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FROM THE PASTOR



The atrocities of Hamas on Israel last Friday/Saturday were great crimes against humanity. It is arguably one of the most horrific days in modern times. Yes, there are cruelties going on throughout the world, but the level at which these were carried out is mind-blowing. The war between Palestine and Israel goes back not centuries, but millennia. This conflict goes back to at least when Israel was conquering the Holy Land after their freedom from Egypt, if not going back to Abraham. The Palestinians are descendants of the Philistines. We all know the story of David and Goliath; Goliath was a Philistine. This is some of the background that we forget with this conflict, and it is hard to imagine a conflict lasting 2,500 to 3,000 years. But maybe a question that we should ask ourselves is what do we do when confronted with pure, unadulterated evil? In some ways we approach evil on two levels, the spiritual and the physical. We have no problem saying that on a spiritual level, evil should be eradicated from our lives. However, there seems to be a shift, especially in the West, when it comes to physical evil involving human beings. Granted there are levels of evil that exist, but where do the events of last Saturday stand? If an evil is going to persist, no matter the diplomacy that might be sought, should it be wiped off the face of the Earth? I'm not saying, on political terms, that the USA should join the fight, Israel is very capable. Does Israel have the right to reciprocate with greater force a military offensive against Hamas in Gaza? My answer would be yes. There is a teaching in the Catholic Church called "just war". Here is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches in paragraph 2309: The strict conditions for legitimate defense by military force require rigorous consideration. The gravity of such a decision makes it subject to rigorous conditions of moral legitimacy. At one and the same time: 1) the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain; 2) all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective; 3) there must be serious prospects of success; 4) the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. The power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition. These are the traditional elements enumerated in what is called the "just war" doctrine. The evaluation of these conditions for moral legitimacy belongs to the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good. I present this to you for your consideration within this conflict. It is not always easy, especially when the taking of human life is involved.

In response to this crisis, The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, has asked all religious communities to dedicate Tuesday, Oct. 17. as a day of fasting, abstinence and prayer. He suggested the faithful come together to pray the rosary or to spend time in Eucharistic adoration. Let us continually pray for justice and peace for the Middle East.

I have fielded many times this last week if I will still be going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the end of October. The simple answer is basically no, unless some miracle happens. I have not received any official word from the tour company yet as they are dealing with two or three other tours that were to leave for the Holy Land before the one I was scheduled to participate. This pilgrimage will be postponed to a later date. Yes, I am disappointed, but it is sometimes hard to predict war.

PIZZA WITH PADRE – Through some requests, I will be hosting a "Pizza with Padre" on November 7th at 6:30pm in the St. Joseph School. This will be a time to ask me questions regarding, but not limited to, the faith, morals, sacraments, etc. Pizza and drinks will be provided. It would be helpful if you could let me, Fr. Luke, know if you plan to attend, but it is certainly not necessary.

YOUNG ADULT NIGHT – November 19th at 6:30pm. Over the last few months I have been seeing more and more young adults/couples show up to church, which is fantastic! To help foster community amongst this group, I will be hosting a Young Adult Night. Food and games will be provided. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Fr. Luke by November 12th. Hope to see you there!

Insurance costs: I want to make you aware that the insurance cost has gone up dramatically. This is affecting everyone, not just our parish or our diocese. The cost of insurance increased from \$23K to \$37K for St. Joseph and \$10.5K to \$14.5K for St. Paul. I hate telling you this as the country is in a harsh loop of increased product costs followed by increased wages to make living affordable followed by increased product costs to cover the wage increase and around and around it goes. I tell you this to try and be transparent about the overhead for our parishes. Above all, though, God will provide.

All Catholic ladies, young and old alike, are invited to attend the SDCCW West Vicariate meeting that will be held in Goodland and hosted by the ladies of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from 9am(central time) to about 2pm. on Saturday, October 21, 2023. Registration, coffee, and rolls will be from 9-9:30am with the following meeting. Mass will be said before the noon lunch (free-will offering) and program. If you would like to carpool, please call Betty Hockersmith.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

Pizza Hut Fundraiser on October 16th. First-grade parents will deliver.


If you would like to donate toward our youth attending NCYC you can use the envelopes in the back of St. Joseph Church. Thank You!

ST. PAUL NEWS

I have received word from Conrad Schmidt Studios that the scaffolding will begin going up the week of January 8th. Stripping the church and moving to the K of C Hall, I am thinking will happen on December 27th, but that is subject to change. More details will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

The Knights of Columbus have tickets for the "25 Days of Christmas" raffle available. Please call Jeff Ostmeyer at 785-675-8671 for your tickets.

Capital Campaign Update: \$617K pledged and \$305K in the bank. Thank you for your continued support!!!!



Our Tithes from Last Week

Oakley: \$3028.00 Angelus: \$531.00

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sat	14 – 5pm Mass + Carolyn Denchfield
Sun	15 – 8am Mass (Angelus) - Parishioners 10:30am + Loretta Schoenfeld
Mon	16 – No Mass Pizza Hut fundraiser. First grade parents deliver.
Tues	17 – Optional Day of Fasting, Abstinence and Prayer 8:30am Mass + Kevin Zimmerman Bible Study at 9:30am
Wed	18 – 7:00pm Mass (Angelus) + Leon Zerr 7pm CCD Oakley
Thur	19 – 7am Mass + Pauline Davis 8:30am Communion Service
Fri	20 – 7am Mass + Jim Muehlenkamp
Sat	21 – 5pm Mass + Larry Kuhlman
Sun	22 – 8am Mass (Angelus) + Frank & Anna Marie Huelsman 10:30am - Parishioners

Confessions 30 minutes before Weekend Masses, by appointment, or if indicated on the schedule.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL

Mr. Darin Munk	Mrs. Aimee Zimmerman - Chair
Mr. David Manhart	Mr. Mason Sheetz
Mrs. Penny Pfeifer	Mr. Ethan Schwarz
Mrs. Bridgit Bockwinkel	Mrs. Dana Charles – Vice Chair
Mrs. Micheline Huffman	

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Mrs. Betty Hockersmith	Mrs. Delores Lockhart
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ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COUNCIL

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ST. PAUL PARISH/FINANCE COUNCIL

Mr. Bernard Dickman	Ms. Diane Solomon - Chair
Mr. Clem Fellhoelter	Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
Mrs. Kristy Fellhoelter - Vice Chair	Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Oct. 21 st 5 pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Oct 22 nd 10:30 am	Servers	CYO
	Lector	Elaine Wycoff		Lector	CYO
	Gifts	Pat Ryan & Alice Lindeman		Gifts	CYO
	Hospitality	Pat Ryan & Alice Lindeman		Hospitality	CYO

Sunday, Oct 22 nd 8 am	Servers	Johnathan Ostmeyer
	Lectors	Ron Lager & Nancy Schwarz
	EMHC	Steve Fellhoelter
	Gifts	Ron & Nancy Bixenman
	Hospitality	Mason Bixenman, Bernard Dickman, Bob & Clem Fellhoelter