

Update to Parishioners of Sacred Heart, Falun and St. Mary's --- Wed. Aug. 19, 2020

It is overdue that I make a connection with you. I have been busy with the landscaping and other projects on the building at Roseau and was on vacation from June 28-July 10 and was on retreat for the week of Aug. 2-7 at Christ the King retreat center in Schuyler, Neb. and then last week the phone company started blocking bulk emails until we got listed now as a business and not as a residence.

Some things to keep in mind or be aware of:

1. Keep in prayer those who are ill among whom are: David Schafer, Pam Terry (daughter of Irene Schulz), Randy Kostrzewski and many others.
2. Pray for eternal rest for +Irene Schultz whose funeral was a week ago at Badger and for +Pierce Kvien (son of Parickt Kvien and Kristi (Rick) Bergstrom) who was tragically killed in an accident in Fargo on Sat. eve (funeral will be this week on Friday). Our sympathy to all family and friends. Just this morning we also received notice that +Connie Medhus (Lowell) (Badger connections) died of a heart attack last night at their home in Montana (**406-678-5436**)
3. Attendance at Weekend Masses -- At first we had growing attendance but when coronavirus cases recently started coming into our county the numbers dropped. Slowly they are coming up a little. I want to inform you that at Roseau our quotas at Mass at **Roseau** are 60 in the church and up to 80 if we add the gathering space. Last weekend there were about 35 at Sat. Mass and 45 on Sunday. At **Badger** our quota is around 60 and we have been running at about 45. At **Falun** our quota is around 30 and our attendance has been 12-15. So there is room for more to attend with physical distancing at all three parishes. We continue to sanitize the areas between Masses and almost all wear masks -- especially when entering and exiting when there is possible closer contact -- doors are propped open as much as possible, etc. Otherwise, I encourage weekly reception of communion by way of one of the weekday Masses when very people are in attendance. I ask all to wear masks when there is any closer contact and conversations with those not from your household.
4. Meanwhile -- please keep socially in touch with all in our parish community and beyond via phone or social media. Isolation is not healthy for human life.
5. We will continue to live-stream the 10:30 am Sunday Mass from Roseau and are looking at making that a permanent offering and setting up a more permanent camera and connection to the sound system. There will always be some who are homebound or unable to attend Mass at times.
6. It is good to see the continued support of our parishes through contributions mailed in or dropped off at church or via on-line giving (Facebook and tri-parish website - **roseaucatholic.org**). If you are using on-line giving regularly we would encourage you to consider setting up auto-withdrawal from your bank account. The use of on-line giving always involves fees to the program we use and the credit card company if a credit card is used.
7. With many elderly keeping away from public gatherings including weekend Masses, we are in need of new people who are attending Mass to take up some of the ministries of Lector, Usher, Greeter, Sacristan, Euch. Minister, etc. Let us know if you would be willing to try out one of these ministries and receiving training. (Parish office – Roseau -- or speak with Fr. John after any of the Masses.)
8. (Roseau) We are putting together a committee to start planning for our open house for the new addition. If you can be part of that let us know. Call parish office or speak to Pat Habstritt (463-1403).

9. Readings (in text and on audio) are available with a brief meditation every day at the US Bishops website --- uscgb.org

10. Do you sense a call from God to you or to another to the permanent diaconate in our diocese? This fall and winter our diocese is putting together a new class of candidates to prepare to be permanent deacons. It begins with an initial process of discernment about the interest or call that you are experiencing. You can be married or single and be at least 35 years of age. (See more info at the diocesan website under "permanent diaconate.") It would be good to have at least one deacon in our area of the diocese. I will say that having the assistance of a deacon would put ten years on my life as a priest. Please see me, Fr. John, if you have an interest or person to suggest.

11. **Rachel Hambrook** recently spoke at our weekend Masses to inform us about her past year on a NET team and acceptance to be on a team this coming year. I encourage you to support her financially in some amount and you can do that through the use of the envelopes at the church entrances.

12. The men's spirituality group continues to meet in-person at Roseau on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. The group is small (4-5 persons) so there is no concern about physical distancing. They watch a short (12 min.) video from a series of 12 videos on men's spirituality just filmed with the support of the Knights of Columbus. After watching the video there is a short time for discussion. It would be good for all men to watch these videos. It is not necessary to see them in sequence. Check it out this Sunday.

13. Adult and other programming available: Get logged in with FORMED through the tri-parish website and receive a weekly schedule of special films or programs for the coming week. The same is true in regard to Real Presence Radio (mycatholicradio.org). They put out a weekly schedule of their special programs on radio for the week ahead if you sign up to receive it. Sometimes there are speakers from our diocese. For Mass prayers, readings, breviary, etc. – download the free app : **I-Breviary**. For answers to any faith questions go to: **catholicanswers.com**

14. The parish of Roseau at-large thanks all who have worked and contributed to the beautiful landscaping around the new addition. We are getting very close to fully completing the project.

15. The leaders of the fall dinner at Roseau and other parish leaders came together to discuss the possibility for our fall dinner. It was decided that it just would not be good to do the dinner this year. A letter was sent to all parishioners about this. At that meeting, and also at the Missionary Disciples meeting later, we talked about the need to get a group together plan for an open house for our parish and community in regard to the new addition.

16. Our annual raffle at Sacred Heart to support the payment of the loan for our building project is under way and going well. Please support this fundraiser and invite others to do so through the sale of your raffle tickets.

17. The fiscal year for our parishes runs from July to June. We have completed the budgets for the coming year and soon we will be publishing year-end reports to each respective parish.

Blessings on your enjoyment of the last days of summer!

Fr. John --- 463-2441