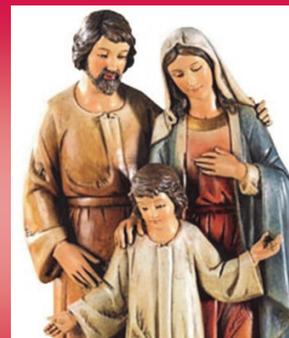




St. James Church
299 Red Oak Dr. Aitkin

Welcome to the Parishes of St. James and Holy Family Catholic Churches And Our Lady of Fatima Chapel



Holy Family Church
2 S Maddy St. McGregor

Office and Mailing Address:

Office: 218-927-6581 Fax: 218-927-6589 Email: aggie@aitkincatholic.org

Mailing Address: 299 Red Oak Dr., Aitkin, MN 56431

Pastor

Fr. David Forsman.....763-227-7968
fatherforsman@gmail.com

Deacons

Bill Stein..... 218-927-3613
Deaconbillstein@aol.com
Mike Eisenbraun..... 218-513-8119
m.eisenbraun@yahoo.com
Mike Barta..... 218-232-0746
mjbart@frontiernet.net

Religious Education:

St. James

Assistant Directors of Religious Education

Jr/Sr. High Jeremy Justen.....218-670-0165
Elementary Jen Kinzer218-839-0344
Marie James218-839-0680

Prayer Chain Requests

Jan Burt (SJ).....218-927-3587
Kathy Cummings (SJ)..... 218-927-6483
Elaine Hill (SJ).....218-838-5982
Carol Wiherski (SJ)..... 218-927-6880
Shirley Scollard (HF).....218-839-0754

Mass Schedule

Weekday:

Tues-Fri.....8:30 am St. James

Weekend:

Saturday....5:00 pm.....St. James
Sunday.....8:00 am.....Holy Family
10:00 am.....St. James

Bulletin Submissions

218-927-6581 or

bulletin@aitkincatholic.org

Deadline - Mondays at 4:00 pm.

Find the Bulletin anytime:

www.parishesonline.com

www.aitkincatholic.org (SJ)

www.mcgregorcatholicchurch.org

(HF)

Confessions

Sat: 10:00–10:45 am St. James
4:00–4:45 pm St. James

Sun: 7:15–7:45 am Holy Family
(or by appointment)

Pray the Rosary

SJ–Sat. 4:25 pm/Sun. 9:25 am/
Tues–Fri–8:05 am

HF–Sundays 7:30 am
OLOF–Sundays 9:30 am

Online opportunities

St. James: www.aitkincatholic.org

Connect to St. James Church via
Facebook

Holy Family & Our Lady of Fatima
Chapel

www.mcgregorcatholicchurch.org



**PALM SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD
MARCH 28,
2021**

THOSE
PRECEDING HIM
AS WELL AS
THOSE FOLLOWING
KEPT CRYING OUT:
"HOSANNA!

BLESSED IS HE
WHO COMES IN
THE NAME OF THE
LORD! BLESSED
IS THE KINGDOM
OF OUR FATHER
DAVID THAT IS TO
COME! HOSANNA
IN THE HIGHEST!"

-MK 11:9-10

A Message from Father David

In recent bulletins I have written about relativism, indifference and anthropocentrism. Relativism = *I determine my own truth* (and all truth is subjective). Indifference = *I don't care* (I won't listen to your truth). Anthropocentrism = *I am the center of the world* (the only thing that matters is "me" – this is the Frank Sinatra "I did it my way" mentality). If you think about it, all three of these were present at the Tree in the Garden of Eden at the Fall of Man. The serpent (Satan) tempted Eve and then Eve tempted Adam with the notion that they would become like God, having both knowledge of good and evil. God told them not to touch this fruit, that was His truth and He expected them to obey and they didn't care enough about His authority to follow. This story replays itself over and over daily in our own lives; it's called the human condition.

Here's the thing about the human condition though. Most view it as a curse of imperfection, wickedness and misery. The truth is that Jesus was fully human and yet He did not sin. Through our Baptisms we have been charged to the glorious end of life eternal and to a life of grace and happiness in this world. Having been created in God's own image and likeness we are to be free, pure, beings of light. Sadly we are subject to sin and temptation, that is true, but this kind of life never completes us; sin makes us miserable, it imprisons us. So when we sin we are being "less than human" not "fully human." I think people understand this instinctively but still have a hard time turning away from sin and being faithful to the Gospel.

Take as an example a married couple. As long as personal sin is absent from each of their lives their bond to each other is strong and loving. When personal sin becomes a part of their individual lives in a dramatic way, especially sins like lust, alcohol abuse, pornography, lying, greed and a host of others possibilities, what you end up with is a marriage in danger of implosion. I say frequently that the most beautiful thing that exists in the world is a married couple in love and the ugliest thing in the world (most times) is a married couple that gets divorced.

So using the example of a married couple and pairing it with our three societal problems, how do we draw further understanding? First, there needs to be truth and a truth that in every marriage is discovered and absolute for both of them. One example of this is that the husband and wife should never lie to each other; this should be a moral absolute in their relationship. Second, apathy or not caring. Consider not caring enough to do what is necessary to save a marriage is huge. Not caring enough to change the manner in which you relate. Not caring enough to do more around the household. All of these examples are issues that you understand indifference to be at the heart of the matter. If you cared more you could change more. Finally, narcissism or putting "me" at the center of the world. Obviously this never works in a marriage (maybe two narcissists would work) but being self-centered and consumed by self is a recipe for disaster. Marriage isn't designed to work this way nor is any human relationship.

I've focused on this before, that the best way to change our sinful behaviors is through mindfulness. Another (very Catholic) way of understanding what mindfulness is, is to call it the Examination of Conscience. The examen is a way to review your day, the good and the bad, and make a resolve to do better tomorrow. Most of us don't think in this way and it's hard to change, but we can do it. Mindfulness exposes the lies of our lives, it puts a "mirror" in front of us and if we don't like what we see, we should change it.

Here are some questions we can ask ourselves. Did my understanding of the truth hurt someone today? Was it necessary or unnecessary? Did I care enough about those around me? Why or why not? Who was at the center of the world today (God, me, family, friends, my job, my addiction, hobbies)? How can I be selfless when I am tempted to be selfish?

More to come...

God bless and have a good week everyone!

Fr. David

Fr. David's Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, March 28

7:15-7:45 am	Confessions (HF)
8:00 am	Mass (HF)
10:00 am	Mass (SJ)

Tuesday, March 30

8:00 am	Angelus (SJ)
8:05 am	Rosary (SJ)
8:30 am	Mass (SJ)

Wednesday, March 31

8:00 am	Angelus (SJ)
8:05 am	Rosary (SJ)
8:30 am	Mass (SJ)

Holy Thursday, April 1

7:00 pm	Mass (SJ)
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Good Friday, April 2

Noon	Service (HF)
3:00 pm	Service (SJ)

Holy Saturday, April 3

8:00 pm	Mass (SJ)
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Easter Sunday, April 4

7:15-7:45 am	Confessions (HF)
8:00 am	Mass (HF)
10:00 am	Mass (SJ)

(HF)-Holy Family • (SJ)-Saint James

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 1

- 6:00 pm Mass at Our Lady of Fatima
- 7:00 pm Mass at St. James (adoration after Mass until midnight)



Good Friday, April 2

- 10:00 am Service at Our Lady of Fatima
- Noon Service at Holy Family
- 3:00 pm Service at St. James

Holy Saturday, April 3

- 8:00 pm Mass at St. James

Easter Sunday, April 4—Normal Sunday Mass times for each parish



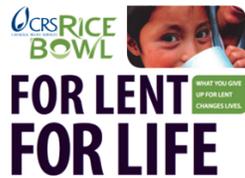
On Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other smaller meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on this day, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

Communal Reconciliation Schedule for Lent 2021

Sunday, March 28	3:00 pm	St. Francis, Brainerd
Tuesday, March 30	7:00 pm	St. Andrew's, Brainerd

Holy Thursday Collection—Operation Rice Bowl

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Faith communities in dioceses throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 100 difference countries each year. Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly \$300 million.

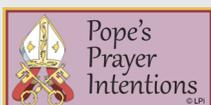
The Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parishes to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Please be generous!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday

Pope's Prayer Intentions for April

Universal Intention: Fundamental Rights. We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



March 28, 2021

Sun:	Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/ Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/ Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39
Mon:	Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/ Jn 12:1-11
Tues:	Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wed:	Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25
Thurs:	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/ Jn 13:1-15
Fri:	Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/ Jn 18:1—19:42
Sat:	<i>Vigil:</i> Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/ Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/ Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/ Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/ Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/ Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/ Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/ Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7
Next Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9
Next Sunday:	Easter Sunday © LPI

Stewardship Report



**Through
March 14, 2021**

(Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020-
June 30, 2021)

St. James •

Attendance	274
Weekly Goal	\$5,020
Received 3/14/2021	\$5,111
Fiscal Year to date goal.....	\$185,747
Fiscal Year to date received	\$202,653

Holy Family •

Attendance	62
Weekly Goal	\$1,410
Received 3/14/2021	\$1,044
Fiscal Year to date goal.....	\$52,156
Fiscal Year to date received	\$52,861

Our Lady of Fatima•

Attendance	15
Weekly Goal	\$127
Received 3/14/2021	\$103
Fiscal Year to date goal.....	\$4,689
Fiscal Year to date received	\$5,014

Thank you for your contributions!



March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Gospel Meditation

Many struggle with Jesus. Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship. It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator. Ultimately, it is a struggle between wanting to be God ourselves and letting God be God as God is. That's why it's so easy to become hypocritical. We, like those who hailed Christ as he arrived in Jerusalem and sent Christ to the cross to die, also talk out of both sides of our mouths. We entertain what suits us at the time and walk away from the rest.

Many neglect God's beautiful creation because they prefer what humans have made instead. Progress isn't seen in preserving and enhancing what God has made but replacing it with something we believe is better and more useful. The earth, flowers, and animals are all expendable if they stand in the way of the "more" we want to achieve.

We seek to remove as many obstacles and hurdles as possible in search of the easiest, quickest, and most efficient path we can find. We have created drugs and laws that preserve our free choice, even though it may mean setting aside God's vision and example. Why suffer when we can easily be put to rest? Why endure insult or injury when we can retaliate, eliminate or subdue? Why accept life when it is acceptable to choose otherwise? We want to be God and resist accepting the fact that our real Creator has already given us the blueprints for the life we need to live in the Beatitudes and in the example of his Passion.

We don't like being stewards and managers and really want the power to do as we wish and desire. We want to create our own way.

Where has the true, effective Christian voice been through all of the wars and violence, prejudice and unjust conquests, abuse of human beings and attempted extinctions of nationalities, the establishments of procedures and protocols that serve only a few and not the many and all of the injustices and exploitations that are a part of our human history? A few courageous prophets have stood up and out throughout all of the comings and goings of our human journey with many receiving the same fate as the Crucified One we hail this week. Some still walk among us as shining stars showing us how it really can be. How would Jesus' journey have ended if he lived life as we do? Unless we encounter the good with the bad, the just with the unjust, the grace with the sin, the glory with the cross, the death with the life we most certainly risk rendering God obsolete. After all, haven't we already convinced ourselves that we can do better?



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Mike Walsh and his bereaved family and friends. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.

Liturgical Minister's Schedule

If anyone is interested in being a lector, EOM, usher, altar server, the schedule is being prepared for the summer months. If you are unavailable on certain dates, please email bulletin@aitkincatholic.org or call the Parish Office so the schedule can be prepared with that in mind. If you would like to help and are not currently scheduled, feel free to contact the office to add your name to the list and schedule any required training. Thank you. The deadline is April 12, 2021.

Easter Flowers

Parishioners are invited to take part in the Holy Easter celebration by providing a lily or blooming plant in memory/honor of loved ones or for a special intention. Plants will cost \$18.00 each. Please call Renee Irwin at 218-513-7544 to reserve a plant. Leave a message with Renee if there is no answer, she will get back to you as soon as possible. Deadline for orders is March 28, 2021.



Holy Family

2 S Maddy Street, McGregor

Please note there will be no adoration April 1st at Holy Family – it's Holy Thursday.

Good Friday Service will be at Noon on April 2, 2021.



Our Lady of Fatima

102 S Highway 65 McGrath

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

9 am Rosary
 9:30 am Stations of the Cross
 10 am Mass

Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021

6 pm Mass

Good Friday, April 2, 2021

10 am Service

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

9:30 am Rosary
 10 am Mass

Please note this schedule is subject to change due to Fr. Solors' availability.

Religious Education

Little Gobblers

This Wednesday, March 31 will be our next in-person religious education class for grade K-6. K-3 will meet in the Social Hall with parents. 4-6 will meet in the Big Classroom. Home Packets will be available for pick up after class on Wednesday. Stop by to pick them up anytime after class if you are unable to attend.

Our last Little Gobblers class for the year will be held on April 28th. Mark your calendars.

If you have any questions, please contact Jen or Marie.

CAGE Class Dates

For Wednesday CAGE Night classes, students should arrive by 6:25 pm.

April 7
April 14

Sunday, April 11-After Mass

(Mandatory Confirmation Prep for juniors and sponsors)

This Week

©LPI

Sunday, March 28

9:30 am Stations of the Cross (OL)

Tuesday, March 30

6:30 am That Man is You (SJ)

Wednesday, March 31

5:15 pm Little Gobblers (SJ)

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross (SJ)

Thursday, April 1 Holy Thursday

After Mass until Midnight Adoration (SJ)

Friday, April 2 Good Friday

Office Closed



Liturgical Ministers

©LPI

Holy Thursday, April 1 at 6:00 pm (OL)

..... Volunteers needed .

Holy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 pm (SJ)

Sacristan Deacon Mike Eisenbraun

Servers Ella Janzen, Noah Janzen, Landon Janzen

Lector.....Pauline Anderson

EOMsLaura Eisenbraun, Marie James (MOB)

Ushers Hugh Janzen, Carroll Janzen,

.....Gary Newman, Gary Tibbitts

Good Friday, April 2 at 10:00 am (OL)

..... Volunteers needed .

Good Friday, April 2 at noon (HF)

..... Please see the green binder in narthex

Good Friday, April 2 at 3:00 pm (SJ)

Sacristan Terry Stein

Servers Landon Janzen, Jeremy Justen

Lector.....Jean Abeln

EOMs Deacons

Ushers Don Lent, Jeremy Janzen

..... Harlan & Betty Ninow

Holy Saturday, April 3 at 8:00 pm (SJ)

SacristanBob Cummings

Server Ella Janzen, Jerome Joerger

Lector..... Gary Tibbitts, Tom Provost

EOMs Deacons Mike Barta & Mike Eisenbraun (MOB)

Ushers Brian Carlson, TJ Gustin, Kevin Hoge, Kirk Peysar

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 8:00 am (HF)

..... Please see the green binder in narthex.

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 am (OL)

..... Volunteers needed

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 am (SJ)

Sacristan Terry Stein

Server Jeremy Justen

Lector..... Hugh Janzen

EOMsCarroll Janzen, Bernie Novak (MOB)

Ushers Duane Gross, Mark Ritter, 2 KC volunteers

(HF)-Holy Family • (SJ)-Saint James •
(OL) Our Lady of Fatima

**Thank our
advertiser
OF THE
WEEK**

RASLEY OIL
QUALITY GASOLINE • PROPANE OIL • GROCERIES
BULK GAS • HOME FUEL DELIVERY
218-927-2966 308 2nd St NE, Aitkin



Tuesday, March 30

8:30 am Michelle Magee (SJ)

Wednesday, March 31

8:30 am Brad Irwin (SJ)

Saturday, April 3

8:00 pm For the Parishioners (SJ)

Sunday, April 4

8:00 am Lawrence "Pudge" Fulton (HF)

10:00 am Jack Schreiber (OL)

10:00 am Nic Justen (SJ)

(HF)-Holy Family • (SJ)-Saint James •
(OL) Our Lady of Fatima