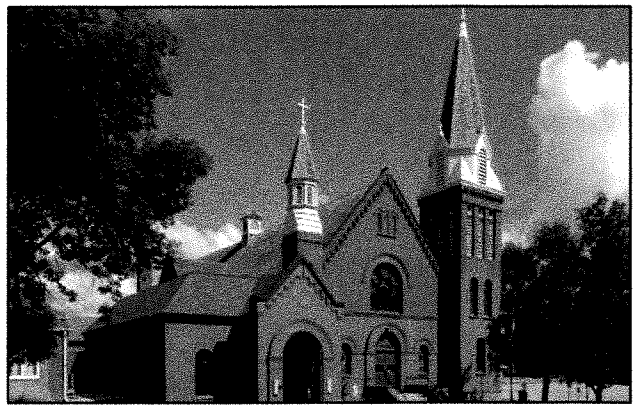


# **St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish**

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 9, 2025**

[www.catherineofalexandria.org](http://www.catherineofalexandria.org)



## **MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Monday - Friday 8:00 am  
Saturday: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am & 10:30 am**

## **RECONCILIATION:**

**Monday - Friday 7:30 - 7:50 am  
Tuesday 8:15 - 9:30 pm  
Saturday - 4:00-4:45 pm  
Sunday - 7:30-8:00 am**

## **Parish Office Hours:**

**Monday: 8:00am - 3:00pm  
Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am - 4:30pm  
Closed from 12:00 - 12:30pm everyday**

## **Steubenville Meeting!!!!**

Attention: All high school youth and their parents that are attending the Steubenville Conference this next summer, there will be a meeting in the social hall following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 9. Items to be discussed will include the cost, possible fundraisers and donors, the agenda for the conference itself. Don't worry: the meeting will be done before the Super Bowl!!!



*Repair  
MY  
House*  
ST CATHERINE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



**Goal: \$1,900,00  
Pledged: \$1,786,235  
94% of Goal Reached**

## February Calendar of Events

<b>SUN 9</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass
<b>MON 10</b>	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 6:00pm CDA Chaplet 6:30pm CDA Meeting
<b>TUE 11</b>	<b>WORLD DAY OF THE SICK</b> 7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 8:30am – 10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie 3:00pm CDA 20 Decade Rosary 5:30pm Ed Board Meeting
<b>WED 12</b>	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 5:00pm Nearly Nu Meeting 6:30pm RE Classes 7:00pm Youth Group
<b>THU 13</b>	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters
<b>FRI 14</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – Valentine's Day</b> 7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 2:00pm Mass – St. Raphael
<b>SAT 15</b>	10:00am Mass - Mercy Hospital 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass 6:15ish CDA Circle of Love Dinner - Eagles
<b>Sun 16</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass 6:30pm Adult Catechesis

## MASS INTENTIONS February 10 - 16

M 8:00am	†	Phyllis Lemer
T 8:00am	†	Marvin H. Torkelson
W 8:00am	†	Larry Zaun
Th 8:00am		Henry Beumer
F 8:00am	†	Diantha Scherr
2:00pm	†	Ted & Josephine Koch
Sa 5:00pm	†	Dave Winkler
Su 8:30am		Angie Milner
10:30am		People of the Parish

## TODAYS READINGS

**First Reading** — Is 6:1-2a, 3-8

**Second Reading** — 1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11

**Gospel** — Lk 5:1-11

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Gn 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday:** Gn 21:20-2:4a; Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10

**Sunday:** Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20;  
Lk 6:17, 20-26

## PRAYER NETWORK

Remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who are ill or are in need of our prayers:

Lucille Winkler	Donna Hammond
Krystal Lemer	Bob Wuolu
Ron Roehrich	Pat Heinze
Jeff Nelson	Samantha Wiechman
Kevin Coles	Paulette Gonzalez
Dcn. Ray Grim	Barbara Beggs
Andrea Miller	Christy Olauson
Diane Sherman	Kathy Nelson
Briana & Nathan Klebe	Marlys Koble
Rita Clancy	Audrey Suhr
Jean Schlegel	Andrew Tangen
Warren Ventch	Larry Doyle
Darlene Miller	Baby Boy Sand

## Cemetery Announcement

St. Catherine cemetery will be closing for the winter and will reopen in the spring when the conditions improve, if you need any help, you can call the Parish Office 701-845-0354.

## February Serving Information:

February 2: Coffee and Rolls

Chair people: Myron and Carol Jabs, cell phone 701-845-0085;

email [cabjabs8@gmail.com](mailto:cabjabs8@gmail.com)

# Pastor's Page

## "SEX, DRUGS, AND ROCK 'N' ROLL"

All right . . . I suppose that caught your eye, eh? Good! I want you to take a read and think about what I am putting out here.

That phrase, of course, is not mine. It goes back many years - I'm sure most of you have heard it any number of times. It was a "thing" when I was growing up, way back in the 20th century. I often still use it - even in homilies sometimes - as a catch-phrase that encapsulates all that the world is trying to throw at us, get us involved in, and of the worldly values that are in opposition to God and His will for us.

Obviously - do I need to say this? (but I suppose I better . . . ) - this phrase as it is used in that way *is not in any way, shape, or form* to imply that all sex, or all drugs, or all rock 'n' roll is ungodly or evil or leads to sin. Our Lord created sex as the way for the human family to co-create with Him new life that is destined to live with Him forever; Our Lord created those things that go into making drugs that can completely benefit our health; Our Lord created music that led to some good 'ol-fashioned rock 'n' roll that can be a cause of celebrating life and events and enjoying a good musical riff.

That's not what I'm talking about here. This phrase as it is most often used, at least by myself - indicates that there is a worldly, ungodly way of using those gifts that God has made available in such a way they will suck us in and spit us out. It is pointing out that nothing good out there can be completely free of potentially being perverted, distorted, and made offensive to God the Creator by our human family in a fallen world.

If you read last week's Pastor's Page you will remember I made a simple comparison/contrast from what the world offers and what the Church offers on February 2: Groundhog Day vs. the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Not that there is anything inherently wrong with an observance of Groundhog Day - but can you imagine the emptiness of things like that if they are solely our life's objective or interest as opposed to the things of God that draw us to the eternal and infinite? It dawned on me this past week that a similar comparison/contrast could be made concerning this above phrase (used in its negative sense) and what the Lord God offers. So here it is:

A fallen world --> sex  
Our Lord --> love

A fallen world --> drugs  
Our Lord --> grace

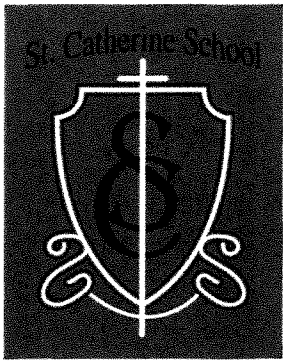
A fallen world --> rock 'n' roll  
Our Lord --> the silence of prayer

We need to *be careful* that we don't allow the world's outlook on things to pervert ourselves and our ways of thinking and acting that are dead ends in themselves. Consider the long-lasting effects of sex without love; consider the long-lasting effects of using drugs for the "high"; consider the long-lasting effects of the constant noise that people continue to jam into their heads through their ears.

And then . . . consider the beauty of sex in the context of married LOVE; consider the beauty of bodily health coupled with the health of the soul in GRACE; consider the beauty of good solid music (even rock 'n' roll!) along with a spirit of SILENCE during prayer and even outside of prayer as one lives their daily life.

All of God's creation as it comes from Him is good. All of God's creation separated from Him can be a snare for our downfall. Let's stick close to Him and use His gifts as they are intended to be used.

Fr Duchscher  
Pastor



# Principal's Page

## New Daycare Initiative

I am excited to announce progress on our new daycare initiative! Our daycare advisory group has begun meeting and is actively working through several key areas:

- **Budget & Facility:** We are reviewing preliminary budget items and addressing facility issues to ensure a safe, welcoming environment.
- **Identity & Leadership:** Creative ideas for naming the daycare are being drafted, and we are developing a comprehensive position description for the director. This will help us identify a leader who embodies the qualities needed to guide our daycare.
- **Faith-Based Vision:** Unlike any other in town, this daycare will be a Catholic, faith-based facility welcoming all denominations. We aim for our youngest community members and their families to experience the light of Jesus, reflecting the same high standards of excellence our school has maintained for over 100 years.

We are truly thankful for the parish and community support as we take these important steps.

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## Virtues Program: Celebrating Generosity

Our current virtue is **Generosity**, running from **February 3-14**. Here are the key details:

- **Introduction:** The theme of Generosity was introduced by our Counselor on February 5.
- **Definition:** Generosity is defined as the cheerful giving of oneself for the good of others—a value beautifully exemplified by St. Giuseppe Moscati.
- **Scriptural Inspiration:** Reflecting on Mark 12:41-44, "She, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood," reminds us of the profound impact even small acts of giving can have.
- **Classroom Integration:** Teachers will reinforce the importance of generosity in class the week following the introduction.
- **Service Projects:** In line with our virtues program, we are launching service projects that celebrate kindness and encourage generous actions among our students.

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## Community Service: Aluminum Can Collection

A heartfelt thank you to the parishioners who are helping with our aluminum can collection! Please remember:

- **Drop-off Location:** Donations can be made at the white shed on the south side of the building.
- **Impact:** Though a small gesture, your contributions are a significant act of generosity that supports our school mission.

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## School Choice Legislation

School choice legislation is currently a topic of active debate in our state. I encourage you to:

- **Stay Informed:** Follow the latest legislative developments.
- **Engage:** Reach out to your lawmakers to express your views on education and school choice.
- **Updates:** I will continue to keep you updated on this issue through my principal pages as it pertains to our school.

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If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to call or email the school office and ask for Mr. Lee.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our community. We are building a brighter future for our children and our school.

## CURSILLO



**Looking for a great way to get away and spend some time with the Lord for a weekend?** Come experience a Cursillo (pronounced (KER SEE O) weekend, which means “a short course.”

Cursillo is an encounter with Christ, and a great way to meet and hang out with other faith filled Catholics all while learning more about the Catholic faith.

**The Men's Cursillo will be held on Feb 20th-23rd, 2025 at Maryvale Convent, Valley City.** Contact Doran Chandler 701-840-1257 or Dustin Volochenko 701-626-1188.

**The Women's Cursillo is Feb 27<sup>th</sup>-March 2nd, 2025 at St Frances Retreat Center Hankinson.** Contact Liz Chandler 701-840-0746 or Laurie Weiderrich 701-320-5448.

## Monthly Adult Catechesis



# HOLY ORDERS

&

## The Governance of the Church



- ⇒Where did Holy Orders come from?
- ⇒Bishop ... Archbishop?
- ⇒Priest ... Monsignor?
- ⇒Cardinal ... Pope?
- ⇒Diocese ... Archdiocese ... Vicariate?

When: **Sunday, February 16 at 6:30 pm**  
Where: **Church Basement/Parish Hall**  
Presented by: **Fr. Paul Duchscher**

## **St. Catherine's Parish Team**

**Parish Office..... 845-0354**

### **Hours:**

**Monday 8am - 12pm and 12:30pm - 3:00pm**

**Tuesday - Friday 8am - 12pm and 12:30pm - 4:30pm**

**Pastor:** Very Rev. Paul Duchscher  
e-mail: paul.duchscher@fargodiocese.org

### **Deacons**

Rev. Mr. Joe Leitner                      Rev. Mr. Tom Vanorny

**Parish Office Administrator:** Jessica (Jess) Storhoff  
e-mail: stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

**Liturgy Coordinator:**  
e-mail: st.catherine.liturgy.schedule@gmail.com

**Director of Religious Education:** Carol Jabs  
e-mail: stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

**Lay Directors:** Jeff Bopp & Rhonda Fairfield

**Parish Council:**  
Steve Jorissen                                      Doran Chandler  
Larissa Musgrave                                  Mark Oberlander  
Joe Zubrod

**St. Catherine School..... 845-1453**  
**Principal:** Nick Lee  
**Office Assistant:** Terra Giesen

**Rectory ..... 845-0725**

**Fax ..... 845-0556**

**Nearly Nu Store..... 845-1022**

**Baptisms:** Contact the Parish Office.

**Marriage:** Contact the Pastor at least 7 months prior to the wedding.

**Home Bound Eucharist:** Darlene Kerzman,  
701-721-1899

**Bulletin Deadline:** 3 PM on Wednesdays

If you have an announcement for the bulletin, please email Jess: stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

**Newcomers:** WELCOME! Please register at the Parish Office or use the registration form on our website.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT: February 2, 2025**

### **Regular Parish Income**

	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
Last Week	12,529.20	10,265.38	2,263.82
Year to Date	338,954.01	318,226.78	20,727.23
Registered families.....	473		
Adult Envelopes			7,888.00
Children			19.20
Plate			397.00
Utility			50.00
Votive			45.00
January Online Giving			4,130.00
<b>Total Collection</b>			<b>12,529.20</b>

***Thank you for your generous gifts!!***

***Online Giving available @  
www.catherineofalexandria.org***

### **Prayer Quilts/Shawls Available**

Some of our parishioners may be dealing with some very challenging physical, mental, spiritual or emotional situations/needs (a terminal illness, treatments, an accident, severe depression, a miscarriage) To convey the prayers & support of our parish family, Prayer Quilts/Shawls are available for all parishioners who will need them. To request a Prayer Quilt/Shawl contact: Georgia, 840-2737 or Lela, 840-8352.



*Our Lord wishes for us to be whole, body, mind and soul. To be healed, to be complete. There is a group of individuals from the deanery*

*that are offering to pray with you, for healing. We would be willing to come to pray with you as an individual, at your home or parish church. Confidentiality is assured. The St. Catherine's Healing Prayer Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church our next prayer meeting is Monday, February 24, 2025. We are also asking for individuals who would like to be involved in this healing ministry from around the deanery to join us. We have gotten permission from the priests in the deanery so please visit with your pastor. If you are interested, please contact one of the individuals listed below for more information.*

**Doran Chandler 701-840-1257**

**Deacon Jim McAllister 701-840-1473**

**St. Catherine's Religious Education  
Grades K-8, 6:30 pm**



**Dates to Remember:**

**February 12:** RE Classes resume Wednesday, 6:30 pm in the school building. Circle of Grace Lesson

**Looking ahead:**

March 8, Confirmation/1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Retreat

March 21, Confirmation/1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact DRE Carol Jabs at [stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com](mailto:stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com)

*St. Scholastica, pray for us.*

**St Catherine's Teen Corner  
Grades 9-12, 7:00 pm**

Sunday, February 9: 11:30 a.m. Meeting for all youth and their parents attending Steubenville this coming summer. This meeting to take place at 11:30 a.m., immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

**Wednesday, February 12:** Class, "Imaginative Prayer"

**Wednesday, February 19:** Class, "How to do Petitionary and Intercessory Prayer"

**Wednesday, February 26:** Class, "Mardi Gras"

Classes will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., unless noted in teen corner. All youth, grades 9-12 are invited to come, have fun and learn about their Catholic faith. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Deacon Tom Vanorny 701-210-0640.

**Tuesday Morning Movies**

Please join the Tuesday Morning Movie Group, each Tuesday morning after the 8:00am Mass in the Sacred Heart Room for a movie, muffins and mighty good fellowship. Showing this week: "Flywheel" the story of a dishonest businessman who changes his practices to follow God's path. All are welcome!

**Prayer - Fellowship - Quilting  
Join The Fun!**



**St. Catherine Quilters make quilts for those in need in our area every**

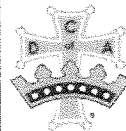
**Thursday 1-4:30pm & 6:30-9pm  
next to the school cafeteria.**

**Everyone is welcome for any length of time. No experience necessary & supplies provided. Questions call:**

**Christine, 840-2580 or Lela, 840-8352.**



**Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St.  
Gerard # 2518**



**Meet Monthly 2nd Monday**

**Feb. 10** 6:00 pm Chaplet, Snack and Meeting 6:30p

**Feb. 11** World Day of the Sick 20 decade rosary during Adoration 3-5pm

**Feb. 15** Circle of Love Dinner at Eagles Club, 6:15ish Past Presidents Room

**Mar. 9** 9:00am – Noon KC/CDA Breakfast

**Looking for the perfect gift for the young adult in your life???**

**SEARCH for Christian Maturity** is a peer-to-peer ministry, allowing youth (ages 16 and 17) along with young adults (ages 18 and older) to minister to youth and young adults. SEARCH is a way to help you on your journey to discover God, yourself, and a Christian community. This is a time to experience a loving, supportive community of young people who want to learn and experience a closer relationship with God and with others. We have a retreat coming up March 7th-9th, 2025 at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City. More details and the application are at [www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm](http://www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm) or call Dori at 952-210-2219 with questions. Applications are due no later than Monday, February 17th.



*Is Hiring!*

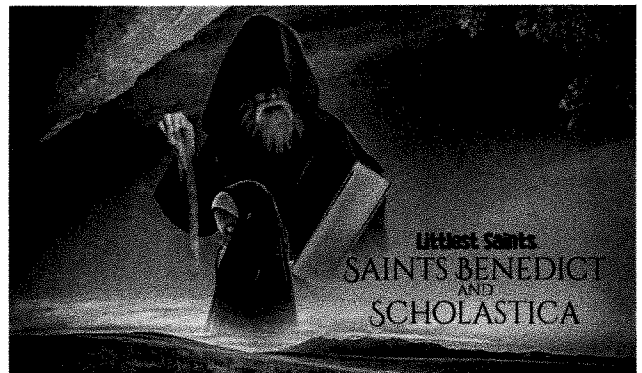
**nurses**

**RN or LPN**

*To apply, please send your resume to  
angela@wccnd.com*

Contact Angela or call 701-532-1928  
with any additional questions

**formed**  
Forming Catholics for Life.



**Sts. Benedict and Scholastica | Littlest Saints**

A pair of holy twins, a cave, and a group of naughty monks... this is the story of Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.  
Visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.  
Scan the QR code to download the Formed app to your phone.



An offering from the AUGUSTINIAN Society

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN CONJUNCTION  
WITH THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS**

**PRESENTS**

*Mardis Gras*  
**CARNIVAL 2025**

**SUNDAY March 2, 2025**

**2PM – 4PM**

**ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL GYM**

FEATURING GAMES FOR YOUNG AND OLD, INCLUDING BINGO,  
FACE PAINTING, CAKE WALK, FISHPOND, MINI-GOLF, PLINKO,  
CORN HOLE AND MORE.

CONCESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
(HOT DOGS AND WATER).

*Free Will Offering*

One hot dog and water included.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2025

**St. Catherine Church**  
Very Rev. Paul Duchscherer

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Jerome Emiliani

St. Jerome led a wayward life while a soldier until he was captured in battle and turned back to God. Soon after returning to Venice, he began studying for the priesthood and was ordained in 1518. With the devastation from the war came famine and plague. At his own expense, St. Jerome cared for the victims left behind, especially the children. For this purpose, he and some companions founded the Clerks Regulars of Somasca, in Somasca, Italy.

### Imitating Christ in the world

When Jesus said, *"I am the way"* (John 14:6), He meant for us to follow Him and live as He lived. He ate, slept, worked, and cared for friends and family, much like we do. Now, ordinary life, lived in union with Christ, can be an opportunity of grace for us.

"All the feasts in the Church's calendar are events of remembrance and hence events of hope."

Pope Benedict XVI

## "I choose Heaven!"

Our time on Earth is but a fleeting moment compared to the vastness of eternity. Yet, we often prioritize earthly concerns over preparing for Heaven. Jesus reminds us of the right priority: *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you besides"* (Matthew 6:33). When we put God first, He faithfully provides for our every need.

**What are your true priorities?**  
Your daily routine is a reflection of your heart. Pause and consider: What consumes your time and energy? The things that dominate your schedule are the true indicators of your priorities. If they are pulling you away from God, it's time to reevaluate and make a change.

**Where do you turn for guidance?**  
When faced with decisions, do you seek advice from friends, social media, or colleagues, or do you turn

to prayer and Scripture? Aligning our choices with God's wisdom leads to lasting fulfillment and peace. Resolve to trust His direction over the fleeting opinions of the world. When we place our decisions in His hands, we can move forward with confidence.

**Do you trust God with your happiness?** God's promises assure us of His perfect plan: *"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11). If trusting Him feels difficult, invite Him into your doubts and fears. Ask Him to reveal His goodness and faithfulness—He will answer, because He is always near.

Refocus your heart and trust God's plan for your life. Let go of distractions, realign your priorities, and step into the peace that comes from seeking Him first.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why are Catholics only baptized once?

The Catholic Church teaches that Baptism is the gateway to the Christian life, marking the beginning of our communion with God.

Through this Sacrament, we are adopted as God's children and permanently sealed as His own. Baptism transforms us into new creations, opening our hearts to

grace, strengthening us against sin, and deepening our love for God and others (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1121).

Because this sacred mark is everlasting, Baptism is received only once, signifying our eternal bond with God and call to holiness.

# Trusting God in unexpected moments

Imagine you're at a wedding celebration for your friends. The atmosphere is lively, the music is playing, and everyone is enjoying themselves—until you overhear a troubling conversation. The kitchen has run out of wine. Due to an oversight, the caterers didn't bring enough, and with all the stores closed, the situation seems hopeless. What now?

*"They have no wine"* (John 2:3). Moments of crisis can catch us off guard, but they don't have to shake us. When Mary encountered this dilemma at the wedding in Cana, she didn't panic or place blame. Instead, she turned to the one she knew could help—her Son, Jesus.

With confidence, she simply informed Him of the need, trusting fully in His ability to provide.

*"Do whatever He tells you"* (John 2:5). These profound words, Mary's last recorded in Scripture, offer us a powerful lesson. When we bring our problems to God, He often invites us to be part of the solution. Trusting Him means being open to His direction, even when it leads to unexpected actions. The servants at Cana likely didn't anticipate filling massive jars with water, yet their obedience led to an extraordinary outcome—the finest wine, far surpassing anything they could have imagined. With God, the impossible becomes possible.

## from Scripture

### Luke 6:27-38, The demands of merciful love

In this Gospel passage, Jesus challenges our natural sense of fairness by commanding us to *"love your enemies ... lend expecting nothing in return ... and forgive."* These teachings contrast with the Old Testament principle of *"an eye for an eye,"* which aimed to prevent excessive punishment, and the idea of exchanging favors as a sign of gratitude.

However, human justice can lead to destructive cycles of retaliation and diminish the sincerity of generosity. When giving is tied to expectations, it becomes difficult

to discern whether kindness is motivated by love or the hope of something in return.

Jesus invites us to embrace God's justice—one that surpasses human understanding. God's love is not conditional or transactional; it is generous, selfless, and freely given to all, regardless of merit.

As children of God, we are called to reflect His love by extending kindness, forgiveness, and generosity without expectation. In doing so, we move beyond human limitations and participate in God's perfect justice.

## Q & A What do icons offer to our devotional life?

Icons are a revered form of sacred art. These sacred images carry a deep historical and theological significance, rich in symbolism and spiritual depth. Recognizable by their distinctive "flattened" style, vivid colors, and frequent use of gold backgrounds, icons often depict significant events from the lives of Jesus, Mary, and the saints, offering a window into their mystical and spiritual dimensions.

At first glance, the stylized, two-dimensional nature of icons, coupled with the direct gaze of the figures, can feel unfamiliar or even challenging to engage with in prayer. It is often recommended to begin by spending just five minutes a day in quiet reflection before an icon, gradually increasing the duration over time. There is no need to rush—prayer with icons is a contemplative journey, and as we remain open and attentive, the Holy Spirit gradually unveils their deeper meaning to us.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord.** In accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple forty days after His birth, and Simeon praised God for revealing the long-awaited Savior (Luke 2:29-32).

**February 10 – St. Scholastica (543).** Twin sister to St. Benedict, St. Scholastica established a community of religious women about five miles from her brother's monastery.

**February 17 – The Seven Holy Founders (13th century).** Seven

Italian noblemen who withdrew from the immorality of the times to live in prayer, simplicity and penance. Their order, the Servants of Mary, was later approved by the Holy See in 1304.

**February 23 – St. Polycarp (155).** Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor, Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle St. John the Evangelist, and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before he was martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.

### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

# Diocese of Fargo Sponsored Upcoming Events



## 1. Life-Giving Wounds Support Group and Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce or Separation

**Support Group: January 13-March 3, 2025 – Online**

The Life-Giving Wounds peer support group is a unique opportunity for healing for adults (18+) whose parents have divorced, separated, or left broken families. to reflect intentionally on the wounds caused by their family's breakdown and to heal from them, together with others who know this pain and knowledgeable, compassionate leaders, who are also predominantly adult children of divorce or separation themselves. Register at [www.fargodiocese.org/lgw-sg](http://www.fargodiocese.org/lgw-sg).

**Retreat: April 4-6, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center**

No matter the circumstances, divorce always represents broken dreams and broken hearts. While much of the attention goes to the men and women trying to navigate the tidal wave of loss and hurt, often left in the wake are the children whose sense of security and identity have also been shattered. This can be true even for those who were already adults when their parents' relationship ended. Life-Giving Wounds is a new ministry to help adults who have experienced the breakdown of their parents' relationship, no matter at what age it happened and to allow Christ to bring new life through those very wounds. Find out more information or register for the retreat by visiting [www.fargodiocese.org/lgw](http://www.fargodiocese.org/lgw).



## 2. Made for Greatness Winter Men's Retreat – *"Get Your House in Order"* **February 7-9, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center**

Men, there is a host of forces arrayed against us and our families which seeks to divert us from the joy, unity, and holiness that God intends for us. It is our task to rise up and face this challenge head on - but how?

Back by popular demand, internationally renowned speaker, author, husband, and father Devin Schadt is returning to delve deep into how we can become the protectors and champions that our families need as we get our houses in order. As always, in addition to profound insights and transformative sacramental encounters, this retreat will feature lots of meat, adult beverages, times of recreation, and will forge lasting bonds of brotherhood.

Different styles and pricing for lodging are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Be sure to secure your spot today at [www.fargodiocese.org/mfg-winter](http://www.fargodiocese.org/mfg-winter).



## 3. Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages **February 28-March 2, 2025**

Do you and your spouse have any level of disconnection in your relationship? You don't need to wait until you're in crisis to take time to reconnect and rediscover one another as you deepen your love and unity. Instead, you can work to build the kind of joyful, connected marriage you envisioned when you walked down the aisle.

Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and reclaim the love that initially brought them together. Surveys have shown that more than 3 out of 4 couples who complete the entire program have healthier marriages than ever before. The Red River Retrouvaille program will be held locally on February 28-March 2, 2025 in Fargo. For more information visit [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) or contact us at (701) 356-7962 or via email at [rrretrouvaille@gmail.com](mailto:rrretrouvaille@gmail.com).



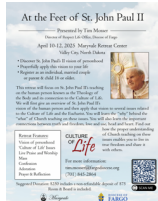
#### 4. Men's Silent Directed Ignatian Retreat [March 20-23, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center](https://maryvalend.org/3-23-25-ignatian-1)

This retreat is inspired by the prayer methods and exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola led by Monsignor Schlesselmann at Maryvale Retreat Center. A silent retreat is a chance to rest, an intentional time to listen to God in a new way, without the busy-ness of life. Visit <https://maryvalend.org/3-23-25-ignatian-1> for all the details or to register.



#### 5. Women's Reading Retreat [March 28-30, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center](https://maryvalend.org/3-30-25-gods-bucket-list-1)

This week-long reading retreat is filled with group and silent reading times, small and large group discussions, prayer time, daily Mass, adoration, evening social, and the building of lasting friendships. Participants will be reading and discussing *God's Bucket List* by Teresa Tomeo. Details and registration available at <https://maryvalend.org/3-30-25-gods-bucket-list-1>



**6. At the Feet of St. John Paul II.** You are invited to a retreat that opens up St. John Paul II's life-changing teaching called the "Theology of the Body". This teaching on the **total vision of the human person** will then be applied to life and love issues as well as the Eucharist. In addition, there will be Mass, Adoration, Confessions, music and time for personal prayer and reflection. The retreat is **April 10-12 at Maryvale** in Valley City. You can register by going to [Marvalend.org](https://maryvalend.org)



#### 7. Praying with the Shroud: A Message of Hope [August 22-24, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center](https://maryvalend.org/8-24-25-shroud)

Come and seek to enhance your prayer life by learning how the Holy Shroud of Turin can provide you with additional options for contemplation and meditation. Retreatants will receive a comprehensive array of Shroud information from speaker Jim Bertrand, M. Ed, who has 10 years of experience of sharing the message across more than 45 dioceses. He will be offering five conference sessions and will be available to answer individual questions. Mass, adoration, and Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Check it out at <https://maryvalend.org/8-24-25-shroud>.



#### 8. On Retreat with St. Therese of Lisieux: Women's Silent Retreat [September 12-14, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center](https://maryvalend.org/9-12-25-st-therese-of-lisieux)

In this retreat, Ashley Njaa (wife, mother, DRE, and spiritual disciple of St. Therese of Lisieux) will help women unpack some of key pieces of this French spiritual giant's wisdom on living a life of complete trust, confidence in God, and cultivating a spiritual childhood. The retreat will include conferences, Mass, adoration, confession, and spiritual direction, as well as time to pray, rest, and enjoy the beautiful grounds of Maryvale. All details available at <https://maryvalend.org/9-12-25-st-therese-of-lisieux>.