

# ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fertile, Minnesota  
www.stjosephsfertile.org

Fr. Joe Richards – Pastor  
10480 438<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Fertile, MN 56540  
218-945-6649 (office), 6645 (home) 701-371-2311 (cell)  
jrichards@crookston.org

Secretary/Bulletin Contact: Donna Bjerk stjoesfertile@gvtel.com  
Prayer Blanket Contact: Jan Erickson 218-945-6118;  
218-289-1801(cell) Email: [jce@gvtel.com](mailto:jce@gvtel.com)

RE Coordinators: Monica Lisburg (218-556-8184) and Kirsten Fuglseth (218-280-9645)

**Victim Assistance Statement of the Diocese of Crookston:** If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual misconduct on the part of a priest, deacon, or individual representing the Diocese of Crookston, its parishes, or its schools, please contact Cindy Hulst, LSW, the diocesan Victim’s Assistance Coordinator at 218-281-7895 (24-hour confidential number).

Mass: Sunday – 8:30 a.m.; Wednesday and Thursday – 7:00 a.m.; Reconciliation: Sunday – 7:45 a.m.

## Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – First Sunday of Lent

This week’s Mass schedule: Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>: +Gordon Vaagen req. by Paul & Pam Reese

Ministers	February 28 <sup>th</sup>	March 7 <sup>th</sup>
Lector	Gay Webster, Kirsten Fuglseth	Ervin Vigness
Eucharist	Steven Massmann	Karen Kurpius
Greeters/Ushers	Jan & Jerry Erickson	Greg & Gay Webster
Collection	Volunteer Needed – see Sacristan	Volunteer Needed – see Sacristan
Sacristan	Jan Erickson	Jan Erickson

**Church Cleaning February 1<sup>st</sup>- February 28<sup>th</sup>:** Jerry & Cathy Forgit, Scott & Luan Larsen, Jessie & Jami Doyea, Cody & Maggie Coauette. Thank you for your ministry to our parish.

Offertory Actual	2/14/21	Offertory Needed Weekly	Building Fund Actual 2/14/21
Adult	\$ 785.00	\$1,188.00 (Adult and Electronic)	\$415.00
Electronic	\$ 130.00		
Youth	\$ .00	\$11.55	<b>Building Fund Needed Weekly</b>
Plate	\$ 41.00	\$173.00	\$903.82
Total	\$ 956.00	\$1,372.55	

Candles: \$53.75

Easter Flowers: \$45.00

Black & Indian Mission: \$25.00

**Birthday Greetings:** Adele Theis (21<sup>st</sup>), LaVerne Pribula (23<sup>rd</sup>), Mary Gieseke (25<sup>th</sup>)

**Food for thought:** “After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...” (Mark 1:14)) Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

**Weekly Eucharistic Adoration** is held each Monday from 4-6 p.m. All are invited to come and spend some time in adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Sunday Mass** is televised at 8:30 a.m. on channel 32, or go to: <https://www.gvtel.com/video/livestream/> and scroll down to Channel 32. It will be re-aired at 10:30 on the St. Joseph’s Facebook page.

**Rosary** is prayed on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph’s. Please come and join us.

**Prayer blankets:** Donette Klever, Fargo, ND, from Vicky Hlubek; Gary Justensen, Fargo, ND, from Vicky Hlubek; Janet Blokzyl, Gentlilly, from Dwain & Gail Carlson; Zach Fenno, Crookson, from Dwain & Gail Carlson; Tony Smute, Moose Lake, MN from Lori Wang Youngdahl. Please keep everyone covered with a prayer blanket in your prayers. Thank you.

**Fertile Food Shelf:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 5:00-8:00 PM. Emergencies please call 218-945-3136.

**Stations of the Cross** will be prayed on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this beautiful devotion!

**Lenten Regulations: Abstinence**— Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Abstinence is the refraining from eating meat. The use of broth from chicken or beef is permitted. **Fast**— Catholics 18 and over, and up to the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended. By the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving and prayer the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. All of the faithful should undertake serious practice of these three traditions. Failure to observe any penitential days at all or a substantial number of them must be considered serious. The special Paschal fast and abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

**Ministry Schedule:** As we gradually return to Mass, we would like to reestablish the practice of having personal commitments to service ministries. Each week we need:

1. Two ushers/greeters (please arrive by 8:10)
2. Two readers
3. One Eucharistic minister of Holy Communion
4. Two collection reporters
5. One Sacristan

Please sign up by emailing Donna Bjerk at [stjoesfertile@gvtel.com](mailto:stjoesfertile@gvtel.com) and let her know when you are available. Thank you for serving your community and don't forget to invite your friends and loved ones to Mass!

**Religious Education Classes:** There will be confirmation class next Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> in person starting at 6:30 p.m. All other classes will be held distant learning via zoom meetings until further notice. Watch for email or text from teachers for instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Monica Lisburg or Kirsten Fuglseth.

**Permission to live-stream or air** the music during televised Masses is obtained from **One License** – license #735138-A. All rights reserved.

**Consecration to St. Joseph:** We will begin our 33 days of preparation for the Consecration to St. Joseph tomorrow. Follow the directions in the book that you purchased for the Consecration. We will celebrate our Consecration on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – the Feast of St. Joseph – at a 7 pm Mass to be held at St. Joseph's in Fertile.

**For those** of you who have made a gift to the 2021 DAA – Thank you! For those who are still discerning, it is not too late, go to [www.crookston.org/daa](http://www.crookston.org/daa) to learn more about diocesan ministries. You can always make a gift online on our web page. Your prayer requests are precious even if you are not able to give to the DAA. Please pick up a prayer request form and DAA envelope at your parish to send them in. **Where there is faith, there is hope!**

**Abortion and Poverty/Crime:** Abortion advocates often argue that the unborn babies of poor mothers are better off aborted and abortion reduces the crime rate. However, the truth is that the violence of abortion has begot more violence and crime, not less. The pro-choice people have had more than 47 years to weed out all the “unwanted children” yet, we have more child abuse, more spousal abuse, more deadbeat dads, more gangs, more drugs, more homelessness, and more crime. The list goes on and on. By stating that the children of poor people are less entitled to have their lives protected than those of the rich, the writer is plainly of the view that the economic status of a family should be what determines whether children are worthy to be born or not. Laws against robbery and drug-dealing might impact the poor more than the rich, but that does not prevent us from passing and enforcing them. The reason is simple: Robbery and drug dealing, like abortion, is wrong, regardless of the socio-economic class of hypothetical people who might commit these activities. The solution to poverty is not found in killing the children of the poor. We have been doing that since 1973. Our experience proves that it clearly does not work. Killing poor children is only the solution of “choice” for wealthy elitists. Perhaps a hidden agenda is at work here. ~*Pro-Life Articles*

**When we consider** that women are treated as property it is degrading to a women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit. ~*Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

**Paetyn Nowacki** is holding a fundraiser for Pro-Life with all proceeds going to the Women's Pregnancy Center in Grand Forks. She is selling t-shirts, sweatshirts, beanies and baseball hats. There are flyers on the credenza with all the information. Please have the orders in to Paetyn by next Thursday, February 25. There is a basket on credenza to leave your orders or you can mail them to: Paetyn Nowacki 44135 105<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Fertile, MN 56540. Thank you for your support!

**Registration for Saint John Paul II Camp Into the Deep** is now open. This camp is for youth entering grades 7 – 8 in the fall of 2021. Dates: July 18-22. Camp will be held at Oak Hills College in Bemidji. Cost is \$275.00 – family rates available. For more information visit: [www.crookston.org/jp2camp](http://www.crookston.org/jp2camp). Financial assistance is available for those who need it – contact Fr. Joe.

**Registration for Saint Teresa of Calcutta Camp EXTRAordinary** is now open. This camp is for youth entering grades 9 - 10 in the fall of 2021. Dates: June 20 - 24. Camp will be held at Oak Hills College in Bemidji. Cost is \$275.00 – family rates

available. For more information visit: [www.crookston.org/toccamp](http://www.crookston.org/toccamp). Financial assistance is available for those who need it – contact Fr. Joe.

**March if Food Shelf Month!** During the month of March the State of Minnesota matches pound for pound and dollar for dollar any food or money donated to the Fertile Food Shelf. During this month we will be collecting food and donations. At the end of the month we will bring the food and donations to the Food Shelf where it will be reported for the match.

**Catholics at the Capitol, April 15 – On Mission for Life and Dignity!** There's no time more important than now to speak up for life and dignity. So join Catholics from across Minnesota for this year's Catholics at the Capital, a special day of prayer, education, and advocacy in St. Paul. Be formed in the faith, beginning the day with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Be informed on the issues, as we hear from inspiring speakers like international pro-life advocate Obianuju Ekeocha and Archbishop Jose Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the archbishops of Los Angeles. And be sent on a mission, joining Eucharistic procession from the cathedral to the capital before sharing your Catholic convictions with your elected officials. The big day is April 15, but registration is already open. Visit [catholicsatthecapitol.org](http://catholicsatthecapitol.org) to learn more and secure your spot. Together, we can protect life and dignity.

**Share Some Love Mug:** The Fertile Community Club is collecting mugs & supplies to put together a small gift for those in the community who are feeling lonely & need some love. We'll be no-contact distributing the mugs around the middle of February. We hope to gather enough supplies to deliver to the nursing home, assisted living, and others in the community who are nominated. Supplies can be dropped off at the community center. New or new looking items are what we are looking for. This would be a great time to clean out your cupboard. ~Mugs – new or a freebie mug you've never used. **To fit in the mug:** ~Individually packaged beverages: coffee, tea, cocoa, etc; ~Individually wrapped candies or chocolate; ~Fun objects that fit IN the mug; ~Fun larger disposable cups to give to those who prefer; ~Ribbon to tie up the bags; ~Clear plastic gift bags to put mugs in; ~You can even drop off a filled mug! Anything donated will be appreciated. If you have something besides new items or individually packaged, store-bought, individually sealed, edible items, please message the Fertile Community Club. Thank you for your support!

**Men of the Diocese of Crookston:** Are you being called to be a Deacon? If you wish to explore a vocation as a Permanent Deacon, the next formation group will begin in the Fall of 2021. The Diocese will be holding two more discerning the Diaconate ZOOM sessions for men who want to find out more about diaconate discernment and ministry. Each session will be an opportunity for men, and their wives if married, to hear from deacons, wives of deacons, and the Director of Formation (Dcn. Mark Krejci) about the ministry of the deacon and the formation program. They will be held via zoom on: Saturday February 20 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Monday April 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you wish to join one of these sessions, or if you have any questions about the diaconate, email Dcn. Mark at [mkrejci@crookston.org](mailto:mkrejci@crookston.org). You are also strongly encouraged to talk with your pastor as well as deacons you may already know.

**The "Living the Word" Bible study** is a four-session reflection on how the Gospels call us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. An initial study was offered during Advent and now, in time for Lent, a new series will be freely available for anyone in the Diocese of Crookston located on the Diocesan Web page (beginning February 17th look under the "Discipleship" tab). You are encouraged to either form a study group or work through the four sessions on your own. In case you do not have a group but wish to join one, Deacon Aaron Kaiser and Deacon Mark Krejci will offer a zoom Bible Study on two different nights during Lent. Deacon Mark's Living the Word group will meet on Monday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 on March 1, 8, 15 & 22 and Deacon Aaron's will meet on Wednesday nights 7:00-8:00 on March 3, 10, 17, & 24. To join one of these groups please email Deacon Aaron at [akaiser@crookston.org](mailto:akaiser@crookston.org).

**Esto Vir! is a vocation camp** for young men entering their sophomore year of high school through young adulthood. This camp is an opportunity for those men who may be open to the priesthood to come together and spend some days in community with each other and the seminarians of the diocese. The camp includes games, lakeside recreation, Mass, prayer, food, and fellowship. Camp Dates: July 7-9, 2021 (Wednesday – Friday) Registration deadline: Monday, June 21, 2021 Location: Sand Hill Lake Bible Camp (Fosston, MN) Cost: FREE! *"The thing I really learned about on this retreat is how to discern a vocation — namely the priesthood and marriage — and how to wrestle with those and how to properly ask God those questions."* – Aaron L.

**"A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt; A troubled woman wrestling with real demons; A young tax collector ostracized by society; A religious leader questioning his faith tradition."** IMBD **"Digging deeper into the back-stories and context of the people and events of the Gospels, Season One of the #1 highest crowd-funded media project of all time introduces you to people such as Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew, and of course Jesus, in a way never seen before."** **The Chosen**. You are invited to join fellow parishioners on Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 8 PM beginning February 28<sup>th</sup> for a watch party and bible study on the first ever crowd funded series on the life of Jesus called **The Chosen**. During this eight-week period, we will gather to watch one episode per week, followed by guided small or large group discussion of the episode. This would be a fantastic opportunity for mixed age groups, families, youth, and adults, to learn and study together! For more information, please contact Jan Erickson or Kirsten Fuglseth.

**The Chosen - Bonus: Stay Tuned!** Bob Noel, Formator for the Office of Formation in Discipleship for the Crookston Diocese is working hard to confirm the actor who plays Jesus in the series, Jonathon Roumie, to be a presenter at the final Together in Spirit virtual event in late March! If he can secure Jonathon, we will pass that information along to anyone participating in these watch parties and discussions and invite you to join that event!