

## GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

By Fr. Pfeifer

Jesus has a mission for all his faithful. What is yours as his follower? That is our topic for reflection this weekend. In the gospel today, Jesus says that he came "to set the earth on fire"? What does that mean?



tion of an everlasting Kingdom by teaching his Apostles and by offering himself as a redeeming sacrifice for all mankind. This mission filled him with enthusiasm, purpose, and energy. He yearned to get that fire started and to see it spread!

Jesus is speaking about the fire of Christian virtue, the Christian way of life that makes power struggles, prejudice, and oppression obsolete. He is speaking of the fire of faith and hope that will bring countless human lives back onto the path of a meaningful and fulfilling life. He is speaking of the love for one's neighbor that will take root and gradually build up a civilization of justice and love.

Twenty centuries later, we know that this is what Christ meant. But when he made this bold statement, the Church didn't yet exist. It hadn't converted emperors and kings. It was just an embryo, just a tiny community of ordinary fisherman.

Jesus successfully communicated his mission statement to them. What did they do? His Apostles understood the message and made it their own. They let Jesus set their hearts on fire first. Then, they went on to do their job.

They started spreading that fire. They spread it with words and deeds. They even sealed their work with the sacrifice of their lives. All but one of the Apostles died a martyr's death, shedding their blood. And the next generation of Christians continued carrying the torch. And the next... But even so, the world is not yet all ablaze. Many pockets are still cold and dark. Many places that used to be blazing are now only smoldering. Many hearts still haven't been renewed by the fire of Christ's love and wisdom.

So, Jesus repeats the lesson today, to us. He gives us his mission statement, and invites us to make it our own, to take up the baton, to put our lives on the line to spread the saving fire of Christian virtue and truth.

Jesus knew he had a mission in life: to lay the founda-

We are Christians, his followers. He is our General, and we are his soldiers. He is our King, and we are his ambassadors. His mission is our mission. It became ours when we were baptized, and we took personal responsibility for it when we were confirmed. It should fill us with as much enthusiasm and energy as it did for him. Does it?

Today the Holy Spirit is asking us to take an x-ray of our hearts. How much are we filled with a healthy zeal for Christ's Kingdom? Can we truly call ourselves mission-driven Christians? How much have we let ourselves be bullied by a society that writes off true Christians as fanatics? All of us believe in this mission - that's why we're here. But if we believed more passionately, our lives would become more like Christ's, and we would live more passionately, joyfully, and purposefully.

In the corporate driven world, executives are always finding creative ways to help employees absorb the company's mission statement. They come up with posters, screen savers, catchy mottos, bookmarks, e-newsletters... They consciously keep their mission in mind.

This week, let's do the same thing with our mission statement, the one that really matters. Let's leave this weekend's Mass having promised Christ that we will do something (and let's make it specific!) this week to remind ourselves that we are his missionaries, his fire-spreaders. If we do our part to keep that in mind, he will certainly do his part to make it come true.

**Jesus has a mission for you. What is it?**

## St. Philip Neri Catholic Church A Discipleship Parish



Fr. Neil Pfeifer, Pastor  
neil.pfeifer@fargodiocese.org  
Cell: 701-208-1124



stphilipnerinapoleon.org  
754-2860

**A Message of stewardship**  
sharing the gifts we have been given

*"Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."* – Luke 12:51

Living a stewardship lifestyle means stepping out of our comfort zone when needed. Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves, stay in the middle of the road. In today's world we are called to be informed and take a stance for life, marriage and religious liberty.



August 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 14, 2016

Twentieth Sunday  
In Ordinary Time

Mon., Aug 15 .....5 PM  
Marty Leier by Martin & Maggie Leier

Tue., Aug 16 .....7 PM  
+Steve Feist by Paul & Wendy Haegele

Wed., Aug 17 .....8 AM  
+Irene Brunner by Cecelia Riddle

Thurs., Aug 18 .....8 AM  
+Philip & +Betty Lacher by Jim & Jackie Bitz Family

Fri., Aug 19 .....8 AM  
+Sebastian Bernhardt by The Family

Sat., Aug 20 .....8 PM  
+For Our Parishioners

Sun., Aug 21 .....10 AM  
+Baltzer (Bill) Schmitt by Bill & Jen Schmitt Family

Sunday Care Center 8:45 AM

Helper: Lorraine Reis



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place from 6 AM Thursday until midnight Friday.

Parish Announcements



Mass of Installation -

Fr. Pfeifer's Installation Mass as Pastor of St. Philip Neri will be at 5 p.m. on Mon., Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary. The Mass will be followed by a parish welcome in the Holy Family social hall. Meal will be pulled pork, sausage, buns, chips, pickles, and refreshments (not a potluck).

Welcome, Fr. Pfeifer!!

**Praise God!** - As we continue to pray for vocations at St. Philip Neri, we give glory and praise to God for all his blessings. Last Saturday, August 6th, on the Feast of the Transfiguration, **Kayla Gross** was invested in a habit and was given the name: **Sr. Mary Angela** of the Holy Face of Jesus as she entered the novitiate with the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus in New Ulm, MN. Congratulations to the Gross family on this special event!

**Baptism** - Taylor and Kasey Grunfelder bring their baby girl, Isla Marie, for baptism on Sun., Aug. 14. Please welcome the newest member of St. Philip Neri!

**Religious Education** for 1-6 will begin Sun., Aug. 28th after the 10:00 am Mass. **Grades 7-12** will begin on Wed., Sep. 7th from 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm.

**Attentions CCD Parents** - Parents are the 1<sup>st</sup> educators of their children and bear the responsibility before God of the baptismal commitment to raise their children in the faith. St. Philip Neri tries to help through the CCD program. CCD cannot cover everything they should know but targets the most important themes. The basic Gospel message needs to come from you. The Fargo Diocese's religious guidelines by age will be available to pick up after Mass on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup>.

Let the little children come to me...



Praise God for the new life in our church! From L to R: Therese Bitz, Jaxson Kleppe, Briggs Waldo, Gretta Gross, Letty Weigel, Isla Grunfelder, Adalynn Fettig, Paxton Puklich, Leslie Piatz, and Burton Heying

Photo Courtesy of the Napoleon Homestead

Area Events and News



Bishop Folda invites all men to the FARGODOME to explore the depths of every man's inherent desire for greatness. Hear dynamic speakers such as Steve Wood (a former Evangelical pastor who as Catholic has now spent decades helping men pursue greatness), Father Robert Pecotte, Monsignor Robert Laliberte, Father Andrew Jasinski, Dave Richman (head coach of the NDSU Bison Men's Basketball team), and more as they unpack what leads to the authentic greatness every man inwardly desires, hurdles to greatness, and some practical tools men can use to pursue greatness in their own homes and communities. Day includes Mass, opportunities for confessions, superb food, and door prizes. Early registration is \$25 through September 18th, \$35 after. [www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed](http://www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed) or call Brad Gray 356-7903 or Jennie Korsmo 356-7901.

**Rosary:** The parish will start praying the Rosary 25 minutes before every weekend Mass starting August 13th & 14th. If you would be interested in helping lead the rosary from time to time contact the parish office.

**Assumption of Mary is August 15th** - The Assumption of Mary is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, because it falls on a Monday. This feast is a very old feast of the Church, celebrated as early as the sixth century. It commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay - - a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. It signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life.

**Attention College Students** - Newman centers on various campuses present a way to stay connected to the Catholic faith while completing higher education. Check out the Newman Center on your campus to find ways to participate in parish life while in college.

Walk with Christ for Life

The annual diocesan Eucharistic procession, *Walk with Christ for Life*, will be held Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Cathedral of St. Mary, Fargo. The day's events include Mass, a procession, prayer outside the abortion facility, Benediction, and lunch.

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church

**Confessions:** 1/2 hr before every Mass, 1 hour before Saturday Mass, OR by appointment any time

**Weddings:** Contact Fr. Pfeifer at least 8 months prior.

**Baptisms:** Contact Fr. Pfeifer before Godparents are chosen.

	Saturday, Aug 20
<u>Sacristan</u>	Phyllis Johnson
<u>Lectors</u>	Paul Haegele, Brenda Weigel
<u>Ushers/Gift Bearers</u>	John & Sally Johs; David Becker Family
<u>Servers</u>	Charmine Haas, MckenzieHaas
<u>EMHC</u>	Paul Haegele, Char Young, Phyllis Johnson

	Sunday, Aug 21
<u>Sacristan</u>	Mark Wangler
<u>Lectors</u>	Cheri Glatt, Anita Fettig
<u>Ushers/Gift Bearers</u>	Willie & Alvina Piatz, S. Gross Family
<u>Servers</u>	Blaise Bitz, Noah Becker
<u>EMHC</u>	Jackie Grunfelder, Cheri Glatt, Andy Gross

Stewardship of  
Treasure

This Week: \$ 4,784.78