



GOSPEL MEDITATION: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, "I just want you to know, I'm willing to die for these files." She would have called a psychiatrist — or at least security.

There is something absurd in Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: I will die for them. The crowd understandably responds: "He is out of his mind."

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John's Gospel won't let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd's madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep — for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me.

Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you.

— Father John Muir

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**April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday**

Holy Apostles Pastorate

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St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
107 High Avenue SW (PO BOX 637), Wagner

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Catholic Church**
416 Haines Street, Dante

St. Paul Catholic Church
102 Church DR (PO Box 266), Marty

**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 information & more!**

**Check out Holy Apostles Pastorate on
Facebook and Instagram!**



**St. John's Parish
Contact Information**

Rectory/Basement Kitchen 384-5518
CCD Center 384-5157
Bulletin:
Theresa Koupal 481-1565
dkoupal@hcinet.net
Prayer Chain:
Dorothy Holzbauer 491-2699
Parish Website: [https://
stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.weebly.com/](https://stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.weebly.com/)



**St. Paul Parish
Contact Information:**

*Catholic Mission
of the
Yankton Sioux People*

St. Sylvester Convent 384-3305
Sister Miriam 384-3234
Prayer Chain
Alice Cournoyer 491-2453
Kateri Circle/Judy Pena 469-5755
Life/Rhonda Kuhlman 384-4257
Faith Formation
Cathy Kreeger 384-3234
Amy Doom 469-5797



**Assumption Parish
Contact
Information:**

Rectory 384-5518
Church/CCD Center 384-5155
Bulletin:
Danielle Krcil 491-2202
daniellekrcil@gmail.com
Prayer Chain:
Cindy Krcil 384-3585
Marilee Krcil 286-3907

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

On "Good Shepherd Sunday" we warmly welcome Bishop DeGroot to 'anoint with oil' at 2pm at Wagner the confirmandi of the parishes of our Holy Apostles Pastorate. A literal translation of the end of today's second reading says, "you have now returned to the shepherd and bishop of your souls." Our responsorial Psalm says, "you anoint my head with oil". The sheep of the Good Shepherd "recognize his voice"; let us recognize the Lord's hand here with us!

We pray eternal life for +Gladys Slaba. Today's annual "Home Missions Collection" aids many needs across our country. New at St. John's are "busy bags" to engage the attention of little

ones; our older homebound would also benefit from more help bringing Holy Communion to them - see Fr. Jim. Dante and Wagner parish councils meet: 7pm Mon at Dante and 7pm Tues at Wagner. Marty's closing CCD Mass is 6:30pm Wed. Next weekend is 'graduation' Mass and May Crowning at Wagner and Dante; Marty has May Crowning as well followed by Finance Council but 'graduation' Mass will be May 17 for Marty. We have baptism for Major James Kocer (Jordan & Misty) at today's Dante Mass - a reminder that the seven Sacraments are never strictly 'private' events but every one has an effect upon the Church as a whole; know our prayers with you!

Fr. Jim

CRADLE CATHOLICS CLASS

Wednesday, May 20
6:00 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement

**Welcome,
Bishop
DeGroot!**



Please keep the following in your thoughts & prayers: Mary Hurd, Brenda George, Joe Nedved, Keith Kuca, Sylvia Beeson, Waylon Koupal (infant son of Tyler & Tayleigh Koupal), Eleanor Andersh, Joe Morrison, Miko Kotab.

Contact Theresa Koupal if you would like a name added to (or taken off) the list. Names of those on the list are also added to the daily Rosary intention list at St. John's.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 28
5:00 p.m. - Assumption

Wednesday, April 29
4:15 p.m. - St. John's

Friday, May 1
1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's

Saturday, May 2
8:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. - Assumption
4:30 p.m. - St. John's

Sunday, May 3
8:15 a.m. - Assumption



UPCOMING EVENTS

Transitional Diaconate Ordination
May 28
11 a.m.
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Sioux Falls
Priestly Ordination
May 29
11 a.m.
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Sioux Falls

Please pray for those to be ordained and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life!

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: APRIL 26

- ◆ Joseph of Nazareth
- ◆ Catherine of Sienna
- ◆ St. Louis de Montfort: Catholic Saints



**BE SEALED
WITH THE GIFT
OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	April 27	Easter Weekday	5:00 p.m. - Grey Eagle	Kateri Members & Their Families
Tuesday	April 28	Easter Weekday/ Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr/ Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest	5:30 p.m. - Assumption	Ernie Kocer †
Wednesday	April 29	Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	Brady Plucker †
		Faith Formation Mass	6:30 p.m. - St. Paul's	Faith Formation Families
Thursday	April 30	Easter Weekday/ St. Pius V, Pope	10:00 a.m. - GSC	Ed & Anne Carda †
Friday	May 1	Easter Weekday/ Saint Joseph the Worker	1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's	OSBS Relatives & Friends †
Saturday	May 2	Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Dorothy Dixon †
		Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Graduation Mass	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Joanne Kirchgassler †
Sunday	May 3	Fifth Sunday of Easter/Graduation Mass	9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Ernie Kocer †
			11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Myron & Monique Tapio

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED!

The local food pantries are in need of donations of non-perishable food items as well as personal care items (body wash, shampoo, laundry detergent). Parishioners of all parishes are asked to leave their donations in the containers in the entryways of their churches. The ROCS Community 15Closet is also in need of children's and men's clothes. Clothes can be dropped off at the Community Closet. Thank you, in advance, for your generous donations to this worthy cause!



DAY OF RECOLLECTION AT BROOM TREE

May 5 - Directed by Father Nick Haiar
"Lectio Divina: Hearing God's Voice in the Scriptures"

Beginning at 10am and ending at 3pm, these day-long retreats consist of two conferences and Mass as well as built in time for Adoration and an opportunity for Confession. Lunch is provided. The value of these retreats is \$50/person. We invite retreatants to prayerfully make a donation in response to graces received.

HUMILITY: EXPLAINED

"If anyone wishes to be first," Christ told the Apostles in the Gospel of Mark, "he must become the last of all and the servant of all." (Mark 9:35).

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own. "Man is a beggar before God," said St. Augustine.

The Blessed Mother is the perfect model of this, and her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) is a blueprint for a life lived in joyful humility.

Humility, says the Catechism, is also the key to a fruitful prayer life: "Humility is the foundation of prayer."

Only when we humbly acknowledge that 'we do not know how to pray as we ought,' are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer." (CCC 2559)

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

"Serve the Lord with gladness"
- Psalm 100

Saturday, May 2
5:30 p.m. - St. John's

Sunday, May 3
9:00 a.m. - Assumption

Sunday, May 3
11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's

EM	Mieke Slaba/ Judy Barnett	Pam Roth	Karen
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Kim Soukup	Pam Roth	Cathy/ Sr. Miriam/ Sr. Pat
Altar Servers	McKinley Podzimek/ Jaylee Kafka/ Skyler Kocer	Vera Beeson/ Vivian Beeson	Emma/ Kalea
Music	Kara Hanan	Emily Walloch	
Ushers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Ross Beeson/ Steven Koupal	Jason/ Briggs
Greeters	Jay & Kim Kafka		Mary Jo
Gift Bearers	2026 Graduates	Ross Beeson Family	Chris & Karen D.
Rosary	Ray & Bonnie Soukup		
Sacristan	Ray Soukup		
Collection Counters	Ray Soukup/ Peggy Eggers	Ross Beeson/ Steven Koupal	Ramona/ Judy



Please keep the following young people from our three parishes in your thoughts and prayers as they are confirmed on Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's. May God bless them, their parents, and their religious education teachers!



St. Paul's, Marty

Teacher: Amy Doom
Bennett Kuhlman, Son of Jeff & Rhonda Kuhlman
Braxton Nedved, Daughter of Jordan Tuttle & Laken Nedved
Eli Marshall, Son of Riley & Amy Reiff
Emma Kreeger, Daughter of Chad & Cathy Kreeger
Leo Mendoza, Son of Cecilia Mendoza
Ryann Langdeaux, Daughter of George & Tana Langdeaux

St. John's, Wagner

Teacher: Jamie Soukup
Jessica Barnett, Daughter of Judy & the Late Jerry Barnett
Brianna Fuchs, Daughter of Curt & Sherri Fuchs
Hannah Holzbauer, Daughter of John & Stacy Holzbauer
Paxton Kuhlman, Son of Paul & Jessica Kuhlman
Ravyn Medricky, Daughter of Mike & Miranda Medricky
Taya Stone, Daughter of Tim & Tammy Stone

Assumption, Dante

Teacher: Mike Beeson
Radek Kotab, Son of David & Ericka Kotab
Kaden Mixon, Son of Shawn & Penny Mixon
Easton Sees, Son of Joe & Janelle Sees
Dashed Smejkal Son of Shawn & Donna Smejkal
Katherine Swier, Daughter of Scott & Theresa Swier

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



CONFIRMATION



ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week \$2750.00
April 19 \$ 992.25
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amounts were also received:
Rice Bowls (Coins) \$ 34.96
Donation for Flowers \$ 100.00

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who made donations to purchase flowers/plants or donated flowers used to decorate St. John's for Easter: Those who donated and those honored by their donations (listed in parentheses) were: Ron & Judie Dilts (Ed Carda & James Dilts Families); Jeanette Doom Family (Francis Doom); Scott & Lynne Doom Family (Jon Doom); Ann Doty (Soukup & Doty Families); Dorothy Holzbauer (John & Leona Podzimek, Richard & Mary Podzimek); Doug & Karol Kniffen, Dave & Karen Kuhlman, Dick & DeElla Soukup, Ron & Denise Soukup (Bob & Marie Soukup, Bobby Soukup, John & Frances Cimpl, George & Mary Soukup); Don & Theresa Koupal (Jordan Koupal, Brady Koupal, Ralph & Emma Koupal, Joe & Mary Geaghan, Deceased Members of Koupal and Geaghan Families); LaVern & Alice Koupal (JW Koupal); Mary Kuhlman Family (Pat Kuhlman); Larry & Peggy Nedved (Nedved, Schroeder, & McGuire Families); Ray & Bonnie Soukup (Ray Soukup Family & Bonnie (Farke) Soukup); Beryle Uecker (Richard Uecker, Vicky Wilson, Tyler Soulek); Bon Homme Community Choir; Anonymous Donation. If you made a donation and your name is not listed, please contact Theresa Koupal.

ST. JOHN'S CFSA UPDATE

We have exceeded our goal by \$5,137. To date, we have had 6 fewer pledges/donations than last year.



With her parents and the St. Paul's parish family, we welcome, through the waters of Baptism, Lindy Kreeger. Lindy is the daughter of Miles & Keve Kreeger and was baptized on Sunday, April 19, at St. Paul's. We rejoice in welcoming Lindy to the family of God!

FIAT DINNER

Who: Young Women Seeking God's Call
What: Mass, Dinner, and Talks with Bishop DeGroot and Religious Orders

- PES Sisters
- Adoration Sisters
- CTK Sisters
- Sisters of Mary Morning Star

When: Sunday May 17th, 4-8pm
Where: Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, 506 N Summit Ave, Sioux Falls
RSVP: sfwomensdiscernment.org



YOUNG CHILDREN'S BIBLE SCHOOL

Friday, May 8
9:00 a.m.
Assumption CCD Center

SENIOR BRUNCH

Assumption Parish will be honoring our high school graduates at our 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 3, 2026. The parish is welcome to join us following Mass at the CCD Center for a brunch to celebrate this special event in their lives. We will be serving eggs, ham, rolls, coffee, juice and other goodies. Come congratulate them!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 10
After 9:00 a.m. Mass at Assumption
Assumption CCD Center
Sponsored by Wagner-Dante
Knights of Columbus

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage to overcome all obstacles to their vocation in life. Give their parents that faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood or religious life. Let Your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

Please pray for our priests and for an increase in vocations!



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to these parishioners who will celebrate birthdays this week:

April 27: Evelyn Kisely (SJ), Ron Mazourek (SJ); April 28: Trent Uchtyl (A); April 29: Jeff Stewart (SJ); April 30: Dennis Koupal (SJ), Steve Donelan (SJ), Sam Fousek (SJ), Brennan Hilzendeger (A); May 1: Stephanie Hill (A); May 2: Pat Krcil (A); May 3: McKinley Podzimek (SJ), Steven Koupal (A).

Also, Happy Birthday to any St. Paul's parishioners who celebrate birthdays this week!



Happy Anniversary to these couples who will celebrate wedding anniversaries this week:

April 28: John & Stacy Holzbauer (SJ); April 29: Mike & Norma Beeson (A). Also, Happy Anniversary to any St. Paul's parishioners who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week!



May God bless these young people as they prepare for their high school graduation and embark on their future endeavors. They will be honored at Masses in the coming weeks.

St. John the Baptist, Wagner - Saturday, May 2

Leighton Carda,
Son of Mike Carda & Gina Carda
Addison Cuka,

Daughter of Tyler & Larissa Cuka
Matthew Kokes,
Son of Jay & Lori Kokes

Shana Lensing,
Daughter of Ron & Trish Lensing
Slaten Podzimek,

Son of Jenni Soukup

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dante - Sunday, May 3

Kaden Mixon,

Son of Shawn & Penny Mixon

Katherine Swier,

Daughter of Scott & Theresa Swier

St. Paul's, Marty - Sunday, May 17

Kalea Kuhlman,

Daughter of Jeff & Rhonda Kuhlman

Ryann Langdeaux,

Daughter of George & Tana Langdeaux

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

THE DEVIL'S LONG CON

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you're not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of "the long con."

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman's savings account. Every victim says the same thing: "I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real."

I think the reason I'm so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I've never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he's the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something is right because it feels right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don't pass the sniff test — because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep's clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

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Readings for the Week of April 26, 2026

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/ Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18 (second choice)

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/ Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a/ Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/ Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/ Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-1

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LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, April 27

Daily Rosary at 4:30 p.m. at Grey Eagle Apartments

Mass at 5:00 p.m. at Grey Eagle Apartments

Tuesday, April 28

Confessions at 5:00 p.m. at Assumption

Mass at 5:30 p.m. at Assumption

Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

St. John's Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29

Adoration & Confessions at 4:15 p.m. at St. John's

Mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following

Faith Formation Mass at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's

Thursday, April 30

Mass at 10:00 a.m. at GSC/Daily Rosary Following

Friday, April 1

Confessions at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's

First Friday Mass at 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's

Adoration at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's

Benediction at 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's

Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Saturday, May 2

Confessions at 8:30 a.m. at Assumption

First Saturday Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption

Adoration & Confessions at 9:30 a.m. at Assumption

Confessions at 4:30 p.m. at St. John's

Daily Rosary at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's

Graduation Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Sunday, May 3

Confessions at 8:15 a.m. at Assumption

Graduation Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption/Brunch Following

Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's

PRAY FOR MORE VOCATIONATIONS



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