



Monthly publication for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

December 2019

# THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

*Journeying  
toward holiness*

BE **PERFECT** AS YOUR **HEAVENLY FATHER** IS PERFECT



# The entry of God into our lives continues every day



**F**rom the Gospel of John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

For those who have been privileged to visit the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, the uplifting artistic rendering of the birth of Christ etched into the sanctuary ceiling and which we restored in its colorful glory a few years ago reminds us that what we raise up at Christmas is more than an historic event come and gone. It is a reminder that the entry of God into our lives continues every day.

Among the privileges I have as bishop is to have a view from the bishops chair of those Catholics and not who come to the Cathedral for concerts, weddings, funerals and more. Recently I observed one person who entered, sat down in a pew, looked up at the ceiling and while I could not hear his words, “Wow” his lips seemed to form. We tend to view the incarnation of Christ as a national holiday or liturgical season when in truth it permeates the essence of our faith.

“Wow” should be our response as well.

But to appreciate this truth we first need to prepare which the season of Advent encourages.

“Come, Lord Jesus.” That is the familiar exclamation of Advent as we recall Christ’s birth in Bethlehem and as we anticipate His coming again.

Celebrating the season of Advent sets us Catholics apart from many. For one thing, it takes discipline to do so in the midst of the festive atmosphere around us. And it takes determination to stick with it for the four weeks in the midst of what Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once suggested was the “commercial pollution” that blows around us.

While we can and ought to enjoy the secular Christmas traditions that fill the days of December, we as people of faith should also take the time to reflect on the truth about Christmas: that God humbled himself to become one among us.

What an awesome gift that is which can be lost in the superficial and antiseptic offering of “Season’s Greetings.” There are many wonderful moments in the secular celebration of Christmas. It is a time when we do come together in so many special ways. But we also need time to reflect upon and truly appreciate the awe-inspiring gift God has given and gives us which we anticipate in Advent and celebrate at Christmas.

There was a cartoon some years ago in which one character spoke of how wonderful it was that so many people receive the special gifts they wanted for Christmas. His companion commented a little wistfully, “how much better it was when there was just one gift that satisfied all people, the gift of the Christ child.”

That gift is given not simply for a yearly holiday but for a holy life. The gift of the Christ child is for a purpose greater than the warmth of the secular and even religious traditional celebrations.

The Irish poet Shaemas O’Sheel authored a moving poem entitled Mary’s Baby that reflects the most important gift at Christmas.

 *continued next page*

# BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

## December

- 1 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 4 6:30 School listening session, St. Mary, Salem
- 5 11:00 Presbyteral Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 7 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 8 11:00 Rite of Lector for Permanent Diaconate, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 10 12:00 Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center
- 5:00 Real Presence Radio banquet, Ramkota, Sioux Falls
- 12 6:00 Attend Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Sioux Falls
- 14 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 15 12:00 Confirmation in Extraordinary Form, St. Mary, Salem
- 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 17 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood
- 19 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral concert, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 20 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral concert
- 21 1:00 Christmas at the Cathedral concert
- 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral concert
- 22 1:00 Christmas at the Cathedral concert
- 6:00 Advent Vespers, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls
- 7:30 Christmas at the Cathedral concert
- 25 12:00 Midnight Mass, Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 27 Seminarian holiday gathering, Mass and dinner
- 28 4:00 Stational Mass, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Sioux Falls

## January

- 24 12:00 Pray at Planned Parenthood  
sfcatholic.org/bishopbulletin

### Mary's Baby

*Joseph, mild and noble, bent above the straw;  
A pale girl, a frail girl, suffering he saw;  
"O my love, my Mary, my bride, I pity thee!"  
"Nay, dear," said Mary, "All is well with me!"  
"Baby, my Baby, O my Babe," she sang.  
Suddenly the golden night all with music rang.*

*Angels leading shepherds, shepherds leading sheep;  
The silence of worship broke the mother's sleep.  
All the meek and lowly of the world were there;  
Smiling she showed them her Child was fair.*

*"Baby, my Baby," kissing Him she said.  
Suddenly a flaming star through the heavens sped.*

*Three old men and weary knelt them side by side,  
The world's wealth forswearing, majesty and pride;  
Worldly might and wisdom before the Babe bent low;  
Weeping, maid Mary said, "I love Him so!"  
"Baby, my Baby," and the Baby slept.  
Suddenly on Calvary all the olives wept.*

Our Lord was born in Bethlehem for a purpose, for our redemption won on Calvary. May we take advantage of the season of Advent to prepare for and to appreciate the loving gift of God's Son for our salvation. As we celebrate this Christmas may we respond like Mary and "love Him so."

## Officials



**The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain decreed the following since the most recent publication of The Bishop's Bulletin:**

Effective October 22, 2019, placed Reverend Jonathan Venner on non Charter leave from assigned ministry.

Effective December 1, 2019, implemented new policy and guidelines for Financial Accountability in Parish Administration. A copy of the policy can be accessed online at sfcatholic.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew K. Althoff  
Chancellor

## THE BISHOP'S BULLETIN

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# Making our support tangible



Several years ago I was standing in the Exchange store at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. I was a few days away from graduating from the Army Chaplain School and was there to pick up my dress uniform from the tailor. I also knew I was just a few days from leaving for my deployment to Afghanistan.

I stood in the store and pondered if I should buy anything that might be difficult to find back home. I thought about what my life was going to be like for the next few months, and then I saw the blue star banner for sale on a rack. I remembered the blue star banner was hung from the door of a family who had a soldier overseas during World War II.

I was not sure if it was used a lot during the Korean or Vietnam conflicts, but I thought it would be something nice for my parents to have while I was gone. I gave it to my parents before I flew out. When they opened it I discovered, to my chagrin, that I had not bought a blue star banner but a full size blue star flag.

It was huge.

It was their intention to hang it in the picture window in the home I grew up in, but when I saw the picture later I had to smile. It was not hung in the window; it covered it. Then I was touched to think that they would be giving up their beautiful view for the duration of my deployment, and it reminded me that this time was going to be harder on them than it was going to be on me.

I was trained and prepared as best as I could be. I knew what my duties would be and I knew I was surrounded by a fantastic unit full of people I was proud to serve with—my friends and my comrades. I knew I would be safe because I trusted Josh, my assistant; so the only thing I was truly worried about was being the best chaplain I could be.

Obviously, it was not entirely safe, but not nearly as dangerous as it was in my parent's minds. When I had opportunities to speak with them, I tried to reassure them, but I also knew there was nothing I could really say that would put their minds to ease until they saw me again.

A few weeks ago I sat next to my dad at Aberdeen's Veterans Day ceremony—two veterans taking a little time to think back to our days in uniform. I was thinking about the wonder of the opportunity I had and

what a privilege it was, even if it was just sitting around at drill weekend joking with the troops. My dad sitting next to me made me think about those long months where he and mom worried, every day.

We were spending a day honoring the men and women who served in uniform, and that is a good thing to do, but there are others who should be remembered and honored as well. Those soldiers and sailors, Marines and airmen have mothers and fathers, wives and husbands, sons and daughters who stood watch at home; many still do.

A few weeks ago I drove to Pierre for the activation ceremony of my unit as they began their current deployment, and I was touched, as always in these ceremonies, by the families who surround them, proud and nervous, and many had challenges before them they could not anticipate, for which they were not trained.

They are around us, these blue star families, in our communities and parishes, and it is important for us to support them as they sacrifice and serve. We pray for those serving and deployed and that is important and keenly felt, but we should pray for their families as well.

In addition to our prayers, those of you who know a family with someone who serves, who may be gone for school or training or deployment, have a chance to show your support in a powerful way. We tell people "if you need anything, just ask." Yet, making that request is often difficult for someone in need.

When you know someone, or a family, who is in need, either through service, or perhaps in mourning or dealing with an illness, I invite you to offer them your support, but offer them specific help.

A mother whose husband is deployed might appreciate an offer of a babysitter for a few hours so she can be away for errands or just to have some self-care time. A new widower might appreciate the offer of a meal a few months after the funeral. A family dealing with an illness might appreciate the offer of a clean house, or a mowed lawn, or some necessary chore.

As a people committed to the life of love, we are not only given the strength to care for one another, but also given the insight to see what their needs might be; this is how we show our support and how we show others what it means to be a family of faith.



# Marian Blue Wave uses rosary to fight abortion

In the fight to end abortion, we need all the help we can get. The American Life League has created the Marian Blue Wave, a call to action involving praying the rosary with the specific intention of ending abortion.

According to the Marian Blue Wave website, the goal of the project is to “engage as many Catholics as possible in projects to extol the virtues of praying the rosary and use it to advance a call to holiness and evangelization.”

Monsignor Charles Mangan is strongly behind this movement.

“We turn to our natural mother when in need. And because of our baptism, we also lift up our cares to our Mother in heaven. By participating in the Marian Blue Wave, we entrust to Our Lady the protection of children in the womb and the complete abolishment of the evil of abortion,” he said.

The goals of the Marian Blue Wave are:

- Shut down every Planned Parenthood facility in the United States.
- Shut down every abortion facility in the United States.

- Expose Catholics who advocate for or promote abortion in any way so that we can pray for them and reach out to each of them in love. Our goal is to change hearts by teaching the truth.
- Our prayer petitions include:
  - » The Holy Father, bishops, priests, and deacons. May each of them have the courage to defend Christ in the Eucharist and lead their people in praying the rosary and asking Mary to intercede for us in this struggle.
  - » Families damaged in any way by abortion and its aftermath. May they all find peace in God’s mercy.
  - » Expectant mothers who fear they cannot carry their babies to term, as well as those who will help them and comfort them. May they all feel the hope of Christ’s loving embrace.

To be part of the Marian Blue Wave and pray for the end of abortion, visit [marian-bluewave.com](http://marian-bluewave.com).



JANUARY 10TH 2020

# RESTART

7:00-10:30PM

PERFORMANCES BY:  
SONAR WORSHIP  
& SILVER VALLEY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
FR. LARRY RICHARDS

LORANG THEATRE  
PERFORMANCE  
ART CENTER  
SIOUX FALLS, SD

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# Journeying toward holiness

BE **PERFECT** AS YOUR **HEAVENLY FATHER** IS PERFECT

*The Word became flesh to make us  
“partakers of the divine nature”:  
“The only-begotten Son of God,  
wanting to make us sharers in his  
divinity, assumed our nature, so that  
he, made man, might make men  
gods.” (CCC 460)*

By Renae Kranz

John the Baptist was an infant in his mother's womb when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary, and Jesus, the very Son of God, was made incarnate. Years later when Jesus was about to begin his public ministry, John knew his role had to change when he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

During the preparation time of Advent and the celebrating of Christmas, we tend to increase much more than we should. Shopping, planning, decorating and traveling become the main focus of our daily lives.

And let's not fool ourselves. We let ourselves increase too much all the rest of the year as well. How do we move toward decreasing so we can allow our Lord to increase in our lives?

It turns out, it's all part of the journey. We just have to point ourselves in the right direction.

## *The creature and the Creator*

The right direction isn't always obvious. Thankfully, we have a natural desire for happiness that God planted in our hearts. The Catechism tells us He put it there in order to draw us to the One alone who can fill it: God Himself.

Unfortunately, our first parents didn't help us out very much right from the beginning. They allowed the sin of pride to darken their souls and in turn ours with original sin. They desired to be like God, and that desire tore all of humanity away from its created purpose.

Today, we still want to be like God. Our pride makes us think we can do this ourselves. It causes us to seek control over our lives and makes us stumble over and over. The perfection we reach for is not possible on our own. It was never supposed to be.

It's only possible through the Incarnation of Christ. His call to us to be perfect as the Father is perfect isn't on us to do alone. He came here to show us how to do it.

The Catechism even tells us about the journey to perfection:

*Creation has its own goodness and proper perfection, but it did not spring forth complete from the hands of the Creator. The universe was created "in a state of journeying" toward an ultimate perfection yet to be attained, to which God has destined it. (CCC 302)*

So we were never meant to take it all on ourselves. The definition of perfection here is not the same as the world's definition. It's not about physical beauty, perfect grades or fame. It's about joining our will to God's will, because as Jesus told us, without him we can do nothing.

Father Joe Vogel, pastor at St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dakota Dunes, St. Joseph, Elk Point, and St. Peter, Jefferson, says when Jesus emptied himself and became a slave, in a sense he emptied himself of all divinity so he could completely understand our humanity. He experienced hardship, hunger and even temptation. And he showed us how to lean on the Father to walk down the path toward perfection.

Teresa Henrickson, a counselor, spiritual director and member of Sacred Heart, Yankton, says Jesus is our model of holiness.

"The generosity of God is incomprehensible and no one desires my holiness more than God," she says, "because it means that I am moving in deeper union with him, which is how I was designed."

It's how we're all designed. But sometimes our humanity gets in the way.

## *How we get off track*

Father Vogel sees a common error in thinking among all of us: if I'm not perfect, I won't be anything. He says we all think we will only be loved when we're perfect. That is the tendency of original sin.

"To think I'm not good until I'm completely there, that's always the work of the devil," Father Vogel says. "The devil would say it's gotta be all or none. And we're going to say, no. There's a little more grace. And there's a little more mercy."

Father James Mason, a priest of the diocese and president-rector at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, says this type of thinking comes about because we usually forget that we live in a fallen world. We tend to underestimate God's perfection and our own imperfection. This leads to unrealistic expectations, to us straying from the path to holiness, and to sin.

Father Mason points out that we sin because we enjoy it. We even tend to see it as part of our identity. If we didn't find



*Teresa Henrickson*





temporary pleasure in the sin, we would stop doing it on our own. Like our first parents grasping for that apple of power, we are always trying to be equal to God.

“The apple is picked and the true condition, emptiness and shame, is revealed,” Father Mason says. “It brings us a temporary satisfaction and then always leaves us empty.”

Henrickson sees our bent toward sin as us directing our desires toward our own will rather than directing them toward God’s will. Doing our own will, especially when it’s against God’s will, puts us in the position of making ourselves our own god. She says the pursuit of those disordered desires is a way of trying to satisfy whatever longing we have at that moment, all in pursuit of perfection.

“When I’m trying to be my own god, I put it on myself to meet my needs, to make myself holy, to do all these outward

performance kinds of measures to determine my worth, my value, my holiness, all this external stuff. And the emphasis is on me versus this open disposition to receive God’s love through Christ and to respond out of that love,” Henrickson says.

This focus on perfectionism seems to be common in our lives today. We see other people’s posts on social

media about how great their lives are for example, and we feel the pressure to keep reaching for things we can’t do on our own. Henrickson sees many people tying their worth to the degree to which they perform things really well and tend to be really hard on themselves.

The thing we tend to ignore is this: we can’t do it on our own. We need God to help us. He is the key to our perfection as we work through our journey.

## *God journeys with us*

The Word became flesh in the Incarnation so that He might make the journey to perfection with us, not only at the time He walked the Earth, but even today. Jesus gave us the example to live by.

Impossible? Not according to Father Vogel. He says we only need to be intentionally moving toward perfection. And we need to be aware of when we are not moving toward it.

“It’s always good to have friends, family and a support group,” Father Vogel says. “But the closer we are to love and in relation with Jesus and the blessed mother, the better. And ask for awareness, ask for help, and die to ourselves. Try saying, I’ll do a little bit, you take over Lord.”

We shouldn’t be trying to reach perfection here in this life. That will be accomplished with the grace of God and the saving sacrifice of Jesus in the next life. We can let go of the pressure to do this ourselves by uniting our will to God’s will.

Teri Kemmer, spiritual director and parishioner at St. Joseph the Workman, Colton, helps those who come to her for spiritual direction recognize how the Holy Spirit is directing them personally. She has seen the tendency to try to control our own lives, to be perfect.



*Fr. James Mason*



"It is only in letting go that one can let God be God," Kemmer says. "As we unite our will to God's, our souls become enflamed with the desire to grow closer to Him, to imitate Jesus and to more intentionally follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. As we grow in Christ our whole life becomes a pilgrimage."

This pilgrimage isn't easy. St. John XXIII said, "See everything. Overlook a great deal. Improve a little." Father Mason uses this as a reminder that for us, creatures with bodies and souls, change is slow.

"Remember, if it is not slow, it is not human," he says.

That change comes by being open to God. Henrickson sees her work as a spiritual director as accompanying someone in their relationship with the Lord. She says the Holy Spirit is really the spiritual director, we just need to let Him in.



*Teri and Jeff Kemmer*

When you can open yourself up to God, you can start to let go of that control you're trying to have over your life.

"Then a person can open themselves up to receive God's love for them, God's mercy for them, God's compassion for them. When we receive that love, we can respond to God out of that love," Henrickson says.

She goes on to say that when we surrender the authority of our life over to God instead of ourselves, we get to be the creature while God gets to be the creator. That's exactly the way He intended it all along.

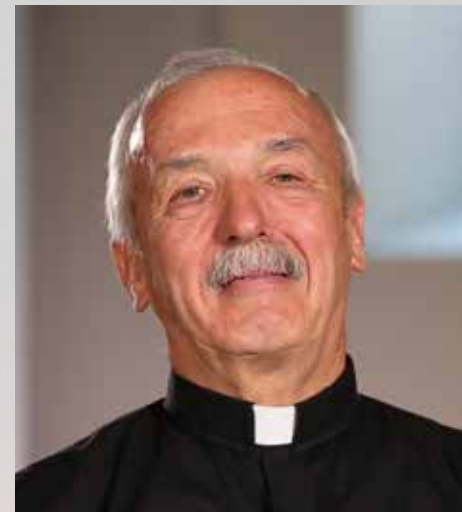
St. Alphonsus Liguori said, "Perfection means we are striving to live each and every moment in the grace of God." That puts this pursuit of perfection in its proper place—a journey with God toward eternal life. It really isn't all on us. The focus returns to who God is.

This is all boiled down to one simple idea that comes from St. Ignatius Loyola's teachings on discernment of spirits and the interior movements of the soul. Henrickson clarifies them beautifully: "That which leads us toward God we accept, and that which leads us away from God we reject."

She says we do this by choosing to move toward what we believe to be God's will at the moment. To have a proper understanding of His will for us, we must submit to God, grow in virtue and pray for graces. And we need to trust our reason, intellect and knowledge to make the right decision in that moment.

"I think if my focus is on myself, then this call to perfection can be overwhelming," Henrickson says. "But if I'm growing in union with Christ and in this deepening relationship and am resting in Him and receiving all that He desires to give me, then it's not overwhelming. Then I get to rely on the work that's already been done through Christ and the community that He has put before me, the Church."

As we grow in our relationship with Christ, we will have a greater desire to receive everything God desires for us as individuals. Henrickson says we will then have less desire for the disordered attachments we used to have and an increased desire for virtue.



*Fr. Joe Vogel*

"I have an increased desire to beg the Holy Spirit to activate those gifts that are in me so that I operate more out of Christ and the Holy Spirit and the Father's will for me rather than my own will. So God gets to be in charge of that transformation," she says.

What a beautiful gift we've been given. Kemmer reminds us that Jesus has already won the battle. He became incarnate for our salvation. But He doesn't work alone. We must participate in the journey with Him.

"We are called to put on the armor of God daily. He is always loving us into desiring and choosing Him," Kemmer says. "Let God love you as you are, as He has created you out of love."

During this Advent, let the Incarnated One join you on your journey to holiness. The next two pages offer some ideas on how to do just that.

Perfection is only possible in Him. Let Him increase while you decrease.

# 12 ways to prepare for Christ during Advent

Most of us are rushed through Advent by all the busyness of the season. It's a shame we let it slip by. Getting ready to greet our newly incarnated Lord on Christmas day can transform your celebration from good to positively glorious. And these ideas can help you decrease and allow our Lord to increase this season.

1. Put an Advent wreath in your home. It symbolizes God's everlasting love for us. Beginning four Sundays before Christmas, light one candle each Sunday in this order: purple candles on the first and second Sunday of Advent, pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent, and purple candle on the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. It's a physical reminder of the coming light of Christ.



## Put up an Advent Wreath

2. Scale back on the busyness of the season so you can sit, listen and wait for the Lord. Simplify your gift list to give fewer but more meaningful gifts. Do the same for your cooking and baking list. Maybe you can make only three varieties of cookies instead of six? Concentrate your shopping to only one or two days if possible so other days can be given over to charity, prayer and reflection. The idea is to allow yourself time to be in waiting.

3. Replace the worries of grocery and gift shopping with prayer and service and other activities that bring peace to your home and hope to those around you. Now that you've given yourself more time, use that time to be a light to others. And give yourself permission to rest your mind and heart.
4. Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke's gospel (Luke 2:1-20). Meditate on those paragraphs. Picture the scene in the stable with the animals nearby and the manger awaiting the baby Jesus. Consider the enormous love the Father has for us that He would send His only Son to live among us, as one of us.



## Read the Gospel of St. Luke

5. Recall the lyrics of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" as we wait:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



6. Set up a Jesse Tree in your home or participate in one at your parish. The Jesse Tree walks you through the major events of the Bible from creation up to Jesus' birth. It's a great way to recall all the ways God has walked with us until the Incarnation changed everything. It will also help you consider some of the key Advent characters: Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and John the Baptist.



## *Set up a Jesse Tree*

7. Light a candle each evening during Advent and take time to pray, think and breathe. The light of the world is about to break through the darkness. He's about to break through your darkness. Give Him the space to come to you.
8. Go to confession to prepare the way of the Lord. The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers us a chance to clear out the guilt of sin and usher in the Lord and His will for us. When we come to him at Christmas with a clean heart, mind and soul, our worship and love can be given freely to the God who comes to redeem us.



## *Go to Confession*

9. Give to those in need. Be specific in your charitable giving. When you see a need, find a way to fill it. Share your time, your talent and your treasure in new ways. Those in need are waiting for us to bring Christ to them.



## *Give to those in need*

10. Go to Sunday Mass, even when you're traveling or feeling too busy. Don't allow busyness to get in the way of your precious time with the Lord. Sunday Mass is an obligation, yes. But it should be an hour we look forward to and prioritize over all else.
11. Read the daily Mass readings or go to daily Mass. If daily Mass isn't possible for you, reading the daily readings gives you a more complete picture of the season of Advent. Using a tool like "The Word Among Us" or the "Magnificat" devotionals are a big help. The reflections alone are worth a few minutes of reading.
12. Share goodwill as the apostles did but in modern ways. Use Advent themes on Facebook and other social media, post "good news" stories, offer words of encouragement to friends and strangers alike. Don't be stingy with your compliments or your happiness. Let them know by your actions that you're a child of God.



## *Share Goodwill with others*

# Advent prepares us for the journey to the manger

By Daryl Thuringer, Delegate for Discipleship and Evangelization and Director of Parish and School Services for the Diocese of Sioux Falls

**I**t is that time of year again when the snow begins to fall and Christmas music can be heard everywhere. This has always been an exciting time of year for me. I remember as a child being drawn to the small manger scene our family displayed. It was nothing fancy, just plastic figures with a cardboard stable. But somehow those little figures were much more.

I am still captivated by nativity sets. My wife and I have dozens of them. One was a wedding gift from my siblings, one made from a coconut, one that is about three feet tall, and an assortment made of wood carving, glass, metal and all sorts of others. As I look at all of them I think I have outgrown the Christmas wonder.

Now when I see a manger scene I find that I place myself into the scene and ask, would I have made the journey to the manger? Would I have believed my eyes and ears if an angel told me God came to earth? Would I have actually followed the star? Would I have taken my whole flock of sheep to see what was going on in the stable?

Answering these questions and answering the call is what advent is all about. When I put myself into the manger scene, I can experience many of the same things every day in the world around me. After all, we know God is here with us now; are we making the journey to him?

In the manger scene there are shepherds that were watching their sheep and guarding them from the dangers of the night. They took the whole flock to the manger. Am I helping to protect those around me from danger and helping them find God?

I spend time at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and encounter men, women and families who need protection from the cold weather and other dangers that come with living on the streets. For me this is a great reminder that God chose to send his Son to Earth in a poor and



Just a couple of the manger scenes Daryl Thuringer has collected over the years. Even the family dog, Rosie, loves the manger (above). On the right, Daryl found the coconut manger scene while on a mission trip in Haiti.

vulnerable situation and depended on others to help Mary and Joseph find a place where he would be born and stay safe. We are called to help those in our communities who are poor and homeless. It is part of the journey to the manger.

The angels of God announced the birth of the baby Jesus and invited people in the region to come and worship. There are those among us that are working very hard to show us God. Priests, religious and lay men and women preach and teach as catechists, lead bible studies, discipleship and prayers groups. Are we listening and joining them? Are we accepting the call from God to teach or lead? Listening to the proclamation of the Word is part of the journey to the manger.

Kings with their royal entourage made the trip from distant countries by following a star to offer gifts and worship. There are many signs and invitations all around us to worship and grow in our faith. Are we following those invitations placed before us and taking every opportunity God is



offering? The kings also offered their gifts to God as praise. Are we bringing all the gifts we have been given to the manger and offering them back to God? We have all been blessed with time, talent and treasure. Offering our gifts to God is part of the journey to the manger.

Mary and Joseph sacrificed to become part of the plan of God. Both Mary and Joseph needed to surrender to the will of God to be the protectors and to raise the Son of God. Are we listening to the will of God and making the sacrifice that is being asked of us? Daily saying yes to God's will in our lives is part of the journey to the manger.

God is indeed present among us. I know advent is a time when I need to slow down and focus on where I encounter God and how I embrace the call to serve and worship. I hope my Advent can be my daily journey to the manger.



# The real St. Nick didn't wear a red velvet suit

By Renae Kranz

Have you ever wondered who the real St. Nick was? Many of us Catholics know there was a St. Nicholas, but his story might be fuzzy in our minds and his link to Santa Claus is probably even fuzzier.

The historical man who gave rise to the red-clad St. Nick of today was St. Nicholas of Myra, a bishop of the ancient Greek city of Myra during the Roman Empire. What we know about him is from accounts written centuries after his death and from pure legend. We do know many miracles have been accomplished through his intercession over the years.

St. Nicholas was born around March 15, 270, in Patara in the Roman Empire to a wealthy Greek Christian family. His birth and death dates are not known for certain. According to tradition, he was ordained a priest by his uncle who was the bishop of Myra at the time. Later, Nicholas was made bishop after the man who succeeded his uncle died.

The only place his name is found early on in history (at least that still exists) is the

list of attending bishops at the Council of Nicaea in 325. He was traditionally said to be an opponent of Arianism, a supporter of Trinitarianism, and a signer of the Nicene Creed that emerged from that council.

The most famous story about St. Nicholas is the story that morphed over hundreds of years into Jolly Old St. Nick. It is said he rescued three girls from being forced into prostitution because their father couldn't pay the dowry for each of them.

Not wanting to make a public scene of his aid to them, he dropped a sack of gold coins into the window of their home three nights in a row, one for each daughter. On the third night, the father waited up to see who was leaving the sacks of coins. When he saw St. Nicholas, he thanked him profusely for his kindness.

St. Nicholas was also said to have saved three innocent men from execution at the hands of the governor Eustathius. This story has been embellished over the years, but appears to be true.

Perhaps the strangest story about him



is the story of him resurrecting three children after an evil butcher killed them, put them in a barrel to cure and planned to sell them as ham. St. Nicholas saw the man's lies and raised the children by making the sign of the cross over the barrel. This story is likely pure fiction but certainly interesting.

St. Nicholas died December 6, 342. He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, children, and many other groups.



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A full job description can be found at [sacredheartaberdeen.net/employment-opportunities](http://sacredheartaberdeen.net/employment-opportunities). Interested candidates are asked to send a copy of their resume and an accompanying cover letter to Fr. Mark Lichter, Pastor of Sacred Heart, at [sacredheartaberdeen@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartaberdeen@gmail.com), or by mail to 502 2nd Ave SE Aberdeen, SD 57401.



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# Annual report for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

The Finance Office of the Diocese of Sioux Falls is again pleased to present the annual report to the people of the diocese.

The year ended June 30, 2019, was an active year for programs and ministry throughout the Diocese of Sioux Falls. The fiscal year was strong financially, with net revenue from operations of \$762,342. Including contributions of \$215,465 toward the completion of the Adoration Sisters Monastery, net revenue totaled \$977,807.

While contributions were slightly below forecast, operating expenses were also below what was anticipated.

The Catholic Family Sharing Appeal increased slightly and it continues to be the primary source of revenue for programs and ministries offered through the diocese.

Endowment and other revenue provided by the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota also provides significant funding. Program and other revenue is an additional source of operating revenue.

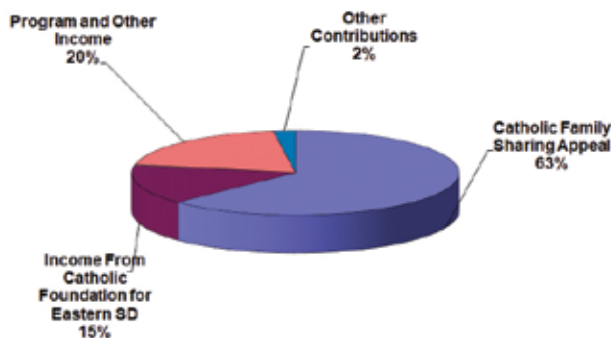
Total assets of the Catholic Chancery Office grew by almost \$800,000 to \$15.5 million, up from \$14.7 million as cash and investments improved from the previous year. Accounts receivable and equity in insurance programs also increased.

What the numbers represent is what they make possible in terms of ministries—including the ministry of the bishop, the Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life, Catholic Family Services, the various communication efforts, seminarian education and much more.

“We are blessed with generous donors, good stewardship of these gifts, and effective ministries seeking to bring Jesus Christ to all,” said Bishop Paul Swain.

A copy of the audited financial statements is available through the Financial Administration Office of the Catholic Chancery Office.

## 2019 OPERATING REVENUE AND SUPPORT



## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018

	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,314,369	\$ 1,796,121
Cash and cash equivalents held for others	-	41,741
Receivables	2,080,410	1,696,577
Other assets	155,521	103,440
Loans receivable	202,247	220,081
Assets held by others	1,154,247	1,140,314
Equity in insurance cooperative	455,912	397,646
Property and equipment	9,190,374	9,360,340
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 15,553,080</b>	<b>\$ 14,756,260</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 878,363	\$ 1,156,534
Custodial funds	305,599	391,144
Contributions payable	504,973	506,047
Notes payable	815,000	589,456
Deposits held for others	-	41,741
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,503,935</b>	<b>2,684,922</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	8,127,682	1,232,806
With donor restrictions	4,921,463	10,838,532
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>13,049,145</b>	<b>12,071,338</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 15,553,080</b>	<b>\$ 14,756,260</b>

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions 2019	Total	Total 2018
<b>Revenue and Support</b>				
Catholic family sharing appeal	\$ -	4,251,465	4,251,465	\$ 4,150,735
Income from Catholic Foundation for Eastern SD				
Contributions and events	117,812	413,670	531,482	5,124,857
Income from endowments	-	761,511	761,511	773,842
Loan and investment income	16,615	-	16,615	6,239
Clergy insurance program	871,380	-	871,380	846,904
Lay health insurance program	4,870,116	-	4,870,116	4,659,540
Program and other income	1,219,040	110,183	1,329,223	1,198,518
Other contributions	137,834	9,274	147,108	122,306
Gain(loss) on disposal of property	160,408	-	160,408	700
Net assets released from restrictions	11,463,172	(11,463,172)	-	-
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>18,856,377</b>	<b>(5,917,069)</b>	<b>12,939,308</b>	<b>16,883,641</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Ministries and programs	3,216,978	-	3,216,978	3,032,091
Clergy benefits and health program	1,008,352	-	1,008,352	559,868
Lay health insurance program	4,289,417	-	4,289,417	4,459,263
Seminarian and other education	1,169,311	-	1,169,311	1,414,894
Interest paid to parishes and others	44,602	-	44,602	2,879
Pastoral services	645,509	-	645,509	559,571
Administrative	1,211,919	-	1,211,919	1,117,062
Depreciation	375,413	-	375,413	262,293
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>11,961,501</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,961,501</b>	<b>11,407,921</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>6,894,876</b>	<b>(5,917,069)</b>	<b>977,807</b>	<b>5,475,720</b>
<b>Net Assets-Beginning</b>	<b>1,232,806</b>	<b>10,838,532</b>	<b>12,071,338</b>	<b>6,595,618</b>
<b>Net Assets-Ending</b>	<b>\$ 8,127,682</b>	<b>4,921,463</b>	<b>13,049,145</b>	<b>\$ 12,071,338</b>



# Avera celebrates opening of two new facilities

Avera recently celebrated the opening of two new facilities on the Avera on Louise Health Campus at 69th and Louise in Sioux Falls. This 82-acre campus is home to the Avera Specialty Hospital and Avera Medical Group building, Avera Addiction Care Center and Avera Human

Performance Center. Bishop Paul Swain provided a blessing at a gala event (right) for the specialty hospital and at the ribbon cutting (below) for the Addiction Care Center. The first patients were seen at the specialty hospital Oct. 29. The Addiction Care Center will open mid-December.



## 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *Advent* BABY SHOWER

**December 1-December 24**

Please leave unwrapped new gifts in the designated collection sites or bring them to the diocesan offices.

Gifts will be shared with those in need in the parish, community and diocese.

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# Conference invites youth to follow Jesus



The 2019 Youth Conference, “Come Follow Me,” took over the Swiftel Center in Brookings in early November. Around 1,000 youth and adult leaders from parishes throughout the diocese were treated to speaker Chris Barlett, Josh Blakesley and his band, confession, eucharistic adoration, Mass with Bishop Paul

Swain, a walk with the saints, and a dance party to finish it off. In the photos above from left to right: Josh Blakesley brought a young man on stage to help out with a game. Father Joe Scholten leads adoration for the crowd. A group of kids and leaders have lunch with Pope Francis. (Photos by Emily Leedom)

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## Stewardship award given to Beacom's for their service



Miles and Lisa Beacom were awarded the annual Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota (CCFESD) Stewardship Award by CCFESD President Mark Conzemius (far right) and Bishop Paul Swain (pictured between Miles and Lisa). The award is given to CCFESD board members who exemplify what it means to be good stewards. The Beacom's are members of St. Lambert Parish, Sioux Falls. (Photo courtesy of CCFESD)



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# St. Joseph Parish dedicates cemetery monument



Father Brian Simon, administrator of St. Joseph, Grenville, sprinkles holy water during the blessing of a new monument at the parish cemetery. (Photos courtesy of Elaine Koslowski)



St. Joseph Church, Grenville, dedicated a new cemetery monument October 13. The monument recognizes the 306 souls who are buried in the parish cemetery but do not have a headstone. In conjunction with the blessing of the monument, a cemetery book is available which contains color photos of all headstones, along with vital information such as date of birth and death, parents, and spouse.





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February 20-23	September 24-27
March 19-22	October 15-18
June 25-28	November 19-22

**Women's 2020**

February 6-9	August 13-16
March 5-8	September 17-20
May 7-10	October 1-4
June 18-21	November 5-8

#### DAY OF RECOLLECTION

*Broom Tree Days of Recollection begin at 10 a.m. and consist of conferences, time for Adoration, Mass, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day ends in mid-afternoon. Because lunch is also served, we ask that you please register. A prayerful donation is requested.*

<b>Dec 10: My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord</b> - directed by Fr. David Roehrich	<b>Jan 14, 2020: Hope and Heaven</b> - directed by Fr. Scott Traynor
--	---

#### SPECIAL RETREATS

<b>Dec 6-8: Couples Retreat</b> - directed by Fr. John Rutten	<b>Nov 13-15, 2020: Couples Retreat</b> - directed by Fr. Scott Traynor
<b>Feb 28 - Mar 1, 2020: Couples Retreat</b> - directed by Fr. Jeff Norfolk	

#### ONE DAY SILENT RETREAT

**Dec 14: Introduction to Quiet Prayer** - directed by Fr. Steven Jones



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**ABERDEEN** – Don and Linda Erlenbusch will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 20. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren (1 deceased) and are members of St. Mary Parish.



**ARMOUR** – Jim and Jan Eggers will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 12. They have 5 children, 12 grandchildren (1 deceased) and are members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish.



**BROOKINGS** – Joe and Mary Schulte celebrated their 30th anniversary on November 4. They have 3 children, 1 grandchild and are members of St. Thomas More Parish.



**FLANDREAU** – Darnell and Pamela Albers will celebrate their 25th anniversary on December 30. They have 6 children, 7 grandchildren and are members of Ss. Simon and Jude Parish.



**HOWARD** – Vince and Nila Weidler will celebrate their 68th anniversary on December 27. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Agatha Parish.



**KRANZBURG** – Jim and Joyce Comes celebrated their 55th anniversary on November 28. They have 4 children, 16 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild and are members of Holy Rosary Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Larry and Mary Canfield will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 27. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and are members of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish.



**VERMILLION** – Art and Lana Rusch will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 20. They have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and are members of St. Agnes Parish.



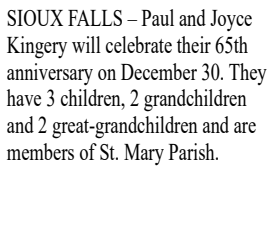
**WAGNER** – Merle and Elaine Bartunek will celebrate their 60th anniversary on December 26. They have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and are members of St. John the Baptist Parish.



**WATERTOWN** – Kenneth and Carol Roethler celebrated their 60th anniversary on November 14. They have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.



**WESSINGTON SPRINGS** – Willard and Alice Willman will celebrate their 60th anniversary on December 30. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Joseph Parish.



**SIOUX FALLS** – Paul and Joyce Kingery will celebrate their 65th anniversary on December 30. They have 3 children, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and are members of St. Mary Parish.

## Sister Francine Streff dies at 68

Sister Francine Streff OSB, 68, a member of Sacred Heart Monastery, died November 1.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated November 7 in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel, Yankton; interment followed at Sacred Heart Monastery cemetery.

Francine was born December 17, 1950, to LeRoy and Betty (Tuschen) Streff of Salem, South Dakota. She attended St. Mary's School in Salem. She earned a bachelor's degree in education at Mount Marty College in Yankton and began teaching. She later earned a master's from the University of South



Sr. Francine Streff

Dakota in Vermillion.

Sister Francine entered Sacred Heart Monastery on August 23, 1992, and entered the novitiate on August 5, 1993. She professed her vows on August 2, 1997. During her years of ministry, she taught at Sacred Heart School in Yankton and Christ the King

and St. Michael's in Sioux Falls. After leaving teaching, she was in the public relations office at the monastery and later ran the Monastery Gift Shop. She was also a spiritual director and initiator of the monastery's annual Holiday Fair.

Sister Francine was devoted to her family and encouraged her nieces, nephews and students to be the best they could be.

Sister Francine is survived by her Benedictine community, her brothers Rodney, Dan, Steve and Ray, her sister Paulette and nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents.

### ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSIONS

Send a color photo, your anniversary news and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by **December 16** for inclusion in the January 2020 edition to:

The Bishop's Bulletin  
523 North Duluth Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
or e-mail to:  
[rkrantz@sfcatholic.org](mailto:rkrantz@sfcatholic.org).



# Sister Margaret Anne Talbot dies at 94

Sister Margaret Anne Talbot, 94, a sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, died October 10 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated October 14 in Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Presentation Convent, Aberdeen. Interment followed at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Margaret Anne was born January 24, 1925, in Artesian, South Dakota, to Clara (Heller) and Edward Lee Talbot and graduated from Colman High School in 1942. She entered Presentation Convent September 8, 1946, and professed her vows August 10, 1949, receiving the name Sister Mary Carel. Later she returned to her baptismal name.

Sister Margaret Anne earned



Sr. Margaret Anne Talbot

a Bachelor of Science in education from Northern State College in 1965 and a master's in natural science from the University of South Dakota, in 1974.

Sister Margaret Anne taught for over 25 years in elementary schools in Jefferson, Milbank, Sioux Falls and Humboldt, South Dakota, and Mound, Minnesota. She also taught in secondary schools in Aberdeen

and Dell Rapids. She was a nurse's aide prior to beginning ministry in pastoral care, which she served for 24 years.

Retiring from active ministry in 1995, Sister Margaret Anne worked for several years as a volunteer, assisting many with her gracious spirit. She was sacristan at both Avera Mother Joseph Manor and Presentation Convent and also coordinated the sister's prayer line ministry.

Sister is survived by her community family of Presentation Sisters; sister-in-law Jacqueline Talbot and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents and four sisters: Marie Talbot, Gladys Branagan, Sister Irene (Dorothy) Talbot, PBVM, Frances Dobbs; and two brothers Allen and Jim Talbot.

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During this blessed season, might we make Advent  
about our attentive presence?

To learn more about the Presentation Sisters please visit our website at [presentationsisters.org](http://presentationsisters.org)



# Stand for life at March for Life 2020

The 47th Annual March for Life is a unique opportunity for Catholics to show strong support for the unborn in our country.

On January 24, 2020, youth and adults from all over the U.S. will come together at the Mall in Washington, D.C. in the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. Attendees will pray, listen to pro-life speakers and get to know others fighting for the same cause.

The "Life is VERY Good" youth rally will be included in the pilgrimage, along with some free time to visit sites in our nation's capital and time at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, also known as America's Catholic Church.

If you want to join the pilgrimage sponsored by the diocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life, the dates are January 22-26, 2020. Youth and adults are welcome. For more information about itinerary, cost and registration, visit [sf-catholic.org/respectlife/march-for-life](http://sf-catholic.org/respectlife/march-for-life).



Students participating in a March for Life event pray outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. (CNS photo/Leslie E. Kossoff)



*Harvesting Hope*

A Non-denominational Farmer & Spouse Retreat

January 10th - 11th, 2020

We invite all farm couples to enjoy one night away at The Abbey of the Hills. Ted Matthews, a nationally recognized mental health practitioner offering farmer support, is one of the many talented speakers at the retreat.

**Cost:**  
Free will offering. No one will be turned away.

**Sponsor a farm couple:**  
Call us or visit us online for more information.

**Register:**

[Abbeyofthehills.org/harvesting-hope](http://Abbeyofthehills.org/harvesting-hope) or call 605-398-9200

**Visit:** 46561 147th Street | Marvin, SD 57251 **Follow:** [f](https://www.facebook.com/AbbeyoftheHills) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AbbeyoftheHills)



- Are you a 21 or older single female with no dependents?
- Do you desire an exciting adventure while discovering direction and focus in your life?
- Are you open to making a difference while doing something you enjoy?
- Are you in transition (e.g., school to a career, changing jobs, etc.)?

**APPLY ONLINE**  
[yanktonbenedictines.org/who-we-are/residential-volunteer-program/](http://yanktonbenedictines.org/who-we-are/residential-volunteer-program/)  
Program Director Sr. Bonita Gacnik:  
[bgacnik@yanktonbenedictines.org](mailto:bgacnik@yanktonbenedictines.org)  
Cell Phone: 605.760.2741

**Opportunities to attend Monastery** (e.g., lectures, programs, concerts, workshops, etc.), and Mount Marty College (e.g., lectures, athletic events, plays, concerts, etc.) events.

**BENEFITS**

- Room and Board
- Spiritual Direction
- Wireless Internet
- Computer workstation with printer
- Cable TV
- Private Room

**THE YANKTON BENEDICTINES RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

check us out on:

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/yanktonbenedictines) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/yanktonbenedictines) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/yanktonbenedictines)

**Our goal - is to provide an opportunity for you to serve others while discovering more about yourself.**

Single women 21 and older without dependents.





**Recitation of the rosary planned**

**Friday, Dec. 6** - The rosary is recited for the faithful departed on the first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in St. Michael Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

**Immaculate Conception presentation set**

**Sunday, Dec. 8** - The Office of the Marian Apostolate will host a presentation, "Understanding the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception" by Msgr. Charles Mangan from 7-8 p.m. in the Catholic Pastoral Center in Sioux Falls.

**Risen Savior Adult Choir to perform at multiple venues**

- The Risen Savior Adult Choir is pleased to present their annual Advent Cantata, "Jesus, Name Above All Names." Performances will be Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, Sioux Falls, Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at Bethany Meadows, Brandon, and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. at Risen Savior Parish, Brandon, with a potluck to follow. There is no admission fee but a free-will offering will be accepted at the door.

**Cookie fair set in Beresford**

**Saturday, Dec. 14** - St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Beresford, will host its annual cookie fair, Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. Christmas cookies, candy and holiday treats will be sold by the pound at \$6.00 per pound. Rosettes sold by the half dozen for \$3.50.

**Cookie sale planned in Sioux Falls**

**Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 21-22** - No time to bake before Christmas? Stop by Christ the King Parish, Sioux Falls, for their annual cookie extravaganza. Cookies will be sold on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 22 following all Masses.

**Presentation by Catholic Answers speaker**

**Saturday, Jan. 18** - The Office of the Marian Apostolate will host Thomas Nash of Catholic Answers in a special presentation about our Catholic Faith in preparation for Lent on Saturday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. in the parish hall of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. No admission.

**Dr. Pat Castle to speak at multiple events in**

**Pierre/Fort Pierre** - Dr. Pat Castle, founder of Life Runners, will be speaking at multiple events that are open to the public on Jan. 26-27. Events include: Life Walk, Jan. 26 at 12:30 (start at back of Capitol parking lot, walk along Sioux Avenue and end at Capitol front steps). U.S. Senator Mike Rounds and Dr. Castle will speak at the 2 p.m. Hour of Reflection at the Capitol Rotunda later that day. At 5 p.m. Jan. 26, Dr. Castle will speak on "Living Pro-Life with Virtue" at Padre Hall at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Fort Pierre. Food will be served. Free-will offering. On Jan. 27, Dr. Castle will speak on "Real Healthcare, Support Life at All Stages" at the Capital University Center auditorium, Pierre, at noon. At 7 p.m., he will speak on "FACE it: Faith, Activism, Courts, Education" at Drifter's restaurant, Fort Pierre, for Theology on Tap. Free-will offering.

**Confraternity of the Holy Rosary seeks**

**new members** - All are welcome to enroll in the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary, offering many spiritual benefits to its members. For information, contact Jim Miles, 605 759-2654 (dustoff1525@yahoo.com).

**Applicants for permanent diaconate being accepted**

Men of the diocese are invited to consider becoming a deacon. If you are thinking God may be calling you to a deeper life of service to His Church and His people, apply for the next diaconate class. The diocese is accepting applications for a formation class that will begin in the fall of 2020. Contact your pastor or Deacon John Devlin if you would like more detail. You can call 605-988-3715 or [dcnjohndevlin@sfcatholic.org](mailto:dcnjohndevlin@sfcatholic.org).

**Parish Dinners/Socials**

**Dec. 15:** St. Martin, Emery, annual soup and sandwich supper and raffle. Serving from 5-7 p.m. Raffle starts at 5:30. Great raffle items such as restaurant and hotel gift cards, toys, and men's and women's gift items. Santa may be stopping by again this year.

**Catholic Family Services**

**Jan. 7-Feb. 11**/Grieving the loss of a spouse program. Six Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Catholic Family Services, 523 N Duluth, Sioux Falls. Directed by Dr. Marcie Moran, this program is for adults who have lost a spouse and are trying to cope with the pain of separation and loss. Role change and loneliness are secondary losses which can complicate the grieving process. The program will offer assistance in coping with this change and making healthy readjustments. Non-denominational. Cost is a donation. Call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 to register.

**2020/Rachel's Vineyard** one day retreat. Coming soon in 2020. Strictly confidential. A safe, loving, non-judgmental environment. Open to men, women, mothers, fathers, or grandparents who have been affected by abortion. Non-denominational. Sponsored by Catholic Family Services. For more information, call 605-988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 or email [cfs@sfcatholic.org](mailto:cfs@sfcatholic.org).

**Sacred Heart Monastery**

**Contemplative Morning**/The Benedictine Peace Center, Yankton, hosts a morning of contemplative prayer, usually on the third Saturday of every month. For more information or to register for the Dec. 21 session, contact S. Doris Oberembt at [doberembt@mtmc.edu](mailto:doberembt@mtmc.edu) or call 605-668-6292.

**Spiritual Direction Ministry Formation** Benedictine Peace Center offers formation for those discerning a call to be a spiritual director. Guided independent study complemented by two-day residencies permits flexibility with your schedule. E-mail us at [benedictinepeacectr@yanktonbenedictines.org](mailto:benedictinepeacectr@yanktonbenedictines.org), or call (605) 668-6292.

**Correction**

Missing from the Necrology in the November edition was Immaculate Conception, Watertown, parishioner Donald L. Oleson-May 11. We regret the error.



Your support of the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal helps provide this publication and many of the works it highlights.

**JANUARY 18, 2020**  
**ABBY OF THE HILLS RETREAT CENTER**  
 A book retreat with Dr. Chris Burgwald discussing Dr. Edward Sri's book, *Who Am I to Judge?*  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**  
[www.sfcatholic.org/wow](http://www.sfcatholic.org/wow)

Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL



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 Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

2020



**MARCH FOR LIFE**  
**PILGRIMAGE**

**WASHINGTON D.C.**

**JANUARY 22-26, 2020**

Learn more at [sf catholic.org/respectlife](http://sf catholic.org/respectlife)