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# March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A



### **Mass Schedule & Intentions for March 24-29**

**Tues, March 24.... Private** Wanda Kordonowy by John and Tena Weinand

**Wed, March 25..... Private** †Charlene Thompson by Gerald and Carol Pischel

**Thurs, March 26... Private:** Special Intention

**Fri, March 27..... Private:** Duane and Donna Hartwig by Ashley Grunhovd

**Sat, March 28..... Private:** †Jim Rahn by John and Lucy Bobb

**Sun, March 29 .....Private:** Parishioners of St. Joseph and St. Martin

*Until further notice, we are unable to accept any additional Mass intentions than the current intentions that we have received.*



**Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph's and St. Martin's;**

In light of Bishop Kagan's recent statement regarding the COVID-19 virus, below is information on how his directives will affect our respective parishes:

\*There will be no daily or weekend Masses held until further notice.

\*Daily Mass at 12pm **will not be held** at St. Martin's on Thursday, March 19.

\*St. Joseph and St. Martin churches will be open during regular hours for prayer and quiet meditation. While prayers such as the rosary and other prayers of devotion may be done with others, the number of people *must* be small and distance kept between persons.

\***Confessions** will be held at St. Joseph's on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:00pm- 8:00pm, and at St. Martin's on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00pm- 8:00pm. This will go into effect on **Thursday, March 19, 2020** and will continue for the immediate future. Any changes to this schedule will be announced on social media and signs posted on entryway doors.

\*Office Hours: **Effective Thursday, March 19, 2020.** (I will be out of both offices Friday, March 20 and Monday, March 23, but will have access to email, and the Facebook sites)

**Monday:** 9:00 -11:00 am, St. Joseph

**Tuesday:** 9:00 -11:00 am, St. Martin

**Wednesday:** 9:00 – 10:00 am, St. Joseph  
10:30 – 11:30 am, St. Martin

**Thursday:** 8:30 am -12 noon, St. Martin

**Friday:** 8:30 am – 12 noon, St. Joseph

Please feel free to email the office for any questions, sacramental scheduling needs, etc. I will be working from home the rest of the scheduled office hours.

\*Sacramental Scheduling:

Please email the parish office to schedule any baptism, wedding, anointing of the sick, or any other sacramental need. **Effective Thursday, March 19, 2020.**

\***'Catholic For A Reason'** class has been postponed until further notice.

\*Stations of the Cross, Knights of Columbus soup and sandwich meals, Fish Fry, Palm Sunday breakfast, 'No Greater Love' Bible study, Men's Bible Study, Rosary Guild, Altar Society, Prayer Shawl Group, and any other parish scheduled events have been cancelled. There can be no exceptions. This is **effective Thursday, March 19, 2020** and will remain in effect until future notice.

\*Father Grafsgaard has asked that NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament be held without his prior approval. For the immediate future he asks for your patience in this regard, and that one adore our Lord reserved in the tabernacle.

\*For the time being, parishioners may go to the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit website and view both daily and Sunday Mass from there (as available). As always, the televised Mass is available on the FOX TV affiliate in

your viewing area on Sundays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Please check the diocesan website ( <https://www.bismarckdiocese.com> ) and social media for updates and more details about livestream Masses.

\*Our parish bulletin will be posted online, as well as on our Facebook pages. Minimal copies of our bulletin will be at the entrances of both parishes.

\*Easter Flowers donations are still being accepted, and flowers will still be placed in the church as usual. However, be advised that public Masses *may* not resume until after Easter.

\*Contribution envelopes can be dropped off at the parish offices. Outside of business hours, St. Martin parishioners can use the slot in the office door. St. Joseph parishioners drop can slide envelopes under the office door or under the sacristy door. Collection envelopes can also be mailed to the parish offices.

\*We have recently been asked about our EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) information. We have attached the form needed to complete this process to this email. The form can be returned to the office or mailed to the either of our parishes. A blank voided check is required to complete the EFT donation. Please contact the office with any questions.

\*Please continue to watch our Facebook sites and your email for any additional updates.

**\*\*\*As your Pastor, I want to offer my personal assurance of my continued presence and prayers for you and your family in this time. I have thought of writing a simple pastoral letter of support, hope, and spiritual guidance as together we are given an opportunity to enter more fully into the desert with Christ during this Lenten season. Let us continue to encourage and support each other.**

**St. Joseph, *pray for us.***

**St. Martin, *pray for us.***

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, *pray for us.***

**Father Grafsgaard (and Bosco)**

Below is the announcement from Bishop Kagan regarding the COVID-19 virus and how it will affect our diocese and our respective parishes.

**BEGIN:**

**To the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese of Bismarck,**

The most serious health crisis we are now experiencing, the COVID-19 virus has required unprecedented measures be taken by our national, state and local governments and, as devout Catholics and responsible citizens, we all have a share in this responsibility not to spread this virus, but to do all we can reasonably do to stop its spread and to pray and work for its end. As Catholics this is our moral responsibility in justice and in charity.

Thus, after long hours of prayer and consultation, I must make the hard decision to cancel all public celebrations of the Mass, the sacraments and devotions until further notice that it is safe for us to gather again for public worship. This is a great sorrow for me as your Bishop but, in justice and charity to you and to all in our diocese, I make this decision.

**Thus, the following directives are to be observed in the Diocese of Bismarck and may not be changed or modified by anyone but the Diocesan Bishop:**

Effective Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. and until further notice, all daily and Sunday Masses are cancelled in the Diocese of Bismarck. This applies to all parishes, oratories, and chapels used for public worship. The Catholic faithful within the territory of the Diocese of Bismarck are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.

**Confirmation** - As a result, all of the scheduled celebrations of the sacrament of confirmation between Sunday, March 22, 2020 through Sunday, May 17, 2020, are cancelled and will be rescheduled for the fall between September and December 2020.

**Communal Penance Services** - All Communal Penance Services are cancelled. All parish priests are to keep the regular schedule of confessions in their parishes but both priest and penitent are to use a screen for the celebration of the sacrament until further notice.

**Weddings** - All weddings already scheduled may take place but are to be limited to the bride and groom, the two witnesses, the parents of the bride and groom and the priest or deacon who is to witness the marriage. The Church's Rite of Matrimony Within or Outside of Mass may be used.

**Funerals** - All funerals are to be private not public, that is to say, for the immediate family only and for the priest or deacon who is the celebrant. The Rite of Christian Funerals Within or Outside of Mass may be used. There is to be no wake and/or vigil observed the day before or day of the funeral. No luncheon or dinner is permitted in the church hall after the funeral.

**Baptism** - Infant baptism may be administered but may have only 10 persons including the priest or deacon present. All RCIA classes are cancelled. The sacramental initiation of adults by a Profession of Faith or by baptism may take place at the discretion of the priest but must be done individually and with no more than 10 persons present.

**Religious Education** - All parish religious education classes are cancelled until further notice. Our Catholics schools are following the directives of the State and will remain closed until such time as it is deemed safe to reopen. Parents are asked to follow the directions given by their local Catholic schools.

**Televised/Livestream Mass** - All pastors of parishes with the capability to livestream are to offer one daily and one Sunday Mass without a congregation or other ministers present and have that available for their parishioners on the parish website. If any parish does not have this capability, the parishioners may go to the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit website and view daily and Sunday Mass from there (as available). As always, the televised Mass is available on the FOX TV affiliate in your viewing area on Sundays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Please check the diocesan website and social media for updates and more details about livestream Masses.

**Chrism Mass** - The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated without a congregation present on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. CDT from the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and this will be able to be viewed on the diocesan website. In order to protect our priests, there will be no general concelebration of this Mass, but our priests are asked to participate in the Renewal of their Ordination Promises via live stream.

Priests will be expected to offer Holy Mass privately every day if possible and to be available to provide the anointing of the sick and viaticum to all the Catholic faithful. Please call your parish office with any special sacramental and spiritual need. Each Parish is to keep its Church open during the day for the benefit of those who wish to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

What all of us must do in these days is not lose hope in the merciful goodness of Almighty God. Even though we will not be physically close to one another at this time, by our fervent and humble prayer for each other and all who are ill and affected, we remain united in the powerful Communion of Saints. Let us continue to beg Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family and Patron of the Universal Church, to assist us in our time of need by their powerful intercession.

I offer to all of you my daily prayers and my blessing. Let us accompany one another and everyone on this holy journey of healing and purification.

The Most Reverend David D. Kagan  
Bishop of Bismarck

**Recurring Debits Authorization**  
(Automatic Donations)

I (we) hereby authorize [St. Martins Catholic Church], hereinafter called the COMPANY, to initiate debit entries to my (our)

(select one:)     Checking Account                       Savings Account

indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, hereafter called BANK, and to debit or credit the same to such account.

BANK Name: Union State Bank / Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (located at the bottom left corner of checks)

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Same amount to be debited each billing period: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(The amount of each donation)

Number of Payments: \_\_\_\_\_  OR Indefinitely – (check here)  
(How long you want the donations to continue.)

Frequency of Payments: (select one):     Monthly             Weekly             Bi-Weekly

Date of First Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect for the number of payments authorized above or until the COMPANY has received written notification from me (or us) of its termination, in such time and such manner as to afford COMPANY and BANK a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a voided check to this authorization in the blank area below.

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