

Happy Birthday

Dec 6 – Frederick LaRoche, Peter Herman, Richard Gonzales, Chelsea Iron Thunder
Dec 7 – Mary Rose Walking Bull, Barry Knippling, Jocelyn Jandreau, Laila Ziegler, Tina Gonzales
Dec 8 – Marisa Abernathy, Christopher McCauley, Bailey Lulf, Cleveland Skunk, Shiloh Olson
Dec 9 – Lola Blaine, Richard Spider, Whitney Heminger
Dec 10 – Wesley Skunk, Timothy Fallis, Kaylene Gravatte, Billy Jo Sazue, Leslie Sitting Crow, Dakota Abraham, Timothy Abernathy
Dec 11 – Kara Rank, LaTony Big Eagle, Myron Sitting Crow, Kayla Janis, Lauralei Freeman, Kamry Flute,
Dec 12 – Jamie Big Eagle, Allan Hawk, Brad Hawk, Christina Howell, Karrie Donner, Bernard LaRoche Jr., Brennan White Mouse, Timothy Felicia, Jean Ann Peterson, Laila King
Dec 13 – Tony Big Eagle, Torrey Sundall, Bryanna Red Water, Amy Jandreau
Dec 14 – Anna Carmody, Willard Kirkie, Elton Two Hawks, Olivia Knippling, Carly Isburg, LeRory Wounded Knee II, Jo Reese Shields, Casey McCauley

**The Catholic Pastoral Team****Team Offices, Contacts & Phone Numbers:**

Lower Brule (LB) Fr. Mastin: (605) 473-5335
 No Fax- use the email address
Emergency Phone Calls: LB Priest's Rectory 473-5487
 Reliance call Lower Brule
 Kennebec 869-2285
 Ft. Thompson: Fr Hendrick: 473-5487
 “ “ Sr. Charles: Main: 245-2350
 “ “ Deacon Steve: 245-2745 or 680-2936
 Stephan call Fort Thompson
 Big Bend call Fort Thompson
Email: pastteam@gwtc.net
Website: catholicplainsministries.org
Facebook: Catholic Plains Ministry

Priest Members: Priests of the Sacred Heart:

Fr. Christianus Hendrik, SCJ — Pastor for East River Parishes
 Fr. Mark Mastin, SCJ — Pastor for West River Parishes
 PO Box 185
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Pastoral Minister Members :

Sr. Charles Palm, OSB , PO Box 47, Ft. Thompson, SD 57339
 Dn. Steve McLaughlin, Sr., PO Box 145, Fort Thompson, SD 57339

Lay Ministers:

T.J. Metcalf ————Ft. Thompson **245-2122**

Regional Bishops:

East River Bishop (Sioux Falls): **Most Rev. Donald DeGrood**
 West River Bishop (Rapid City): **Most Rev. Peter Muhich**



Please remember in your prayers the souls of:
R.I.P. --- Wally Thigh & Brenda Pease Dion



The Priests of the Sacred (S.C.J.), also known as Dehonians after the last name of our founder Leo John Dehon, serve in 41 countries throughout the world. We began to serve the Native Americans in the Lower Brule area in 1923, and soon afterwards began to minister those on the Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Years later, the Priests of the Sacred Heart began to also serve the Farmers and Ranchers in the region. Today, we serve six parishes in the East and West Missouri river regions. They are:

St. Mary's in Lower Brule, St. Mary's in Reliance, St. Michael's in Kennebec, St. Joseph's in Fort Thompson, Immaculate Conception in Stephan and St. Catherine's in Big Bend.

Our other missions include St. Joseph's Native American school founded in 1927 and the Sacred Heart Center on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. The school is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Lakota and Dakota (Sioux) children and families. The Sacred Heart Center covers over 4,707 square miles and operates four primary programs; Family Violence Services, Child Services, Community Outreach and Bear Necessities Thrift Store.

Our ministries are also supported by the Benedictine Sisters of Watertown, SD. The sisters first came to the United States in 1864 in Missouri and then settled in the Dakota Territory in 1874 in Zell, SD. In 1889, they built their Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton SD and then broke ground for their Mother of God Community in 1967 in Watertown, SD. The Benedictine sisters established schools, Hospitals and other services around the Dakotas, Nebraska and Colorado.

**Our Parish Bulletin**

**A Ministry of the Priests of the Sacred Heart
 in Central South Dakota**

2nd Sunday of Advent

06 DECEMBER 2020



As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
 he will prepare your way.
 A voice of one crying out in the desert:
 "Prepare the way of the Lord
 make straight his paths." (Mark 1: 1-2)*



Live Streaming is on Facebook page: Catholic Plains Ministry at 11:00 AM on Sunday

**Mass locations, days and times
 (Reconciliation 30 minutes before or after mass)**

**IMMACULATE
 CONCEPTION**
 (Stephan)

6:00 PM
 (Year round time)

Mass is OPEN TO ALL in the ENTIRE
 EAST RIVER region. Please join us.

ST. JOSEPH'S
 (Ft. Thompson)

9:30 AM
Weekday Mass: WED. 7:00 PM

Mass is OPEN TO ALL in the ENTIRE
 EAST RIVER region. Please join us.

ST. CATHERINE'S
 (Big Bend)

12:00 NOON

Mass is OPEN TO ALL in the ENTIRE
 EAST RIVER region. Please join us.

ST. MARY'S
 (Reliance)

Saturday Mass: 6:00 PM

ST. MICHAEL'S
 (Kennebec)

Sunday Mass: 9:00 AM

ST. MARY'S
 (Lower Brule)

Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM
 Mass Intention for John Davis

**Weekday Mass: Suspended until after
 COVID is past us**

Scripture Reflection

These are very difficult times, I suppose, and Christmas is a little bit less lavish than it has been in years past. And my own feeling is it makes it a little bit easier to celebrate the coming of Christmas, because Christmas is a poor man with a poor wife and a helpless child. Sometimes we get carried away with lights and parties and flash- es of this and that, and we forget the real meaning of Christmas — which, of course, is learning how to love, learning how to care, learning how to be brothers and sisters to each other.

And while we welcome the change in the atmosphere to a certain degree ...Because there should be lots of light — so you can tell it is the light of the world. And to see it filling our city in the evening time is a deep and good reminder that He had come to bring light into darkness.

Now one of the things, I think, that we must understand during Advent, one of the reasons why we speak of darkness is because the light only shines in the darkness. And when we speak of darkness what do we mean by that? We do not mean that we are living in futility and marching through darkness all our days. But it has some- thing to do with why the Redeemer comes.

He comes to redeem us from sin, basically. And sin, basically, is separation from God. Separation from the One who created us, who loves us, who yearns to be with us, who follows us even when He is not invited, intrud- ing on our lives in ways like an old father who kind of frowns at how we manage to tangle them up in such ways that it begins to feel sometimes that we ourselves are caught in the darkness rather than in the light.

Advent, however, is not a call to recognize our sin, which it is, but it is an invitation to change our lives. The hardest thing in the world is perhaps to change our lives. But this is John the Baptist coming out of the desert, the last of the great prophets. It's been over a hundred years since the people of Israel, the children of Israel, had seen and heard a prophet.

And he is very recognizable, because he is dressed like Elijah the prophet, the clothes are Elijah the prophet, the words are the excitement of Elijah the prophet — the greatest prophet who never wrote a word but was the greatest and the first of the great prophets of Israel. And they all have the same message. The Lord has come. Prepare yourself for the coming of the Lord. Prepare yourself. Make straight His paths.

What he means by that is straighten yourselves out. Make straight His paths. I remember a very good expla- nation of the real meaning of that “make straight His path” is the Chinese saying about certain people are all crooked and turned. It's a very good description because that's what we very often are.

Make straight the path, so that the Lord can come and nestle into your hearts and make you transparent and open, make you no longer afraid to be what you really are, because in His eyes you are much richer than you yourself could buy and much more higher in His eyes than you yourselves make yourselves to be among men. It is indeed God Himself who comes to walk down the straight paths and into our hearts.

And what we must do, what we must be, is honest. Very simple. Be honest with each other. Be honest with the way you look at the world, knowing that the world needs honesty, it needs truth. “But if you pursue truth, if you pursue the things that are really what your own hearts hunger for — love, forgiveness, compassion — these are the truths that are worth laying your life down for.” (<https://fatherhanly.com/journey-with-father/year-b-2nd->



Please pray for the following members of our community:



Brett Abernathy	Chris Bear Face.	Sheila Kusser	Jody Taylor
Cole Blue Brouse	Phyllis Comes Flying	Shirley S. LaRoche	Alyssia Thompson
Marsha Grey Cloud	Bernadine Gingway	Marisa Lopez	Delores Volmer
Katie Cook	Fr. Tony Grossenburg.	Quinn Lulf	Cora Weiand
Jill Cowan	Mildred Hamiel	Todd McKenney	Beatrice Whiting
Jeffery Long Crow, Sr.	Juanita Harrison	Pat Mitchell	Ron Wright
Dustin Deal	Roberta Harrison	Kathleen Pomani	Savannah Williams
Charles Divine	Lois Hart	Mike Reuman	Antoinette Fast Wolf
Jenae Dunn	LaShonda Round Head	Della Richards	
Jeanie Eagle	Vickie Husted	Lance Sanders	
Lakisha Big Eagle	Jerry King	Clarissa Sargeant	
Theresa Big Eagle	Ardith Knippling	Stacey Shields	
Tom Big Eagle	Donald Knippling	Chad Strohfus	

All Parishes and Diocesan News

St. Joseph's, Fort Thompson:

--- We continue to have Wednesday Mass at 7:00 PM, December 9th
---Thank you to all of you who helped with and donated to the Luncheon and Rummage sale
---Religious classes will probably begin after Christmas.
--- Join us for Coffee, Juice and donuts after mass.

Immaculate Conception. Stephan

---Mass is OPEN TO ALL in the ENTIRE EAST RIVER region. Please join us.

St. Catherine's. Big Bend

---Please bring your money and raffle tickets at every mass. The raffle tickets are to help defray the expenses on the restoration of the bell tower
---The reopening of Religious education classes will probably begin after Christmas.
---Coffee and Rolls and Mass

St. Mary's, Lower Brule:

---Our West river churches are open. Please join us.

St. Mary's, Reliance:

---Our Parish is open. Please join us.

St. Michael's, Kennebec:

---Our Parish is open. Please come and join us.

December: Priests and Deacon Mass Schedule			
Date	Location	Priest	Time
East River			
Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26	Stephan	Fr. Hendrik	6:00 pm
Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27	Fort Thompson	Fr. Hendrik	9:30 am
Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27	Big Bend	Fr. Hendrik	12:00 pm
None for East Riv- er	Preach- All 3 Parishes	Dn. Steve	All times
West River			
Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26	Reliance	Fr. Mark	6:00 pm
Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27	Kennebec	Fr. Mark	9: 00 am
Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27	Lower Brule	Fr. Mark	11:00 am
December 26th & 27	Preach- All 3 Parishes	Dn. Steve	All times

Christmas Eve			
Date	Location	Priest	Time
Dec 24th	Reliance	Fr. Mark	5:00 pm
Dec 24th	Kennebec	Fr. Mark	7:00 pm
Dec 24th	Stephan	Fr. Richard	6:00 pm
Dec 24th	Big Bend	Fr. Hendrik	9:00 pm
Dec 24th	Lower Brule	Fr. Richard	9:00 pm
Christmas Day			
Dec 25th	Fort Thompson	Fr. Hendrik	Midnight
Dec 25th	Fort Thompson	Fr. Mark	11:00 am