

Issue No. 1 - Summer 2024



From the Pastor

Father Jonathan Sorensen

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:33

You might recognize this greeting anytime you come to Mass when I am the celebrant. There are a few options, but I prefer this one because of my own deep desire that you know grace, peace and the persons of God! This was the wish also of our namesake, St. Patrick, a great missionary who saw his faith as his greatest gift and wished to share it with others.

Our parish is known across the region for being full of faithful people who "step up" and give of themselves. We recognize that the Lord has been good and generous to us. This is why the Parish Council adopted this new mission statement:

"St. Patrick's is a vibrant spiritual home for those who seek Jesus Christ, where the sacramental life of the Catholic Church is eagerly received, passionately taught and generously shared with others." This has been our home for 150 years now. It is a place where teaching of the faith occurs, as evidenced in our strong Catholic school system. There is a continuous stream of visitors in our doors who are looking for something *more* and they find it when we passionately share it with them. And like St. Patrick, we hold up the Lord's Cross so that all might have both grace and peace through God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the coming weeks we will engage in our annual stewardship renewal. This is the time for us to continue our tradition of "stepping up" to share what we have been given.

Immediately afterward is our parish Block Party and the celebration of our 150th anniversary. Make sure to participate in the spiritual and social events of that weekend.

God bless you, Father Jonathan Sorensen, JCL St. Patrick's North Platte



Introducing our new logo!

As you can see, St. Patrick himself features prominently. Who is St. Patrick, our church's namesake? He was born in Roman England and kidnapped as a child by Irish pirates. During his years of forced slavery, he developed a deep prayer life. He eventually came to see everything as a gift, even his enslavement, which was the catalyst to realize his greatest gift--his faith! After he regained his freedom, he wished to share the Christian message with the same people who had enslaved him, and he became the greatest missionary in Ireland!

Our logo features St. Patrick from a detail in one of our stained glass windows, (see insert) showing how we share the message of the Cross. We use the old English font that has been part of our church for many years, which connotes our long history in North Platte. We then highlighted "North Platte" because while there are many St. Patrick's Catholic Churches, there is only one North Platte in the world!



Together with the logo, you will also see our unified color and font scheme across all of our messaging, together with our digital moniker "stpatsnp".

Completed Projects Renew our Buildings:



Two major projects were completed in the past year: an upgrade to our parish hall's heat and air conditioning system and to our parish rectory. It was due to wise leadership that a geothermal heating and cooling system was installed when our parish hall and offices were completed in 1990. While this has saved countless



dollars and served us well, it is now well past its expected life. We replaced a large geothermal unit in the parish hall and also upgraded our supply well. These upgrades have saved over \$16,000 in utility costs this past year! Completed in 1930, our parish rectory was also well-built but lacked the space for hosting and fellowship. With walls removed and gathering spaces opened-up, the parish rectory has hosted over 230 guests in the past year! Hospitality is part of good stewardship, after all!

Spiritual Report:

This past year we had a lot of strong spiritual growth! We welcomed the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in June, with hundreds of people joining in a Mass and Eucharistic procession. We began several bible studies, welcomed new members and awakened a greater sense of the Lord's presence in the Eucharist. Two of our members even left to become missionary teachers this year. Here's the numbers:

Baptisms	38
Confirmations	26
First Communions	36
Marriages	9
New Catholics	45
New Family Registrations	21
Persons in Bible Studies	34
Youth Retreat Participants	60





(Left) Consecration to the Eucharistic group on July 17th. (above) Children & catechist at first Communion on April 28th.



Do you know someone interested in the Catholic faith? "Becoming Catholic" classes begin September 26th! Give them a personal invitation to come and see.

Online Giving:

Want to support the work of our parish? Online, automatic giving is the best way. Sign up at www.stpatsnp.org/donate or scan here:





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Return Service Requested

Save the Date! 150th Anniversary of the Parish

Did you know that Buffalo Bill Cody went to Mass here? That's how long we have been on this block in North Platte for worship, teaching and spiritual growth. Come celebrate this history with Mass offered by Bishop Hanefeldt together with former pastors and priests who served at St. Patrick's. Prior to the Mass there is an opportunity for a Plenary Indulgence unique to our parish, including confessions and prayers. After the Mass the parish Block Party begins with a beer garden, so-

Saturday, September 14th

cial and the Husker game!

4:00pm - Confessions with multiple priests 5:00pm - Rosary and Prayers Rosary & Indulgence Prayers 5:30pm - Mass with Bishop Hanefeldt 6:30pm - Block Party Beer Garden, Husker game on the big screen!

Sunday, September 15th

11:00am - Mass 12:00-2:00pm - Kids games, luncheon, raffle



Totus Tuus Groups 2024

