

Sts. Anne & Joachim Catholic Church

5202 - 25th Street S, Fargo, ND 58104

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021



Contact Information and Mass Times

Phone.....701-235-5757
Fax.....701-235-0764
Web.....www.stsaaj.org
Email.....stsaaj@stsaaj.org

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Anticipatory)
Sunday: 7:45, 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.;
and 12:30 p.m. — Masks Required

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday-Friday: 6:30-6:55 a.m. and
11:40-12:05 p.m.
Tuesday: 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:00-8:25 a.m. and 4:00-4:50 p.m.
By appointment if needed.

See page 2 for additional contact information.



The SACRIFICE of the Mass: What does THAT mean?

Adult Catechesis
March 7 at 7 p.m.

Presented by Fr. Duchscher in the Holy Family Social Hall

**Lent
Event**

FRIDAY, MARCH 5



Mass - 5:30 p.m.

Stations - 6:00 p.m.



SECOND WEEK OF LENT
BETTER MEALS IN MADAGASCAR

In Madagascar, half of all children are undernourished. That means 50% of children won't grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

THE FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

To Our Lady Of Fatima

Saturday, March 6

Join us in the main church the
first Saturday of every month:

- *Confessions - 8 a.m.
- *Mass - 8:30 a.m.
- *Meditation and Rosary to follow



Pastoral Staff and Parish Leadership

Fr. Paul Duchscher, Pastor
(paul.duchscher@fargodiocese.org)
Fr. Scott Karnik, Parochial Vicar
(scott.karnik@fargodiocese.org)
In Residence: Fr. Kyle Metzger, Vocation Director
Fr. William Slattery, Shanley/Sullivan Chaplain
Deacon Michael Dodge (michael.dodge@fargodiocese.org)
Deacon Ben Seitz (ben.seitz@fargodiocese.org)
Deacon Pat Breen (pat.breen@fargodiocese.org)
Rob Asheim, Business Manager (rasheim@stsaaaj.org)
Karla Schell, Admin. Assistant/Bulletin Editor (kschell@stsaaaj.org)
Connie Dulany, Religious Education Coord. (cdulany@stsaaaj.org)
Cindy Hoselton, Music Coordinator (choselton@stsaaaj.org)
Sue Ripplinger, Youth Ministry/Parish Outreach Coordinator
(sriplinger@stsaaaj.org)
Ted LeMier, Property Manager (tlemier@stsaaaj.org)

Parish Leadership

Lay Directors: Keith Johnson and Mike Linster
Pastoral Council: Brian Keller Finance Council: Keith Johnson
Knights of Columbus: Troy Olson (11930gk@gmail.com)
Women's Group: Connie Savageau (savageau@cableone.net.)
Social Concerns Ministry: Sue Ripplinger (sriplinger@stsaaaj.org)
St. John Paul II Schools Advisory Council: Michael Schommer

Sacraments and Parish Nursing

Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the church for scheduling.

Attendance at a baptism class should be within the last two months before the birth of the child. You must be a registered member of the parish. Parents are required to attend a class for each child.

Sacrament of Marriage: Visit our website to view our wedding policy for details on marriage preparation and wedding details. Our wedding coordinator at the parish office must be contacted at least seven months in advance of a wedding date.

Communion to Shut-ins: Please call the office to receive communion or a pastoral visit for the homebound.

Anointing of the Sick: Anyone having surgery or wishing to receive this sacrament is asked to call either the office or the rectory. Please notify the pastor upon admission of a family member to the hospital.

Parish Nurse Ministry: Our parish nurses give spiritual support, answer medical questions, provide referrals and make home visits to bring communion to the sick and homebound.

Please call Kris Hintz, parish nurse at 701-730-2909.

Adoration and Prayer Chain

Adoration Hours: 7:30 a.m. Monday to 7 a.m. Friday. Please call the parish office to schedule a time to adore. Holiday hours: See front page.

Adorers Needed: See page 5

Prayer Chain: Please email prayer request to prayers@stsaaaj.org

Parish Registration

Welcome to our parish family! Please stop in the parish office for registration information 8 to 12 p.m. or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Natural Family Planning

Instructors:

Clarence & Betty Vetter, vetter333@msn.com; 701-212-0733
Natalie Aughinbaugh, DNP, FNP-C, 701-866-7890
Miriam Rolczynski, smrolski@gmail.com
Marissa Duppong, MarissaDuppong@gmail.com, 701-527-6470

For a ZOOM intro session on March 8, see page 4 or call Marissa at 701-527-6470.

The next NFP classes are April 12, May 10, June 14. Please call Natalie at 701-866-7890 to register.

Parish Calendar

Mar 1 Quilters-1 p.m., St. Veronica Room
KC Meeting-7 p.m., St. Michael Room
Mar 2 Women's Group - Ave Maria Room
Trail Life-6 p.m.
Pastoral Council-6:30 p.m., St. Joseph
Mar 3 MACH1- 9:30 a.m., Ave Maria Room
Religious Education - 6:30 p.m.
Mar 4 American Heritage Girls-5:30 p.m., Social Hall
RCIA-7 p.m., Christ the King Room
Mar 5 Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet
12:45 p.m., Magnificat Chapel
Mar 6 American Heritage Girls-7:30 a.m.
Rosary at 8 a.m. before Mass 8:30 a.m. Mass
First Saturday Devotions-9 a.m., Magnificat Chapel
Mar 7 Baptism Class-1 p.m., Christ the King Room
Scheduled Baptisms, Church
Adult Catechesis: "The Sacrifice of the Mass:
What does THAT mean?"-7 p.m., Social Hall

Stewardship

\$10,097.00	Offertory
\$8,699.00	Credit Card
\$4,615.00	Bank Withdrawals
\$1,387.58	Plate/Visitor
\$24,798.58	TOTAL
\$4,003.00	Ash Wednesday
# of Children's Env. -34	
# of Teen's Env. - 8	

Online giving is a safe and easy way to support our parish and its ministries during this pandemic. Start today by visiting www.stsaaaj.org or scan the QR code.



Please pray for our ill parishioners...

Travis Anderson
Linda Beare
Jessica Bercier
Marilyn Birkholz
Larry Bothum
Rachel Briggs
Brenda Byer
Brandi DesMarais
Paul Dietz
Al Dukart
Dar Floberg
Carla Hubbard
Joe Johnson
Pat Kinsella
John Koerselman
Margaret Krause
Sharon Lange
Bernadette Mahler
Ray Martin
Pat Meier
Jeff McKinnon
Michael Pirmantgen
Alex Smith
Pat Wangler
Kariann Withrow
Steve Zetocha
Duane Zwinger

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If you would like your name added or removed, please call the parish office.

## Mass Intentions

### March 1-7, 2021

|      |            |                                                        |
|------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon: | 7:00 a.m.  | + Shirley Wilson                                       |
|      | 12:10 p.m. | + Harold and + Loren Lothspeich                        |
| Tue: | 7:00 a.m.  | + Ray Buell                                            |
|      | 12:10 p.m. | + Evelyn VanLishout                                    |
| Wed  | 7:00 a.m.  | Fr. Robert Irwin                                       |
|      | 12:10 p.m. | + Margaret Jackson                                     |
| Thu: | 7:00 a.m.  | + Dorothy Cossette                                     |
|      | 12:10 p.m. | + Mary Cray                                            |
| Fri: | 7:00 a.m.  | For the Fishermen, their families and their intentions |
|      | 12:10 p.m. | Erica and John Dahl                                    |
|      | 5:30 p.m.  | + Walt Montplaisir                                     |
| Sat: | 8:30 a.m.  | Brad and Tracy Boyle family                            |
|      | 5:00 p.m.  | + Josef and Helema Karasek                             |
| Sun: | 7:45 a.m.  | Parishioners                                           |
|      | 9:15 a.m.  | + Vicki Idovich                                        |
|      | 11:00 a.m. | John and Jan Klocke                                    |
|      | 12:30 p.m. | Betty Anda                                             |

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### GOD'S TIMING . . . AS USUAL, ALWAYS CORRECT



I have found something very interesting as I get older – our Lord God always seems to get it right when it comes to the timing of events in a person's life. I'm talking about *when* things come to pass in a person's life. We often tend to think that God's timing is all wrong – He should do things *now* that He doesn't seem to be doing, or that He should *not* be doing things now, but hold them off 'til later – but we usually come to the conclusion much later (maybe years or decades) that in fact His timing – as always – was impeccable. It would not have been as good if whatever happened had happened at some time other than when it did.

Some examples from my own experience: Priests are obliged by the Church to make an annual retreat, and so I do. But there is a special kind of retreat, usually a once-in-a-lifetime retreat, that goes for 30 days . . . Not many people do a 30-day retreat, but I had the chance to do one *18 years after I had been ordained*. I did my 30-day retreat in 2008 – and I was so glad it hadn't happened before that time. Some priests do those retreats while they are still in the seminary or within a few years of ordination – but that would not have been good for me. I needed all 18 of those years of priestly ministry to ready myself for that experience. I know that very plainly. I am very grateful the Lord God had me wait for the right time as He willed it for me.

Another: In theory, a priest has a chance to go on a sabbatical every seven years. Almost none do, for various reasons. Most priests, if they do a sabbatical at all, will do one and only one during their entire priestly ministry. My first (and only thus far – and probably will be) sabbatical was in the fall of 2009, right before I came to Sts. Anne & Joachim as pastor. I had been a priest *19 years* at that point. I did my sabbatical at the North American College in Rome, and I am so glad I had not taken a sabbatical before nineteen years of ministry had passed. The sabbatical – and the experience of Rome itself – would not have been nearly as fruitful if I had done it earlier in my priesthood. I'm sure of that.

One more: Years ago I read *The Inferno*, the first part of *The Divine Comedy* by Dante. In *The Divine Comedy* Dante relates a journey he undertook through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven (need I say this is fiction?). *The Inferno* – his journey through the stages of Hell, is probably the most well-known of the three parts, but after my first reading of *The Inferno* I set the book aside for many years – perhaps over 20 or more. In 2019 I decided to read *The Inferno* again, and again set the book aside. Then last year, in 2020, I was inspired to pick *The Divine Comedy* up and read *The Purgatorio* – and it was *excellent*. That was enough for 2020. Now this year – 2021 – I decided to finally finish it off with *The Paradiso* – and wow! – it is fabulous!

But the beauty of my whole experience with *The Divine Comedy* is this: the fact that I didn't get around to *The Paradiso* until age 58 and 31 years as a priest was *perfect*! I truly believe it would not have been as affecting to me until I had reached this point in my life's time. Now I am glad I did not read it earlier, as I probably would not have been as moved by it, would have judged it to be rather pedestrian, and never have gone back to it. I would have missed out on its full import.

Now – to get back to the point I started this with: *the Lord God's TIMING is always right on*. He knows not only *what* He's doing, He knows *when* to do it. And my overall impression is that many of the best things are put off for us by Him until we are older . . . wiser . . . more mature . . . more spiritually adept . . . however, you want to see it. Don't be surprised that if you haven't already come to see this that someday you will. And *enjoy* – even in tough circumstances – getting older. The longer we live - no matter what the length of that life might ultimately be - will inevitably lead to graces the likes of which we could not even know enough to ask for.

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

*The Paradiso*, understood in its fullness, makes one look forward to the next life. But I wouldn't have been able to understand it in its fullness before this time in my life. And of course, *The Paradiso* is only an epic poem written by a human being that never actually has been there to see/experience it. But it's one of the best foretastes I've known of what's to come for those who love God. And it's going to be better than anything Dante could have imagined. And I know that now – at age 58 – in a way I would never have been able to, or perhaps not even been as interested in, at age 28. God's timing in my life has always been spot on. Yours too, surely.

\* \* \*

This weekend our diocese is observing our second annual "Safe Haven Sunday", in which we hope to assist parents in offsetting internet dangers, particularly pornography, and hopefully aiding parents in talking to your children about both their online and offline choices.

The most powerful tool we have when it comes to teaching our children about the beauty of their sexuality in the digital age is conversation. Real, honest, "look them in the eyes" conversations about their deepest questions. In this digital age, passive parenting is not an option – the internet never rests.

In this bulletin you will find a double-sided insert. Parents, please read it. One side is food for thought – and the other side gives an opportunity for some action. See if you want to take "The Safe Digital Family Challenge." Like it or not, we need to be proactive in this – internet pornography can do real harm – sometimes irreparable – to young people, endangering what should be a happy and fulfilling future of love with that special other – and that *Other*. Our Lord God wants our love to be whole and pure for each other – and for Him.

Fr. Duchscher  
Pastor



[www.kc11930.org](http://www.kc11930.org)

**Upcoming Events:**

March 1 **Monthly Meeting 7 pm,**  
Via video conferencing

**YOUR GIFT CHANGES LIVES.  
\$1 = 3 MEALS**

**Food drive for those in need**

Please use the URL below to donate to our Go Fund Me page for the Great Plains Food Bank: <https://www.gofundme.com/council-11930-great-plains-food-drive>

**KOFC**

Grand Knight  
Troy Olson  
701.318.1856  
11930gk@gmail.com

**ZOOM Intro Session:** [Billings Ovulation Method](#) is March 8 at 5 p.m. Cost is \$140 for three sessions and materials. Call or email to register at 701-527-6470 or [MarissaDuppong@gmail.com](mailto:MarissaDuppong@gmail.com).

### RESTORED: Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference

Calling all 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders! Join hundreds of Catholic teens at the Steubenville North Catholic Youth Conference – Rochester, MN on July 23-25 for a weekend filled with inspiring talks, music, Eucharist Adoration and fellowship. Registration for the conference is \$425. The registration fee covers the conference, housing and transportation. Contact Sue in the parish office for more information, or if you are interested in attending.

### The Following Received the Sacrament of Baptism

**February 21, 2021 - Evie Lucille Magee**



*See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children — and so, in fact, we are. — 1 John 3:1*

**Get the most out of LENT**  
by picking up a Book or CD from...

**Lighthouse CATHOLIC MEDIA**

Available titles include: *Signs of Life* by Scott Hahn, *Peter* by Tim Gray, *7 Big Myths of the Catholic Church*, and *Our Hearts*.

**Located in the Gathering Space**



We extend our sympathy to Erin, Olivia and Patrick Follman on the death of their husband and father, Matthew Follman.

And, to Mary Mears and Chad, Jessica, Owen and Ava Mears on the death of their husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, David Mears.

And, to Kelly, Taylor, Madden, Jaxson and Braylon Zander of the death of their partner and mother, Renee Thomas.

May they rest in peace with God.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MARCH 6-7

|                                                                      | <u>5:00 PM</u>               | <u>7:45 AM</u>                   | <u>9:15 AM</u>                        | <u>11:00 PM</u>                      | <u>12:30 PM</u>         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Proclaimer                                                           | _____ (1)<br>Grant Dahlt (2) | Phillip Glogoza (1)<br>_____ (2) | Paul Wilburn (1)<br>Barb Badinger (2) | Nathan Sather (1)<br>Carrie Ward (2) | _____ (1)<br>_____ (2)  |
| Usher<br>EMHC<br>Greeter<br>Greeter &<br>Gift Family<br>Altar Server | NO VOLUNTEERS<br>NEEDED      | NO VOLUNTEERS<br>NEEDED          | NO VOLUNTEERS<br>NEEDED               | NO VOLUNTEERS<br>NEEDED              | NO VOLUNTEERS<br>NEEDED |

### *Lenten* SCHEDULE

#### DAILY MASSES

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.  
Friday - 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by Stations  
of the Cross, and Confessions.

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#### AREA PARISHES' COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 11 - Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, March 14 (4 p.m.) - Holy spirit

Tuesday, March 16 - Holy Cross

**Tuesday, March 23 - Sts. Anne & Joachim**

Wednesday, March 24 - St. Maurice (Kindred)

Thursday, March 26 - Nativity

Friday, March 26 - St. Leo's (Casseltown)

Sunday, March 28 (4 p.m.) - St. Mary's Cathedral

Sunday, March 28 (4 p.m.) - St. Benedict's (Wild Rice)

Tuesday, March 30 - St. Anthony's

Wednesday, March 31 - St. Paul's Newman Center

(All services are at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.)

#### Bible Readings for this Week (Mar 1-7)

|                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Mon:</b> Dn 9:4b-10               | Lk 6:36-38                  |
| <b>Tue:</b> Is 1:10,16-20            | Mt 23:1-12                  |
| <b>Wed:</b> Jer 18:18-20             | Mt 20:17-28                 |
| <b>Thu:</b> Jer 17:5-10              | Lk 16:19-31                 |
| <b>Fri:</b> Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a | Mt 21:33-43,45-46           |
| <b>Sat:</b> Mi 7:14-15,18-20         | Lk 15:1-3,11-32             |
| <b>Sun:</b> Ex 20:1-17               | 1 Cor 1:22-25<br>Jn 2:13-25 |



#### Adorers needed:

|              |                                                                           |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday's     | 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.                                                         |
| Tuesday's:   | 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.                                                           |
| Wednesday's: | 2 a.m. - 3 a.m. and 3 a.m. - 4 a.m.                                       |
| Thursday's:  | 12 a.m. - 1 a.m., 1 a.m. - 2 a.m.,<br>3 a.m. - 4 a.m., 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.    |
| Friday's:    | 12 a.m. - 1 a.m., 1 a.m. - 2 a.m.,<br>3 a.m. - 4 a.m. and 4 a.m. - 5 a.m. |

*If you are interested in covering an Adoration hour,  
please call the parish office.*

**Adoration Hours:** 7:30 a.m. Monday to 7:00 a.m. Friday.



#### Welcome to Our Family of Families

**Joan Mondry**

**Tiffany Gebhardt**

If you would like to become a registered member(s)  
at Sts. Anne & Joachim Catholic Church,  
please come to the parish office.



### Easter Flowers

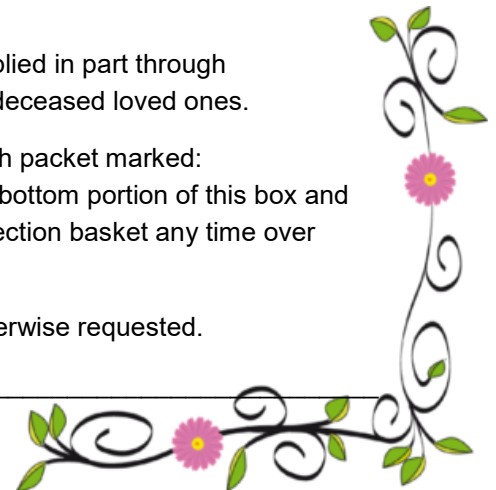
**Easter Flowers** for Sts. Anne & Joachim Church will be supplied in part through  
generous donations from parishioners in honor of living and deceased loved ones.

If you wish to make a memorial, please place your gift in the envelope in your March packet marked:  
**EASTER FLOWERS** and complete the back side of the envelope, or complete the bottom portion of this box and  
place it in an envelope marked *Easter Flowers*. Your gift may be placed in the collection basket any time over  
the next few weeks or you may donate online.

All memorials will be published in the bulletin during the Easter Season, unless otherwise requested.

An Easter flower donation to Sts. Anne & Joachim Catholic Church in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_



## ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



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PRE-K - GRADE 5
- SULLIVAN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
GRADES 6 - 8
- SHANLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADES 9 - 12

For Information or a Tour  
Contact Lori Hager at  
701.893.3271 or  
[lori.hager@jp2schools.org](mailto:lori.hager@jp2schools.org)

Scholarships for Grades K - 12



### Women: Thinking about meeting new friends and sharing your faith?

**MACH1** will be meeting on Wednesday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ave Maria Room.

**MACH1** meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. Childcare is available. Contact Maura Wilburn at [maura.wilburn@gmail.com](mailto:maura.wilburn@gmail.com) or (312) 307-9639.

## OUTSIDE OUR PARISH



**Assistant Girls Softball Coach:** Shanley High School is looking for an assistant coach for Girls Softball for the Spring 2021 season to work under the direction of the Head Coach. Candidate must have an understanding of the individual skills, team strategies and implementing game plans for all opponents. NDHSAA coaching certificate is preferred. Open until filled. Submit cover letter, resume, general application and three letters of recommendation to [human.resources@jp2schools.org](mailto:human.resources@jp2schools.org)

### Teaching Positions:

JPII Catholic Schools is looking to hire the following positions for the Fall of 2021:

- \* Religion Teacher – Shanley High School (1.0 FTE)
- \* Choir Teacher – Shanley/Sullivan School (1.0 FTE)
- \* Science Teacher – Shanley High School (1.0 FTE)
- \* Kindergarten Teacher – Trinity Elementary (1.0 FTE)
- \* Pre-Kindergarten Teacher – Trinity Elementary (1.0 FTE)

For more information or how to apply visit <https://www.jp2schools.org/central-office/careers/> or call 701-893-3231.

**St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store** needs volunteers for 4-5 hours a week or more. We sometimes have paid openings for 20-35 hours per week. Additionally, if you have good, used furniture items you no longer need, please contact us for free pickup for these items. We also accept other items you no longer need, those items can be dropped off at the store. Please contact Melissa at 701-364-9404, for additional volunteer or application information, or stop in at 2796 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. S Suite C, Fargo.

St. Mary's Catholic School in Grand Forks is looking to hire a **kindergarten teacher**. This is a full time, licensed position. If you are interested in joining our amazing team, please send a letter of interest, resume and 3 letters of recommendation to Katie Mayer at [kmayer@hfsmschool.org](mailto:kmayer@hfsmschool.org). If you have any questions, please email or call the school office at 701-775-9886.



**First Saturday Devotions:** Join us the first Saturday of each month in the Church, confessions at 8 a.m. with Mass at 8:30 a.m. Following Mass, we begin with a 15-minute meditation and conclude with the Rosary. The next devotion is March 6.

Our Blessed Mother has asked us to make reparation for sins to her Immaculate Heart. She told the little children at Fatima that Jesus wants her to be known and loved and that we should have a special devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

Our Blessed Mother also told the little Fatima children, "I promise to help at the hour of death, with the graces needed for salvation, whoever on the First Saturday of five consecutive months shall: go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to me."

We would love you to join us on March 6 for confessions, Mass, meditation, and the Rosary.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is offering a Virtual Weekend on March 19-21, 2021. Grow deeper in your marriage from the comfort of your own home! These weekends are private and allow couples to focus just on each other. A communication tool is taught to help spouses get to know themselves and each other better. It will take your marriage to the next level of intimacy! For more information, call Rob & Angie at (701) 347-1998 or apply at [ndwwme.org](http://ndwwme.org).

**Catholic Daughters:** Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, March 9 at St. Anthony's beginning with Mass at 5:15 p.m.; meal to follow (Unit 3 serving) and meeting at 6:30 p.m. St. Anthony's requires attendees to wear a mask and to follow social distancing guidelines. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Members are invited to bring food pantry donations and/or PJ's for Project Ignite Light Drive. Any questions, please send an email to [regentctstann@gmail.com](mailto:regentctstann@gmail.com).

**Reaching Out During Lent:** Please consider donating your unneeded clothes, furniture, household goods, toys, etc. to St. Francis Thrift Store. All profits are directed to the outreach program which helps our friends in need with utility payments, rent and some medical expenses. Due to COVID-19, funding has been reduced; however, the needs continue to increase. Please help us to help others by giving a monetary donation or drop off your items at St. Francis Thrift Store, located at 1425 1st Ave S, Fargo. You may also give the store a call at 235-5944 to arrange a time to have items picked up.

The store continues to need additional board members and volunteers. Please consider one of these options to carry out the Spirit of Lent by assisting those in need. Last year over 10,000 friends were helped with goods, services and merchandise valued at over \$165,000. Thank you, St. Francis Board of Directors.



**FACE MASK REQUIRED**

At the 12:30 p.m. Mass the Mask Mandate will be strictly enforced

*The City of Fargo masking order requires face coverings be worn in all indoor public spaces where physical distancing of six feet or more is not possible.*

**JPII Catholic Schools**  
**SCRIP Gift Cards**

Gift Cards are available for purchase at Hurley's Religious Goods

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### Weekly Prayer of the Faithful Petitions

That we may answer, "Here I am, Lord," whenever, wherever and however God calls us to serve Him.

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK!**

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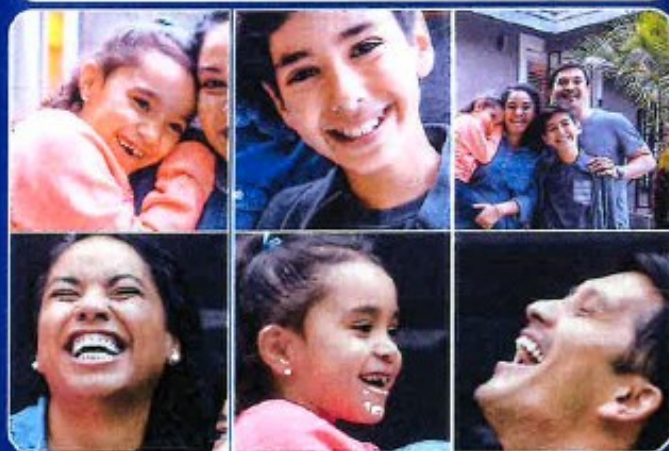


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## **Safe Haven Sunday 2021**

### **Second Sunday in Lent**

Can any parent here imagine being asked to sacrifice one of your children? All parents must shudder when they hear the story in our first Scripture reading today from the book of Genesis where God asks Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Of course, Isaac is spared in the end. But the visceral reaction of the parents who hear this story might linger as they imagine losing their child especially through their own actions.

Yet, there is a stark reality that many of our children are being sacrificed without parents even knowing. I am referring to the pornography industry which is intent on snaring our children in a highly charged and potentially addictive habit.

It is startling to learn that the average age of first exposure to pornography is 11 years old. Most children are exposed either by accident or through a friend. And once exposed, they begin to seek it out. Studies have shown that of the top 10 websites in the country, 3 of those top 10 are porn sites, which account for almost as much activity as Google.

This highly profitable industry completely distorts the purpose of sexuality. It increases the view that sex is just an enjoyable way of connecting with another person. As a result, it decreases the view of sexuality that we understand through our faith, namely, that sex is meant to be an expression of unity between husband and wife as well as a means of creating new life in children.

Exposure to pornography has a negative effect on children, leading to a sense of shame and agitation. Their shame leads them to disconnect from parents and from a sense of a loving God. This disconnection and its relationship to pornography is often undiscovered and may even continue into adulthood.

Because of the serious impact that pornography can have both emotionally and spiritually on individuals and families, our Diocese has designated this Sunday as "Safe Haven Sunday" to empower parents to make their homes a "safe haven" from the effects of pornography.

It is easy to see how this evil in our society is a powerful tool of the Devil that is meant to draw us away from God and alienate us from one another. However, we are not alone in dealing with this threat. As St. Paul reminds us today in the reading from his letter to the Romans, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" By His death and resurrection, Jesus overcame the power of the Devil and He will share that power with us since, as St. Paul reminds us, He "is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us."

In today's Gospel, Jesus is transfigured before his disciples to show his glory and help sustain them as they must witness his suffering and death. The Transfiguration reminds us that we can overcome life's most serious difficulties, but we must first endure the cross, with God's help. As a Diocese, we pray for all our parents that they may rely on the strength of Christ to address the issue of pornography with their children and make their home a "Safe Haven."