

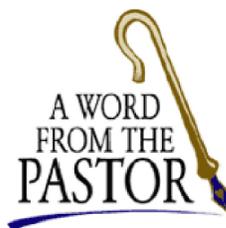


St. John the Evangelist Sacred Heart - Oakwood

June 28, 2020
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.



As mentioned last week, the Church is going to face the trial of confronting a culture, and now a legal system, that has accepted homosexuality, transgenderism and fluidic gender identity as truths to be embraced. These are not truths at all but falsehoods that come from both our fallen nature and the father of lies, Satan. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) states: "Basing itself in Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved" (n.2357). Even though God loves dearly those who are struggling with homosexuality, we have to look at His plan for conjugal love to see why homosexual acts are wrong.

The complementarity (oneness) expressed in the sexual act is meant by God to both deepen intimacy and bring about new life. Pope Paul VI states in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*: "The Church, calling men back to the observance of the norms of the natural law, as interpreted by its constant doctrine teaches that each and every marriage act must remain open to the transmission of life. That teaching, often set forth by the magisterium (teaching authority of the Church), is founded upon the inseparable connection, willed by God and unable to be broken by man on his own initiative, between the two meanings of the conjugal act: the *unitive* meaning and the *procreative* meaning. Indeed, by its intimate structure, the conjugal act, while most closely uniting husband and wife, capacitates them for the generation of new lives, according to laws inscribed in the very being of man and woman" (n.12).

Homosexual acts cannot ever be open to the generation of new life; it is biologically impossible. They are also unable to generate a genuine spousal intimacy blessed by God since the sexual act is meant not only to be experienced between male and female physiologically, but also the sharing of their masculine and feminine affectivity (that is, the emotional and psychological) which results in the full gift of spouses to each other in love. Even spouses who are sterile can experience deep intimacy and blessing because they still act in accordance with the natural law established by God, as well as a renewal of their marriage covenant.

What is the natural law? "The natural law is a participation in God's wisdom and goodness by man formed in the image of his Creator. It expresses the dignity of the human person and forms the basis of his fundamental rights and duties" (CCC, n. 1978). This law then governs creation in goodness and is perceived by man because we have the ability to reason. This use of our reason makes us what is called a *rational creature*. Reason enables us to know what is good and to follow it. "The 'divine and natural' law shows man the way to follow so as to practice the good and attain his end" (CCC, n.1955). What is our end? Eternal life in God, Who is the absolute Good.

The natural law is written in the heart of every human being. It is universal, applies to everyone and is unchanging. It expresses our human dignity and therefore, the good it points to never changes, because God in Whose image we are made, never changes. What was good at the very beginning, remains good to this day. The natural law is the moral compass (moral – that which is good, not evil) etched upon the deepest part of our soul and manifests in what we call the *conscience*. The natural law is the foundation from whence our conscience finds its voice. The revelation of our Catholic Faith forms the conscience in the fullness of truth.

The simple use of reason will discover *order* in God's creation. When God created everything out of nothing, He set in motion a divine law that preserves and regulates life and existence for all things. We find that He set mankind with the task of taking care of His creation (cf. Gen 1:26-28). In order to exercise this authority, He gave us the ability to know and understand through reason the natural law. This law leads us to goodness, and ultimately to Him. However, acting contrary to the natural law consequently leads to a rejection of God. Let us not reject Him by accepting as good those things He has clearly stated are evil. We need to pray for those who are struggling with homosexuality or their gender identity that God will bring them to His truth and give them peace. Next week, I'll address our need to genuinely love those who are struggling in these areas.

May God be praised and may you be blessed!

Eucharist 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, Grafton

Reconciliation/Confessions

Saturday: 4:15 - 4:45 pm
Thursday & Friday: 6:00 - 6:45 pm or by appointment. Reconciliation will take place in Classroom #1 located just off the Gathering Space & across from the women's bathroom.

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

Office Manager: DeeDee Vogsland

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Swanson

Environmental Services: David Demester

Summer Help: Carter Parsons

Baptism Prep Classes - On the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Space. Call 352-1648 to register.

Parish Lay Directors: Paul Houdek,
Mary (John) Dusek

Pastoral Council: Jeff Blanchard, Kelly Dokken, Brittany Dusek, Ernie Dusek, Lee Lessard, Denise Moe, Sean Osowski, Micky Schumacher, and Marta Balderas - Hispanic Ministry Liaison.

Finance Council: Matt Beneda, Mary (John) Dusek, Paul Houdek, Kathy Maus, Donny Suda, Stacey Van Bruggen

Youth Committee: Marty Balderas, Tony Dumas, Alexa Holt, William Jiskra, Mary Kerian, Nancy Miller, Jackie Osowski, Josie Suda, Maggie Suda, Molly Zahradka
Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Emails: Father Jeff at

fr.jeff@stjohnsgrafton.com

DeeDee at

deedee@stjohnsgrafton.com

Bulletin - find it at stjohnsgrafton.com

FORMED: Youth and Adult Faith

Formation go to formed.org

Need a ride to church:

Call Frank Janousek at 520-1730

Bulletin Deadline - Wednesday 4:00 p.m.

Eucharist & Intentions

Saturday, June 27

5:00 pm - Susan Conway +

Sunday, June 28

7:30 am Oakwood - Parishioners

9:30 am - Al & Jonathan Leighton +

11:30 am - Spanish Mass - Lynn Ebert +

Monday, June 29

No Mass

Tuesday, June 30

5:15 pm - Vivian Collette Secrist +

Wednesday, July 1

9:00 am - Louis & Alma Collette +

Thursday, July 2

1:45 pm - LSTC - Randy Dusek +

No confessions this evening

Friday, July 3

5:15 pm - Gregory Herding +

Confession 6:00-6:45 pm

Saturday, July 4

5:00 pm - Michelle Collette Donarski +

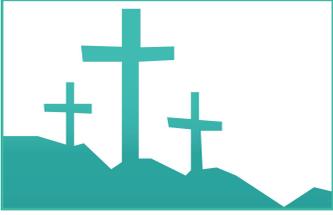
Confession 4:15-4:45 pm

Sunday, July 5

7:30 am Oakwood - Lynn Ebert +

9:30 am - Parishioners

11:30 am - Spanish Mass



Our Sympathy
to the family of
James Schieffer

Please Pray for the Sick: Ralph Kingsbury, Rae Desautel, Tory Jacobsen, Jeff Collette, Isaak Suda, Mary Lou Guzzo, Alyce Stendahl, Steve Dolan, Les Aasand, Steve Walters, Jane Zidon, Ed Boura, Gene Hagen, Clifford Bailly, Graham Baker, Chris Loveless, Linda Loveless, JoAnne Sevigny, Ken Jarolimek, Frances Schuster, Aldo Rodriguez, Barb Foerster-Estad, Daryle MacDonald, Marvin French, Kevin Bailly, Brian Fehr, Frances Boulduc, Bonnie Shannon, Judy Wolter, Robert Carroll, Richard Anderson, Judy Jiskra, Suzanne Burns, Jodi McCarthy, Diane Lee, Hope Reis, Patrice & Thea Katz, Brad Schuster, Hiladore Osowski, Ron Nowacki, Monica Rudnik, Chad Demers, Jeanne Silewski, Ray Capp, Roger Mattson, Emma Basting, John Campbell, Jennifer Osowski, Roger Amiot, Kevin Hoenke, Adly Galle Jaehning, Kathy Ruzicka

Proclaimers for St. John the Evangelist:

June 27, 5:00 pm - Mary Rudnik

July 4, 5:00 pm - Mary (Tom) Dusek

July 5, 9:30 am - Pat Dusek

Altar Servers for St. John the Evangelist

June 28, 9:30 pm - Josh Blanchard

July 5, 9:30 am - Josh Blanchard
& Shay Risky

Proclaimers for Sacred Heart, Oakwood:

June 28, 7:30 am - Susan & Wayne Suda

July 5, 7:30 am - Guy Demers

Sacred Heart - The Cleaning Committee for
July is number 1.

STEWARDSHIP

Let us honor God with our first fruits!
Praise the Lord!

St. John the Evangelist

Given June 14, 2020 - \$5,645.75

God's Gift total Given as of June 14, 2020 \$70,428.64

Sacred Heart - Oakwood

Given June 14, 2020 - \$1,800.00

God's Gift total Given as of June 14, 2020 - \$6,477.00

*Eucharistic Adoration will be in the Parish Center with the regular schedule being followed.

Eucharistic Adoration Times

Tuesday 6 pm - 10 pm

Wednesday 10 am - 10 pm

Thursday 6 pm - 10 pm

"So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?" Jesus said this to his followers in Gethsemane. Matthew 26:40

Holy Pilgrimage with Jesus: Next Sunday, July 5, is the first Sunday of the month. This means that Fr. Jeff and Tony Dumas will be driving through Grafton and Oakwood with Jesus in the monstrance. Keep your eyes peeled for Tony's white truck with "God bless you" written on the sides. They begin this holy pilgrimage at 3:00 pm. If you have any intentions for them to pray for during the pilgrimage, please write them down and place them in the basket on the wooden table in the gathering space.

10,000

Rosaries for Grafton!

We have prayed 2,161

Pray for the conversion of Grafton
and the end of the coronavirus.

Saving Souls one bead at a time!



Stained Glass Window: A new beautiful stained glass window was installed in the Gathering Space in memory of a deceased loved one. Thank you very much to the benefactors who commissioned it. There is room for two more stained glass windows to be made. If you are interested in sponsoring one in the memory of a loved one, then please contact Fr. Jeff.

UPCOMING DATES AT ST. JOHN'S:

Parish Office Closed

Friday, July 3rd

Youth Committee Mtg.

Tues., July 7, 6:30 pm

Teachers Meeting

Tues., July 7, 7:00 pm

Baptism Prep. Class

Thurs., July 9, 7:00 pm

The candles will not be available to be used while the Church floor is being repaired. However, if you wish to purchase a candle insert, this can be done at the parish office. The cost is \$3.50 each. Thank you.

Mass & Eucharistic Adoration will now be held in the Parish Center until the floor project is completed.

