



St. John the Baptist Church

St. Mary Church – Clearmont
 St. Hubert Church – Kaycee

Office and Rectory

532 North Lobban Avenue
 Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
 307-684-7268
 Website: www.sjbc-buffalo.com
 Sermon link – <https://soundcloud.com/st-johns-1>

Email:

St. John's: sjbc532@gmail.com
 Fr. Pete: frpete307@gmail.com
 Mary Ann: sjbc532@gmail.com
 Carol Gagliano: Gagliano.carol@gmail.com

St. John the Baptist Church

Saturday 5:00 PM
 Sunday 9:00 AM
 Daily Mass T - F 8:00 AM
 Holy Days
 Anticipatory 6:00 PM
 Day of... 7:00 AM

St. Mary Church, Clearmont

2nd & 4th Sunday 12:30pm

St. Hubert Church, Kaycee

1st & 3rd Sunday 2:00pm

Confessions Saturday 11:00am
 Saturday after 5pm Mass
 By Appointment

Parish Staff

Pastor	<i>Fr. Pete Johnson</i>	684-7268
Parish Administrator	<i>Mary Ann Cummins</i>	684-7268
CCW Leader	<i>Lori Zink</i>	620-5113
Finance Council Chair	<i>Steve Reimann</i>	217-0119
Janitor	<i>Mick Camino</i>	217-1575
K of C Grand Knight	<i>Jason Sutton</i>	217-0468
Organist	<i>Judi Semroska</i>	684-2171
Parish Council Chair	Vacant	
Religious Education	<i>Carol Gagliano</i>	684-7217
Trustees	<i>Jean Urruty</i>	684-7093
	<i>Phil Gonzales</i>	684-5920
Choir	<i>Tony Fox</i>	310-339-9162

Religious Education / Meeting

None scheduled at this time.

**Message from Bishop Steven at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPe_L_D-qDk

Baptisms – Please call Fr. Pete, 684-7268

Marriage – Planning and preparation 6 months in advance

Prayer line Requests –Jan Edgcomb – jmpe@wyoming.com or Honey Harriet, 620-1890

Rosary Guild – Thursdays at 8:30am to 10am; call 307-660-4936 for meeting place

Sacrament of the Sick – After first Sunday Masses or call the Parish Office

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2020

Altar Assistants:

SATURDAY, April 18, 5pm

Lector:

EM:

CUP: None

Altar Servers:

SUNDAY, April 19, 9am

Lector:

EM:

CUP: None

Altar Servers:

Homebound Ministry, Friday, April 17

COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK April 5, 2020

St. John's	\$	3184.00	YTD \$	137,757.08
St. Mary's	\$		YTD \$	4,074.00
St. Hubert's	\$		YTD \$	3,702.00
Poor Donations	\$	625.00		
Online donations	\$			

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Mass intentions for the coming week. No Masses will be offered until the following Sunday, April 19, Divine Mercy Sunday. That intention will be for the people of our parish

THANK YOU to Vanessa Vogel for updating the church website!

THANK YOU to Chad Reckard for getting Fr. Pete's sermons to soundcloud!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon-Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; Gospel: Matthew 28:8-15

Tue-Acts of the Apostles 2:36-41; Gospel: John 20:11-18

Wed-Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10; Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Thu-Acts of the Apostles 3:11-26; Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

Fri-Acts of the Apostles 4:1-12; Gospel: John 21:1-14

Sat-Acts of the Apostles 4:13-24; Gospel: Mark 16:9-15

FR. PETE:

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! This is our Faith in a nutshell. Death could not contain our Lord. Hell could not bind Him in chains. The tomb was powerless to imprison Him. He is Risen and because He rose from the dead, He bestows life on all who believe in Him so that death shall be powerless over us, our tombs reduced to temporary places of bodily rest until the Day the Lord comes. May it be soon.

Though our Churches are closed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, their closure does nothing to change the truth. The tomb is empty, the burial cloths cast aside, signs that invite us to make an ascent of faith. Christ has rendered death impotent.

Though we are not able to be together to celebrate the Mystery of the Eucharist, the good news of Easter / Pascha is that we are united in the Mystery of the Resurrection.

A sermon from Pope Francis, "The Heartbeat of the Risen Lord."

"After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb." We can picture them as they went on their way. They walked like people going to a cemetery, with uncertain and weary steps, like those who find it hard to believe that this is how it all ended. We can picture their faces, pale and tearful. And their question: can Love have truly died?

Unlike the disciples, the women are present - just as they had been present as the Master breathed His last on the cross, and then, with Joseph of Arimathea, as He was laid in the tomb. Two women who did not run away, who remained steadfast... *"And suddenly there was a great earthquake."* Unexpectedly, those women felt a powerful tremor, as something or someone made the earth shake beneath their feet. Once again, someone came to tell them: *"Do not be afraid,"* but now adding: *"He has been raised as He said!"*

The heartbeat of the Risen Lord is granted us as a gift, a present, a new horizon. The beating heart of the Risen Lord is given to us, and we are asked to give it in turn as a transforming force, as the leaven of a new humanity. In the Resurrection, Christ rolled

back the stone of the tomb, but He wants also to break down all the walls that keep us locked in our sterile pessimism...That is what Easter calls us to proclaim: the heartbeat of the Risen Lord. Christ is alive! That is what quickened the pace of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. That is what made the return in haste to tell the news. That is what made them lay aside their mournful gait and sad looks. They returned to the city to meet up with the others.

Now that, like the two women, we have visited the tomb, I ask you to go back with them to the city. Let us all retrace our steps and change the look on our faces. Let us go back with them to tell the news...In all those places where the grave seems to have the final word, where death seems the only way out. Let us go back to proclaim, to share, to reveal that it is true: the Lord is alive! He is living and He wants to rise again in all those faces that have buried hope, buried dreams, buried dignity...Let us go, then. Let us allow ourselves to be surprised by this new dawn and by the newness that Christ alone can give. May we allow His tenderness and His love to guide our steps. May we allow the beating of His heart to quicken our faintness of heart.

I recently placed the following article on the cover of our parish website and thought I would put in the Sunday Bulletin which we mail out to those who do not have access to a computer.

When I was a boy and made the mistake of complaining that something wasn't "fair" my dad would patiently say in Swedish what translates as, "A man cannot change his fate." Those of Scandinavian descent will resonate with this unapologetically stoic, "Viking" mentality. There are things over which I have no control except how I choose to respond to them. Here in the Western states we have a similar saying, "You got to play the hand you were dealt as best you can." One has no control over the cards one gets, but one can and must make the best use of what one was given. As one who tries to be a disciple of Jesus, I find my dad's advice as wise and valid as ever.

Many today believe that we are essentially good. Common sense and experience, however, quickly betrays that lie. Some argue we are essentially evil, rotten to the core, void of the slightest shred of goodness. Again, common sense and experience tells us that too is wrong. We are neither essentially good nor essentially evil. We are essentially screwed up creatures that do the things we do not want to do and do not do the things we know we should do. This is the mystery of how sin distorts our nature, our relationship with God, and indeed infects the fabric of the universe. We are fallen, screwed up creatures living in a fallen, screwed up universe where bad things happen. Our only control is how we will respond to them.

I find the Psalms to be particularly helpful guides, comforting reminders that no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in God remains faithful to us.

Consider Psalm 51, one of my favorites ever since it was given to me as a penance. The psalmist suffers from some kind of illness. Curiously, he does not ask for physical healing. He asks instead for moral healing: "*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight...*" The psalmist recognized in his physical illness, as horrible as it must have been, that what was far more serious was his inner moral disorder and the barrier it created between God and himself. Please note that nowhere does he say his sin created his illness. He makes two conclusions. First, the truly deadly illness is his distorted relationship with God. Second, there is a treatment: "*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.*" Are we allowing the current crisis to be a time of looking at our relationship with God?

Consider Psalm 77. The psalmist does not reveal what ails him, allowing us to inject our personal situation into the psalm. The psalmist is in deep distress. He questions God's justice and love. Don't we do the same when we are immersed in chaos, especially when it is something we did not create, when it is not fair? The psalmist does something we

moderns avoid. He *remembers* the history of his people and how God was always there, even in their moments of infidelity. We tend to forget our history, the struggles, deprivations and sacrifices previous generations endured. We give little thought to God working in and through those times. This only serves to impoverish us. It is in the psalmist's act of remembering the history his people have with God that he dares to confidently hope that just as God was present in the past, He is present in the psalmist's moment of history. Will we allow ourselves to remember and find comfort in the truth that God is present in our moment?

If my dad were alive, he would tell me, yet again, "A man cannot change his fate." Many find this "Viking" rhetoric unappealing, perhaps un-Christian. I find it liberating. I cannot change the reality of this disease, what it may do to my family or friends, what it may do to the economy or the political order. What I can do is choose to turn to God, to make my relationship with Him more important than the chaos engulfing us. What I can do is choose to recognize that while my fallen, screwed up nature inclines me to self-interest my relationship with God empowers me, every disciple and every person of good will to make choices that go beyond the self to the service of others. A deepening, renewed relationship with God empowers one to see that He is not absent but very much present in this moment of our history, inspiring us to rise above the chaos, bringing out the best within us. And this gives us what we need most: hope.

Hang in there Church. We're going to make it.

We will not be having Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. It is unclear if June is a realistic time frame. The effects of the COVID-19 may still be with us and folks might be understandably skittish about getting in groups even if the "all clear" is given by health and civil authorities. Carol Gagliano attempted to secure the necessary staffing for times in July or August but that has not worked out. Carol and I decided to postpone VBS until next June.

Many thanks to Mary Ann Cummins. Mary Ann has been working hard to keep up with all the demands the Diocese is making to update our parish list. She is also attempting to work online to update

our contact system. She has successfully compiled a list of those who do have email addresses (a little over 100) so we can use that method of communication as well.

The Church is open for private prayer Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please remember: no more than 10 people in the Church, sit six feet away from each other (front, back, right and left). If sick stay home.

Help needed. Is there anyone who knows how to form a file of email addresses so that Mary Ann can send out emails with just one click of the send button? If you know how to do this, please call Mary Ann at the office (684-7268).

The Bishop's Office has instructed pastors to not engage in "unnecessary spending." We will complete all the necessary paperwork for the Church bathroom project but put it on hold for the time being. The original plan was to use our investments to pay for the project but the value of our investments has gone down and this is not the time to withdraw money from them. The only project we will complete is the creation of three new crosses to be placed on the top of the Church as this was arranged several months ago and the work is nearly completed. Pastors were also instructed not to lay off staff, something I had no intention of doing. We have already begun to withdraw funds from our money market fund to cover our bills and we shall have to continue doing so for the foreseeable future. The good news is that we have been frugal and have the funds we need to rely on for difficult times like this one.

"Fr. Pete...Why can't you send out a letter each week to all the parishioners?" The cost is prohibitive.

With the Easter letter that makes three letters thus far. There may be a few more depending on how long the parish is shut down which I suspect will go well into May.

It would be very helpful if people would make the effort to read the Sunday Bulletin. We post it on the parish website (sjbc-buffalo.com). Go to "news / events" and click. Then scroll down to "bulletin" and click. Go to the date you want. We also mail it to those who inform us they do not have a computer. We can email it to those who prefer that option, so please let us know.

The sermons are also online. You can access them through the sound cloud at <https://soundcloud.com/st-johns-1>. Click on the sermon you want.