

## **WORDS FROM THE PASTOR**

**Solemnity of the Holy Family**

**December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Covid Virus is making its way through our parishes at this time. Please keep all in daily prayer, especially the most vulnerable, and those who are suffering through its effects. Wearing face masks is encouraged. Keep in mind good personal hygiene, appropriate physical distance, and the Covid protocols. If one feels ill, especially if there is a slight sore throat or low grade fever or loss of the sense of smell or taste, please err on the side of caution and refrain from attending Mass or other public gatherings.

### **Calendar:**

- **12/30/20 thru 01/13/21 Wednesday:** NO Faith Formation
- **12/31/20 Thursday:** Solemnity Mary Mother of God – 5PM Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul, Bechyne
- **01/01/21 Friday:** 8:30AM Mass – St Joseph’s, Lankin; 10:30AM Mass – St. John’s, Pisek.
- **01/01/21 Friday:** NO Men’s Prayer Breakfast

### **Pastor’s Reflections:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Merry Christmas! This annual celebration of our Lord’s birth reminds us once again of the unfailing love of God, who sent his own Son as our Savior. At Bethlehem Jesus became little and humble for us, so that we might come to know him and be one with him in time and in eternity. In the midst of the many challenges we have faced this year, we have great hope because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has come to dwell with us and remains with us still.**

**In this Year of St. Joseph, called for by our Holy Father, we turn also to the beloved foster father of Jesus who quietly stands over him at the manger. May St. Joseph protect and intercede for us, and lead us always to Jesus, his Lord and ours.**

**This Christmas, I pray that you and all your loved ones may experience the comfort and joy of Christ’s presence in your lives. Be assured of a special remembrance in my prayers and especially at the Mass of our Lord’s birth. May God bless you and keep you in his love.**

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**+John T. Folda  
Bishop of Fargo**

## **Pastor's Reflections (con't):**

- I have been so deeply touched by the many Christmas greetings, cards, gifts, and goodies that everyone has showered upon me. Thank you so very much for your generosity! You make it easy to be your pastor!
- A huge **THANK YOU** to all who labored to help make the Christmas decorations, liturgies, and music so beautiful and meaningful. In spite of Covid and all of its restrictions, it was one of the most beautiful and peace filled Christmas' that I have experienced. The Christ Child has truly come in our midst.
- Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family. Many people express frustration at being unable to relate to the Holy Family. I think this is because of sin. The Original sin caused a break between God the Father and Adam. It caused a break between Adam and his wife Eve. It caused such a break between the parents and their child that their child is killed (Able). Within the Holy Family St. Joseph is completely under God the Father's authority to the point that Angels direct his provision for the family. Mary is so united to God the Father that unlike Eve, she willingly suffers for her Son. The child Jesus is so rightly ordered that instead of "being killed" like Able, he willingly and freely agrees to die as an innocent in place of the guilty. The Holy Family demonstrates for all of us what is possible if each of us in our own roles within the family are reconciled to God the Father and receive His comforts of authority. Under right authority, the Christian family becomes the foundation for the redemption of our world.
- Thank you to everyone who has thoughtfully and generously given to our three parishes for end of the year giving. The giving patterns have been unusual this year due to Covid, but many of you have remembered at the end of the year and helped with all three parishes' financial needs. **Thank You!**

**Tri-Parish Loan for Rectory update:** In 2017 a loan of \$183,000 was received from the Diocese to acquire a new rectory. To date \$6,807 at 3% interest remains on the balance. We have paid \$7,263 of interest on this loan since 2017. **Thank you to all who have been so generous!** We received \$1,850 towards the Rectory Fund this week. Thank You!

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