

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9th, 2021

Calendar:

- **05/08/21 Saturday:** 6:15 PM First Eucharist Potluck Celebration Sts. Peter & Paul, Bechyne
- **05/11/21 Tuesday:** 10:30AM to 3PM Deanery Meeting at St. Boniface, Walhalla, ND
- **05/14/21 Friday:** Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast St. John's. 5:30 Breakfast; 6AM Discussion and Prayer; 7AM Eucharistic Adoration; 8AM Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- **05/15/21 Saturday:** 6:30PM Sts. Peter & Paul, Bechyne
40th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Pat and Karen Restad

Pastor's Notes:

- Please join me in thanking God and asking for His abundant blessings upon all of our mothers living and deceased. God's ways are not our ways! God established the sublime vocation of motherhood from the very beginning of creation. It was not lost or destroyed due to the effects of original sin. God even humbled Himself to need a mother! May the vocation of motherhood be restored to its rightful dignity and preeminence within our culture.
- A new Tri-Parish Web page has been launched. Effective immediately the former web page plbtriparish.org is no longer functioning. The New Webpage can be found at **plbnd.org**. A huge thank you to Nancy Conway for all of the labor she has put into getting the new web page up and running. I am open to suggestions from parishioners on how to make the new page more user friendly. If there are good suggestions for content please let me know.
- Bishop Folda has approved and signed a contract with Rick Randal Construction from Fargo for the resurfacing of St. John's Church Roof. The contract total comes to \$82,100. Half of the contract cost, \$41,050 was due at the time of the signing. The Diocese approved an emergency loan to St. John's for a total of \$70,000 plus 3% interest adjusted quarterly. It is to be paid back in full by May of 2026. I have been told that the insurance for the damage to our roof will come to \$17,000. To date St. John's has received \$3,000 in donations toward the roof repair. Fr. Lefor will also apply to the Homerding Grant which

could give up to 10% of the project cost. The resurfacing of the church roof and steeple with grey and white blend Arrowline metal shingles is scheduled to begin in July and be finished in July.

- **Relationship with the Holy Spirit:** "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God." (Rom 8:14) The Apostle Paul is clear - being God's child means being led by the Holy Spirit. Being fruitful and purposeful in our Christian life, and making a difference for all eternity, comes down to living a life in the Holy Spirit. The next month in our faith is focused on the Holy Spirit. Today until Thursday Jesus teaches each day in preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We then have nine days of waiting in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. We then celebrate Pentecost which is the liturgical celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is followed by the Octave of the Holy Spirit which leads to the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This is the perfect time focus on and grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- One way to grow in relationship is to rediscover the gifts of the Holy Spirit: Fear of the Lord, Understanding, Knowledge, Wisdom, Fortitude, Counsel, and Piety. These are divine gifts that are ours due to our baptism and confirmation. If one does not know them, then how can one ask for them? If one does not ask for them, then how can one exercise them? If one does not exercise them, then how can one grow in them? If one does not grow in them, one is not growing in the divine life of God which is our inheritance.
- A novena is a traditional devotion whereby 9 days are set aside and dedicated to particular spiritual practice and prayer. It may be to prepare for a feast, to seek a particular grace or to honor God, Our Lady or the saints, (or it may be a mixture of all of the above). It is a time of deepened prayer and often includes elements of fasting, meditation, pilgrimage and works of kindness and compassion... The practice began from the 9 days spent by the Apostles with Mary from the time of His Ascension until the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. This is the first and greatest of novenas and it is kept annually by the Church beginning on Friday, May 14th this year. You can find the daily prayers on our website plbnd.org. Just click on the novena picture.

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