

WEST RIVER *Catholic*

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Holy Year of Hope, p. 3



Sunday is Sacred, p. 5

December 2024

Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota

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Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Rapid City,

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones! The above image of the Holy Family was “created,” not by a human artist, but by what is now frequently called “AI,” that is, “Artificial Intelligence.” The term “artificial” suggests something not real, lacking in authenticity, or a substitute for “real thing.” The use of AI to depict the Holy Family and, specifically, the “Word Made Flesh” at the center of it seems particularly jarring. For there is nothing more real and authentic as the Incarnation in the one and unrepeatable Child of Bethlehem, the Son of Mary, the Son of God. For it is through Jesus

that all of reality makes sense and is made clear. As your new bishop, I pray that this season will be one where you experience Jesus Christ, God with Us, in a real, true, and life-changing way. This happens no more fully than at Christmas Mass! Come with your family and experience the authentic, true and real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, the best Christmas gift of all time!

*Sincerely in Christ,
+Bishop Scott Bullock*

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Bishop's Calendar

December 18, 2024 — January 21, 2025

Subject to change without notice



December 18, Wednesday

9 a.m. Visit to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Elementary School, Rapid City
4 p.m. Rapid City Catholic School System Executive Committee Meeting, Chancery
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 P.M. Chancery Staff Mass/Holiday Dinner, Chancery

December 19, Thursday

12:30 p.m. Visit to Terra Sancta Retreat Center
4 p.m. Mercy Night, Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City

December 21, Saturday

5 p.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, Sacred Heart, Dupree

December 22, Sunday

9 a.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, All Saints, Eagle Butte
Noon Mass, Pastoral Visit, St. Joseph, Cherry Creek

December 24, Tuesday

Chancery Closed for Christmas Eve
10 p.m. Christmas Mass at Night, Cathedral

December 25, Wednesday

Chancery Closed for Christmas Day
9 a.m. Christmas Mass, Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City

December 28, Saturday

3 p.m. Confessions, Cathedral

December 29, Sunday

10:30 a.m. Mass

Opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope, Cathedral

December 31, Tuesday

Chancery Closed for Mary Mother of God
5:30 p.m. Mass, Cathedral

January 1, Wednesday

Chancery Closed for Mary Mother of God

January 14, Tuesday

8 a.m. CT Mass, Legislator Breakfast with S.D. Catholic Conference, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Pierre

3 p.m. S.D. Catholic Conference Meeting, Online

January 16, Thursday

10 a.m. Chancery Cabinet Leaders Meeting, Chancery

January 18, Saturday

5 p.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont

January 19, Sunday

8 a.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Keystone

10 a.m. Mass, Pastoral Visit, St. Rose of Lima, Hill City

January 20, Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Chancery Closed

January 21, Tuesday

9 a.m. Real Presence Radio Live from Chancery (89.9 FM/94.7 FM)

2:30 p.m. S.D. Catholic Conference Meeting, Online

WEST RIVER CATHOLIC

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Safe Environment for Children and Young People

The Catholic Diocese of Rapid City is firmly committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for our children and young people. To report allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Irene Lee. To ensure confidentiality in our outreach to victims, she can be contacted privately at 1-605-209-3418 (cell). Alleged victims are advised of their right to report alleged abuse to civil authorities.

In accordance with diocesan policy, all allegations of sexual misconduct involving children, young people, and vulnerable adults by priests, deacons, lay employees, or volunteers serving the Diocese of Rapid City will be investigated.

The diocesan sexual misconduct policy and the code of conduct are posted on the diocesan website at www.rapidcitydiocese.org.

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"If the church is a boat," Pope Francis said, "the Holy Spirit is the sail that propels it."

Jubilee 2025: The Year of Hope

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith. On Sunday, December 29, Bishop Scott Bullock will celebrate the 10:30 a.m. Mass, opening the Jubilee Year of Hope, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. According to Fr. Brian Christensen, rector of the cathedral, weather permitting, the Mass will begin with a procession outside the east doors (5th St.).

The Jubilee Mass will be live streamed at rapidcitydiocese.org/live and on our Facebook page.

More events during the Year of Hope will be publicized later.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have gifted us in
your son Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity
kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us, the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into diligent cultivators of the
evangelical seeds
that make humanity and the cosmos rise
unto the confident expectation
of the new heavens and the new earth,
when with the powers of Evil overcome,
your glory shall be manifested eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
the yearning for heavenly treasures
and pour over all the earth
the joy and peace
of our Redeemer.

To you God blessed in eternity,
be praise and glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

(Signed) *Francis*



Pope Francis will open the door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24. (File photo L'Osservatore Romano and CNA)

Hope makes good things happen, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The "most beautiful gift" the Catholic Church and its members can give the world is a reason to live with hope, Pope Francis said. "The Christian cannot be satisfied with having hope; he or she must also radiate hope, be a sower of hope," the pope said at his weekly general audience on Dec. 11.

"The Holy Spirit is the ever-gushing source of Christian hope," the pope said, pointing to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, which says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

"If the church is a boat," Pope Francis said, "the Holy Spirit is the sail that propels it and lets it advance on the sea of history, today as in the past!"

At the end of his audience, the pope also expressed his hopes for peace and harmony in Syria after the fall of President Bashar Assad.

Saying he was following the news about Syria, "at this delicate moment in its history," Pope Francis prayed Syrians could establish a new government without further conflict.

"I pray through the intercession of the Virgin Mary that the Syrian people may live in peace and security in their beloved

land," he said, "and that the different religions may walk together in friendship and mutual respect for the good of the nation, which has been afflicted by years of war."

In his main talk, the pope brought together the Advent hope for the coming of the Lord and the theme of the upcoming Holy Year, which is "Pilgrims of Hope."

For Christians, he said, "hope is not an empty word, or a vague desire of ours that things may turn out for the best; it is a certainty, because it is founded on God's fidelity to his promises. This is why it is called a theological virtue: because it is infused by God and has God as its guarantor."

Hope also is not "a passive virtue, which merely waits for things to happen," the pope said. Rather, "it is a supremely active virtue that helps make them happen."

Pope Francis cited an unnamed writer who explained that the Holy Spirit, bearer of hope, "is the strength given to those who have no strength. He leads the struggle for the emancipation and full realization of the people of the oppressed."

At the same time, the pope said, Christian hope should be shared "with gentleness and reverence," as the First Letter of Peter says, "because it is not so much the strength of the arguments that will convince people, but rather the love that we know how to put in them. This is the first and most effective form of evangelization."



Chancery closed
Dec. 24 & 25, 2024,
for Christmas
December 31, 2024, &
January 1, 2025, for
Solemnity of Mary

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Remember the Lord's day is sacred



Fr. Mark McCormick (with his back to the camera) brought home the concept of the Lord's Supper from Pontifical North American College in Rome. He hosted a dinner for Rapid City Newman Center members. (Courtesy photos)



Last May, I was visiting two of our seminarians, Deacon Max Vetch and Dillon Johnson at the North American College in Rome. Dillon invited me to be part of The Lord's Day Supper. I told Dillon that I was not sure what the Lord's Day Supper was, but I assumed it had to do with Jesus, prayer and food and I was up for the encounter. I am so thankful that I said yes to Dillon's invitation because I am still basking in the blessing from that Lord's Supper way back in May.

It was an amazing encounter of prayer, food and fraternity. There were some twenty seminarians that were present for this Celebration of the Lord's Day Supper. It began Saturday evening with appetizers, followed by Vespers/Evening Prayer, sharing of the Lord's graces and blessings of the past week. What a great gift to hear the men share the many ways in which the Lord Jesus revealed himself and touched their hearts.

At the beginning of the meal, there is a prayer calling to mind that Jesus is the light of the world that shines in the darkness, a darkness that has not overcome the light of Christ.

A candle is then lit. The prayer concludes with, "Today we set aside the concerns of the week that we may honor the Lord and celebrate his resurrection. Today, we cease from our work in order to worship God and remember the eternal life to which He has called us. The Lord Himself is with us, to refresh and strengthen us. Let us welcome God among us and give him glory. Let us love one another in Christ. May the Holy Spirit be with us, to deepen our devotion to the Lord and to increase our zeal for the way of life He has given us." Then the meal is blessed and shared.

After the meal, there is an opportunity to worship and to praise the Lord in song and to seek prayer for the upcoming week. That Lord's Day Supper Celebration way back in May has renewed my own celebration of the Lord's Day in my own life and in my priesthood, and I have been blessed to share it with the Newman Center

Community, too, at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Since May, after Vespers/Evening Prayer on Saturday evenings, I light a candle to "kindle" in the Lord's Day and I keep the candle lit until after I pray Compline/Night prayer on Sunday evening. (An excellent way to use up old Easter Candles.) It is a great reminder to me to keep the Lord's Day Holy and Sacred. I come into my apartment at the Newman Center numerous times throughout the weekend and when I see that candle burning brightly it reminds me that the Lord's Day is at hand, it is Jesus, Himself, who is the light of the world, which no darkness can overcome.

I have had several Lord's Day Suppers at the Newman Center, trying to help our staff and students to see that the Lord's Day is much more than an hour for Mass on Sundays. Katie Baltzer, Director of Operations for the Newman Center, shares this about her experience of the Lord's Day Supper, "I loved the Lord's Day Celebration. It was such a gift that Father Mark allowed us to invite friends from various Christian backgrounds to learn about evening prayer and experience this beautiful aspect of Catholic devotion. Together, we prayed and interceded for one another, enjoyed praise and worship music, and shared a meal, creating a comforting and joyful atmosphere. We lit a candle as a reminder of the Spirit's presence, honoring the Lord's Day throughout the evening and into Sunday night prayer. What a truly special gift!"

I would encourage you to try a Lord's Day Supper Celebration in your home to help you to be more attentive and aware of keeping the Lord's Day sacred and holy in your life. Perhaps invite your neighbors to join you.

If you would like a copy of the Lord's Day Supper Prayer, please email Tanya Cooper in the vocation office at tcopper@diorc.org. Or if you would like to visit more about the Lord's Day Supper, you can email me at mmccormick@diorc.org.

God bless— Fr. Mark McCormick

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
Colossians 1:9-10

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One of the most rewarding aspects (of working at the retreat center) is witnessing the transformation in the guests who visit the retreat center. Seeing them leave with a renewed sense of purpose and peace is a testament to the impactful work we are doing. It reinforces my belief in the importance of providing spaces for people to heal, reflect, and grow in faith.

Molly Brechtel
Event Coordinator

Totals from FY24

GUESTS
27,007

EVENTS
689

INCOME
\$457,556



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Owned and operated by the Terra Sancta Retreat Center, the retreat center is located in Rapid City, SD.



Copies of the most recent Impact Report are available at the retreat center or on-line at

Terra Sancta Retreat Center
2101 City Springs Rd, Ste 300
Rapid City, SD 57702
stay@terrasancta.org

terrasancta.org/impact



(Photo by Johnny Sundby Photography)

Merry Christmas from the West River Catholic

The recent episcopal ordination provided an excellent opportunity to get priests together for a group photo. **(Front row)** Fr. Jonathon Dillon; Fr. Bryan Sorensen; Fr. Leo Hausmann; Fr. Ron Garry; Fr. John Hatcher, SJ; Fr. Ed Vanorny; Bishop Scott Bullock; Fr. Tony Grossenburg; Msgr. Michael Woster; Fr. Ed Witt, SJ; and Fr. Ron Seminara, SJ. **(Second row)** Fr. Grant Gerlach; Fr. Gregory Bartholomew, FSSP; Fr. Christianus Hendrik, SCJ; Fr. Mark McCormick; Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ; Fr. Francis Nsuguga; Fr. Zane Pekron; Fr. Edmund Yainao, SJ; Fr. Collins Igwillio; Fr. Jean Claude,

Mbassi, SCJ; Fr. Michael Kaplka; and Msgr. Gerald McManus. **(Third row)** Fr. Brian Christensen; Fr. Gary Oreshoski; Fr. Francis Nwankile, FJS; Fr. David Mastrangelo, SJ; Fr. John Paul Trask; Fr. Leonard Ssenyojo; Fr. Brad Held, SJ; Fr. Tim Hoag; Fr. Janusz Korban, Fr. Micheal Oli; Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek; Fr. John Heying and Fr. Ryen Dwyer, SJ. **(Back row)** Fr. Robert Kinyon; Fr. Mark Horn; Fr. Matt Fallgren; Fr. Jim Hoerter; Fr. Tyler Dennis; Fr. Brian Lane; Fr. Adam Hofer; Fr. Peter Klink, SJ; Fr. Kevin Achbach; Fr. Kerry Prendiville; Fr. Timothy Castor; and Fr. Joshua Lee.

Catholics Building on Faith

A year ago, fifteen Catholic parishes and organizations teamed up to build four homes for Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity in Rapid City. On December 12, the first one was dedicated. Fr. Kerry Prendiville from St. Therese Church, did the official house blessing. Also on hand were Habitat staff, volunteers and the St. Elizabeth Seton Elementary Student Council. **(Right)** Holley Elk Boy shows her son a quilt made for him by Blessed Sacrament Church quilters. She is the new homeowner. Applicants must complete 250 service hours and learn about home repairs and finances. Area Catholics have three other homes in various stages of completion. (WRC photo)



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Special Collection January 18-19, 2025

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Diaconate Candidates

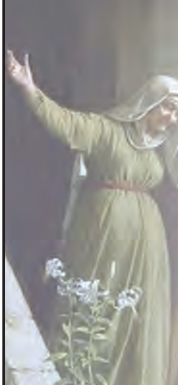
Mass was held December 8 at which five men were admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders by Bishop Scott Bullock. It took place at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. The candidates publicly declared their intention to pursue the formal preparation and discernment needed to be potentially ordained members of the clergy. Deacon Greg Sass, director of the Permanent Diaconate said, "The men and their wives have completed the two-year aspirancy period and are currently in the first year of three years candidacy." (Left to right) Steve Van Mullem, St. John the Evangelist Church, Ft. Pierre; John Talcott from St. Joseph Church, Spearfish; Eugene Iron Shell, Jr., St. Charles Borromeo Church, St. Francis; Todd Curtis, Our Lady of the Black Hills Church, Piedmont; and Frank Birkholt, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Hot Springs; altar server Stella Curtis and Bishop Bullock. (WRC photo)

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- Jas 1:17

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SATURDAY

3 p.m. MT/4 p.m. CT

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SUNDAY

9 a.m. MT/10 a.m. CT

KELOLand TV (CBS)

<https://www.sfcatholic.org/tvmass/>



www.rapidcitydiocese.org/live
facebook.com/DioceseofRapidCity

Televised Christmas Mass

with Bishop Scott Bullock

December 24: 4 p.m. on NBC

Check with your provider for channel information

Online: nc1.tv/mass

December Live-stream Schedule:

with Bishop Scott Bullock

CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT

December 24, 10 pm

OPENING MASS OF THE JUBILEE

YEAR OF HOPE

December 29, 10:30 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, VIGIL

December 31, 5:30 pm

SATURDAY – 4 P.M.

NBC 21.1

ConnectCenter1 21.2

SUNDAY – 7 A.M.

NBC 21.1

SUNDAY – 10:30 A.M.

ConnectCenter1 21.2

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MERRY
Christmas

In Your Prayers

In Your Prayers is designed to help us remember the birthdays, ordination and death anniversaries of the priests and deacons who serve us.

January

Birthdays: Jan. 3, Dcn. Earl “Joe” Witte; Jan. 8, Dcn. William Dustman; Jan. 10, Fr. Francis Nsubga; Jan. 21, Fr. Tyler Dennis; Jan. 23, Fr. Ron Seminara, SJ.

Ordinations: Jan. 3, 1984, Fr. Wm. Zandri; Jan. 6, 1977, Fr. Peter Wilke.

Necrology: Jan. 2, 1973, James Weithman; Jan. 4, 1955, Edward Henault; Jan. 7, 1979, Dominic Padula; Jan. 12, 1961, Michael Conley; Jan. 13, 1999, Bishop Lawrence Welsh; Jan. 14, 1964, John Connolly; Jan. 15, 2014, Raymond Deisch; Jan. 16, 1946, Raymond O’Hora; Jan. 16, 1978, Othmar Buerkler, OSB; Jan. 17, 2004, Collins Jordan; Jan. 21, 1957, John Novak; Jan. 23, 1951, John O’Reilly; Jan. 25, 1990, James Donahoe; Jan. 26, 1955, Edward McGonigal; Jan. 26, 1962, Gerhard Stakemeir; Jan. 26, 1960, Walter Pascal; Jan. 27, 2022, Dcn. Gerald Bush; Jan. 30, 1998, William McKenney, SJ; Jan. 20, 2018, Dcn. Marlon Leneagh; Jan. 31, 1959, Charles Virnig; Jan. 31, 2005, Dale Kutil.



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Holiday Goodies Sale

Saturday, December 21, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1049 Howard St., Sturgis, from 8 a.m. to noon. “Let us do your baking!” Enjoy hot cider while you shop. Candy and cookies \$6 per pound. Proceeds benefit St. Aloysius Cemetery and St. Martin Chapel.

Common Sense Parenting offered in Sturgis

Thursdays, January 30-March 6, Common Sense Parenting classes at St. Francis Church, 1049 Howard St., Sturgis, for raising children ages 6 to 16. Build parenting skills! Learn techniques to address issues for parents of school aged children. Presented by Kelli Whartman of Catholic Social Services. Schedule: 5:20 p.m. — check in; 5:30 p.m. — dinner; 6-7:15 p.m. — classes. Also offered at that time Love Inc., classes on Financial Frustrations and Repairs. For registration go to loveinonline.com/sturgis-life-inc/ or call 605-206-3515.

St. Vincent de Paul Ozanam Training

Saturday, January 11, Ozanam Training offers an overview of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This will help people discern if they are being called to serve the poor, there is no obligation to join. To be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 844 5th St. Spearfish — breakfast and lunch will be served. To RSVP contact Michele Curtain at 605-642-2306.

NPM Award Winners

National Pastoral Musicians, Rapid City Chapter, held their Fall Meeting recently at St. Michael’s Church, Hermosa. Fr. Timothy Castor, Sturgis, gave a presentation on Chant. Bishop Scott Bullock spoke on “The Bishop as Moderator of the Liturgy.” Five local NPM members — Ed and Jeannie Fischer, Chantry Nelson, Jackie Schnittgrund, and Terry Schroeder — led a music reading session. After the banquet, Bishop Bullock commissioned the Music Ministers and the following awards were presented: St. Cecilia Award for Laity went to Ed and Jeannie Fischer. Custer; Peggy Langenfeld Memorial Award went to Sue Sedlacek, Rapid City; Emerging Music Minister for Youth went to Meredith Maciejewski, Timber Lake; Asher Wilkening, Rapid City; and Ky Gerlick, Rapid City.

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BEGIN AGAIN

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SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025 | TERRA SANCTA RETREAT CENTER

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BY JONAH MCKEOWN
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY STAFF

Is the Bible — already the most widely printed book of all time — having a moment?

As recently reported by the Wall Street Journal, Bible sales — across a variety of editions — rose 22% in the U.S. through the end of October 2024 compared with the same period last year, according to book tracker Circana BookScan. This is despite nearly a third of U.S. adults identifying as religiously unaffiliated.

In contrast, print book sales overall rose just 1% during the same period.

Experts cited by the WSJ attributed the rise in Bible sales to readers seeking solace and meaning amid growing anxiety and uncertainty in the culture; the emergence of new Bible versions and formats catering to diverse preferences; and strategic marketing campaigns to reach new audiences, such as young people wanting to make their faith their own by buying their own Bible.

Several prominent Catholic publishers told CNA that they, too, are riding this wave of increased Bible sales, with many attributing the rise to a spiritual hunger among Catholics to dive into God’s word for themselves.

For Word on Fire, the Catholic media and publishing apostolate founded by Bishop Robert Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, the “Bible boom” has been very tangible.

Brandon Vogt, senior publishing director at Word on Fire and general editor of the Word on Fire Bible series, told CNA that the apostolate has sold over half a million

volumes of the Word on Fire Bible since launching the product in 2020, far outpacing their own expectations.

“We ordered 50,000 copies, which to us seemed like a lot, and we expected those would last for at least a year or two. Shockingly, we sold out the leather copies within 24 hours and most of the hardcover and paperback editions within a few weeks. Sales haven’t slowed since then,” Vogt said.

“From Jordan Peterson’s biblical lectures on Genesis and Exodus, which drew millions of views on YouTube and sold out arenas across the country, to Father Mike Schmitz’s ‘Bible in a Year’ podcast, which for a time was the No. 1 podcast in the world, to Bishop Barron’s weekly YouTube sermons, which draw hundreds of thousands of viewers each Sunday, we’re seeing the Bible presented in fresh and exciting ways and people are responding. The Word on Fire Bible offers just another example,” Vogt said. “People have grown weary of the ‘your truth, my truth’ paradigm and are hungry for the truth, which is partly why many are turning back to this ancient text which claims to be the very Word of God, not just one word among many.”

Ignatius Press, which has been a major name in Catholic Bible publishing for decades, recently announced a new study Bible created in concert with professor Scott Hahn’s St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology that is already contributing to the ongoing Bible boom.

Mark Brumley, president of Ignatius Press, told CNA he sees the recent surge in Bible sales as a reflection of a growing hunger for God and spiritual guidance.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, was celebrated with a Mass and a meal at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City. Bishop Scott Bullock was the principal celebrant at the bilingual Mass. Many of the children in attendance dress as Mexican peasants or St. Juan Diego, and present roses to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The celebration recalls the miraculous apparitions of the brown-skinned Virgin Mary to St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac, Mexico, in December 1531. She appeared to Juan Diego three times and the last time filled his *tilma* (cloak) with roses. When he emptied his cloak of the roses, he found that it bore her image.

In the decades after her appearance, millions of indigenous people converted to the faith. In 1999, then-Pope John Paul II, in a homily given at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, declared December 12 as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent. During the same visit, Pope John Paul II entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born. She is the Patroness of the unborn and the Americas. (WRC photos by Becky)



MAILING LABEL

December 2024

West River Catholic

WRC 12



St. Nicholas Celebration

Parishioners of St. Joseph Church, Spearfish, held a St. Nicholas Day celebration on December 6, which is his feast day. The evening featured crafts, dinner, a reading station, and a visit from St. Nicholas. Participants could also learn about the real life of St. Nicholas of Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey; how to pray a St. Nicholas Rosary; or about the Jesse Tree. **(Top)** Bridget George helping Skyler Voss with a beading project. **(Left)** Kathy & Bob Ewing introduce their granddaughter Julien to St. Nick — also known as Bob Speirs. **(Right)** Speirs holding Ezra Ochoa in “Baby’s first picture with St. Nick.” (WRC photos by Becky Berreth)

