

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

Floyd Helgoe, 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, 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 16th, Grades 1—8 will dive into Chapter Eleven! The high school group will meet at St. Brigid this 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:** Jim & Volunteer (Dec 13); Diane & Melissa (Dec 20). **Reader:** Jim (December). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Dorothy Rudnick (Dec 13); Young Family (Dec 20). **Sacristan:** Scott (Dec 13); Melissa (Dec 20). **Rosary:** Mary S (Dec 13); Jim Y (Dec 20)

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:** Allan & Randy (Dec 13); Larry & Kay (Dec 20) **Readers** (Dec.): Sat.-Michael H; Sun.-Matt F. **Sanctuary Lamp:** Duane Indridson (Dec 13); Chale Horsely (Dec 20)

Mass Intentions!

Monday, Dec 14—5:15 pm, Kym Alex
 Tuesday, Dec 15—8:00 am, + Clayton Motl
 Wednesday, Dec 16—Noon, + Ray & Florence Robinson
 Thursday, Dec 17—8:00 am, + Frank & Mildred Kleinschmidt
 Friday, Dec 18—Noon, + Marilyn Dhuyvetter
 Saturday, Dec 19—9:00 am, Both Parishes; 5:00 pm, Larry Schill Family
 Sunday, Dec 20—8:30 am, Both Parishes; 10:30 am, + Dolores & Arni Johnson

Note: Looking ahead, the Masses for Christmas are: *Dec 24:* 4pm @ St. Patrick; 6pm @ St. Brigid; *Dec 25:* 8:30am @ St. Patrick; 10:30 am @ St. Brigid. (*Reminder: as with Sundays, there is no obligation to attend Christmas Masses due to Covid*)

*We are now filling in the *2021 Sanctuary Lamp List!* If you would like to **honor a loved one** (living or deceased), contact *Deidre* at 701-520-1443 or *dokeefe@polarcomm.com*

Stewardship (as of 12-6-20)	St Brigid 11-29	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Adult Envelope	1095.00	905.00	St Patrick's Care Collection Dec 2020		20.00
Plate	100.00	10.50	God's Gift Appeal Goal 2020	23,768.00	8,928.00
Weekly Total	1195.00	915.50	God's Gift Appeal Actual	16,323.82	8,743.70
Yearly Actual Total	140,784.00	40,213.09	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		5,035.00	St Anthony Cemetery	920.00	
Balance needed for Sidewalk Repair		486.00	St Helen Cemetery	870.00	

Pastor: Fr. Charles LaCroix
charles.lacroix@fargodiocese.org



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St Brigid & St Patrick
December 13, 2020

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

HOPE: CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT IT
(The Holy Spirit Sustains the Virtue of Hope)

On the **first Ascension Thursday**, just before Jesus ascended to His heavenly Father, He made a promise to His apostles that we desperately need to hear in our day. He said, “*You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be witnesses for me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the very ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8).

Three areas need to be discussed: **first**, we ask ourselves what is the virtue of hope; **then**, why does the virtue of hope need to be specially sustained in our day; **and finally**, how are we to assure ourselves of the help of the Holy Spirit to remain hopeful as Catholics in the most devastating century of Christian history.

What is the Virtue of Hope?

The **virtue of hope** is related to faith as desire is related to knowledge, or, in the question posed by St. Augustine, “*what can be hoped for which is not believed?*” If the object of faith is natural, the hope it inspires is the same; but when the truths believed are divinely revealed, the hope which aspires to possess them is **supernaturally divine**.

Hope implies seeking and pursuing, in other words, the appetite of desire and not of delight and enjoyment. And though hope and desire are often equated, they differ a great deal. Strictly speaking, desire is when we respond to that instinctive urge which likes pleasure and shrinks from pain. But **hope** is for a difficult good, and responds to that higher part of our nature which is ready to tackle opposition. Moreover, desires may be vague yearnings for an object without reckoning whether we can obtain it or not, whereas **hope** is always evoked by some good that can be secured and even inspires a sense of *confidence* of achievement.

Speculative theology distinguishes **hope** by the **four** qualities that characterize the things we hope for. Hopeful things are invariably good; we do not hope for what is evil. They are future, and this hope differs from joy which implies satisfaction over something good already possessed. They are difficult to attain, where mere desire shrinks from the hardships involved. They are also possible, and therefore hope is the *opposite of despair* which looks to a future prospective good that cannot be obtained.

Just as we speak of a *human* and *divine* faith, depending on the persons (man or God) on whose authority we believe, so we have **two kinds of hope**, *natural* and *supernatural*, according to the things desired and the persons from whom we expect to receive them. In the **natural** order, an object is possible whether because we can secure it by our own efforts or because we rely on the help of others. **Supernaturally**, however, no one is able, of himself, to grasp the supreme good of eternal life, whose very existence would be unknown except for a gracious revelation from God. To reach heaven we need divine help, so that **hope** as a theological virtue has a *twofold object*: the beatific vision we look forward to attaining, **and** the supernatural grace by which this heavenly goal is attained.

The **two** basic elements of Christian hope are: *desire* and *confidence*, so that hope itself may be **defined** as the *confident desire of obtaining eternal beatitude*. Already in the *Old Testament*, notably in the *Psalms*, we find this dualism expressed, where the just man looks forward to the consummation of happiness in the Life to come. “*I am sure,*” sings the Psalmist, “*I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord*” (Ps 26:11).

However, it was not until the fullness of revelation was made under Christ that the **full meaning** of hope became clear, since the clarity of what we desire determines the surety of what we hope for. Once the mystery of man's elevation to the divine life and the love of God in the person of His Son were made manifest, the well-springs of desire to reach this high destiny were opened as never before. Compared with the glory that awaits us, the **trials of our present** existence are as *paltry chaff*, of which St. Paul wrote to encourage the Romans. “*I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come that will be revealed in us.*” We, who are the first-fruits of the Spirit, “*groan within ourselves, waiting for the (perfect) adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope were we saved. But hope that is seen is not hope. For how can a man hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience*” (Rom 8:18-25).

By: Fr. John Hardon

(More on **Hope** in next week's bulletin)