



JANUARY 11, 2026
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

NATIVITY CHURCH OF FARGO

1825 11th St S, Fargo, ND 58103 Located at the Corner of University Drive and 18th Ave S.

PARISH OFFICE: 701-232-2414

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK:

www.nativitycatholicchurch.net

'Like' us on Facebook:

Nativity Church of Fargo

EMAIL: office@nativitycatholicchurch.net

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES:

SATURDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 4:00 P.M.

SUNDAY: 7:45, 9:15, & 11:00 A.M.

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:30 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

M-SAT: 7:45-8:15 A.M.

SATURDAY: 3:00-3:45 P.M.

OR CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Infant baptism preparation:

Contact Chris 701-232-2414 (ext. 127) to register for sessions.

For information regarding the adult process, please contact Chris 701-232-2414 (ext. 127)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Contact the parish office (701-232-2414) at least 6 months in advance of the wedding date.

PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS:

EUCCHARISTIC COMMUNAL ADORATION:

MONDAY: 9:05 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: M-F 7:50 A.M.

ROSARY: M-F 8:00 A.M.

HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL:

Contact the Parish Office at 701-232-2414 if you are requesting a visit or to receive Communion.

PRAYER CHAIN:

CALL THE PARISH OFFICE: 701-232-2414



CHALK YOUR DOORS FOR EPIPHANY

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany and the week following. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, and our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use blessed chalk and write above the home's entryway: 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless this house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2026 is the year.

Please pick up a piece of chalk from the basket and a prayer that is by the baptismal font and bless your doorways at home.



"The Lord will bless his people with peace."

~ cf. Psalm 29: 11b



GOODBYE FROM FRANK

Sometimes I am a man of too many words, and other times of too few. In this case, I find myself with too few. I lack the words that truly express my heartfelt thanks for allowing me to serve you for nearly 33 years. Although how I will journey with you is changing, I look forward to continuing this journey with you in a different way. ~ Frank

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Carol and Dale Zetocha on the death of their sister-in-law, Connie Bitz.

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

We are in the year of Matthew for Sunday Gospel readings, and Lent is just around the corner. Let's enrich our experience of the liturgy in the new year with an 8-week study of the last part of Matthew's gospel (chapters 19-28). We will walk with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem. With many parables and sayings, Jesus will teach us his Way, the way of the Cross, the way of Love. Meetings are on Monday nights 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Nazareth room starting January 12. If you can't make every session, come when you can. For more information contact Paul at paul@opperman.net, 503-702-8537 or Chris at 701-232-2414 ext. 127 or chriss@nativitycatholicchurch.net

SACRISTANS NEEDED

All are called to an active participation in the liturgy, which involves the heart, voice, and body. Some are needed to fulfill certain liturgical roles. All Mass times are in need of Sacristans, but a **GREAT** need is for the 7:45 a.m. Mass. The goal is to have at least 2-3 more at the 7:45 a.m. Mass so the weeks could be rotated.

A simple training list is available to follow, and Fr. Jim or Liz will give you a brief training.

Fr. Jim will be waiting for your call or email. He is an easy guy to talk to and will be looking forward to having you help with setting up the Mass.

LITURGY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

The next liturgy ministry schedule will run February 18-May 24. Reminder to please have your dates submitted by January 30. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bev in the parish office at 701-232-2414 or bevn@nativitycatholicchurch.net

You can access the 'Real Time' schedule on our website www.nativitycatholicchurch.net/liturgy-ministry-schedules/



NATIVITY KNIGHTS NEWS

GRAND KNIGHT: CHUCK KLINKHAMMER
CHUCK@CORNERSTONEBROKERS.COM
701-298-2929

WANT TO GET TO KNOW OTHER MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES AT NATIVITY CHURCH?

CONSIDER JOINING THE NATIVITY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!

The Nativity Knights of Columbus Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

KNIGHT HONORS

Knight of the Year (2025) – Scott Halvorson
Family of the Year (2025)– Jared & Jenny Wambach
January Knight of the Month - Mike DiAllesandro
January Family of the Month – DJ & Lynn Motteberg
January Altar Server of the Month - Sophia Wambach

PARISH BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus invite you to come and enjoy the parish breakfast on Sunday, January 25. Breakfast will be served after the 7:45 & 9:15 a.m. Masses. *(Please note this is the 4th Sunday in January)*

Menu: French toast, bacon, breakfast sausage, 2 kinds of scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, fruit, milk, coffee, apple, and orange juice.

"Like" us on Facebook
[NativityKC6570](https://www.facebook.com/NativityKC6570)

CHRISTMAS PARTY THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Christmas Party this year, whether you helped serve the night of the party or donated a food item, raffle, or cash gift. Your help was greatly appreciated. Also, a special thanks once again to Tony Nasello and his staff at the Hilton Garden Inn for the wonderful meal served that evening!

With this being my last year, I pray that the Christmas Party and the tradition it has become will continue with the guidance of a Nativity family or a group of friends. God Bless You All, Melissa Mehlisch



POTLUCK & TRIVIA NIGHT

Monday, January 19
6:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to share
Pick a table.

Prayer at 6:00 p.m.

Meal and Trivia to follow

Fr. Jim will be your trivia master.

POTLUCK TRIVIA NIGHT

Please cut out this 'Thank You' and present it the next time you Patronize One of Our Advertisers.

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in the Nativity Church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

PADRES CORNER

Greetings everyone,

The celebration of the baptism of Jesus, while relatively simple on the surface, is rich with theological meaning. From Old Testament times, believers in God have been peeling back layers of meaning regarding God's love for water and his penchant for tying a water-event to his greatest divine works.

Let's sketch a brief overview of divine "water events" from the Old Testament. At the dawn of time, God's Spirit hovered over the waters. Water was the foundation of creation. Noah built the ark to save his family from the great flood that purified the earth. Moses led the people of Israel through the Red Sea to the Promised Land. The first Christians knew these stories well; they were foundational events for the Jewish faith. We can picture for a moment the experience of Paul and the first Jewish converts. As Jesus ascends to heaven, his last commandment is that they go and baptize the nations with water.

As they began to do this, a wave of understanding poured over them like never before! They noticed for the first time that Christian baptism gave a new meaning to the Old Testament stories of creation, the flood, and the Red Sea. In the light of the Resurrected Christ, they were seeing more clearly. The first Christians realized that what God had done with water in the Old Testament was now being continued in the Christian era through water-baptism. The creation of the world upon the waters, the flood in the time of Noah, and the crossing of the Red Sea in the time of Moses now were much more than just awesome works of power by the Lord God as he saved his people. They were only incomplete foreshadowing of an even greater divine power found now in Baptism.

These first Christians then recognized just how blessed they were. Unlike their forefathers, Adam, Noah, and Moses, they had met the long-awaited Messiah. They were blessed to be the ones who saw him with their own eyes, heard him with their own ears, touched him with their hands, and even tasted him in the Eucharist. They knew their forefathers had longed with love beyond all telling for the Messiah, and yet they were the ones, through no merit on their part, to have been graced with the Messiah.

If Adam could have chosen between witnessing God's first creation "over the face of the waters" in Genesis or witnessing the new creation of the world in Christ, he would have chosen the Christ. If Noah could have chosen between witnessing the floodwaters of his day or the floodwaters from the heart of Christ on the Cross, he would have chosen the Cross. If Moses could have witnessed the destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea or the destruction of Satan by the death of Jesus, he would have chosen the death of Jesus.

What Adam, Noah, and Moses had experienced in the salvific actions of God all paled in comparison to what Jesus has done through his Paschal Mystery.

These Old Testament figures only saw "through a glass, darkly" that in the future, God would perform for their benefit deeds analogous to and even greater than those he had performed in their own times.

Today, we are equally blessed as were those first Christians. For the action and work of Christ is ongoing through the sacraments today. Do you wish to witness the

great flood, or the crossing of the Red Sea, or perhaps to see God work a splendid new creation? Since the mysteries of the work of Christ are still happening now through the work of the Church, you certainly can! Becoming involved in faith helps us recognize our own life with him and see firsthand the glory of what we are looking forward to, the Kingdom of Heaven.

Peace and Love, Fr. Jim



Nativity Knights of Columbus 13th Annual Pajama Drive

Items Needed

New two-piece pajamas for sizes 2-18 years of age.

New one-piece pajamas for infant - 24 months.

Please leave tags attached. Thank You.

Dates

A collection box will be in Mercy Hall from
January 17th through February 15th.

P R O J E C T IGNITE★LIGHT

Project Ignite Light is an organization, based out of North Dakota, through which children are provided important items needed when they are examined by their Local Advocacy Center or Hospital for Abuse or Neglect.

In 2008, over 4000 children were seen around the state of North Dakota for Abuse or Neglect. It is the goal of Project Ignite Light to equip each child seen for these reasons with a "Bag of Hope."

Often, children in these situations are left feeling insecure and unsure of themselves and the people around them. Through Project Ignite Light, they are given a small piece of security and a bit of hope.



Because so many of the hurting children feel used, only new items are placed in the bags.

Thank you for your willingness to contribute to
Bags of Hope for children in need!

FAITH FORMATION/YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Friendly reminder that there is NO Faith Formation Wednesday, January 14, due to the Fargo Deanery Catechist In-Service. Please keep all of our catechists and youth ministry leaders in your prayers this week.

Youth Mission Trip: Fr. Jim announced this past month that he is leading a Youth Mission Trip to Denver, Colorado, June 8-13, 2026. This trip is open to youth in grades 8-12. NOTE *** we have made the change to include current 8th graders who will be in high school this coming fall. Contact Melissa Hund-Cerna at melissahc@nativitycatholicchurch.net if you are interested in joining. The deadline to register for the mission trip is Wednesday, January 21.

The Confirmation Retreat for all 3rd graders is Saturday, January 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All youth planning to receive their Confirmation on Friday, May 8, need to attend with at least one parent. This is going to be a fun, uplifting day filled with special activities centered around Confirmation.

Pro-Life Dodgeball Tournament: Wednesday, January 28, from 6 to 8 p.m., open to youth grades 6-12. Come with a team or join one when you get here. The cost to attend is a box of diapers or wipes, which will be donated to the Women's Care Center in Fargo. This will be a fun night. We encourage you to bring your friends. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Our next Middle School Lock-In is set for Saturday, January 31, from 3 p.m. to midnight at Holy Spirit. All middle school youth in grades 6-8 are encouraged to come. We encourage you to bring your friends from school.

The theme for the next lock-in is for the youth to use the example of Elijah in the cave to learn about listening to the voice of God wherever they can find it and then following God's will. We encourage you to sign up early and invite your friends. Register for the next lock-in at <https://www.nativitycatholicchurch.net/faith-formation/>



MELISSA'S SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

January is Poverty Awareness Month, so we will be highlighting how we as Catholics are called to have a "preferential option for the poor." One of the seven teachings of Catholic Social Teaching is the preferential option for the poor, which asserts that the needs of the poor and vulnerable should be given priority in social, economic, and political decisions. It reflects the biblical mandate highlighted in Matthew 25:40, where Jesus identifies himself with the needy, stating, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The preferential option for the poor is not merely a call for charity but a moral obligation for Christians. It emphasizes that the treatment of the poor is a measure of a society's moral health.

"The Gospel reminds us that we are called to root our lives of faith in the authentic love of neighbor. Pope Francis reflected on this in his encyclical on the heart of Christ, *Dilexit Nos*. The Holy Father made the connection between our relationships and the love we receive from God to how we in turn love others: "Our response to the love of the heart of Christ is manifested in love of our neighbor" (no. 178) and "the sacrifices and sufferings required by these acts of love of neighbor unite us to the passion of Christ" (no. 201). Pope Leo adds in his apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, "Love for our neighbor is tangible proof of the authenticity of our love for God" (no. 26).

Attending to the needs of persons in poverty is a response of gratitude to the unmerited gift of love that God first gives to each person—a gift that we are required to then share with others. Sharing God's love includes offering spiritual care for those in need, providing help to meet immediate needs, and working together to eliminate the causes of poverty."

Winter Gear Collection for the Homeless: Between now and January 25, we will be collecting new adult winter hats, scarves, thermal gloves and mittens, and winter boots for Churches United and Fraser to go to those in our community experiencing homelessness and trying to stay warm during our extreme winters. You may bring donations to Mercy Hall and place them in the designated bin marked "Winter Gear for the Homeless." Thank you for your generosity!

Tie Blankets for Down Home: During our last night of Faith Formation on Wednesday, December 17, our youth and parents grades 1-12 worked together to make beautiful warm tie blankets for Down Home. Down Home, a non-profit in North Fargo supports families who are getting out of homelessness. These blankets will be a perfect gift for the many kids that they serve.





PRAY FOR THE SICK...

Shari Stoa
 Dave Barnick
 Daniel Schlicht
 Jean Kelso
 Peggy Welle
 Betty Barnacle
 Pam Schneider
 Deborah Samek
 Dennis Jensen
 Darryl Rosson
 Lillian Meyer
 Vicki Richard
 Robert Wold
 Loretta Schumacher
 Maurice Godon
 Christina Gross
 Arlene Jensen
 Dian Nicklay
 Cathy Duffy

Pat Meier
 Carri Brandvik
 Sally Voeller
 Don Such
 Alice Such
 Richard Halvorson
 Donna Clark
 Boden Meier
 Donna Enstad
 Gene Lucy
 Brooklyn Hansen
 Sandra Schofield
 Joe Swiontek
 Rena Wilm
 Mary Ann Schulz
 Fidelis Sivertson
 Naomi West
 Rhonda Ness

If you or a loved one are hospitalized or homebound or would like to have a family member included in the prayers for the sick, call the parish office at 701-232-2414.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/
 Mk 1:14-20
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
 Mk 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9,
 10/Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
 Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
 Mk 2:13-17
 Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/
 1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 12
 8:30 AM - Doran Brandt †
Tuesday, January 13
 8:30 AM - Betty Bossart †
Wednesday, January 14
 8:30 AM - Ann(†) & Gene Lucy
 St. Catherine South (Residents) - Fr. William Callery †
Thursday, January 15
 9:15 AM - Kathy Koch †
Friday, January 16
 8:30 AM - Children & Grandchildren of the Lucy Family
Saturday, January 17
 8:30 AM - Dave McDonald †
 4:00 PM - Doreen Kennelly
Sunday, January 18
 7:45 AM - Intention of Parish
 9:15 AM - Gordon Bartholomay †
 11:00 AM - Michelle Powers

OUR GIVING OF THANKSGIVING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Adult Envelopes (125 envelopes).....\$17,275.00
 Holy Day \$395.00
 Children \$5.00
 Plate \$1,064.58
 Auto Deposit (Weekly Average)..... \$5,647.50
Total..... \$24,387.08


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

Adult Envelopes (79 envelopes) \$6,256.00
 Holy Day \$290.00
 Plate \$914.15
 Auto Deposit (Weekly Average)..... \$5,647.50
Total..... \$13,107.65

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY JANUARY 17/18, 2026

| | 4:00 PM | 7:45 AM | 9:15 AM | 11:00 AM |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Altar Server | Abigail Pratt Amelia Pratt | Martin Andersen | Josephine & Simon Schwind Jack Teigen Michael Walock | Landon Anderson Jack Strand Sam Strand |
| Greeter | Barb Grabar Hadlie Schumaker | Sharon Nordman Jackie Rosson | Schwind Family | Greeter Needed |
| Usher | Bonnie Fritz Kathy Godon Maurice Godon Ed Johs | Carol Hanson David Hanson Jacinta Holo Usher Needed | Matt Beiswanger Anna Welder Alyce Wiemken Rich Wiemken | Brianna Anderson Travis Anderson Edward Fritel Emma Fritel |
| EMHC | EMHC Needed —Cib 1 EMHC Needed —Cib 3 EMHC Needed —Cib 4 EMHC Needed —C1 John West—C2 EMHC Needed —C3 EMHC Needed —C4 | EMHC Needed —Cib 1 Brenda Lang—Cib 3 EMHC Needed —C1 Melissa Mehlisch—C2 EMHC Needed —C3 Margaret Zeren—C4 | Ed Schwind—Cib 1 Melissa Flaherty—Cib 3 Jenny Wambach—Cib 4 EMHC Needed —C1 Becky Pfau—C2 Michael Flaherty—C3 Judy Berceau—C4 | Karen Donahue— 1 Lori Fritel—Cib 3 EMHC Needed —Cib 4 EMHC Needed —C1 Jason Schwengler—C2 EMHC Needed —C3 EMHC Needed —C4 |
| Proclaimer | Jim Foley Mary Jane Foley | Sandra Gordon Cathy Hanson | Nancy Kochmann Jered Wambach | Barb Horne Lori Fritel |
| Sacristan | John West | Shannon Mehlisch | Jean Hannig | |
| Musicians | Contemporary Choir Chenise Tandsater | Jens Andersen LaVonne Rustad | Nativity Choir Nate Amundson | Jackie Mengedoth Liz Wilhelmi |
| Coffee & Rolls | 8:00 -10:00 a.m.: John & Nicole Knoll & Family 10:00 a.m.-Noon: Jennifer & Glenn Youngerman & Family | | | |


9-Day Pilgrimage with Nativity Parish
July 27 - August 4, 2026
SCOTLAND
 Led by Rev. James Meyer, Pastor



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CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS TO MEET

Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, January 13, at St. Anthony's beginning with the Mass at 5:15 p.m., meal to follow, and meeting at 6:30 p.m. Members are invited to bring non-perishable food item donations. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to Peggy at pmmots25@gmail.com or call 701-429-1280 or 701-235-1334.

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BANQUET



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DR. DAVID ANDERS

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UPCOMING RETREATS FROM THE DIOCESAN OFFICES

Made for Greatness Winter Men's Retreat: Rise Up to Greatness

January 23-25, 2026, Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City



While every man is called to, and if fact inherently desires, greatness, the challenge is not only finding out what that looks like for them, it is also that the goal post keeps moving. What manly greatness looks like as a young single man is different than what it is as a married man, a husband, or even an empty nester.

Former Protestant pastor Keith Nester will assist men to identify what greatness God is uniquely calling them to at their own stage of life. In addition to practical real-life insights, there also will be times to meet the Lord God in prayer and the sacraments, as well opportunities for rejuvenation through real brotherhood, great food, and even some friendly competition. Check it out at www.fargodiocese.org/mfg-winter

Life-Giving Wounds Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce and Separation

February 27-March 1, 2026, Hankinson 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

Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages

March 13-15, 2026, Fargo



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. For more information visit HelpOurMarriage.com or contact us at 701-356-7962 or via email at rrretrouvaille@gmail.com.

Nativity Church of Fargo - 1825 11th St S - Fargo, ND 58103

Parish Staff: 701-232-2414

Pastoral Care Team

Priests:

Fr. Jim Meyer, Pastor (ext. 123)
padresmail@yahoo.com

Fr. Joe Barrett, Parochial Vicar (ext. 137)
joeb@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Deacon:

Deacon Bruce Dahl (ext. 132)
bruce.dahl@fargodiocese.org

Liturgy

Liturgy & Music Coordinator: Liz Wilhelmi (ext. 125)
lizw@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Faith Formation Team

Director of Faith Formation: Melissa Hund-Cerna (ext. 124)
melissahc@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Adult Faith Life Coordinator: Chris Steffan (ext. 127)
chriss@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Christian Service

Social Justice Ministry Coordinator:
Melissa Hund-Cerna (ext. 124)
melissahc@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Administration Team

Accounting/Payroll Manager: Kristin Gaytan (ext. 135)
kristing@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Parish Secretary: Bev Nesler (ext. 129)
bevn@nativitycatholicchurch.net

Nativity School Team

701-232-7461
Principal: Jill Koch

Administrative Assistant: Sharon Finneman

Parish Finance/Council

Jim Schaeffbauer, Tom Hanson, Brian Bjoralt, Travis Koch, Deb Boyer, and Patty Greenshields,

Emergencies

In the case of an after hours emergency, you may contact a priest by calling the parish office, and pressing one (1) when the answering machine picks up.

Low Gluten Hosts

If you are gluten intolerant or allergic to wheat, oats, barley or rye, our parish has low gluten hosts. Please arrive at mass early and speak with the sacristan if you wish to receive communion in this form.

Hearing Devices Available

If you have a hard time hearing at the Masses, please stop in the sacristy and ask for a hearing device that works with our sound system.

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