



# St. John the Evangelist

## Sacred Heart - Oakwood

March 3, 2024  
3rd 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](http://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

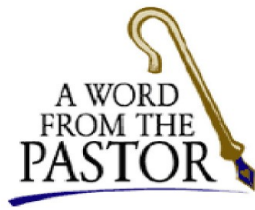
**Pastoral/Finance Council:** Cindy Collette,  
Mark Gourde, Bobby Osowski, Lee Osowski, Susan Suda

**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.**



The last two weeks, I have briefly discussed the first two elements of covenant making, Oath and Exchange. Now I approach the third, which is Blood Sacrifice. According to God, blood is the sign of life. He says to Noah in the book of Genesis, "For your own lifeblood, too, I will demand an accounting: from every animal I will demand it, and from man in regard to his fellow man I will demand an accounting for human life" (9:5). Blood then is not only the actual gift of life (if we have no blood then we die) but it is also the symbol and sign of a person's life. All life is consecrated to God, Who is the author of life. Hence, the blood of a person is the physical sign of the life given to them by God.

After the exchange of belts, (as mentioned last week) the animal for sacrifice would be prepared for slaughter. The fathers would take a bull, goat, lamb or birds and split the animal in two. The blood would be offered to God and the two together would walk through the animal halves swearing the oath with both the blessing and curse. When God makes a covenant with Abraham, we find Him doing this. "He (Abraham) brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other...As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him... When the sun had set there appeared a smoking brazier (a bowl used to burn incense) and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. It was on that occasion that the Lord made a covenant with Abram..." (Gn 15:10,12,17-18).

The offering of lifeblood takes place through death. This is because death entered into the world through the sin of our first parents. The first blood sacrifice as a deliberate act of worship was made by Adam and Eve's son Abel, who was a shepherd. Abel gave God the best of his flock and hence, the lamb's blood signified Abel's genuine love for God. Cain's sacrifice was not accepted since he did not offer the best of his produce. Cain then decided to sacrifice his brother in a fit of rage. We find God speaking to Cain after murdering Abel: "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil!" (Gn 4:10). Blood spilled even through sin has attached to it the covenantal meaning of sacrifice because of its symbolic significance. The blood sacrifice is either to God (in marital union) or to the evil one through sin.

When is blood spilled in the covenant between husband and wife? Through sexual union and the offering of their virginity to each other. This is why God wants men and women to be virgins before they get married, because their sexual union is the blood sacrifice of the covenant they have entered into. The man is covered in the blood of his wife when the two become one flesh. More next week.

May God be praised and may you be blessed!

**PARISH LENTEN MISSION:** St. John the Evangelist will be hosting this mission 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.

### **Holy Pilgrimage with Jesus:**

Next Sunday, 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.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, March 2

10:30 am - Funeral Mass for Greg Rose  
5:00 pm - Darren Blanchard +

Sunday, March 3 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

7:30 am - Parishioners  
9:30 am - David Wilkes +  
4:00 pm - Penance Service at St. John

Monday, March 4 St. Casimir

10:30 am - Funeral Mass for Keith Hildebrandt  
5:15 pm - Souls in Purgatory  
7:00 pm - Parish Lenten Mission at St. John

Tuesday, March 5

5:15 pm - Robert "Spike" Desautel +  
7:00 pm - Parish Lenten Mission at St. John

Wednesday, March 6

5:15 pm - Duane & Janice Lorenzen +

Thursday, March 7 Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

5:15 pm - William "Billy" Rivard +

Friday, March 8 St. John of God

5:15 pm - John Curran +  
After Mass Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 9 St. Frances of Rome

9:00am - Noon - 1st Eucharist/Confirmation Retreat  
10:30 am - Carmelite Sisters  
5:00 pm - Roman, Dorothy & Doris Rudnik +

Sunday, March 10 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

7:30 am - Daniel & Louise Sevigny +  
9:30 am - Parishioners  
1:00 pm - Holy Pilgrimage



Our Sympathy to  
the Families of  
Greg Rose &  
Keith Hildebrandt &  
Jon Osowski

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 14,824 Rosaries!

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

Saving souls one bead at a time!



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

STEWARDSHIP

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

St. John the Evangelist

Given February 25, 2024 - \$5,288.50

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 25, 2024 - \$469.00

UPCOMING DATES AT ST. JOHN'S:

Parish Penance Service	Sun., Mar. 3, 4:00pm
Funeral Mass for Keith Hildebrandt	Sun., Mar. 4, 10:30am
Parish Lenten Mission @ St. John	Mon., Mar. 4, 7:00pm
Parish Lenten Mission @ St. John	Tues., Mar. 5, 7:00pm
Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary	Tues., Mar. 5, 8:30pm
Rosary Walk for Life	Wed., Mar. 6, 6:30am
Faith Formation (Gr 1-8)	Wed., Mar. 6, 6:30pm
High School Youth Group (Gr 9-12)	Wed., Mar. 6, 7:30pm
St. John Quilters	Thurs., Mar. 7, 9:30am
Charismatic Prayer Group	Thurs., Mar. 7, 7:00pm
KC Fish Fry	Fri., Mar. 8, 5-7pm
Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary	Fri., Mar. 8, 6:00pm
1st Eucharist/Confirmation Retreat (3rd Gr)	Sat., Mar. 9, 9am-Noon
Holy Pilgrimage	Sun., Mar. 10, 1:00pm
Bible Study - Revelation	Mon., Mar. 11, 7:00pm

The Second Collection Today, 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 (free will 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

Albert Brodeur	\$ 50.00	Handicap Door
Albert Brodeur	\$ 60.00	Roof Project
Rae Desautel	\$225.00	Cemetery Fund
Rae Desautel	\$500.00	Roof Project



*Easter Lilies*  
*St. Johns - Grafton*



\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00      \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00      \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify)

My Name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is made in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:** St John the Evangelist Church  
344 W 15th St  
Grafton, ND 58237  
Please mark envelope: Easter Lilies (2024)



*Easter Lilies*  
*Sacred Heart - Oakwood*



\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00      \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00      \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify)

My Name is: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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