 PM



### Christmas Day

Monday, December 25  
9:00 AM  
(Broadcast)

### Solemnity of the Blessed



Virgin Mary  
Mass  
January 1st,  
2024  
9:00 AM

## 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



Merry Christmas!

The waiting is over and finally the joy for rejoicing has arrived. The longed for Messiah has entered into our world. God has taken on our human nature and therefore it will never be the same again.

Christmas is a wonderful time for priests because we don't have to say much to bring out the meaning of the liturgical experience. Christmas speaks loudly and clearly all by itself. God loves us, God loves us and God loves us!

I have experienced so much love from you these six and a half years and I am so grateful to God and to the Bishop for giving me this assignment.

During the Mass, celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart this year, I was able to offer to God an act of thanksgiving for each and every one of you. I might forget a name or two but I never forget an act of kindness and there has been so many of those given to me these past years. Thank you so much for being so supportive of me as your pastor. I look forward to, with great longing, the marvelous experiences that God has in store for us together.

Love in Christ

Father Kurt Farrell

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, December 26 & Wednesday, December 27, 2023**  
**NO MASS**

<b>Thurs Dec 28</b>	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary <b>Mass</b> † Tony & Frances Bok by Gerry	Church Church
<b>Fri Dec 29</b>	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary <b>Mass</b> † Jack Bloomquist by Rosemary Bloomquist	Church Church
<b>Sat Dec 30</b>	4:00pm 4:45pm 5:15pm	Confession Rosary <b>Mass</b> † MaryAnn Wilder by family	Church Church Church
<b>Sun Dec 31</b>	8:30am 8:00am  11:00am	Rosary <b>Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass</b> † Living & deceased family members of Judy Popp-Anderson <b>Spanish Mass</b> For all Parishioners and those listed in our book of intentions	Church Church  Church
<b>Mon Jan 1</b>	9:00am	<b>Solemnity of Mary Mass</b>	Church

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

- **Elias John Grzybowski** son of Keith & Angelina Grzybowski
- **Mariana & Alondra Rose Gutierrez Ambriz** daughters of Jose Guadalupe Gutierrez & Rosalina Ambriz
- **Julian Cesar Ambriz** son of Julio Cesar & Taylor Joyce Ambriz
- **Fatima Ambriz - Becerra** son of Jose Guadalupe & Elizabeth Ambriz

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.



*We pray for the following family who mourn the loss of their loved one:*

- **Peggy Lenore Raleigh** (died December 15, 2023)
- We pray the Lord will bring their souls peace, mercy and eternal rest and comfort for their families during this difficult time.*



**United Way Winter Gear Drive** drop boxes are located in the parish office, back access of the church, and the school through January. Anything designed to keep a person warm during our cold Minnesota winters will be accepted.



### Need Help With Your Energy Bills?

Eligibility is based on household income & available to homeowners and renters. Call 800.944.3281 or go to [www.semccac.org](http://www.semccac.org). Funds available until gone so sign up right away!



### The Catholic Shoppe

A wonderful assortment of rosaries are among our many items. Rosaries are sold in gold or silver colored metals in an assortment of clear, colored crystal, smooth, round or wooden beads. With rosary prices \$5 or less, you're sure to find something you'll like!

## 2023 CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL

Goal	\$54,208.00
Amount received (12/15/23)	\$51,278.00

### Catholic Ministry Appeal (CMA)

We're SO close! Only **\$2,930.00** left to reach our goal.

## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Dec 11– 18, 2023

Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Improvement Fund
\$10,953.50	\$1,537.62	\$130.00

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon: 12/25	Is 62:11-12, Ti 3:4-7	Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12. Lk 2:15-20
Tues: 12/26	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	Mt 10:17-22
Wed: 12/27	1 Jn 1:1-4	Jn 20:1a and 2-8
Thu: 12/28	1 Jn 1:5—2:2	Mt 2:13-18
Fri: 12/29	1 Jn 2:3-11	Lk 2:22-35
Sat: 12/30	1 Jn 2:12-17	Lk 2:36-40
Sun: 12/31	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17	Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5. LK 2:22-40

## SUNDAY BROADCAST SPONSORS

Date	Intention
Jan 7	† Greg Freese & for recovery of illness in our family by Kathy Freese <b>Additional Sponsors Needed</b>
Jan 14	<b>Sponsors Needed</b>
Jan 21	† Louise Yost by family & friends <b>Additional Sponsors Needed</b>




## NO Loaves & Fishes

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024



## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES & REMINDERS

**December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Church & Parish Office Close for Christmas**

Wed Dec 27	No School <b>Red Cross Blood Drive Set Up</b> 10-11am <b>Faith Formation Adoration</b> 7-8pm	Marian Hall  Church
Thurs Dec 28	No School <b>Hispanic Choir Practice</b> 6:30-8pm	Church/Church Basement
Fri Dec 29	No School <b>Adoration</b> 9:30am-6:30pm <b>Hispanic Adoration</b> 6:30-8pm	Church/Chapel  Church
Sat Dec 30	<b>RCIA Classes</b> 9am-12pm	Parish Meeting Room
Sun Dec 31	<b>New Year's Eve</b> <b>No Additional Activities</b>	
Mon Jan 1	<b>Parish Office Closed</b> <b>No Additional Activities</b>	

**Parish Office Closed for Christmas**  
**December 25 & 26, 2023**

**NO DAILY MASS**  
**December 26 & 27, 2023**



Catholic Men's Retreat

**Annual Schoenstatt**  
**Men's Weekend Retreat**  
**January 26-28, 2024**  
**Sleepy Eye, MN**

Join other men as we delve into

our faith, helped by the Schoenstatt's Movement's spirituality of living an everyday sanctity. This retreat include talks, meditations, sharing, individual prayer, silence and reflection, the celebration of the Eucharist, Adoration and opportunities for spiritual consultation and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To register, email your name, address, phone and a contact email address to [schoenstattmn@gmail.com](mailto:schoenstattmn@gmail.com) or call 507-794-7727



**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**December 27, 2023**  
**12 noon-6pm in Marian Hall.**

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



**Helpers Still Needed**

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


Go to [sttheo.org](http://sttheo.org) to sign up or contact the parish office!

## The Holy Father's Intention for January 2024

**FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH**

Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	<b>Saturday, December 30, 2023</b>	<b>Sunday, December 31, 2023</b>
	<b>5:15 pm</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
<b>Accompanist</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Aaron Bartz
<b>Cantor</b>	Stephanie Redman	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	Mary Larscheid	Catherine Buboltz
<b>Servers</b>	Everett & Noah Schone	Emilie & Sophia Troster
<b>New Year's Day 9:00am Jan 1, 2024</b>	<b>Accompanish TBD</b>	<b>Cantor Betsy Schultz</b>

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

**Children's Christmas Pageant & Mass:**  
**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm**



Those participating in the Children's Christmas Pageant, please arrive by 3:15pm, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please go down to the church basement and put your costume on.

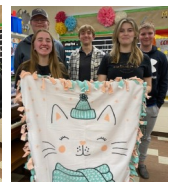
## Holiday Break!

**No Faith Formation Classes on the following dates:**

Wednesdays: Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sundays: Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

The 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation students hope to bring comfort & joy to others this Christmas! Students in Mandy Grzybowski's class gathered for their annual Salvation Army - Community Service Project, providing items to benefit the needy in our own community. All were grateful for helping bring happiness to those in need this holiday season.



Irene Nelson, Faith Formation Director - [ian@sttheo.org](mailto:ian@sttheo.org) 507-373-5254

## ST. THEODORE SCHOOL NEWS



We hope everyone has a great Winter Break, our students will return to school on Wed., Jan. 3, 2024.



We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy this Holiday Season with family and friends!

Have a blessed weekend,  
 St. Theodore Catholic School



## 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 cancelation 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!

<b>CPA</b> 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	 <b>507-373-9194</b> www.plazamorenarestaurant.com <b>Northbridge Mall</b> 2588 Bridge Ave. Albert Lea, MN 2588 Northbridge <b>Rafael Herrera</b> General Manager Parishioner	<b>LEA TAXI</b> <b>507-318-6323</b> <b>Albert Lea, MN</b>	 <b>Ben J. Bartelt</b> Agent/Parishioner 507-377-0227 www.albertleasf.com 505 Bridge Ave. ♦ Albert Lea, MN
<b>DOUG'S PAINTING &amp; SANDBLASTING</b> 377-1508 Interior/Exterior Painting of Commercial Buildings, In-Shop Painting and Staining Doug, Jason & Dan Evans	<b>Raleigh's ACE Hardware</b>  2525 Bridge Ave. 507-377-8636 Peggy Raleigh, Matt & Ellen Raleigh Parishioners	 <b>JONES HAUGH SMITH</b> Professional Engineers & Land Engineers • Surveyors Surveyors 373-4876 ♦ <b>Brian J. Johnson</b>	 <b>ALBERT LEA ELECTRIC CO.</b> CAL JOHNSON 1410 Olsen Dr. Albert Lea, MN 56007 (507)-373-6650 www.albertleaelectric.com
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<b>Bisek Gardens</b> <b>Sweet Corn</b> Linda Bisek Sweet Bicolors 425 W. 11th St. In Season Albert Lea Open daily noon-6pm 373-4566	 24/7 <b>Emergency Service</b> 724 W. Clark St. 373-6161	 <b>The Cleaning Experts</b> 373-9850 WE SPECIALIZE IN WATER, SMOKE, SOOT, DAMAGE CLEAN-UP COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL	 <b>BONNERUP FUNERAL &amp; CREMATION SERVICES</b> 2210 E. Main St., Albert Lea Phone: 373-2461 • 1-800-204-2461
 <b>Bayview Freeborn FUNERAL HOME</b> "We can cross this bridge together." <b>JOSH FOSSUM</b> Director/Manager Email: info@bayviewfuneral.com 1415 Hwy. 13 N Albert Lea, MN 56007 Phone: (507) 373-4330	 <b>Knights of Columbus Council 1590</b> Albert Lea, MN <b>A Catholic Fraternal Organization</b> 373-5678	 <b>Knights of Columbus 1590 Women's Auxiliary</b> Open to all Catholic Women 18 & over	<b>SAVELKOUL LAW OFFICE</b> Donald W. Savelkoul Parishioner 2302 E. Main St. 507.552.5291 dsavelkoul@savelkoullaw.com

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