

**December 14th, 2025**  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# CHURCH OF ST. THERESE, THE LITTLE FLOWER

Minot, North Dakota



## THIS WEEK:

**Monday, December 15th**

No Scheduled Events

**Tuesday, December 16th**

8:00 a.m. Mass

6:00 p.m. Finance Council

**Wednesday, December 17th**

8:00 a.m. Mass

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Adoration

6:00 p.m. CGS

**Thursday, December 18th**

8:00 a.m. Mass

**Friday, December 19th**

8:00 a.m. Mass

**Saturday, December 20th**

4:30 p.m. Mass

**Sunday, December 21st**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass: 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

*Christmas Decorating Following the  
10:00 a.m. Mass*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GOOD NEWS  
PROCLAIMED  
**TO THEM.**

— MATTHEW 11:5 —

©LPI

**DAILY MASS: TUES-FRI 8AM**

**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: 4:30PM**

**SUNDAY MASS: 8:30AM & 10AM**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: WEDNESDAYS 8:30AM-4PM**

**FR. KENNETH PHILLIPS, PASTOR:**

kphillips@bismarckdiocese.com

**DEACON STEPHEN YOUNG:**

deaconstevebismarck@gmail.com



# GOSPEL MEDITATION

December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 11:2-11

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

— Father John Muir

©LPi

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025

Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Next Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

## MASS INTENTIONS

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

+Elaine Larsson by William Christen

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

+Mike Brunner by Bonnie Brunner

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

Special Intention by the Lang Family

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

+Caroline Levi by Gary Levi

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

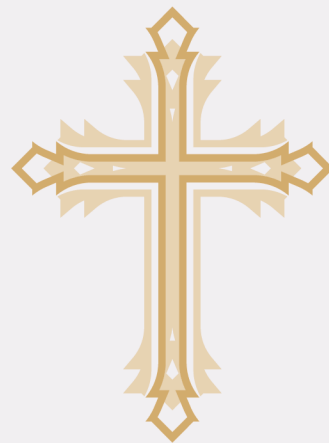
+Mike Brunner by the Brunner Family

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

8:30 a.m. +Greg Keller by George & Jo An Sauvageau

10:00 a.m. For the Parish

+Indicates Deceased



## EASY OFFERTORY GIVING WITH ACH

Forgot to bring your offertory envelope to Mass? ACH makes offertory giving simple. Scan the QR code to sign up for automatic bank withdrawals for EASY offertory giving that supports our parish – even while you're away!



## ONLINE GIVING FUNDS

**Feast of Immaculate Conception:** Active 12-1-2025 through 12-14-2025

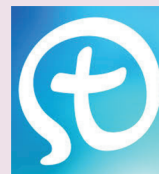
**Christmas Flowers:** Active 12-1-2025 through 12-21-2025

**Christmas:** Active 12-14-2025 through 12-28-2025

**Solemnity of Mary:** Active 12-28-2025 through 1-11-2026

## DO YOU HAVE OUR PARISH APP?

With winter weather upon us, now is a great time to download our **FREE** parish app. Any Mass, Adoration, or activity cancellations due to weather will come right to your phone! Simply go to your app store and download the free app. Set Little Flower as your parish and make sure push notifications are ON so you can be alerted to any important messages.



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 8:30AM-3PM

Parish Office: 701.838.1520

Rectory: 701.837.5943

Parish Email: [littleflowerminot@gmail.com](mailto:littleflowerminot@gmail.com)

[www.LittleFlowerMinot.com](http://www.LittleFlowerMinot.com)

### MAILING ADDRESS:

800 University Ave. West  
Minot, ND 58703

### STAFF:

**Parish Secretary:** Jill Aarseth [LittleFlowerMinot@gmail.com](mailto:LittleFlowerMinot@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant:** Sally Brown

**Accounts Manager:** Kathy Wentz: [LittleFlowerFinance@srt.com](mailto:LittleFlowerFinance@srt.com)

**Publications/Website:** Melissa Olson

[LittleFlowerParish@gmail.com](mailto:LittleFlowerParish@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Paul Nason: [nason.paul@gmail.com](mailto:nason.paul@gmail.com)

**Religious Education/Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:**

Dione Bohl & Paula Rudser-Stolba (701) 838.1520

**Bishop Ryan Catholic School:** Megan Selk

(701) 838.3355; [mselek@brhs.com](mailto:mselek@brhs.com)

# ADVENT NOTES

## Advent Retreat

*"The Word Became Flesh"*

John 1:14



### A Four-Part Series on the Incarnation

#### During the Four Saturdays of Advent

Nov 29th: Who Came?  
Dec 6th: Why Did Jesus Come?  
Dec 13th: How Did Jesus Come?  
Dec 20th: What Was Accomplished?

Our Lady of Grace  
707 16<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Minot, ND 58701

#### Schedule Each Saturday Evening

6:30pm: Eucharistic Exposition  
and Evening Prayer  
6:45pm: Talk by Fr. Eric Artz  
7:15pm - 8:00pm: Time for Adoration  
and Confession

\*Need not stay for the entire program.  
All ages welcome - child friendly activities  
available in the gathering space.

## ADVENT

### PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, December 14th  
2:00 p.m. at St. Leo's

Wednesday, December 17th  
6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace



### FOOD PANTRIES

Bins are located in gathering space for the Our Lady of Grace and Minot State University food pantries. In this season of giving, please consider donating to those in need with non-perishable food items. The MSU food pantry is for students, so easy to prepare items work best (easy Mac, toaster pastries, etc.).



### CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We need your help! Our Environment Committee will be decorating for Christmas following the 10AM Mass next Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Your help will help make the process go quickly. We are especially in need of people to haul out Christmas trees and bigger decorations. Thank you!

### ATTENTION MASS MINISTERS!

Mass Ministry Schedules for January and February were emailed out on Dec. 2nd. Please let us know if you didn't receive them. Also PLEASE follow "Revised" January schedule. Check your "spam" too. As always, ministry schedules are available on our website. Thank you for your stewardship. We appreciate all that you do.

## MASS MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR DECEMBER 20 & 21

	Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Sunday 10 a.m.
<b>Rosary</b>	Janet Murphy	Dione Bohl	Barb Johnson
<b>Greeters</b>	Bea Grasmoe Varden Lang	Ron & Korie Huettl	Arlene Fiedler Bonnie Brunner
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Dakota Johnson	Harper Miller Crosby Miller Stella Miller	Kirstin Brunner
<b>Lector</b>	Dan Christen	Steve Miller	Jaimie Brunner
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Lou Ann Fleck	Lisa Krogman	Deacon Young
<b>In-Home Ministry</b>	Deacon Stephen Young		
<b>Scrip Sales</b>	Tracy Christen	Sally Brown	Jaimie Bunner

FIND OUR PARISH  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



DOWNLOAD THE MYPARISH APP  
AND SET ST. THERESE AS YOUR  
HOME PARISH



DAILY MASS AND SUNDAY  
8:30AM MASS BROADCAST ON  
YOUTUBE

## ANointing OF THE SICK

If anyone is preparing for surgery or is hospitalized or wishing to receive the anointing of the sick, please call the parish office (701-838-1520) or rectory (701-837-5943) to set up an appointment. You can receive this sacrament more than once. Please notify Fr. Phillips upon admission of a family member to the hospital.

## CONFESSiON TiMES

TUES-FRI: 7:30AM-7:50AM

SAT: 3:15PM-4:15PM

SUNDAY: 7:30AM-8:15AM; 9:30AM-9:50AM

Confession can be heard anytime outside of listed times  
by appointment: 837.5943



# BISHOP RYAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

**Gift Cards make the Best Christmas Gifts!** Buy your Scrip Gift Cards soon - time is running short – We have cards for groceries, gas, clothing, household items, coffee, dining out, Amazon, home building & repair, vehicles & car care, just a lot of choices of cards. We sell those cards in the gathering space after Mass and in the parish office during the week and at Bishop Ryan. So do your Christmas shopping right here with gift cards. Using Scrip supports Bishop Ryan Catholic School, which is a mission to our church. When you purchase Scrip, the businesses give back to Bishop Ryan a percent of your purchase, which supports the school and helps families with their tuition. It's a way to share Jesus – by supporting Catholic education.



**Another Christmas Gift Idea:** Make a payment toward a Bishop Ryan's student's tuition account, choosing your grandchild, neighbor, friend or stranger.



God and the Child with the Adult

An interpersonal relationship is always a mystery, all the more so when that relationship is between God and the child.

The atrium (or prepared environment) is one of the important elements that helps the relationship between God and the child to flourish. After a theme has been presented, The child is free to choose an activity that will make possible the inner dialogue with the "Interior Teacher."

How does the atrium help to nourish this relationship?

- The atrium can be compared to a retreat house facilitating recollection and silence.
- The atrium is a place for religious life, for community and worship – not a classroom for instruction.
- The atrium is a place of meaningful work through which the child can have a conversation with God.
- The atrium was the place in the early church where the catechumens were prepared. For the child, too, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worship community.



## ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

We have a particular need for altar servers for the Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass. This is a great way for children to become more connected to Mass. Children and adults are encouraged to serve in this ministry. Contact the parish office to learn more about server training.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MESSAGE

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus's, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us. Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus' ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.

St. Vincent de Paul meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. If you would like to attend a meeting, please call Janel at 701-557-3919 for the meeting location.

## Gifts of Real Estate

Put your money where your faith is - first



Church of St. Therese,  
the Little Flower

## Gifts of Real Estate

Most people don't think of using real estate when they consider making a charitable gift, but property such as a house, apartment, condominium, farm, rental, commercial property, undeveloped land, or vacation home constitutes a significant percentage of many people's assets - and can also be an important philanthropic planning tool.

As with most charitable gifts, real estate gifts can be tax deductible and may offer a number of personal and financial planning advantages.

A current, outright gift of real estate would allow your gift to make a difference now and could generate significant tax and other savings. Leaving real estate to a charity through your will or living trust is an efficient way to make a significant future gift without impacting your current living arrangement. In some cases it is possible to give your home and continue to live in it for the remainder of your lifetime. This arrangement is called a retained life estate.

## Scan to Donate



To your  
parish



To your parish  
endowment fund





# Knights of Columbus News

## Family, Friends, & Brother Knights

I hope that everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving, spending time with family and friends enjoying each other's company and being thankful for all we have, but most important be thankful to our Lord and our faith. We must remember that Jesus Christ is what is most important in our lives and especially with the Christmas season upon us, remember that our faith and Jesus is the true meaning of Christmas. It seems that it has been clouded with all the gifts, decorations, movies, and so on and Jesus has been pushed aside. Now there's nothing wrong with Christmas traditions in that nature, just remember that Jesus is the reason why we celebrate Christmas and when we truly make him the center of the Christmas season you will find a truly happy and joyful meaning to the Christmas season.

Thank you all who attended our last fundraiser breakfast that benefited the Bishop Ryan March for life pilgrimage to D.C., we were so blessed with the attendance and donations that came in and hope that you can make our next breakfast December 14th 8:30-12:00 benefiting the Our Lady of Grace food pantry. We will be serving French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, muffins, coffee, juice, and will be giving away Christmas goodies. Hope you can make it!

Server of the month-Danica Stolba, she is a young lady dedicated to her faith and enjoys serving the Mass, especially during the Christmas season, we want to thank her for everything she does and look forward to her as she grows in her Catholic faith.

Knight of the month-Joshua Snyder, is a new knight in our group and has been a great addition, helping out and volunteering his time to our KC events, and enjoying fellowship with the guys. He also helps out not just with our knights but also in our parish and you will often see him reading during Mass.

Family of the month-Steve & Brittany Miller with their three children, Stella, Harper & Crosby. Steve is always helping out around the church and participating in the Mass, and we love having him with our KC group. Alongside him is his wife Brittany who you will see helping out the gals with our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Their kids also altogether help out in serving the Mass and love seeing them when they come to our Knights breakfast. Our knights want to thank those for all that they do and are truly blessed that they are part of our parish family and will be praying for them.

Thank you, and God bless!  
Luke Audet, Grand Knight



YOU ARE INVITED TO

## BREAKFAST AT LITTLE FLOWER

SERVED BY THE LITTLE FLOWER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #9839

### MENU

FRENCH TOAST, SCRAMBLED EGGS, SAUSAGE, BISCUITS & GRAVY, MUFFINS, COFFEE & JUICE

### SUNDAY

# 14

DECEMBER  
8:30AM - 12PM

**FREE WILL  
DONATIONS WILL  
BENEFIT OUR LADY OF  
GRACE FOOD PANTRY**



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

St. John the Apostle  
#1150

**Breakfast Sunday,  
December 21st**

St. John the Apostle  
9am-Noon

Menu:

Pancakes, French Toast  
(\*Gluten Free French Toast  
will be available), Sausage,  
Scrambled Eggs, Juice, Milk  
& Coffee

Free-will offering to support:  
Bismarck Diocese Seminarians



### Prayer for Advent – New Growth

Dear God,  
Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates. Bring Your power into the places I think of as “deserts” and your grace to the prayers I fear may be “deserted.” You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart. Amen.



## BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH

If you regularly attend Little Flower, but haven't formally registered with the parish, we invite you to do so! Scan the QR code for a printable registration form or stop by the parish office to fill one out.

