North American Martyrs Catholic Church

NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS

PARISH NEWSLETTER

April 2021

www.namartyrs.org

a letter from the pastor

Dear NAM Family,

Happy Easter Season. The Lord Jesus has Risen from the dead, alleluia.

We had a beautiful Holy Week, I thought. It began with the solemn procession from our amphitheater out back of the school on Palm Sunday. A good idea from our young assistant Fr. Joe Wahlmeier. We had so many attend Mass that we ran out of palms and bulletins (it is hard to project and notes were made for 2022). Monday was the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral. At that Mass with all the priests of the Diocese, we honor the jubilarians and the Bishop blesses and consecrates the Holy Oils for the whole year for our Diocese of Lincoln. Fr. Fleck and Fr. Wahlmeier were on the very efficient crew that takes the oil from the large flagon and siphons it into small plastic bottles for the priests to take back to parishes. I did my time. We all enjoyed a nice dinner and speeches by those celebrating anniversaries. Fr. John Zastrow was the funniest with a deadpan humor and wit that has been a hallmark over his 65 years of priesthood.

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Good Friday liturgy were very well attended with the same numbers that we used to have pre-Covid. Fr. Wahlmeier organized the program and liturgy for us to have Tenebrae at NAM. This is basically the prayers that all priests say each morning of the Triduum (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) shared with the laity, with song, incense and the focal point of the seven candles to correspond to the psalms. At the end, the central Christ candle is extinguished and a loud noise is heard, to shock the crowd at the reality of what was happening. We hope to make this a tradition.

The Easter Vigil was a beautiful night outside for our fire and we carried that right into the church with the Paschal Candle, Christ the Light of the World. Fr. Fleck did an excellent job in organizing and teaching RCIA at NAM this year again. He was the main celebrant and did a beautiful job with all the aspects. Easter Sunday, we again had good numbers in attendance, also back to pre-Covid days.

Now we are enjoying the Easter Octave. All of us made it home to see our parents and spend some time with them. I was able to see my family and have Mass with my father on two days. He is eating well, stable, well cared for and frequently visited. Although his memory is not good, he told me a funny story from 40 years ago.

We have so much to celebrate at NAM this month and throughout Easter. It is a blessing beyond words to have people coming back to Holy Mass and rejoining our faith community. We all are relearning how to be social and friendly. May the Risen Lord, who walked and talked with many in the days following his resurrection, lead us in life.

In Him, *Fr. Brian Connor*

BUILDING CAMPAIGN

First Quarter 2021 Update
March 31, 2021

Original Campaign Goal	$4,500,000
Pledged to Date*	$4,489,550
Cash Received to Date**	$4,283,800
Percentage of Cash Received to Date	95.19%

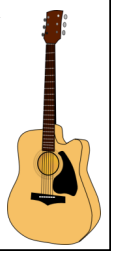
*Note: Pledge amount adjusted due to some having moved, canceled or adjusted their pledges. We have been blessed with others who have moved in or increased pledges.

**This includes contributions received this quarter (Jan – March 2021) of $21,103.

We have paid contractors in full and just made last payment on loan to the Diocesan Investment and Loan (DIAL).

Congratulations. We continue to accept contribution and will put towards building projects, deferred maintenance etc.

You are invited to a ***Concert for Christ*** with Catholic Singer-Songwriter **Jacob Rudd** on **Sunday, April 18th** at 3:00 pm. Jacob is from Green Bay, Wisconsin. His wife, Calena, is from Omaha and they have three children. Jacob is going to share unique original music about Jesus, the Saints, and family life with finger-style guitar.



Grace Volkmer from our parish will be the opening act! Free will offering.

Women of Martyrs invites all women in the parish to a FREE mini retreat on **Saturday, April 24,** 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This mini retreat is perfect for your busy schedule! The Founder of Feminine Genius Ministries, Bekah Knobeloch, will be the keynote speaker. Her talk will aim to bring us together as Catholic women and unite the gifts we ALL bring to the table! There will be small group discussions, time for prayer, confessions and stillness with God. Plus, light snacks and beverages will be provided. Let us know if you plan on attending by clicking "going" on this Facebook event. We hope to see you there!

Senior Mass and Reception will be **Saturday, May 8th** at 6:00 pm. All high school seniors are invited to come and celebrate all your accomplishments and be a part of this special Mass. Watch the bulletin for more information.

WELCOME to our new parishioners who registered in the month of March: **Maclane Scott, Sara Schoenthaler** and **Gus & Brittany Mattern.**

We hope you feel at home in our *parish!*

April 2021

May…….

North American Martyrs Parish

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7 7:30 pm Welcome Committee	8 7:00 pm Lectio 8:30 pm Crux	9	10 7:15 am Clean Church 7:00 pm Trivia Night
11 1:30 pm Baptism Class	12 7:00 pm Knights	13 6:30 pm Altar Society	14 6:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul	15 8:30 pm Crux	16	17 First Communion Saturday
18 3:00 pm Jacob Rudd Concert	19 7:00 pm Confirmation	20 7:00 pm Parish Council	21	22 6:00 pm RCIA	23	24 6:00 pm Women of Martyrs Retreat
25 9—10 am New Parishioner Welcome Brunch	26 6:00 pm Grief Support	27	28 6:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul	29	30	1 (May)
2 3:00 pm Exposition	3	4	5	6	7	8 6:00 pm Senior Mass

School Calendar

April 7	Classes Resume
April 16	1:30 pm Dismissal
April 17	First Holy Communion
May 7	1:30 pm Dismissal

CCD Calendar

April 7	Class 6-7:30 pm
April 14	Class 6-7:30 pm
April 17	First Holy Communion
April 21	Class 6-7:30 pm
April 28	Class 6-7:30 pm
May 5	8th Grade Graduation and Last Day of CCD