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Our Lady of Grace

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday, April 2

Vigil Mass - April 1, 4:00 PM

Mass - 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Spanish Mass - 3:00 PM

Mass - 5:30 PM

(Wear a jacket for procession of the palms, held outside before Mass if weather is appropriate)

Living Stations of the Cross
Performance - 7:00 PM

Monday, April 3

Mass - 7:15 AM

Tuesday, April 4

Mass - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 5

Mass - 9:00 AM

Holy Thursday, April 6

Mass - 5:30 PM

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
after Mass until Midnight

Good Friday - April 7

Passion of the Lord Service and
Veneration of the Cross - 3:00 PM

Holy Saturday, April 8

No 4:00 PM Mass

Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30 PM

Easter Sunday, April 9

Masses at 8:30 and 10:30 AM



Spring 2023



Our Lady's Messenger

Repent and believe in the Gospel (Mk 1:15)

Lent is an incredible season in the Church year where we are always called to Gospel conversion. What does that mean exactly? Well, in short it means God is continually at work in us through the grace of the Holy Spirit, calling us to detach from whatever keeps us from Him, or from living in right relationship with Him. Conversion happens when we realize by God's grace that we have turned from Him and truly repent. True repentance is a turning away from sin toward God, asking for His forgiveness and mercy. It is a reordering or amending of one's life.

Now, I said that God the Holy Spirit is always at work, and He is, but we are not always open to His grace. Our hearts can be quite hard and our egos very strong. We like being God of our own little worlds and it is not always easy to concede that God might be knocking. That is the genius of Lent and the Church's teaching about how we are to approach the season three fold: through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.



If we are intentional about sacrificing time, effort and resources for these three things, and we sincerely want God to work through them for our good, amazing things will happen. If we give God an opportunity, He will never waste it. We just need to desire God's goods, and be willing to act accordingly when we receive them.

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Father Adam Maus, Pastor

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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OurLadyofGraceMinot
and
MinotCatholicYouthGroup

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YouTube:

OurLadyofGraceMinot

Our Mission:

Our Lady of Grace Parish is a community of faith that encourages stewardship through word, sacrament and service.

Patty Schneier to present Lent Parish Mission

Patty Schneier, who has served as a speaker at parishes and Catholic conferences across the United States for the past 20 years, will be the presenter for the 2023 Lent Parish Mission at Our Lady of Grace.

With a theme of See the Beauty, Discover the Joy of Repenting and Believing in the Gospel, the three-day mission will take place in four sessions, with a Tuesday morning session designed especially for those who are unable to attend in the evening. Childcare will be provided at the evening sessions. A free will offering will be taken at each event.

Schneier will also speak briefly at the weekend's Masses, inviting those in attendance to come to the Retreat.

The sessions begin on Sunday, Feb. 26, with a presentation from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the church. On Monday, Feb. 27, and Tuesday, Feb. 28, the presentations are from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

For those who cannot attend the Retreat in the evening, Schneier will give a special presentation the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 28. We will have 9:00 a.m. Mass that morning (which will be in place of our usual 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Mass), and will follow the Mass with her Mission presentation (from approximately 9:45-10:45 a.m.). During this morning session, Schneier will discuss a variety of the topics that she is including in the three evening sessions.

Our pastor, Fr. Adam Maus, met Patty Schneier when he was a seminarian in St. Louis. He said Patty and her family offered the seminarians a "home away from home . . . and a beautiful friendship developed" as a result of their generosity. That friendship has continued throughout the years.

"We're having the Retreat during the first week of Lent so we can get started on being intentional during Lent," Fr. Maus said, "to give of ourselves the extra time and effort it takes to pray more, give more, sacrifice more in order that God will inform the things that we need for conversion and true repentance. I encourage everyone to attend."

Schneier is a lifelong Catholic, housewife, and mother of three from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. She and her husband, Larry, are active members of their parish, where Patty cantors at Sunday Mass. Their son, Fr. John Schneier, is a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

In 2007, Bishop Paul Zipfel sent 25,000 copies of her testimony, *"Prove It, God!" . . . And He Did*, to every Catholic household in the diocese of Bismarck, and in June 2013, it was distributed nationwide as the "CD of the Month" for Lighthouse Catholic Media. With additional talks on a wide variety of topics, Patty gives witness to the beauty of the Church's



Parish Mission Schedule

- ♦ **Sun., Feb. 26, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
(childcare provided)
- ♦ **Mon., Feb. 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**
(childcare provided)
- ♦ **Tue., Feb. 28, 9:00 a.m.**
Mass, followed by condensed
Mission message
(approx. 9:45-10:45 a.m.)
- ♦ **Tue., Feb. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**
(childcare provided)

Each session followed by fellowship.

teachings and her love of the Catholic Faith.

Patty has been a guest on EWTN and various Catholic Radio shows, including *Covenant Network*, *Ave Maria Radio*, and *Catholic Answers Live*. From 2007-2008, she was host of the radio show, *Ask the Archbishop*, with Cardinal Raymond Burke (who was Archbishop of St. Louis at the time.) Currently, she hosts a weekly radio show to foster holy vocations called *The Pearl of Great Price* and a podcast called *The Daily Dose of Encouragement*, both of which are heard on Covenant Network.

Her book, *Love Letters from Mom on What Matters Most*, is a compilation of personal letters written to her children as they mature into adulthood and venture out on their own. Without preaching or scolding, she candidly discusses the joys of living a faith-filled life, what it means to be a Catholic in the world today, and why it matters. It is a book to inspire and encourage all parents and their children—no matter what their age—to live for Christ, to strive for holiness, and desire Heaven.

Patty is the recipient of the *Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Excellence in Communication Award* from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. She was also named *2015 Woman of the Year* for her work in Evangelization by the executive board for the Daughters of St. Paul in St. Louis.

For more information about Schneier, please visit www.pattyschneier.com.



(Continued from page 1)

So here is a Lenten challenge.

- 1) Admit you are not perfect and that you need God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace in order to live in right relationship with Him.
- 2) Tell our Lord that you desire conversion of heart in any way that you need it and that you want Him to reveal it to you.
- 3) Commit to living a sacramental life if you don't already, meaning regular confession, Mass as obligated, and prayer every day.
- 4) Decide to do something extra in each category of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for the duration of Lent. Whatever you decide, make sure that you talk to God about it and make a spiritual offering of that choice each time you make it. It is very important that your sacrifice in fasting and almsgiving be a prayerful offering, too.
- 5) Pray with Scripture, and I suggest reading a chapter of one of the Gospels each day or week. We encounter Jesus in His Living Word. Or simply read a good spiritual book. Spiritual reading feeds the soul.
- 6) Go outside of yourself in some particular way as an act of selflessness this Lent. I know this is general, but there are so many ways to do this (visit, call, or write someone, etc.).



My hope is that you see Lent as an opportunity to grow in the knowledge and love of God. Lent is not about making yourself into a project, it is about intentionally being open to encountering the Love of God. When we do, there are two choices: embrace His love and seek His mercy, or reject His love and remain in our self-made aloneness.

May you embrace His love and mercy! Happy Lent!

By Fr. Adam Maus

By Tanya Watterud

IMPORTANT DATES

February

- 12 - No 5:30 PM Mass**
- 19 - No Faith Formation**
- 19 - 3:00 PM *Spanish Mass* & Fellowship**
- 20 - Parish Office Closed**
- 22 - Ash Wednesday**
Mass at 9 AM, 5 and 7 PM
- 22 - 5:30 - 7:00 PM Lenten Meal**
- 24 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross**
- 26 - 6:30 - 8:00 PM Parish Mission with fellowship to follow**
- 27 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM Parish Mission with fellowship to follow**
- 28 - 9:00 AM Mass** (No 7:00 pm Mass)
- 28 - 9:30 - 10:45 AM Parish Mission with fellowship to follow**
- 28 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM Parish Mission with fellowship to follow**

March

- 3 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross with Lenten soup and sandwich meal**
- 4 - First Saturday Devotion at Little Flower**
- 5 - KC Breakfast - Supporting Seminarians**
- 5 - 3:00 PM *Spanish Mass***
- 8 - No Faith Formation**
- 10 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross**
- 12 - Daylight Savings Begins, set your clock ahead one hour**
- 12 - No Faith Formation**
- 17 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross with Lenten soup and sandwich meal**
- 19 - 3:00 PM *Spanish Mass***
- 24 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross**
- 24 - 5:00 PM Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Fish Fry at Our Lady of Grace**
- 29 - 7:00 PM Living Stations Performance**
- 31 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross with Lenten soup and sandwich meal**

April

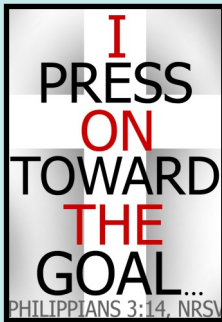
- 1 - First Saturday Devotion at St. Leo's**
- 2 - 3:00 PM *Spanish Mass***
- 2 - 7:00 PM Living Stations Performance**
- 5 - No Faith Formation**
- 6 - 5:30 PM *Holy Thursday Mass***
- 6 - 6:45 PM - 12 Midnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Lent: Preparing the Heart for Heaven

Allow me to be completely honest with you: I *never* look forward to the season of Lent. Suffering, especially the suffering which we are called to bring upon ourselves in a penitential manner, is a reality I try to flee from. I prefer the more joyous liturgical seasons, such as Christmas and Easter, those seasons during which the Church strongly exhorts us to rejoice and celebrate the marvelous divine mysteries of the Son of God. As much as I wish we were still in the Christmas season or already at the Easter Vigil, that is not reality, and Jesus is present in the here and now during the holy season of Lent. Is there anything to look forward to as we enter into these forty days of self-denial and more fervent prayer? Is there any noble and holy purpose to recall and motivate us during the season of Lent?



Setting out to achieve any worthwhile goal or task is always accompanied by an understanding that perseverance and perhaps suffering may be necessary to accomplish that goal or task. For example, any high school basketball team ought to have as their goal at the beginning of the season the winning of a state tournament. In order to achieve this goal, the players collectively recognize that it will require dedication to practice, which itself might require the suffering of conditioning and a frequent repetition of the fundamentals. Likewise any married couple ought to have as their goal to grow old together and become an ever greater reflection of Christ's love for the Church. This, too, as beautiful a goal as it is, is no easy task and will involve some bit of suffering and perseverance. The sufferings we undergo in our earthly undertakings, whether they pertain to human relationships or sports seasons, serve as times of strengthening and growth, and are irreplaceable preparations in achieving their respective end goals.



The sacred forty days of holy Lent exist for the noble and sacred purpose of union with Jesus in Heaven. Indeed, the entirety of the Christian life is to be seen as a pilgrimage to the life of Heaven. This goal of the Christian life infinitely exceeds any earthly undertaking, be it the Sacrament of Marriage or a sports season. Therefore, if even these earthly realities require suffering and perseverance in order to attain their earthly goal, how much more ought the goal of the Christian life require suffering and perseverance? And just as the suffering and perseverance involved in earthly undertakings take on a specialized form proper to their end goal, how much more specialized will the suffering and perseverance involved in the infinite goal of the spiritual life be?

The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving required of us during the season of Lent constitute the specialized form of suffering and perseverance needed for the infinite goal of Heaven. The penance undergone through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving purifies the heart of earthly attachments. The wounded human heart is incredibly susceptible to disordered attachments to the pleasures the world offers it.

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Retirement

What is retirement? This is something I have been pondering for the past 1 ½ years. Some years back we had a priest trained to prepare brother priests of the diocese for their retirement. At that time, I was too young to participate in that. Retirement will likely be different from one person to another anyway. For several years I had anticipated retiring to Arizona where we had four retired priests of our diocese living. By the time I retired however, two of those four had passed away and the other two had returned to ND. This made moving to AZ much less attractive to me since I hoped to enjoy their companionship in my retirement.

I prayed and discerned that what I was being led to do was to live in a parish where there was no priest living and to provide a daily Mass for the people there when I was available. I also reflected on how blest I had been over the years by retired priests who filled in for me when I needed a vacation. I wanted to be of service in the same way. It has been very fulfilling for me to be able to serve in my retirement

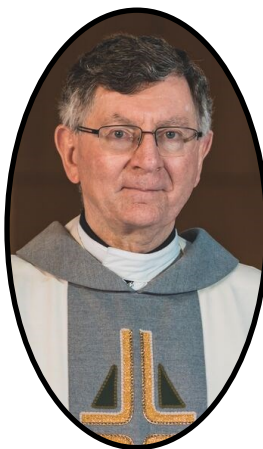


in a way that only a priest can do.

I have recently returned from a week-long trip to Mesa, AZ. My sister and I stayed at a park-model guest house of a former parishioner. It was very interesting to experience life in a senior mobile-home park where many snow-birds spend their winters. Retirement could easily be a time of selfish self-indulgence by simply fulfilling one's own wants and desires. I was pleased to learn that a local Mesa parish where I attended a Sunday Mass was offering many ways snow-birds could use their gifts to serve others. We know from his own words that Jesus came to earth not to be served but to serve and he did that until death. He washed his disciples' feet as an example for them. I believe retirement is not a time to stop following this example but to continue to serve in ways we can. I have found this to be a very satisfying way for me to live in retirement and I believe it to be true for lay people as well. God bless you all.

Love and prayers,

By Father Bruce Krebs



Save the Date

“Source and Summit: A Eucharistic Congress”

Friday, June 2, 2023, at the University of Mary, in Bismarck, ND
Speakers will include Msgr. James Shea, Shelly Preszler, and Fr. Brian Gross

There will be extended periods of Eucharistic adoration throughout the day and opportunities for confession. The day will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Kagan. In addition, we will have a kid's track specifically focused on helping your child grow in love for Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament. There are many more details to come. Watch the Dakota Catholic Action and the parish bulletin.

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7 - Parish Office Closed

7 - 3:00 PM **Good Friday Service with Veneration of the Cross**

8 - No 4:00 PM Mass

8 - 8:30 PM **Easter Vigil Mass** includes reception of RCIA Candidates

9 - 8:30 and 10:30 AM **Easter Mass**

9 - No Faith Formation Classes

8 - No 5:30 PM Mass

10 - Parish Office Closed

13 - Happy Birthday Fr. Jacob Degele

15 - 9:00 - 10:00 AM First Eucharist Rehearsal for the 4:00 PM 4/15 Mass

15 - 10:30 - 11:30 AM First Eucharist Rehearsal for the 10:30 AM 4/16 Mass

15 - 4:00 PM **First Eucharist Mass**

16 - No Faith Formation

16 - KC Breakfast

16 - 10:30 AM **First Eucharist Mass**

16 - 3:00 PM **Divine Mercy Service**

23 - 3:00 PM **Spanish Mass**

23 - 5:30 PM **Mass** includes reception of RCIA Candidates

26 - Final gr. 6-8 Faith Formation Class

30 - 9:20 AM Final K-5 Faith Formation Classes with 9:25 AM May Crowning

May

3 - 4:00 PM Final K-5 Faith Formation

3 - 5:30 PM Final K-5 Faith Formation

3 - 7:00 PM Alternate Confirmation Mass Rehearsal (followed by Confessions)

6 - 1:30 PM Preferred Confirmation Mass Rehearsal (followed by Confessions)

7 - 10:30 AM **Confirmation Mass** with Bishop Kagan followed by Reception

7 - 3:00 PM **Spanish Mass**

21 - 10:30 AM **Graduate' Mass**

21 - 3:00 PM **Spanish Mass**

29 - Parish Office Closed

June

2 - Eucharistic Congress in Bismarck at University of Mary

5 to 8 - 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Vacation Bible School

July

9 to 11 - Sonshine Camp - watch for more information in the church bulletin

10 to 14 - Cor Christi Option 1

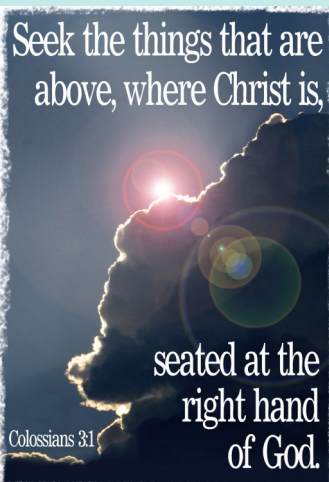
17 to 21 - Cor Christi Option 2

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While not all of these pleasures are necessarily sinful, they all nevertheless can become pleasures which become obstacles to achieving the lofty and infinite goal of eternal union with Christ. Not everyone plays sports, not everyone gets married, but the life of every human person has the purpose of entering into the joys of Heaven. For this reason, the necessity of everyone taking seriously the season of Lent is not an option... it is an obligation, and a joyful one at that! As one would scoff at the athlete who complains about the need to practice, so should we scoff at ourselves if we fail to take seriously the need to practice penance and self-denial during the season of Lent.

May the season of Lent be one of letting the grace of God prepare our hearts for the life of Heaven. May God purge our hearts of earthly attachments through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this sacred season. And may we continue the vigilant practice of preparing our hearts even beyond this forty-day campaign of Christian service.

By Fr. Degele



Mass: The highest form of prayer

Fr. Jacob Degele celebrated Mass during class time for our Wednesday elementary school children on January 25. Mary Ann Avitua, who teaches the children in the 4:00 p.m. sacramental preparation class, said one of her students told her, "This was just so much fun!"

"That's what I like to hear about the Mass," Mary Ann said. "They all were very happy with the Mass and they listened very well."

She commended Fr. Degele on the homily he shared with the children in which he reminded them that St. Paul continually focused on the goal of getting to heaven. He encouraged them to do that, too.

Mary Ann compared it to the "Know, Love and Serve" teaching that she remembered from the Baltimore Catechism No. 1, "God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven."

Mass in Class, Mary Ann said, teaches the children "that the Mass is the highest form of prayer that we have."

What is the most powerful way to teach children about the Eucharist? "One powerful way is to go to Mass," she said. "You just gotta come."



Living Stations of the Cross

Seventh graders continue Living Stations tradition

Living Stations is a moving enactment of the passion and death of Jesus, performed with the seventh grade Faith Formation students acting out a still scene for each of the 14 Stations of the Cross, while the story is told through songs and narration. The students will perform the Living Stations on Wednesday, March 29th at 7PM and Palm Sunday, April 2nd at 7PM at Our Lady of Grace. There is no charge to attend. A free will offering will go towards middle school youth activities. Refreshments will be served by some of our High School volunteers following the performance which will be held on Sunday, April 2nd. Please come to one of the performances to support these students who are learning as they perform. For more information, please contact Christine in the Faith Formation office.



Our Students Serve

If you look around the church on any Sunday, you'll usually see a teenager helping with ministry in one way or another.

On January 22, there were 14 Confirmation students helping out at the 5:30 p.m. Mass: a commentator, a reader, five ushers/greeters, three gift bearers and four students handing out pro-life books and Dakota Hope Clinic baby bottles.

These Confirmation students help as a way to earn Mass service or Parish service hours as part of their preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, but their help is much more than that.

As they participate in the ministries of the church, they see the awe and beauty of the Mass close up, overcome hesitation, build communication skills, and set their foundation for a lifetime of service in the Catholic Church.

The next time you see a teenager or younger child helping out at the church, please thank them for their service. Your acknowledgement will make them feel welcome, appreciated, and at home at Our Lady of Grace.



Vacation Bible School: To be held the evenings of June 5-8 at Our Lady of Grace, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is for children age 5 through those finishing second grade. Registration forms will be available in the spring. Help is needed. This would be a great way for parents and older siblings to volunteer.



Silence during Lent

We know that silence is necessary to prepare ourselves to encounter God. It is in silence that the religious or spiritual sense of the child may be developed. Silence leads the child to a relationship with him or herself, through the listening of his or her own breathing. As children become conscious of their inner silence, they realize that this allows them to be able to listen to and answer God. Silence is a great help for the child's prayer life. At home, you may want to practice quiet time at the prayer table. Silence is necessary for prayer.



- ♦ Create a card for your family prayer table with the words, "Be Still."
- ♦ At home, invite your child to sit comfortably at the prayer table, with his or her body still, and eyes closed. Depending upon the age of the child, allow for a few minutes (or more) of silence. Discuss what was heard.
- ♦ Do you practice/model silence in your prayer life?

Any silence you can provide for your child is a great gift in their life of faith. Try turning off whatever noise is around you, so you may give your full attention to Jesus. It will be the most valuable time of your and your child's day.

A Poem in Praise of God

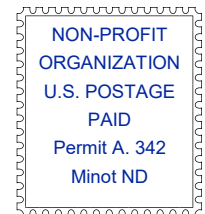
*God, you are my heavenly King.
For you, I will praise and sing.*

*God, you are my Lord and Savior.
I pray to you and ask for favors.*

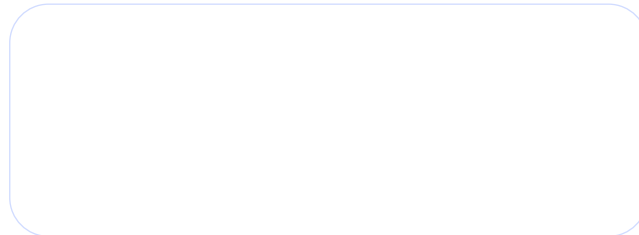
*You keep me safe and watch over me.
I listen to you to be the best I can be.*

*by Kanon Keyes
Gr. 3 Faith Formation*

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
707 16th Avenue SW
Minot, ND 58701



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



God wants to hear our prayers

If you haven't attended a weekday Mass before, try it this Lent.

With fewer people in attendance (although our weekday crowd continues to grow), it's a more intimate Mass setting that may help us hear the Scripture more clearly and realize more deeply the miracle that takes place upon the altar.

It also reminds us that God wants to hear our prayers.

At the time of the Prayers of the Faithful during a weekday Mass, the opportunity is opened up for the congregation to share particular prayer intentions. Some present the same intention each week, some ask for particular prayers. Even though most remain silent, the openness to verbal requests from those in the pews helps each of us realize this is our time to pray for something specific.

God wants us to verbalize what is on our hearts, either vocally or silently in prayer. He desires a conversation with us, where He can respond in ways we may not have imagined.

Our weekday Mass schedule is below. Post it on your fridge or bulletin board and take up the invitation to daily Mass as often as you can. It will enrich your Lent and open your heart to the plans God has for you in this new year.



Monday	7:15 AM	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Wednesday through Friday		9:00 AM	

LET
THE CHURCH
ALWAYS BE
A PLACE
OF MERCY
AND HOPE,
WHERE
EVERYONE
IS WELCOMED,
LOVED
AND
FORGIVEN
Pope Francis