

**PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS**

*Mass for the Intentions of the Week*

- Sat, May 7 5:30 p.m. St. Mark's  
(† Tom & Priscilla Fischer)
- Sun, May 8 9:00 a.m. St. Andrew's  
(Parishioners)
- Sun, 11:00 a.m. St. Mark's  
(† Virgil Vandewalle)
- Tue, May 10 12 p.m. St. Mark's  
(† Betty Jenzen)
- Wed, May 11 12 p.m. St. Mark's  
(† Edward Cote)
- Thurs, May 12 9 a.m. St. Andrew's  
(Linda Abel & family)
- Fri, May 13 11 a.m. Good Samaritan  
(† Lloyd Jelleberg)
- Sat, May 14 5:30 p.m. St. Mark's  
(† Lloyd Jelleberg)
- Sun, May 15 9 a.m. St. Andrew's  
(Parishioners)
- Sun, 11:00 a.m. St. Mark's  
(† Bill Nero)



**HOME COMMUNION**  
Any St. Mark parishioners desiring Holy Communion at home, call Claudia Trebas (228-2339) by Saturday noon to be put on the list.



To add or remove a name, please contact Deb Wyman 245-6538 or the parish office.  
**PARISHIONERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS:** Military personnel & their families, Garth Saylor, Cindy Volk, Karen Busch, John Smith, Aime Vandal, Donna Stratton, Margie Mehlhoff, Jim Atkinson, Judy Rudukuhr, Julie Stanislaw, Eli Derr, Edward Bohl, Margie Cranston, Michael O'Malley, Frances Kritzberger; a very special intention.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Sun, May 8 **MOTHER'S DAY**  
St. Andrew—K-6 Religious Ed 10:30 a.m.
- Sat, May 14  
**St. Mark—State of the Parish Address 6:30 p.m.**
- Sun, May 15  
St. Andrew—Senior Recognition and Baccalaureate  
St. Mark—Senior Recognition
- Sat-Sun, May 21-22 **Guest Priest from Food for the Poor.**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT  
ST. MARK'S PARISH**

The sheet for June schedule will be out for two more weeks. We encourage you to choose the date/dates that are convenient for you to fulfill your Ministry—EMHC, gifts bearers, lectors and ushers. Please sign up.

**It is greatly appreciated.**



Join us this summer at Trinity Youth Camp—a Catholic summer camp for kids in grades 4-8—to learn how we can "Go for the Gold!" in our everyday lives by learning about the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Come discover that by having Faith in Every Footstep. Each one of us can truly make a difference.

**2016 Camp Dates**  
June 22-26 at Red Willow, Binford  
July 13-17 at Pelican Lake, Metigoshe  
July 20-24 at Camp of the Cross, Garrison  
July 27-31 at Pelican Lake, Metigoshe  
Go to [www.trinityyouthcampnd.com](http://www.trinityyouthcampnd.com) and REGISTER ONLINE for a week filled with faith, friendship, & fun.

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelations 22:13)*  
This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, seven days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work or at school. Living gratefully and generously is a lifestyle; it's how I make all my decisions.

**Report** For May 1, 2016



St Andrew's: Adult env \$ 698 Plate \$ 101 and children \$ 16.50  
St Mark's: Adult env \$ 2993 Plate \$ 312.05 and children \$ 37.72

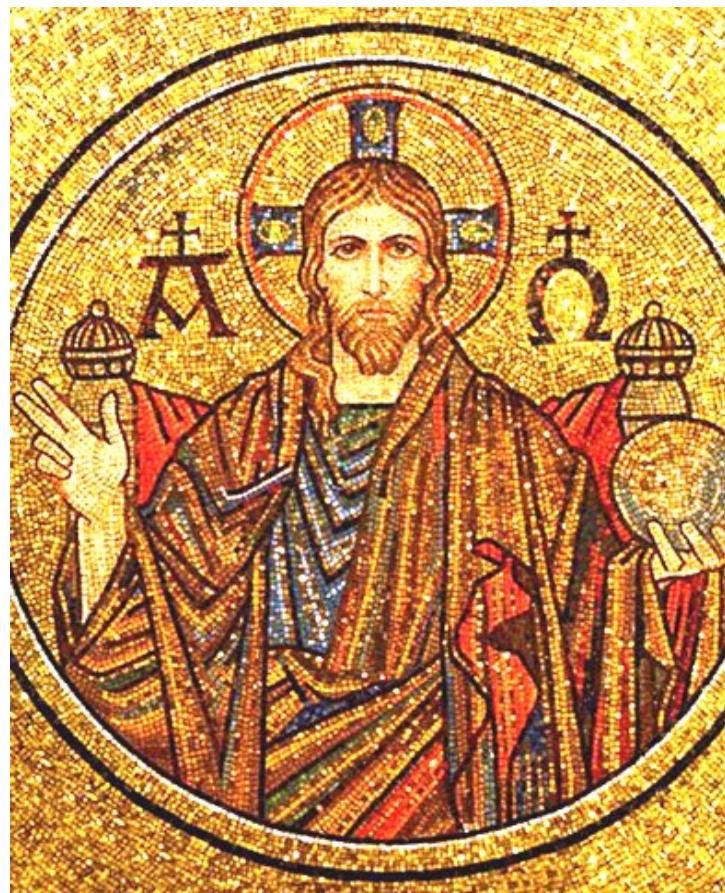


**ST. MARK'S BOTTINEAU**

**& ST. ANDREW'S WESTHOPE**



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**" I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA,  
THE FIRST AND THE LAST,  
THE BEGINNING AND THE END."  
RV 22:13**

**PARISH STAFF**

- Fr Michael Hickin, Pastor
- Jen Nero, Director of Religious Ed
- Valerie Hefth, Director of Religious Ed
- Ursula Palmer, Secretary

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

- Saturday 5:30 pm, Bottineau
- Sunday 9:00 am, Westhope
- And 11:00 am, Bottineau

**CONFESSIONS**

- Saturday, 4:30 pm, Bottineau
- Sunday, 8:30 am, Westhope
- Or by Appointment

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tue-Fri 12:30pm-5:00pm

May 7—8 Seventh Sunday of Easter



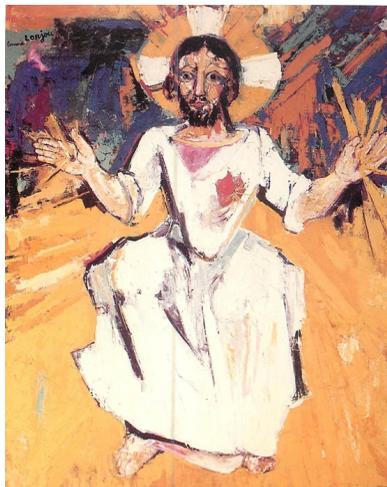
“IT IS BETTER FOR YOU THAT I GO” (Jn 16:7). We have a tough time getting this. I know I do. Over and over again, we wonder why God can feel so distant. If He loves me, why doesn't He do a better job showing His face? Why do I keep 'waking up' after a spell of 'forgetting' about God? Why does walking with the Lord so often feel like it's done in the shadows?

There are many forms of clinical and non-clinical depression. Setting those serious considerations aside, traditionally, there's an inner dark mood that plays upon almost all of us from time to time. For some it becomes their 'normal'. Spiritual writers call this *desolation*. There's a connection between spiritual *desolation* (God feels distant and I'm singing the blues) and the mystery of the Ascension.

*Desolation* is a trial permitted by God. Why would He do that? For the same reason Jesus ascended into Heaven—to teach us how to live truly spiritual lives.

Jesus returns to the Father. He's done the essentials: appeared and taught; died and rose; founded the Church. The hand-holding period has passed. He loves us, and that means educating us in freedom. Letting go, we learn how to walk, that is, love, on our own.

Parents know this. Moms are special-ists. Sometimes you don't even want to, because you love your little babies so much, but you



can't help but to teach them independence. Is one of the ways you love them. Thanks for doing that, & Happy Mother's Day to you all!!

Saint Ignatius gives 3 reasons why we experience *desolation*:

1.) we've gotten slack in our response to God's gifts and we need to work more on giving in return (resisting temptation, doing good, praying, sacrificing ourselves for others, etc.); the *desolation* is an invite to deepen our conversion.

2.) even if we're not slackers, is there room for growth? Are we the kind of soldiers who give up the battle because there's no check in the mail this month? In other words, do we love God just because of the consolations He offers? Here, God permits *desolation* to stretch us and teach us selfless generosity.

3.) how often we ascribe our good moods, even our gifts and talents, as the result of our own hard work. Right, we cooperate, but it's real cooperation. The goodness, the talents, they all come from God. We forget. *Desolation* can be a healthy reminder that we're truly beggars before the Lord. Too often, it's only when we lose gifts that we realize how much they were truly gifts.

Jesus is not gone. He's ascended. In doing so, the Father-Son-&-Spirit have a purpose – to draw out of us the *Glory* that is within us. Celebrate the Ascension by turning dark days into light: knowing God has a purpose when He lets us sing the blues.



**GOD'S GIFT APPEAL 2016—LET THE CHURCH ALWAYS BE A PLACE OF MERCY!**  
**GOD'S GIFT FIGURES AFTER 8 WKS.** St. Mark's has reached 46% of its goal with 23% participation; St. Andrew's is at 64% with 23% participation. Of the 131 parishes in the Diocese of Fargo, 26 parishes have reached 100%; 81 parishes have reached 50% of their goal.

**THE MERRY, MARY MONTH OF MAY** is here! We will be praying the Rosary before our weekend Masses. Rosary starts at St. Mark's Sat, 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am; at St. Andrew's at 8:40 am.



**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION—**those interested in this important liturgical ministry, please contact the church office. Once we've gathered some names, we will schedule a training session.

**PENTECOST NOVENA BEGAN** last Friday. This wonderful Novena of the Holy Spirit makes for a great family tradition. Advent and Lent are long prep seasons. The Holy Spirit novena is intense. It only lasts 9 days, and happens but once a year. Prep yourselves to receive the light, strength and courage we need to live friendship with Christ.

**CONSECRATION PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT ASKING FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS**

*BEFORE the heavenly hosts, I offer myself, body and soul, to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, let it set my heart aflame and be the light upon my path. In You I live and move and have my being. Grant that I may always listen to You and follow Your inspirations. Watch over me and those who walk with me.*

*You were sent by the Father and the Son to set the Church on fire. After Pentecost, the Apostles, weak and misunderstanding, burned for Jesus and the Gospel. Complete your work in us through your Seven Gifts.*



**GRANT ME:** *the Spirit of Wisdom to feel the divine pulse running through all things; the Spirit of Understanding to enflame my memory with divine light; the Spirit of Counsel to hear the voice of conscience clearly; the Spirit of Knowledge to know through Scripture and Tradition the science of the Saints; the Spirit of Fortitude to bear my cross courageously; the Spirit of Piety to practice religion with reverence, humility, and delight; the Spirit of Fear of the Lord to wonder in awareness of God's majesty. Mark me, Creator Spirit, with the seal of your true disciples and lead me in love to all truth. Amen.*

**BOTTINEAU CO. RIGHT TO LIFE** will have Carnations for sale (free will offering) after the Mothers Day weekend Masses Thank you for your support.

**ST. MARK'S STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS —MAY 14TH AFTER THE 5:30 MASS** to review the pastoral and financial

state of the Parish. Your presence will be greatly appreciated. The Altar Society will provide scalloped potatoes and ham. Will you consider bringing some salad or dessert?

