

Catholic Tri-Parish Community

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ST. PETER - Colman
STS. SIMON & JUDE - Flandreau
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL - Elkton
105 S. Bates St., FLANDREAU, SD 57028
Father Melvin Kuhn, Pastor
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This past Thursday (May 13) the Church celebrated the memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. Dr Warren Carroll, a Church historian and founder of Christendom College, said that Fatima is the single most important religious event of the century. Pope St John Paul II said that the message of Fatima is more relevant for our times than when the apparitions occurred.

Most are probably already familiar with what occurred at Fatima but I will reiterate the events briefly. In 1917 our Holy Mother appeared to three young children in Fatima, Portugal. The children's names were: Jacinta Marto (the youngest, aged 7 when the Marian apparitions began), Francisco Marto (aged 9), and Lucia dos Santos (the oldest at age 10). Francisco and Jacinta were brother and sister and Lucia was their first cousin. Their job was to take the families' sheep out to pasture during the day and it was in that pasture that Mary appeared to them. There were six Marian apparitions altogether which occurred on the 13th of each month starting in May. The only exception was in August when the socialist, atheistic government in power at that time had the children in jail on the 13th; Mary's appearance was then several days later (August 19) after they'd been released. After the first apparition, Lucia told her cousins that they shouldn't tell anyone and they agreed. But little Jacinta couldn't contain herself and quickly told her mom. Word spread far and wide about the visions of the three children and people started flocking to the apparition site in hordes. Mary had promised the children a sign, a miracle, at her last appearance so that everyone would know they were telling the truth. She delivered.

It was raining hard in Fatima, Portugal on October 13, 1917 but in spite of the downpour, an estimated 70 to 100 *thousand* (70,000 – 100,000) people flocked to that simple sheep pasture, on soaked ground. Mary appeared to the children and spoke to them, as usual. Lucia suddenly shouted: look at the sun. It appeared as a sort of silver disk, which people looked at easily without hurting their eyes. The sun then began to spin and move; some said it appeared to dance. The sun then seemed to hurl itself to the ground. People screamed and crouched down, thinking they were going to be annihilated. But then it returned to its normal position. Various colors of light were also seen while this was going on. The miracle of the sun lasted for several minutes. When it was over, everything was perfectly dry in spite of having just been drenched by rain – the people themselves were dry, their clothes, the ground – everything. Even the atheistic journalists who had come to mock could not deny this miracle and, in fact, testified to its

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The 3 children,
from left to right:
Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta



Picture showing the
massive crowd at the last (6th)
apparition on October 13, 1917



A picture of the sun,
at the last apparition,
as it "spun"

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MAY 16, 2021

Liturgy Schedule			Location	Mass Intention
Mon., May 17		No Liturgy		
Tues., May 18		No Liturgy		
Wed., May 19		No Liturgy		
Thur., May 20		No Liturgy		
Fri., May 21		No Liturgy		
Sat., May 22	7:00 PM	Mass	Colman	All Parishioners
Sun., May 23	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Mass Mass	Elkton Flandreau	† Marguerite Bartscher † Vernon Bechen

CONFESSIONS : - **Elkton & Colman** 1/2 hour prior to weekend Mass
- **Flandreau** after Sunday Mass

ROSARY: - prayed 1/2 hour prior to each weekend Mass.

MINISTERS OF SERVICE

COLMAN ~ SAT., MAY 22

Lector: Kim Froke

Altar Servers: Kaylee/Carson Voelker

ELKTON ~ SUN., MAY 23

Lector: Bill Fargen

Altar Servers: Claire/Rose McMahon

FLANDREAU ~ SUN., MAY 23

Lector: Paul Lewis

Altar Servers: Austin/Benjamin/Katherine/Isabel
Kulm

Sacristan: Marilyn Schwebach

Intention of the Holy Father for May:

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Adult Class:

No Class this Sunday (May 16).

Want to set up your donations as a recurring transaction?

Did you know..... You can use your bank's on-line bill pay to initiate a recurring transaction (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.) to make your regular contributions to the parish. Enter as the payee the parish to which you wish to make your donation (*Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Peter, or Sts. Simon & Jude*).

Mailing address for all three parishes:

105 S. Bates St., Flandreau, SD 57028

Phone: 605-997-2610

OR if you fall into one of the following groups:

- 1) **OLGC** parishioners that have their bank account with **BankStar Financial**
- 2) **SS&J** parishioners that have their bank account with **First National Bank**

Stop by your respective bank and ask to fill out a form initiating a recurring transaction (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.) directly from your account into the parish account.

Both of these options are available with no fees to the either the parish or the parishioner.



STS. SIMON & JUDE

Need one more Host family for Lumen Christi (formerly Totus Tuus) team members for Sat., July 31- Thur., August 5. Contact Laura 530-9428 or Marietta 864-3182.



Welcome through Baptism into
our parish family
Daphne Bea Weight,
daughter of Pat & Amy Weight.

CDA Mother Daughter Tea:

Join us to celebrate the Beatitudes Saturday June 5th 11:30am-1:30pm at the Secret Garden, Main Street Flandreau.

Tickets are \$8.00 each, advanced payment required. Please contact Erica Knipping or Jessica Lewis to purchase tickets. Due to the venue capacity – 50 people - tickets are not reserved until payment is received.

ST. PETER

St. Elizabeth Court #1362 of the CDA is raising funds to assist victims of abuse in abuse shelters across South Dakota and in particular the Wholeness Center of Moody County. Lifesaver Saturday will be held May 22. Following Mass, Lifesavers will be available and donations in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Wedding Banns

Please pray for Patrick Remund
and Shayna Ebben who will be
married on May 22nd.

Daily Readings for the Week

May 17: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-7; John 16:29-33
May 18: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11,20-21; John 17:1-11
May 19: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-36; John 17:11-19
May 20: Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-11; John 17:20-26
May 21: Acts 25:13-21; Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20;
John 21:15-19
May 22: Acts 28:16-20,30-31; Ps 11:4-7; John 21:20-25
May 23: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1,24,29-31,34;
Galatians 5:16-25; John 20:19-23

Preference for Confirmation: Flandreau-Colman-Elkton

The diocese sent us a list of 3 options for location of future Confirmations, and each priest must respond with their choice by June 1st.

I would like to get feedback from all parents with kids in CCD or who will be in CCD -- not just those who will have a confirmation candidate this coming year (going to be a sophomore) but parents with younger kids as well because, even though these sort of things are subject to change, it does sound like this will be a choice for at least a few years to come.

A "google survey" was emailed to families for which we have a valid email on file. **If you have children and did not receive our email**, you can go to <https://forms.gle/sPLrTeUZ1xooHRXw9> to complete the survey. **Only one response per family / household.**

No Taxpayer Funded Abortions

NoTaxpayerAbortion.com

Chris Motz, an attorney and a native of the Sioux Falls diocese, is the executive director of the South Dakota Catholic Conference (**SDCC**). Chris acts at the request of, and on behalf of, the bishops of South Dakota; i.e., he's not just out acting on his own but is serving the diocese directly according to the wishes of the bishop.

Chris sent out a letter related to the Hyde Amendment asking for "widespread engagement" on the issue at hand. As I understand it, the Hyde Amendment prevents federal money from funding abortions and there is an effort to set it aside. Chris is asking people to "sign" an electronic petition to prevent this. Following is a summary of his letter:

The Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities is aiming to engage Catholics and invite them to join a nationwide effort in defense of the Hyde Amendment, a federal funding bill rider that has protected Americans from funding abortion for 45 years. It's credited with saving the lives of over **2.4 million children** to date.

Despite having bi-partisan support for nearly half a century, some influential members of Congress would like to eliminate the Hyde Amendment's protections. Without the Hyde Amendment, billions of taxpayer dollars could go to abortion. If that happened, abortions would be cheaper, easier, and funded with our taxpayer dollars.

It is critically important for Catholics to send a strong message before Congress moves forward to impose taxpayer-funded abortion. Because of the incredibly high stakes, Congress needs to hear from a massive number of citizens. The primary goal is for *millions of Catholics* to *sign the petition* on NoTaxpayerAbortion.com

Our
Weekly Offering



Colman: \$1865
Flandreau: \$3457
Elkton: \$1295

Thank you!

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occurrence. I believe this is the most pronounced miracle ever done to confirm an apparition. God has something to say to modern man, and He wants there to be no doubt about it.

What is that message? There are so many facets of modern life that the messages and events connected to Fatima and Lucia touch upon that we cannot possibly cover them all here. In the short space available here, I will hone in on the 3rd apparition, the one in July, which contained the brunt of the central message of Fatima. In this **3rd apparition**, our Holy Mother said to the children: “sacrifice yourselves for sinners;” she then showed them a vision of hell. They heard shrieks and groans of pain and despair. Lucia said that souls were falling into hell like snowflakes (because there were so many) and that she thinks they would have died of fright if the Blessed Virgin had not already told them that she would take them to Heaven. The children looked up at Mary and she said: “You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them God wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.” Mary went on to talk about the end of World War I but warned that another worse war would break out if man did not stop offending God. Finally Mary said that if Russia is converted, there will be peace in the world; but if not, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world. They were then given another vision in which they saw the Pope wounded and appear to be dead, along with many other faithful who were killed. In this vision, there was an angel with a flaming sword crying out: Penance, Penance, Penance.

The central purpose of Fatima, as affirmed by Pope Benedict and Sr Lucia herself, was: to save souls. The means of this was penance, repentance, personal sacrifice, and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM). At Fatima, our Lord is calling His people back to Himself, giving us His Holy Mother as an example par excellence to follow.

I want return to the Blessed Virgin’s statement about Russia spreading her errors throughout the world because it is so important for us today and ties directly to the central purpose of salvation of souls. Some people look at this and say – well that didn’t happen; there was Communism in the Soviet Union and Asia but basically that’s it. This is erroneous on a number of fronts. First, Communism is far from dead. The communism of China and other parts of Asia is ever bit as oppressive as Soviet communism was. We would do well to remember our brothers and sisters in faith who suffer under those regimes. But even more to the point, more and more people in the western world have become very friendly towards Socialism. Socialism in any form has never ended well, invariably leading to a greater and greater materialistic mindset and belief. And this comes to the second and main point: Our Holy Mother did not say that Russia would spread *Communism* throughout the world; she said that Russia would spread her *errors* throughout the world. And that fundamental error was not political or social – it was error in belief. The Communism of Russia and all of its consequences was built upon a materialistic belief – an absolute insistence that the only existence is material existence; there is no such thing as spirit, nothing immaterial exists, no human soul, no angels or demons, and certainly no God. Without exception, this mentality leads to the degradation of man even here on earth and obviously separates him from his true and ultimate destiny, which is eternal life in our Father’s Kingdom. And this materialistic mindset has spread throughout the world. Pope St John Paul II said that there were still many people who didn’t ascribe formally to materialism per se, *but...*they live as if that is the case. He called this practical materialism, a subject that he returned to and warned about over and over again, even in his encyclicals. The world demands that even the Church and the faithful speak only in these terms, materialistic terms. This is unacceptable.

The visitations from Heaven have never been so frequent than in the last century or so. God has acted, He has called, pleaded, and shown us great signs. How will we respond?

God bless you, Fr. Kuhn



Vista parcial de algumas das 70.000 testemunhas visuais, no momento em que assistiam ao Milagre do Sol, em Fátima, a 13 de Outubro de 1917.

This picture is also from the last apparition and shows people looking up at the sun with some already falling to their knees