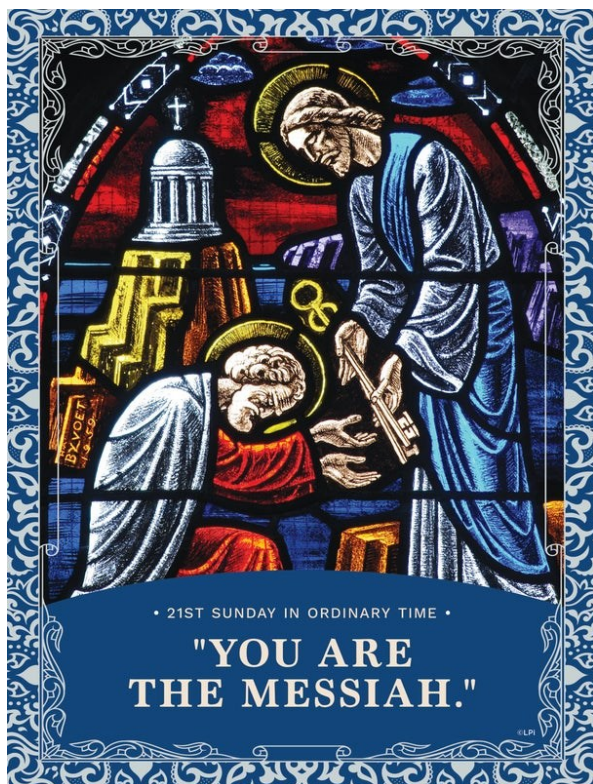




GOSPEL MEDITATION: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The first time I stood inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, its majesty overwhelmed me. The sheer beauty of Michelangelo's dome seemed to lift my soul right out of my body. Later, I joined the Scavi tour that winds below the basilica, down into the ancient pagan cemetery where Peter was buried. There, in the dim light and narrow passageways, I found myself looking at the bones of a murdered Jewish fisherman, his feet cut off so his crucified body could be taken down more easily.

What a paradox. Above me, the most glorious church ever built. Beneath me, the remains of a backwater fisherman. But this man dared to answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" And crowning that immense dome above his tomb are the words from today's Gospel, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."

Within you and me is the drama of the lowest and the highest. Every time we confess Christ, humbly, imperfectly, maybe even trembling, we enter that same mystery. The dust of our humanity, touched by the splendor of heaven. God's presence and our dry bones together. Humility and glory. May our lives embrace both the lowest and the highest, like that great basilica, as we profess Jesus.

- Father John Muir

©LPI



August 23, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Apostles Pastorate

Fr. Thomas Clement, Pastor

605-337-3710

Email Address:

frthomasclement@sfcatholic.org

Fr. Jim Friedrich, Parochial Vicar

384-5518 or 605-933-9042

Email Address:

frjimfriedrich@sfcatholic.org

Parish Office: 384-5518

Email Address:

wagner@holypostlessd.org

Sr. Maribeth Wentzlaff, OSB

Director of Discipleship & Evangelization

605-760-5295

mwentzlaff@yanktonbenedictines.org

Marty Royston, Facilities Manager

facilities@holypostlessd.org/605-770-2595

Bailee Mogck, Business Manager

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JoNell DeHaan,

Administrative Assistant/Communications

office@holypostlessd.org

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/>



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,

Mom used her cookbook well, but I never had squash because Dad didn't like it. 'Bible Christians' can be that way, getting excellent things from Scripture but leaving us without other things. For example, in our Sunday Gospel Jesus appoints Peter as Rock upon which he will build his church. Peter comes up again and again in the Gospels, always named first in lists of the apostles. The Acts of the Apostles chapter one already shows us successors to the apostles being chosen. And the many letters of St. Paul which follow refer to the church in many places. How good it is as 'Catholic Christians' to inherit the full nourishment of Scripture through 'holy mother Church'!

Several high school students thanked Wagner's parish council for supporting D-Camp and the Steubenville retreat; one commented about "seeing so many youth our age" on fire for their faith. That has also been my experience in some of the

SD Right to Life state conventions I've been able to get to— to see so many people so fervently standing for life. I've arranged my schedule to get to it this year in Sioux Falls on Sept 18/19; you can register at www.SDRightToLife.org. It is the US Bishop's Pro Life Committee that began this week, Aug 18 to Oct 31, a special focus on prayer (St. Joseph, Defender of Life as the key intercessor), and action (becoming informed and writing pharmacies & distributors) in response to the increasing use (already at hundreds of thousands per year) of mifepristone pills (kills preborn babies by cutting them off from blood and oxygen). Pray daily, be informed, and respond through respectlife.org/prayer-and-action. I have an information sheet in the entry. The Divine Mercy Hour (adoration/confession/music) is this Sunday at Wagner. On Tuesday Fr. Clement will lead parish councils as I take the wake in L.A. for Jesse Patterson.

Sincerely,
Fr. Jim



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, Konnor Deurmier, Dustin Scheuffele, Roger Cuka, Jennifer Wiley, Larry Beeson. 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.

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: AUGUST 23

- ◆ The Confessions of Saint Augustine: Littlest Saints
- ◆ Feast of Saint Monica: Catholic Saints
- ◆ Restless Heart

Remember that you can watch FORMED for FREE! Visit www.formed.org to sign in or set up an account or download the FORMED app on your smart phone or tablet.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 26
4:15 p.m. - St. John's
Friday, August 28
1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday, August 29
4:30 p.m. - St. John's
Sunday, August 30
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

CRADLE CATHOLICS CLASS
Wednesday, September 16
6:00 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	August 24	Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Apostle	NO MASS	
Tuesday	August 25	Tuesday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time/ Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest	NO MASS	
Wednesday	August 26	Wednesday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	Lisa Durham †
Thursday	August 27	Memorial of Saint Monica	10:00 a.m. - GSC	Bonnie Novak †
Friday	August 28	Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's	Benefactors
Saturday	August 29	Vigil of the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Doug & Carol Eggers †
Sunday	August 30	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00 a.m. - Assumption 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Special Intention Frank Krcil †

SAFE ENVIRONMENT RENEWAL TIME

On July 1, 2026, all members of the diocese who are required to be compliant with the Safe Environment Policy (all clergy, religious, employees, as well as those whose ministry serves minors or vulnerable adults) are required to renew their compliance. Click the link below to login to CMG Connect and renew your compliance. For all those who periodically minister (like religious education catechists or Catholic school staff), they must be compliant BEFORE they are in ministry or are active in their employment. Login to CMG Connect and renew your compliance - <https://siouxfalls.cmgconnect.org>. If you need help completing your Safe Environment compliance, contact your local safe environment coordinator.

BROOM TREE DAYS OF RECOLLECTION August 25

The Penitent Lifestyle
Directed by Archbishop Gullikson

September 22

TBD, Directed by Father Jim Mason

October 13

Gratitude: The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Directed by Father Joe Vogel

These day-long retreats run from 10 am to 3 pm and include two conferences, Mass, built-in time for Adoration, and an opportunity for Confession. Lunch is provided. The value of these retreats is \$50/person.

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!



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS MEETING

Thursday, September 3
6:30 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement

Please note that the meeting date has been moved from September 10 to September 3. Standing rules will be discussed, so all CDA members are encouraged to attend!



MERCY HOUR

Sunday, August 23
3:00 p.m.
St. John's

*Adoration - Confessions
Praise - Worship*



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Tuesday, September 1
7:00 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**"Serve the Lord
with gladness"**
- Psalm 100

	Saturday, August 29 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, August 30 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, August 30 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
EM	Bonnie Soukup/ Sandy Seiner	Volunteer	Alice
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Ray Soukup	Donna Smejkal	Tana/ Amy/ Georgia
Altar Servers	Clarah Soukup/ Windsor Soukup/ Willow Soukup	Dashel Smejkal	Bennett/ Bladen
Music	Kim Soukup	Pam Roth	
Ushers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Clayton Rados/ Doug Cimpl	Briggs/ Jason
Greeters	Dorothy Holzbauer		Mary Jo
Gift Bearers	Matt & Mieke Slaba Family	Ushers	Judy & Ramona
Rosary	Don & Theresa Koupal		
Sacristan	Ray Soukup		
Collection Counters	Mary Kuhlman/ Patty Eggers	Donna Smejkal/ Lynn Stather	Jason/ Ray

LOOKING AHEAD Monday, August 24

NO MASS

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

Tuesday, August 25

NO MASS

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

Assumption Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 26

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

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

Thursday, August 27

Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Wagner Good Samaritan Center/ Daily Rosary Following

Friday, August 28

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

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

Adoration from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's

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

Saturday, August 29

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

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

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

Sunday, August 30

Confessions at 8:15 a.m. at Assumption

Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption

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



VIKKI BOEHMEN COPLEY MEMORIAL

NOTRE DAME

FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE

NOTRE DAME vs. UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

EXPERIENCE THE TRADITION OF NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL CELEBRITY-STYLE:

- 4 tickets at the 50-yard line
- A private charter jet to and from South Bend, IN out of Sioux Falls
- A private tour of campus
- Tailgating at the Notre Dame stadium
- Meals and travel expenses included

BENEFITING Vikki Boehmen Copley Endowment Fund for the

PURCHASE & RAFFLE TICKET:

605-988-3755

ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week	\$2750.00
August 14	\$ 388.00
August 15	\$1379.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amount was also received:	
Mass Stipends	\$ 200.00

FALL BOOK STUDY AT ST. JOHN'S: SECRETS OF THE SACRED HEART

Starting Tuesday, September 8
4:00 p.m.

St. John's Church Basement

We have room for a few more participants! Cost of the study is \$10 to cover the cost of the book. Contact Theresa Koupal if you would like to join the group!

SEPTEMBER POTLUCK

Saturday, September 12

6:30 p.m.

(After 5:30 p.m. Mass)

St. John's Church Basement

The potluck has been moved to September 12 because of Labor Day weekend (September 5-7).

PLEASE JOIN US!

Please join us for St. John's Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 27, in the backyard of the church/rectory from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Everyone is invited to join us for a family friendly free will offering meal, fellowship, music, and games with friends and neighbors. All the food will be provided, but feel free to bring your lawn chairs, and don't forget to tell your family and friends! We can't wait to see all of you there!!!



PRAYER FOR FARMERS (AND THOSE WHOSE WORK FEEDS & NOURISHES US)

God of all creation, we are mindful of the many gifts and blessings you shower upon us. With unending love and generosity, you nourish and sustain us with food in great variety and measure. You grace us with dedicated and hardworking farmers who care for the land and produce our food.

We ask you to hear our prayers for farmers and others whose noble work feeds and nourishes us all. Keep them safe and healthy/ Bless them with a harvest of spiritual benefits and just returns for their labor as they know the support and gratitude of the community, especially during difficult times. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

This prayer was submitted by the Wagner - Dante Catholic Daughters of the Americas - We Care Through Prayer. They invite you to pick up a green ribbon and prayer card in the church entryway and wear the ribbon in support of our farmers!

NOTHING
is far from
GOD

-St. Monica^{LM}

DANTE ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

Wednesday, September 2

7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Altar Society meeting will be held on Wednesday September 2, at 7 pm at the CCD Center. The Soup Dinner and other items will be discussed.



CCD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the Assumption Parish CCD program this year contact Norma Beeson 605-491-2961.

HOLINESS RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Raising faithful children is no easy task. For St. Monica, it seemed nearly impossible. Her husband wasn't Christian and often mocked her faith. Their son, Augustine, fell quickly into wild ways. He and his friends drank, stole, and caroused throughout town. Monica never stopped praying for Augustine, no matter how far he strayed. Augustine became swept up in heresy, a false form of Christianity. He lived with a mistress and had a child out of wedlock. All the while, Monica kept praying. Conversion came slowly to Augustine, but at age 32, he was finally baptized. Augustine would go on to become a priest, then bishop, then world-renowned theologian whose works have stood the test of time. May St. Monica and St. Augustine inspire us to never stop praying for our loved ones.

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

August 24: Todd Johannsen (SJ) Jim Nedved (A), Christi Frank (A); August 25: Don Koupal (SJ), Ann Rysavy (A), Ernest Rezac (A), Ali Kuca (A), Megan Soukup (A); August 28: Lane Koupal (A); August 29: Jim Eggers (SJ), Don Kotab (A), Marcella Rezac (A), Augustus Krcil (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:

August 24: Ken & Vicki Swatek (SJ); August 25: Dennis & Joan Payer (SJ), Colin & Dawn Soukup (SJ); August 26: Ron & Trish Lensing (SJ); August 27: Dan & Kelly Cimpl (A); August 29: Grant & Jessa Doom (SJ), Stacey & Christi Frank (A).
Also, Happy Anniversary to any St. Paul's parishioners who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 2026

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mk 6:17-29
Next Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

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**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC -
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY
MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

ONLY PETER HAS THE ANSWER

"What do you think of the Pope?"

After the election of Pope Leo XIV in 2025, all my non-Catholic friends texted me this question. The result of the papal conclave was dominating the news cycle, and everyone was curious about this man who would now be so prominent on the world stage, making me temporarily popular with people who apparently need more (and better) Catholics in their lives.

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus entrust Peter

and his heirs with the stewardship of the kingdom here on earth, creating an unbroken line of authority that stretches through the millennia all the way to our current Pope — whoever he is at the time you are reading this.

I don't know if you like the Pope. The same goes for your local bishop and your pastor. If a friend texted you, "What do you think of him?" I have no idea how you would respond.

All I know is this: it doesn't really matter. What really matters is what we would say if a friend texted us the same question about Jesus Christ: "What do you think of him, and why?"

In today's Gospel, Jesus doesn't ask his disciples to take an IQ test. He doesn't try to find out which one is the nicest, the hardest worker, the most humble, or even the holiest.

**EVERYDAY STEWARSHIP:
A FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST**

Sometimes when I ask one of my children about who they were with or about a classmate at school they answer me with, "You don't know them." Apparently, since I do not know him or her personally, I do not need to know the person's name. I may not know this person but I do know that he or she exists in the everyday life of one of my children. If my children don't share with me anything about their friend or classmate, I can only assume he or she has no great impact on my sons' or daughter's daily lives. Of course, sometimes the response I get is simply my teen being a typical teen.

Has Jesus had a significant impact on your life? Do you know Jesus personally? If someone asked you about him what would you say?

My children respond the way they do to me because they are still young and immature. However, some adults are immature as well: immature in faith. We shy away from any discussion of God in our lives and we rarely share our faith. Most days we will not be asked the question, "Who is Jesus?" But we will be in situations where we are being called to share a little bit about ourselves. If Jesus has truly changed our lives and we never seem to want to share something about him with others, they may as well assume that he has had no real impact on us. On the other hand, if we are mature disciples in Jesus Christ, I suspect that others can't help but know about the great friend we have in him.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

He asks a very simple question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter has the answer.

I am not Catholic because I like the Pope. I am not Catholic because the human representatives of the Church have anything to offer me (they often do, but this is beside the point).

I am Catholic because only Peter has the answer.

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21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

