

PASTORS NOTES: When you seed a plant, you must allow it to develop by itself. You cannot force it to produce fruit. Growers can water, fertilize, spray, cultivate, but all these things are aiding the plant to produce the fruit it was meant to produce. There are also threats from outside that can stop it's growth like storms and extreme heat or cold. Growing plants can be challenging and sometimes quite frustrating because of the complicated, fine-tuned, conditions that can mean the difference between nothing, a little and a lot. James in the second reading uses the image of a farmer or gardener as an example for us and our need for patience when it comes to growing spiritually. He says, "You must be patient" (James 5:7). We have to be patient with ourselves and with others. He mentions a disease that can kill growth: complaining about one another. "Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged." (5:9) It is the Lord that is the judge. John the Baptist in the gospel is in prison. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the one or should we look for another. Jesus points out some great things that happening, signs of the Messiah. He tells them "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." (Matt 11:5) Still they were expecting to be liberated from the oppressive Romans. Jesus was not concerned about a violent throwing off the power of the Romans, but he would plant the seeds of the kingdom that eventually led to the Romans losing power. It would take a long time before Rome lost its grip on the people of Israel. The more important thing is that they sow the seeds of transformation in people's hearts. John was a great prophet who vigorously challenged people to repentance and not a reed swaying in the wind. Those born into the kingdom of heaven are meant to be "greater" in that we are to carry on John's trans-formative work as we are baptized into Christ's Body and share Jesus with the world. This involves a kind of

planting, watering, and protecting that requires incredible patience. Fr Tim

MISSION STATEMENT: "St. Charles Parish exists to invite people into encounters with Jesus Christ and lead them to fullness of life in Him. What we do as a community of disciples; We pray, celebrate, work, learn, and grow."

TEEN LIFE & JR. HIGH:
Wednesday, Dec. 17: Christmas Party!

READINGS AND MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Isaiah 7:10-14 (10A)
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-24

Saturday, Dec. 20th at 5:30 PM – St. Charles

Intention: For the People
Donor:
Greet/Usher: Volunteers
Proclaimer: Martha Iverson
EEM: Dennis Forward, Bernie Boyle

Altar Servers:

Sunday, Dec. 21st at 8:30 AM – St. Charles

Intention: +Mike Kelly
Donor: His Family
Greet/Usher: Lloyd & Anita Gebhardt
 Drew & Lindsey Courtney
Proclaimers: Anna Sell, Lindsey Courtney
EEM: B Kelly, J Thorpe, G Pioske

Altar Servers:

Sunday, Dec. 21st at 11:00 AM – St. Mary's

Intention: +Jackie Hooten
Donor: A/A Hogness
Proclaimer: Bonnie Josewski
EEM: Mark & Jean Bopp
Greet/Usher: Cody & Dixie Bopp

CONTACTS

Fr. Tim: timothy.schroeder@fargodiocese.org
Fr. Tim: 701-520-0838
St. Charles Office Phone: 701-742-2418
 Office Hours: 10:30 – 5:30 (Tues-Thurs)
 Business Administrator: ljand@drtel.net
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 Prayer Chain: nancym@drtel.net

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

410 7th Street North
 Oakes, ND 58474
 Website: stcharlesoakes.org
 Facebook: Saint Charles Borromeo Oakes



St. Mary's Catholic Church

480 4th Street Southwest
 Forman, ND 58032-4209
 Website: stmarysforman.org

**3rd Sunday of Advent
 December 13 & 14, 2025**

Pastor: Rev Timothy Schroeder; Cell Phone: 701-520-0838
(Masses @ St. Charles Livestreamed on YouTube; link found on our website above)

St. Charles **5:30 PM Saturday** Mass Intention: Kandiss Heier
 St. Charles **8:30 AM Sunday** Mass Intention: +John Paul Geffre
 St. Mary's **11:00 AM Sunday** Mass Intention: For the People

THIS WEEK			
Day, Date	Time	Event and Location	Mass Intentions, Donors and Notes
Mon. 12/15	6 – 7 PM	Adoration @ St. Charles	
Tues. 12/16	5:30 PM	Mass @ St. Charles	Larry Heier – C Heier
	6-7:30 PM	Adoration @ St. Charles	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Wed. 12/17	8:30 AM	Mass @ Hospital	+Mary Ann Alcorn – A/R Gramlow
	3:00 PM	Mass @ St. Mary's	+Fr. William Callery
	5 – 9 PM	Adoration @ St. Charles	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs. 12/18	8:30 AM	Mass @ St. Charles	+Willy Pritchard – His Family
	4:30 PM	Mass @ Manor	+Fr. William Callery
Fri., 12/19	10:00 AM	Mass @ 4 Seasons in Forman	+Betty Even – L Even
Sat., 12/20	5:00 PM	Confessions @ St. Charles	
	5:30 PM	Vigil Mass @ St. Charles	For the People
Sun., 12/21	8:00 AM	Confessions @ St. Charles	
	8:30 AM	Sun. Mass @ St. Charles	+Mike Kelly – His Family
	10:45 AM	Confessions @ St. Mary's	
	11:00 AM	Sun. Mass @ St. Mary's	+Jackie Hooten – A/A Hogness

Baptism: Contact Fr. Tim
Confirmation: As scheduled through Faith Formation Program
First Holy Communion: As scheduled through Faith Formation Program
Confession: As noted on schedule above, or anytime by appointment; contact Fr. Tim
Anointing of the Sick: Upon request; contact Fr. Tim
Holy Orders: Contact Fr. Tim
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): Contact Fr. Tim

ST. MARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Mary's Contacts:

Office Phone: 701-724-3319
Office Hours: Wed. or Fri.; (Fr. Tim: 520-0838)
E-mail: 4steeples@drtel.net

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Anyone wishing to donate towards poinsettias for Christmas, please give the money to Jean Bopp or Lisa Flihs (Janes), or marked as so in the collection. If you wish this to be a memorial, please include the names.

AREA ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES:

St. Charles, Oakes: Thurs., Dec. 18 @ 5:50-6:30 PM
St. Mary's, Forman: Sun., Dec. 21 @ 3:30-4:30 PM
Holy Rosary, LaMoure: Sun., Dec. 21 @ 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS & MARY, MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Dec. 24: 4:30 PM – St. Charles
7:00 PM – St. Mary's

Dec. 25: 10:30 AM – St. Charles

Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation:

December 31: 5:00 PM – St. Mary's
January 1: 10:30 AM – St. Charles

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: All are invited to remember special people in your lives this Christmas season by making a donation for poinsettias at St. Charles. You May donate any amount in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone, or as a special intention. Fill out an envelope (available in the Narthex) and drop in the collection basket.

HOMMERDING INCENTIVE FUND will end at the end of the year. Until then, our parish has the opportunity to receive matching funds from this fund, as well as a local match. Your donation, **dedicated to the Renewal fund**, in addition to the 21% matching funds, will ensure our parish remains financially healthy for the future, as well as meet ongoing building & grounds needs that we will encounter in the years ahead. Thank you for your support!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: If you have not seen your Birthday or Anniversary in the following column, and would like it published, please contact Jane by email @ ljand@drtel.net or text @ 210-0032.

BIRTHDAYS AT ST. CHARLES THIS WEEK:

Dec. 17 Dean Fiala, Avery Kapfer
Dec. 18 Larry Roney
Dec. 19 Mitch Roney, Kevin Helwig
Drew Courtney
Dec. 20 Hallie Worrel

ANNIVERSARIES AT ST. CHARLES THIS WEEK:

Dec. 19 Stephan & Megan Quandt ('20)

ST. CHARLES FINANCES

Envelope amount last week **\$1,655.00**

Other receipts last weekend:

Plate.....	111.00
Renewal Project.....	1,160.00
Forman.....	1,387.91
Flowers.....	340.00
1 st Sunday Brunch.....	237.00
Black & Indian Collection.....	520.00
Retirement for Religious.....	500.00
Military Mission.....	25.00
St. Francis Room.....	200.00
Tornado Watch.....	598.00
Candles.....	11.00
Food Pantry.....	50.00
Mass Stipends.....	10.00

RENEWAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

Miracle Goal:	\$1,500,000
Pledged & gifted	\$1,377,295

GIFT; GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER: TODAY, Sunday Dec. 14th, at 9:45, after Mass, we will have an all-parish, family-friendly Advent carousel. You, and your whole family, are encouraged to attend!

ADVENT PROGRAM "Just A Little Christmas": will be held immediately after the 8:30 AM Mass on **Sunday, December 21st. Make plans to attend!**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST will be held following the Advent Program on Sunday, December 21st.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

WEDNESDAY CLASS TIME is 5:00 – 6:00 PM

THIS WEEK, Dec. 17: Advent Program Practice
Sunday, Dec. 21: Advent Program – After Mass
NEXT WEEK, Dec. 24: NO Class

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE is scheduled for **Thursday, Dec. 18th** @ St. Charles from 5:30-6:30, or until all are heard.

PARISH SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARD WRITING & POTLUCK. Share the spirit of Christmas with members of our parish who are grieving the loss of a loved one, as well as those who are in need of a little extra care and connection this Christmas season. Join us **Monday, Dec. 15th @ 5:30 PM** in the St. Francis room.

THIS WEEK: Why did Yulia feel like a failure? What did Dr. George do to spark a lively discussion in his class? How did Giovanna start her conversation with Evan? Make Advent meaningful this week by reading the stories about these people and others in this week's pages of your Advent booklet. Their stories will help you turn toward GROWTH, SPIRIT and HUMILITY, as well as UNDERSTANDING COURAGE, AWARENESS and IMAGINATION!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: They gave their lives in service – now they need your help. For decades, women & Men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation – it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious in your envelopes provided.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION WITH EXPOSITION

Stop in to visit Jesus at any of these times. Committed adorers will be present as listed;
Monday: 6:00-7:00 PM; Tuesday: 6:00-7:30 PM; Wednesday: 5:00-9:00 PM

SPECIAL MINISTRY SIGN-UP: There is a sheet in the Narthex to sign up for ministries for the Christmas & Mary, Mother of God Holy Day Masses.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: December 14th
"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

OAKES AREA FOOD PANTRY is now open the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month from 10:00am – noon. No appointments are necessary. During visits, patrons enter through the south door then fill out a quick intake form before selecting food items. Patrons' choice allows them to select food items based on their household size and interests. Food donations can be dropped off at the new location 115 S. 5th St. in Oakes while monetary donations can be dropped off at Starion Bank. Thank you!

INVITE SOMEONE! Who do you miss seeing at Mass & social activities at St. Charles? Go ahead... reach out and invite them to the things that are happening here in **December**. Being invited means a lot! Preprinted invitations and mailing envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. Take one to give or mail to someone you'd like to invite!

THE WORD AMONG US: copies are available for Dec./Advent. Pick yours up in the Narthex!
2026 CALENDARS are available in the Narthex. All are welcome to take one home.