



# St. John the Evangelist

## Sacred Heart - Oakwood

March 10, 2024  
4th 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:** Carol Bina  
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, Frank Janousek, Ron Koester, 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.**



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 unto death 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 sakes so as to eliminate its long-term effect - condemnation.

The shedding of blood in covenant making is oriented towards the most perfect expression of love found in Christ the Divine Bridegroom dying to bring life to His Bride the Church. He offers Himself in total and complete love for the good of His Bride. Blood is not only the simple sign of life but is ultimately the sign of everlasting life in Christ. This eternal life is the never-ending experience of Divine Love. Hence, the blood of the covenant is the sign of everlasting love.

Which brings us back to the married couple and the covenant between husband and wife. Once again, when is blood spilled in the covenant between husband and wife? Through sexual union and the offering of their virginity to each other. God has so constructed the human body that even in our flesh is written the need and expression of covenantal love through blood sacrifice. Blood is shed every time husband and wife make love, even if only on a microscopic level. God has willed that sexual union becomes a renewing of their covenantal bond through their blood sacrifice. 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 when the two become one flesh.

Jesus Christ and His eternal covenant is the bond of love between husband and wife when married in the Catholic Church, and so, He is present to their love-making. When expressed within the confines of good moral actions (that is, not done lustfully) their sexual union becomes an act of worship to God. It transcends from being not only a pleasurable experience for the spouses but a divinely grace-filled one.

Since sexual union has as its greatest fruit the worship of God and an increase of grace for the spouses, the misuse of it between those not married (or through homosexual acts) is that it becomes an act of worship to Satan. Yes, this is true. When people have sex in sinfulness, they are covenanting themselves under a lie, with no permanency in love (no marital oath) or blessing from God. That act is then offered to the Father of Lies, who is Satan. 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.

**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.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, March 9 St. Frances of Rome

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

Monday, March 11

5:15 pm - Jason French +

6:00 pm - Altar Server Practice

Tuesday, March 12

5:15 pm - Deceased Family Members of Frank, Sr. and Mary Dusek +

Wednesday, March 13

5:15 pm - Cecil Novak +

Thursday, March 14

5:15 pm - Frank Suda +

Friday, March 15

5:15 pm - Frances Ensminger +

After Mass Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 16

10:30 am - Lynn Ebert

5:00 pm - Paul Gourde +

6:00 pm - Capital Campaign Reception - St. John

Sunday, March 17 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

7:30 am - Parishioners

8:30 am - Capital Campaign Reception - Sacred Heart

9:30 am - Leo Seeba +

10:30 am - Capital Campaign Reception - St. John

3:00 pm - Holy Hour for Return of Lapsed Catholics



Our Sympathy to  
the Family of  
Phyllis Campbell

Please Pray for the Sick:

Tom Almond, Clifford Bailly, Ernie Bailly, Joan Brien, Chad Demers, Patty Durand, Caroline Dvorak, 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, Hilda Martinez Hernandez, 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 15,314 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 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 March 3, 2024 - \$5,354.50

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 March 3, 2024 - \$345.00

UPCOMING DATES AT ST. JOHN'S:

Holy Pilgrimage	Sun., Mar. 10, 1:00pm
Altar Server Practice	Mon., Mar. 11, 6:00pm
Bible Study - Revelation	Mon., Mar. 11, 7:00pm
Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary	Tues., Mar. 12, 8:30pm
Rosary Walk for Life	Wed., Mar. 13, 6:30am
Faith Formation (Gr 1-8)	Wed., Mar. 13, 6:30pm
High School Youth Group (Gr 9-12)	Wed., Mar. 13, 7:30pm
St. John Quilters	Thurs., Mar. 14, 9:30am
Pastoral Council Meeting	Thurs., Mar. 14, 6:30pm
KC Fish Fry	Fri., Mar. 15, 5-7pm
Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary	Fri., Mar. 15, 6:00pm
Fatima Rosary	Sat., Mar. 16, Noon
Diocese Capital Campaign Grafton	Sat., Mar. 16, 6:00pm
Diocese Capital Campaign Oakwood	Sun., Mar. 17, 8:30am
Diocese Capital Campaign Grafton	Sun., Mar. 17, 10:30am
Holy Hour for Return of Lapsed Catholics	Sun., Mar. 17, 3:00pm
Diocese Capital Campaign Grafton	Mon., Mar. 18, 6:00pm
Diocese Capital Campaign Grafton	Tues., Mar. 19, 6:00pm
Cemetery Board Meeting	Sun., Apr. 14, 10:45am

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!

Altar Server Practice: This Monday, March 11 at 6pm in the church. This is for all current servers and any boys or men who would like to become a server. Father/son teams are welcomed.

St. John Memorials

Maurice B. Collette	\$ 500.00	Roof Project
Maurice B. Collette	\$ 500.00	Cemetery Fund
Maurice B. Collette	\$ 500.00	Handicap Door

"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..." - EXODUS 20:4