



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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John Grzybowski Lucy Villagomez
Francisco Lopez Deanna Zogg

PRAYER CHAIN

Norma Kane
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The liturgy

underscores the birth of the Savior in a special way today. The prophet Micah points out that the "ruler in Israel" must be born in Bethlehem to "shepherd his flock" because "he shall be peace." During her visit to Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary continues to be a model of evangelization for all of us, who are called to bring the good news of salvation to our neighbors and friends. As the author of the Letter to the Hebrews proclaims, our sacrifice, united to that of Christ's, is not based on holocausts or vain offerings but on our selfless acceptance of God's will. Community groups that have already begun to celebrate popular Christmas traditions, such as pastorelas (Christmas stories) and aguinaldos (gifts), should share information about Masses and other gatherings so that all who take part in popular piety may feel welcome to also worship together during the Christmas and Epiphany liturgies.



La liturgia

subraya el nacimiento del Salvador de una manera especial hoy. El profeta Miqueas señala que el "gobernante en Israel" debe nacer en Belén para "pastorear su rebaño" porque "será paz". Durante su visita a Isabel, la Virgen María sigue siendo un modelo de evangelización para todos nosotros, que estamos llamados a llevar la buena nueva de la salvación a nuestros vecinos y amigos. Como proclama el autor de la Carta a los Hebreos, nuestro sacrificio, unido al de Cristo, no se basa en holocaustos u ofrendas vanas, sino en nuestra aceptación desinteresada de la voluntad de Dios. Los grupos comunitarios que ya han comenzado a celebrar las tradiciones navideñas populares, como las pastorelas (cuentos de Navidad) y los aguinaldos (regalos), deben compartir información sobre las misas y otras reuniones para que todos los que participan en la piedad popular puedan sentirse bienvenidos a adorar juntos durante las liturgias de Navidad y Epifanía.

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



"Sing of Mary pure and lowly, Virgin Mother undefiled." The fourth week in Advent has been traditionally known as the week to preach on Mary. December is filled with wonderful Marian feasts and devotions. I love celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patron feast of the United States, with all our Parish communities. I also greatly enjoy joining the Latinos in their homes to say the rosary during the novena to our Lady of Guadalupe and then singing to her the Las Mañanitas as morning breaks.

Just as a family begins to get excited during the eighth and final month of the mother's pregnancy, so too we the faith community await in joyful expectation as Mary the Mother of God is about to give birth to our Savior. Let us never forget to thank Mary for such a wonderful gift.

Advent is also a time to take advantage of the wonderful sacrament of God's forgiveness. I will be hearing confessions once again and I am hoping that you will keep me busy.

Love in Christ,
Father Kurt Farrell

Sacrificial Giving

December 6-12, 2021

Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Imp Fund	St. James
\$10,716.00	\$1,426.00	\$605.00	\$10.00

2021 Catholic Ministry Appeal

Goal	\$55,605.00
Amount Received (12.10.21)	\$41,692.00

We have **\$13,913** left to raise!
Please consider helping us reach our goal with your donation!

Sunday Broadcast Sponsors

Date	Intention(s)
Jan 2	† Gen Olson and for Duane and all living & deceased family member by Judy.
Jan 9	Sponsors Needed
Jan 16	Sponsors Needed
Jan 23	Sponsors Needed
Jan 30	Sponsors Needed

Daily Scripture Readings

Mon: 12/20	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
Tues: 12/21	Sg 2:8-14	Lk 1:39-45
Wed: 12/22	1 Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56
Thu: 12/23	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Lk 1:57-66
Fri: 12/24	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Lk 1:67-79
Sat: 12/25	Is 62:1-5	Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29.
Vigil Mass	Acts 13:16-17, 22-25	Mt 1:1-25
Day Mass	Is 52:7-10	Jn 1:1-18
Sun: 12/26	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14	Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5.
	Col 3:12-21	Lk 2:41-52

- Welcome:** We welcome the following into the church family through the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Arya Rose Koziolk Villagomez, daughter of Zachary and Lucy Koziolk
 - Joanna Elizeth Regalado-Ojeda, daughter of Roger Regalado & Helen Ojeda-Garcia
- We celebrate the blessings of their beautiful eternal souls and may we help them grow to be the Saints the Lord has called them to be.



Mass Schedule & Intentions

Tues Dec 21	8:30 am 9:00 am	Rosary Mass For the poor souls in purgatory	Church Church
Wed Dec 22	8:30 am 9:00 am	Rosary Mass † Gen Olson by a friend	Church Church
Thurs Dec 23	8:30 am 9:00 am	Rosary Mass † Tony & Francis Bok	Church Church
Fri Dec 24	4:00 pm 7:30 pm 10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Mass † Jack Bloomquist by Rosemary Hispanic Christmas Eve Mass † Jesus Salvador Renteria by family Christmas Eve Mass For all parish members & their families	Church Church Church
Sat Dec 25	9:00 am 5:15 pm	Christmas Day Mass (Broadcast) † MaryAnn Wilder by family Mass † Mr. & Mrs. Bernado Luna & Mr. & Mrs. Felix Luna Sr. by Ray Luna & Mary Larson	Church Church
Sun Dec 19	8:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Reconciliation & Rosary Mass † Lucy Luna, Phil, Felix Joe, Patricia, & Diane, wife and children of Ray Luna and mother & siblings of Mary Larson. † Cam & Leonard Shelhamer † Denis Flaherty Hispanic Mass For All Parishioners especially those listed in our book of intentions	Church Church

NO MASS

December 28-31, 2021

Father is taking some time to rejuvenate!

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 24 & Monday, December 27



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!



Offering Envelopes Have Arrived!

Please pick up your box located in the lower church access area. If you do not find a box with your name on it, just contact the parish office at 507-553-0603 and we'll get you sign up to receive a box of envelopes right away!



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



This Week's Activities & Reminders

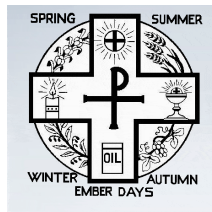
Mon Dec 20	Loaves & Fishes 4:45-5:30 pm Life in the Spirit Prayer Group 6-7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study 6-8:00 pm	Marian Hall Church Church Basement
Tues Dec 21	PreK Christmas Concert 10:00-11:30 am School Board Meeting 6:00-8:00 pm	Church Marian Hall
Wed Dec 22	Morning Prayer Group 6-7:00 am St. Theodore School Mini Winter Concert 9:30-10:30 am Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:00-8:00 pm	Parish Meeting Room Church Church Basement
Thurs Dec 23	Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 2:00 - 4:00 pm Hispanic Choir Practice 6:30-8:00 pm	Church Basement Church
Fri Dec 24	Christmas Eve Pageant 3:15-5:15pm	Church Basement
Sat Dec 25	Merry Christmas!	
Sun Dec 26	NO parish activities	

What Are Ember Days?

The Ember Days are an age-old custom of the Church, originating about the 4th century. They were observed four times per year, at the beginning of each season, and consisted of three days of prayer, fasting, and abstinence as a way of thanking God for the gifts of Creation, to ask His help in using them well and to assist those in need. These days were closely connected to the seasonal farming cycles and were a profound way of sanctifying our earthly doings.

The Ember Days are always Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, and the dates are as follows:


1. The Third Week of Advent
2. The First Week of Lent (The week after Ash Wednesday)
3. The week after Pentecost
4. The third week in September




Traditionally, priestly ordinations have taken place on Ember Saturdays, a custom that dates all the way back to Pope Gelasius in the 5th century. Although this is not observed as a rule anymore, the Ember Days are still a good opportunity to offer prayer and sacrifice for our clergy. In fact, various bishops and clergy in the U.S. have encouraged the renewed observance of the Ember Days as a way to pray for vocations, priests, and the needs of the Church.

The idea of penance has been forgotten in our world. The secular mayhem surrounding Christmas has obscured the penitence once observed during Advent. Yet penance is an essential part of the Christian life. Why not bring it back through the observance of the Ember Days, in whatever way—small or large—that you are able? You don't have to perform great feats in order to embrace a spirit of self-denial. St. Thérèse of Lisieux—whose "Little Way" has become the path to holiness for countless souls—knew that little sacrifices are the key to sanctity.

Christmas Liturgical Ministers

	Dec 24, 2021		Dec 25, 2021
	4:00 PM	10:00 PM	9:00 PM
Accompanist	Ada Theusch	Grace Chalmers	Ada Theusch
Cantor	Faith Formtion	Blongs	Betsy Schultz
Lectors	Faith Formation	Don Savelkous	Penny Jahnke

Liturgical Ministers

	Dec. 25, 2021		December 26, 2021	
	5:15 PM	9:00 PM	11:00 PM	
Accompanist	Ryan Hulshizer	AdaTheusch	Please check the Hispanic bulletin for details	
Cantor	Ryan Hulshizer	Ada Theusch		
Lectors	Mary Larscheid	Steve Schwab		

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Christmas Pageant

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant Practices are as follows:

- Sunday, December 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.



No Faith Formation

- Wednesday, December 22, 2021
- Sunday, December 26, 2021
- Wednesday, December 29, 2021
- Sunday, January 2, 2022

Thank You!

Our Angel Tree was another HUGE success with over 56 tags taken and filled. Many local boys and girls will have a blessed Christmas due to the generosity of our parish family.




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

ST. THEODORE SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has donated winter items to United Way of Albert Lea. We are still collecting items and have donation boxes in the Church, and the School and Parish Offices. They are looking for, hats, gloves, coats, snow pants, boots, and new socks.




 Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program is being held the month of January 2022. For every Red "My Heart" Bag purchased for \$2.50, a donation of \$1 can be donated to a local non-profit, like St. Theodore!

We pray everyone has a Blessed Weekend!

Winter Weather

Now that winter officially back into our lives, it's important that everyone is aware of our closing practice. 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, Signs on Doors.

<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</p> <p>Accepting Registrations for Pre-K - Grade 5 Stop in or call us at 373-9657.</p>		