



St. James Church
299 Red Oak Dr. Aitkin
www.aitkincatholic.org

*Welcome to the Parishes of
St. James and Holy Family
Catholic Churches
And Our Lady of Fatima Chapel*

Office Hours: M-Th 9am-5pm, Fri. 9am-Noon
Phone: 218-927-6581 Fax: 218-927-6589
Email: office@aitkincatholic.org
Mailing Address: 299 Red Oak Dr., Aitkin, MN 56431
Connect to Holy Family and St. James Church via Facebook



Holy Family Church
2 S Maddy St. McGregor
www.mcgregorcatholicchurch.org

Mass & Confession Times

Mass Schedule

Weekday*	Weekend*	
Most Mon	7:30 am (SJ)	Saturday 5:00 pm (SJ)
Tues	8:30 am (HF)	Sunday 8:00 am (HF)
Wed-Fri	8:30 am (SJ)	10:30 am (SJ)

*Pray the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet one-half hour before Holy Mass.

Pray with the Knights

Join the Knights of Columbus on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am at St. James to pray the Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and other devotionals.

Confessions

Saturday	10:00–10:45 am	St. James
	4:00–4:40 pm	St. James
Tuesday	5:30–6:30 pm	Holy Family
Wednesday	5:30–6:30 pm	St. James
	(or by appointment)	

Pastoral Staff

Pastor

Fr. Mike Patullo218-927-6581
fathermikepatullo@gmail.com

Deacons

Bill Stein..... 218-927-3613
Deaconbillstein@aol.com
Mike Eisenbraun..... 218-513-8119
m.eisenbraun@yahoo.com
Mike Barta..... 218-232-0746
mjbart@frontiernet.net

Other Contacts

Religious Education

St. James

Jen Kinzer reled@aitkincatholic.org 218-839-0344

Holy Family

Andrea Oden 763-360-2058

Prayer Chain Requests

Jan Burt (SJ)..... 218-927-3587
Kathy Cummings (SJ)..... 218-927-6483
Elaine Hill (SJ)..... 218-838-5982
Carol Wiherski (SJ)..... 218-927-6880
Shirley Scollard (HF)..... 218-839-0754

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
DECEMBER 25, 2023**



©LPI

“For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord.”
Luke 2:11

Sacraments

Baptism

Please contact the parish office to arrange for Baptism preparation and to schedule a Baptism.

Marriage

Couples are required to contact the parish office to make arrangements at least six to eight months in advance of the planned date.

Hospital Admission

If you are admitted to the hospital, please have a friend or family member notify the parish office for visits and prayers for you.

Communion for the Sick & Homebound

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick

If you are experiencing a serious illness or if someone is close to death, please contact the parish office to arrange to receive the Sacrament.

Readings *Week* of the

Readings for the week of December 24, 2023

Sun: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Mon: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/
Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tues: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wed: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thurs: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/
Mt 2:13-18

Fri: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Sat: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

©LPi

MASS *INTENTIONS*

Sunday, December 24 5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Rita Thompson † (SJ)
Monday, December 25 8:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Christmas Day For the People (HF) June Romanowski † (OL) Tim Anderson † (SJ)
Tuesday, December 26 8:30 am	Ray Marsyla † (HF)
Wednesday, December 27 8:30 am	Deacon Vern Anderson † (SJ)
Thursday, December 28 8:30 am	Paul Cyr † (SJ)
Friday, December 29 8:30 am	Fern Ince † (SJ)
Saturday, December 30 5:00 pm	Special Intention (SJ)
Sunday, December 31 8:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Kaleb Dobosenski † (HF) Rita Thompson † (OL) For the People (SJ)

(HF)-Holy Family • (SJ)-Saint James •
(OL) Our Lady of Fatima

Mass Intentions: Deceased †

Weekly Schedule OLPI

Tuesday, December 26
8:00–9:00 am Pray with the Knights (SJ)
Noon–3 pm Food Shelf Hours (SJ)
5:30–6:30 pm Confessions (HF)
6:30/7:00 pm KC Rosary/Meeting (SJ)

Wednesday, December 27
9:30–10:30 am S.A.I.L. Class (SJ)
5:30–6:30 pm Confessions (SJ)

Thursday, December 28
9:00 am to 6:00 pm Adoration (SJ)
9:30 am to 6:00 pm Adoration (HF)
6:00 pm OCIA Class (SJ)

Saturday, December 31
After 8:00 am Mass Fellowship, Coffee and Treats (HF)
After 10:00 am Mass Coffee and Treats (OL)

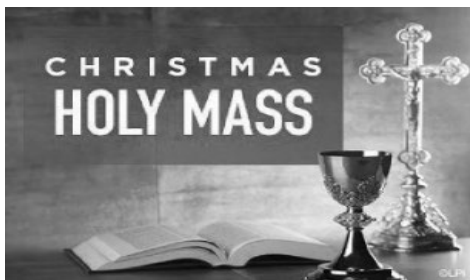
Mass Intention Requests

We have days available at all parishes for your Mass intentions. Suggested offering is \$10.00 per Mass. Submit your request by calling the parish office, stopping by the office, or dropping a Mass Intention envelope in the collection basket.

Vocations Chalice Schedule

Date	St. James	Holy Family
12/24	Mary Ellen Johnson	Tom and Andrea Oden
12/31	Diane Ryan	Sue Neumann

All Parish News



*Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve
5:00 pm—St. James*

*Monday, December 25
Christmas Day
8:00 am—Holy Family
10:00 am—Our Lady of Fatima
10:30 am—St. James*

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting information for the January 7th bulletin is Noon on Thursday, December 28th.

Email bulletin submissions to
office@aitkincatholic.org

God has given us the greatest gift...Jesus



We experience a personal encounter with Jesus each time we receive the Eucharist.

We pray that this book, "Beautiful Eucharist" will make you aware that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist and that as you receive Him your life will be transformed.

The world needs the healing, hope and joy that only Jesus can provide!

Please enjoy this book that is given out at the Christmas Masses this weekend in our parishes!



United Catholic Appeal (UCA)

Contributions to UCA for 2023 can be made up to December 31st. Any amount received after 12/31 will be applied to our 2024 assessment. Whatever is not received by 12/31 will still be paid to the Diocese, but it will be taken from the general fund. The Stewardship Report reflects the amount of UCA due and received for each parish as of the date shown. Thanks for your generous contributions!



\$1000 Scholarship Available
Did you know that students who either attended, and/or have a family member who attended St. John's Catholic Church in Hill City can apply for a \$1000 scholarship for post-secondary education? St. John's Catholic Church in Hill City has funded a scholarship available to graduating seniors or any adult pursuing secondary education.

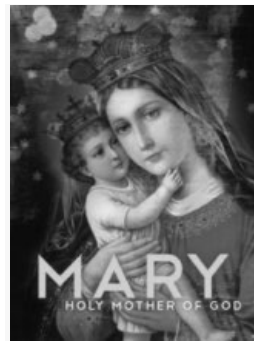
Applicants must have either been a parishioner of St. John's Catholic Church or have a family member who was a member of St. John's. More than one \$1000 scholarship will be awarded. Apply through the Grand Rapids Community Foundation Scholarship Portal <https://gracf.org/scholarships/scholarship-application/>. Applications are accepted from January 1 until March 15, 2024.

Stewardship Report (Fiscal Year: July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)

Through December 10, 2023	St. James	Holy Family	Our Lady of Fatima
Attendance	265	82	13
Received	\$6,174	\$1,782	\$157
Fiscal Year to Date Goal	\$148,177	\$45,780	\$4,590
Fiscal Year to Date Received	\$145,145	\$44,422	\$3,947
UCA 2023 Assessment	\$62,107.18	\$19,202.13	\$1,927.75
UCA 2023 Received	\$60,733.18	\$10,641.10	\$1,933.75
			(Excess will be transferred to 2024.)

Holy Family
2 S Maddy Street, McGregor

Join the Choir
If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Deacon Mike Barta.



Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Holy Day of Opportunity
Because January 1 (Mary, Mother of God) falls on Monday this year, the obligation to attend Holy Mass is abrogated. However, there will be Holy Mass on January 1st at 7:30 a.m. at St. James.

St. James
299 Red Oak Drive, Aitkin

Christmas Decorating Help Wanted
Looking for volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 24th after the 10:30 am Mass. Please contact the office or Tammy Novak if you have questions.

Knights of Columbus Family Breakfast
Plan on attending the KC Family Breakfast, Sunday, January 7th, serving from 8:30AM to Noon at St. James. Pancakes, scrambled eggs with ham, country style sausage links, and all the fixings, juice, milk, coffee. Free-will offering.
All are welcome.



GOSPEL MEDITATION
December 25, 2023
The Nativity of the Lord

“She gave birth to her firstborn son.” The pain of childbirth is something that boggles my mind.

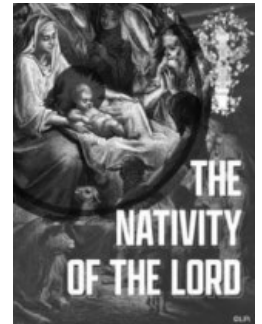
I’m sure I couldn’t handle it. I can’t even watch scenes in movies in which a woman gives birth. I understand it’s a beautiful part of nature, but there’s still something awful about it and the attendant suffering.

Which is why it’s worth pondering an often neglected and currently unpopular part of the Church’s theology around the birth of Christ, his was miraculous because it caused no pain to his mother. Even her physical virginity remains intact. Of course, we modern scientific people scoff at such an idea.

Without obsessing over the obstetrical details, we discover a glorious illumination in the symbolic meaning of this birth that we moderns find so embarrassing. *God comes into the world in an utterly non-violent way.* He himself will suffer his own bloodshed but will never shed that of others. He is so peaceful and non-violent that he will even rise from the dead without breaking the seal of the tomb. All of humanity, in the Church, will give birth to him in the Church free from the terrible pain due to original sin. How badly we need the truth of this miraculous birth today!

Let’s delight in this great mystery and miracle of Jesus’ birth. He is the Prince of Peace and always nonviolent. We need not fear him, ever.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi



St. James Liturgical Ministers*

***For the latest updates, check Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP)**

Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 pm

Sacristan	Hugh Janzen
Servers	Jerome Joerger, volunteer
Lector	Becky Joerger
EOMs	Greg Jacobs, Theresa Jacobs
Ushers	Josh Joerger, Mark Ritter, Kirk Peysar, vol.

Christmas Day Monday, December 25 at 10:30 am

Sacristan	Bob Cummings
Servers	Evelyn Anderson, Isabel McWilliams
Lector	Steve Kinzer
EOMs	Kathleen Ryan, Tim Ryan
Ushers	Brian Avery, Martin Schmitt, Chad Larson, vol.

Saturday, December 30 at 5:00 pm

Sacristan/Server	Bob Cummings
Lector	Glenda Flier
EOMs	Terry Stein, Jeffrey Schmitt
Ushers	John Appel, Gary Tibbitts, Martin Schmitt, vol.

Sunday, December 31 at 10:30 am

Sacristan	Colton Varner
Servers	Bentley Host, volunteer
Lector	Theresa Jacobs
EOMs	Shirley Gravelle, Kirk Peysar
Ushers	Ellie and Russ Hoppe, Chad Larson, vol.

Our Lady of Fatima Holy Mass Schedule*

102 S Highway 65, McGrath

All Masses are at 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 25—Christmas Day
Sunday, December 31

*Please note this schedule is subject to change.

Religious Education Schedule

Merry Christmas! Classes resume January 3rd for students and parents.

Keep Christ in Christmas



Knights of Columbus
Poster Contest

Once again, the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a poster contest for St. James Church students (grades K-8). The theme is "Keeping Christ in Christmas". Registration forms as well as paper (11x17) are

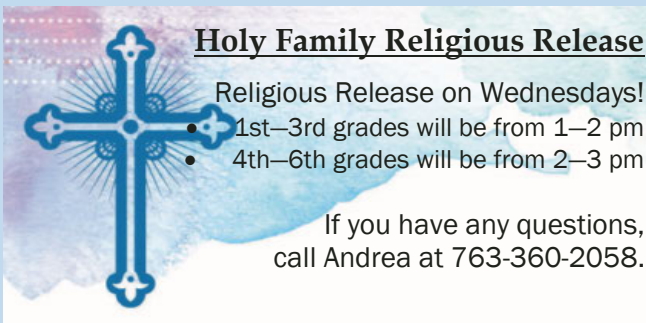
available at St. James in the Gathering Space. Don't forget to fill out the registration form and turn it in with your poster. Deadline to return completed posters is December 27th. No late entries. There is no cost. Questions? Call, text or email Jen.



Holy Family Religious Release

- Religious Release on Wednesdays!
- 1st–3rd grades will be from 1–2 pm
- 4th–6th grades will be from 2–3 pm

If you have any questions, call Andrea at 763-360-2058.



Adults are invited and encouraged to learn more about their Catholic faith through many of the different opportunities available!



FORMED
Celebrate Christmas with this classic on FORMED:

- *Mary of Nazareth*—An epic motion picture that shares the beautiful and compelling story of Mary, Mother of God. Following her life from childhood to the Resurrection of Jesus, actress Alissa Jung inspiringly captures the humility and compassion of Christ's Holy Mother.

You have FREE ACCESS to the FORMED platform. Sign up for FORMED by going to signup.formed.org and enter parish zip code (56431), then enter your name and email address.

Hallow

Cards are available at each parish. Hallow.com/pray. Three featured programs:

- Daily Prayers
- Family Content
- Bible Stories & Sleep Content



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Here are two faith formation opportunities:

- Learn How to Pray. You'll find practical insights for getting started, encouragement for making prayer a powerful daily routine and deep wisdom to help you connect with God and learn His incredible dream for your life.
- Aging and Dying. No Regrets. A fable about living your 4th quarter intentionally. A captivating and groundbreaking fable, No Regrets is the only book out there that provides a roadmap for how to make the most of the final season of life. If you are searching for greater meaning in your life, then join authors Allen Hunt and Matthew Kelly as they reveal five incredible secrets to living intentionally and making the most of your own fourth quarter.

OCIA Classes at St. James

Catholics or individuals wishing to become Catholic are invited to join the OCIA classes on Thursday evenings at 6 pm. Father Mike teaches about the Catholic faith.

Newcomers welcome!



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