

PARKSTON - DIMOCK - ARMOUR Community Bulletin

JULY 26, 2026 | 17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Gary DeRouchey | SH Office: 605-928-3676

frgaryderouchey@sfcatholic.org | Cell: 605-222-2034

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Sacred Heart

409 W. Main St.
PO Box 460
Parkston, SD 57366

SH Secretary/Bookkeeper: Bailee Mogck

Office: 605-928-3676 | parkston@holypostlessd.org

Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 8am-4pm

SH DRE: OPEN POSITION!



Ss. Peter & Paul

146 W. 1st St.
Dimock, SD 57331

SsPP Bookkeeper: Debbie Neugebauer

Cell: 605-770-1183 | dimock@holypostlessd.org

SsPP DRE: Bridget Weber | Cell: 605-520-2743

bridgetzirbel@hotmail.com



St. Paul the Apostle

204 1st St.
Armour, SD 57313

SPA Secretary: Jami Werkmeister

Cell: 605-770-5045 | parkston@holypostlessd.org

SPA DRE: Jim & Jami Werkmeister | 605-770-5045

WELCOME!

If you are looking to become Catholic or make the journey back home and need assistance with any of the Sacraments, please contact Fr. Gary DeRouchey or Bailee in the office at 605-928-3676 to set up an appointment.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Contact the pastor to schedule class and baptismal date.

Marriage: Contact the pastor at least six months before the proposed wedding date to begin marriage preparation.

Anointing of the Sick: If you are sick, in the hospital or are having a procedure, contact the pastor for anointing.

FACILITIES CONTACTS

SH Hall Rental: Parish Office, 928-3676

SsPP Hall Rental: Kevin Murtha, 605-677-8666

Parkston KC Hall Rental: Mike Thury, (H) 928-3562, (C) 605-770-6440

Sacred Heart Cemetery, Parkston & St. Mary's Cemetery, Rural Parkston:

Gregg Wagner, 605-505-0323, Rita Wagner, 605-770-0556

Cathedral Cemetery, Tripp: Lynn Schoenfelder, 605-505-0178

WELCOME TO HOLY APOSTLES PASTORATE!

Holy Apostles Pastor: Fr. Tom Clement | Platte Rectory: 605-337-3710 |

frthomasclement@sfcatholic.org

Director of Discipleship & Evangelization: Sr. Maribeth Wentzlaff | Cell: 605-760-5295

mwentzlaff@yanktonbenedictines.org

Facilities Manager: Marty Royston | Cell: 605-770-2595 | facilities@holypostlessd.org

Business Manager: Bailee Mogck | parkston@holypostlessd.org

Administrative Assistant/Communications: JoNell DeHaan | office@holypostlessd.org

Connect with all 9 parishes within Holy Apostles Pastorate by visiting holypostlessd.org. Here you will find Mass times, bulletins, a calendar of events, faith formation info, & more for each parish and the pastorate.

Watch FORMED for free! Members throughout our pastorate are invited to sign up for FORMED under St. Peter the Apostle Church, Platte or Sacred Heart Parish, Parkston.

Connect with us on Facebook!

Parkston and Dimock Catholic Community

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Dimock

St. Paul Apostle Church of Armour, South Dakota

Holy Apostles



17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (2002, 1988, 1970-1982)

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 5pm | Dimock*

Sunday: 9am | Parkston*

11am | Armour

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday: 5:30pm | Dimock

Wednesday: 8:30am | Parkston

11:30am | Armour

Thursday: 8:30am | Dimock

Friday: 8:30am | Parkston

Saturday: 10:00am | Parkston-Bormann Manor

CONFESSIONS:

Wednesday: 12:00-1:00pm | Armour

Friday: 12:00-12:45pm | Parkston

Saturday: 4:00-4:45pm | Dimock

Sunday: 8:00-8:45am | Parkston

ADORATION:

Wednesday: 12:00-1:00pm | Armour

Friday: 9:00am-1:00pm | Parkston

*Watch 5pm Saturday Mass on Santel Channel 916 or stream on YouTube @[sppindimock](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsppindimock) & 9am Sunday Mass on Santel Channel 910 or stream on YouTube @[sacredheartparkston](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsacredheartparkston)



The Knightly News

The Parkston Knights of Columbus meet the second Sunday of each month at 7:30pm at the KC Hall.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The Catholic Daughters meet the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

Dear faith family,

Recently, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV addressed the issue of AI (artificial intelligence) in religious life. Our Diocese has extended an invitation to all pastors and parish staff members to a workshop on how we may want to incorporate AI within our diocesan ministries. The following abbreviated article addresses AI in ministry by Levente Szekely found on ZENIT News from Rome. My question is: "Is AI the pearl or treasure you are looking for?"

What happens when technology no longer assists religious life but begins to replace it?

"Artificial intelligence is no longer merely automating labor or replacing creativity. It is beginning to mediate humanity's relationship with the sacred itself. The rise of AI monks, chatbot spiritual advisers, and machine-generated worship services are examples that raise a deeper question: what happens when technology no longer assists religious life but begins to replace it?

The Japanese Buddhoid, introduced this past February, and the Korean robot monk Gabi, recently ordained in Seoul for the Buddhist festive season, show how artificial intelligence is entering the sphere of religious practice. Machines can now be trained on sacred texts, allowing them to answer spiritual questions and offer guidance. The use of advanced technology in religion is no longer a futuristic thought experiment but is already part of contemporary religious life.

The relationship between religion and artificial intelligence is fascinating, as religion is tied to the past, while AI is tied to the future. Technology appears to already be integrating into religious practice, primarily as a tool—an accessory, a recorder, or a facilitator of spiritual experiences—but why could it not also be a goal in itself?

The most famous device was the God Helmet, which, like other neural stimulators, operated using a low-intensity magnetic field to "create" a spiritual experience. In Raëlism, technology serves as a means to immortality, where cloning and genetic engineering make immortality and spiritual salvation technically attainable.

As part of the Protestant Church Days in Germany, the first worship service entirely controlled by AI, titled "Alexa, starte den Gottesdienst." During the 37-minute service held at the Lutheran church in Fürth, Bavaria, the sermon, prayers, blessing, and music were all generated by AI-based systems without human intervention, delivered through avatars displayed on a screen. The goal of the project was to explore how a religious community would react to an AI-led worship service. A key consideration was to minimize human intervention and ensure that the technology used was accessible, affordable, and reproducible by other congregations.

Critics question not only the theological appropriateness of these tools, but also their effect on human relationships and spiritual authority. Whatever we may think of the different apps, experience shows that AI is capable of being revered as a deity even without further development. A good example of this is Theta Noir, which began as an art project but can also be interpreted as a new religious movement driven by the goal of reshaping the narrative surrounding AI.

Another example is the Turing Church, which expands the concept of divinity by introducing the "operator God," who stands above our human reality and operates it as a computer system, acting as a system administrator. According to its followers, our reality is merely a simulation or the inner world of a supercomputer beyond space and time. This idea effectively closes the circle, as it is not the spirituality simulated by the robot but the very nature of the human soul that is called into question. If we think that elevating machines to a god-like status exhausts the possible connections between religion and technology, we are mistaken.

AI may replace not only sacred scripture and religious teachers, but may even try to replace God and believers themselves. Technology can strengthen human relationships when it bridges distance or facilitates communication. But when it becomes a substitute for genuine human connection, something essential is lost. The same danger exists in spiritual life. AI may assist religious practice, but if communion with God becomes mediated primarily through simulation, convenience, and algorithmic interaction, we risk confusing technological imitation with transcendence itself."

Who would have believed twenty years ago that the human race would be tied to a piece of plastic but how long can we go in our lives without looking or touching our phones? Sadly – AI is becoming more a part of our lives as we let God drift from it. What do we treasure? What are we willing to give up to obtain that treasure?

Just a reminder --- each of our Finance Committees will meet this week to discuss and approve the annual reports and budgets: Sacred Heart, Tuesday at 6:45pm; Saint Paul the Apostle, Wednesday at 1:30pm; and Saints Peter & Paul, Thursday at 7:00pm. If you have any questions or concerns about the financial positions of our parishes, please contact one of the committee members. Our Thursday brown baggin' Bible study will continue our stroll through the Book of Romans as we begin with the conclusion of chapter 8. All are welcome to join in our discussions.



Let us hold in our prayers...

Those quietly facing infertility or suffering from a miscarriage • Quila Walz • Kathy Behrend • Marlene Buchholz • Jason Buchholz • Doug Bormann
 Rosemarie Hafner • Tara Ziebart • Jan Eggers • John Reif • Jo Kirk • Missy Jorgenson • Geneva Berg • John Gilman • Ron Neugebauer • Steve Krsnak
 Dave Weber Family • Mary Feiner • Mary Jane Zwinger • Mary Newcomer • Parker Holbeck • Marley Whitaker • Sherman Hilfiker • Scott Nice • Dave Brech
 Londa Krull Peters • Patty Viereck • Ron Dufek • Josie Trebil • Mary Reiff • Denise Royston • Dylan Ernster • Elaine Neugebauer • Mary Foley • Maureen Dufek
 Paul(Dick) & DeeDee Thury • Tanner Harrington • Verne Carda • Dave Krull • Alex Laffey • Keeley Rexwinkle • Mark Hoffman • Mike Brezina • Kelly Cross
 Tom Herrmann • Jared Hettinger • Josh Spaans • Kayla Marsh • Peggy Fischer • Norma Sommer • Ralph McGregor • Jean Mingo-Schmaltz • Rachel Boreson

If you would like to schedule a Mass for a loved one or add yourself or someone in your family to the prayer list, please contact your parish office.
 A stipend of \$10 for the scheduling of a Mass is appreciated.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tuesday, July 28th

5:30pm(SsPP) - James & Carol Fergen †

Wednesday, July 29th

8:30am(SH) - Bill & Lisa Sprecher Family †

11:30am(SPA) - Carol Pesicka †

Thursday, July 30th

8:30am(SsPP) - CDA

Friday, July 31st

8:30am(SH) - Dave † & JoAnn Hoffman

Saturday, Aug. 1st

10:00am(BM) - Deloris Hohn †

5:00pm(SsPP) - Marvin & Joan

Schoenfelder †

Sunday, Aug. 2nd

9:00am(SH) - Ryan Hohn † & Curly & Josie

Schoenfelder †

11:00am(SPA) - Dennis Weiver

CATHOLIC TRIVIA Just for fun

Question: Who is considered the founding father of the Catholic Church in Ireland?

Answer can be found on the back page, under the wordsearch.

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Prayer for Rain

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the many ways You provide for us. We humbly ask that You send rain to all areas that need it. We know that You are all powerful and all knowing. In Your infinite wisdom and goodness, You provide all that we need. In our fallen world, we suffer from many things. You can send rain for all those who are suffering from drought.

Please provide the rain that we need for comfortable living, and we particularly ask today that You provide rain for all regions that have been suffering from drought for a long time. Help us to always rely on You for all that we need in our lives. Give us the grace to grow to a deeper trust in You in every circumstance we encounter. Amen.

Parish Announcements

Sacred Heart

Altar Society Band 1 will serve the next funeral.

Watering of Church Grounds - A sign-up sheet is in the main entrance of SH for individuals/families to help water the landscaping plants and new grass planted by the parking lot. Watering should be completed once per week, if no rain. If you and/or your family would like to assist in watering this summer, please check the sign-up sheet for any open weeks. Thank you!

Please check the kitchen for your bowls and pans!

Finance Council Meeting - Tuesday, July 28th at 6:45pm in the large educational classroom.

Ss. Peter & Paul

Finance Council Meeting - Thursday, July 30th at 7pm

St. Paul the Apostle

Finance Council Meeting - Wednesday, July 29th at 1:30pm in the parish hall.

Altar Society: Each year, the Altar Society assigns members to help oversee the various committees and events that support our parish. This year the altar society chair members would like to offer everyone the opportunity to sign up for the committee you feel called to share your time and talents. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the church entryway. Please sign up by August 9th. After that date, any remaining open positions will be filled with members who have not yet volunteered. If you are unable to serve on the committee to which you are assigned, please arrange for your own replacement. Thank you for your willingness to serve our parish community! -Altar Society Chair Members, Elli, Melanie, Brenda, & Mary

KC Family Picnic



Saturday, August 8th | 6:30pm | Rose Bormann Park
 All Knights of Columbus members, along with their families, are invited to a picnic in the park! Serving burgers, hot dogs, chips & a drink.
 We hope to see you there!



Thank you to Curt & Steve Wagner, Matthew Weber & Collin Newton for helping with the maintenance in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Everyday Stewardship

My wife is a big Dave Ramsey fan. She loves when he tells people that in order to pay down their debt they need to sell so many of their possessions that the kids think that even they can be sold for the right price. He definitely sees earthly possessions as simply tools to be used and not "possessed." This is a tough, countercultural message for sure in the eyes of the average American. Too often, our self-worth is derived from our wealth and the items we own. The size of our house, the brand of our car, and the quantity of our belongings are all gauges of success in our world. For Ramsey, not only can you not truly own anything if you owe money to others, it belongs to God anyway and is only given to us as stewards.

Could you sell all you have right now? Could you walk away from all that you have amassed and be truly free? When Jesus speaks of the merchant who sells all he has to obtain a pearl of great price, he calls us to see the pearl as the kingdom of heaven. Nothing on earth can rival the value of the kingdom. If that is true, why is it so hard to surrender everything to God to obtain it? It can be fear that keeps us from stepping out in faith. It can be selfishness that prevents us from letting go. Whatever it is, we must face the fact that we are "possessed" by it. The good news is that God does not expect us to conquer this obstacle on our own. But with God, all things are possible. -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for July 26, 2026

Matthew 13:44-52

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: parables about the treasure of heaven. Words can be found in all directions.

THE KINGDOM	HEAVEN	TREASURE
FIELD	SELLS	BUYS
MERCHANT	PEARLS	GREAT
FISH	EVERY KIND	ASHORE
THE END	OF THE AGE	ANGELS
SEPARATE	THROW THEM	FURNACE
TEETH	SCRIBE	HOUSEHOLD

HARVESTS

J O T H E K I N G D O M
O A T R E A S U R E E E
F N S K W L N E K R V H
T A D H R F E D C T E T
H N L A O U V H R E R W
E S E P A R A T E E Y O
A P I E D N E E H T K R
G N F D T A H B S H I H
E O G A H C H O I D N T
C H E E O E D R F R D P
F R S E L L S Y U B C V
G H O U S E H O L D S

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Trivia Answer: St. Patrick.

Liturgical Ministries - August 1st & 2nd

Sts. Peter & Paul	Sacred Heart	St. Paul the Apostle
EM: Diane Kummer & Bob Schoenfelder	EM: Marty Royston & Diane Baumiller	EM: Carly S., Mary B., Sr. Maribeth
Lector: Bridget Weber	Lector: Carrie Oakley	Lectors: Elli H. & Tammy S.
Servers: Hazel, Faye & Ivan Weber	Servers: Sydney & Gracelyn Royston, Hadley Hohn, Oakley Baumiller	Servers: Andrew, Cady, Tayla, Tia & Tucker
Ushers: Nick Weber, Charles Weber, Matthew Weber	Ushers: Brad, Diane & Wes Baumiller, Brad Oakley	Ushers: Daniel Hoffman, Jeff Cleveland, Terry Hinckley, Casey Carda
Gift Carriers: Tim & Millie Wermers	Gift Carriers: Brad & Carrie Oakley Family	Gift Carriers: Russell Ledeboer Family
Video: Tricia Neugebauer	Video: Roger Waltman	
Rosary: Virginia Weber		Counters: Arlene & Barb

Church Support

Ss. Peter & Paul	Sacred Heart	St. Paul the Apostle
Envelopes \$1506.00	Envelopes \$3525.00	Envelopes \$1505.00
Loose \$76.00	Loose \$221.00	Loose \$144.00
Masses \$10.00	Peter's Pence \$50.00	Masses \$60.00
Candles \$25.00	Masses \$70.00	

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field." He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in his ordinary life, his teaching, his suffering, his Church. This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and his Church. After all, He never ceases seeking his treasure in us. — Father John Muir

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DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Finding the Sacred in Every Day - Saturday, August 1st 9am - Sunday, August 2nd 1:30pm. A spiritual retreat for women ages 26-40 to reflect on your experience of God within the many aspects of your daily life. Sponsored by Sacred Heart Monastery. Register by July 27th. For more information and to register, email Sr. Carmy at shmyankton.vocationdirector@gmail.com or call 605-668-6092.

East River TEC #1 - Calling all teens (ages 16+) and young adults! Join the revival of TEC in the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. Registration is NOW OPEN for East River TEC #1! The registration fee of \$85 covers all retreat expenses, including materials, lodging at Ace Maria Catholic School and meals. Go to EastRiverTEC.com/event-details/east-riveritec-1 to register.

Taste the Goodness - Saturday, August 1st from 5-9pm in downtown Sioux Falls. Participants can enjoy fellowship while tasting a wide variety of foods, craft beers, wines, sodas and other beverages. Music will be provided, along with a great mobile bidding silent auction, as well as games and activities. This is a come and go event benefitting the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House.

33rd Annual "Bishop's Cup" - Monday, August 17th at The Country Club of Sioux Falls and the Minnehaha Country Club with a shotgun start at 12:30pm. Teams can choose to play a four person scramble or play each individual ball with the two best balls scored hole by hole. This tournament benefits Broom Tree Retreat Center.