

Day of Prayer and Fasting for Atonement & Healing

It seems that every one of us has been touched in some way by the sexual abuse scandal within our Church. We hurt, we grieve, we question, we are angered, we feel numb.

In an effort to come together as a community, to mourn and pray for those hurt by this terrible injustice (which really has affected and touched all of us), we have set aside Friday, November 2 (the Feast of All Souls), as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Atonement and Healing.

The 12-hour vigil will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m. at Ss. Peter & Paul, Kiel. Every hour, we will listen to scripture, pray the Divine Mercy chaplet, and pray intercessory prayers as well as a litany. All of this will be done with the Eucharist exposed on the altar.

At 12:00, the Eucharist will be transferred to St. Ann, St. Anna until 4:00. As was the case in Kiel, the Eucharist will remain exposed and every hour will be filled with prayer, scripture and silence.

At 4:00 p.m., the Eucharist will be transferred one final time to Holy Rosary, New Holstein. The prayer, proclamation of scripture and silence will conclude with a Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Our Church - the body of Christ, indeed comprised of every single one of us - is hurting. The Church, our family, has sinned and we feel its effects - and we must clothe ourselves in sackcloth and ashes and come before our God asking for His mercy and grace during this time of mourning. We need to grieve. We need to pray. We need to walk with those wounded. And we need to do it together as a community.

We ask that you set aside time that day to come join us. We ask that if you cannot, you fast and pray where you are. The prophet Joel, in the first reading we hear every Ash Wednesday, invites us "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord."

This is our time now. Let us fast and weep and pray and rend together.



"LET MY HEART BE BROKEN
FOR THE THINGS THAT BREAK
GOD'S HEART."
-BOB PIERCE