



St. John the Evangelist

Sacred Heart - Oakwood

February 25, 2024
2nd Sunday in 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 - Confession

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@stjohnsgrafton.com
Kathy - kathy@stjohnsgrafton.com
Carla - carla@stjohnsgrafton.com
Dcn. Mike - Mike@stjohnsgrafton.com

Bulletin - find it at stjohnsgrafton.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, Carol Bina
Mary (John) Dusek, Paul Houdek, Donny Suda

Youth Committee: Marta Balderas, Kendall Groves, Alexa Holt, Julie McCann, Jackie Osowski, Jessica Pankow, Mellysa Toscano, Molly Zahradka.

Sacred Heart - Oakwood

Parish Lay Directors: Ed Sevigny, Lori Cyr

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

Baptism Prep Class: - 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: Wednesday from Noon - 10pm
Thursday from 6pm - 10pm
Friday from 7am - 9am

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



Last week, I briefly discussed the first element of creating a covenant, which was the swearing of the Oath. This involved invoking God as witness and uttering the blessing and curse. Once again, a covenant is the permanent bonding of two persons in a relationship of love that forms an indissoluble (it cannot be dissolved or broken) unity or oneness. Four specific things present in creating a covenant as revealed in Scripture are Oath, Exchange, Blood Sacrifice and Meal.

The second element is the Exchange. After swearing the oath, the fathers of the families would exchange something that expresses their unity and equality. Most of the time, covenants were made between families of higher social or economic standing with those of a lower standing. Through the covenantal bonding, the families would be united and thus, become equal.

The item normally exchanged was a belt, as it was a symbol of both social status and the ability to make war. It is also an item that encompasses the person wearing it. Often, we hear in Scripture, particularly in the Old Testament through some of the utterances of the Prophets and repeated in the Psalms, God would tell a person to "gird their loins." This was an action in preparation for battle. The soldier would take a cloth that acts as an undergarment and basically wrap things up so he could have greater freedom of movement while wearing a sword. The last thing worn in "girding" oneself was the belt around the waist that held everything together.

In offering the belt to each other, the fathers on behalf of their families were not only forming a bond of peace but that of equality. Essentially, they were saying, "What is yours is mine and what is mine is yours. We belong to one another and are at peace." Hence, the belt signifies visually the bond of peace and equality formed by the covenant.

We find this covenantal belt spoken of by Isaiah in reference to Jesus the Redeemer: "righteousness will be the belt about his loins, and faithfulness the belt about his waist" (11:5). This spiritual belt that clothes Christ is given to us in the New and Eternal Covenant through the action of the Holy Spirit, Who, according to Jesus in the Gospel of John, is the Spirit of Truth and Peace. Also, we find St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians encouraging us when preparing to do battle with the forces of evil to "gird your loins with truth" (6:14).

The Truth is not a concept, but a Divine Person: Jesus Christ. Jesus speaks to this reality when He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6), and when confronted by Pontius Pilate, He states, "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice" (Jn 18:37). We who live in the new covenant must live in the truth.

When a couple gets married in the Church, their exchange of rings is the symbolic belt of their covenant, which testifies to the truthfulness, fidelity and unity of their matrimonial oath. More next week.

May God be praised and may you be blessed!

Holy Pilgrimage with Jesus:

Today, Father Jeff and Tony Dumas will be driving through Grafton and Oakwood at 1pm with Jesus in the Monstrance. Keep your eyes peeled for the Lord in the Ford.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION: At St. John the Evangelist on Monday, March 4 & Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00pm. Fr. Jason Lefor will be the speaker. The Topics will be: The Wounds of Mercy & The Eucharistic Sacrifice. All are welcome to attend.

Pre-K and Kindergarten (4/5 year olds) - Will be meeting during 9:30am Mass. Christine Bjorneby will be leading this group. We have a schedule for the school year as follows:

Sundays in March 3, 10, 24

Sundays in April 7 - Last Day

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, February 24

10:30 am - Joan Brien
5:00 pm - Frank Sr. & Mary Dusek +

Sunday, February 25 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

7:30 am - Jeanette Osowski +
9:30 am - Parishioners
1:00 pm - Holy Pilgrimage
4:30 pm - Holy Hour for Return of Lapsed Catholics

Monday, February 26

No Mass

Tuesday, February 27 St. Gregory of Narek, Abbott & Doctor of the Church

5:15 pm - Darrel & LuJune Bjornson +

Wednesday, February 28

5:15 pm - Vikki Lee

Thursday, February 29

5:15 pm - Michael F. Misialek +

Friday, March 1

5:15 pm - Frances Boulduc +
After Mass Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 2

10:30 am - Carmelite Sisters
5:00 pm - Darren Blanchard +

Sunday, March 3

7:30 am - Parishioners
9:30 am - David Wilkes +
4:00 pm - Penance Service



Please Pray for
the Souls in Purgatory
Please Pray for the Sick:

Tom Almond, Clifford Bailly, Ernie Bailly, Joan Brien, Chad Demers, Patty Durand, Caroline Dvorak, Tami Egeland, Alex Emslander, Nicholas Emslander, Alice Foerster, Barbara Foerster-Estad, Brennan Foerster, Jonathan Foerster, Lori Fox, Marvin French, Benjamin Galle, Edith Gierszewski, Shawn Gray, Tom Greenwood, Millie Houska, Ron Houska, Adly Jaehning, Aaron Jelinek, Mary Ann Jelinek, Judy Jiskra, Cyril Johnson, Tina Schanilec Johnson, Dorothy Koester, Michelle Kohler, Mary LaBaw, Daniel LaHaise, Robert LaHaise, Diane Lee, Vikki Lee, Roman Lessard, Chris Loveless, Jennifer Lynch, LeRoy McCann, Steve Michaels, Jack Mihelich, Sharon Mlcoch, Ruthe Nielson, Tom Olson, David Osowski, Benedict Pinta, Dylan Pride, Yolanda Pruneda, Hope Reis, Donna Retterath, Monica Rudnik, Carol Scholler, David Schnetzer, JoAnne Sevigny, Maury Staffne, Pat Sweeney, Mary Thiel, Peyton Tomlinson, Carmen Tomlinson, Mark Tomlinson, Julius Wangler, Judy Wolter

We have surpassed our Goal, excellent work!
10,000 Rosaries for Grafton
We have Prayed 14,547 Rosaries!
Keep praying because we need
God's Grace to convert Grafton
and our surrounding towns!
Saving souls one bead at a time!



THANK YOU!!! for all who are supporting our Dominican Republic Mission Trip from the Vandal family. Our February 10th Fundraiser went well and was enjoyed by many. Please keep all involved in this trip and benefactors in your prayers. Also, please know that the money collected is helping to build a trade school to train the people in Dominican Republic the trades and trying to help them out of poverty. May God reward you.

STEWARDSHIP

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

St. John the Evangelist

Given February 18, 2024 - \$6,798.50

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 18, 2024 - \$1,175.00

UPCOMING DATES AT ST. JOHN'S:

Holy Pilgrimage	Sun., Feb. 25, 1:00pm
Holy Hour for Return of Lapsed Catholics	Sun., Feb. 25, 4:30pm
Bible Study - Revelation	Mon., Feb. 26, 7:00pm
Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary	Tues., Feb. 27, 8:30pm
Rosary Walk for Life	Wed., Feb. 28, 6:30am
2nd & 3rd Grade PARENT MEETING	Wed., Feb. 28, 6:30pm
Faith Formation (Gr 1-8)	Wed., Feb. 28, 6:30pm
High School Youth Group (Gr 9-12)	Wed., Feb. 28, 7:30pm
St. John Quilters	Thurs., Feb. 29, 9:30am
KC Fish Fry	Fri., Mar. 1, 5 - 7pm
Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary	Fri., Mar. 1, 6:00pm
Parish Penance Service	Sun., Mar. 3, 4:00pm
Parish Lenten Mission	Mon., Mar. 4, 7:00pm
Parish Lenten Mission	Mon., Mar. 5, 7:00pm

THE SECOND COLLECTION next Sunday, will be going to our ongoing maintenance needs.

DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR TICKET/S FOR ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH CALENDAR DRAW FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from the Altar Society or at the parish office.



The drawings will be:

Monday - Friday = \$50 draw
Saturdays = \$100 draw
Sunday, April 7 = \$200 draw.



Your name will go back for the entire month. All proceeds will be going to St. John the Evangelist Ministries and our Haiti Parish Mission. Thank you for your continued support!

LENTEN PRO-LIFE MISSION All are welcome to attend a parish mission March 10-12th held at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Warsaw, ND. Each evening the mission will begin at 5:15pm with a simple meal (freewill offering), confessions at 6pm, and a talk at 6:30pm. Fr. Greg Haman will speak on Sunday, Fr. Joseph Christenson, FMI, on Monday, concluding with Fr. Jeff Eppler on Tuesday.

St. John Memorials

Ernest (Hod) Hutson	\$ 200.00	Unrestricted
Ernest (Hod) Hutson	\$ 100.00	Cemetery Fund

Diocese of Fargo Capital Campaign: The yearly God's Gift Appeal will be this weekend. In addition to that, beginning in March our parish will be participating in the Diocesan Capital Campaign. All the parishes in the diocese are participating in this campaign to raise 20 million dollars towards major projects for the diocese. Details regarding that will be given in the near future.