



St. Theodore Catholic Church

Inviting people to actively participate in the Life of Christ!

BIENVENIDOS

315 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007-2456

www.sttheo.org

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We can see the joy of this season once again in the Scriptures for this Sunday, also known as Gaudete Sunday. Lectors proclaim with the prophet Zephaniah that "The Lord ... is in your midst" and in Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians that "The Lord is near," while with the psalm we intone melodies that support a declaration of faith that will unite the entire assembly in prayer: "My strength and courage is the Lord, ... my savior." Today's Gospel, moreover, invites us to respond to the challenge to share all we have with the most needy among us, with the poor. By this time, community groups will have decided how they will provide the necessary assistance to the elderly, those in prison as well as their families, especially their children, and the defenseless. They should find in the texts of the word new life in the pastoral action of the faithful.



Podemos ver la alegría de esta temporada una vez más en las Escrituras para este domingo, también conocido como Domingo de Gaudete. Los lectores proclaman con el profeta Sofonías que "El Señor... está en medio de ustedes" y en la Carta de San Pablo a los Filipenses que "El Señor está cerca", mientras que con el salmo entonamos melodías que apoyan una declaración de fe que unirá a toda la asamblea en la oración: "Mi fuerza y coraje es el Señor, ... mi salvador". El Evangelio de hoy, además, nos invita a responder al desafío de compartir todo lo que tenemos con los más necesitados entre nosotros, con los pobres. Para entonces, los grupos comunitarios habrán decidido cómo proporcionarán la asistencia necesaria a los ancianos, a los que están en prisión, así como a sus familias, especialmente a sus hijos, y a los indefensos. Deben encontrar en los textos de la palabra vida nueva en la acción pastoral de los fieles.

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

Hispanic Office Hours

Tuesday 8:00 am-noon
Wed & Thurs 1:00-3:00 pm

Offices Close Daily

- 9:00-9:45 am for Mass (except Monday)
- 12:00-1:00 pm for lunch

From the Desk of Father Kurt



I am enjoying teaching the 10th grade confirmation program this year. One of the things that I am teaching the students is the difference between virtue and vice. I'm asking them to memorize the four Cardinal Virtues, which are prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice. These virtues are essential for living an authentic human existence.

When the people come to John the Baptist in today's Gospel and ask him what they must do to be saved, he instructs them to live justly. He tells the people with two tunics to share with the one who has nothing. He tells the tax collectors to only take what is rightfully theirs, and he exhorts the soldiers to not abuse their power for personal gain but be content with their salary.

Justice is the virtue of giving one what he or she deserves and not only looking out for one's own interests. Justice is realizing that if one suffers, we all suffer, and that the good of the whole depends primarily on those who are weakest. A just society depends upon those with power, looking after and caring for the needs and interests of those who do not. If the wealthy and powerful in society ignore the poor and weak, it is not a just society and there can be no true peace. Let us learn the virtue of justice for ourselves and try to practice it in our lives.

Love in Christ,
Father Kurt Farrell

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Tues Dec 14	8:30 am 9:00 am	Rosary Mass † Dick & Bev Popp by Judy	Church Church
Wed Dec 15	8:30 am 9:00 am	Rosary Mass For the Poor Souls in Purgatory	Church Church
Thurs Dec 16	8:30 am 9:00 am 2:00 pm	Rosary Mass For the Poor Souls in Purgatory Nursing Home Mass † Doris Callahan by Catherin Buboltz	Church Church Thorne Crest
Fri Dec 17	8:30 am 9:00 am	Rosary Mass † Alfonso Hernandez Sandoval by family	Church Church
Sat Dec 18	4-4:30 pm 4:45 pm 5:15 pm	Reconciliation Rosary Mass † MaryAnn Wilder by family	Church Church Church
Sun Dec 19	8:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Reconciliation & Rosary Mass † Jeanne Johnson by Lloyd Johnson Hispanic Mass † Santos Alfredo Davila by family † Alba Nubia Martinez by family † Alfonso Hernandez Sandoval by family † José Piedad Lopez by family	Church Church Church

Sacrificial Giving

November 29-December 5, 2021

Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Imp Fund	St. James
\$11,352.51	\$1,000.25	\$45.00	\$10.00

2021 Catholic Ministry Appeal

Goal	\$55,605.00
Amount Received (12.3.21)	\$41,212.00

We have **\$14,393** left to raise!
Please consider helping us reach our goal with your donation!

Sunday Broadcast Sponsors

Date	Intention(s)
Dec 19	† Jeanne Johnson by Lloyd Johnson
Dec 26	† Lucy Luna, Phil, Felix Jo, Patricia, & Diane, wife and children of Ray Luna and mother & siblings of Mary Larson. † Cam & Leonard Shelhamer † Denis Flaherty
Jan 2	† Gen Olson and for Duane and all living & deceased family member by Judy.
Jan 9	Sponsors Needed
Jan 16	Sponsors Needed

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

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



Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25
9:00 AM
(Broadcast & Parking Lot Mass)

Daily Scripture Readings

Mon: 12/13	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17	Mt 21:23-27
Tues: 12/14	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	Mt 21:28-32
Wed: 12/15	Is 45: 6-8, 18, 21-25	Lk 7: 18-23
Thu: 12/16	Is 54: 1-10	Lk 7:24-30
Fri: 12/17	Gn 49: 2, 8-10	Mt 1:1-17
Sat: 12/11	Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1: 18-25
Sun: 12/12	Mi 5: 1-4a Heb 10: 5-10	Ps 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Lk 1: 39-45



Red Cross Blood Drive
Tuesday, December 28, 2021
12-6 pm in Marian Hall.



Poinsettias for Christmas!

Addie's Floral & Gifts are filling orders for poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas until December 20th. Contact Addie's Floral directly at 377-2081. You may order memorials or in honor of plants for the following costs:

6½" pot single plant - \$13.00 or 8" pot two plants - \$25.00

You are able to take their plant home after the Christmas Season!

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

- *Charles Kermes (died December 3, 2021)*


We pray that the Lord's love, mercy and compassion bring their families peace and comfort during this difficult time.



This Week's Activities & Reminders


Mon Dec 13	Loaves & Fishes 4:45-5:30 pm Life in the Spirit Prayer Group 6-7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study 6-8:00 pm	Marian Hall Church Church Basement
Tues Dec 14	No Additional Parish Activities	
Wed Dec 15	Morning Prayer Group 6-7:00 am St. Theodore School Mini Winter Concert 9:30-10:30 am Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:00-8:00 pm Faith Formation Classes: Grades 5-11 7:00-8:00 pm	Parish Meeting Room Church Church Basement School, Gym, Marian Hall
Thurs Dec 16	Priests Advent Day of Reflection 11:30-2:00 pm Quilting Group 1:00-4:00 pm Hispanic Choir Practice 6:30-8:00 pm	Church Marian Hall Church Basement Church
Fri Dec 17	Adoration 9:30am-6:30pm Hispanic Adoration 6:30-8:00pm	Church Church
Sat Dec 18	RCIA 9:30 am-12:00 pm Baptism: Regalado 3:00pm	Parish Meeting Room Church
Sun Dec 19	Faith Formation Classes: Grade K-4th 10:05-10:55 am Christmas Pageant Practice 2:00-4:00 pm	School / Gym Church

Liturgical Ministers

	Saturday Dec. 18, 2021	Sunday December 19, 2021	
	5:15 pm	9:00 am	11:00 am
Accompanist	AdaTheusch	AdaTheusch	Please check the Hispanic bulletin for details
Cantor	Mandy Grzybowski	Jodi Blong	
Lectors	Axtmans	Therese Saindon	

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Christmas Pageant




Annual Children's Christmas Pageant Practices are as follows:

- Sunday, December 12th & 19th, 2-4pm in the church,
- Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 23rd, 2-4pm in the church.

All St. Theo's children, K-12th grade, are invited to participate. Thank you to the adults that have offered to help assist with costumes, decorations, music and stage prep. Please contact Irene: ian@sttheo.org, 507-373-5254 with questions.

Salvation Army Angel Tree



Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning. The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of thousands of children around the country each year. Please consider making a local child's Christmas magical, by taking a tag (or two) from the Angel Tree in the church entrance. Instructions for gift drop off are included on each tag. The Angel Tree deadline is December 13, 2021. Thank you for your generosity this Christmas season!

Jingle & Mingle

Next week, Wednesday, December 15th, Faith Formation will be having our Christmas Party! Meet in Marian Hall—Pizza will be provide. Please bring some sweet treats to share! Plan to wear your fun Christmas attire! There will be games and prizes!

Irene Nelson, Faith Formation Director - ian@sttheo.org


ST. THEODORE SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all of our students and parish members for their food donations. We collected 1188 non-perishable food items with the following totals:


Pre-K = 114 items	K/1 st Grade = 85 items	2 nd /3 rd Grade = 241 items
4 th /5 th Grade = 620 items	Parish Office = 128 items	

CONGRATULATIONS to our 4th/5th grade class for collecting the most items! They won: sitting in the balcony during Mass, extra recess, and making their own personal pizza.

United Way of Albert Lea is collecting winter items. There are donation boxes in the Church, and the School and Parish Offices. They are looking for, hats, gloves, coats, snow pants, boots, and new socks.



We pray everyone has a Blessed Weekend!



Confident Pregnancies and Stable Beginnings

Catholic Charities supports confident pregnancies and stable beginnings. Our social workers travel to new and expectant parents all across the Diocese to bring help and hope through financial assistance, pregnancy counseling, parenting education, free baby items, and helping women throughout the entire process of placing a child for adoption. We are honored to work with those who are pregnant or have a child under 12 months old. We work with teens, adults, single, married, financially secure or living in poverty. You can reach our social workers at 800-222-5859 for more information or to schedule an appointment.



Offering Envelopes Have Arrived!

Envelopes are located in the lower church access area. Please be sure to pick up your box. If you don't have a parish giving number and would like a box of envelopes, just contact the parish office at 507-373-0603 and we'll get you some right away!

Sixth Annual Bake Sale results.

Total Sales \$1,516.00

"Thank You" to those who donated homemade goodies, treats, baking goods, gift cards and all those wonderful volunteers who helped out on Saturday and Sunday. We are also grateful for all our parishioners and community members who came and purchased the baked goods. This couldn't happen without the loyal support of our St. Theodore Family. Thank You!



Winter Weather Cancellations: In the event that school is canceled, all parish activities are also canceled and the parish office is also closed. If school starts late or closes early, the parish will follow the same practice. We will also advertise closings through KATE Radio 1450 am, KAAL TV, REMIND Text & emails, Church Door Signage.

New Cemetery Gravesite Prices

- ◆ Adult gravesite - \$600.00
- ◆ Cremains Wall - \$1,250.00
- ◆ Cremains in-ground gravesite - \$400.00,

<p>CPA Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau, P.A. Certified Public Accountants 507-377-1333</p> <p><u>Accounting Services</u> Bookkeeping, Payroll, & Tax Preparation Heather Benda-Parishioner Lance Skov Andrew Bernau</p> <p>Skyline Plaza ♦ 1655 West Main St. Albert Lea, MN 56007</p>	<p>PLAZA MORENA MEXICAN RESTAURANT</p> <p>507-373-9194 www.plazamorenarestaurant.com</p> <p>Northbridge Mall Rafael Herrera 2588 Bridge Ave. Albert Lea, MN General Manager Parishioner</p>	<p>NICE PEOPLE NICE</p> <p>Brick Furniture 507-373-2514</p> <p>225 SO. BROADWAY ALBERT LEA, MN</p>	<p>Ben J. Bartelt Agent/Parishioner 507-377-0227 www.albertleaf.com 505 Bridge Ave. ♦ Albert Lea, MN</p>
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<p>ST. THEODORE PRAYER CHAIN Norma Kane 507-279-9828 Jkane_1981@yahoo.com Can also take requests in Spanish</p>	<p>St. Theodore Catholic School Accepting Registrations for Pre-K - Grade 5 Stop in or call us at 373-9657.</p>		