From the Pastor's desk
Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 2022

Francis Thompson, a British poet from the late 19th-early 20th century, wrote one of the greatest Christian poems of all time. He led a difficult life: his career in medicine was a failure; his rift with his father forced him into homelessness for years; his addiction to opium was a life-long plague. Both his circumstances and his sins made his life miserable. Yet, his greatest work, an autobiographical poem called, "The Hound of Heaven," tells about a God who refuses to abandon even the most determined sinner. In it, the protagonist is madly searching for happiness in all the wrong places. During the search, a hunting dog, a hound, is relentlessly pursuing him. The hound is a symbol of God, Who loves us too much ever to give up on us. God is like a well-trained hunting dog, a hound that is on our trail, and nothing we can do will ever shake Him off!

The poem begins with a description of the poet's flight from God, and his vain search for happiness in other things:

> *"I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; / I fled Him, down the arches of the years; / I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways / Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears / I hid from Him, and under running laughter."*

But at the end, when he has nowhere else to run to, the hound catches up to him and says,

> *"Rise, clasp My hand, and come! ...Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest, I am He Whom thou seekest! Thou drivest* ***love*** *from thee, who drivest Me."*

Nothing we do can lessen God's love for us: He is faithful, and His hand is always outstretched to save us from ourselves. Advent is the time of preparation to return to the "Hound of Heaven" by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives. When we allow God to find us – even in our sinfulness and our unpreparedness – He will lift us up and give us hope for new life. Jesus loves us beyond our sins!!

Be watchful and waiting,

Fr. Dennis

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Faith Family Fraternity
Knights of Columbus
St. Mary's Council #9675

Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 2022

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus.
ROMANS 15:5

Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 4th:

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Monday, December 5th:

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85; Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 6th:

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96; Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 7th:

Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103; Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 8th:

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Friday, December 9th:

Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 10th:

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS: *Many people today are constantly using social media, but are not themselves very social: they are caught up in themselves, prisoners of the cell phone in their hand. What appears on the screen is not the reality of other persons: their eyes, their breath and their hands.*

ADDRESS IN A MEETING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, ATHENS, DECEMBER 6, 2021

Confessions will be offered before each daily Mass and before Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Mary's.

MASS & ADORATION

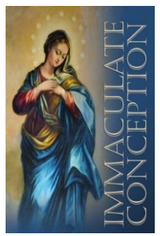
Saturday, December 3rd
9:00 AM SM—+Drew Madler by Martina Stagl
5:00 PM SM—+Dorothy Kohl by Joe Kohl family

Schedule Change
Sunday, December 4th
8:30 AM SM—Pro Populo
10:30 AM SE—+Deceased members of KC Council #5477

Monday, December 5th
7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, December 6th
6:00 PM SM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:45 PM SM—Rosary, Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
7:00 PM SM—+Leroy & +Eleanor Kilwein by Ivo & Joan Schoch

Wednesday, December 7th
7:30 AM SM—+Drew Madler by Doug, Betsy & Emily
6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 PM SE—Pro Populo



Thursday, December 8th - Holy day of Obligation
5:00 PM SM —+Leroy & +Eleanor Kilwein by Ivo & Joan Schoch

Friday, December 9th
7:30 AM SM—+Drew Madler by Doug, Betsy, & Emily

Saturday, December 10th
9:00 AM SM—+Patricia Pechtl by Betsy Myers
5:00 PM SM—Living & Deceased relatives of John & Antonia Brusich by Mike Brusich

Sunday, December 11th
8:30 AM SE—Pro Populo
10:30 AM SM—+Jacob & +Florence Frank by Family

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers
December 10th & 11th, 2022

MINISTRY	Saturday 5:00 PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Connie J.	Kris E.
Mass Server	Schmidt	Evan V/Jackson V
Rosary Leader	Martina S.	Gregg F.
Gifts	Volunteer	Gregg F.

Collection Report St. Mary's
November 26th & 27th, 2022

Adult		Youth
$ 1637.00	Envelopes	$ 25.00
$ 61.00	Loose Plate	$
$ 1723.00	Total	
$ 6335.00	Monthly Total	

Saint Elizabeth's Liturgical Ministers
December 11, 2022

	Sunday 8:30 AM
Lector	Arlene
Mass Server	Alisha
Ushers	Lenny & Arlen
Gift	Clarice & Lucas

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's
November 27, 2022

Adult		Youth
$ 440.00	Envelopes	$ 0.00
$ 26.00	Loose Plate	
$ 446.00	Total	
$ 2498.00	Monthly Total	

Knights of Columbus Council #5477

Meetings held monthly at the Lefor KC Club. For more information contact **Fran at 483-6091**

Knights of Columbus Council #9675

Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday at St. Mary's. For more information contact **Mike at 701-290-2493**

Stewardship

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." • Stewardship Thought: Whatever time we have is a gift from God and we are asked to use it wisely, to serve God and others.

Saint Mary's Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 7th: Jerry Mellmer, Justin Kathrein, Fr. Paul Gardner; December 9th: Stacy Hibl; December 10th: William Schmidt, (A) Lynn & Victor Dvorak, (A) Cely & Robert Stagl; December 11th: David Madler, Tara Ehlis

Saint Elizabeth Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 9th: Emery Biel, Ransly Lefor

St. Elizabeth Announcements:

*Church cleaning (Everyone), setting up crib and decorating for Christmas is scheduled for **December 18th after 8:30am Mass.** There will be a sign up sheet at the back of church for cleaning. Please sign up to help or you will be assigned a job. There will be a lunch provided.

***Coffee and Rolls** following 8:30am Mass on Sunday, December 11th. Dorita Kuhn, Michele Wax and Arlene Rohr are on.

****Poinsettia donation envelopes** will be available in the entrance of both churches. Thank you for helping make our churches beautiful during the Christmas season!*

St. Mary's Mass Intention Update

As of today, we will not be able to accept any new Mass intention requests until January 1, 2023. The Mass calendar is full through October 2023. Canon Law says that all Masses must be satisfied within one year. Beginning January 1st we will accept requests for 1 Mass at a time. When the schedule allows we will reevaluate and update this policy. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your intentions.

Please Keep in Your Prayers: Mindy Augare, Pastor Beth Parks, Donna Jirges, Dennis McDevitt, Keith Witte, Lacy Gutenkunst, Marietta Hollinger, Kent Maershbecker, Belinda Lynch, Doretta Wiegum, Nicole Leck, Rick Schaefer, Anthony German, Kent Candrian, Dan Mollman, Rod Crane, Bob Barnes, Bart Rohan, Derek Benz, Todd Leach, JoAnn Urlacher, Katie Stolz, Andy Prokop, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Yvonne Fettig, Kim Kuhn, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick

Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents: Ann Roller, Gene Wert, Ann Wert, Grace Bach, Leona Schiwal, Violet Dobitz, Beverly Held, Theresa Decker, Marilyn Wert, Gilbert Buzalsky, Joe & Aggie Wandler, Charlotte Krebs, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Donnella Koppinger, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick

Keep in your prayers our deceased loved ones: +Ray Meyer, +Bonnie Benz, +Wayne Pechtl, +Patti Frank, +Mary Hanson, +Fred Heidecker, +Theresa Tarpo, +Anton Krebs, +Josie Steier, +Melanie Fitterer, +Lawrence Urlacher, +Leonard Gartner, +Arlene Schaefer, +Jim Krebs, +Lea Madler, +Juanita Koppinger, +Eleanor Kilweio, +Dorothy Kobl

Pretend the Dream

When I was in college, we had a professor who would often say that if, instead of acting the way we feel, we would act the way we would like to feel, then we would soon begin to feel the way we hoped. Over the years, I've found a fair amount of wisdom in that advice, although I don't always remember to tap into it. I know it's all a kind of pretending, but somehow the pretending does seem to make a difference. Each year, we make our journey into Christmas with a year's baggage. We come with good memories of moments of lazy fun, sun-drenched summers, and dappled autumns, vacations, and birthday parties. But we also make our way into this red and green season with a generous share of hurts and pains, failures and even sins, just because most years are lived that way. And so, during this last month of each year we play at being happy and pretend that all is good. We sing carols and toast friendships and wish each other blessings and goodness. And we do it all with an unspoken honesty, knowing full well that life is not always so, but maybe by pretending, and by some freakish twist of godliness, we can find for some short time the harmony once prophesied by Isaiah. Maybe the wolf and the lamb will be kind, and the calf and lion will forget their history, and for at least one brief shining moment we will live in harmony with one another. -FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Dear Padre: ***Many LGBTQ+ youth are homeless, suicidal, or even murdered because of who they are. How can we support them?*** Your desire to be compassionate is very much in keeping with the Church's teaching. In 1986, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, led by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now emeritus Pope Benedict XVI), issued a strongly worded call for civility and respect for homosexual persons. On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons emphasized, "It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses that homosexual persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity" (*CCC* 2358). "The Church actively asserts and promotes the intrinsic dignity of every person. As human persons, persons with a homosexual inclination have the same basic rights as all people, including the right to be treated with dignity," wrote the US Bishops in "Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination" (2006). In terms of offering support, this document reads, "As baptized members of the Catholic community, persons with a homosexual inclination continue to look to the Church for a place where they may live in authentic human integrity and holiness of life. Being welcomed into and participating in their local faith community is the foundation of spiritual support that the Church offers to them. Full and active participation is encouraged. Participation in a worshiping Catholic community is a support for living a life of chastity and integrity and an encouragement to an ongoing personal conversion."

— *The Redemptorists* DearPadre.org

"We must pray without ceasing, in every occurrence and employment of our lives—that prayer which is rather a habit of lifting up the heart to God in a constant communication with Him."

- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Faith Formation Upcoming Events:

***Rescheduled*:** Confirmation service day, volunteer at the Soup Café in Bismarck. All day, times TBA.

Wed, Dec 21st: Confirmation retreat at the Assumption Abbey

Card Party
December 11, 2022
Card Party - 3:00 p.m.
Tom and Jerry's & Lunch to follow
St. Pius Verein
Schefield, ND
Everyone is invited!

St. Elizabeth's Church Raffle Fundraiser
December 4th
***10:30 AM**: KC Memorial Mass*
11:00 AM: KC #5477 Breakfast at the Lefor KC Club
Live Auction and Bingo to follow breakfast. Lunch following Bingo.

Pastor:
Rev. Dennis Schafer
Cell: 701-301-0609
Email:
dschafer@bismarckdiocese.com

Deacon:
Deacon Victor Dvorak
Phone: 701-579-4384

Parish office:
437 Main St, PO Box 369
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Email: julienesm@ndsupernet.com
Phone #: 579-4312

Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday 8:30am—3:00pm

Website:
www.stmarychurchnewengland.com

Mass Schedule

St. Mary
Tuesday: 7:00 PM
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 7:30 AM
Last Saturday: 9:00 AM (Adoration Chapel)
Saturday: 5:00 PM; Sunday: 10:30 AM

St. Elizabeth
Wednesday: 7:00 PM
First Friday: 7:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM

Eucharistic Adoration
St. Mary—Tuesday: 6:00 PM;
Adoration Chapel at your convenience
St. Elizabeth—Wednesday: 6:00 PM

Marriage: Contact Pastor at least nine months prior to your wedding date.

Baptism: Pre-Baptism preparation session required.

Anointing of the Sick: By request.