

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Katherine Salwei, Fr. Finnestad, Loretta Lovcik, John Christianson, Betty Novak, Pauline Dusek, Patricia Rodvold, Jane Zidon, Marla Zidon, Dorothy Snell, Heidi Gustafson, Adriane Wellman, Isabelle Copeland, Tracy Letzring, Kelly Morrison, Jody Deibert, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Bob McCartney, Lonnie Guderjahn, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoien, Oliver Goodoien, Dorothy Scholler, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Mae Jackson, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski, Donald Denault & Gary Olson.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION!

Family Faith Formation this week is on Wednesday, December 2nd, Grades 1—8 will dive into Chapter Nine! The high school group will meet at St. Brigid that week.

ST PATRICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 8:00 AM. **Adoration with Confessions:** Sat at 8:00 AM. **More Confessions :** Sun 8:00 AM. **December Church Cleaners:** Isaac & Christina Burrell, Paul & Eileen Rinde, & Kari Phelps. **Collection:** Paul & Blanca (Nov 29); Deidre & Diane (Dec 6). **Reader:** Jim (December). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Victor & Lucy Sobolik (Nov 29); Cecil Novak (Dec 6). **Sacristan:** Mary T (Nov 29); Duane (Dec 6). **Rosary:** Volunteer (Nov 29); Mary T (Dec 6).

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray the Rosary: Sundays at 10:00 AM. **Adoration with Confessions:** Wed and Fri at 11:00 AM; **More Confessions:** SAT. 4-5:00 PM, MON 5-5:15 PM. **December Church cleaners:** G-K. **Collection:** Kevin O & Mitch F (Nov 29); Michael & Val (Dec 6). **Readers (Dec.):** Sat.-Michael H; Sun.-Matt F. **Sanctuary Lamp:** Mahar Family (Nov 29); Miller Family (Dec 6)

Mass Intentions!

Monday, Nov 30—5:15 pm, Kym Alex
 Tuesday, Dec 1—8:00 am, + Wade Puppe
 Wednesday, Dec 2—Noon, Dorothy Scholler
 Thursday, Dec 3—8:00 am, Christina Burrell
 Friday, Dec 4—Noon, + Jack O'Toole
 Saturday, Dec 5—9:00 am, Both Parishes; 5:00 pm, + Gary Jackson
 Sunday, Dec 6—8:30 am, Both Parishes; 10:30 am, + Carolyn Schreiber

Looking Ahead: The Masses for **December 8th**, the *Immaculate Conception*, are: Monday, Dec 7 at 5:30 pm at St. Brigid; Tuesday, Dec 8 at Noon at St. Brigid; Tuesday, Dec 8 at 5:30 pm at St. Patrick.

*During the **next couple of weeks**, we will have Catholic gifts available, in case you wanted to get a head-start on your Christmas activity. What better gift can one give than the gift of faith!

Stewardship (as of 11-22-20)	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Adult Envelope	1,570.00	345.00	St Patrick's Care Collection NOV 2020		285.00
Plate	103.00	9.00	God's Gift Appeal Goal 2020	23,768.00	8,928.00
Weekly Total	1,673.00	354.00	God's Gift Appeal Actual	16,323.82	8,743.70
Yearly Actual Total	100,295.48	38,882.59	Percent of Members Participating	48%	73%
LAST YEAR TOTALS at this time					
Monthly Envelope Building Fund	585.00		Cemetery	3,240.00	5,163.51
St Pat Tuckpointing \$54,955.00			All Saints	263.00	135.00
St Patrick Sidewalk Repair \$11,080.00	Total Cost	66,035.00	Home Missions	120.00	105.00
Funds Raised for both Projects		60,788.90	St Bernard Cemetery		235.00
Monthly Envelopes Building Fund		5,005.00	St Anthony Cemetery	920.00	
Balance needed for Sidewalk Repair		541.00	St Helen Cemetery	870.00	

Pastor: Fr. Charles LaCroix
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St Brigid & St Patrick
November 29, 2020

PO Box 280
Cavalier ND 58220
Phone: 701-265-8877

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST!
(The Prophet of Advent)

The one person whom the Liturgy **most features** during the season of Advent is *John the Baptist*. He was described by the Savior as the **greatest person** ever born of woman. We may be sure the Savior excluded himself, who is a Divine Person, and His Mother Mary. But John the Baptist was by all accounts the principal figure after Christ Himself in the Gospels until the Church was founded. He is the **last** of the prophets of the Old Testament and the **first** of the prophets of the New. There are three features about *John the Baptist* that I believe the Church especially wants us to recognize and, as far as we can, imitate: John's faith, humility and fearless courage.

John was a man of deep **faith**. We know, of course, we don't begin to exercise our faith—make acts of faith—until we've reached the age of reason. But we have the faith—we are Christians—from the moment we are baptized. John was not baptized with the *Sacrament of Baptism*. But John did receive **sanctifying grace** even before he was born. The moment Mary came close to John's mother, John not yet born recognized the Messiah and *leaped for joy*—the joy of the faith that recognized that Jesus whom Elizabeth correctly identified as her Lord. John's faith all through life was the first virtue that we are to both admire and imitate. But let's be clear about how much of John's faith is imitable. It is mainly, but not only, that John recognized who Christ was; John also recognized who man is. John recognized man as a **sinner** who needs a redeemer. That's why, when he identified the Savior and pointed Him out as the *Lamb of God* who takes away the sins of the world, there are really **two** articles of faith combined in that title. They are faith in Christ as the Incarnate Son of God who redeems, and faith in man's being a sinner who needs redemption. I dare say in imitating John we need to learn *both*—both who Christ is (the Son of God in human form) and who we are (sinners, desperately in need of redemption).

Secondly, *John the Baptist* was not only a man of deep faith, he was a man of profound **humility**. Everything about him reflects this. Remember how he spoke about the Master: "*I baptize you with water, but one greater than I will come after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to loosen.*" He begged the Savior, "*You should baptize me, not I you.*" And—a phrase I recommend we memorize—"*He must increase and I must decrease.*" What a formula for humility—that we make sure no one is glorified by what we do except the Christ for whom we labor.

Finally, *John the Baptist* was a man of fearless **courage**. My friends, it takes a lot of courage to tell the truth. John told the truth. I believe the single greatest need in the Church today is for people in the Church, especially those who have authority and positions of leadership, to **tell** the truth and **live** the truth. John spoke the truth. John lived the truth. That is why he died a martyr's death.

John, the Lord's precursor, is featured as such in the Advent Liturgy because his responsibility was to prepare people to receive Christ. **All** of us, in greater or lesser measure, are to help people find Jesus. John should be our model—deep faith, profound humility and fearless courage.

John the Baptist, forerunner of the Savior, *help us to prepare our own souls and the hearts of others for that Christmas Day for which we were all born*. My **definition** of heaven: when the God who became man in Bethlehem will embrace us with his human arms and tell us—and for all eternity it will be true—you belong to Me.

By: Fr. John Hardon