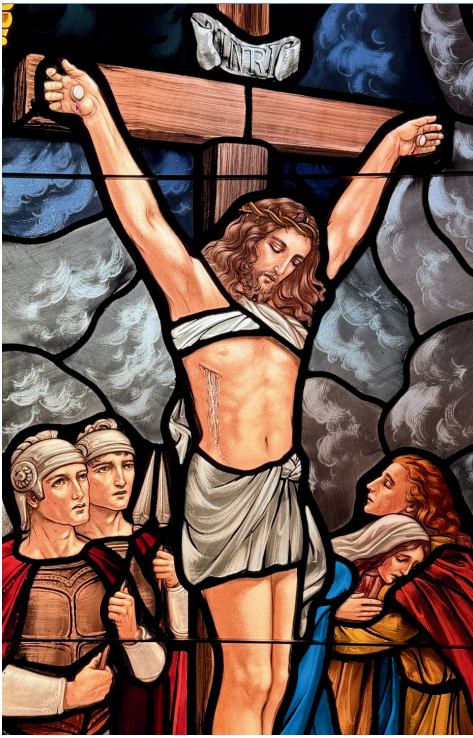


# STS. ANNE & JOACHIM CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Teach the Truth, Serve the Poor, Worship God*

February 18, 2026 | Ash Wednesday



## PARISH INFORMATION

📍 5202 25<sup>th</sup> St. S., Fargo, ND 58104  
📞 701-235-5757  
🌐 [www.stsaaj.org](http://www.stsaaj.org)  
✉ [stsaaj@stsaaj.org](mailto:stsaaj@stsaaj.org)

### Mass Schedule

**Monday-Friday:** 7:00 am and 12:10 pm  
*(Friday 7:00 am in Magnificat Chapel)*

**Saturday:** 8:30 am and 5:00 pm *(anticipatory)*

**Sunday:** 7:45 am, 9:15 am *(incense)*,  
11:00 am, 7:00 pm

### Reconciliation Times

**Mon-Fri:** 6:30 - 6:55 am, 11:20 am - 12:00 pm

**Tuesday:** 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**Saturday:** 8:00 - 8:25 am and 4:00 - 4:50 pm

*Available by appointment.*

## OUR CLERGY

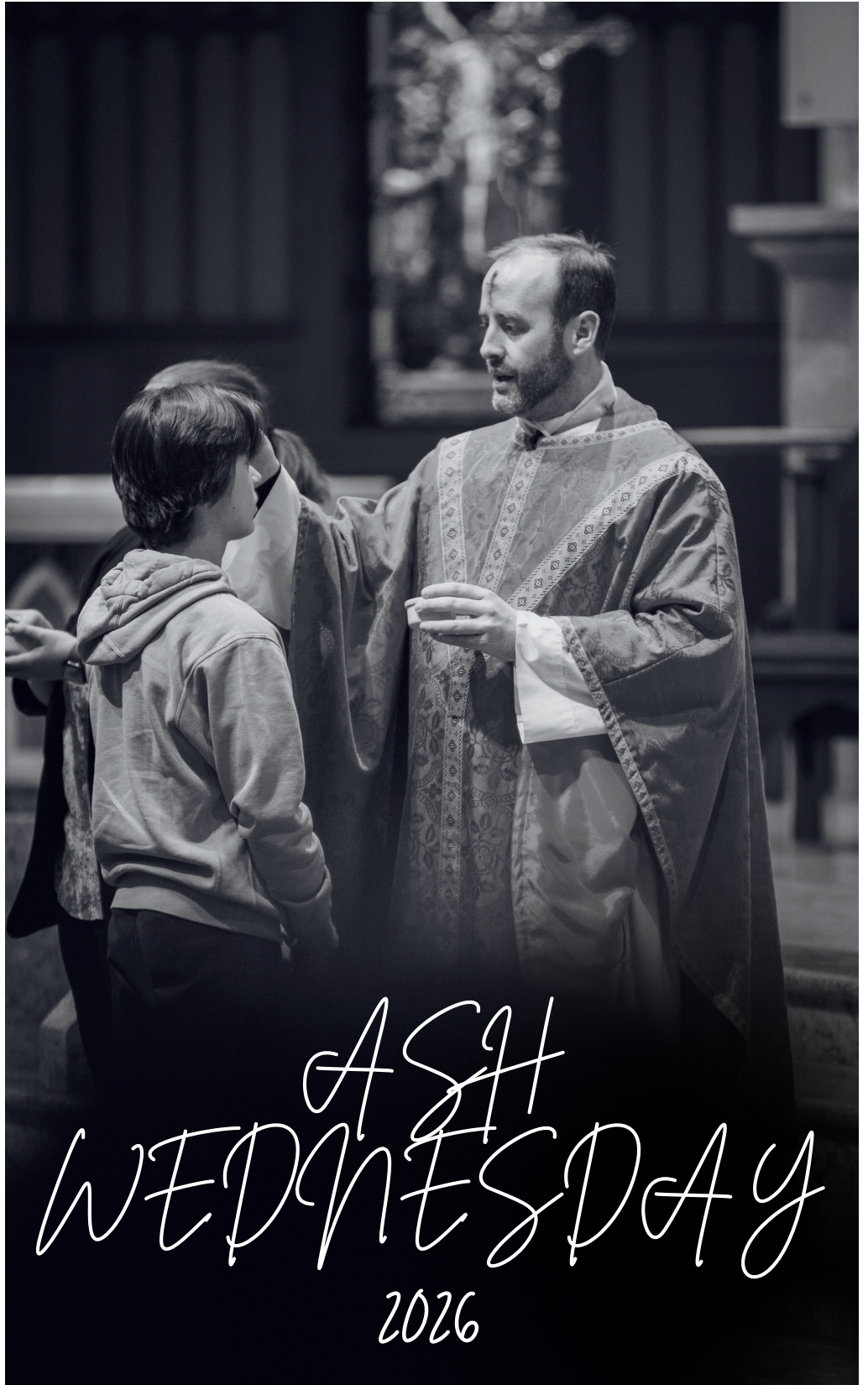
Fr. Luke Meyer, Pastor  
Fr. Joseph Littlefield, Parochial Vicar  
Fr. Kyle Metzger, In Residence  
Fr. William Slattery, In Residence

Sts. Anne & Joachim staff available at  
[www.stsaaj.org/parish-staff](http://www.stsaaj.org/parish-staff)

## STEWARDSHIP



**Make a Ash Wednesday Contribution**  
*Scan the code for easy and secure giving*



# LENTEN LETTER TO THE PARISH

Dear Parish Family,

Today we begin Lent.

Each year, Holy Mother Church gives us these forty days not as a burden, but as a gift — a sacred invitation to return to the Lord with our whole heart. Lent is a season of preparation and penance, yes — but even more, it is a season of mercy.

As we meditate upon the Passion and Crucifixion of our Lord, I pray that something deeper would awaken within you. I pray for true sorrow for sin — not shame that pushes you away from God, but repentance that draws you closer to His mercy. I pray for healing where wounds have lingered. I pray for freedom from habits that weigh you down. My hope is that this Lent will not be routine, but transformative.

The ashes we receive today remind us of our need for God. “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Yet even in these words there is hope: we belong to the Lord, and He desires our conversion far more than we do.

As your parish family, we are putting our best foot forward to help you have your best Lent yet.

Each weekday of Lent, **Vespers (Evening Prayer)** — part of the Church’s Liturgy of the Hours — will be led by a priest or deacon in the Magnificat Chapel. This ancient prayer sanctifies the close of the day and unites us with the prayer of the universal Church.

On **Lenten Fridays**, we will celebrate a special Mass at 5:30pm, followed by **Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm in the Main Church, and a Fish Dinner at 6:30pm in the Social Hall** — an opportunity to pray together and to share fellowship as a parish family. Stations are also available in the church at any time, so you may pray them whenever your schedule allows.

Confessions are offered every day except Sunday throughout Lent, and our parish Lenten Penance Service will be held on **Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30pm** — a beautiful opportunity to experience the Lord’s mercy.

Lent has always been built upon the tried and true practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These are not outdated disciplines — they are pathways to freedom. Prayer reorients our hearts toward God. Fasting loosens the grip of attachment. Almsgiving opens us to generosity and love of neighbor. Together, they create space for grace.

Do not let this Lent pass by unchanged. Ask the Lord what He is inviting you to surrender. Return to Confession. Make time for prayer. Walk with Christ to Calvary — and trust that He is leading you to Easter joy.

Know of my prayers for you and your family during these forty days. May this Lent be the beginning of something renewed, something healed, something made whole.

Peace of Christ be with you always,

*Luke D. Meyer*

Fr. Luke Meyer  
Pastor  
Sts. Anne & Joachim Church



## LENTEN EVENTS

# Lenten Fridays

5:30PM

HOLY MASS

6:00PM

STATIONS  
OF THE  
CROSS

6:30PM

FISH  
DINNER

## FASTING REQUIREMENTS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59.

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

*Fast & Abstinence directive from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

## RECONCILIATION SERVICES

### St. Maurice Church, Kindred

Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm

### Blessed Sacrament Church

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm

### Holy Spirit Church

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> | 4:00pm

### St. Anthony Church

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm

### Sts. Anne & Joachim Church

Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> | 6:30pm

### Nativity Church

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm

### St. Leo Church, Casselton

Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm

### Cathedral of St. Mary

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> | 4:00pm

### St. Benedict Church, Horace

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> | 4:00pm

### Holy Cross Church

Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> | 7:00pm

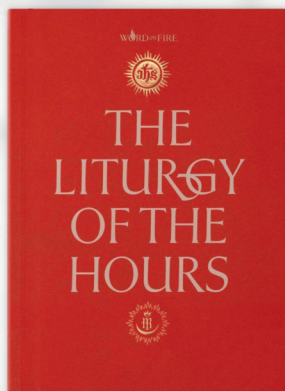
### St. Paul Newman Center

Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> | 7:00pm

## VESPERS

Weekdays @ 5:15pm

Join us weekdays during Lent for the evening prayer of the office in the Magnificat Chapel.



**JOHN PAUL II Healing Center**  
*Transformation in the Heart of the Church*

**MARCH 19-21, 2026**

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
218 10th St S, Moorhead, MN

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

 [Learn More  
jpiihealingcenter.org](http://jpiihealingcenter.org)

Questions: JPPIRetreatMoorheadMN@gmail.com

# REDEEMED

Restoring Your Masculine Identity in Christ

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

## LENTEN RESOURCES

### Manna App: The Heart of Prayer

Join Bishop Andrew Cozzens (Bishop of Crookston, MN and Chair for the National Eucharistic Congress) for an intimate and peaceful video series teaching and reflecting on prayer and the place it has in our spiritual lives.



### Introduction to Prayer: Free Lenten Book

This Lent, Sts. Anne & Joachim is excited to offer a free copy of Introduction to Prayer by Bishop Robert Barron! Pick up a copy in the gathering space after Mass.



### Hallow App: Pray 40 Challenge

Try the Hallow App for 90 days FREE! Hallow, the world's #1 Christian prayer app offers daily content to enrich your Lent from people like Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jeff Cavins, and Jonathan Roumie even with content for kids! Try out the Pray 40 Challenge.



### PRAYER

- Come to Vespers
- Arrive at Sunday Mass 15 minutes earlier
- Offer up a daily task for a person
- Pray Lectio Divina
- Meditate on the Stations of the Cross on Fridays
- Stop by Adoration everyday

### FASTING

- Wake up to the first alarm - No snooze
- No social media
- Drive in silence
- No procrastinating
- Give up long showers
- No fast food
- Put your phone down for the night at 8pm
- No snacking

### ALMSGIVING

- Visit local nursing home residents
- Donate food or clothes to the homeless shelter
- Volunteer at the parish
- Visit the imprisoned
- Offer a service for free
- Give money to the parish