



# St. John the Evangelist Sacred Heart - Oakwood

July 19, 2020  
Sixteenth 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.



Last week, I briefly discussed the first element of creating a covenant, which was the swearing of the Oath, which involved invoking God as witness and uttering the blessing and curse. Once again, a covenant is the permanent bonding of two persons in a relationship of love that forms an indissoluble (it cannot be dissolved or broken) unity or oneness. Four specific things present in creating a covenant as revealed in Scripture are Oath, Exchange, Blood Sacrifice and Meal.

The second element is the Exchange. After swearing the oath, the fathers of the families would exchange something that expresses their unity and equality. Most of the time, covenants were made between families of higher social or economic standing with those of a lower standing or vice versa. Through the covenantal bonding, the families would be united and thus, become equal.

The item normally exchanged was a belt, as it was a symbol of social status as well as the sign of the ability to make war. It is also an item that encompasses the person wearing it. Often we hear in Scripture, particularly in the Old Testament through some of the utterances of the Prophets and repeated in the Psalms, God would tell a person to "gird their loins." This was an action in preparation for battle. The soldier would take a cloth that acts as an undergarment and basically wrap things up so he could have greater freedom of movement while wearing a sword. The last thing worn in "girding" oneself was the belt around the waist that held everything together.

In offering the belt to each other, the fathers on behalf of their families were not only forming a bond of peace but that of equality. Essentially, they were saying, "what is yours is mine and what is mine is yours. We belong to one another and are at peace." Hence, the belt signifies visually the bond of peace and equality formed by the covenant.

We find this covenantal belt spoken of by Isaiah in reference to Jesus the Redeemer: *"righteousness will be the belt about his loins, and faithfulness the belt about his waist"* (11:5). This spiritual belt that clothes Christ is given to us in the New and Eternal Covenant through the action of the Holy Spirit, Who according to Jesus in the Gospel of John is the Spirit of Truth and Peace. Also, we find St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians encouraging us when preparing to do battle with the forces of evil to *"gird your loins with truth"* (6:14).

The Truth is not a concept, but a Divine Person: Jesus Christ. Jesus speaks to this reality when He says, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life"* (Jn 14:6), and when confronted by Pontius Pilate, He states, *"For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice"* (Jn 18:37). We who live in the new covenant must live in the truth.

When a couple gets married in the Church, their exchange of rings is the symbolic belt of their covenant, which testifies to the faithfulness of their oath and the truth that they are bonded to each other. More next week.

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](mailto:fr.jeff@stjohnsgrafton.com)

DeeDee at  
[deedee@stjohnsgrafton.com](mailto:deedee@stjohnsgrafton.com)

**Bulletin** - find it at [stjohnsgrafton.com](http://stjohnsgrafton.com)

**FORMED:** Youth and Adult Faith  
Formation go to [formed.org](http://formed.org)

Need a ride to church:  
Call Frank Janousek at 520-1730

**Bulletin Deadline** - Wednesday 4:00 p.m.

A Special Thank you to Gerald Schumacher who so generously donated his time and talent to make our new Rosary Count Boxes!

## Eucharist & Intentions

### Saturday, July 18

5:00 pm - Edward French +

### Sunday, July 19

7:30 am Oakwood - Frank & Elinor Nelson Misialek +

9:30 am - Parishioners

11:30 am - Spanish Mass

### Monday, July 20

No Mass

### Tuesday, July 21

No Mass

### Wednesday, July 22

No Mass

### Thursday, July 23

1:45 pm - LSTC - Communion Service

No Confessions

### Friday, July 24

No Mass

No Confession

### Saturday, July 25

5:00 pm - Edward French Jr. +

Confession 4:15-4:45 pm

### Sunday, July 26

7:30 am Oakwood - Parishioners

9:30 am - Al Jochim +

11:30 am - Spanish Mass

## Please Pray for the Sick:



Amanda LaTraille, Robert Novak, Helen Sieben, Rae Desautel, Ralph Kingsbury, 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

# 10,000

## Rosaries for Grafton!

*We have prayed 3,199*

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

*Saving Souls one bead at a time!*



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.

## STEWARDSHIP

Let us honor God with our first fruits!

Praise the Lord!

### St. John the Evangelist

Given July 12, 2020 - \$4,038.50

God's Gift total Given as of July 12, 2020 \$71,716.64

### Sacred Heart - Oakwood

Given July 12, 2020 - \$835.00

God's Gift total Given as of July 12, 2020 - \$6,477.00

## RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

Saturday, August 22, 2020, 11am-6:30pm at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Grafton, ND.

The Conference begins with Mass at 11am in honor of the Queenship of Mary and concludes with a Eucharistic procession immediately following the evening Vigil Mass, which will be celebrated by Bishop Folda.

The Keynote speaker at 1pm is Leah Darrow, who will speak on "My Body, My Choice." Leah is a former model and contestant on *America's Next Top Model*, is an international Catholic speaker, writer, and host of the popular *Do Something Beautiful* podcast. Leah is the cofounder of the LUX Conference for young adult women and author of *The Other Side of Beauty*.

Other Conference topics include Abortion and the Right to Life, St. Gianna Molla and the ministry in Warsaw, ND, and the Effects of Pornography. Eucharistic Adoration will be available. Lunch will be provided and there will be activities for children during the Conference. The event is free of charge. All are welcomed. For more information, please call the parish at 701-352-1648.

## Memorial - St. John's

Agnes Lessard	\$20	Cemetery Fund
Vivian Collette-Secrist	\$10	Unrestricted
Jean Haave	\$50	Music Dept.

## Homeschooling in North Dakota: Getting Started

Presentation and Q&A by Theresa Deckert of the North Dakota Home School Association.

When: Tuesday, July 28th at 5:30 pm.

Where: Leistikow Park in Grafton (meeting will move to St. John's Catholic Church Parish Center in case of inclement weather)

Contact: Eleri Kerian to RSVP and ask questions, call or text (701) 331-3813 or email [elери.kerian@gmail.com](mailto:elери.kerian@gmail.com)

*Fr. Jeff will be on vacation July 13th - 29th.*

*Please contact Deacon Mike Grzadzielewski for any Sacramental needs at 352-1648 or 520-9663.*

*Fr. Bernie Schneider will be here for our Saturday and Sunday Masses while Fr. Jeff is away.*

*There will be no daily Masses (Monday-Friday) or confessions on Thursdays & Fridays July 13th - 29th.*

