

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Fifth Sunday Lent

March 21st, 2021

Calendar:

- **03/21/21 Sunday:** Parish Mission St. John's Grafton preached by Fr. Lefor 7PM. All are welcome.
- **03/22/21 Monday:** Parish Mission St. John's Grafton preached by Fr. Lefor 7PM. All are welcome.
- **03/23/21 Tuesday:** Parish Mission St. John's Grafton preached by Fr. Lefor 7PM. All are welcome.
- **03/22/21 Tuesday:** 7PM Knights of Columbus meeting Pisek
- **03/17/21 Wednesday:** Faith Formation Classes – Potluck for all students and parents 6PM. Last Class for the year.
- **03/26/21 Friday:** Men's Prayer Breakfast St John's 5:30am Breakfast, 6AM Discussion and Prayer, 7AM Morning Prayer and Holy Hour, 8AM Mass.
- **03/26/21 Friday:** 6PM Stations of the Cross – Sts. Peter & Paul, Bechyne.
- **03/27/21 Saturday:** 10 AM First Reconciliation, St. John's in Piesk.
- **03/27/21 Saturday:** 1:00PM Confirmation Meeting for Parents and Sponsors (no children) at St. John's in Pisek.

Pastor's Notes:

- Please hold in prayer our parents who are preparing their children to receive their Sacrament of First Reconciliation. We completed the retreat for the parents and children this Saturday and the First Confessions will take place next Saturday. As a priest these events of preparation are some of the most valued and inspiring moments as a priest. I am so very proud of our parents and their children. I am so grateful to God who is so merciful to us!
- If you attend Mass at St. John's this weekend you will notice that everything is shrouded in violet cloaks. We have entered into Passiontide. Passiontide is the two weeks leading up to the Sacred Triduum. There is a sense of the growing darkness from within as the Glory is stripped from our eyes. The "Hour of Darkness" is upon us. This is the Hour that Satan and evil appear to triumph over Christ through suffering and death. Even our first reading and Gospel this Sunday speak of this longing to "see the glory." The shrouding of

everything in violet is a powerful reminder of the reality of death. As I was sitting in the midst of it during prayer this morning I had a sense that Purgatory must be like this. I know behind the veil is Glory, and I know I was made for Glory, but there is nothing I can do about it. I have the option to hope for a better past or to look forward with confidence to my Lord who is coming to raise me to Eternal Glory!

2021 God's Gift Appeal

2021 God's Gift Appeal. Each registered household has received a letter from the Diocese. GGA is the way in which we fund the essential needs of our Diocese, for example the Bishop's salary, his house, the diocesan staff, the education for our seminarians, etc... Bishop Folda has asked that each Catholic of the Diocese of Fargo prayerfully consider tithing (this means giving 10% of one's income) to charity. 5% is to go to support your local parish, 4% is to go to support other charities of your choosing, and 1% is to go to God's Gift Appeal. Each parish has a determined goal based upon number of households and other factors. If we each gave 1% of our income to the 2021GGA we would far surpass our parish goals established by the Diocese. Below is a breakdown of each parish's goal and what it takes to make the goal:

St. John's, Pisek: This year's goal of \$9,947 has been reached. \$10,594 or 107% of the goal has been given. 40% of our 58 registered households have contributed. **Congratulations on reaching goal!** Let us see if we can increase our participation rate.

Sts. Peter & Paul, Bechyne: This year's goal of \$6,883 has been reached. \$7,448 or 108% of the goal has been given. 51% of our registered households have contributed. **Congratulations on reaching goal!** Let us see if we can increase our participation rate.

St. Joseph's, Lankin: This year's goal is \$5,811. To date 50% of the goal or \$2,920 has been contributed. We have a 16% participation rate. There are 31 registered households. If each household gave an equal amount it would be \$190 per household. Based on the number who gave last year, each household would need to give **\$390** this year to reach our goal. (I know we can do this, we did it last year. Heavenly Father, help us to grow in generosity!)

St. John Nepomucene, St. Joseph, and Sts. Peter & Paul, Pray for Us!