

December 13, 2020



**ST. MICHAEL'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

EST. 1872

**GRAND FORKS,  
NORTH DAKOTA**

## PARISH MISSION

St. Michael's Parish is a welcoming community of Catholic Christians, rich in tradition.

We are inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the Word of God.

We exist as a visible witness of Christ through worshiping, educating, evangelizing and serving.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

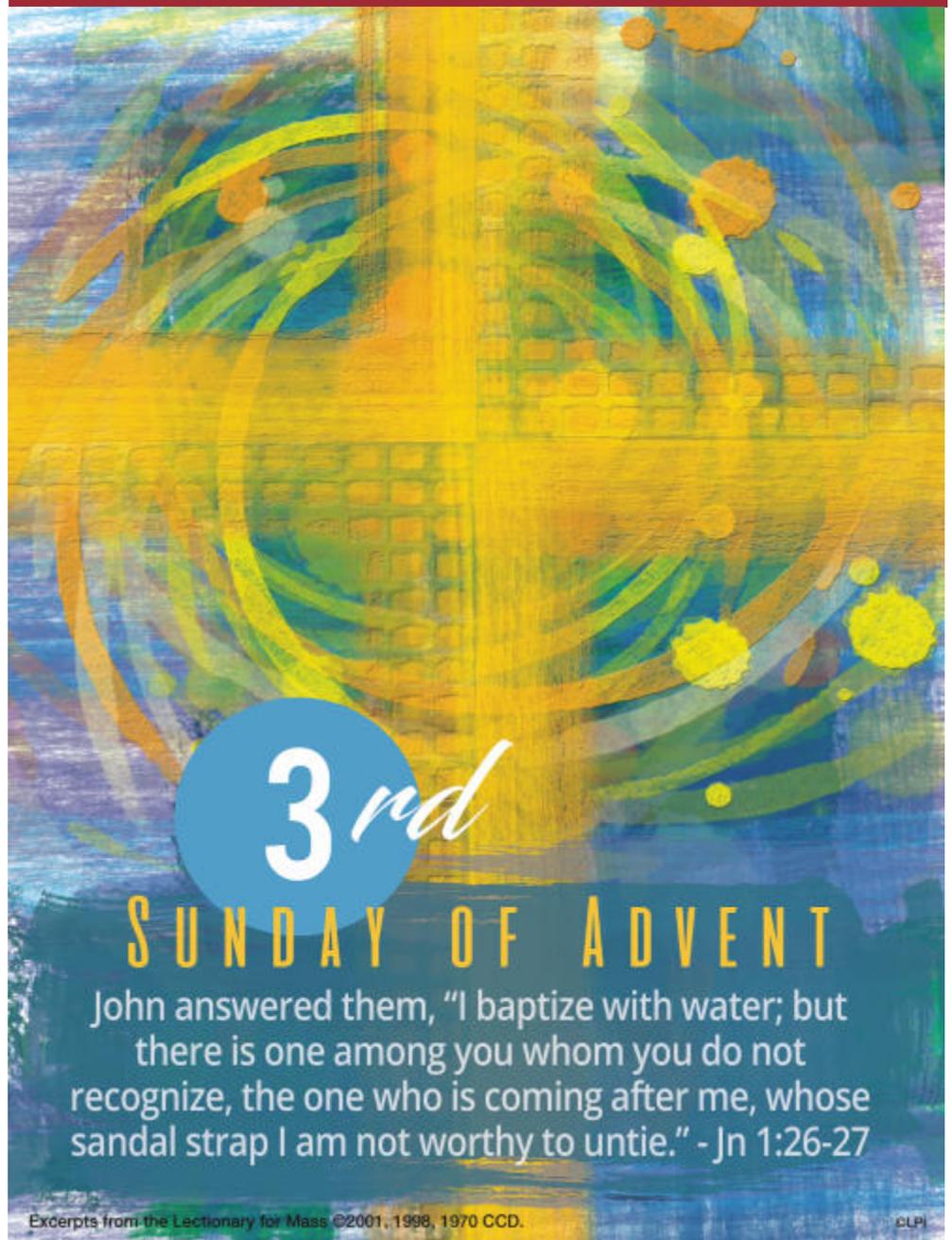
The lobby doors are open to pick-up/drop off. Please call ahead or email to place a Scrip order!. (lori\_stmikes@yahoo.com)

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday:

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

**Fridays: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm**



**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

CLP

## Church Information

### Mailing Address:

418 N. 6th St.  
Grand Forks, ND 58203

### Physical Address:

524 5th Ave. N.  
Grand Forks, ND 58203

### Telephone:

(701) 772-2624 | Parish Office  
(701) 772-2282 | Religious Ed. Office  
(701) 772-1822 | School Office

### Email:

parishoffice@stmichaelsgf.com  
bulletin@stmichaelsgf.com  
For bulletin announcements Deadline Mondays,  
1:00 pm

### Clergy:

Fr. Gerard Braun (Pastor)  
Fr. Jered Grossman  
Deacon: John Bredemeier

[www.stmichaelschurchgf.com](http://www.stmichaelschurchgf.com)

# LITURGY REFLECTION

## It's Not Pink, It's "Liturgical Rose!"

On the Third Sunday of Advent, the Priest and Deacon wears a rather bold color: Rose (no, it's not pink)! Why would the priest wear rose instead of violet this particular Sunday? The reason is that Christmas is almost here. We're not there yet, we're still in our Advent season of "expectant delight," but the Church is signaling that this season of anticipation is almost over. Violet represents repentance and preparation, while rose represents the joy of knowing that our waiting is about to be rewarded.

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as "Gaudete Sunday." The entrance antiphon for this Sunday starts with "Gaudete in Domino," which means "Rejoice in the Lord." The Church is commanding us this Sunday to rejoice. Everything takes a lighter tone because of the joy of knowing that Christ is near! The rose vestments, additional decoration, more exuberant organ, everything is pointing to the coming of the very near Messiah.

For a more in depth reflection, visit the St. Michael's YouTube and Facebook pages for the short video series "Liturgy for Lunch."

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNZjxzBU6jiL9JQOsYDEIjg>

<https://www.facebook.com/St.MichaelsChurchGF>

If you have a liturgy question that you'd like answered in the bulletin, email Jeff at [liturgystmichaels@gmail.com](mailto:liturgystmichaels@gmail.com)



## Rejoice in the Lord Always

December 17, 7:00 pm in the Church  
Join us for an evening of prayer and reflection in preparation for Christmas. In this contemporary take on the traditional "Lessons and Carols," we reflect on the Mystery of the Incarnation, reflecting on the fall, the yearning of the world for a savior, and finally the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Featuring scripture readings, reflections, and a mix of traditional and contemporary music for Advent.

If you are interested in participating as a singer or reader, please contact Jeff McGee at [liturgystmichaels@gmail.com](mailto:liturgystmichaels@gmail.com). Singers must have the ability to solo, read basic music, and have a great attitude!

## Baptism Information

Parents, attendance at one pre-baptism class is required to have your child baptized at St. Michael's.

We suggest attending class during the months of pregnancy so you will be all set once your child is born as classes are only offered one time per month. If you have attended the class within 5 years, a new class is not needed. Read more on our website.

The next class is:

**Sunday, January 3rd** at 10:10 am

Meet in the church basement, history room. Please visit our website to read more about baptism.  
<https://www.stmichaelschurchgf.com/baptism>

# The Sacrament of Holy Water

By Fr. Jered A. Grossman

Jesus taught by means of parables in order to make divine truths easier to understand for his listeners. He used the same kind of teaching in the way he instituted his means of grace. In the use of the Church's sacramentals, we are given outward signs, to represent the sacramental reality they accomplish for the soul. For example, In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are washed by the sacramental of water, to cleanse our souls of original sin. We use the sacramental of Chrism in the Sacrament of Confirmation, to fortify our souls and receive the sign of the Cross as an outward sign of protection and fortitude, as we teach the faith to others. The object of Sacramentals is to manifest the respect due to the Sacraments and to secure the sanctification of the faithful.

As we pray together in this Season of Advent, it is important for us to remember the tremendous graces our Lord wants to bestow upon us through the use of sacramentals. Perhaps the most freely accessible sacramental of the Church is Holy Water.

Holy water cleanses and purifies. It reminds us that our souls have been washed and made pure by the water of Baptism, and thereby we have been received into the community of the children of God. Every time we bless ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of our baptismal vows and of the obligation then undertaken, to keep our souls pure. Holy water is also great visual reminder to purge our hearts from sin by penance and reparation.

Holy water protects us from the spirit of the evil one. We use it as we pray for protection from natural disasters, for the well-being of our bodies and of course, for the sanctifications of our souls. We can also make use of it in our prayers for the assistance of the Holy Spirit, as we pray for the poor souls in purgatory, and as we bury our beloved dead. It is truly beautiful to think about how we use the sacramental of holy water in the beginning of our lives with Christ in Baptism, and at the end of our Earthly lives as we are called home to him.

I encourage all our families to have holy water available in several places in your house. I also encourage our parents to teach their children about its significance, and the tremendous grace it is make use of it. As we await the coming of our Lord this Advent, let's thank him for his continuous love for us through the sacramentals of the Church, and may we all be truly blessed by receiving his love in these beautiful ways. God bless you.

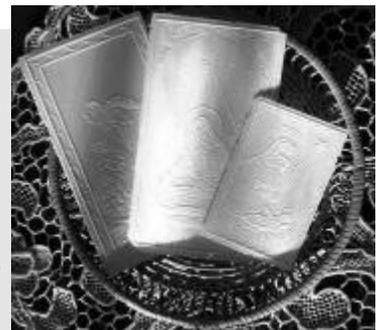
***Next weekend families will have the opportunity to bring home a small container of blessed holy water after Mass. Limited quantities available | one per family.***

## Oplatek (Polish Wafers)

The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland during Early Christian times. This Christmas custom began with a simple white wafer, baked from flour and water. The wafers are designed to display Christmas images, such as the Nativity.

### HOW TO CELEBRATE THE OPLATKI TRADITION

The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal. The entire family will gather around the table with the Oplatek. Generally, the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing. This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year – whether it be good health, success, or happiness. The purpose of this act is primarily to express one's unconditional love and forgiveness for each member of his or her family. **Oplatek will be available next weekend. Limit one per family please.**



## Men's Club "Month of Money" Winners

Congratulations to:

Dec. 7: Veronica Stadstad #127

Dec. 8: Shari LaBine #273

Dec. 9: Mary Tannahill #374

Dec. 10: Veronica Stadstad #127

Dec. 11: Sue Ouellette #433

Dec. 12: Lori Beckstead #252

Dec. 13: Dave vonRuden #252

### Earn Money or Experience for resume

St. Michael's School ASAP (After School Activities Program) is hiring. Hours: 2:45-5:30 pm Monday – Friday when school is in session. Flexibility. Paid position: \$11.50 per hour. You must be 18 years old and pass a background check, have own transportation to work. Work with students age 4 to 12 yrs old. Plan projects, help with homework, etc. For more information: Contact Pauline Bachmeier (701) 741-3713 or email her a time that works best to visit in greater detail: [Pauline.bachmeier@stmichaelsgf.com](mailto:Pauline.bachmeier@stmichaelsgf.com)

## Tuesday Adoration @ St. Michael's

You are invited by our Lord to come before Him in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays. Those who are not able to attend Mass on Sunday will find a wide-open church and a wonderful time to sit with our Lord and open your heart to Him in prayer.

Each week on Tuesdays, 8:00 am—9:00 pm

*Please check our Master Calendar, available on our website, to see if a funeral or another event has been scheduled.*

<https://www.stmichaelschurchgf.com/parish-calendar>

Also, if interested in signing up for a weekly commitment, please do so at the following website:

<https://adorationpro.org/michaelnd> - click on "Weekly Commitment" and choose a time.

### Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with us, after our daily 7:15 a.m. Mass. You can pray with us through the live stream at any time of the day.

## The Amazing Prayer Shawl

Do you have a loved one whom is very ill, someone who feels alone, or someone whose hope is wavering? The Amazing Prayer Shawl is a gift of love and prayers from our faith sharing community for those who receive it.

Prayer Angels commit to prayer as they fulfill their part in the construction of the blanket. The process involves shopping for material, coordinating fleece fabric, cutting, sewing or tying of the shawl and tagging it. After the shawls are complete, they are blessed by a Priest. Those who are to receive the shawls are held in prayer. These beautiful acts truly transform the shawl into a "Prayer Shawl", whose very threads become interwoven with pleas for healing on behalf of the recipient. Each shawl bears a tag that reads, "Wrapped in Prayers".

The Prayer Shawl symbolizes the Love of God as it surrounds the recipient. It brings comfort to the suffering and peace to the fearful. When one sees and touches these shawls, they know they are not alone ....they are covered in prayer and that there are many who do care about them.

God has used this beautiful ministry, not only to touch the lives of countless people who have received the Prayer Shawl while they are going through extremely difficult times in their lives, but the lives of those involved in the ministry as well.

We would be very blessed to have people give of their time, talents, and treasures, in making Prayer Shawls possible. **We are looking for volunteers to assist in making Prayer Shawls and or donating funds to make them. A meeting time and place for a teaching session would be set up for those who are interested.** These shawls can be made as a group project if people prefer or they can be made at home by individuals. The fleece material would need to be 58 inches long which is a little more than 1 1/2 yards. **Please contact Carol Rerick @ 701-740-5143 if interested in this worthy project.** Please leave a voicemail with your name, phone number, and Email address if I am unable to take your call. Please see picture on next page!

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### How are we going to accommodate the good people who will attend Christmas Eve Masses?

Our afternoon Christmas Eve Mass is typically the most crowded Mass of the year. To help alleviate this situation, we have added a 7:00 pm Mass in the evening. However this will not solve the overcrowding at the 4:00 Mass. (*Christmas Eve Mass times are 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm*)

There is no easy solution to our dilemma. We could have people reserve their seats for Christmas eve, but too many visitors would be unaware of the sign-up system, and I think we are already behind the eight-ball for setting up a sign-up system.

*At best, we will end up having to turn people away when we reach capacity according to the CDC guidelines for safe distancing, see our Parish website for guidelines.*

I ask our parishioners to please pray for the grace of patience, understanding, and forbearance. Christmas Eve Mass may turn out to be a test of our virtue. I do not know what to expect. The COVID virus is holding down weekly attendance by some sixty percent. Perhaps it will be the same for our Christmas Masses.

Please keep in mind we can also celebrate Christ's birth as we attend Mass on Christmas morning. Thanks everyone for your understanding.

### Going to Confession to prepare our hearts to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Next Sunday St. Michaels offers our Advent Penance Service. Often the Catholic Church is seen as the harbinger of guilt. Our modern-day culture seeks to deny guilt for wrongful behavior, but this dishonest.

The scriptures tell us that if we say we have no sin we make God a liar, and His word is not in us, *I Jn 9-10*. Human actions have consequences that bring about good or evil, and a healthy conscience understands and accepts the guilt imputed for our wrongful behavior. This is where confession becomes a gift for us, a gift from God.

Confessing our sins is meant to give an uplifting freedom to our soul. Vocally confessing our sins become a more conscious way of taking an honest look at our lives. The examination of conscience takes on a more serious tone, calling us to be more honest with ourselves. I encourage us to celebrate this gift of mercy from God.

### St. Michaels assigned the pastoral care of Valley Senior Living on Columbia.

Our Catholic parishes in Grand Forks recently reconfigured the pastoral ministry of our elderly care centers. This care involves, among other tasks, offering Mass at our care facilities once a week. St. Michaels has assisted with the care of St. Anne's Living

Center and Tufte Manor. However, with the reconfiguration, Holy Family will now be assigned to Tufte Manor and St. Michaels will serve the residents at Valley Senior Living on Columbia, (formerly known as Valley Eldercare by Altru hospital).

St. Michael's priests offer the Mass at Valley Senior Living on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are currently doing this via live streaming to their rooms. **Here is where we need the assistance of a few of our parishioners.** We are looking for a few volunteers who would assist the priests with the simple preparations of setting up for the Mass and participating in the liturgy with us. The residents are not present due to the COVID virus. Please call Fr. Braun in you would be interest in assisting us. Thank you.

### St. Michaels Stained Glass windows.

A year ago, at our Winter Gala we initiated a reverse auction to begin a fund for the preservation of St. Michaels Stained Glass windows. At that time, we were able to raise close to \$25,000.

Our present church was constructed in 1909 and the windows were designed and produced by the Munich Studios in Chicago. The beauty of these stained-glass windows are one of the features of our church that draw admiration and praise. They are irreplaceable in their quality and artistic beauty and it is incumbent upon us to ensure their preservation for generations of believers in years to come.

The full range of tasks for their preservation has yet to be determined. Minimally it will involve cleaning the windows and replacing the dulled acrylic plexiglass with a clear protective glass allowing for greater light transmission. The wood framing of the windows will be inspected, together with the glass itself and the metal lining between the glass. Repairs and reinforcements may be needed.

The task of safeguarding our stained glass windows has received new impetus with the help of a recent bequest to St. Michael parish from the estate of Harry Bushaw. Our Parish Finance Council and Parish Council have given approval to designate the funds for the purpose of refurbishing our windows. Additional funding may still be needed as we begin to see estimates on the scope of the work required.

We anticipate beginning our appraisals at the start of the new year and hope we might be able to commence with the work within the next year or so. We will keep you posted.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Fr Gerard Braun*

# WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

## December 6, 2020

Weekly Amount Collected..... \$25,348

Weekly Amount Needed ..... \$20,925  
(To Reach the Weekly Budget Goal)

**Weekly Collection ..... \$4,423**

Year-To-Date Amount Collected      \$439,404

Year-To-Date Amount Needed          \$481,275  
(To Reach the Annual Budget Goal)

**Year-To-Date Collection Deficit      (\$41,871)**

Annual Budget Goal ..... \$1,088,100

<https://stmichaelsgf.weshareonline.org/>

Mailing address: St. Michael's Parish Office,  
418 N. 6th St., Grand Forks, ND 58203

Thank you for your generous hearts!

WE  TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU!



TEXT  
MichaelGF  
TO 84576

OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT  
[stmichaelsgf.flocknote.com](http://stmichaelsgf.flocknote.com)

We continue to send out “notes” to all who signed up. Check out the “All About Advent” series available.



Christmas Mass times, confession times, Christmas Eve Dinner information is all available on our website!

[Stmichaelschurhgf.com](http://stmichaelschurhgf.com)

## Everyday Stewardship

### A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

### Early Bulletin Deadlines

Email: [bulletin@stmichaelsgf.com](mailto:bulletin@stmichaelsgf.com)

December 27th Bulletin::

Due December 16th, 9:00 am

## LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 19 & 20

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

5:00 pm \*Kathy Klemisch, Linda Brown, Amanda Leavy  
7:30 am \*Lori Swinney, Jennifer Bergman, Jim Ward  
9:00 am \*Jack Call, Colleen Finley, \_\_\_\_\_  
11:00 am \*Marina Kojic, Katie Graham, Kelsie Sather  
5:00 pm \*\_\_\_\_\_, Laura Cobb, Ian Pressnell

\*denotes Sacristan

### Proclaimer, Cantor, Accompanist

5:00 pm Mike Klemisch, Kyle Dewitt, Amy Dewitt  
7:30 am Kathy Loff  
9:00 am Destin Coles, \_\_\_\_\_, Angela Schmaltz  
11:00 am Nathan Fix, Dennis Narlock, Arleen Norton  
5:00 pm Carol Weiler, Marie Kraemer, Sheri Swen

### Hospitality

5:00 pm \*\*Joe Leddige, Chris Burns, Janet Burns  
7:30 am \*\*\_\_\_\_\_, Willie Huot, Jim Laturmus  
9:00 am \*\*\_\_\_\_\_, Nate Bertram, Lawrence Foerster, Pam Mokerski  
11:00 am \*\*\_\_\_\_\_, Lori Foley, Mike Foley, Raymond Gehl  
5:00 pm \*\*\_\_\_\_\_, Leonard Kathman

\*\*denotes lead minister

### Altar Servers

5:00 pm Maureen Dorsher, Jude Senger  
7:30 am Jackson Dempsey  
9:00 am Drew Coles, Evan Coles, Josie Herda  
11:00 am Lacey Graham, Finley Wesley, Gracie Wyman  
5:00 pm Nathan Kaiser, Andrea Sturdevant

## SCRIP GIFT CARDS

### We Are Still Selling Scrip Gift Cards!

Thank you to all who continue to buy Scrip for their purchases. Please read below for Instructions.

### How to Purchase

Please email (preferred) or call us first to place your order so we can make sure we have everything in stock.

We will place your order in the lobby of the Parish Office for you to pick up! Leave your payment in the drop box. Easy peasy! Thank you!

Email: lori\_strikes@yahoo.com  
Phone: (701) 772-2624

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 14

7:15 am Int. of Brigid Quinlivan  
5:15 pm †Conrad Kulesza

### Tuesday, December 15

7:15 am †Dec. Mem. Lynch & Hackenberg Families  
9:30 am Mass at Valley Eldercare on Columbia  
5:15 pm †Monica Zueger

### Wednesday, December 16

7:15 am †Raymond Sevigny  
5:15 pm †Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Evers

### Thursday, December 17

7:15 am †Jason Stadstad  
8:45 am Int of Matthew Huether  
5:15 pm †Yvonne Anglesburg

### Friday, December 18

7:15 am †Jerraine Tranby  
12:10pm †Pat Hurley

### Saturday, December 19

7:15 am †Ronald Donarski  
5:00 pm †Johnny Meyer, Don Larson, Patti Stein

### Sunday, December 20

7:30 am †David Dubuque  
9:00 am †Anthony Kresel  
11:00 am For the People  
5:00 pm †Elizabeth Alvarado & Bob Entze

## Memorial Donations

*Thank you to the following for their donations to St. Michael's Church.*

***In Memory of Sabina Johnson given by:***

*Ervin & Dianne Lindgren*

***In Memory of Msgr. Val Gross given by:***

*Joan & Vern Dondoneau*

***In Memory of Larry Wheeler given by:***

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