



St. John the Evangelist Sacred Heart - Oakwood

September 13, 2020
Twenty-Fourth 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.

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm, St. John, Grafton
Sunday: 7:30 am, Sacred Heart, Oakwood
9:30 am, St. John, Grafton

Reconciliation/Confessions

Saturday: 4:15 - 4:45 pm
Thursday: 6:00 - 6:45 pm or call for an 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

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

Emails: contact *Father Jeff* at
fr.jeff@stjohnsgraffton.com

DeeDee - deedee@stjohnsgraffton.com

Deac. Mike - mike@stjohnsgraffton.com

Kathy - kathy@stjohnsgraffton.com.

Bulletin - find it at stjohnsgraffton.com

FORMED: Youth and Adult Faith
Formation go to formed.org

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Need a ride to church:

Call Frank Janousek at 520-1730

Bulletin Deadline - Wednesday 4:00 p.m.



The two main reasons I converted to Catholicism was that the Catholic Church is the true Church Jesus founded and the call to the priesthood. I received this call from Christ even before I became Catholic, which prompted me to make the formal plunge into the Faith.

I was Confirmed in April 1992 and by that Fall was actively pursuing my vocation. The Lord didn't make it easy, as door after door kept closing for me, but God encouraged me to persevere. Eleven years later I was ordained a priest on June 14, 2003 in Corpus Christi, Texas as a member of the religious order Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. My first Mass was the next day, June 15, which in that year was the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

For years I pondered what it would be like to offer Mass. Many nights as I laid on my bed, I'd hold up an invisible host and repeat the words of consecration. I always experienced a great swell of emotion doing this and often tears flowed at the simple thought that God would make Himself physically present through me in the Eucharist. I fantasized about what my first Mass would be like. However, little did I know that Jesus was going to do something that far surpassed my imagination.

The morning of my first Mass was filled with anxiety. I was nervous! I had asked my good friend Fr. Patrick to be the master of ceremonies to make sure everything went smooth. I had a beautiful golden chasuble (the main vestment the priest wears at Mass) made locally by one of the parishioners from vestment fragments I got on Ebay. We had a full retinue of altar servers because I wanted all the smells and bells.

The music started and we processed through the church into the sanctuary. I was elated and amazed that after so many years this day finally came. My mind was flush with excitement but focused on each step in the prayers and procedures of the Mass. I didn't want to mess anything up, especially since I was doing the longest, oldest and most complicated of the Eucharistic prayers called the Roman Canon. It's the one that mentions many of the Saints. Everything was going exactly as it should until I got to the beginning of the Eucharistic prayer. Then something happened I didn't expect. Jesus revealed Himself.

He appeared at the altar, but not in front or beside me, but within me. I distinctly saw Him within myself take over and place me behind Him while He said the Eucharistic prayer through me. I was keenly aware of everything that was happening but it was from the view of a backseat driver. Jesus said the prayers, then the consecration through my lips and He held Himself in the host and the chalice. This interior manifestation of Him lasted until one of the concelebrating priests started to pray another part of the Eucharistic prayer. The rest of the Mass then continued as normal.

I was bewildered and awestruck. We are taught in theology that when a man gets ordained there is an "ontological" change that takes place in him. This means that the soul is actually transformed to the image of Christ the High Priest whereby Jesus acts directly through the priest. The priest then becomes another Christ and acts "in persona Christi" (in the very person of Christ) when administering the sacraments and blessings of the Church. It never occurred to me that Jesus would actually reveal that reality to me on an experiential level.

After the Mass Fr. Patrick came up and said how proud he was of me. "Did I do everything correctly?" I asked him. "Oh that?" he answered. "Yeah, you did fine. I'm talking about your shoes!" I looked down and was mortified to see my ratty, beat up, gray and yellow sneakers. Then I remembered my dress shoes still patiently waiting by my bed. As I was ruminating over my shoes a little girl came up to me and said, "Hello, God." Her mom hurriedly came over and lifted her in her arms saying, "No, honey, that not God, that's Fr. Jeff." The little girl shook her head vehemently and insisted, "No, it's God." Her mom tried to correct her again but the girl would have none of it. As they walked away, she yelled out to me, "Bye, God."

It just dawned on me while writing this article that I wasn't the only one who saw Jesus on the altar that day. She did too. After all, the Lord did say that the pure of heart shall see God.

May God be praised and may you be blessed!

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, September 12

5:00 pm - Randy Dusek +
Confession 4:15-4:45 pm

Sunday, September 13

7:30 am Oakwood - Parishioners
9:30 am - Al Jochim +

Monday, September 14

No Mass

Tuesday, September 15

5:15 pm - Theresa Dahlgren +

Wednesday, September 16

10:00 am Sunset - Frank & Elinor Nelson Misialek +
(not open to public)

Thursday, September 17

1:45 pm - LSTC - Deanne Pilon +
Confession 6:00-6:45 pm

Friday, September 18

9:00 am - Adelaide Dvorak & deceased Family +

Saturday, September 19

5:00 pm - Michelle Collette Donarski +
Confession 4:15-4:45 pm

Sunday, September 20

7:30 am Oakwood - Alan Collette +
9:30 am - Parishioners

*Please Note: Tuesday - Saturday there is
Daily Mass in Minto at 8:00 a.m.*



Please Pray for the Sick:

Adam Granados, Gary Moe,
Tracy Jamieson, Cindy
Jamieson, Steve Lessard,
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, 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

St. John Memorials

Kathy Ruzicka	\$40	Unrestricted
Dorothy Armstrong	\$20	Unrestricted
Gloria Thompson	\$25	Altar Society
Gloria Thompson	\$10	Cemetery Fund

Sacred Heart Memorials

Allan Gallagher	\$50	Unrestricted
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Walsh County Food Pantry Needs:
canned vegetables and soups
any flavors of jello
shampoo & conditioner
cleaning supplies

STEWARDSHIP

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

St. John the Evangelist

Given Sept. 6, 2020 - \$5,747.85
God's Gift total Given as of Sept. 6, 2020 - \$78,244.16

Sacred Heart - Oakwood

Given Sept. 6, 2020 - \$281.00
God's Gift total Given as of Sept. 6, 2020 - \$6,907.00

St. John's is planning to have our

Annual Fall Dinner on Sunday, October 11th

**from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. We will be doing a Parking Lot
Drive Thru and Delivery only. Please remain in your car,
and we will bring the food out to you. Delivery meals must
be preordered Oct. 5th - Oct. 9th by calling 352-1648. The
delivery ordering is available only for those who need it.**

**The menu will include turkey, ham, mashed potatoes,
dressing, gravy, cranberries, carrots, coleslaw, roll and pie.
\$13.00 per plate (for all ages). Covid rules will be followed.**

Upcoming Dates at St. John's:

Fall into Faith Celebration	Sunday, Sept. 13, 10:30 am
RCIA for Adults	Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7:00 pm
Faith Formation grades 1,2,3	Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6:30 pm
All Parents Faith Formation Meeting - Wed.,	Sept. 16, 6:30 pm
Finance Council Meeting	Thurs., Sept. 17, 7:00 pm
High School Youth Group	Wed., Sept. 23, 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Pastoral Council Meeting	Thurs., Sept. 24, 7:00 pm
Fatima Rosary, St. John's	Saturday, Oct. 10, 12:00 pm
Fall Dinner, takes out/pickup	Sun., Oct. 11, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Fatima Movie at Strand Theater	Sunday, Oct. 11, 4:00 pm
Our Lady of Fatima Mass	Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5:15 pm
Parish Healing Service	Sunday, Oct. 18, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

*Please join us for our Fall into Faith Celebration
at 10:30 on Sunday, September 13th. All Parishioners
are invited to attend and enjoy a little fellowship and
fun. There will be food, games and even a cake walk!*

RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will begin on
Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00pm. This class is for adult
baptized Catholics who need the other sacraments or
someone who wants to become Catholic who needs baptism
or baptized non-catholics who want to become Catholic.
Please meet at the Parish Office.

Join us to pray the *Fatima Rosary* on Saturday, October
10th at 12:00 pm at St. John's. This has been a difficult
year and we need to pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary in this
great time of need.

10,000 Rosaries for Grafton!

We have prayed 6,281
Pray for the conversion of Grafton
and the end of the coronavirus.

Saving Souls one bead a time!



Zion English Lutheran Church will be having a Salad Luncheon
on Thursday, September 17th from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm at
1100 Hill Ave., Grafton. Due to social distancing, there will be
no inside seating. Curbside or walk-in pickup only. Please call
352-2869 for curbside pickup or delivery. The suggested
donation is \$8.00 per plate.

