

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

25th Sunday of Ordinal Time

September 20th, 2020

Prayer for Spiritual Communion: **My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.**

Calendar:

- **9/22/20** Tuesday: 7PM K of C Meeting St. Mary's, Park River
- **9/23/20** Wednesday 4:30PM, St. John's, Pisek: First Faith Formation Classes. Senior High starts at 6PM.
- **9/23/20** "40 Days for Life" begins. Bishop Folda asks that we each pray, fast, and do penance, of some form during these 40 days for the end to abortion in North Dakota. Each Catholic is encouraged to schedule a time during these 40 Days to stand outside the abortuary in Fargo to pray for an end to abortion. If not able to pilgrimage to Fargo for the public witness of prayer for an end to abortion you are encouraged to keep vigil one evening for an end to abortion.
- **9/24/20** Thursday, 10:30 to 11AM Fr Lefor will teach regarding charity on Real Presence Live 1370AM.
- **Oct 22-Nov3, 2020 Holy Land Trip with Fr. Lefor** is officially postponed due to the Corona Virus. Fr. Lefor will lead a trip to the Holy Land Oct 22-Nov 3, 2021. Marian travel will allow you to transfer down payments to next year's planned pilgrimage. Let us hold one another in prayer and also pray that this world pandemic will soon come to an end.

Pastor's Reflections:

- First Faith Formation Classes this Wednesday. 1st thru 8th Grade start at 4:30PM at St. John's. Classes end prior to 6PM. Senior High class begins at 6PM ending at 7:45PM. Please hold are parents, teachers, and children in prayer this year.

- Let us all make an effort to participate in “40 Days for Life” to end the evil of abortion in North Dakota. Call 701-284-6601 to set up a time to pray. If you are unable to go to Fargo this year, please stop by the Pregnancy Help Center in Park River to familiarize yourself with all the generosity that is taking place to end abortion.

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- **Thoughts on today’s readings:** In today’s Gospel Jesus continues his teaching on God the Father’s mercy. Last week I challenged all of us to actively cancel the debts of those who have sinned against us so that we ourselves would be forgiven since God forgives us exactly as we forgive our neighbor.

A number of people have taken up the challenge. I have received numerous stories of the freedom people are experiencing because they are forgiving others so that they themselves will be forgiven. Please if you have a story and feel comfortable sharing let me know about your experience.

One example I received said, “Forgiveness is AWESOME! It feels so good! The Lord payed my unpayable price today and it feels ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

- St. John’s Finance Council has approved two projects to improve the property of St. John’s. 1) The rain gutters and down spouts must be replaced to correct water damage that is occurring to the siding, windows, and foundation due to rain runoff. These will be replaced in October. 2) The ditch east of the church will be cleaned and tiled in order to fix the sump pump runoff problem.
- The new gutters and down spouts will cost \$4,500. The ditch project will run around \$3,000. If anyone feels called to donate to the expenses of these projects it would be greatly appreciated.

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 \$14,519 at 4.5% interest remains on the balance. We have paid \$7,150 of interest on this loan since 2017. **Thank you to all who have been so generous!** We received \$1200 of donations this past week. Thank you!

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