



St. John the Evangelist

Sacred Heart - Oakwood

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

1515 Western Ave
Grafton, ND 58237

We are asking that you pray 3 Hail Marys after each Mass for people to come back to their Catholic Faith.

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm, St. John, Grafton
Sunday: 7:30 am, Sacred Heart, Oakwood
9:30 am, St. John, Grafton
11:30 am, Spanish Mass (**May - Aug**)

Reconciliation - Confessions

Saturday: 4:15- 4:45 pm
Sunday: 9:00 - 9:20 am,
Sunday: 11:00 - 11:20 am (**May - Aug**)
Daily Confession: Available before Mass
Tuesday - Friday

Pastor: Fr. Jeff Eppler
Fr. Jeff's Cell Phone 1-314-750-8937

The Parish Office 352-1648
Deacon and Faith Formation Director:
Rev. Mr. Michael Grzadzielewski
Parish Secretary: Kathy Swanson
Adm Asst/Parish Bookkeeper: Carla Trahan
Environmental Services: David Demester
Custodian: Deanna Priley

Emails: Contact Father Jeff at
fr.jeff@stjohnsgraffton.com
Kathy - kathy@stjohnsgraffton.com
Carla - carla@stjohnsgraffton.com
Dcn. Mike - Mike@stjohnsgraffton.com
Bulletin - find it at stjohnsgraffton.com

St. John the Evangelist

Parish Lay Directors: Paul Houdek
Mary (John) Dusek

Pastoral Council: Marta Balderas, Michelle Demester, Tony Dumas, Nancy Miller, Frank Benito Pinta, Brent Risky.

Finance Council: Matt Beneda, Mary (John) Dusek, Paul Houdek, Donny Suda, Stacey Van Bruggen

Youth Committee: Marta Balderas, Alexa Holt, Nancy Miller, Jackie Osowski, Maggie Suda, Molly Zahradka, Julie McCann, Mellysa Toscano.

Sacred Heart - Oakwood

Parish Lay Directors: Ed Seigny, Lori Cyr

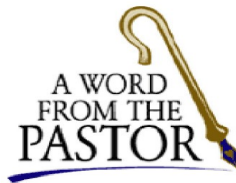
Pastoral/Finance Council: Cindy Collette, Mark Gourde, Bobby Osowski, Lee Osowski, Susan Suda

Baptism Prep Classes: - The 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Gathering Space. Call 352-1648 to register.

Eucharistic Adoration

In the Church: Tuesday 6pm - 10pm
In the Chapel: Tuesday 7am - 8am
Wednesday from Noon - 10pm
Thursday from 6pm - 10pm

Need a ride to church:
Call Frank Janousek at 520-1730
Bulletin deadline is noon on Wednesdays.



Lent begins with Jesus doing battle in the desert against the evil one. The devil tempts and Jesus conquers. This is the first of His victories over Satan, but certainly not His last. By His death and resurrection, Jesus plunders the devil's kingdom, rescuing mankind from the darkness of sin, death and condemnation. Jesus frees us for a special relationship of divine love with the Most Holy Trinity. This relationship is called a covenant.

A covenant is a permanent bond of love between two persons or families making them one. The covenant God created in the very beginning is that of marriage. The marital covenant is not only between man and woman, but also between God and man. God has always related to us in a spousal way. He desires for us to be one with Him.

Covenant is found throughout both the Old and New Testaments. God worked within the parameters of how the ancient peoples understood covenant: two becoming one. This is very different from the modern view of covenant as simply being a contract or promise. Over the next few weeks, I will address four specific elements in creating a covenant based upon God's revelation – Oath, Exchange, Blood Sacrifice and Meal.

The first is Oath. When creating a familial covenant, the two fathers as head of their families would call upon God to witness their bonding. Invoking God, the fathers would swear an oath to each other and utter the blessing and curse of the covenant; blessing for faithfulness and curse for infidelity.

Often in Scripture, particularly in the covenant with Abraham, God swears by Himself since there is no one greater to swear by. Therefore, He bears witness to what He promises. In the new and eternal covenant, Jesus the Divine Word is the oath sworn by the Father. This Word has become flesh and joined Himself to our humanity. Through Jesus Christ we share in the divine life of God, Who becomes one with us in a nuptial bond: He the Bridegroom and we the Bride. His love is constant because He is always faithful. Marriage then, becomes the beautiful image of God's covenant with us.

When a man and woman get married in the Church, they swear an oath before God and His representative, the priest. God takes their vow seriously. With the Lord's help, they promise to be faithful to their marital covenant. This union is sacramental, which means it is established by Christ and is filled with grace. God confirms this bond to be permanent until death and blesses the marriage with His own presence. Through the spousal vow, God truly becomes the third Person in the marriage.

Our secular world only recognizes marriage as a legal contract, binding insofar as the persons involved hold to their end of the agreement. That is why the State considers divorce a viable option when one or both parties break the contract. However, the State has no authority to bind or dissolve a sacramental union between Catholics.

There are many Catholics who mistakenly think that getting married civilly means they are married. Only marriage in the Church binds them together before God. The State is not the author of marriage, God is. Therefore, the State does not have the capacity to form a sacramental union, only a legal one. Next week, I will address briefly the second element of forming a covenant - the Exchange.

May God be praised and may you be blessed!

The Chosen and Veggie Tales: This Sunday at 4pm, we are providing a family opportunity to grow in faith. We will be showing all eight episodes of the first season of the The Chosen, which is a critically acclaimed series about Jesus. We will watch one episode per Sunday and have group discussion afterwards. At the same time in a different room, we will be showing episodes of Veggie Tales for the younger kids, which are delightfully well done animated Bible stories (we will have adult supervision for the little ones). Bring the whole family. Snacks will be provided. The shows begin at 4pm. The eight Sundays scheduled are: February 26; March 5, 19, 26; and April 2, 23, and 30.

Father Jeff will be out of town Monday, February 27 - Friday, March 10.

Area Parishes Daily Mass Schedule:

Sacred Heart in Minto - Mon. 6:30pm, Wed.-Sat. 8am;
St. Stanislaus in Warsaw - Tues. 7:30am;
St. Edward in Drayton - Mon. 7pm, Wed. 8:30am, Fri. 8:30am.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, February 25

10:30 am - Lynn Ebert +
5:00 pm - Willard & Marie Hove +

Sunday, February 26

7:30 am - Fr. James Lauerman +
9:30 am - Parishioners
4:00 pm - The Chosen & Veggie Tales

Monday, February 27

NO MASS

Tuesday, February 28

NO MASS

Wednesday, March 1

NO MASS

Thursday, March 2

NO MASS

Friday, March 3

NO MASS

5:45pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 4

5:00 pm - Rodney Kotaska +

Sunday, March 5

7:30 am - Parishioners
9:30 am - Robert Novak +
3:00 pm - Holy Pilgrimage
4:00 pm - The Chosen & Veggie Tales



Please Pray for the
Souls in Purgatory

Please Pray for the Sick:

Frank Suda, Barbara Foerster-Estad, Ron Houska, Roland Collette, Mary Schnetzer, Shane Shereck, Roy Kringstad, Mike Such, Mary Ann Jelinek, Linda Lessard, Ron Nowacki, Judy Jiskra, Julius Wangler, Marvin French, LeRoy French, Diane Lee, Hope Reis, Edith Gierszewski, Donna Retterath, Dave Retterath, Michelle Kohler, Ernie Bailly, Clifford Bailly, Judy Wolter, Mary LaBaw, Jim LaBaw, Gary Johnson, Tom Almond, Daniel LaHaise, Joan Brien, Chris Loveless, Monica Rudnik, Chad Demers, Mary Jo Olson.

WE HAVE STARTED THE SICK LIST OVER. PLEASE LET THE PARISH OFFICE KNOW WHAT NAMES NEED TO REMAIN. THANK YOU!

WE MADE IT, WE SAID OVER
10,000 Rosaries for Grafton
We have Prayed 12,391 Rosaries!
Keep praying because we need God's Grace
to convert Grafton
and our surrounding towns!
Saving souls one bead at a time!



KC Fish Fries: March 10, 17, 24, & 31, \$15 per plate.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Sunday, March 12 @ 4pm.

Listening Session with Bishop Folda has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 16 at 6:30pm here at St. John.

The Walsh County Food Pantry is in need of canned corn, bar soap, shampoo, hamburger helper, instant potatoes, any type of soup, pork & beans, powdered milk, plastic grocery bags. Or send a check and we'll do the shopping! Walsh County Food Pantry, 344 W. 15th St., Grafton, ND 58237. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP

Let us honor God with our first fruits!
Praise the Lord!

St. John the Evangelist

Given February 19, 2023 - \$8,615.50
St. John's - \$34,500 Average expenses per month
(salaries, utilities, regular monthly bills, does not include maintenance projects or ministries.)

Sacred Heart - Oakwood

Given February 19, 2023 - \$412.00

Upcoming Dates at St. John's:

"The Chosen" & Veggie Tales - Bring Family Bible Study on ACTS	Sun., Feb. 26, 4:00pm
RCIA for Adults	Mon., Feb. 27, 7:00pm
Rosary Walk for Life	Tues., Feb. 28, 7:00pm
Faith Formation (Gr 1-8)	Wed., Mar. 1, 6:30am
High School Youth Group (Gr 9-12)	Wed., Mar. 1, 6:30pm
St John Quilters	Wed., Mar. 1, 7:30pm
Charismatic Prayer Group	Thurs., Mar. 2, 9:30am
Holy Pilgrimage	Thurs., Mar. 2, 7:00pm
Stations of the Cross	Fri., Mar. 3, 2:00pm
Holy Pilgrimage	Fri., Mar. 3, 5:45pm
"The Chosen" & Veggie Tales - Bring Family Bible Study on ACTS	Sun., Mar. 5, 3:00pm
RCIA for Adults	Sun., Mar. 5, 4:00pm
Rosary Walk for Life	Mon., Mar. 6, 7:00pm
Faith Formation (Gr 1-8)	Tues., Mar. 7, 7:00pm
High School Youth Group (Gr 9-12)	Wed., Mar. 8, 6:30am
Stations of the Cross	Wed., Mar. 8, 6:30pm
KC Fish Fry	Wed., Mar. 8, 7:30pm
	Fri., Mar. 10, 5:45pm
	Fri., Mar. 10 5 - 7pm

Holy Pilgrimage with Jesus:

Next Sunday, Deacon Mike and Tony Dumas will be driving through Grafton and Oakwood at 3pm with Jesus in the Monstrance. Keep your eyes peeled for the Lord in the Ford.

The Second Collection Next week will be going to our Helping Hands Fund. It supports the poor at our door in Grafton and the surrounding area. Please consider donating to help those in need.

Please join us the weekend of March 4, 2023 to hear Rev. Joseph Miller speak at all the services about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Father Miller will share personal witness about Food For the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

Fr. Joseph Miller, SVD was ordained in 1968 to the Society of the Divine Word. He has served as Dean of Students & a High School religion teacher, Vocation & Retreat Director, Parish Associate, Twice as Rector of the Divine Word Seminary, Provincial of the Western Province, Hospital Chaplain and Director of Mission Office for the Diocese of San Diego before joining Food For The Poor.

Please join us in welcoming Father Miller.

How to Do Lent Differently This Year Attention Catholic Women! Join us Saturday, March 4th, for a time of faith and fellowship, as we learn about how to approach Lent more fruitfully. We meet at St. Anne's (524 N 17th St) Call 701-746-9401 or email gfacwomen@gmail.com for more information. Join us for all or part of the morning, as your schedule allows: 8:30am Rosary; 9am mass; 9:45am Talk; 10am Small Groups; 10:30am Large group recap/Announcement/Closing. Everyone welcome!

This weekend is Commitment Weekend for the 2023 God's Gift Appeal. Please bring the personalized commitment card you received in the mail to Mass with you as we join together to support our Catholic Church.