

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

23rd Sunday of Ordinal Time

September 6th, 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:

- **9/06/20-9/13/20** The Movie Fatima (new 2020 release) playing at East Grand Forks Movie Theatre. They say this is a must see!
- **9/06/20 Sunday, 3pm** the Movie Fatima is being shown at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Crystal, ND.
- **9/08/20 Tuesday** St. John's hosts deanery meeting from 10:30 to 3PM
- **9/11-12/20 Friday 3-7pm & Saturday 8am-1pm** St John's Rummage Sale in Park River
- **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 Reflection:

- I had the opportunity to view the new Fatima movie. To quote Fr. Eppler, "It was like being with the Blessed Mother for two hours." It is worth making an effort to see. I would caution parents regarding age of children. There are a couple of scenes that show war and the casualties of war, a scene of Hell, and there is also emotional and physical abuse displayed.

- Today is the Feast Day of St. Theresa of Calcutta. Mother Theresa was a “nobody from nowhere.” She had average intelligence, average looks, and was tiny in stature. She was someone who could easily be overlooked or passed by. And yet, through her faith in Christ, she absolutely transformed the world. And she did it by loving one insignificant person at a time.
- Today’s First Reading and Gospel are severely challenging. They deal with two of the hardest Spiritual Works of Mercy – “to instruct the ignorant” and “to admonish the sinner.” Often times Hollywood or the Media will portray the Catholic Church or members of the Church as cruel and severe and harsh and unrelenting. She will be portrayed as a fully habited Nun with a ruler ready to smack your hand if you make a mistake. However, in reality, in our very politically correct sensitive world, I can’t remember the last time I witnessed someone admonishing the sinner or instructing the ignorant. I think we are too afraid of breaking social norms or worse, being sued! Mother Theresa was great at this. If someone was rebuked because they tried to instruct or admonish she would say, “Do it anyway.” If someone was rebuked for being too severe in their instruction or admonishment she would say, “Do it anyway, but this time with love!”
- 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!** This past week we received a gift of \$50.

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