



St. Theodore Catholic Church

Inviting people to actively participate in the Life of Christ!
Invitando a las personas a participar activamente en la Vida de Cristo!

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

www.sttheo.org

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For Year C, the Lectionary offers several readings to choose from for today's celebration.

All of them, however, maintain the same sequence of themes proper to this season: God's promise, alive in the consciousness of Israel since the time of Abraham, and the fulfillment of the promise with the birth of the Savior. The Holy Family, therefore, becomes for us a symbol of fidelity and selfless love that makes us work to increase the care and love we offer our own families. As we live in a culture with a diversity of family models, we must consider the elements that make this celebration a gift and a challenge: the attitudes that we display in family life through our actions, the presence of God in the difficult or joyful moments of family life, the trust and understanding that should characterize the members of each Christian family. Precisely now that the Church is so committed to highlight the role of family in society, we should make a commitment, with God's help, to work to improve family life whenever possible.



Para el Año C, el Leccionario ofrece varias lecturas para elegir para la celebración de hoy.

Todos ellos, sin embargo, mantienen la misma secuencia de temas propios de este tiempo: la promesa de Dios, viva en la conciencia de Israel desde los tiempos de Abraham, y el cumplimiento de la promesa con el nacimiento del Salvador. La Sagrada Familia, por tanto, se convierte para nosotros en un símbolo de fidelidad y amor desinteresado que nos hace trabajar para incrementar el cuidado y el amor que ofrecemos a nuestras propias familias. Como vivimos en una cultura con diversidad de modelos familiares, debemos considerar los elementos que hacen de esta celebración un regalo y un desafío: las actitudes que manifestamos en la vida familiar a través de nuestras acciones, la presencia de Dios en los momentos difíciles o alegres de la vida familiar, la confianza y la comprensión que deben caracterizar a los miembros de cada familia cristiana. Precisamente ahora que la Iglesia está tan comprometida en resaltar el papel de la familia en la sociedad, deberíamos comprometernos, con la ayuda de Dios, a trabajar para mejorar la vida familiar siempre que sea posible.



Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Holy Mother of God Mass
January 1st, 2025 ♦ 9:00am

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

Offices Close Daily

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

The Catholic Shoppe ♦ Parish Office

- 1:00-4:00 pm
- Monday-Thursday

FROM THE DESK OF FR. KURT



Merry Christmas!

Christmas is such a wonderful time of year with so many blessings. Being with family, sharing gifts with others, and celebrating our Lord and Savior's birthday together.

Of all the celebrations, I probably enjoy the children's Mass the most. I love it because the children give the homily. They bring to life the day our Lord was born. Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus lying in the manger, shepherds, wise men, the donkey and sheep, all come to life. The Christmas play speaks loudly and clearly all by itself.

So often we think that we have to be perfect in order for God to love us, but the opposite is true. It is because we are loved by God that we are given the power to love. God loved us enough to enter into our messiness. God has taken on our human nature, and by loving us in the person of Christ, we are given the opportunity to be transformed into Children of God. Once we allow the divine love of the Christ to enter our hearts we will never be the same again. The joy and the peace of knowing that God loves us so much should give us the power to love one another in return with that same divine love.

It is hard to imagine that I am celebrating my eighth Christmas with you all, and I feel very loved and blessed. I might forget a name once and awhile, but I never forget an act of kindness and there have been so many of those given to me from you through the years. Thank you so much for being so supportive of me as your pastor, I look forward with great longing to the marvelous experiences that God has in store for us in the future.

This Christmas let us continue to focus on the good that is all around us, especially the inner beauty of God's love that we can find in ourselves and in those we love. May God bless you and grant you a very Merry Christmas this year.

Love of Christ

Father Kurt Farrell

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues Dec 31	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary Mass † Ricardo Garcia & for all Pour Souls in Purgatory	Church Church
	7:00pm	Solemnity of Mary: Vigil Spanish Mass † Ricardo Garcia & For all souls in Purgatory	Church
Wed Jan 1	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary Mass: Solemnity of Mary † Family of Ray & Lucy Luna by Mary Larson & Trista Thofson	Church Church
Thurs Jan 2	8:30am 9:00am	Rosary Mass † Richard & Dorene Walker by family	Church Church
Fri Jan 3	8:30am 9:30am 9:00am	Rosary First Friday Confession Mass † For all Parishioners	Church Church Church
Sat Jan 4	4:00pm 5:15pm	Confessions & Rosary Mass † For the Pour Souls in Purgatory	Church Church
Sun Jan 5	8:30am 9:00am 11:00am	Rosary Mass † Darlene Nistler by Robert Spanish Mass For all Parishioners and those listed in our book of intentions	Church Church Church

SUNDAY BROADCAST SPONSORS

Date	Intention
Jan 12	Sponsors Needed
Jan 19	† Jose Fransico Magdalero by his wife and children Additional Sponsors Needed
Jan 26	Sponsors Needed
Feb 2	Sponsors Needed

2024 CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL

Thank you to those who so generously gave. We haven't reach our goal yet but there's always a chance for a Christmas miracle. Donations can still be accepted into the new year. Please consider starting the new year with a gift to help us reach our 2024 CMA goal.

Goal	\$55,629.00
Amount received 12/20/24)	\$45,214.00

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

December 16-22, 2024

Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Improvement Fund
\$20,127.50	\$1,476.35	\$82.50

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon:12/30	1 Jn 2:12-17	Lk 2:36-40
Tues:12/31	1 Jn 2:18-21	Jn 1:1-18
Wed:1/1	Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7	Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8, Luke 2:16-21
Thu:1/2	1 John 2:22-28	John 1:19-28
Fri: 1/3	1 John 2:29-3:6	John 1:29-34
Sat: 1/4	1 John 3:7-10	John 1:35-42
Sun:1/5	Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6	Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13, Matthew 2:1-12

2025 Jubilee Year



The Jubilee Year, as expressed by the Holy Father, "is a year of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church". The great tradition of opening the Holy Door began on Christmas Eve, 2024, when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica.

For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expect to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

The Diocese of Winona-Rochester

Solemn Rite of Opening

December 29, 2024

Bishop Barron

10am Mass

Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona.

Vicar General, Fr. Will Thompson

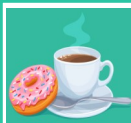
9:30am Mass

Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Rochester

More opportunities will be forthcoming from the Diocese throughout the Jubilee Year 2025!

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES & REMINDERS

Mon Dec 30	No Parish Activities Scheduled	
Tues Dec 31	No Additional Activities Scheduled	
Wed Jan 1	Parish Office Closed No Additional Activities	
Thurs Jan 2	No Additional Activities	
Fri Jan 3	Adoration 9:30am-6:30pm Hispanic Adoration 6:30-8pm	Church Church
Sat Jan 4	OCIA 8:30-11am	Parish Meeting Room
Sun Jan 5	No Faith Formation Class PreK-4th Grade 10-11am Epiphany Breakfast 12-1:30pm	Church Marian Hall



Knight's of Columbus 1590 Women's Auxiliary
Coffee & Donuts
Sunday, January 12th after 9am Mass!
 All are welcome for fellowship in the Church Access Area.
 Your free-will donation is greatly appreciated!



Knight of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2024
 6:30-8pm ♦ Church Basement

KC Roundtable Meeting

Sunday, January 12, 2024
 After Spanish Mass - Church Basement

Church Decorating Helpers Needed

Wednesday, January 15, 2025
5:30-6:30pm

Please contact the parish office if you're able to help or
 just come the actual day and pitch in! Thank you!



LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Solemnity Of Mary: January 1, 2025 ♦ 9:00 AM

Lector Lois Ahern	Cantor (Acapella) Peter Sullivan	Servers Ethan Haag & Kyle Ramirez
	Saturday January 4, 2025 5:15pm	Sunday January 5, 2025 9:00am
Accompanist	Ada Theusch	Ada Theusch
Cantor	TBD	TBD
Lectors	Kathleen Bleckeberg	Catherine Buboltz
Servers	Lauren & Lily Raleigh	Evyana Bartelt & Tristan & Harrison Finkbeiner

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Hoping your family had a blessed, magical Christmas!

We wish all our families a joyful and safe New Years!

Faith Formation Classes resume on the following dates:

♦ Wednesday, January 8th ♦ Sunday, January 12th

Save the Date!

Special Faith Formation Supper for Parents & Students 5th-11th gr.

Wednesday, January 22nd. Meal at 6:30pm!

Class at 7:00pm & Program for parents to follow. 8:00pm Dismissal

Irene Nelson, Faith Formation Director - ian@sttheo.org 507-373-5254

ST. THEODORE SCHOOL NEWS



We hope this Holiday Season is filled with many blessings for everyone! Remember this is the time of year to reflect on the reason for the season and all the many lessons that Jesus has taught us. This is the season of giving and putting others before ourselves.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
 St. Theodore Catholic School

New Years Resolutions for Families

Parents, the Faith of our Children Depends on you.

Each year individuals look forward to starting over the New Year with new plans and goals. Usually our best intentions get lost in our daily life and we're once again back into the old routine. Maybe this year, instead of going it alone, come together as a family to set a few simple New Year's goals. Together you can support one another's efforts and celebrate as a family to achieve your chosen family goals. Below is a very simple checklist of things you as a family can choose from to do through the new year or even come up with your own!

Daily (some could be done weekly)

- Eat together
- Pray together
- Work together
- Laugh together
- Liturgical Season participation
- Reconcile Hurts
- Parents Bless Children
- Private Parental Prayer

Weekly

- Attend Mass
- Faith Discussion
- Scripture Reading
- Family Recreation
- Family Rosary

Monthly

- Confession
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Celebrate Feast Days
- Adopt & Review Catholic Family Rules (Scan the QR code to get)

Annually
 Family Pilgrimage ♦ Day of Jubilee

Or go to <https://catholicsprouts.com> for more ways to celebrate the Catholic family!



Consider being a volunteer for your community by delivering meals!
 Help needed on Thursdays or on call. If you would like to volunteer and need more information please contact:
 Janelle: 507-860-2796 or email: albertteamobilemeals@semcac.org

SUPPORT A SENIOR

Many seniors in Freeborn County struggle to pay for a meal. We would love you to join us with your donations to help seniors here in our community.

CPA Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau, P.A. Certified Public Accountants 507-377-1333 Accounting Services Bookkeeping, Payroll, & Tax Preparation Heather Benda-Parishioner ♦ Lance Skov ♦ Andrew Bernau 1206 W. Front St., Suite 1 Albert Lea, MN 56007	 PLAZA MORENA MEXICAN RESTAURANT 507-373-9194 www.plazamorenarestaurant.com Northbridge Mall 2588 Bridge Ave. Albert Lea, MN 2588 Northbridge Rafael Herrera General Manager Parishioner	 Struggling? Let's Talk Dr. Brenden Troster, PhD Licensed Therapist Parishioner Call: 507-216-4949 brendentroster.com	 St Theodore Catholic School Accepting Registrations for Pre-K - Grade 5 Stop in or call us at 373-9657.
DOUG'S PAINTING & SANDBLASTING 377-1508 Interior/Exterior Painting of Commercial Buildings, In-Shop Painting and Staining Doug, Jason & Dan Evans	Raleigh's ACE Hardware  252 Bridge Ave. 507-377-8636 Peggy Raleigh, Matt & Ellen Raleigh Parishioners	 2202 Stevens St Albert Lea, MN 373-1329 People Are Our Business	 ALBERT LEA ELECTRIC CO. CAL JOHNSON 1410 Olsen Dr. Albert Lea, MN 56007 (507)-373-6650 www.albertleaelectric.com
 Senior Resources of Freeborn County Call us at 377-7433 Serving Seniors in programs of Ride Services Advocacy Chore	SOUTHSIDE CUSTOM 507-373-4164 Mechanic Collision Repair ♦ Insurance Estimates 1401 S.E. Broadway, Albert Lea	Helping to beautifully preserve your memories.  Mandy Grzybowski Creative Memories Consultant 507-383-1558 agrzybow@me.com	 Charlene's BEAUTY SALON 373-1731 2306 Milo Ave. Albert Lea, MN 56007 Charlene Kukuzke Owner & Parishioner Your Family Hair Care Center
Bisek Gardens Sweet Corn Sweet Bicolors In Season Open daily noon-6pm Linda Bisek 425 W. 11th St. Albert Lea 373-4566	 24/7 Emergency Service 724 W. Clark St. 373-6161	 The Cleaning Experts 373-9850 WE SPECIALIZE IN WATER, SMOKE, SOOT, DAMAGE CLEAN-UP COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL	 BONNERUP FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES 2210 E. Main St., Albert Lea Phone: 373-2461 • 1-800-204-2461
 BAYVIEW FREEBORN FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES JOSH FOSSUM Director/Manager Email: bayviewfuneral@gmail.com 1415 Hwy. 13 N Albert Lea, MN 56007 Phone: (507) 373-4330	 Knights of Columbus Council 1590 Albert Lea, MN A Catholic Fraternal Organization 373-5678	 Knights of Columbus 1590 Women's Auxiliary Open to all Catholic Women 18 & over	SAVELKOUL LAW OFFICE Donald W. Savelkoul Parishioner 2302 E. Main St. 507.552.5291

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Diocese of Winona-Rochester Child Sexual Abuse Policy

The Diocese of Winona-Rochester will provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (employees, volunteers, vendors, religious or clergy). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 507-454-2270, Extension 255. A caller will be asked to provide his or her name and telephone number. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. The Diocese of Winona-Rochester is committed to protecting children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. The diocesan policy is available on the diocesan web site at www.dowr.org under the Safe Environment Program. If you have any questions about the Diocese of Winona's implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Michael Gerard, at 507-361-3377, or mgerard@dowr.org.

Anyone working or volunteering in a Catholic parish or school is a mandated reporter. Anyone who knows or has reason to believe that a minor (a person under the age of 18) or vulnerable adult is or has been abused or neglected, must report all suspected abuse or neglect to proper civil authorities/law enforcement within 24 hours of the abuse or neglect becoming known to him or her and must also follow up with a written report to civil authorities within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays. Many people working or volunteering in a Catholic parish or school, including clergy, are mandated reporters under state law.

Procedimientos Diocesanos Para Hacer Frente al Abuso Sexual de Menores

La Diócesis de Winona-Rochester se ha comprometido a proteger a los niños, los jóvenes y otras personas vulnerables en nuestras escuelas, parroquias y actividades apostólicas. Tenemos un cuidado especial y la intención permanente de atender eventuales víctimas de abuso sexual y sus familias. Para informarnos sobre alegaciones actuales de abuso sexual por parte de miembros del clero o empleados laicos o voluntarios en la Diócesis de Winona-Rochester contacte: 507-454-2270, Extensión 255 Víctimas de abuso sexual, además de contactar a las autoridades civiles, se les pide de dirigirse a la diócesis para recibir asistencia pastoral. El Coordinado de Asistencia a la Víctima le proveerá tal asistencia.

“Cualquier persona que trabaje o sea voluntario en una parroquia o escuela católica, tiene la obligación de reportar o denunciar abusos o negligencias. Cualquier persona que sepa o tenga razones para creer que un menor (una persona menor de 18 años) o un adulto vulnerable es o ha sido abusado o ignorado, debe denunciar toda sospecha de abuso o abandono a las autoridades civiles o autoridades policiales pertinentes dentro de las 24 horas desde que tuvo conocimiento del asunto y además deberá dar seguimiento haciendo un informe escrito a las autoridades civiles dentro de un margen de 72 horas, excluyendo fines de semana y feriados”.