



DISCIPLESHIP & EVANGELIZATION

 Immaculate Conception | Holy Name of Jesus | St. Mary | St. Micheal | St. Henry | Holy Rosary | Blessed Sacrament



Pray, Give, and Sacrifice

Giving up something for Lent, eating fish on Fridays and fasting from meat, almsgiving and penance throughout the forty days of Lent—these are some of the practices for which Catholics are known. But why do we as Catholics do this? Because through these commitments—known as “Lenten practices” or “Lenten disciplines”—the Catholic Church calls us each year to renew our discipleship in Christ. Specifically, each year during the liturgical season of Lent the Church asks us to pray, give alms, and fast.

Pray

We know the importance of prayer in our lives—as individuals, as families, and as a community. Prayer is especially important during Lent. The Lenten season is a time for reflection, evaluation, and repentance. As the booklet *Praying Lent* (Loyola Press, 2009) says, Lent asks us: “What needs changing?” Lent calls us to a personal conversion and renewal—to a recommitted life in Christ so that we might not just celebrate Easter forty days later but also feel the risen Christ alive in us and in the world. This means prayer. During Lent we set aside time for prayer that is reflective in nature and reveals places where we have failed to open ourselves to God.

Give

Every day we witness situations of injustice, violence, and hatred. Television and the Internet bring these into our living rooms, but we also observe and live them in our own cities and homes. The Church calls us during Lent to be especially conscious of the needs of others and to act accordingly. Giving materially to another is an act of Christian charity known as “almsgiving.” During Lent, the Church also calls us to first convert ourselves and then to transform the world for justice, so that we might serve the Kingdom which Jesus lived and preached.

Sacrifice

Fasting and abstinence are not sacrifices for the sake of pain or vain discomfort. Sacrifice for the sake of sacrifice is not a Christian virtue. We are asked by the Catholic Church to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and not to eat meat on the Fridays of Lent. Feeling an empty stomach, or fighting the urge to have that juicy steak or candy bar does more than just remind us that for some people an empty stomach is their daily bread. Fasting and abstinence help us to ask ourselves the question: “What sustains me and gives me life?” What nourishes me on my journey of life? We will find the answer, not in the steak or the candy bar, but at the end of these forty days of Lent—in the Resurrection of Jesus. We fast and abstain because, when we do, we are reminded of who we are—followers of the risen Christ.

As Catholics, we joyfully engage in Lenten disciplines because we are disciples (and yes, both words have the same root). We pray, give (almsgiving), and sacrifice (fast) because we follow Christ, who loved us so much that gave his own life so that we might share in Eternal Life. (*Loyola Press*)

Discipleship and Evangelization Team

Pastorate Director- This could to you!
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Youth Formation

SCHEDULE

No Faith Formation class on February 15th and 18th to allow students to attend Ash Wednesday Mass with their families.

Feb. 22nd /25th- K-10th Faith Formation for all parishes

Mar. 1st/4th- K-10th Faith Formation for all parishes

Mar. 8th/11th- K-10th Faith Formation for all parishes

Mar. 15th- K-10th Faith Formation for Blessed Sacrament parish

No Faith Formation class on March 18th and 22nd for Spring Break

Mar. 25th- K-10th Faith Formation for all parishes except Blessed Sacrament

Mar. 29th- K-10th Faith Formation for Blessed Sacrament parish

No Faith Formation class on April 1st and 5th for Easter Break

Apr. 8th- K-10th Faith Formation for all parishes except Blessed Sacrament

Apr. 12th/15th- K-10th Faith Formation for all parishes

In the event of inclement weather, most parishes will follow their local school schedule. Any changes to this calendar can be found on our pastorate website at www.avemariapastorate.org or on the pastorate Facebook page.

Save The Date for Ave Maria Pastorate Summer Camps!!



On June 1st-5th, grades K-6th will be having fun at *The Catholic Vocation Bible School* during the day while 7th-12th will grow in faith and friendship in the evening! More details to come!

SAINT MARIA GORETTI CAMP

Join us at the Abbey of the Hills in Marvin, SD on June 1st-3rd. Camp Goretti is a camp for girls ages 12-16. This camp is a vocations camp run by a variety of religious sisters with a main focus on the call to holiness!



Young Adult Group

The Young Adult Group is for college age men and women. The group meets at Ave Maria Catholic School Library on Thursdays at 6:30pm. Contact Parker at 605.878.2055 for more information.

First Communion Eucharistic Retreat

Saturday, March 14th, 9:00am to 11:30am

A Eucharistic Retreat for students preparing to receive their First Holy Communion held at Immaculate Conception Parish. At least one parent or guardian is required to attend. If your 2nd grade child does not attend classes in Watertown but would like to attend the retreat, visit with your parish coordinator for more details.

Confirmation Dates to Remember

April 8th Confirmation rehearsal at 7:00pm at Holy Name of Jesus Church
April 11th Confirmation at 10:30am at Holy Name of Jesus Church

First Communion Dates to Remember

Holy Name of Jesus

First Communion Rehearsal, April 8th 6:00pm | First Communion, April 12th at 10:30am

Immaculate Conception

First Communion Rehearsal, April 8th 7:00pm | First Communion, April 12th at 2:00pm

Blessed Sacrament

First Communion, April 19th at 8:30am

Holy Rosary

First Communion, April 18th at 5:30pm

St. Michael

First Reconciliation, April 8th | First Communion, April 12th at 11:00am

St. Henry and St. Mary's First Communion dates are to be determined.

July 28th to 31st



Vocations Camp for men 12-15 years old! Priests and several seminarians from our diocese will lead this fun-filled camp at Abbey of the Hills in Marvin, SD.



SET AFLAME D-Camp 2026

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Luke 12:49)

High School Camp 1

June 14-17, 2026

Youth Entering Grades 9-12 in the Fall of 2026

High School Camp 2

July 12-15, 2026

Youth Entering Grades 9-12 in the Fall of 2026

Junior High Camp

July 16-19, 2026

Youth Entering Grades 7-8 in the Fall of 2026

Choose your date at <https://sfccatholic.org/youth/d-camp/>

Adult Formation

Prayer Opportunities

Adoration

- Holy Hour with Father Christopher Sundays from 3:00-4:00pm, check bulletin for dates and locations
- Adoration every Wednesday at 12:40pm until noon on Thursday at Immaculate Conception

Rosary

- Rosary Prayer Group meets Mondays at 9am in the Immaculate Conception Chapel
- Rosary prayed following daily Mass on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Michael, Clark.
- Rosary Fellowship Group meets weekly on Mondays at 6:00pm. Please contact Jody at 605-690-1529 or join the Facebook group 'Rosary and Ice Cream Nights' for more information. All ages are welcome.

Lenten Communal Penance Service

Sunday, March 22nd, 2:00pm at Immaculate Conception Church

Anointing Mass

Tuesday May, 13th at 11:00am

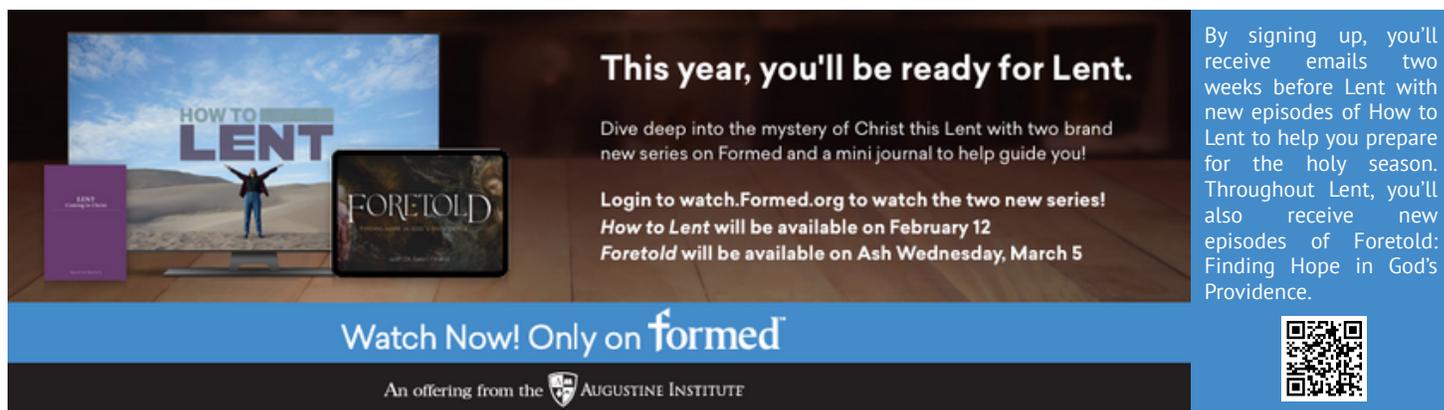
Join us for an Anointing Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish. There will be a lunch following Mass.

Register for FORMED.org

Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to renew our pastorate's subscription to FORMED.org! Formed guides and supports you along your spiritual journey; over 4,000 different titles to choose from with something for everyone in the family!

Follow the instructions below to register for your account.

1. Visit <https://formed.org/signup> and click "Continue to Sign Up/Login"
2. Click "Need an Account, Sign up"
3. Enter your information
4. Search for Ave Maria Pastorate
5. Enjoy your new subscription!



This year, you'll be ready for Lent.

Dive deep into the mystery of Christ this Lent with two brand new series on Formed and a mini journal to help guide you!

Login to watch [Formed.org](https://formed.org) to watch the two new series!
How to Lent will be available on February 12
Foretold will be available on Ash Wednesday, March 5

Watch Now! Only on **formed**

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

By signing up, you'll receive emails two weeks before Lent with new episodes of How to Lent to help you prepare for the holy season. Throughout Lent, you'll also receive new episodes of Foretold: Finding Hope in God's Providence.

Women's Discipleship

SHE Shall Be Called Women

- Wednesday at 8:45am in the Immaculate Conception Boardroom
- Wednesday at 6:30pm at Ave Maria Catholic School

Women's Group, Book Study

Tuesdays at 4:30pm at Holy Name of Jesus Church

Young Women's Group

College aged women's group meets weekly. Contact Ilse for more information by calling 605.886.4049 or email ivital@avemariapastorate.org

Men's Discipleship

4Fathers 4Families, Men's Group

Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Ave Maria Catholic School Library. Mission is to strengthen men in their sacred role as spiritual leaders of the home. Contact Chris for more information at 605.280.6834.

Watertown Men's Group

Thurs's 6:30am, Immaculate Conception Church Hall. For more information contact Craig Swarhout at 763.458.0718.

Young Men's Group

Held Mondays, 7pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Center Basement. For more info call Ryan Hanten at 605.881.0683.

Couple's Formation

Young Couples Group

This group is for young married couples and meets every other Sunday. Childcare is available, but we ask that you provide a small stipend. Location rotates between couples that are interested in hosting. To learn more contact Shelby, 605.237.9691.



309 2nd Ave SE
Watertown, SD 57201



Ash Wednesday Mass Times

February 18th, 2026

Holy Name of Jesus, Watertown

8:30am | 12:00pm | 5:30pm

Immaculate Conception, Watertown

9:00am | 12:10pm | 6:30pm

Blessed Sacrament, Florence

6:00pm

Holy Rosary, Kranzburg

7:00am^ | 7:30pm

St. Henry, Henry

5:00pm

St. Mary, Bryant

8:00pm

St Michael, Clark

6:30pm

^ Distribution of ashes, no Mass (30 min or less)



avemariapastorate.org



Living Stations of the Cross

Led by the Watertown Confirmation Students

Holy Name of Jesus Church

1009 Skyline Drive

March 11th, 7:00pm

Immaculate Conception

Church

309 2nd Ave SE

April 1st, 7:00pm