

Ft. Pierre St. John
1 January 2023

Draper St. Anthony
Mary, Mother of God

206 W. Main Ave., Fort Pierre SD 57532 605-223-2176
stjohnsfortpierre.org
main.stjohns@midconetwork.com



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Sat 12/31	5:30pm	+ Melody Hackett
Sun 1/1/23	8:00am 10:00am	Draper For parishioners + Evelyn Straight
Mon 1/2	5:30pm	+ John Meyers
Tue 1/3	5:30pm	+ Poor souls in purgatory
Wed 1/4	7:00am	Pro Life ministries
Thu 1/5	7:00am	+ Pope Benedict
Fri 1/6	7:00am	+ Evelyn Garry
Sat 1/7	7:45am	1st Saturday For parishioners

Eucharistic adoration Sunday 2-3pm

Faith Formation No Classes Dec 21-Jan 2
Sunday January 8th K-8th Play Practice 8:30-9:45am in
Padre Hall

Birth of Baby Jesus Play at the start of the
10:00am Mass Sunday, January 8

Young Adult Bible Study Tuesday 7-8pm in Saint John's Church basement. We look at The Story of Salvation. All ages are welcome. For info, Brian Pontious (609) 556-5977

New Year's resolution for 2023 – learn with Fr. Mike Schmitz podcast **Catechism of the Catholic Church**.
ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear

Pierre Area Right to Life Pizza Ranch fundraiser Tuesday 3 January, 5-8 pm

In Concert for Christmas Sunday 8 Jan. 2-4pm, at Pierre First United Methodist Church. Free will offering for Church of Hope Ministry in Women's Prison.

Women's Bible Study Join us as you are, where you are. Sunday January 1, 7pm in Padre Hall

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest Sunday 29 Jan, 1pm in Parkview gym. Ages 9-14. Winners receive a basketball.

Last week's Knights of Columbus **NFL** scorebook winners. Allison Schatzke, Dan Schniederhahn, Sonja Johnson

Fr. Ron is grateful for the blessings of prayers, good wishes, and gifts received during the last month. He will be out of town on vacation January 16-27. Msgr. Michael Woster will be here.

Thanks for donations to St John's: Income by month
17,743 19,114 16,776 22,020 16,765 22,958 total \$115,376
Expenses for July – December 2022... \$98,226

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023 the **"Truth and Racial Healing Conference"** will cover historical and theological perspectives on indigenous communities and Catholicism. It will be held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City, beginning at 9 a.m., closing with Mass at 4 p.m. This is sponsored by the Red Cloud School, "Truth and Healing Project," the diocesan Office of Native Ministry, and the diocesan Social Justice Commission. To register visit rapidcitydiocese.org/sjc

Friday, February 10, 2023 deadline to RSVP for **Marriage Matters Weekend Retreat** for married couples. Weekend to be held at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City, Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 18-19. Optional early Friday check in. Go to terrasancta.org/event/marriage-matters-7/ or phone 605-716-0925

May the angels lead you into paradise: Pope Emeritus Benedict. Last year he wrote: "Quite soon, I shall find myself before the final judge of my life. Even though, as I look back on my long life, I can have great reason for fear and trembling, I am nonetheless of good cheer, for I trust firmly that the Lord is not only the just judge, but also the friend and brother who himself has already suffered for my shortcomings, and is thus also my advocate, my "Paraclete." In light of the hour of judgement, the grace of being a Christian becomes all the more clear to me. It grants me knowledge, and indeed friendship, with the judge of my life, and thus allows me to pass confidently through the dark door of death."

Father, eternal shepherd, hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict, who governed your Church with love. In your mercy, bring him with the flock once entrusted to his care to the reward you have promised your faithful servants. May he who faithfully administered the mysteries of your forgiveness and love on earth, rejoice with you for ever in heaven. In your wise and loving care, you made your servant teacher of all your Church. He did the work of Christ on earth. **May your Son welcome him into eternal glory.** May your servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock be counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom. Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness and let your mercy win for us the gift of your life and love. We entrust your servant to your mercy with faith and confidence. In the human family he was an instrument of your peace and love. May he rejoice in those gifts for ever with your saints.



33. Saint Augustine, in a homily on the First Letter of John, describes very beautifully the intimate relationship between prayer and hope. He defines prayer as an exercise of desire. **Man was created for greatness—for God himself; he was created to be filled by God. But his heart is too small for the greatness to which it is destined. It must be stretched.**

...“Suppose that God wishes to fill you with honey [a symbol of God's tenderness and goodness]; but if you are full of vinegar, where will you put the honey?” The vessel, that is your heart, must first be enlarged and then cleansed, freed from the vinegar and its taste. This requires hard work and is painful, but in this way alone do we become suited to that for which we are destined....

It is only by becoming children of God, that we can be with our common Father. ...Yet my encounter with God awakens my conscience in such a way that it no longer aims at self-justification, and is no longer a mere reflection of me and those of my contemporaries who shape my thinking, but it becomes a capacity for listening to the Good itself.

50. ...: Holy Mary, you belonged to the humble and great souls of Israel who, like Simeon, were “looking for the consolation of Israel” (Lk 2:25) and hoping, like Anna, “for the redemption of Jerusalem” (Lk 2:38). Your life was thoroughly imbued with the sacred scriptures of Israel which spoke of hope, of the promise made to Abraham and his descendants (cf. Lk 1:55). In this way we can appreciate the holy fear that overcame you when the angel of the Lord appeared to you and told you that you would give birth to the One who was the hope of Israel, the One awaited by the world.

Through you, through your “yes”, the hope of the ages became reality, entering this world and its history. You bowed low before the greatness of this task and gave your consent: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). When you hastened with holy joy across the mountains of Judea to see your cousin Elizabeth, you became the image of the Church to come, which carries the hope of the world in her womb across the mountains of history. But alongside the joy which, with your Magnificat, you proclaimed in word and song for all the centuries to hear, you also knew the dark sayings of the prophets about the suffering of the servant of God in this world. Shining over his birth in the stable at Bethlehem, there were angels in splendour who brought the good news to the shepherds, but at the same time the lowliness of God in this world was all too palpable.

The old man Simeon spoke to you of the sword which would pierce your soul (cf. Lk 2:35), of the sign of contradiction that your Son would be in this world. Then, when Jesus began his public ministry, you had to step aside, so that a new family could grow, the family which it was his mission to establish and which would be made up of those who heard his word and kept it (cf. Lk 11:27f).

Notwithstanding the great joy that marked the beginning of Jesus's ministry, in the synagogue of Nazareth you must already have experienced the truth of the saying about the “sign of contradiction” (cf. Lk 4:28ff). In this way you saw the growing power of hostility and rejection which built up

around Jesus until the hour of the Cross, when you had to look upon the Saviour of the world, the heir of David, the Son of God dying like a failure, exposed to mockery, between criminals. Then you received the word of Jesus: “Woman, behold, your Son!” (Jn 19:26).

From the Cross you received a new mission. From the Cross you became a mother in a new way: the mother of all those who believe in your Son Jesus and wish to follow him. The sword of sorrow pierced your heart. Did hope die? Did the world remain definitively without light, and life without purpose? At that moment, deep down, you probably listened again to the word spoken by the angel in answer to your fear at the time of the Annunciation: “Do not be afraid, Mary!” (Lk 1:30).

How many times had the Lord, your Son, said the same thing to his disciples: do not be afraid! In your heart, you heard this word again during the night of Golgotha. Before the hour of his betrayal he had said to his disciples: “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33). “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (Jn 14:27). “Do not be afraid, Mary!” In that hour at Nazareth the angel had also said to you: “Of his kingdom there will be no end” (Lk 1:33).

Could it have ended before it began? No, at the foot of the Cross, on the strength of Jesus's own word, you became the mother of believers. In this faith, which even in the darkness of Holy Saturday bore the certitude of hope, you made your way towards Easter morning. The joy of the Resurrection touched your heart and united you in a new way to the disciples, destined to become the family of Jesus through faith. In this way you were in the midst of the community of believers, who in the days following the Ascension prayed with one voice for the gift of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14) and then received that gift on the day of Pentecost.

The “Kingdom” of Jesus was not as might have been imagined. It began in that hour, and of this “Kingdom” there will be no end. Thus you remain in the midst of the disciples as their Mother, as the Mother of hope.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to his Kingdom! Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way!