

# ST. JOHN

THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



**Love God-Serve God**  
**Love Others-Serve Others**  
**Make Disciples**

**Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3rd, 2016**

206 West Main ~ P.O. Box 670 Fort Pierre, S.D. 57532- 0670  
Office: 605-223-2176 fax: 605-223-2805

## PARISH OFFICE

Rectory (605) 223 - 2176  
Fax (605) 223 - 2805  
Hours Monday - Friday 10am - 5 pm  
Website [www.stjohnsfortpierre.org](http://www.stjohnsfortpierre.org)

## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor: Fr. Ron Garry**  
[ron.stjohns@midconetwork.com](mailto:ron.stjohns@midconetwork.com) 605-850-8593  
**Parish Secretary: Sherri Stoesser**  
[sherri.stjohns@midconetwork.com](mailto:sherri.stjohns@midconetwork.com)  
**Faith Formation: Josie Huck Tardiff**  
[josie.stjohns@midconetwork.com](mailto:josie.stjohns@midconetwork.com)  
**CSS Counseling: Tracy Palecek** 222-4398  
**Rectory/Church Upkeep: Mary Welsh, Pat Storms**  
**Building Maintenance: George Welk**  
**Parish Council: Ryan Fowler**  
**Finance Council: Mike Weisgram**  
**Altar Society: Co-Leaders needed**  
**Grand Knight: Tom LeFaive**  
**Small Group Studies: Shirley Gross**

## Confessions:

Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 PM or appointment

## Mass Times: Saint John's, on the Lord's Day

Saturday - 5:30 PM  
Sunday - 7:30 & 10:00 AM  
Sunday Evenings - 7:00-8:00 PM - Adoration

## Weekday Mass **\*\*\* (check bulletin weekly schedule)**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7:00 AM  
Tuesday - 5:30 PM  
Friday - 6:45 AM  
Saturday - 8 AM (1st Saturday only)

## Ss. Peter and Paul - Pierre, on the Lord's Day:

Saturday - 5:00 PM, Sunday, 8:00 & 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Marriage** - 6 months preparation: Call Father Ron.  
**Baptism** - Call Father Ron for information.  
**Anointing** - If a hospital stay or surgical procedure is



Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

## St. John's Calendar

### Sunday, April 3rd

8:35 am Good Shepherd Class  
8:40 am Faith Formation Classes 1-7  
3:00 pm Divine Mercy & Adoration  
5:00 pm Vespers  
5:30 pm Appreciation Dinner for the Sisters

### Monday, April 4th

6:30 pm Faith Formation Teachers Meeting

### Tuesday, April 5th

6:00 am That Man is You (concludes April 5th)

### Wednesday, April 6th

6:00 pm Parish and Faith Formation Potluck

### Thursday, April 7th

6:30 pm Maranatha

### Sunday, April 10th

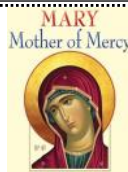
8:35 am Good Shepherd Class  
8:40 am Faith Formation Classes 1-7



### Marian/Divine Mercy Conference on Friday-Saturday April 15 & 16 at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City,

featuring Fr. Chris Alar, Director of Association of  
Marian Helpers speaking on "Do Whatever He Tells You."

All are welcome! Contact: Frank Birkholdt [fabhome@gwtc.net](mailto:fabhome@gwtc.net) or Fr. Mark  
[mmccormick@diorc.org](mailto:mmccormick@diorc.org) Pre-register: [terrasancta.org/divinemercury2016](http://terrasancta.org/divinemercury2016)



### Men's Conference: Band of Brothers –Conference for Catholic Men.

Annual Journey Men's Conference, Saturday, April 9th at Terra Sancta.  
Topics Include: Embracing Silence, Embracing Women, Embracing the  
Child, Embracing Charitable Authority, Forming a Band of Brothers.  
(see [www.JourneyMenSD.com](http://www.JourneyMenSD.com) for details & registration).

### You're Invited to: HUNDREDFOLD — Building a Parish Vocation Ministry

Friday, April 22 at 5:30 pm

Dinner—5:30 pm ~ Presentation-6:15-9pm

There is no charge for this event. Sponsored by the Office of  
Vocation with generous help from local councils of the Knight's of  
Columbus. So that we can get an accurate count for materials and  
meals, please register by April 16th at [www.Gods-Call.org](http://www.Gods-Call.org).

Guest Speaker: Rhonda Gruenewald is the author of  
Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry'.

Rhonda is a **dynamic presenter** who speaks with energy, wit and  
wisdom and offers both pastors and lay people practical know-how  
on how to reach young people with a pro-vocations message and  
how to sustain a healthy ministry in our parish.

For all Parish members –Please Join us!

### Ft. Pierre Knights of Columbus News:

**High School Seniors, 2, 3, 4 year college students** of our parish  
are **eligible** for scholarships. Applications are available online at  
[stjohnsfortpierre.org](http://stjohnsfortpierre.org) (click on the flash of KC's) or at the church office.

The Knights of Columbus serve in many ways. Men interested in joining may  
contact a Knight or call Tom LeFaive at 280-7865.



From Father Ron

Divine Mercy Sunday is today...  
we will pray at 3 pm today,  
with Eucharistic Adoration,  
and time for Sacrament of Reconciliation.



The purpose of the image is to serve as an  
instrument for obtaining graces, and to be  
a sign reminding the world of the need to  
trust in God and to show mercy toward  
our neighbour. The words found in the  
signature speak of an attitude of trust. Jesus also said that  
"the image is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy  
because even the strongest faith is of no avail without  
works" (Sr. Faustina Diary 742).

The liturgical focus is to trust that Jesus will forgive us of all  
of our sins and to not be afraid to approach Him in the  
sacrament of Reconciliation. There are special indulgence  
prayers after mass this weekend, for those who are ready.  
We should stress that the Gospel reminds us that Jesus gave  
the Apostles, and the priests, of today, the power, through  
the Holy Spirit, to forgive sins. This is the day that we should  
be making sure that nobody misses out on the opportunity  
to go straight to Heaven.

Grateful to God are we, for the Benedictine sisters who live  
here now and have lived here in days ago, for their loving  
hearts, wise teaching, and service in imitation of our Savior  
Jesus. Our dinner honoring them this Sunday at 5:30 pm is a  
small return of the love given us. If you don't have dinner  
tickets (too late today) you can still join for vespers prayer in  
St. John's this Sunday, at 5:00 PM.

Monday is Solemnity of Annunciation, of Archangel Gabriel  
bringing God's plan to Mary, and she saying Yes to Jesus  
being conceived in her. Mass at 7 AM.

Tuesday, 6 am, is the last of the videos this year for That  
Man is You. This fall, we are planning for the video series on  
marriage, Choice Wine. We know we will have a Wednesday  
night session. We could have a session at another time of  
the week. It is a half hour presentation, with great discussion  
questions to help us grow in the love of Jesus as husband  
and wife.

Next weekend is the Residents Encounter Christ retreat at  
the SD women's prison. Please pray for the team presenting  
and the women being renewed in God's love.

May the angels lead you into paradise... Hunter Stoesser,  
buried in Scotty Philip Cemetery on March 31st.

The presentations at our Diocesan Pastoral Ministry Days  
were recorded [rapidcitydiocese.org/pmd-2016-video-resources/](http://rapidcitydiocese.org/pmd-2016-video-resources/)

Saturday, April 2nd  
5:30 PM + John and Gerry Graham By: David and Mary Hartley

Sunday, April 3rd  
7:30 AM For Parishioners  
10:00 AM + Bruce Krentz By: Family

Monday, April 4th  
7:00 AM + Ann Graham & Marc Pepera By: David and Mary Hartley

Tuesday, April 5th  
5:30 PM + Jesse Vasquez By: Butch and Bell Jacobsen

Wednesday, April 6th  
7:00 AM SI Mass for Life

Thursday, April 7th  
7:00 AM + Patrick Duffy By: Bernie and Peggy Duffy

Friday, April 8th  
6:45 AM SI Doug and Heather Campbell By: David and Mary Hartley

Saturday, April 9th  
5:30 PM + Richard Jacobsen By: Butch and Bell Jacobsen

Sunday, April 10th  
7:30 AM For Parishioners  
10:00 AM + Hunter Stoesser By: Doug and Teresa Stoll  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 4:00-5:00 pm*

**Mass Intentions:** If you would like to have a Mass for your loved one — Living or Deceased please find Mass Intentions envelopes at the church entrance.

**Easter Week Mass Readings**

<i>Sunday, April 3rd</i> Acts 5:12-16 Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 John 20:19-31	<i>Wednesday, April 6th</i> Acts 5:17-26 John 3:16-21 <i>Thursday, April 7th</i> Acts 5:27-3 John 3:31-36	<i>Friday, April 8th</i> Acts 5:34-42 John 6:1-15 <i>Saturday, April 9th</i> Acts 6:1-7 John 6:16-21 <i>Sunday, April 10th</i> Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
<i>Monday, April 4th</i> Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38		
<i>Tuesday, April 5th</i> Acts 4:32-37 John 3:7b-15		

3/27/2016 SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Easter Collection	\$ 3,983.15
Online Giving	\$ 230.00
Plate	\$ 897.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,110.82</b>



Adopt a Seminarian: \$85.00  
Building Fund: \$265.00  
PRAA-West River Priest Retirement: \$60.00  
Holy Land: \$1,012.00  
Our building repair loan payment is \$2,494.28 a month.  
Our loan balance is \$31,860.04

We are grateful for the stewardship of our parish family!  
Please use your weekly envelopes —  
it makes much shorter and accurate recording.

**Birthdays**

Sun.03 Tom Maher, Madyson Mitchell, Chad Stoesser  
Mon.04 Pam Merriman  
Tue.05 Jo Mikkelsen  
Thu.07 Jim Barnett  
Fri.08 Brylee Larson  
Sat.09 Evonne Flax

If you have a birthday or anniversary you would like included please notify the church office with the dates.

**Please pray for the sick and suffering:**

Pat Stoesser, Dick and Joe Speilmann, Bob Rasmussen, Reina and Rolla Scott, Shirley Gross, Jim Steele, Marie Giddings, Duane Pomham, Milton Tiper, Ed Hartman, Denny Weaver, Joan Palmer, Ken Stewart, Kendal and Kenedi Breyfogle, Freda Lawhon, Misty Brown, Lynette Singleton, David Gross, Carl Rathbun, Mike Kelly, Steve Zaiko, Pat Welsh, Spencer Young, Marilyn Tassler, Donald LeClaire, Mike Iversen, Ashlynn Fitts, Claudia Scotter, Heidi Shepherd, Jean Petersen Wilson, Brian Dumas, William Anderson, John Manning, Rich Garrity, Richard Brown, Pam Patton, Terry Hughes, Kathryn Schlechter, Keri Hendrickson, Heidi Alban, Yvonne Ehlers, Steeley Moore, Eleanor Unterbrunner, Leanne Goff, Cassie Miller, Bernie Duffy, Adam Walter, Mary Beth Moser, June Wheeler, Richard Abernathy, Mona Lierly, Kathy Fenwick, Lynae Benham, Theresa Severyn, Kaylee Jo Gallagher, Eva Fischer, Eric Buchmann, Grady Jacobson, Maddox Rowland, Eileen Hofer, Barb Brown, Cindy Foreman, Cindy Hogman, and all who have asked for our special prayers.  
To add/remove someone from the list, call Irma LeFaive - 280-9055 or the parish office.



**Saturday, April 9th 5:30 pm**

Sacristan: Patty Lihs  
Readers: Lori Roberts, Carol Pond  
EM's: Patty Lihs, Mary Welsh  
Servers: Kara Weiss, Abby Lott  
Gift Bearers: Patty and Jerry Lihs

**Sunday, April 10th 7:30 am**

Sacristan: Christine Olson  
Readers: Tom O'Boyle, Mary Giddings  
EM's: Kelly Madsen, Irma LeFaive  
Servers: Mercedes and Juan Flores  
Gift Bearers: Kelly and Teresa Madsen

**Sunday, April 10th 10:00 am**

Sacristan Pat Storms  
Readers: Al Berreth, Rose Anderson  
EM's: Frank Sack, Pat Storms, Sandy Spencer, Laura Hand, Deb Gates  
Servers: Liz, Cormac and Mattie Duffy  
Gift Bearers: Steve and Deanne Sprenger



**Ministry schedule**

St. John's needs a **back-up caller for funerals** when Eileen Kramer is unable to call. Please call the church office if you are willing to help call for salads and bars when we have a funeral to prepare for.

**Food Pantry: Donations made March 1 to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

to the Ardis Townsend Challenge for **Pierre - Ft. Pierre Food Pantry and/or Back Pack Food Program**

will be counted towards the challenge.  
Donations include cash, checks, pledges and food items (food items count as \$1 per pound collected).



**Free Tax Preparation:** For 50 and older and can't afford a tax preparation service. We offer free tax preparation help at the Pierre Area Senior Center through April 13, Mon., Tues. & Weds.- 1:00 - 4:30 pm. Our volunteers are IRS-certified. You must bring photo ID's, Social Security Cards for ID, 2014 Tax Return, 2015 income statements such as W2's, 1099's, & all information relating to interest, dividends, etc. Taxpayers/Spouses must sign their tax returns before they are filed.

Please kneel down after Mass and pray Three Hail Mary's for the next person who dies from our parish.



## *The Sin of Suicide by Fr. William Saunders*

What is the Church's teaching regarding suicide? I always thought that suicide was a mortal sin, so how is it that a person can be buried in the Church?

Before addressing the act of suicide, we must first remember that God is the giver of all life. Each of us has been made in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:27) with both a body and a soul. Therefore, life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death, and no one can justify the intentional taking of an innocent human life.

For Christians, this teaching takes on even greater depth because our Lord entered this world and our own human condition. Our Lord knew the joy and pain, success and failure, pleasure and suffering, happiness and sorrow that come in this life; yet, He also showed us how to live this life in the love of God and trusting in His will. Moreover, Jesus suffered, died, and rose to free us from sin and give us the promise of everlasting life. Through our baptism, we share a new life in the Lord. St. Paul reminds us, "You have been purchased, and at a price. So glorify God in your body" (I Corinthians 6:20).

Therefore, we must be mindful that the preservation of our life — body and soul — is not something discretionary but obligatory. We must preserve and nourish both our physical and spiritual life. The Catechism asserts, "Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for his honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of" (#2280).

With this foundation in mind, we can see why suicide has traditionally be considered a gravely wrong moral action, i.e. a mortal sin. Our Holy Father affirmed this position in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (#66). (Please note that suicide is distinguished from the sacrifice of one's life for God or another, as in the cases of martyrdom, or of offering one's life or risking it to save another person.)

The intentional taking of one's own life is wrong for several reasons: First, in the most basic sense, each human being naturally seeks to his preserve life. To take our own life defies our natural instinct to live.

Second, suicide violates a genuine love for oneself and one's neighbor — family, friends, neighbors, and even acquaintances. Other people need us and depend upon us in ways we may not even know. When I as a priest have had to comfort the family of a suicide victim, I hope that the person somehow realizes how much he really was loved and needed. I also feel sad that this poor troubled person faced something so seemingly unbearable, insurmountable, or agonizing that he chose to withdraw from the love of God and others, and kill himself.

Finally, suicide defies the love we owe God. Sure, we all face the tough times, hardships, and sufferings. However, we are called to place ourselves in the hands of God who will never abandon us, but see us safely through this life. The words of the "Our Father" — "thy will be done" — must be real for us. To commit suicide is to reject His "lordship" in our life.

Therefore, objectively, suicide is a mortal sin. (Moreover, to help someone commit suicide is also a mortal sin.) Here though we must remember that for a sin to be mortal and cost someone salvation, the objective action (in this case the taking of one's own life) must be grave or serious matter; the person must have an informed intellect (know that this is wrong); and the person must give full consent of the will (intend to commit this action). In the case of suicide, a person may not have given full consent of the will. Fear, force, ignorance, habit, passion, and psychological problems can impede the exercise of the will so that a person may not be fully responsible or even responsible at all for an action. Here again the Catechism states, "Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide" (#2282). This qualification does not make suicide a right action in any circumstance; however, it does make us realize that the person may not be totally culpable for the action because of various circumstances or personal conditions.

Only God can read the depths of our soul. Only He knows how much we love Him and how responsible we are for our actions. We leave the judgment then to Him alone. The Catechism offers words of great hope: "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to Him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (#2283). Therefore, we do offer the Mass for the repose of the soul of a suicide victim, invoking God's tender love and mercy, and His healing grace for the grieving loved ones.