



# ST. JAMES BASILICA of Jamestown

Parish Newsletter

OCTOBER 2014



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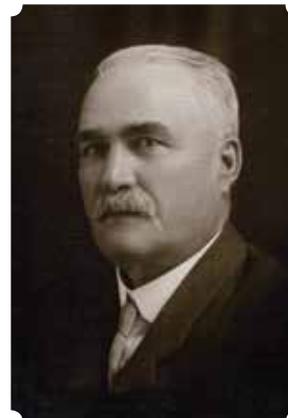
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## Honoring Our Past at St. James Basilica

St. James Basilica has a long and rich history. This November, we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the dedication of our current church building. Throughout that time, our parish has been a significant part of the lives of so many.

"I grew up in this church," says Mary Faith Young, who has been a member of our parish since she moved here as a baby in 1921. "I was married in this church. This church is important to me."

The history of our parish began even before that, however. In the years before St. James was founded, Mass was only offered a few times a year by traveling priests as they traveled through Jamestown, and there was no church building. The first Mass on record was celebrated in 1878 in a boxcar that was used as a railroad eating house.



*Mike Murphy, Building Chairman*



*Fr. Edward Geraghty*

In 1883, the first church was dedicated in Jamestown, then became a cathedral in 1889. In that same year, Jamestown became the official See of North Dakota and Rev. John Shanley was named its first bishop.

"He is the one that started St. John's Academy," Mary says. "He started this

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# ST. JAMES BASILICA OF JAMESTOWN



## Embracing Our Future at St. James Basilica

*“It’s one thing to know the teachings of Christ and the Church, and it’s another thing to fall in love with them – when you want them to be a part of your life. It’s easy, then, to see how that can flow into the community and the world as a whole, because it begins to be a part of our very identity, living out our Catholic faith to the best of our ability. It all begins with our relationship with Christ.”*

*– Msgr. Jeffrey Wald*

This month, the parish celebrates the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the church building. As we take a look back at the church’s history and how it has grown in its role in our community, we also look ahead to the future.

“[The church] is a beautiful historical building, and it reminds us that it’s the beginning of our work here in the Diocese of Fargo and North Dakota,” says Msgr. Jeffrey Wald. “I think it symbolizes not only the past, but certainly the future, by being a place that hopefully can inspire people to live their faith and to encourage one another to follow Jesus. The Basilica needs to stand out in the diocese and in our community because it’s a connection to the Holy Father as a basilica, a place of pilgrimage, a place of beauty, a place of

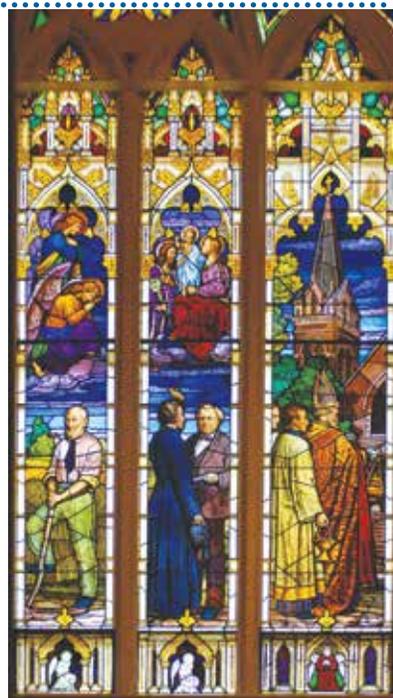
prayer, a place where people can come and see the universality of the Church.”

Going forward in the next few years, Msgr. Wald notes how crucial it is for the parish and its parishioners to see their mission as the same as that of the universal Church. By [growing in their faith, parishioners can naturally grow in all other areas of their lives.

“[We must] live and proclaim the Gospel, accept it in our own lives, and proclaim by word and deed to the world around us, our families and communities,” Msgr. Wald says. “Everything will then flow from that. It’s one thing to know the teachings of Christ and the Church, and it’s another thing to fall in love with them – when you want them to be a part of your life. It’s easy, then, to see how that can flow into the community

and the world as a whole, because it begins to be a part of our very identity, living out our Catholic faith to the best of our ability. It all begins with our relationship with Christ, His call to holiness, and putting that into practice and inspiring others to be faithful.”

Growing in faith also helps parishioners to find natural ways in which to serve the parish and community, while helping them to grow in fellowship with each other.



*continued on back cover*

A Letter from Our Pastor

# A Time of Hope and Giving Thanks

Dear Parishioners,

In so many ways, the coming season is special to us as Catholics and also to us as Americans. It begins with All Saints Day on Nov. 1 and closes with the First Sunday of Advent on Nov. 30. Of course, the fourth Thursday of the November is Thanksgiving Day.

When it comes to the Solemnity of All Saints, we have always recognized the connection with those who have died and joined the Lord in Heaven. All Saints Day was instituted to “honor all saints, known and unknown.” The “unknown” has always left me enthralled. How many saints have each of us known among our friends and family, in our parish and our neighborhoods? To me, a “saint” might be someone who has provided an example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Thus, we begin the month by paying tribute and recollecting all those in our lives who showed us what it meant to be a good Christian.

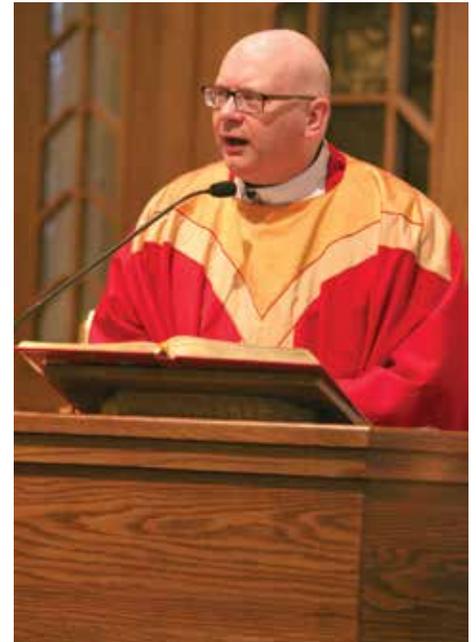
Thanksgiving Day also gives me pause to remember. It is a day to reflect on the ways in which God has so richly blessed us. We are all familiar with the story of how the Pilgrims set aside a time in November 1621 to thank the Lord for the harvest and for their many blessings. There was, however, no official holiday until it

was declared by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

As part of his Proclamation that called for the last Thursday in November to be our “official” day of thanksgiving, Lincoln wrote, “I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of next November, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” God is the source and the provider.

Every day and every week should be a time of thanksgiving for us as good stewards. Appreciating that God is the source of all our blessings is at the heart of stewardship. Just a few days after Thanksgiving, our Church launches our new year with Advent — a time of expectation of the coming of Christ, and a time when we begin the whole process of thanking God for the blessings we have received.

As part of his Advent message last year, Pope Francis said, “For the great human family it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope!” This month should renew our hope,



from honoring the saints we have known to our expectation of the coming of Christ. We join the Holy Father in recognizing the journey; may God continue to bless you and keep you on your own journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Jeffrey L. Wald  
Pastor



## Honoring Our Past

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school and gave it his first name, John. It's very dear to my heart. I graduated in 1938."

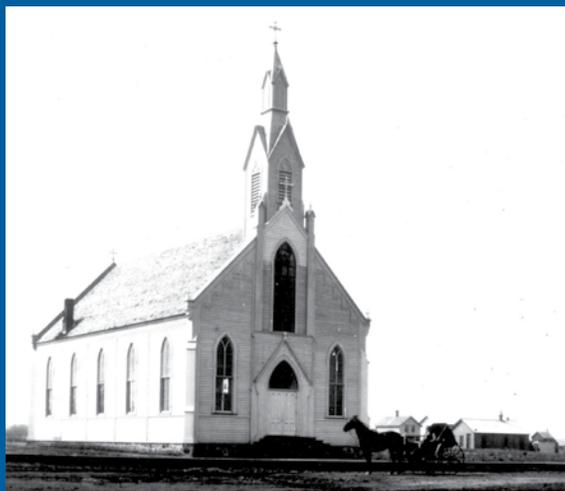
St. John's Academy was the first Catholic school in the Diocese of Jamestown — which became the Diocese of Fargo just two years later.

The first pastor of St. James Parish was Fr. Edward Geraghty. He served as pastor from 1905 until his death in 1953. During his pastorate, our church building was proposed and built. Bishop O'Reilly dedicated St. James Church on Nov. 29, 1914.

"I always thought it was such a marvelous place — from my First Communion on, when I started to realize what a lovely church I was in," Mary says.

The next pastor, Fr. Thomas Hendrickson, oversaw the addition of a new rectory, the completion of the church basement, and established a regular Sunday bulletin. In 1963, he became Msgr. Hendrickson. He resigned as pastor in 1967 and served as Chaplain at St. Francis' Convent in Hankinson until his death in 1992.

*The original wooden church, photos courtesy of the Montana Historical Society*



Another instrumental pastor of St. James was Fr. Adam Englehardt, who began serving in 1970. He began planning for the celebration of the parish's centennial, directed renovations of the church properties, and helped get a shrine built on the church grounds, which designates St. James as the Mother Church of North Dakota.

St. James Parish celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 1982, and it was nominated to the National Register of Historic Buildings the same year.

Then in 1989, St. James was raised to a Minor Basilica. And in the 25 years since then, our parish has had a number of significant milestones. Fr. Bernard Pfau, pastor from 1985-2002, was instrumental in getting a gym built for the school

and office spaces for faith formation. The convent was demolished to make room for Zebedee Center, which was dedicated in 2002.

During his pastorate, Fr. Al Bitz oversaw a number of big projects. A new rectory was built in the spring of 2011, and a new community room was dedicated the following year. He also directed the restoration of the church's stained glass windows through the donation of the Jon and Lori Wanzek family. The windows were originally purchased by Pierce Blewett with a gift of \$5,000 in 1918.

Fr. Bitz retired this summer, and Msgr. Jeffrey Wald became our new pastor in June.

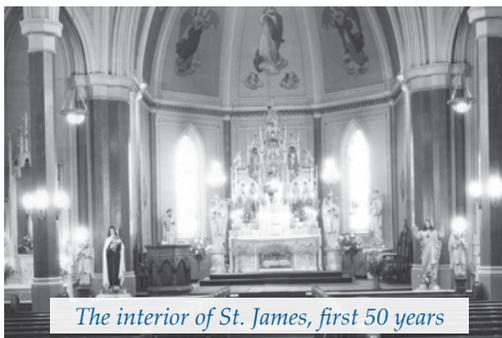
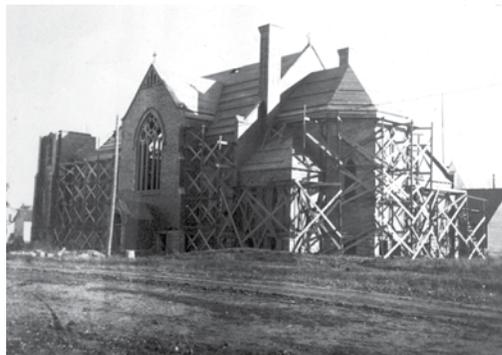
For more than 100 years, St. James Basilica has been more than a church building. It has been a home to all those who have worshiped here – a place where families have grown and where Catholics have come to praise and thank God for the gift of life as His disciples.

Our parish will hold a special Mass and meal to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our dedication as a Minor Basilica, the 100th anniversary of our current church building, and 125th anniversary of St. James being named the See of the Diocese of Jamestown (now the Diocese of Fargo). This celebration will be held Sunday, Nov. 23, and the theme is “Upon This Rock Our Church is Built.”

To RSVP for the meal, please call the parish office at 701-252-0119.



## *Construction on St. James, 1913*





## *Getting to Know St. Luke, the Beloved Physician* The Feast of St. Luke

**E**ach year during the Solemnity of the Annunciation Mass, we read in the Gospel of Luke about the moment when the angel Gabriel reveals to the Blessed Virgin that she will soon bear the Messiah.

As we continue reading the Gospel of Luke, we also encounter the beauty of Mary's soul when she sings the Magnificat with heartfelt praise. This Gospel also contains the one magnificently detailed description of Christ's birth in all of Sacred Scripture, as well as all three Gospel canticles used in Catholic liturgical prayer.

Furthermore, St. Luke's Gospel shows sensitivity to evangelizing Gentiles. It is the only one of the four Gospels which includes the parable of the Good Samaritan — the account of Jesus praising the faith of Gentiles, such as the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian (Lk.4:25-27), and that of the one grateful leper who is a Samaritan (Lk.17:11-19).

Thanks to St. Luke — the author of this Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles — we have an awe-inspiring vision of each one of these events, as well as countless others. What is it about the persona of St. Luke that allows him such piercing insight into the mysteries of Christ?

St. Luke, a physician by profession, has been identified with St. Paul's "Luke, the beloved physician" (Col. 4:14). He is known to have been a tender-hearted disciple genuinely concerned for the poor. He also respected women in a

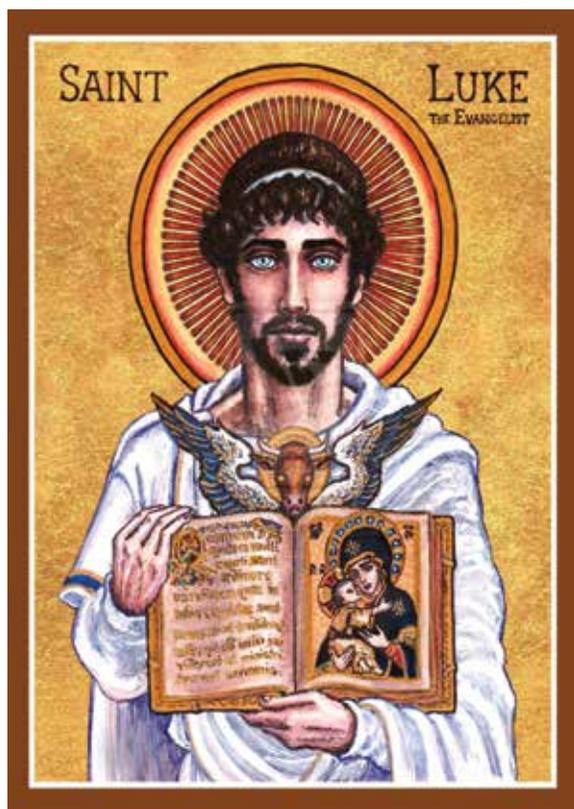
special way. Some theologians even refer to his Gospel as the "Gospel of the Poor." He is one of the most extensive and competent writers of the New Testament.

Luke was born a Greek and Gentile. According to the early Church historian Eusebius, Luke was born at Antioch in Syria. He first appears in Scripture in the Acts at Troas, where he meets St. Paul and experiences a revelation in a vision. He then crosses over with St. Paul to Europe as an evangelist, landing at Neapolis, "being assured that God had called us to preach the gospel to them" (Acts 16:10). He then continued to faith-fully serve God as an evangelist, bringing soul after soul towards the merciful heart of Christ, the newfound Messiah.

Ecclesiastical historian Nicephorus Callistus called Luke a "painter," and a gorgeous picture of the Virgin in Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome, is ascribed to him.

St. Luke was, in all, a gifted disciple of Christ who is worthy of our imitation and invocation.

As Catholics, we belong to a vibrant Church that is alive with Christ-centered celebrations and festivities. Each day of the liturgical year brings a new grace into our walk with Christ and yet another reason to rejoice. Let us not be shy to bring this inspiring spirit of festivity into our homes and share it with our families. The upcoming feast of St. Luke on Oct. 18 is a perfect place to begin.



# The Trinity of Celebrations Will Fete Our Parish History

A full day of celebration for our entire parish is in the final stage of planning as the Trinity of Celebrations approaches on Sunday, Nov. 23.

The day will mark the 125th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Jamestown in 1889, the 100th anniversary of the Basilica's consecration on Nov. 29, 1914, and the 25th anniversary of St. James being named a Minor Basilica, on July 23, 1989.

DeAnn Ament and Laura Weis are co-chairing the celebration, with help from their 12-member committee.

"We started in April to pull it all together," DeAnn says, adding that the planners are hoping for good weather in late November.

The Trinity of Celebrations will begin at 10:30 a.m. with Mass celebrated by Bishop John T. Folda, Diocese of Fargo; Bishop David Kagan, Diocese of Bismarck; and Titular Bishop Thomas A. Donato of Newark, N.J.

Following Mass, all parishioners are invited to the Civic Center for a roast beef dinner being prepared by the Knights of Columbus.

"There will be a free will offering for the dinner, and we're asking those planning to attend to RSVP," DeAnn says. "Please contact Bonnie at the parish office by Nov. 1,

either by calling at 701-252-0119, or by email at [parish@stjamesbasilica.org](mailto:parish@stjamesbasilica.org)."

After the dinner, everyone will enjoy music and reflections from former parish priests, DeAnn says. There will be a speaker on behalf of St. John Academy, with the presentation of a video on the history of the church building as the capstone of the program. Dessert and a time for fellowship will conclude the formal events.

The committee is planning activities for all ages after the program, DeAnn says, to include pinochle, whist, and Bingo.

For DeAnn, being part of the Trinity of Celebrations has meant a joyful education in the history of the parish, of learning the fascinating stories behind our parish's formation.

She is especially grateful that the celebration planning has brought the "feeling of bringing everyone together."

"We feel there is so much to be gained from relationships in the parish," DeAnn says. "That's what we felt was important – celebrating the entire day and not just for two hours and moving on.

"We're hoping the Trinity of Celebrations appeals to our families, our singles, our elderly," she continues. "We hope the people can come celebrate with us and get to know our neighbors."



*Members of the planning committee for the Trinity of Celebrations working on details for the parish event*



# ST. JAMES BASILICA OF JAMESTOWN

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## Weekend Mass

### *Saturday Vigil*

4:30 p.m. Mass

### *Sunday*

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Mass

## Daily Mass

*Monday thru Friday* - 12:10 p.m. Mass

*Saturday* - 8:00 a.m. Mass

## Reconciliation

*Monday thru Friday* - 11:40 a.m. - 12 noon

*Saturday* - 3:30 p.m.

Address Service Requested

## Embracing Our Future *continued from page 2*

“Being active always starts by growing in your own faith, and a lot of it is about inspiring other people,” Msgr. Wald says. “We need each other’s prayer, each other’s encouragement, and we need to be inspired by one another. By being active in the parish, we’re doing more for each other. All of this is such an important part of volunteering – not just so we can get a few projects done, but to realize we’re all in this together, to work together. It’s like a family – every member of a family is important, so every member of the parish family is important. What makes a family work well is that everyone is there to help each other, inspire each other, sometimes correct each other, but always working together to make sure the goals we set for ourselves are accomplished.”

Msgr. Wald also stressed St. John Academy’s important relationship to the parish mission.

“I want the families and parishioners to be informed by the faith, and I think that one of the most important ways in helping them grow begins with the school,” he says. “I want the school to be strong, and for it to grow – that’s a big priority to me. Not only do I think it’s important for kids to have a good education, but I also think it’s good for families to have that Catholic bond with each other, and uniting in their common goal in passing on the faith to their children.”

He also hopes that the Basilica will continue to reach out to college students in the area.

“We also have an opportunity to reach out to the youth since the University of Jamestown is here,” Msgr. Wald says. “For the Catholic students, it’s a great opportunity to help them get to know Christ and to fall in love with Him. The parish can be a vehicle by which this can happen.”



The diocese is also preparing for a new initiative, the Year of Marriage and Family. Going forward after these momentous occasions, Msgr. Wald looks forward to working together with parishioners to grow in faith, fellowship and service to the community.

“There are a lot of things I’d like for us to do, and all of that will take place in the months ahead,” he says. “But what is most important to me is to get to know the good people of the Basilica and the community. I want to see where the people are at, what they need, what they are yearning for, and where I feel Christ is inspiring them. I look forward to all of that unfolding.”