



To be a vibrant
community of faith
where all people feel they belong

December 2017

Our Lady's Messenger

For I was hungry and you gave me food...



Matthew 25: 35

The Pastoral Care Committee filled boxes with enough food for Thanksgiving feasts and presented them to people who could use the extra groceries. This is one of the many good works this group does throughout the year.

They work quietly behind the scenes, caring for the people of the parish in ways that touch hearts and souls.

The Pastoral Care Committee of Our Lady of Grace has been especially busy these past several weeks.

On Nov. 7, they coordinated the annual Mass of Remembrance, a time to celebrate the lives of parishioners who have passed away in the last year. Letters of invitation are mailed to family members of the

deceased. During the Mass a candle, in honor of each person who has died, is lit and placed on the altar.

"It's such a healing and a comfort for the families to know that their loved one is remembered," said Berny Hager who, together with Fr. Bob Kippley, established the committee in 1982. She has served as its chairperson for the past 17 years.

After the Mass, the committee serves a variety of breads and coffee

(Continued on page 3)



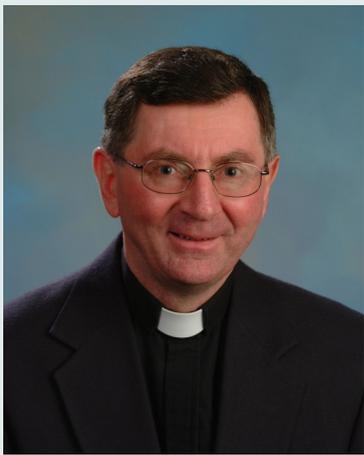
Bishop David Kagan was here Oct. 15 to bestow the sacrament of Confirmation upon 25 students. See more pictures on pg. 4.

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Have you considered . . .

. . . volunteering to take communion to people who are homebound or in the hospital or care facilities? Taking Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to someone who can't come to Mass is so rewarding! Please pray about it and call the parish office if you feel called to this special ministry.



Father Bruce Krebs, Pastor

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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(701) 839-6834 or
(701) 852-3002

Email:

church@olgminot.org

Web site:

olgminot.weconnect.
com

Facebook pages:

OurLadyofGraceMinot
and
MinotCatholicYouthGroup

Our Mission:

Our Lady of Grace Parish is a community of faith that encourages stewardship through word, sacrament and service.

Please send address changes to the parish at 707 16th Ave. SW, Minot, ND 58701, or call 839-6834.

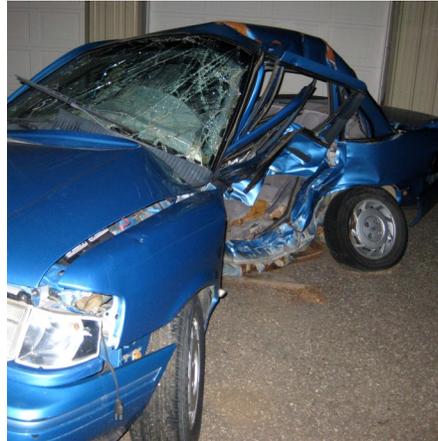
Sharing faith with humility

By Fr. Bruce Krebs

Mikayla Koble, a former parishioner and daughter of Mohn and Julie Koble, delivered a parish mission to us at Our Lady of Grace in October. She also did a presentation at Bishop Ryan for a ROCK night for area high school students while in Minot.

Mikayla graduated from Bishop Ryan in 2009. She worked as a missionary on college campuses for 3 1/2 years at Michigan State in Ypsalanti, Mich.

In 2007, while still in high school, Mikayla was in a horrific car accident from which she was in a coma for five days and hospitalized for nine days. She has experienced various health ailments over the past years as a result of the accident. She shared in the course of the mission of a miraculous



This is the condition Mikayla's car was in following her accident.

healing of her back that she received from God.

Mikayla's talks were well attended. Her humility and simplicity of life came through very strongly. One of the questions she is often asked is if she has considered being a nun. She always answers that she does not sense God is calling her to that.

She has been supporting herself by following her call from God as she perceives it by leading missions and retreats, making rosaries and painting. She has found great peace in her life through accepting God's will, offering forgiveness and following God's promptings for her.

She would be pleased if God should one day call her to be a wife and mother. In the meantime, she is simply seeking to do as God directs her day by day.

Supporting Minot Men's Winter Refuge

The Board of the Minot Men's Winter Refuge put on a turkey dinner as a benefit for the refuge on Sunday, Nov. 12. We decided to host it here at our parish because we have a good amount of seating and all is handicapped accessible.

We had a variety of people volunteering their labor for this event. This included members of our parish Altar Society, Confirmation

candidates and their parents, and refuge board members and their families, as well as others who just wanted to help.

It was a great opportunity to bring many area people together from various faith backgrounds to work for a good charitable cause. We are hoping we can make it an annual event!



Communion, turkeys, giving trees and more!

(Continued from page 1)

in the dining room so that the family members can visit with each other, share stories about their loved one who died and gain comfort from those with similar experiences.

This year, 33 candles were lit in honor of those who died. In the early years, Berny said, they seldom had more than eight candles. It shows, she said, how our parish has grown these past 33 years.

In 2016, Berny was among those who was served by the Mass. Her husband died that spring and she experienced the comfort the Remembrance Mass offered to those who mourn a loved one. Some people come year after year to pray for their loved ones and to offer sympathy to others.

On Nov. 20, committee members filled and distributed 17 Thanksgiving feast baskets to parish families who could benefit from the extra holiday groceries. To raise money for this project, they put a notice in the bulletin each year. "We've always had enough money to pay for the expense of the groceries," Berny said. "The kindness of the parishioners helps us to do this project."

For Advent, the committee's project is the Advent Giving Tree. They put up the tree, place paper ornaments on it with six different charities on them, and send the gifts to the designated charities.

On Dec. 2, the Pastoral Care Committee

helped recruit readers, choir members and others for the Mass of Anointing of the Sick and furnished and served coffee and muffins afterwards.

The next thing on their agendas — the Christmas fruit baskets project! With donations leftover from the



From left, Berny Hager, Carol Anderson and Cathy Hegre were among the committee members who helped fill the Thanksgiving feast baskets.

Thanksgiving project, committee members buy fruit, nuts and candy to put into baskets for the sick and homebound of the parish, and then deliver the baskets.

With the new year comes another project — the birthday party for residents of Edgewood Vista. The committee members furnish and serve the bars and other goodies. They also invite musical parishioners to provide the entertainment for the celebration.

In addition to these projects, the committee requests that a Mass be said each year for the homebound and residents of nursing homes. They help distribute communion at Edgewood Vista, Brookdale Brentmoor, Trinity Hospital, Minot Health and Rehab, nursing homes and to the homes of the homebound as well as conducting the communion service at Edgewood Vista.

The committee of 18 meets at 2:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. If you would like to join in the good works they do, please contact the parish office (839-6834) or Berny Hager (839-4555).

Berny describes the experience in three words: "It's so rewarding!"

Advent Penance Services

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2:00 p.m.

St. John the Apostle

Monday, Dec. 18, 7:00 p.m.

St. Therese the Little Flower

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m.

St. Leo the Great

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Grace

Other Times for Reconciliation

Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m.
and 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Before all weekday Masses

*And by appointment by calling
the parish office.*

Christmas Masses

Our Lady of Grace

Christmas Eve:
4:00 & 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.

*New Year's Eve: 5:00 p.m.
New Year's Day: 10:00 a.m.*

St. Leo's

Christmas Eve:
4:00 p.m. & midnight

Christmas Day: 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Little Flower

Christmas Eve:
4:00 p.m. & midnight

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.

St. John's

Christmas Eve:
4:00 p.m. & midnight

Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m.

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

17 - 11:45 am Christmas program

17-20 - Advent penance services (see page 3 for dates/times/locations)

18 - 7:00 pm Respect Life Committee meeting

20 - 9:45 am Theology of the Body presentation

20 - No Faith Formation classes Dec. 20, 24, 27, or 31

21 - 9:00 am Catholic Mothers Group

24 - 8:30 and 10:30 am Sunday Masses; 4:00 and 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Masses

25 - 10:00 am Christmas Day Mass

27 - 9:45 am Theology of the Body presentation

31 - 5:00 pm Mass (for the Jan. 1 feast day); 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner and New Year's Party

JANUARY

1 - 10:00 am Feast Day Mass

3 - 9:45 am Theology of the Body presentation; 4:00, 5:30 and 7:00 pm Faith Formation classes

4 - 9:00 am Catholic Mothers Group

5 - 5:30 pm Little Flowers Girls Club

7 - 8:30 Knights of Columbus Breakfast; 9:20 and 10:30 am Faith Formation classes; 1:30 pm Confirmation class; 7:00 pm High School Youth Group

Professing the very same faith as the saints

On Oct. 15 Bishop David Kagan spoke to the 25 students who were ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation during Mass that day. When the students were baptized, he told them, their parents and godparents were asked to renew their profession of faith. Now they would be doing it for themselves.

“The Church sees you are now ready and able to be responsible for your own faith,” Bishop Kagan said. “You don’t have to be reminded what to do

on Sunday....how to serve...”

He said that, as mature Catholics, they will be among those who live out their Catholic faith “not because they have to but because, as confirmed Catholics, they want to.”

He reminded them of the history of the Catholic faith, founded by Jesus himself. “We’re professing the very same faith 2,000-plus years later that Peter, James, John, all of them professed.”



Bishop David Kagan celebrated the Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Grace on Oct. 15. At our parish, students prepare for the sacrament for a full year with classes taught by Fr. Bruce.

Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit



These students were confirmed Oct. 15 by Bishop David Kagan. Back row from left: Fletcher Hennessy, Austin Geyer, John Butz, Brennan Thompson, Jack Plemel, Dylan Vigested, Griffin Schaeffer, Sam Kuntz; second row: Tyler Giroux, Houston Head, Ryley Schwengler, Ashley Heide, Matthew Dyke, Jaeger Lundeen; front row: Fr. Bruce Krebs, Carissa Boteler, Brooklyn Filler, Abigail Richardson, Dessa Flom, Jenna Sufka, Hailey Mobley, Bryanne Thorson, Kaylee Bruns, Jordan Love, Sara Bonn, Casey Larson and Bishop David Kagan.

Photo by Michael J Photography

“Train the young in the way they should go;
even when old, they will not swerve from it.”

Proverbs 22: 6



At left, children in grades 4 and higher may serve as Altar Servers during Mass. They were trained during Faith Formation classes this fall. If you missed the training but want to serve, contact Deacon Steve for private instruction.

Below, this year we created a second Atrium for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd instruction for children in Kindergarten and grade 1. Thank you to the many volunteers and donors who made this possible! Stop by sometime to tour this beautiful space.



At left, our sacramental preparation Faith Formation classes include both art and instruction. The program, developed by parishioner and teacher Mary Ann Avitua, draws from materials from Sophia Institute for Teachers and other sources. The children are learning about salvation history related to their First Reconciliation.



We traveled to the High School Youth Rally in October. With great speakers, music, confession and Mass with Bishop Kagan, it was a fun day at the University of Mary in Bismarck!

Retreat for First Reconciliation to be Jan. 21

This year more than 40 students are preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation.

Their formal preparation begins on Sunday, Jan. 21, with a retreat led by Fr. Bruce. All students who wish to receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation (including those who attend Bishop Ryan Catholic School), along with at least one parent, are required to attend the retreat at 1:00 pm that day. There is a make-up retreat on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 pm for those who cannot attend.

On the weekend of Jan. 27-28, the students will be recognized at the Masses during their Rite of Enrollment. After completing the requirements for preparation, they will receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation during one of two services on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The required retreat for First Eucharist is Sunday, Feb. 25, at 1:30 pm.

Come to Youth Group!

High School—
most Sundays at
7:00 PM

Middle School—
occasional
Wednesdays at
7:15 PM

See the full calendar
on the Youth page of
our website.

*Kindergarten
and 1st grade children
will sing during
10:30 AM Mass
on Sunday, Feb. 4*

This year all of our Kindergarten and first grade children participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) during Faith Formation classes.

CGS is a hands-on, Montessori style program that helps children learn about the Mass, Scripture and other aspects of the Catholic faith.

The catechists introduce the children to the materials (such as how to set up the altar) and the children work quietly and individually under the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

These students will be singing after communion during the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, Feb. 4. They will be practicing during classes, then will have a full group rehearsal (all Wednesday and Sunday gr. K-1 Faith Formation students) on Feb. 4 at 10:05 am in the Nursery, before going upstairs to sit together as a group during the Mass.

Parents, we need adults to sit with them during Mass. Please volunteer with your child's teacher or contact Christine at 701-818-2605.

Our church has given you one less thing to worry about

Our Lady of Grace has a new tool for electronic giving and payments. WeShare online giving is available for our weekly offerings, as well as other parish collections and events. Donating is simple, safe and secure and takes less than five minutes to set up.

You'll be able to give to any of our collections and view complete financial records at any time. You may go to olgminot.churchgiving.com and see how it works without first having to set up an account. You will see all the different opportunities for giving. You are given a choice of how often you would like to give, whether one time or repeatedly.

Set up a one-time or recurring donation by following these three easy steps:

1. Go directly to olgminot.churchgiving.com or click on the Give Online link on our parish website (olgminot.weconnect.com) or Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church app.
2. Select the collection you wish to donate to and click to make a donation.
3. Enter your payment information.

That's it. Return at any time to edit your donation or to view your financial records. Change the frequency or the amount of your donation with a few easy

clicks, right from your computer. No forms, envelopes or pens needed!

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Which payment methods are accepted?

A: Contributions from checking accounts, savings accounts, debit cards and credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express) are all accepted.

Q: Do parishioners receive receipts for their donations?

A: Yes, all contributors enrolled for online giving will receive receipts via email.

Q: What if parishioners feel uncomfortable not having something to physically drop into the collection basket?

A: You will be able to choose to print donation slips that can be placed into the collection basket.

Q: Is WeShare safe?

A: Yes. We implement the safest security standards for online transactions and your privacy is protected at all times. We are certified with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standards (DSS) as a Level 1 Service Provider.



Let's go to Steubenville – Rochester this summer!

Although winter just began it's time to think about summer and Steubenville Conference! Teenagers who are currently in grades 8-12 are invited to go on this trip to Rochester, Minn., July 12-16. We'll stop at the Mall of America in Minneapolis along the way, then take in the conference along with hundreds of other teens who are excited about their Catholic faith and want to know more about it. With fundraising

opportunities and financial assistance from the parish, it's an experience that's open to everyone.

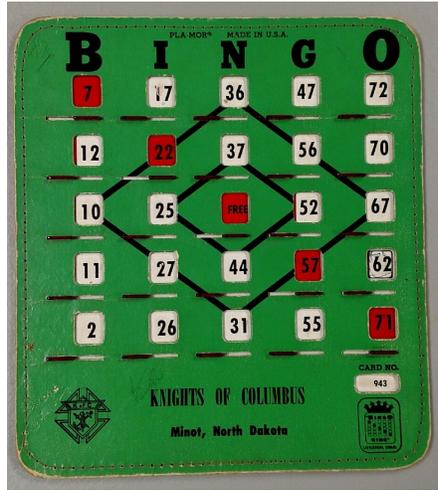
Light green brochures/registration forms are on the classroom hallway bulletin board and in the youth room. Or call the parish office at 839-6834 for more information. If we register by Jan. 17, we'll be able to take advantage of the early registration discount.

Usher in the new year with a “Bingo!”

Join us for a New Year’s Eve tradition on Sunday, Dec. 31!

We’ll begin with 5:00 p.m. Mass for the feast day. (January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God feast day.) Then we’ll head downstairs to the dining room for a potluck supper followed by games of Bingo. There will be prizes, food and fun!

This event is for people of all ages — children, teens, young adults, middle age people and the elderly! It ends early so there will still be time for you to continue your celebration at home or elsewhere before the clock strikes midnight and 2018 arrives.



Faith Formation students in grades 2-5 to sing at Jan. 7 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Mass

We’re excited to share an Epiphany song with all of you!

Faith Formation students in grades 2-5 will sing after communion during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Jan. 7, the Epiphany of the Lord.

In addition to the rehearsals during class time, we’ll have a final rehearsal right before the Mass. We’ll meet at 10:05 a.m. in the Nursery on Jan. 7, rehearse briefly, and then all of the students, as well as some of their teachers and other helpers, will sit together in a reserved section of the church for the Mass. They’ll line up in front of the church after communion and sing.

Parents, please encourage your child to participate and invite grandparents and friends to Mass!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 528) tells us: “The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee.”

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2: 14

Come to the Christmas program Dec. 17!



Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 11:45 a.m. for the parish Christmas program. Children in kindergarten through fifth grade act out the Nativity story after only three brief rehearsals, and our preschool-age guests get a front-row seat at the feet of the angels. It’s a time of fun, fellowship and song that prepares us to welcome the newborn King into our own homes at Christmas.

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
707 16th Avenue SW
Minot, ND 58701

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Students thanked veterans with cards and good wishes

Children in our Dare to be a Disciple program recently created Thanksgiving cards for residents of the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon.

With messages like “I thank you this much”, “Thank you veterans for all you do”, “Thank you for serving us” and more, the students reached out to the men and women who have served our country and helped to ensure that our freedoms are preserved for generations to come. Thank you to the veterans and active duty military in our parish, too!

