



St. Isidore the Farmer Area Faith Community

St. Francis, St. Bridget, St. Malachy, Sacred Heart, Visitation Oratory

Fr. Jeremy Kucera, Pastor

Cyndi Stifter, Faith Formation Director

Address: 508 13th Street North, Benson, MN 56215

Website: www.stisidorethefarmerafc.org

E-mail: stfran@embarqmail.com

Area Office Hours:

Monday-Thurs.: 8 am – noon; 1-3:30 pm

Fridays: 8 am - noon

Area Office: 320-842-4271

Fax Number: 320-843-2264

Murdock Office: 320-875-2451; kitchen 875-4320

Mondays 8:30 am – 3 pm

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

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|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, January 20 | No Masses today | | |
| Wednesday, January 21 | 8:30 am | CLONTARF | + |
| | | (Please note change in schedule) | |
| Thursday, January 22 | 8:30 am | MURDOCK | + |
| | 10:30 am | GOLDEN LIVING | |
| Friday, January 23 | 8:30 am | DEGRAFF | |
| | | (Please note change in schedule) | |
| <u>Weekend Masses</u> | | | |
| Saturday, January 24 | 4:00 pm | BENSON | + |
| | 6:00 pm | DEGRAFF | |
| Sunday, January 25 | 8:00 am | BENSON | + |
| | 10:00 am | MURDOCK | + |

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:00 pm Benson; Sundays 9:30 am Murdock

*** Marriage Preparation:** Please contact Area Office at least six months ahead of time to plan and prepare for your wedding.

If one party has been previously married, the wedding cannot move forward unless an annulment has been granted by the Catholic Church.

*** Baptism Preparation:** Please call Fr. Jeremy Kucera at 507-828-5247

*** RCIA:** Anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church please call Jack Wagner at 842-9693 or the Area Office for fall registration.

*** Registration/Moving:** To register in a parish or if moving, call Area Office at 842-4271 or Murdock office at 875-2451.

Catholic Charities - offering personal, marriage, family and pregnancy counseling 1-866-670-5163.

PASTORAL CARE

If any parishioner or family member is in need of a pastoral care visit and Holy Communion, please call the parish office. Today's privacy laws do not permit hospitals to contact churches when a patient is in need of a pastoral visit. We are made aware of it only when the individual or their friends and family contact us. We are also not always aware of parishioners that are homebound and would desire a pastoral visit.

The Vocation View

Speak Lord, your servant is listening. Listening to the Lord requires silence. Make time each day to be quiet, so that you can hear God's call. (1 Samuel 3:3-10)

DAILY SCHEDULE

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|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, January 18 | The Holy Rosary will be prayed ½ hour before Masses in Benson & Murdock 4:00 pm RCIA at St. Francis Church Gathering Space |
| Tuesday, January 20 | No Bible Study Group today at St. Francis 12:00 Noon Christian Unity Luncheon at Pilgrim Congregational Church |
| Wednesday, January 21 | 12:00 Noon Christian Unity Luncheon at Trinity Lutheran Church 2:00 pm Rosary in Benson – we pray for good parenting for all children, born and Unborn Grades 1-6 Home Lessons 6:45-8 pm Class for grades 7-11 8-10 pm Teen Talk in the Upper Room |
| Thursday, January 22 | 12:00 Noon Christian Unity Luncheon at St. Francis Church |
| Friday, January 23 | 12:00 Noon Christian Unity Luncheon at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church |
| Saturday, January 24 | The Holy Rosary will be prayed ½ hour before Mass in Benson 2 nd Collection for Catholic Schools |
| Sunday, January 25 | The Holy Rosary will be prayed ½ hour before Masses in Benson & Murdock Coffee and rolls will be served after Mass at Sacred Heart Church 2 nd Collection for Catholic Schools 4:00 pm RCIA at Sacred Church in Murdock 6:30 pm Sacred Heart Youth Group will meet at Sacred Heart Church |

On Jan. 22, 2015 we will commemorate the 42nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade which legalized abortion in the United States. Millions of babies have lost their lives in these past 42 years, with over 9,900 babies being killed in Minnesota alone every year. Once again this anniversary will be marked by prayer and witness to the sanctity of life. The Annual Prayer Service for Life will take place at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul with Bishop Lee Piche presiding. Following the prayer service the MCCL March for Life will take place at the State Capitol starting at 12 Noon. Please refer to the Family Life page of the diocesan Web site, dnu.org for possible transportation opportunities in your area.

If you are a Knights of Columbus member, a wife of a KC member, or someone interested in learning more about what the KC's are about then you are invited to attend a special Knighthood Enhancement Session. State Officers & State Team will be holding the session on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at St. Andrew Church, Granite Falls beginning at 1:00 pm.

- * Learn about member benefits you may not know you have.
- * Strengthen, invigorate, and rejuvenate your council.
- * Learn what makes councils successful.
- * Exchange ideas with Brother Knights and State Officers.
- * For the Good of the Order.

The KC's are nearly 2 million members worldwide, are the largest Catholic fraternal group in existence. Knights serve our local parish and community while working each day to create a better world through charity. We live out our faith in the spirit of charity by helping others. The afternoon is open to everyone - knights, ladies, and prospective members. This is the only session held in this part of Minnesota. Don't miss this opportunity.

Catholic Schools Week - Recently, the University of Notre Dame formed a task force on Catholic education to seek out ways to support Catholic primary and secondary schools in the United States. The printed results of this task force's study concluded with the following statement. "To those who wonder how we can afford to make the investment necessary to sustain, strengthen, and expand Catholic schools, we respond by turning the question on its head. How can we afford not to make this investment? Our future depends on it more than we may suspect." Recognizing the value and importance of our diocesan Catholic schools, Bishop John M. LeVoir has implemented a second collection the weekend of January 24 and 25 for the purpose of sustaining and strengthening the Catholic schools of the diocese. Please be generous in supporting this collection.

Sacred Heart Choir Practice Sunday, February 1st at 9:15 am.

Scholarships are now available from the Mary Beatrice Hennessy Scholarship Fund. In order to apply you must be a member of St. Francis Parish and now attending or planning to attend a Catholic College or Catholic High School during the 2014-2015 school year. Applications may be picked up in church or at the Area Office. All applications must be received by January 31, 2015

Follow Your Heart – A Day of Discernment for Women - Saturday, January 31, 2015 - 9 am – 3 pm.

This day will examine the spiritual practices that guide us in living a discerning life. Sister Joanne Dehmer, SSND, will lead the day. She has a background in spiritual direction, teaching and pastoral care and will join us from Loyola Spirituality Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. The event will take place at the Notre Dame Center, 1910 Graham Ave., #217, St. Paul, Minnesota. Register by Wednesday, January 26. Free will offering accepted. Contact Sister Mary Swanson, SSND, mswanson@ssnd.org or [414-305-9011](tel:414-305-9011).



Help Sacred Heart Youth Group tackle hunger! We will be collecting items for the Swift County Food Shelf through the Superbowl of Caring event. Please bring items to the gathering space at Sacred Heart Church now through Superbowl Sunday (Feb.1)! We will also be collecting items for Sharing and Caring Hands. They are in need of food, clothing, house wares, sheets, towels, and personal hygiene items. You can find the drop box in the gathering space at Sacred Heart Church.

What should you get your spouse for Valentine's Day? Jewelry? Flowers? Dinner and a movie? (Another teddy bear? Why not give them something that they will remember and cherish forever--a Marriage Encounter Weekend! Spend your Valentine's Day getting to know your sweetie on a deeper level, and learning how to experience God's love for you through your spouse. A Marriage Encounter Weekend is being hosted at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD, February 13-15th. Go to sdwwme.org or call [605-362-0924](tel:605-362-0924) to register.

Give each other the best Valentine's gift possible! Register for the February 14-15 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for a listing of additional retreats or call [651.454.3238](tel:651-454-3238).

"I tell you brothers and sisters, the time is running out." Time passes so swiftly. Soon there will be no more time to enrich our marriage. Now is the time to act. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are February 6-8 in Buffalo, February 13-15 in Windom, February 20-22 in Fargo, March 20-22 in Baxter, March 27-29 in Minot. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: southmnwwme.org or contact John & Mary Beth at applications@southmnwwme.org or [507-838-8178](tel:507-838-8178).

"Faith and Farming with Deacon Tim Dolan is a 5 to 10 minute weekly internet program with timely farm program tips from a 25-year-veteran Extension agent, life-time farmer, and Catholic deacon. Programs include a video with news tips (federal and state programs or meetings), Psalms, quotes from the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, and intercessory prayers. Visit nikacatholic.com and click the 'Rural Life' tab to watch the programs."

"CAPS OF LOVE" SERVICE PROJECT - RECYCLE CAPS THAT ARE USUALLY THROWN AWAY

A Service Project of Council of Catholic Women

"CAPS OF LOVE" is a fun, free and easy way to fulfill a mission of good stewards of our earth and help provide wheelchairs for disabled children! Become a collector! Collect HARD PLASTIC CAPS from laundry detergent, beverages, toothpaste, shampoo, spray paint, salad dressing, peanut butter, medicines, and so many others. Color is not an issue - save them all! Please remove any paper inserts! No Metal! **Recycling plastic caps raises money to buy wheelchairs for disabled children. This also keeps discarded caps (these are otherwise not recyclable) out of our landfills.** They are a different grade of plastic and are valuable in bulk supplies. They will be mailed to "Caps of Love" in Lake Worth, Florida; there they are crated up and sold in bulk; and monies are used to buy wheelchairs for disabled children! Check out this informative website: www.CapsOfLove.com or Facebook at **Caps of Love**. A drop box is in the Gathering Area of Sacred Heart and St. Francis Church. Please collect all the caps you can and drop them off. This project will be ongoing throughout the year. This is a Service Project of the National Council of Catholic Women; Sacred Heart CCW is participating and will mail them to the collection site in Florida. **Thank you for saving 'caps'!**

Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving: A Lenten Experience with the Sisters from the Diocese of New Ulm for girls in junior and senior high – February 28, 2015, 10 am - 2:30 pm at St. Mary's, Bird Island. Please register by February 23. For a registration form, contact your parish office or Jeovana Michels at 507-359-2966.

Pedals, Pipes, Pizza – an educational workshop introducing students to the Pipe Organ!

Saturday, March 14 from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm in St. Peter, MN. This event is free for all students ages 8-18. There will be organ demonstrations, hands-on activities, pizza lunch included. Morning session will be held at Christ Chapel at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter. Afternoon session will be held at First Lutheran Church in Saint Peter. Pre-register at www.agosiouxtrails.org or email: agosiouxtrails@gmail.com. Presented by the Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Steubenville North Conference, Rochester, MN, July 10-12

Open to all high school students as well as incoming freshman and graduating seniors.

Contact Jessie Collins if you are interested. Registration opens January 15. A Steubenville Youth Conference is primarily an invitation to spiritual growth. For some this means entering into a personal relationship with God for the first time. For others, this means a deeper and more mature acceptance of the gospel and the Church and a greater zeal to be a witness for Christ. The conference weekend is about developing the gifts given at Baptism and sealed at Confirmation. It's about hearing dynamic speakers instruct and challenge teens in: prayer, chastity, service, and the power of the sacraments. You will discover that Christianity is not for the weak and timid; it is not a crutch; and it is not boring! It is about meeting hundreds of people on fire for the Lord: laughing, crying, talking, singing, praying, dancing and being encouraged to take a stand for Christ.

Join Bishop Jon LeVoir on a Pilgrimage to Switzerland, Germany, and Austria September 14-24, 2015.

Contact Magi Travel at 952-949-0065 or info@magitravelinc.com. For a detailed brochure visit www.dnu.org.

Join the Pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families and Welcome Pope Francis

September 22-27, 2015, pilgrimage will be made to Philadelphia from the Diocese of New Ulm. Canterbury Pilgrimage and Tours will be taking care of the travel and accommodation arrangements. The cost of the pilgrimage package is \$1,675 per person, double occupancy. The package includes roundtrip coach transfer from New Ulm to the airport, roundtrip airfare from Minneapolis to Philadelphia, hotel accommodations for five nights with breakfast, coach transportation while in Philadelphia and for associated pilgrimage trips, and two dinners for the participants from the six dioceses in Minnesota with those bishops attending the meeting. Information on additional costs for children can be obtained directly from Canterbury Pilgrimage and Tours. The pilgrimage package does not include registration for the World Meeting of Families, which must be completed through the official World Meeting of Families Web site. This site can be accessed from the diocesan Web site, dnu.org, Office of Family Life page. There are various registration packets available. Funding for scholarship assistance is currently being sought. If you have questions about the registration options or scholarship opportunities, please contact Sr. Candace Fier at cfier@dnu.org or 507-233-5328. Specific pilgrimage registration information will be coming out soon and will also be posted on the Office of Family Life page at dnu.org. If you have questions about travel or hotel accommodations, please contact Canterbury Pilgrimages and Tours at 800-653-0017.

Rosie Collins is the Sunshine Lady for Sacred Heart Parish. If there is someone in the parish that you would like to receive a Get Well or Sympathy card from the Sacred Heart Parish in Murdock, please call Rosie Collins at 264-1707 and leave a message.

**Reflections for the weekly readings are part of this bulletin. This publication is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #2129.*

OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

St. Francis - Benson

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| Adult | \$2,540.00 |
| Student | \$14.18 |
| Loose Plate | \$98.00 |
| Solemnity of Mary | \$73.00 |

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| Total | \$2,725.18 |
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Sacred Heart - Murdock

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| Adult | \$1,625.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$42.19 |
| Diocesan United Fund | \$80.00 |
| Fuel | \$150.00 |

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| Total | \$1,897.19 |
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**St. Malachy Collection figures will
be in next week's bulletin**

St. Bridget - DeGraff

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|-------------------|----------|
| Adult | \$590.00 |
| Student | \$5.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$180.00 |
| Fuel | \$500.00 |
| Solemnity of Mary | \$50.00 |
| Initial Offering | \$10.00 |

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| Total | \$1,335.00 |
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
Common ground

“Be together. Not the same” is the slogan for Google’s latest Android ad campaign, but it could also possibly be the slogan for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which starts today. The documents of Vatican II have prophetic things to say about Christian unity. Regarding our “separated brethren,” the *Decree on Ecumenism* states: “Today, in many parts of the world, under the inspiring grace of the Holy Spirit, many efforts are being made in prayer, word, and action to attain that fullness of unity which Jesus Christ desires.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42 (65)*. “But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him.”

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

FEAST OF FABIAN, POPE, MARTYR
Be open to surprises

The Holy Spirit was definitely at work in the selection of Fabian to be pope back in the second century. A farmer from outside of Rome, Fabian happened to come into town in the middle of a papal conclave. A dove settling on his head was all it took to persuade the conclave to elect him. He served with distinction and died a martyr. You too have a calling, and this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a good time to express it by reaching out to someone outside your usual circle. God works in surprising ways—and God may surprise you when you reach out to others.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 2:18-22 (311)*. “No one pours new wine into old wineskins.”

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

FEAST OF SEBASTIAN, MARTYR
Art imitates life

There are many works of art based on the second-century martyrdom of Sebastian. Most depict him tied to a tree and shot through with arrows, though apparently this was not the way his life ended. Tradition says he was nursed back to health by a widow named Irene. Faithful to the end, he continued to criticize the emperor Diocletian for persecuting Christians until it cost him his life. Perhaps the lesson here is that though death may finish with our bodies, if we are faithful to the end, we continue to live in Christ. Stay the course!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28 (312)*. “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath.”

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

FEAST OF AGNES, VIRGIN, MARTYR
Not alone in your trials

Ever have those days when you feel like the world is against you? Some days are like that, but the good news is we have companions who walk with us. Saint Agnes, a martyr from the third century, is a great example of how to persevere in the midst of trials. She held fast to the knowledge that God would never leave her. So the next time you have a day of challenges, remember God is just a prayer away.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6 (313)*. “Not by a law expressed ... but by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed.”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Bless this child

In 2012, the Vatican approved a blessing prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops “to support parents awaiting the birth of their child, to encourage parish prayers for and recognition of the precious gift of the child in the womb, and to foster respect for human life within society.” This prayer of blessing begins: “God, author of all life, bless, we pray, this unborn child; give constant protection and grant a healthy birth that is the sign of our rebirth one day into the eternal rejoicing of heaven”

Pray for an unborn child today.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 7:25-8:6; Mark 3:7-12 (314)*. “Jesus is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.”

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

A life given to others

Many of us have heard of Father Damien, famous for his work with those with leprosy, but Sister Marianne Cope, at the age of 45 likewise volunteered for the Hawaiian mission at Molokai. She served girls and women with leprosy, emphasizing “pride and fun” and dignity in the colony. Soon after her death, a local woman wrote in the *Honolulu Advertiser* that she was “a woman [who devoted] every hour of 30 years to the mothering of people isolated by law from the rest of the world. She risked her own life in all that time, faced everything with unflinching courage, and smiled sweetly through it all.” Who can you help today, right at home, to see beyond the harshness of life?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 8:6-13; Mark 3:13-19 (315)*. “Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted.”

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

FEAST OF FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
Charity begins at home

Some of us grow in the spiritual life through adversity, others by way of the inspiring example of another. Sometimes the love of another helps us grow, sometimes it is rejection that teaches us what we must learn. Success and failure can both be paths to growth; it all depends on our attitude. Francis de Sales, a great spiritual guide, counseled the path of charitable giving rather than the dominant model of his 16th-century day and age, which was penance and more penance. Choose charity along with a healthy self discipline that avoids extremes. Grow by helping others rather than diminishing yourself.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14; Mark 3:20-21 (316)*. “Open our hearts, O Lord.”



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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