



# St. John the Evangelist

## Sacred Heart - Oakwood

March 19, 2023  
Fourth 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](http://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

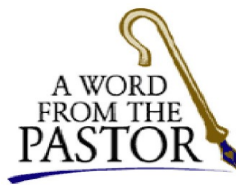
**Pastoral/Finance Council:** Cindy Collette, Mark Gourde, Bobby Osowski, Lee Osowski, Susan Suda

**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.



We continue with the role of blood sacrifice in covenant making. Blood is the sign of life and the shedding of it is an offering of life to God. As mentioned last week, the offering of lifeblood takes place through death. This is because death entered the world as the natural result of sin. If sin never happened, there would be no need for blood sacrifice because everyone would already be in union with God. There would be no need for Christ to sacrifice Himself and offer His blood to the Father in atonement for our sins.

However, we all know that sin has entered the picture and every human being will taste death. Blood sacrifice is necessary in God's covenant making with us. The covenant transforms our fallen nature and grafts us to the divine nature of God as His children. He doesn't initially remove death but experiences it Himself through His Son Jesus for our sake in order to eliminate its long-term effect – condemnation.

The covenantal blood sacrifice's most perfect expression is seen in Christ the Divine Bridegroom dying for His Bride the Church. He offers Himself in total and complete love for the good of His Bride. On the Cross, Jesus removes His Bride's sinful impurity and makes her holy by paying the price of her sin, which is death. Christ's blood is not a symbol of life but actually imparts the gift of divine life because He is both God and man. Hence, Christ's blood of the new and eternal covenant is the seal upon our soul of everlasting love. St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians emphasizes the mystical marriage between Christ and His Bride the Church, made holy through His shed blood and seen in miniature in the lives of married Catholics (ref. Ep 5:21-33).

Which brings us to the covenant between husband and wife. As mentioned last week, covenantal blood is spilled between husband and wife through sexual union. God has so constructed our humanity that in our flesh is written the expression of covenantal love through blood sacrifice. Blood is shed every time husband and wife make love, even if only on a microscopic level. This is why God wants men and women to be virgins before they get married, because their sexual union is the blood sacrifice of their covenant.

The new and eternal covenant in Jesus Christ is the bond of love between husband and wife when they get married in the Catholic Church (it takes three to get married - Jesus, husband and wife). Therefore, He is present to their love-making. When expressed within the confines of good moral actions (that is, not done lustfully or with contraceptives) their sexual union becomes an act of worship to God.

In addition to the gift of creating children, sexual union has as its fruit the worship of God and an increase of grace for the spouses. However, the misuse of it between those not married results in an implicit act of worship to Satan. Yes, this is true. When Catholics have sex outside of a sacramental marriage, they are covenanting themselves under a lie, with no permanency in love (no marital oath) or blessing from God. That act then comes under the domain of the Father of Lies. Next week I'll address the fourth element of covenant making: the Meal.

May God be praised and may you be blessed!

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, March 18

10:30 am - Lynn Ebert +  
5:00 pm - Frank & Elinor Misialek +

Sunday, March 19

7:30 am - Parishioners  
9:30 am - Paul Wilkes +  
3:00 pm - Holy Hour for Return for Lapsed Catholics  
4:00 pm - "The Chosen"

Monday, March 20

9:00 am - Special Intention

Tuesday, March 21

5:15 pm - Anna Welsh +

Wednesday, March 22

5:15 pm - Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, March 23

5:15 pm - Jim Janikowski +

Friday, March 24

10:30 am - Funeral Mass for Frances Ensminger  
5:15 pm - Harry Misialek +  
5:45 pm - Stations of the Cross  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm KC Fish Fry

Saturday, March 25

10:30 am - Catechetical Mass  
5:00 pm - Connie McCarty +

Sunday, March 26

7:30 am - Alyce Schneider +  
9:30 am - Parishioners  
4:00 pm - "The Chosen"



Our Sympathy to  
the Family of  
Frances Ensminger

**Please Pray for the Sick:** Louise Sevigny, Caroline Dvorak, Brennan Foerster, Jennifer Lynch, Ruthe Nielson, Alice Foerster, Jonathan Foerster, Patty Durand, JoAnne Sevigny, Alex Emslander, Nicholas Emslander, Dylan Pride, Lori Fox, Adly Jaehning, Benjamin Galle, Barbara Foerster-Estad, Ron Houska, Roland Collette, Mary Schnetzer, Shane Shereck, Roy Kringstad, Mike Such, Mary Ann Jelinek, 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 MADE IT, WE SAID OVER

10,000 Rosaries for Grafton

We have Prayed 13,246 Rosaries!

Keep praying because we need God's  
Grace to convert Grafton  
and our surrounding towns!

Saving souls one bead at a time!



If there are any parishioners interested in making palm crosses for St. John's and Sacred Heart here in the parish center once the palms arrive, please contact the parish office at 701-352-1648. Thank you!

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." 1Samuel 16:7

STEWARDSHIP

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

St. John the Evangelist

Given March 12, 2023 - \$1,838.50  
God's Gift total Given as of March 16, 2023 - \$14,295.00

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 March 12, 2023 - No Mass - Storm  
God's Gift total Given as of March 16, 2023 - \$1,115.00

Upcoming Dates at St. John's:

Holy Hour for the Return of Lapsed Catholics "The Chosen"	Sun., Mar. 19, 3:00pm Sun., Mar. 19, 4:00pm
Bible Study on ACTS	Mon., Mar. 20, 7:00pm
RCIA for Adults	Tues., Mar. 21, 7:00pm
Rosary Walk for Life	Wed., Mar. 22, 6:30am
Faith Formation (Gr 1-8)	Wed., Mar. 22, 6:30pm
High School Youth Group (Gr 9-12)	Wed., Mar. 22, 7:30pm
St John Quilters	Thurs., Mar. 23, 9:30am
Funeral Mass for Frances Ensminger	Fri., Mar. 24, 10:30am
KC Fish Fry	Fri., Mar. 24, 5 - 7pm
Stations of the Cross	Fri., Mar. 24, 5:45pm
1ST EUCHARIST RETREAT FOR (3RD GRADERS) ON SATURDAY, MARCH 25 FROM 10AM - NOON	
Bible Study on ACTS	Mon., Mar. 27, 7:00pm
Funeral Mass for Thomas Hermann	Tues., Mar. 28, 11:00am
RCIA	Tues., Mar. 28, 7:00pm
Rosary Walk for Life	Wed., Mar. 29, 6:30am
St John Quilters	Wed., Mar. 29, 9:30am
Faith Formation (Gr 1-8)	Wed., Mar. 29, 6:30am
High School Youth Group (Gr 9-12)	Wed., Mar. 29, 7:30am
KC Fish Fry	Fri., Mar. 31, 7:00pm

**The Chosen (No more Veggie Tales):** This Sunday at 4pm, we are showing the 4th episode of the first season of The Chosen, which is a critically acclaimed series about Jesus. We will have a group discussion afterward. Snacks will be provided. The show begins at 4pm. The remaining Sundays scheduled are: March 26; and April 2, 23, and 30.

**Peter Speicher, field agent for Knights of Columbus** will be at the March 24 Fish Fry to meet people who would have any questions about their products.

**Lenten Sacred Art Retreat: March 27-31, 2023 Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City.** Come and join this unique opportunity for a Lenten sacred art retreat. Participants will create a depiction of the Temptations of Christ in the style of medieval manuscript illuminations. No art experience necessary. There is only space for 12 participants so sign up early. The retreat is open to men and women (must be 18 or older). The retreat will go Monday - Friday and will include Mass and individual prayer time each day. Price: \$585 includes single room/ shared bath, meals and all art supplies. For a single room/private bath \$685. For more information and registration: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/art-lent-retreat>. For questions contact Mary Hanbury 701-356-7909.

St. John Memorials

Frank Suda	\$ 135.00	Unrestricted
Frank Suda	\$ 20.00	Gathering Space