

Church of St. John the Baptist
PO Box 68
Swanville, MN 56382
Fr. Ron Dockendorf, Pastor



Parish Office (320) 547-2920
Kitchen 547-2225
Grey Eagle -Office (320) 285-2545
Fr. Ron 547-2920 or cell (320) 290-4902
Confessions: Sat.Night 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

April 5, 2020 - Palm Sunday - Passion of our Lord

Due to the Coronavirus, Bishop Kettler has decided churches are to be CLOSED until further notice. This includes through Easter. Please stay home as much as possible, not only for your protection but for the protection of others.

Palms will **NOT** be given out this year per the Bishop's request.

NO confessions Saturday night until further notice. If you want to go to confession, please call Fr. Ron at 320-290-4902 to make arrangements..

For Mass on T.V. there are several options:

The priests in our cluster will have weekend Mass recorded for your viewing on face book or U Tube.

Mass is also offered on EWTN, Dish 261, and Direct T.V. 370.

Our diocese has Mass on KSTC-45 at 11:00 Sunday

I am certain **HOLY WEEK Services** will be live on some T. V. channels and will also be recorded for you to view on face book and U Tube.

We don't have the option of direct deposit for your weekly donations. We realize most of you still want to support your parish. We ask that you set aside what you would normally give and either drop it off between 9 to 11 a.m. weekdays when Val will be in the office, OR save until the church opens again. Even though the church is closed at this time, we still have to pay our various expenses.

We receive some donations each week and we THANK YOU. After Easter, we will count the donations and give a report in the bulletin to follow.

In your box of envelopes you will find one for the Home Missions Appeal. We hope you will add this to the rest of your donations. Today over 40% of dioceses in the U.S. are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed. Your support helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Also please pray for them.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal:

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the appeal so far this year, especially during these trying times. As of March 27, the appeal raised \$774,253 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$1,300,000 to support diocesan ministries. Please remember that it is especially important at this time to support your parishes and **safely** reach out to family, neighbors and people in need.

With no services nor events to mention, I am going to put a few different things in the bulletin that may be for a few laughs or something to make us think about it.

THE SON: A wealthy man and his son collected rare art. When the Viet Nam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was killed in battle while rescuing other soldiers. Just before Christmas a young man stood at the door of the rich man. He told how his son saved many lives and was killed while carrying him to safety. The young man had painted a portrait of the son and told the father it wasn't much by he wanted him to have it. The father was drawn to tears and wanted to pay for the painting but the young man refused payment saying it could never repay for the loss of his son and it was a gift. The father put the portrait over his mantle and always showed it first of all the art when people came to visit. When the father died, there was a great auction of his estate and paintings. The first piece of art was the portrait of his son. No one was bidding and they shouted to get on with the auction they came for. Still the auctioneer continued, "the son, the son, who will take the son." Finally the gardener of the rich man, knowing how much it meant to the owner, said he would bid the \$10 which was all he had. No one else bid, they just kept shouting to sell it for the \$10 and go on with the rest of the rare art. So the gardener got the painting of the son and the auctioneer laid down his gavel and said the auction was over. Many shouted, "what about the rest of the paintings?" the auctioneer replied, "I was instructed that whoever bought the painting of the son would inherit the entire estate---including the paintings."

God gave His Son over 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is, "The Son, the Son, who will take the Son?" You see—whoever takes the Son gets everything.

Author unknown—this has been shortened but keeps the main message !!!