



206 West Main ~ P.O. Box 670 ~ Fort Pierre, S.D. 57532-0670
www.StJohnsFortPierre.org ~ 605-223-2176
Rev. Brian P. Christensen ~ Pastor

God's Blessings Upon our Mothers

It is fitting that in this month of May, when we celebrate our spiritual mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we also remember our biological and adoptive mothers. Just as Mary said "Yes" to God's plan of salvation and "made room" in her body for God's only-begotten Son - the Gift of Life for the World - so too does every mother "make room" in her body and in her life for the gift of life. Motherhood - part of the feminine genius - reveals the beauty of generosity and self-sacrificing love.

What is it that makes us so grateful to our mother's? We must go to the heart of motherhood: the offering of new life. It is within the womb of a woman that human life is conceived and brought to term. The biology of the womb reveals the inner spiritual logic of motherhood itself. The womb is naturally constructed to make room for the other - for new life. It readily expands and opens up a new space in the mother and in the world for a child. The woman's body naturally seeks to feed, nourish, and protect the new life within her. The woman's body beautifully and wonderfully extends itself in every way for the good of the other - the child - within her.

This biological truth reveals a deeper supernatural design. Motherhood is not merely a biological fact. Rather, motherhood unfolds itself in the continuing opening up of space to new life. After the birth of the child, the mother continues to feast and nourish her child at the breast - her body uniquely prepared for this ongoing communion with her child. Mothers make room for their children in a variety of other ways: preparing new clothes, a new room, and space at the table. Mothers are specially suited for offering welcome and building communion within the family. By their nature and by their supernatural calling, mothers reveal generosity as an essential aspect of human life. Motherhood - lived in its authentic and divinely established form - leads each new human life to the communion of love for which we long.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we are celebrating the incredible gift that our mothers have given to us: the gift of life, love, and belonging. We celebrate their generosity and their self-sacrificing love. Our mothers have "made space" for us in their lives. They have "made space" for us in God's unfolding plan of salvation!

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9th, 2010

Sunday, May 9th

Acts 15: 1 - 2, 22 - 29
Revelation 21: 10 - 14, 22 - 23
John 14: 23 - 29

Monday, May 10th

Acts 16: 11-15
John 15: 26 - 16a

Tuesday, May 11th

Acts 16: 22 - 34
John 16: 5 - 11

Wednesday, May 12th

Acts 17: 15, 22 - 18: 1
John 16: 12 - 15

Thursday, May 13th

Acts 18: 1 - 8
John 16; 16 - 20

Friday, May 14th

Acts 1: 15 - 17, 20 - 26
John 15: 9 - 17

Saturday, May 15th

Acts 18: 23 - 28
John 16: 23b - 28

Sunday, May 16th

Acts 15: 1 - 2, 22 - 29
Revelation 21: 10 - 14, 22 - 23
John 14: 23

Pastor: Rev. Brian P. Christensen frchristensen@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Sherri Stoesser sherri.stjohns@midconetwork.com
Faith Formation: Lisa Fahey lisastjohn@pie.midco.net

Parish Support: Mary Welsh
Parish Council: Carol Pond
Finance Council: Pat Durkin
JustFaith: Pat Storms
Grand Knight: John Lott
Altar Society: Glenda Marks, Lillian Magnusson, Rose Anderson

*Parish
Team*

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Lord's Day Masses:

Saturday - 5:30 PM
Sunday - 7:30 & 9:30 AM
Confessions: 1/2 hour before Mass

DAILY MASS (see bulletin weekly schedule)

7:00 AM Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday
5:30 PM Tuesday
8:00 AM Saturday (with Eucharistic Adoration)

SS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH Lord's Day Masses:

Saturday - 5:00 PM
Sunday - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 7:00 PM, (11:45 AM at Mary House)

St. John's Weekly Schedule

Sunday, May 9th

Knight's of Columbus will be serving breakfast after Sunday Masses.



Coffee Sales - after Masses and at the KC breakfast

Regular and Flavored Coffees, Tea and Cocoa. Makes great gifts while helping poor families buy shoes and books for their children by giving them a fair price for their coffee.

7:00 pm Journey to Jerusalem Teen Bible Study
led by teens at 1312 Winchester Drive in Pierre

Thursday, May 13th

2:00 pm Sainthood Project Call Rose Egan - 224-0351
7:00 pm RCIA

Saturday, May 15th

2:00 pm Rosary and Holy Hour for Priests
Call Christine Olson - 223-2129
6:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction
Youth Fundraiser - Come support our Youth!

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH EVENTS

SPAGHETTI DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

NEXT SATURDAY! MAY 15th After 5:30 pm Mass

Nice, new items needed for the silent auction.

Youth are raising money for: Steubenville in Minn.,
Mission trip to St. Louis, Youth Camps and
Core Team Training.

DUC IN ALTUM ~ Seminarians are Coming!

June 20 - 24th - 9th - 12th Grade (7:30pm - 9:30pm)
June 21 - 24th - Pre-school - 8th Grade (9:00am - 2:30pm)
Call Church office for information.

TOTUS TUUS SUMMER CAMPS

Registration forms available at church office.
July 5 - 9: 9th-12th Grade Girls ~ July 6 - 9: 6th-8th Grade Girls
August 2 - 6: 9th-12th Grade Boys ~ August 3-6: 6th-8th Grade Boys

Needed: Kindergarten Teacher

St. Joseph School will offer two kindergarten classes due to the large enrollment for the 2010/2011 school year. Teachers interested in this position please contact Darlene Braun at 224-7185 by Friday, May 14th.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Many women have no one to turn to who can help them validate and work through their grief. They feel isolated and become trapped in the mistaken belief that no one can understand their feelings. Come find help, understanding and hope on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™. The next retreat will be held May 21 -23 in the Rapid City area. Contact Carol Kling about area retreats at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com or www.rachelsvineyard.org. www.rapidcitydiocese.org/Ministries/FamilyLife.htm 877-467-3463



From Father Christensen

Thank you to Father Andrzej Wyrostek for celebrating Masses at St. John's. Father Andrzej is the associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament parish in Rapid City, a chaplain for the Rapid City Police Department, chaplain for the Catholic Cursillo Movement, and a spiritual director for our Engaged Encounters. Fr. Andrzej is originally from Poland and has just celebrated his naturalization as a United States citizen on April 15th 2010! Congratulations Fr. Andrzej and welcome to St. John's!

We Walk By Faith

Some parishioners from this parish have already been contacted about the *We Walk By Faith Special Appeal*. Gradually, we will be contacting all parishioners throughout May and June. The plan is to give every family the opportunity to meet with a parish volunteer to learn more about the plans to develop *Terra Sancta* for the benefit of our parishes and families and to increase outreach to college students at the Newman Centers in Rapid City and Spearfish. Thank you for your patience. Those who are invited to an event are encouraged to attend to learn why this effort deserves everyone's support. Please continue to pray for the success of the appeal as the parish works to reach its goal.

Magnificat Renewal

Please contact Sherri in the parish office by 5pm on Wednesday, May 12th with your renewal or new order for the Magnificat. 223-2176 or sherri.stjohns@midconetwork.com.

Pilgrimage with Father Brian to the Eternal City of Rome October 4th- 15th 2010.



Round trip from Rapid City, all transportation, lodging, breakfasts, and seven dinners included for \$3,629. 12 Days: October 4-15, 2010. Call Fr. Brian at 223-2176 or frchristensen@gmail.com.

Men's Retreat: As Iron Sharpens Iron

Summer Men's Conference: Iron Sharpens Iron Conference - June 12th, 2010 You are in the midst of an epic battle... Are you ready to face the challenges set before you? Come and be prepared for the battle. June 12, 2010 7am - 3pm, Mother Butler Conference Center For more information or to register online visit: www.ironsharpensiron2010.com. Fr. Brian will be one of the retreat speakers. Please join us!

Oahe Habitat for Humanity

is seeking volunteers to help build a house! Ground has been broken in Fort Pierre, the foundation laid and now the rest of the building can begin. Volunteers are needed on Wednesday evenings 5:30pm - 8:30pm and Saturdays, 8:00am until 4:00pm. They also need volunteers to help provide lunches for Saturday build days. St. John's is forming a help group of 10 individuals. If you'd be interested in being part of St. John's Group please call Irma LeFaive at 223- 2316.

www.StJohnsFortPierre.org

Liturgy Schedules, Adult Activities, Youth Opportunities, Summer Retreats, Camps, Mission Trips; Weekly and Monthly Church Calendars; Church Teachings; Update on Translation of Roman Missal. Photos and more! Check out our Parish Website Today!

Monday, May 10th

7:00 AM SI Erik Larson
By: Rose Larson and Family

Tuesday, May 11th

5:30 PM SI Jennifer Black
By: Linda White

Wednesday, May 12th

7:00 AM SI Harry McNally
By: Eileen Kramer

Thursday, May 13th

7:00 AM SI Erik Larson
By: Rose Larson and Family

Friday, May 14th ~ St Matthias, Apostle

7:00 AM SI Father Gary DeRouchev
By: St. John's Parish Family

Saturday, May 15th ~ St Isidore the Farmer

8:00 AM Mass and Adoration
5:30 PM + Steve Gergely
By: St. Johns Parish Family

Sunday, May 16th ~ The Ascension of the Lord

7:30 AM Intentions of the Parish
9:30 AM + June Cruse
By: Bob and Bridget Mayer

Sacrament of Reconciliation
1/2 hour before Masses or by appointment

Our Military Members



That God's loving hands protect them as they protect us and heal those who have returned to us physically or emotionally wounded.

We especially pray for the safety and well-being of:

- Melissa Gross (Darrell & Cindy-daughter)
- David Collins (Mary Collins -son)
- Cody Byrum (Husband of Rachel Byrum)
- Jocelyn Baker (Megan Anderson - sister)
- Robert Firman (Bernie & Peggy Duffy-son-in-law).

Please take time to drop a note to our soldiers and thank them for their sacrifice and dedication.

SP4 MELISSA MCINTYRE
21ST MP CO (ABN) UNIT 031
CAMP BASRAH
APO AE 09375
MAJOR ROBERT FIRMAN
PSC2 BOX 9067
APO AE 09012

MAJ DAVID S COLLINS HHC
41BCT 1ID, S-3
COB Spreicher
APO, AE 09393
MAJ JOCELYN BAKER
KFOR 12 TF FALCON HHC
APO AE 09340



Mon. 10 Jan Lester, Lorraine Shay
Tue. 11 Evelyn Murphy, Gerald Sylva
Wed.12 Allison Johnson, Jacqueline Miller, George Welk
Thu.13 Dan Hall, Colleen McCurrin, Deb Stoesser
Sat.15 Patti Duffy, Tim Gross, Cody Stoesser
Sun.16 Bradley Hepper, Lacey J Malm



Sat.15 Ken and Twyla Bartholmew
Gary and Lois Knudson
Sun.16 Gaylon and Cindy Gerber

For all the sick and suffering, Brenda Maxon, Sue Pospisil, Eric Buchmann, Grady Jacobson, Judy Hobbs, Nancy Holub, Maddox Rowland, Kelsey Spurlin, Dennis Carlson, Marie Gibson, Mary Gibson, Eileen Hofer, Barb Brown, Doris Ogan, Jennifer Cink, Dorothy Brown, Doreen Pospisil, Cindy Foreman, Francis Bies, Lois Zimmer, Mary Hostler, Jace Nickolas, Loren Pospisil, Leona Jacobsen, James Garrity, Geraldine Kokesh, Bryan Ice, Chance Wagner, Beverly Russell, Cindy Hogman, Jason Jund, Stella Nagel, Linda Titze, Jesse Keckler, Baby Roberts, Jim Palmer, Les Welk, Reva Maher, Bert Weaver, Alice Gannon, Linda Waldman, Erik Larson and all who have asked for our special prayers. For Prayer Chain requests call Sue Pospisil - 3-2863.



Liturgical Eucharistic Ministers Lectors Servers

May 15, 5:30 PM	DIANE LARSON BONNIE FISCHER	LORI ROBERTS	SAM SLOCUM JOSH SLOCUM
May 16, 7:30 AM	DIANE SMITH MEGAN ANDERSON	ROD ANDERSON	MATT BOOTH HANNAH BOOTH
May 16, 9:30 AM	SARAH LIHS MAUREEN SHEPHERD LINDA WHITE	JO LAROCHE	MCKENZIE STULKEN KELSEY VANDENHEMEL SHELBY GERBER
		COUNTERS	TWYLA BARTHOLOMEW ROD AND MEGAN

Update Your Parish Registration

The church registrations are missing several new/changed phone numbers, addresses, some birthday and marriage dates. Please advise the office of any changes or if you haven't seen your birthday or anniversary in the bulletin - so it can be added or corrected in the church records. Thank-you! Call 223-2176.

World Youth Day with Pope Benedict XVI, Madrid Spain - August 9 - 22, 2011. Cost: \$3795. Deposits of \$250 and applications now being accepted. This spiritual and rustic pilgrimage is open to those who are 18 by August 9, 2011. Space is limited to the first 40 accepted applicants. Travel through Burgos, Avila, Toledo, Madrid and more. Contact Provatia Potvin 343-3541. Application and information is online at www.rapidcitydiocese.org.

**Taste of Silence: A Response to the Busyness of the World
Contemplative Retreat**

Join others in exploring what it means to live the contemplative dimension of the Gospel in every day life and to have a deeper relationship with Christ through Solitude, Simplicity, and Service. The retreat will be presented by Fr. Carl Arico, a founding member and vice president of Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. The retreat will be held at *Terra Sancta* and will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 5, and end with Mass at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 6. The \$75.00 fee includes all meals and snacks and lodging at *Terra Sancta* on Saturday night. For more information or to register, contact Fr. Mark McCormick at mark.mccormick@olbh.org or Our Lady of the Black Hills at 605-787-5168.

"I used to be an altar server."

At funerals, at weddings, in the grocery stores and other places, I often meet folks who tell me that they are Catholic, but that they are no longer "practicing" their Catholic faith. Many men, wanting to assure me of our common roots in Catholicism, although they have not been to Mass in years, proudly confess: "I used to be an altar server." There is a profound Catholic identity among even those men and women who do not participate regularly in the life of the Church. While they do, in some way identify themselves as Catholics, they do not live out their life in the community of believers. They have their reasons.

Drifting Away. In visiting with young couples preparing for marriage or desiring to have their children baptized, I often learn that many of them have "drifted" away from the Church. They explain that they grew up in a Catholic home, attended CCD and youth programs, went to Mass, but when they left home, went off to school, tech school, or work, they simply didn't continue going to Church. They weren't connected to a parish community. Some said that whenever they were at home with their church-going parents, then they would readily attend Mass. Otherwise, they explained, left on their own, they simply didn't include Sunday Mass in their weekly schedules.

Research tells us that the number one reason that Catholics no longer practice their faith is that they marry a non-Catholic. Whether the non-Catholic spouse is a strong Christian or not, the pressures on the Catholic spouse are great. To avoid conflict in the relationship, the Catholic party will often ignore questions of faith. They will go to Sunday services at their spouse's faith community or not go at all. The question of baptism in the Catholic Church can cause no small amount of tension for such a couple and so it is often avoided. The drift away from the Catholic Church now extends to the next generation. It seems to me that this "drifting" away from the Church is all too common.

Hurt by the Church. Another reason that people tell me that they no longer practice their faith is that the Church failed them or hurt them in some way. People tell stories about angry, mean-spirited, or grumpy priests who "ruined" their wedding, refused baptism to their child, or rejected them in some other way. Some blame the cliquish nature of the parish community. They didn't feel welcomed or included. Others charge the members of the parish with being hypocrites: professing one thing and doing the complete opposite. Still others suffered some form of verbal, emotional, physical, or even sexual abuse by priests or volunteers in the Church. This experience of pain - real or perceived - within the Church is the occasion for some people to abandon their faith.

Disagree with the Church. There are occasions when people tell me that they no longer "practice" their faith because of

disagreements with the Church and her teachings in the area of faith and morals. Others claim that the Church is "outdated" in her views and is not "relevant" to our culture and modern times.

Compassion and Understanding. Whatever the reason - and there are many - that people offer for being "non-practicing Catholics," we must take those reasons seriously and address them with compassion and understanding. We should be slow to speak and quick to listen. We should be slower in our judgment and condemnation and even quicker in our understanding and compassion. As we listen to our brothers and sisters in Christ - those "fallen away Catholics" - we ought to examine our own experiences within the Church. What has kept us faithful or brought us back to a life of fidelity in the Church? When we were setting out from home, how did we remain connected to the life of the Church? Whenever we had difficulties or struggles with the priests, volunteers, or parish community, what held us firm in our participation in the Church? If ever we found ourselves in disagreement with authentic Church teaching, how did we reconcile our thoughts with the true faith? This kind of thoughtful reflection will help us to understand and to identify with our "non-practicing" friends in a more sympathetic light.

What Keeps Us Strong in Faith? Ultimately, it is Jesus Christ and the working of God's grace that has formed us, guided us, and given us the faith to remain in communion with his Church. We must be honest in our self-assessment of our own faith in Jesus Christ. Our relationship with Jesus, in and through his Church, keeps us coming to the Eucharist for strength and spiritual nourishment. Our deep desire to be in communion with God prompts us to enter into prayer and the celebration of the sacraments. We have come to know, on various levels that our life in the Church - the Body of Christ - is a real and life-giving communion with the living God. It is Christ at the heart of the Church that keeps us coming back. It is our access to the risen Christ, in and through the sacraments, the Sacred Scriptures, and the life of service that sustains us and gives us life.

Christ at the Center. Carefully examining our own lives of faith, we will come to see more clearly the working of Jesus Christ in our lives. He has formed us in to a faithful people. When there are struggles, confusion, or injuries in our lives, we come to discover Jesus Christ, not outside his Church, but at the very heart and center of the Church. Our lives have been and continue to be transformed and renewed by this ongoing discovery of Jesus Christ at work in his Church. It is this continually unfolding discovery that we must begin to share more clearly and fully with our brothers and sisters who tell us, "I used to be an altar server." - Rev. Brian P. Christensen