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Spring 2024



Our Lady's Messenger

Our Lady of Grace

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday, March 24

(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, March 25

Mass - 7:15 AM

Tuesday, March 26

Mass - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 27

Mass - 9:00 AM
Penance Service at Our Lady Of Grace - 6:30 PM

Holy Thursday, March 28

Mass - 5:30 PM
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament after Mass until Midnight

Good Friday - March 29

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

Holy Saturday, March 30

No 4:00 PM Mass
Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30 PM

Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses at 8:30 and 10:30 AM
No 5:30 PM Mass

What are you looking for? (John 1:38)

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. (Jn 1:35-39)

What are you looking for? This is a fundamental question for us who claim to be Jesus' disciples, and Bishop Barron's commentary on this question has inspired my writing on this. Many go through life not really knowing what they most fundamentally want, and end up drifting. I remember what that felt like until, by God's grace, he woke me from my ignorant stupor, and even now continues to form me. We may desire many things in answer to Jesus' question, but the truest answer is "eternal life," or "friendship with God," or "holiness." This is our goal and how we should lead our lives as Christians, to grow in knowledge, love, and service of God in this life in preparation for the next; and to be with Him forever.

Some may, more or less, know what they want spiritually, but lack the attention, courage, or intentionality to pursue it when faced with distractions and opposition. They know that they should be growing in holiness, but the secular culture proposes sex, pleasure, power, comfort, and honor so attractively that they lose their way. Or possibly they receive mocking criticism from those who are stuck in the old standard way of life, and they give in.

(Continued on page 2)



Father Adam Maus, Pastor

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Our Mission:

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

(continued from page 1)

The season of Lent is an incredible opportunity to contemplate Jesus' question, **"What are you looking for?"**

And lead us to Gospel conversion. What does that mean exactly? Well, in short it means God is always at work in us through the grace of the Holy Spirit, calling us to detach from or change whatever keeps us from

growing in knowledge, love, and service of Him, or 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, and a reordering/amending of one's life.

Now, I said that God the Holy Spirit is always at work, and He is. It is we who are not always open to His grace. Our hearts can be quite hard and our egos very strong. Our desires may be aligned with the world rather than focused on life with and in God. We like being God of our own little worlds and it is not always easy to concede that God might be knocking and wanting to show us a better way. That is the genius of Lent and the Church's teaching about how we are to approach the season in a threefold manner: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

If we are intentional about sacrificing time, effort, and resources for these three things, with the intention of heart that you want God to work through them for your good, amazing things will happen. If you give God an opportunity He will never waste it. We just need to desire God's good gifts, give Him the opportunity, and be willing to act accordingly when we receive them.

So here is the Lenten challenge.

1. Admit you are not perfect and that you need God's mercy, forgiveness, and His grace to live in right relationship with Him who can truly fulfill our deepest longings.
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. If you can go to daily Mass, do so.
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. And or simply read a good spiritual book. Spiritual reading feeds the soul.

**"What
are you
looking for?"**



Parish LENTEN Schedule

- ♦ **Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday**
Masses at 9 AM, 5:30 PM, and 7 PM
Soup & Sandwiches following the 5:30 Mass
- ♦ **Friday, Feb. 16 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM**
Lenten Healing Service
- ♦ **Friday, Feb. 23, 5:30 PM**
Stations of the Cross with Soup & Sandwich meal to follow
- ♦ **Friday, March 1, 5:30 PM**
Stations of the Cross
KC 4th Degree Fish Fry
- ♦ **Friday, March 8, 5:30 PM**
Stations of the Cross
Pastor's Pizza Meal - 6:00 PM
Shroud of Turin presentation by Fr. Hill
- ♦ **Friday, March 15, 5:30 PM**
Stations of the Cross
- ♦ **Friday, March 22, 5:30 PM**
Stations of the Cross
- ♦ **Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 PM**
Penance Service

See Holy Week Schedule on cover page.

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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, volunteer, or write someone, etc.).

My hope is that you see Lent as an opportunity to grow in the knowledge, love, and service of God who alone can truly give us what we are looking for. 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 by remaining in our self-made "aloneness." Happy Lent.

By Fr. Adam Maus

Feasibility study identifies priorities for renovations and expansion

During a January 26 meeting, we received the results of our Feasibility Study from Walsh & Associates Church Capital Campaign Specialists. Overall, 93% of all involved in



interviews and surveys felt that addressing the needs as expressed was either important or very important.

Based upon interviews with some of our parish families, as well as input from those who attended our parish-wide meeting in December, the proposed project major components were rated in importance.

Our Lady of Grace Pantry: Moving the pantry outside of the church building into its own building to create an efficient pantry operation was rated as our Number 1 priority. We do not yet know quite what the final structure would look like, but are pleased that parish families support this important outreach effort.

Rectory (Priests' house): Renovation, expansion, and repairs to the current rectory was rated as the Number 2 priority.



Plans were available for viewing at the December parish-wide meeting, but may be modified to take into account input that was gathered.

Parish/Education Center: The Number 3 priority was adding on to the southeast area of the current classroom hallway (lower level) and the parish offices (upper level). This would result in more meeting, office, and classroom space.

Larger social hall: The consideration of building a larger social hall came from two things: 1) looking at our growth trend, and 2) our need for classroom space. It is worth noting that there were a number of comments and responses that encouraged considering using Bishop Ryan in some capacity for classes, which



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IMPORTANT DATES

February

14 - Ash Wednesday

Masses at 9 AM, 5:30 PM and 7 PM

14 - No Faith Formation

14 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM Lenten Meal

16 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM Lenten Healing Service with Fr. Brian Gross

19 - Parish Office Closed

23 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross with Lenten meal to follow

March

1 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

1 - 5:30 PM Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Fish Fry at Our Lady of Grace

2 - 9:30 AM First Saturday Devotion at Our Lady of Grace

3 - KC Breakfast - Supporting Seminarians

3 - No Faith Formation - Spring Break

6 - No Faith Formation - Spring Break

8 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

8 - 6:00 PM Pastor's Pizza Meal

8 - 6:15 PM Presentation on Shroud of Turin by Fr. Josh Hill

10 - Daylight Savings Begins, set your clock ahead one hour

10 - No Faith Formation - Spring Break

15 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

20 - 7:00 PM Living Stations Performance

22 - 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

24 - 7:00 PM Living Stations Performance

27 - No Faith Formation (Holy Week)

27 - 6:30 PM Penance Service at OLG

28 - 5:30 PM Holy Thursday Mass

28 - 6:45 PM - 12 Midnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

29 - Parish Office Closed

29 - 3:00 PM Good Friday Service with Veneration of the Cross

30 - No 4:00 PM Mass

30 - 8:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass

31 - 8:30 and 10:30 AM Easter Mass

31 - No 5:30 PM Mass

31 - No Faith Formation Classes

Healing Service returns to Our Lady of Grace this Lent

Fr. Brian Gross, pastor of Epiphany Catholic Church in Watford City, returns to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on the first Friday in Lent, February 16, to lead a 6:00 P.M. Lenten Healing Service. All are encouraged to attend.

Fr. Gross was previously at Our Lady of Grace on December 3, when he led our Advent Healing Service, with people overflowing the seating in the main church. He promised those in attendance that he would return, bringing with him others who are trained in praying for healing, so that more people could participate in individual or small group prayer following the main service.

When Fr. Joshua Hill, our parochial vicar, wrote about the Advent Healing Service in our parish newsletter, he said, "In a marvelous expression of the divine goodness, our Lord did not reserve this healing ministry for himself alone, for he even 'summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority . . . to cure every disease and every sickness' (Matt 10:1). In fact this healing ministry of Jesus continues up through our present day."

He added, "Every one of us has some form of illness, physical or spiritual. Some of us have been carrying the cross of such woundedness for years, even decades."

Ursula Shaw, an 86-year-old member of our parish, attended the December service and prayed for a decrease in pain. "I broke my knee and my knee cap, and I prayed that the horrible pain would leave." As she sat with her daughter, Susan Weidman, during the service, "I was in so much pain, you can't believe it." Her daughter almost took Ursula out of the service because she could see how she was suffering. But they remained a bit longer.

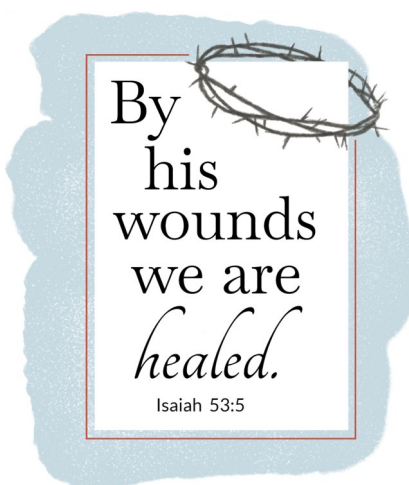
As Fr. Gross leads the service, he prays for healing in the different areas of our bodies and minds. When he prayed for healing in legs and joints, Ursula said she felt something like a whirlwind spinning in circles. "I just couldn't believe how that pain just kind of went up into the air out of my knee," she said. "It felt like it was swirling up out of me."

At her next appointment, "I told the doctor about it and he just smiled," Ursula said. "Did he believe me? I don't know." But he did loosen the hinge on her knee brace to a more flexible setting. The brace protects her knee in case she would bump it or fall again. And the pain has never returned.

Ursula's daughter, Susan, experienced healing, as well. For years, Susan has had difficulty moving her neck from side to side. Susan felt "kind of like a



Fr. Brian Gross



snap in there, and now she can move it back and forth like when she was young!" Ursula said.

Two of our younger parishioners also experienced signs of healing during the service. Edison Huighe, age 9, had been diagnosed with Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis (CRMO), a disease that causes pain and damage in bones due to inflammation. He was wearing a medical boot on his ankle at the time. His mother, Heather Huighe, explained that, as Fr. Gross prayed, Edison said he felt his ankle get warm. The pain went away and hasn't returned.

Edison had gotten an x-ray before the service, but they hadn't yet received the results. When they returned to the doctor for the report, the doctor said Edison was healing nicely. On December 28, he went in for an MRI of his whole body. His diagnosis was downgraded to CNO (chronic nonbacterial osteomyelitis) which is a less serious form of CRMO. The disease was now "just in his left leg, not in his whole body," Heather said.

Edison's brother, 14-year-old Alistair, also felt healing during the December service. "He has edema of the bone marrow in his left femur and hip," Heather said. It has hurt severely off and on for the past two and a half years. When Edison was diagnosed, the doctors expected that Alistair could also have CRMO, and he has been referred for an MRI, but he has not yet received it.

When Fr. Gross was praying, Alistair told Heather, "My leg really felt tingly and warm and the pain just went away." After a day or two, Alistair's pain returned. "I told him, 'God's time is not our time,'" Heather said. She encouraged him to offer up his suffering for others. "It hurt for about three days, and hasn't since," she said.

Heather said that her family members weren't real excited to attend the Healing Service with her, but they did, and its impact was powerful. "It was beautiful for us as a family to pray together like that," she said. They have always prayed together at night and at mealtime, "but never really prayed over each other. It has just encouraged our prayer life at home." Her husband, Keith, was sick recently and they prayed over him as a family.

Fr. Gross invited those who felt changes during the prayer to share their experience with others in attendance, and Ursula, Edison and Alistair were among the many people who did so. Their testimony encouraged others to speak and, very likely, to open their minds to the possibility of healing.

"I encourage everyone to bring their pain, their worries, their prayer intentions to the Healing Service on February 16, and to trust that the Lord will do something for them," Fr. Maus said. "Open your minds and hearts to the possibility of healing. We can never know when and how God will act. It might be that nothing will change for us from this one prayer experience. But it also might be that we, or those we love, will be healed or helped in one way or another."

Will Ursula and her daughter, and Heather and her family be there? You bet! "Oh yeah, we'll go and pray for other people," Ursula said. "There are a lot of people who still need the prayers."

By Tanya Watterud

(Continued from page 4)

April

- 1 - Parish Office Closed
- 6 - First Saturday Devotion at St. Leo's
- 6 - 9:00 - 10:00 AM First Eucharist Rehearsal for the 4:00 PM 4/6/24 Mass
- 6 - 10:30 - 11:30 AM First Eucharist Rehearsal for the 10:30 AM 4/7/24 Mass
- 6 - 4:00 PM **First Eucharist Mass**
- 7 - No Faith Formation
- 7 - KC Breakfast for Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry
- 7 - 10:30 AM **First Eucharist Mass**
- 7 - 3:00 PM **Divine Mercy Service**
- 7 - 5:30 PM **Mass**
- 8-12 - Clergy Conference
- 14 - 5:30 PM **One Dei** provides music for 5:30 pm Mass
- 14 - 7:00 PM **One Dei** provides music for **Eucharistic Adoration** with worship music
- 19 - 4:00 PM **North Dakota Knights of Columbus State Convention opening Mass (All are welcome to attend)**
- 24 - Final gr. 6-8 Faith Formation Class

May

- 1 - 4:00 PM Final K-5 Faith Formation
- 1 - 5:30 PM Final K-5 Faith Formation
- 4 - First Saturday Devotion at St. John's
- 5 - 9:20 AM Final K-5 Faith Formation Classes with 9:25 AM May Crowning
- 5 - 10:30 AM **Graduates' Mass**
- 9 - 6:00 PM Alternate Confirmation Mass Rehearsal (followed by Confessions)
- 11 - 1:30 PM Preferred Confirmation Mass Rehearsal (followed by Confessions)
- 12 - 10:30 AM **Confirmation Mass** with Bishop Kagan followed by Reception
- 15 - 5:30 PM **Bishop Ryan Baccalaureate Mass and Banquet**
- 27 - Parish Office Closed

June

- 3 to 6 - 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Vacation Bible School

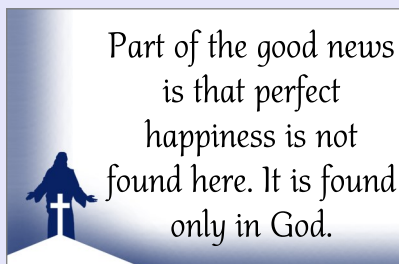
July

- 4 - Parish Office Closed
- 8 to 12 - Cor Christi Option 1
- 15 to 18 - Cor Christi Option 2
- 17 to 21 - National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana

The Cross of a Seminarian

As I reflect upon another semester of seminary, I found an aspect of seminarian spirituality that is both new and a deepening of what I had before. I have found that the cross is central to the spirituality of a seminarian.

Now, this may seem obvious, since the cross is the center of Christianity. However, I have seen and experienced how the cross is not just an idea. I have found that the time only enhances the understanding I have gained of this cross—Jesus' cross—my cross.



Seminary is a time of preparation, and this preparation can be taxing. Papers, projects, and managing the variety of commitments in the seminary

community. Now, I do not mean to make seminary sound onerous, but there are times when it can be difficult. One can even be lost in the monotony or wearied by work. There are also times of great joy.

In times of difficulty, I can complain, or I can see these difficulties from God's perspective. He has given me this great time of preparation, and he wishes me to use it well. This does not mean that I rejoice at difficulties, but I do see the difficulties of seminary to be an opportunity to accept this particular cross. This acceptance of crosses are a time with Jesus, where he can form me.

In order to be formed by Jesus, I must be reliant on God the Father for everything. I must be eager to do his will. I must also be willing to sacrifice and suffer on behalf of others. Jesus, though the Father never left him at any point, still suffered greatly. He knew that "the Father and I are one," but he was also just as comfortable saying, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" I cannot only rest in the love of God, I must suffer and die with Jesus.

I am provided many little ways to die to self and offer sacrifice throughout this time of preparation, and the challenge is to see these opportunities as the gifts that they are. There are the mundane trials of seminary life: papers, projects, a busy schedule. There are also spiritual trials. In each of these difficulties of seminary, I have found the cross of Jesus as this particular cross. The spiritual trials,

however, are far deeper than those of the daily surface-level of life.

These spiritual trials come from the fact that, as a seminarian, I am in a place of already but not yet. I can suffer with Christ and intercede for others; I can exercise ministries entrusted to me at the seminary.

However, I am not yet at the goal of priestly ministry. In another way, I strive to live the Christian life, but I am not yet at the goal of heaven. In both of these waitings, there is some sense of suffering. I have found that these are both very much a part of a seminarian's life. In the tension of the already but not yet of heaven, I have found that this is a preparation for sharing the good news with the people of God. Part of the good news is that perfect happiness is not found here. It is found only in God. In the already but not yet of priestly ministry, I am called by this to enter more deeply into my seminary formation.

These sufferings then, are not something for me to shy from but rather let them be part of the formation. I must let the tension drive me on to be a good priest by focusing on my seminary studies and to become a holy priest by focusing on heaven by living my life on earth.

By Garrett Aberle

Diocese of Fargo, New Earth, January 2024
Reprinted with permission.

Garret is the son of Ricky and Christine Aberle, parishioners of Our Lady of Grace.



Parishioner writes and publishes adventure book

We heard some exciting news about parishioner Terri Niess and asked her to share it in her own words:

As a mother of five and full-time, middle school teacher at Bishop Ryan Catholic School, I safely can say I never expected to write a book. While writing has always been something I dabbled in and enjoyed, time was something of which I could not find enough. But, in the spring of 2023, my oldest son, Beckett, came up with an idea for a book that simply took off.

I have always been blessed in the family that has surrounded me. With both my parents and in-laws living in Minot and attending Our Lady of Grace church, the support of my family has made having a large family possible. This family extends to Bishop Ryan.

In the fall of 2022 I took the jump from the public schools to teaching at Bishop Ryan. My children have always attended there and the education provided through the school has always been high-quality. Now, in teaching at the school, I have had the opportunity to surround myself with faith from the beginning of the day to the end, a curriculum that is challenging and allows the students to rise to the occasion, and kids that truly have been rooted in virtuous living.

I wrote the book *The Prophecy of Three*, a clean adventure for upper elementary and middle school students. It is about three brothers who are pulled into a magical world. They are separated and have to find each other, all while choosing to help the people around them find freedom from the evil that resides in Aratorin. The boys must show virtues, face dangers, and choose to be selfless to do what's

right. They come across mermaids, dragons, dark dungeons, and frantic escapes all to come to a huge battle. Will they find each other, fight the bad guys, and return to their homes? This

book was written as a way for my children to find enjoyment in a fantasy book, without all the "extra" thrown in to modern books.

Through the support of my family (Warren and Cathy Gamas), my in-laws (Leonard and Gloria Niess), and many others, I have had the opportunity to print and sell my book beginning in January 2024. The cost is \$22, with \$4.95 shipping for those not in Minot. The book will also be sold through Main Street Books in downtown Minot. I have a book signing there on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. To order a book directly through me, please email 59beadscompany@gmail.com. I would be thrilled to sign the book for you.

Terri Niess also oversees a writing club called Literary Lions at Bishop Ryan. Last year they wrote a kidnapping mystery and this year they are writing a fantasy book. Each year the students go to Niess Impressions in Minot to bind their own books that they get to keep. The book they create is also in the school library.

By Terri Niess



Windshield Wiper Sermon

One rainy afternoon, a mother was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, her son Matthew spoke up from his relaxed position in the front seat. "Mom, I'm thinking of something." This announcement usually meant he had been pondering some fact for a while and was now ready to expound all that his seven-year-old mind had discovered. She was eager to hear.

"What are you thinking?" she asked.

"The rain is like sin," Matthew began. "And the windshield wipers are like God, wiping our sins away." After the chill bumps raced up her arms, the mother was

able to respond, "That's really good, Matthew." Then her curiosity broke in. How far would her son take this revelation?

So, she asked, "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?"

Matthew didn't hesitate one moment with his answer. "We keep on sinning and God just keeps on forgiving us."

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 2:30-3:30 PM and 5:30-6:00 PM

Sundays from 10:00-10:30 AM and 4:45 - 5:20 PM

Daily before Mass and by appointment.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

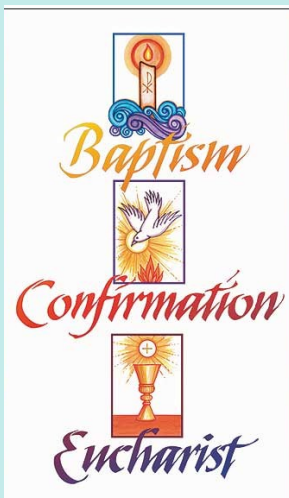
Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 PM

Springtime is Full of Sacramental Grace

Around 37 students will be confirmed, and at least 60 students will receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time this spring. There are also a few older students who haven't been baptized yet, but are preparing for that sacrament, as well.

The First Eucharist Masses will be on Saturday, April 6, at 4:00 P.M. and Sunday, April 7, at 10:30 A.M. The Confirmation Mass with Bishop David Kagan will be on Sunday, May 12, at 10:30 A.M., a fitting day for Our Lady of Grace parish since that is Mother's Day.

Please keep in your prayers all of the young people who will be receiving the sacraments, as well as the adults who are preparing for sacraments by attending RCIA – Adult Faith Formation classes. What a blessing it is for our parish to have so many people receiving the grace of the sacraments this spring!



Graduates' Mass set for May 5

All parish students who are graduating from high school in Spring 2024 are invited to participate in the Graduates' Mass to be celebrated on Sunday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m.



Please arrive in the parish dining room by 10:15 a.m. for instructions and to line up for the procession into the church. Please wear your graduation cap and gown, if you have them by that time. (If you don't have them, that's okay.)

You will process into the church at the beginning of Mass, together with the priest, deacon and altar servers, and will be seated in reserved pews. During the Mass, the priest will ask those in attendance to join him in praying for you as you embark on a new stage of life. Following the Mass, cake and beverages will be served in the dining room.

We hope you can join us, graduates! Please invite your family and friends to this special Mass, as well. (The Mass is being held earlier than usual this May because of the Confirmation Mass being on May 12, and several graduation ceremonies taking place on May 19.)

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 20 at 7PM and Palm Sunday, March 24 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 March 20 performance. 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.





Cor Christi Institute AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY

Attending Cor Christi Institute at the University of Mary in Bismarck can be a life-changing experience for teenagers, and the opportunity to participate is once again open to parish students who will begin grades 9-12 in the fall of 2024.

There are two weeks from which students may choose to attend Cor Christi Institute this summer: July 8-12 or July 15-19. Students travel together with others from Minot to the University of Mary on the Monday of the chosen week, and parents pick up their children on Friday, after attending the closing Mass celebrated by Bishop David Kagan.

Students get an early experience of college life as they reside in the university's dormitories during the week, have learning experiences and leisure activities throughout the campus, and get to know others who share their Catholic faith. Fr. Maus expects students who will be preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation, or who recently received the sacrament, to attend Cor Christi Institute.

Cor Christi, which means "The Heart of Christ", "invites high school students to a living encounter with Jesus and the foundational teachings and practices of the Catholic faith," according to the institute's brochure. "This initiative was born from the desire of a group of young priests and other dedicated believers to offer a new generation — through an intensive summer experience — the basics of the adventure of faith."



Check bismarckdiocese.com/corchristi for more information about this fantastic faith opportunity. The 2024 information should be posted soon.

(Feasibility Study continued from page 2)

would alleviate the need for as much space as we were proposing. It is a reality that we are continually growing and that this social hall would be nice now, but will be needed in the future.

Worship Space enhancements: There is majority acceptance of this proposal, but no consensus on the idea of reorienting the space. This will be discussed more if we move forward.

Lastly, amongst the major components of the proposed project were the **dedicated choir room and bridal family room**. These were the only parts of our proposed plan that did not receive majority acceptance. It was noted in our report that this may be due to the fact that they would be a relatively small part of our proposed project and expense, and depending on how the project were to move forward, they could potentially be incorporated.

In the next weeks here in February, I will be having meetings with Bishop Kagan, our project steering committee, parish council, finance council, and Fr. Jady Nelson. These meetings will help us decide whether to move forward with a capital campaign or not.

If we decide to move ahead with the campaign, we will start recruiting volunteers to assist with fundraising and reaching out to all parish families, asking them to give a sacrificial gift toward Phase I of our project.

Please watch for updates about progress with planning and carrying out a Capital Campaign. We welcome your questions and the opportunity to answer them in print so that all will be able to be equally informed. Thank you for your input thus far and your continued generosity toward your parish.

Sincerely,

Fr. Adam Maus

Marvelous Mystery VBS will be held the evenings of June 3-6 at Our Lady of Grace. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is for children age 5 through those finishing second grade this spring. Registration forms will be available in the spring. Help is needed. This would be a great way for parents and older siblings to volunteer.



A little help makes a big difference

Serving in an Altar Society is not as time consuming as some women might think, and it's so rewarding.

That's one of the messages Jessica Donamaria shared as she talked about why she has gotten involved with the Altar Society women's group at Our Lady of Grace.



At first, she said, "I signed up to just make bars for the funerals. After I did that for a year, I wanted to help with the funerals."

Jessica, who is a wife and mother of three school-age children, works during the day, but her employer allows her to take vacation time when she volunteers with funerals.

Our Lady of Grace has six Altar Society groups that take turns helping with funerals and other events. One group serves only in the summers, because the members are primarily teachers. "Depending on the year, we can go months between when we serve," Jessica said.

Along with serving at funerals, Jessica decided she would like to be involved with the monthly Altar Society meetings. She currently serves as vice president for the overall group.

Her Altar Society group, which goes by the name St. Louise, divides funeral service into shifts, so volunteers don't have to help the whole time. There's usually a shift from 8 to 11 a.m., where the volunteers set up and prep the funeral meal. Then there's a shift for those who serve the meal, and another for those who want to help with clean-up.

Some volunteers stay the whole time, but having the shift options makes it easier for women who work during the day to help out.

"It just makes me feel good to help out those families" who are grieving the death of their loved one, Jessica said. "It seems healing for the family. Funerals are hard days."

"If funerals don't work, you could help out for evening events, like the New Year's Eve Potluck," Jessica said. Most of the church events are family events, she said, so your children may come along and sometimes even work alongside you.

"It has a big impact on the kids," she said. "They see me helping out and it just makes them want to help out." Her daughter, Zoey, is now old enough to serve as an altar server at Mass. "She really enjoys it and it makes them respect the Mass more," she said. "Even outside of the church, they want to help out and they think of other people more."

It's important that younger women get involved in Altar Society, Jessica said. "A lot of these women have been doing it for many years. They can run circles around me," she said, but "having more members and even younger members can give them some rest."

Volunteering is also a way to support your parish when giving financially isn't an option. "There was a time when monetary donations weren't as easy for us," Jessica said, "but we had time and made the time" to help. "Volunteering is important and it is possible," she added.

For more information about Altar Society, please contact the parish office at 701-839-6834 or church@olgminot.org.



One Dei Worship Band to Lead Eucharistic Adoration

On Sunday, April 14, the One Dei Catholic worship band from Bismarck will provide music for the 5:30 p.m. Mass, and then will lead a time of Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 7:00 p.m. This is the third time One Dei has brought this opportunity of prayer to our parish. All are welcome!



DIOCESE OF BISMARCK PILGRIMAGE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Together with the Diocese of Bismarck, we at the University of Mary warmly invite you to join us on a pilgrimage to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. The Diocese and the University have secured 300 tickets (*valued at \$375/ticket*) and plan to take six buses from Bismarck, ND, to Indianapolis, IN.

Take part in a historic gathering of missionary disciples and experience what promises to be a "new Pentecost" for the American Catholic Church. Register today at www.umary.edu/NEC.

Learn more about the 2024 National Eucharistic Conference through their website www.eucharisticcongress.org.

**NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS - JULY 16-22, 2024 - INDIANAPOLIS, IN
WITH OVERNIGHTS IN MINNEAPOLIS AND CHICAGO**

Cost per person

Cost includes event registration, transportation, and lodging in Minneapolis, Chicago, and downtown Indianapolis (in walking distance of all events). Payments will be handled in installments.

\$945 (double-occupancy room)

\$755 (triple- or quad-occupancy room)

\$1580 (single-occupancy room)

Free for children ages 4 and under



Knights of Columbus

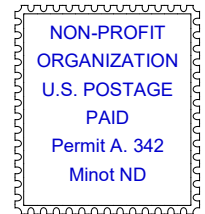
The North Dakota Knights of Columbus State Convention will be held here in Minot on Friday-Sunday, April 19th-21st. While it may seem so far off, I want to personally invite and/or encourage each Brother Knight to think about attending. The convention does have a business aspect to it where each council's delegates elect officers and resolutions are passed, but it doesn't mean that the council is for delegates only. Knights of Columbus members may attend the convention as visitors to take in the events, and I urge each and every Knight to take advantage of the fact that it is local and take in what the convention offers. Too many times we think as KofC members by working a breakfast or two, our responsibility as Knights is covered. We know that the state officers and convention exist, but we don't understand how they affect our council's actions. This opportunity to take in the convention should be something that each Knight takes advantage of at least once in their tenure as a Knight of Columbus. I personally have enjoyed the fact that I can get together and socialize with men from across the state who share a similar belief and desire to serve our Lord, and in doing so I can become reenergized and reinvigorated so that I can come back and recommit myself to working for the good of the order but also our faith. Since the convention will be

held in Minot, the state will be looking to our councils to help with setting up and other miscellaneous items. Please make sure to answer the call when asked to help.

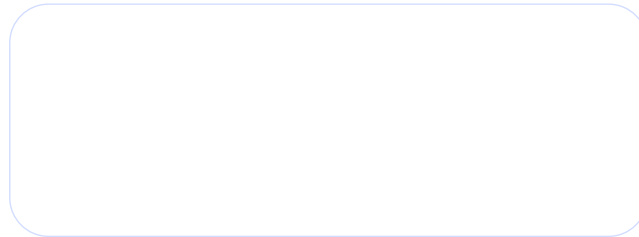
Councils are also in full breakfast/dinner modes. Please be supportive of each other's breakfasts as the beneficiaries are typically the same for each council so it offers us a chance to truly make a difference. We work to transform our community, and these meals are something that allow us to give so generously to the worthwhile causes we hold near and dear multiple times throughout the year. But even though the Knights are known for their fellowship, fish-frys, and breakfasts, we must remember we are so much more than that. We are a group of men who share a desire to serve our Church, we are a fraternal organization that is unique in the fact that while we work together like other organizations to serve others, we truly put God where He belongs, at the center of all that we do. Rosaries before meetings, serving at Mass in a variety of manners, the perpetual Rosary of the Knights of North Dakota as a whole, and daily Masses being said for large numbers of people, the list goes on and on the many ways we look first to the Cross and then to those in need of our help.

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



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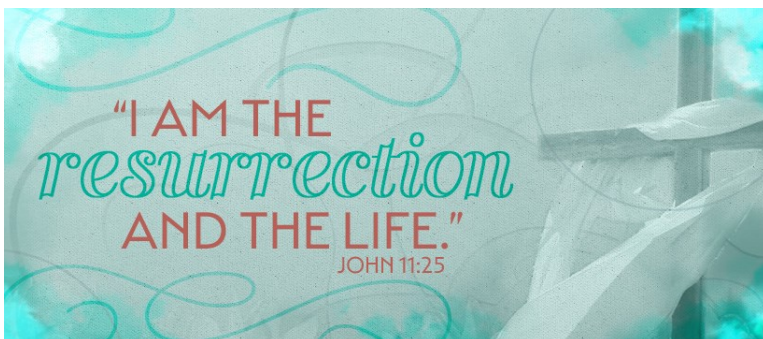


Knights of Columbus, continued from page 11

We must, and hopefully do, see Jesus in all we serve. Too many times society tells us that God doesn't need to be a part of giving, only man can give and/or help man because giving is thought of being solely a physical action. We know otherwise and act accordingly. All Catholic men over 18 are invited to join our work, ask and invite so that we may do even greater works.

Vivat Jesus,

Brian Rodgers
District #8 Deputy



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Be up-to-date on all the important happenings at Our Lady of Grace.

