

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Solemnity of Corpus Christi

June 6th, 2021

Calendar:

- **06/04/21 Friday:** 7PM Ordination to the Diaconate Robert Foertsch, Matt Kensok, and Joseph Littlefield – St. Mary's Cathedral, Fargo
- **06/05/21 Saturday:** 10AM Ordination to Priesthood Deacon Kevin Lorsung – St. Mary's Cathedral, Fargo, ND
- **06/06/21 Sunday:** 11:30AM Corpus Christi Procession and Benediction following 10:30 Mass at St. John's, Pisek. Potluck meal for everyone immediately after Benediction.
- **06/08/21 Tuesday:** 10:30AM to 3PM Deanery Meeting, Grafton
- **06/11/21 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
- **06/11/21 Friday:** 10AM Maxine Kadlec Burial – St. John's, Pisek
- **06/11/21 Friday:** 3PM Jacob Degele Ordination to Priesthood, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, ND
- **06/11/21 Friday:** 7PM Pre-Marriage Retreat, Grand Forks, ND
- **06/12/21 Saturday:** 10AM Nettie Greicar Funeral – St. John's, Pisek

Pastor's Notes:

- We will celebrate Corpus Christi on Sunday, June 6th with a Corpus Christi Procession and Benediction following the 10:30AM Mass at St. John's. There will be a potluck meal to follow. Parishioners of all three parishes are encouraged to attend for Christ's Eucharistic Blessing upon our lives and our livelihoods.
- **What is a Corpus Christi Procession:** "Very early (in the thirteenth century) the custom developed of carrying the Blessed Sacrament in a splendid procession through the town and granting the Benediction of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament in all four directions after the Mass on Corpus Christi Day. This was encouraged by the popes, some of whom granted special indulgences to all participants. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) solemnly approved and recommended the procession on Corpus Christi as a public profession of the Catholic faith in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Sacrament. "During the later Middle Ages these processions developed into

splendid pageants of devotion and honor to the Blessed Sacrament. They are still publicly held, and often with glorious splendor, in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Belgium, Ireland, in the Catholic sections of Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Canada, Hungary, and in the Slavic countries and South America. Sovereigns and princes, presidents and ministers of the state, magistrates, members of trade and craft guilds, and honor guards of the armed forces accompany the liturgical procession while the church bells peal, bands play sacred hymns, and the faithful kneel in front of their homes to adore the Eucharistic Lord." — (Excerpted from *Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs*, by Francis X. Weiser)

- **PAGEANTS** — In most European countries mystery plays used to be performed after the procession in public squares or in churches. The Corpus Christi pageants were highly popular, especially in England, Germany, and Spain.
- **DAY OF WREATHS** — In central Europe, and also in France, Corpus Christi Day is the "Day of Wreaths" (*Kranzeltag*) and of huge bouquets of flowers borne on the top of wooden poles (*Prangtag*). Wreaths and bouquets of exquisite flowers in various colors are attached to flags and banners, to houses, and to the arches of green boughs that span the streets. The clergy and altar boys wear little wreaths on their left arms in the procession; girls carry wreaths on their heads. Even the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament is adorned with a wreath of choice flowers on Corpus Christi Day. In Poland these wreaths are blessed by the priest on the eve of the feast day. After the solemnities people decorate their homes with them. Some are suspended on the walls of the houses or affixed to doors and windows. Others are put up in gardens, fields, and pastures, with a prayer for protection and blessing upon the growing harvest.
- **AMERICAN PLACE NAMES** — In the New World the Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with the usual solemn observance, by the missionaries and their native converts in Florida, California, Texas, New Mexico, and in the missions of New France (Canada and the Great Lakes region). In honor of the festival the Franciscans named a bay of the Gulf of Mexico "Corpus Christi Bay." Later a town, founded on the shore of that bay, was given the same title — Corpus Christi, Texas. In a similar way the capital of California was named Sacramento after the river on which it is situated, which had been named by the missionaries in honor of the Holy Eucharist. — (Excerpted from *Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs*, by Francis X. Weiser)
- The Sacrament of the Eucharist is a sign and cause of the unity of Christ's Mystical Body, because it stirs up an active "ecclesial" spirit in those who are more fervent in their Eucharistic devotion. Eucharistic adoration cannot be detached from the liturgical and communal celebration of the sacrament or from the commitment to care for those in need. One draws strength and justification from the other. Our public display of faith and the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is meant to increase devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to invite people to join into closer communion with Christ.

In May of 2021 the Diocese of Fargo granted St. John Nepomucene an emergency loan for \$82,100 for the repair of its roof. \$78,100 plus 3% interest remains on this loan. **\$1,000 was received this past week for this loan.** Thank you for this immediate and generous response!

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